



National Lieutenant Governors Association

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As V-P Candidates Prepare to Debate, State Data on the Importance of Second-in-Command is Released

The National Lieutenant Governors Association released a first-ever collection of data on the history of the offices of lieutenant governor which shows the importance of the role of successor in the states.

States in the East, South, and Midwest have had the greatest number of gubernatorial successions since statehood, of the 43 states with a statewide, elected lieutenant governor. Connecticut has had thirteen (13) gubernatorial successions since statehood, while Kentucky, Massachusetts, and South Carolina have had twelve (12) gubernatorial successions. Indiana has had ten (10) gubernatorial successions. Colorado is the only state to have had three different governors in one day.

The history of the office of lieutenant governor in the state, links to the qualifications for holding the office of lieutenant governor and the method of being elected, and the gubernatorial successions which occurred in that state are posted at www.nlga.us.

[50-State Data Sheets on the Office of Lt. Governor](#) (Click Here)

The data collection also reveals 'firsts' in the office of lieutenant governor history. The first elected black lieutenant governor in the United States was Louisiana's Oscar Dunn in 1868. In 1871, California Lt. Governor Romualdo Pacheco became the first Hispanic lieutenant governor in the United States. The first female lieutenant governor was Matilda Dodge Wilson, appointed lieutenant governor of Michigan in 1940 by Governor Luren Dickinson. The first blind lieutenant governor was Bob Cowley Riley of Arkansas (1971), who briefly succeeded to Governor in 1975 becoming the first blind governor of a U.S. state. See more information on the office of lieutenant governor, categorized by state, at www.nlga.us.

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