



Michigan Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of August 22, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of was created with the Constitution of 1835.¹

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Michigan was established in 1837 with statehood. 1835, the U.S. government enacted a law that would have created a State of Michigan. A territorial dispute with Ohio delayed the final accession of statehood until 1837.²

Qualifications for Office

The Council of State Governments (CSG) publishes the Book of the States (BOS) 2015. In chapter 4, Table 4.13 lists the Qualifications and Terms of Office for lieutenant governors: [The Book of the States 2015 \(CSG\) at www.csg.org](#). .

Method of Election

The National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) maintains a list of the methods of electing gubernatorial successors at: <http://www.nlga.us/lt-governors/office-of-lieutenant-governor/methods-of-election/>.

Duties and Powers

A lieutenant governor may derive responsibilities one of four ways: from the Constitution, from the Legislature through statute, from the governor (thru gubernatorial appointment or executive order), thru personal initiative in office, and/or a combination of these. The principal and shared constitutional responsibility of every gubernatorial successor is to be the first official in the line of succession to the governor's office.

Succession to Office of Governor

In 1841, Governor William Woodbridge resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor James Wright Gordon succeeded him. In 1847, Governor Alpheus Felch resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate. Lt. Governor William L. Greenly succeeded him. In 1853, Governor Robert McClelland resigned to become U.S. Secretary of the Interior and Lt. Governor Andrew Parsons finished out the remainder of the term. In 1939, Governor Frank Fitzgerald died in office and Lt. Governor finished the unexpired term. In 1969, Governor George W. Romney resigned to become U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Lt. Governor William Milliken succeeded Romney and then was elected in his own right.³

¹ Michigan Constitution of 1835

² SeekingMichigan.org

³ National Governors Association, Former Governors Bios