



Montana Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of August 23, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Montana was created with the Constitution of 1889.¹

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Montana was created with the Constitution of 1889 and was President of the State Senate.² The Constitution of 1972 removed the provision of being Senate President.³

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](http://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 1908, Governor Joseph Kemp Toole resigned for health reasons and Lt. Governor Edwin L. Norris succeeded to office and was elected in his own right.⁴ In 1933, Governor John E. Erickson resigned so that his successor, Lt. Governor Frank Henry Cooney, would appoint him to the U.S. Senate. Cooney died in office in 1935. Senate President Elmer Holt succeeded to governor that year. In 1962, Governor Donald Grant Nutter died in office and Lt. Governor Tim Babcock finished out the remaining term and was then elected to Governor.⁵

¹ Montana Constitution of 1889

² Ibid

³ Montana Constitution of 1972

⁴ National Governors Association, Past Governors Bios

⁵ Ibid