



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

*As of Jun 2, 2016*

## **History of Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Indiana was created in the Constitution of 1816.<sup>1</sup>

## **Origins of the Office**

The Office of the Lt. Governor of Indiana was established with the Constitution of 1816 and reaffirmed in the Constitution of 1851.<sup>2 3</sup>

## **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 1822, Governor Jonathan Jennings resigned to become a congressman and was succeeded by Lt. Governor Ratliff Boon, who served as Governor from September of 1822 to December of 1822. Boon then became Lt. Governor again and remained until he resigned to take a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Consequently, he narrowly missed succeeding to the office of Governor again when William Hendricks resigned in 1825 to take a seat in the U.S. Senate. Senate President James Brown Ray took over as Governor upon the Hendricks' resignation.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>5</sup>In 1848, Governor James Whitcomb resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt.

---

<sup>1</sup> Indiana Constitution of 1816

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Indiana Constitution of 1851

<sup>4</sup> National Governors Association, Former Governors Bios

<sup>5</sup> Indiana Historical Bureau, <http://www.in.gov/history/index.htm>

Governor Paris C. Dunning succeeded him as Governor.<sup>6</sup> In 1860, Governor Ashbel P. Willard died in office. Lt. Governor Abram Adams Hammond succeeded him and completed the remaining months of his term.<sup>7</sup> In 1861, Governor Henry Smith Lane resigned to take a seat in the U.S. Senate and Lt. Governor Oliver P. Morton succeeded him. Morton then himself resigned in 1867 to take a seat in the U.S. Senate. Lt. Governor Conrad Baker succeeded for Morton both upon his resignation, and during a period of illness.<sup>8</sup> In 1880, Governor James D. Williams died in office and Lt. Governor Isaac P. Gray succeed to the office. In 1891, Governor Alvin Peterson Hovey died in office and Lt. Governor Ira J. Chase succeed to the office. In 1924, Governor Warren T. McCray resigned from office following a conviction for mail fraud. Lt. Governor Emmett Forrest Branch succeeded to Governor upon McCray's resignation.<sup>9</sup> In 2003, Governor Frank O'Bannon died in office and Lt. Governor Joe E. Kernan became Governor.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Indiana Historical Bureau, <http://www.in.gov/history/index.htm>

<sup>10</sup> Ibid