



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

*As of July 20, 2016*

## **History of Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Ohio was established with the adoption of the Constitution of 1851.<sup>1</sup>

## **Origins of the Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Ohio was created with the Constitution of 1851. Before 1852, the president of the State Senate would serve as acting governor if a vacancy in the governorship occurred. From 1852 to 1979, the lieutenant governor also served as president of the Senate.

## **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 1853, Governor Reuben Wood resigned and Lt. Governor William Medill succeeded to office and was then elected in his own right.<sup>2</sup> In 1865, Governor John Brough died in office and Lt. Governor Charles Anderson succeeded to office for the remainder of the term. In 1877, Governor Rutherford B. Hayes resigned upon being elected to the Presidency and Lt. Governor Thomas L. Young succeeded to office for the remainder of the term. In 1906, Governor John M. Pattison died in office and Lt. Governor Andrew L. Harris succeeded to office for the remainder of the term. In 1957, Governor Frank Lausche resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate, and Lt. Governor John William Brown succeeded to office for the remainder of the term. In 1998,

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<sup>1</sup> Ohio Secretary of State, Lt. Governors of the State of Ohio, 1852 – Present - [www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/)

<sup>2</sup> National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios

Governor George Voinovich resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate, and Lt. Governor Nancy Hollister succeeded to office for the remainder of the term.