



Washington Office of Lt. Governor Data Sheet

As of August 26, 2016

History of Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Washington was created in 1889 with statehood.¹

Origins of the Office

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Washington was established with the 1889 Constitution and statehood.

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 1901, Governor John Rankin Rogers died in office early in his second term and Lt. Governor Henry McBride and finished his unexpired term.² In 1909, Governor Samuel G. Cosgrove died after two months in office and Lt. Governor Marion E. Hay finished the unexpired term.³ In 1919, Governor Ernest Lister died in office and Lt. Governor Louis F. Hart finished his unexpired term and then was elected in his own right.⁴

¹ Web site of the Lt. Governor of Washington, <http://www.ltgov.wa.gov/>

² National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid