



New York Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of August 22, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of New York was created with the State Constitution of 1777.¹

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of New York was established with the State Constitution of 1777 and statehood.

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 1885, Governor Grover Cleveland resigned to become President of the U.S. and Lt. Governor David B. Hill succeeded to Governor and was later elected in his own right.² In 1910, Governor Charles Evans Hughes resigned to take a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court and Lt. Governor Horace White succeeded to office. In 1913, Governor William Sulzer was impeached and Lt. Governor Martin H. Glynn succeeded him when Sulzer was removed from office. In 1942, Governor Herbert H. Lehman resigned to take a job at the U.S. State Department and Lt. Governor Charles Poletti succeeded to office for the remainder of the term. In 1973, Governor Nelson Rockefeller resigned and Lt. Governor Malcolm Wilson succeeded to office. In 2008, Governor Eliot Spitzer resigned and Lt. Governor David Paterson succeeded to office for the remainder of the term.

¹ New York State Constitution of 1777

² National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios