



# **Utah Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet**

*As of August 26, 2016*

## **History of Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Utah was created in 1975.

## **Origins of the Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Utah was established in 1975. Before the creation of the Lt. Governor's office, the succession to the Governorship of Utah was held by the Secretary of State. The office of Secretary of State was abolished by the legislature in 1976 and those duties given to the newly created office of lieutenant governor.

## **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 2003, Governor Mike Leavitt resigned to become Administrator of the U.S. EPA. Lt. Governor Olene Walker completed the unexpired term of office and became Utah's first female Governor.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios