

LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

TABLE 4.14

Lieutenant Governors: Powers and Duties

State or other jurisdiction	Presides over Senate	Appoints committees	Breaks roll-call ties	Assigns bills	Authority for governor to assign duties	Member of governor's cabinet or advisory body	Serves as acting governor when governor out of state	Other duties (a)
Alabama	★	...	★	★	...	...	★(b)	...
Alaska	...	...	...	...	★	★	...	(c)
Arizona	...	...	...	...	(d)	...	...	...
Arkansas	★	...	★	...	...	...	...	(c)
California	★(r)	...	★	...	★	...	★	(c)
Colorado	...	...	...	...	★	★	★	(c)
Connecticut	★	...	★	...	★	...	★	(c)
Delaware	★	...	★	...	...	...	...	(c)
Florida	...	...	...	...	★	...	...	...
Georgia	★	★	...	★	★	★	...	(c)
Hawaii	...	...	...	...	★	...	★	(c)
Idaho	★	...	★	...	★	...	★	...
Illinois	...	...	...	...	★	★	...	(c)
Indiana	★	...	★	...	...	...	...	(c)
Iowa	...	(e)	...	...	★	(f)	(g)	...
Kansas	...	...	...	...	...	★	...	...
Kentucky	...	...	...	...	★	...	(h)	(c)
Louisiana	...	...	...	...	★	★	★	(c)
Maine	...	...	...	...	(i)	...	...	...
Maryland	...	...	...	...	★	★	...	...
Massachusetts	...	★	...	...	★	★	...	(c)
Michigan	★	...	★	...	★	★	★(j)	(c)
Minnesota	...	...	...	...	★	...	★	(c)
Mississippi	★	★	★	★	...	...	★	(c)
Missouri	★	...	★	...	★	...	★	(c)
Montana	...	...	...	...	★	★	(q)	...
Nebraska	★(k)	...	★	...	...	★	★	...
Nevada	★	...	★(l)	...	...	★	★	...
New Hampshire	...	...	...	...	(i)	...	...	...
New Jersey	...	...	...	...	★	★	★	(c)
New Mexico	★	...	★	...	...	★	★	...
New York	★	...	★(m)	...	★	★	★	...
North Carolina	★	...	★	...	★	...	★	(c)
North Dakota	★	...	...	...	...	★	...	...
Ohio	...	...	...	...	★	★	...	...
Oklahoma	★(n)	...	★	...	...	...	★	(c)
Oregon	...	...	...	...	(d)	...	...	...
Pennsylvania	★	...	★	...	...	...	...	(c)
Rhode Island	...	★	...	★	...	...	★	(c)
South Carolina	★	★	★	★	...	★	★	(c)
South Dakota	★	...	★	...	★	★	★	(c)
Tennessee	★	★	★	★	...	...	...	...
Texas	★	★	★	★	...	...	★	...
Utah	...	...	...	...	...	★	...	(c)
Vermont	★	★(o)	★	★(o)	...	★	★	...
Virginia	★	...	★	...	...	★	...	...
Washington	★	★	★	...	...	...	★	...
West Virginia	★	★	...	★	...	...	...	(c)
Wisconsin	...	...	...	...	★	★	★	...
Wyoming	...	...	...	...	(d)	...	...	...
American Samoa	...	...	...	...	...	...	★	...
Guam	(k)	...	...	...	★	★	★	...
CNMI*	...	...	...	...	...	★	★	(c)
Puerto Rico	...	...	...	...	(d)	...	...	...
U.S. Virgin Islands	...	...	...	...	★(f)	★	★	...

See footnotes at end of table

TABLE 4.14

Lieutenant Governors: Powers and Duties (continued)

Sources: The Council of State Governments survey of lieutenant governors' offices, September 2017.

*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Key:

★—Provision for responsibility.

...—No provision for responsibility.

(a) Lieutenant governors may obtain duties through gubernatorial appointment, statute, the Constitution, direct democracy action, or personal initiative. Hence, an exhaustive list of duties is not maintained, but this chart provides examples which are not all inclusive.

(b) The lieutenant governor performs the duties of the governor in the event of the governor's death, impeachment, disability, or absence from the state for more than 20 days.

(c) Alaska—The lieutenant governor bears these additional responsibilities: Alaska Historical Commission Chair; Alaska Workforce Investment Board; supervise the Division of Elections: supervise the certification process for citizen ballot initiative and referenda; provide constituent care and communications; lend support to governor's legislative and administrative initiatives; sign and file regulations; publish the Alaska Administrative Code and the OnlinePublic Notice System; commission notaries public; regulate commercial and advertising use of State Seal, co-chair Alaska Criminal Justice Working Group; member of Clemency Advisory Cmte.; represent Alaska on the Aerospace States Association (ASA), the National Association of Secretaries of State and the National Lieutenant Governors' Association; Arctic Winter Games.

Arkansas—Lieutenant Governor Tim Griffin gets to appoint a member to two commissions: the Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission and the Ethics Commission.

California—Lieutenant governor is an ex-officio regent, University of California Board of Regents; ex-officio regent, California State University Board of Trustees; chair, California Commission for Economic Development; member and current chair, California State Lands Commission (chair rotates annually between Lt. Governor and State Controller); member, California Ocean Protection Council (membership rotates with chair of State Lands Commission); and ex-officio commissioner of the California Coastal Commission (membership rotates with chair of State Lands Commission);

Colorado—Additional responsibilities include: chair of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs (by statute); may be appointed by the governor to concurrently serve as the head of a department (by statute)."

Connecticut—The lieutenant governor is a member of the Finance Advisory Committee, the Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation and the Corporation of Yale University.

Delaware—Serves as president of the Board of Pardons.

Georgia—The lieutenant governor, by statute, is responsible for board, commission and committee appointments. In addition the lieutenant governor appoints conference committees, rules on germaneness, and must sign all acts of the General Assembly. Also statutorily serves on the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission, One Georgia Board and the Georgia Aviation Authority.

Hawaii—Also serves as Secretary of State.

Illinois—The lt. governor serves on or chairs several bodies according to statute and executive order including the: Illinois River Coordinating Council, Mississippi River Coordinating Council, Wabash and Ohio River Coordinating Council, Military Economic Development Committee, Governor's Rural Affairs Council, Illinois Farmers Market Task Force, Illinois Local Food, Farms, & Jobs Council, Commission to End Hunger, Illinois Main Street, Housing Task Force, Commission to Eliminate Poverty, ISBE/ROE Service Evaluation Committee, Charitable Trust Stabilization Committee, Opioid Overdose Prevention & Intervention Task Force, Local Government Consolidation & Unfunded Mandates Task Force, and Illinois School Funding Reform Commission.

Indiana—Serves as Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. Oversees six state agencies: Department of Agriculture, Office of Community and Rural Affairs, Office of Defense Development, Office of Tourism Development, Indiana Small Business Development Center and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.

Louisiana—Serves as commissioner of the Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism.

Kentucky—In addition to the duties set forth by the Kentucky Constitution, state law also gives the lieutenant governor the responsibility to act as chair, or serve as a member, on various boards and commissions. Some of these include: the State Property and Buildings Commission, Kentucky Turnpike Authority and Board of the Kentucky Housing Corporation. The governor also has the power to give the lieutenant governor other specific job duties.

Massachusetts—The lieutenant governor is a member of, and presides over, the Governor's Council, an elected body of 8 members which approves all judicial nominations.

Michigan—The lieutenant governor serves as a member of the State Administrative Board; and represents the governor and the state at selected local, state, and national meetings. In addition the governor may delegate additional responsibilities.

Minnesota—Serves as the Chair of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board Committee.

Mississippi—The lieutenant governor also appoints chairs of standing committees, appoints conferees to committees and is a member of the Legislative Budget Committee, chair of this committee every other year.

Missouri—The lieutenant governor is the only statewide elected official that is part of both the executive and legislative branches of state government. Under the constitution, the lieutenant governor is ex officio president of the Missouri Senate. The lieutenant governor is elected independently from the governor, and each can be members of different political parties. Upon the governor's death, conviction, impeachment, resignation, absence from the state or other disabilities, the lieutenant governor shall act as governor. By law, the lieutenant governor is a member of the Board of Public Buildings, Board of Fund Commissioners, Missouri Development Finance Board, Missouri Community Service Commission, Missouri State Capitol Commission, Missouri Housing Development Commission and the Tourism Commission.

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Lieutenant Governors: Powers and Duties (continued)

<p>The lieutenant governor is an advisor to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on early childhood education and the Parents-as-Teachers program. The lieutenant governor is the state's official advocate for senior citizens, and serves on the Special Health, Psychological, and Social Needs of Minority Older Individuals Commission.</p>	<p>West Virginia—The President of the Senate and the Lieutenant Governor are one in the same. The legislature provided in statute the title of Lieutenant Governor upon the Senate President. The West Virginia Constitution requires that, in case of the death, conviction or impeachment, failure to qualify, resignation, or other disability of the governor, the President of the Senate shall act as governor until the vacancy is filled, or the disability removed.</p>
<p>New Jersey—The Lieutenant Governor will serve as the head of a principal department or other executive or administrative agency or delegate duties of the office of governor or both. (Lt. Gov. Guadagno is currently appointed as secretary of state.</p>	<p>Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—The Lieutenant Governor is charged with overseeing administrative functions. (d) No lieutenant governor; secretary of state is next in line of succession to governorship.</p>
<p>North Carolina—Serves as a voting member on the State Board of Education. Serves on the State Board of Economic Development. Serves on the State Community College Board. Serves as Chairman of the Energy Policy Council. Serves on the Military Affairs Commission. Serves as Chair of the eLearning Commission.</p>	<p>(e) Appoints all standing committees. Iowa—appoints some special committees. (f) Presides over cabinet meetings in absence of governor. (g) Only in emergency situations.</p>
<p>Oklahoma—Lieutenant Governor also serves on 10 boards and commissions: Tourism and Recreation Commission, Indian Cultural and Educational Authority, State Board of Equalization, School Land Commission, the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority, the Oklahoma Archives and Records Commission, the Oklahoma Film and Music Advisory Commission, CompSource Oklahoma Board of Managers, the Commissioners of the Land Office, and the Oklahoma Linked Deposit Review Board.</p>	<p>(h) The Kentucky Constitution specifically gives the lieutenant governor the power to act as governor, in the event the governor is unable to fulfill the duties of office. (i) No lieutenant governor; senate president or speaker is next in line of succession to governorship.</p>
<p>Pennsylvania—Chairs the Board of Pardons (Constitutional); chairs the Pa. Emergency Management Council (appointed by Gov.); chairs the Pa. Military Community Enhancement Commission (member by statute, elected chair by members); chairs Local Government Advisory Commission (statute.)</p>	<p>(j) As defined in the state constitution, the lieutenant governor performs gubernatorial functions in the governor's absence. In the event of a vacancy in the office of governor, the lieutenant governor is first in line to succeed to the position.</p>
<p>Rhode Island—Serves as Chair of a number of advisory councils including issues related to emergency management, long term care and small business. Each year submits a legislative package to the General Assembly.</p>	<p>(k) Unicameral legislative body. In Guam, that body elects own presiding officer. (l) Except on final passage of bills and joint resolutions. (m) With respect to procedural matters, not legislation.</p>
<p>South Carolina—The lieutenant governor heads the State Office on Aging; appoints members and chairs the South Carolina Affordable Housing Commission.</p>	<p>(n) May preside over the Senate when desired. (o) Appoints committees with the Pres. Pro Tem and one Senator on Committee on Committees. Committee on Committees assigns bills.</p>
<p>South Dakota—The lieutenant governor also serves as the Chair of the Workers Compensation Advisory Commission and as a member of the Constitutional Revision Commission.</p>	<p>(p) In the event of a vacancy in the office of Governor resulting from the death, resignation or removal of a Governor in office, or the death of a Governor-elect, or from any other cause the Lieutenant Governor shall become Governor, until a new Governor is elected and qualifies.</p>
<p>Utah—The lieutenant governor serves as chief election officer (statutory); chair of the Lieutenant Governor's Commission on Volunteers (statutory); chair of the Lieutenant Governor's Commission on Civic and Character Education (statutory); chair of the Utah Capitol Preservation Board (statutory);</p>	<p>(q) Only when asked or after 45 days of absence. (r) Only upon the invitation from the Senate.</p>