



Minnesota Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of July 21, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Minnesota was created with the Constitution of 1857.¹

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Minnesota was created with the Constitution of 1857 and statehood in 1858.

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 1863, Governor Alexander Ramsey resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate, and Lt. Governor Henry Swift succeeded to office. In 1895, Governor Knute Nelson resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate, and Lt. Governor David Clough succeeded to office. In 1909, Governor John Johnson died in office and Lt. Governor Adolph Eberhart succeeded to office and then was elected in his own right. In 1915, Governor Winfield Scott Hammond died in office, and Lt. Governor Joseph A. A. Burnquist succeeded to office. In 1936, Governor Floyd B. Olson died in office and Lt. Governor Hjalmar Petersen succeeded to office. In 1943, Governor Harold Stassen resigned to serve in the Navy during WWII, and Lt. Governor Edward John Thye succeeded to office. In 1951, Governor Luther Youngdahl resigned to become a U.S. Judge in Washington, D.C., and Lt. Governor C. Elmer Anderson succeeded to office and was then

¹ Minnesota Constitution of 1857

elected in his own right. In 1976, Governor Wendell Anderson resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate, and Lt. Governor Rudy Perpich succeeded to office.²³

² National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios

³ Minnesota Legislative Reference Library, Minnesota Lt. Governors, 1858 – present