



# **Mississippi Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet**

*As of August 22, 2016*

## **History of Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Mississippi was created with the Constitution of 1817 and statehood. The Office was abolished with the Constitution of 1832 and reestablished with the Constitution of 1868.

## **Origins of the Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Mississippi was established with statehood and the Constitution of 1817.

## **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 1825, Governor Walter Leake died in office and Lt. Governor Gerard Brandon became Governor for the remainder of the term.<sup>1</sup> In 1826, Governor David Holmes resigned due to illness and Lt. Governor Gerard Brandon again became Governor for the remainder of the term. Lt. Governor Fountain Winston was the last Lt. Governor when the office was abolished with the Constitution of 1832.<sup>2</sup> The Office was reestablished with the Constitution of 1868.<sup>3</sup> In 1871, Governor James L. Alcorn resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor Ridgley C. Powers succeeded to office. In 1876, Governor Adelbert Ames resigned due to impeachment, but owing to the fact Lt. Governor Alexander K. Davis had also been impeached,

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<sup>1</sup> National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios

<sup>2</sup> Mississippi Constitution of 1832

<sup>3</sup> Mississippi Constitution of 1868

Senate President John Marshall Stone became Governor and then was elected in his own right.<sup>4</sup> In 1927, Governor Henry L. Whitfield died in office and Lt. Governor Dennis Murphree became Governor for the unexpired term. In 1943, Governor Paul B. Johnson Sr. died in office and Lt. Governor Dennis Murphree again became Governor for the unexpired term. In 1946, Governor Thomas L. Bailey died in office and Lt. Governor Fielding L. Wright became Governor for the unexpired term and then was elected in his own right.

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<sup>4</sup> NGA, Former Governors' Bios