



Vermont Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of September 12, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Vermont was established with the Constitution of 1791 and statehood.¹

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Vermont was created with statehood in 1791.

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 1797, Governor Thomas Chittenden died in office and Lt. Governor Paul Brigham succeeded to office for the remainder of the term. In 1835, no candidate received the required majority in the Governor's race, and after the Vermont General Assembly was unable to decide a winner, Lt. Governor Silas H. Jennison was allowed to act as Governor for the term. He then was elected in his own right.² In 1870, Governor Peter T. Washburn died in office and Lt. Governor George Whitman Hendee succeeded to office for the remainder of the term. In 1950, Governor Ernest W. Gibson Jr. resigned to become a Federal Judge and Lt. Governor Harold J. Arthur succeed to office for the remainder of the term.³ In 1991, Governor Richard A. Snelling died in office and Lt. Governor Howard Dean became Governor and later was elected in his own right.⁴

¹ Vermont Constitution of 1791

² National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid