



South Carolina Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of August 25, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of South Carolina was originally created by the British Government in 1730, but the modern office was developed with statehood and the Constitution of 1776.¹ Under the 1776 Constitution, the position was called Vice President and was chosen by the General Assembly of the State. With the Constitution of 1778, the position became Lt. Governor. It was not popularly elected until the adoption of the Constitution of 1865.²³

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of South Carolina was established with the Constitution of 1776.

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 1800, Governor Edward Rutledge died in office and Lt. Governor John Drayton was elected by the General Assembly to serve the remainder of the term and then was elected in his own right.⁴ In 1840, Governor Patrick Noble died in office and Lt. Governor Barnabas Kelet Henagan assumed the office of Governor. In 1879, Governor Wade Hampton III resigned and Lt. Governor William Dunlap Simpson succeeded to the office of Governor. He resigned in 1880 to become Chief Justice of the SC Supreme Court. Lt. Governor Thomas Bothwell Jeter became

¹ SC State Constitution of 1776

² SC State Constitution of 1778

³ SC State Constitution of 1865

⁴ National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios

Governor. In 1886, Governor Hugh Smith Thompson resigned to take a position in President Cleveland's administration and Lt. Governor John Calhoun Sheppard became Governor. In 1899, Governor William Haselden Ellerbe died in office and Lt. Governor Miles Benjamin McSweeney succeeded to office and then was elected in his own right. In 1915, Governor Coleman Livingston Blease resigned and Lt. Governor Charles Aurelius Smith became Governor for the remainder of the term. In 1922, Governor Robert Archer Cooper resigned to take a position in President Roosevelt's administration and Lt. Governor Wilson Godfrey Harvey became Governor. In 1941, Governor Burnet R. Maybank resigned to take a seat on the Supreme Court and Lt. Governor Joseph Emile Harley became Governor. He died in office in 1942 and President of the Senate, Richard Manning Jefferies, become Governor.⁵ In 1945, Governor Olin D. Johnston resigned and Lt. Governor Ransome Judson Williams became Governor. In 1965, Governor Donald S. Russell resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor Robert Evander McNair succeeded to office. McNair appointed Russell to the seat he filled in the U.S. Senate. McNair was then elected in his own right.⁶

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid