



Texas Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of August 25, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Texas was created by the State Constitution of 1845 and the office holder is President of the Texas Senate.¹

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Texas was established with statehood and the Constitution of 1845.

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 1853, Governor Peter Hansborough Bell resigned to take a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and Lt. Governor James W. Henderson finished the unexpired term.² In 1861, Governor Sam Houston was removed from office and Lt. Governor Edward Clark finished the unexpired term. In 1865, Governor Pendleton Murrah left office and Lt. Governor Fletcher Stockdale succeeded as Governor for three months.³ In 1876, Governor Richard Coke resigned to take an elected seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor Richard B. Hubbard became Governor. In 1917, Governor James E. Ferguson resigned and Lt. Governor William P. Hobby succeeded to office and was subsequently elected in his own right. In 1941, Governor W. Lee O'Daniel resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor Coke R. Stevenson

¹ Texas State Historical Association – www.tshaonline.org

² National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios

³ Ibid

succeeded to office and was then elected in his own right. In 1949, Governor Beauford H. Jester died in office and Lt. Governor Allan Shivers succeeded to office and then was elected in his own right. In 2000, Governor George W. Bush resigned after his election to the Presidency of the United States and Lt. Governor Rick Perry succeeded to office and was subsequently elected in his own right.⁴

⁴ Ibid