



National Lieutenant Governors Association

1 **Supporting Use of the Title and Office of “Lieutenant Governor” In Gubernatorial Succession** 2 **Law**

3 Whereas, it is the right and responsibility of each state and territory to affirm its own gubernatorial
4 succession plan according to its constitution and founding documents, and
5

6 Whereas, it is the policy of the United States to prioritize the continuance of government operations under
7 all conditions and hazards through responsible planning which ensures the best service to constituents,
8 and

9 Whereas, the federal government says an essential part of a viable program to continue government under
10 all hazards planning is the ability to execute successful succession(s) to office should an event render
11 leadership unable, unavailable, or incapable of performing duties (*Federal Preparedness Circular (FPC) 65*),
12 and

13 Whereas, national directives specify that government continuity “shall include...succession orders and pre-
14 planned devolution of authorities that ensure the emergency delegation of authority” (*National Security*
15 *Presidential Directive (NSPD) 51 and Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)*), and

16 Whereas, state gubernatorial succession plans are known to have inadequacies and inconsistencies, and

17 Whereas, the U.S. Census Bureau's population data indicates 7.1 million Americans moved to a different
18 state within the U.S. in 2012, a number which is remaining fairly consistent year to year, and

19 Whereas, nearly all states (forty-five) use the title “lieutenant governor” for the elected official first in line
20 of gubernatorial succession, and

21 Whereas, the result is most voters in this mobile American society are familiar with the lieutenant
22 governor and
23 Vice-Presidential models of executive succession, and

24 Whereas, use of the title “lieutenant governor” may be a zero or low fiscal impact item in **every** state not
25 currently using the title by changing the existing title of the official first in line of succession to “lieutenant
26 governor” or by adding the title “lieutenant governor” to the existing title of the official first in line of
27 gubernatorial succession, and

28 Whereas, the NLGA mission includes “...to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office of
29 Lieutenant
30 Governor; and generally to improve the efficiency of state and territorial administration...” and

31 Whereas, NLGA and its staff are called on to meet this mission in many ways, including responding to
32 legislative, academic, media, candidate, and other inquiries, statements, and actions, and

33 Whereas, as noted throughout this resolution, the overall efficiency of state and territorial administration
34 will be more efficient with use of the title “lieutenant governor” for the official first in line of
35 gubernatorial succession,



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36 Therefore be it resolved, that the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) supports the use
37 of the title “Lieutenant Governor” in every state for the officeholder first in line of gubernatorial
38 succession, either as the title of the office or in addition to the existing title of the official first in line of
39 succession, and

40 Be it further resolved, NLGA and its staff are empowered to issue statements of support in response to
41 legislative, academic, media, candidate, and other inquiries, statements, and actions, and
42

43 Be it further resolved, NLGA and its staff may generate and provide legislative testimony consistent with
44 this support to create, maintain, or enhance the title of “lieutenant governor” on the gubernatorial
45 successor office, and

46 Be it further resolved, NLGA and its staff may generate and provide items for media and public relations
47 consistent with this support to create, maintain, or enhance the title of “lieutenant governor” on the
48 gubernatorial successor office, and

49 Be it finally resolved, this resolution will be posted to www.nlga.us and submitted to various outlets to
50 make state officials aware of its passage.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, IA; Lt. Governor Dan McKee, RI; Additional Co-Sponsors: Lt. Governor Phil Scott, VT; Lt. Governor Matt Michels, SD