



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

1 **Resolution In Support of The Use of the Title and Office of “Lieutenant Governor” In**  
2 **Gubernatorial Succession Law**

3 **WHEREAS**, it is the right and responsibility of each state and territory to affirm its own gubernatorial succession  
4 plan according to its constitution and founding documents, and

5 **WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the United States to engage in responsible planning which prioritizes the continuance  
6 of government operations under all conditions and hazards to ensure best service to constituents, and

7 **WHEREAS**, the federal government says an essential part of continuing government under all hazards planning is  
8 the ability to execute successful succession(s) to office should an event render leadership unable, unavailable, or  
9 incapable of performing duties (*Federal Preparedness Circular (FPC) 65*), and

10 **WHEREAS**, a national directive says that government continuity “shall include...succession orders and pre-planned  
11 devolution of authorities that ensure the emergency delegation of authority” (*National Security Presidential*  
12 *Directive (NSPD) 51 and Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)*), and

13 **WHEREAS**, state and territorial gubernatorial succession plans are known to have inadequacies and  
14 inconsistencies, and

15 **WHEREAS**, nearly all states (forty-five of 50) use the title “lieutenant governor” for the elected official first in line  
16 of gubernatorial succession, and nearly all U.S. territories (four of 5) use the title “lieutenant governor” for the  
17 elected official first in line of gubernatorial succession, and

18 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Census Bureau's population data indicates 7.47 million Americans moved to a different state  
19 within the U.S. in 2017 (this migration data includes Puerto Rico & D.C. but not other U.S. territories), and

20 **WHEREAS**, the result is most residents in our mobile American society are familiar with the lieutenant governor  
21 and Vice-Presidential models of executive branch succession, and

22 **WHEREAS**, use of the title “lieutenant governor” may be a zero or low fiscal impact item in every state and  
23 territory not currently using the title by changing the existing title of the official first in line of gubernatorial  
24 succession to “lieutenant governor” or by adding the title “lieutenant governor” to the existing title of the official  
25 first in line of gubernatorial succession, and

26 **WHEREAS**, the NLGA mission includes “...to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office of Lieutenant  
27 Governor; and generally to improve the efficiency of state and territorial administration...”, and

28 **WHEREAS**, as noted throughout this resolution, overall state and territorial administration will be more efficient  
29 and effective by using the title “lieutenant governor” for the official first in line of gubernatorial succession, and

30 **WHEREAS**, NLGA and its staff are called on to meet this mission in many ways, including responding to  
31 legislative, academic, media, and other inquiries, statements, and actions.



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

32 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) supports  
33 the use of the title “Lieutenant Governor” in every state and territory for the officeholder first in line of gubernatorial  
34 succession, either as the title of the office or in addition to the existing title of the official first in line of  
35 gubernatorial succession.

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLGA and its staff are empowered to issue statements of support on this topic  
37 in response to legislative, academic, media, and other inquiries, statements, and actions.

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLGA and its staff may generate and provide legislative testimony to create,  
39 maintain, or enhance the title of “lieutenant governor” on the gubernatorial successor office.

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLGA and its staff may generate and provide items for media and public  
41 relations to support creation, maintenance, or enhancement of the title of “lieutenant governor” on the gubernatorial  
42 successor office.

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution will be posted to [www.nlga.us](http://www.nlga.us) and submitted to various outlets  
44 to make state officials aware of its passage.

ADOPTED, this day, the 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Pamela Evette (R – South Carolina), Lt. Governor John Fetterman (D – Pennsylvania),  
Lt. Governor Mike Foley (R – Nebraska), Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long (D – Delaware), Lt. Governor Dan  
McKee (D – Rhode Island), Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser (R – Louisiana)