



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

*As of August 26, 2016*

## **History of Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Wisconsin was created with statehood and the Constitution of 1848.<sup>1</sup>

## **Origins of the Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Wisconsin was established with 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 1856, Governor William A. Barstow resigned from office due to election fraud charges and a closely contested election with Coles Bashford. Upon Barstow's resignation, Lt. Governor Arthur MacArthur Sr. (grandfather of General Douglas MacArthur), became acting Governor for four days until Coles Bashford was officially awarded the election.<sup>2</sup> In 1862, Governor Louis P. Harvey died in office and Lt. Governor Edward Salomon finished the remainder of the term. In 1906, Governor Robert M. La Follette Sr. resigned to take a U.S. Senate seat and Lt. Governor James O. Davidson succeeded to finish the term, subsequently being elected Governor in his own right. In 1942 Governor-elect Orland Steen Loomis died before taking office and the Lt. Governor-elect Walter Samuel Goodland went on to become Governor.<sup>3</sup> In 1977, Governor Patrick Lucey resigned to become U.S. Ambassador to Mexico and Lt. Governor Martin J.

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<sup>1</sup> Wisconsin Constitution of 1848

<sup>2</sup> National Governors Association, Former Governors' Bios

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

Schreiber completed the unexpired term. In 2001, Governor Tommy Thompson resigned to become U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and Lt. Governor Scott McCallum finished the unexpired term.