



National Lieutenant Governors Association

PRESS ADVISORY

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For Immediate Use

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HOW ARE LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS SELECTED?

New research on the Method of Election for the Office of Lt. Governor is at www.nlga.us

A new research piece is available which answers the question: How are lieutenant governors selected? The National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) today released “Method of Election Data for the Office of Lieutenant Governor.”

As of this date, twenty-six (26) states have team elections for governor and lieutenant governor in the general election. This includes South Carolina, the most recent state to make an election law change impacting the method of electing lieutenant governor. “In the state’s next gubernatorial election in 2018, the governor will select the lieutenant governor running mate,” said NLGA Associate Director Michael Conway. The lieutenant governor was previously elected separately from the governor in the general election.

In seventeen (17) states, the governor and lieutenant governor are elected separately in the general election. Following the 2014 elections, in four of these states the governor and lieutenant governor are of different parties: Missouri (D/R), New Hampshire (D/R) (7), West Virginia (D/R), and Vermont (D/R). In Alaska, the governor and lieutenant governor are of different parties but ran together in the general election on the same ticket (Alaska (I/D)).

Between 2002 and 2012, four states, one in each region of the country, changed to or adopted the team method of election in the general election. These states are Colorado, New Jersey, Illinois, and South Carolina.

“There appears to be a trend toward electing the governor and lieutenant governor as a team in the general election,” said NLGA Director & CEO Julia Hurst. “More importantly, the past decade shows a focused and growing interest in the critical roles lieutenant governors play in the states and territories, as demonstrated by New Jersey creating the office and three other states changing methods of election.”

The research is posted in its entirety at www.nlga.us.

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NLGA is the only association serving all state and territorial officials who are first in line of succession to governor. More information on the office of lieutenant governor is available at www.nlga.us.