



Pennsylvania Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of August 22, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania was created with the Constitution of 1873.¹

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania was established with the Constitution of 1873. The Constitution of 1968 allowed the Lt. Governor to succeed himself for one term.²

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 1947, Governor Edward Martin resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate. Lt. Governor John C. Bell Jr. finished his unexpired term of office.³ In 1993, Governor Robert P. Casey transferred executive authority to Lt. Governor Mark Singel for six months due to a medical issue.⁴ In 2001, Governor Tom Ridge resigned to become the first U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security. Lt. Governor Mark S. Schweiker finished his unexpired term of office.

¹ Pennsylvania Constitution of 1873

² Pennsylvania Constitution of 1968

³ Pennsylvania and Museum Commission, <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/governors>

⁴ Ibid