

# House Joint Resolution 16

Sponsored by Representative EVANS

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The measure creates the office of Lt. Governor. The measure places the Lt. Governor as first in the line to succeed the Governor if that office is vacant. The measure asks voters to say yes or no to the proposal at the 2026 general election. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.7).

Proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to establish the office of Lieutenant Governor and places the Lieutenant Governor first in the line to succeed the Governor if the Governor's office becomes vacant mid-term. Establishes the duration of the term of office of Lieutenant Governor at four years, but provides that the first term of office, elected in the 2028 regular general election, is only two years.

Refers the proposed amendment to the people for their approval or rejection at the next regular general election.

## JOINT RESOLUTION

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2 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

3 **PARAGRAPH 1.** The Constitution of the State of Oregon is amended by creating new sections  
4 7a and 7b to be added to and made a part of Article V, and by amending section 8a, Article V, such  
5 sections to read:

6 **SECTION 7a. There is established the office of Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant**  
7 **Governor shall be elected by the qualified electors of the state at the times established by**  
8 **law. The term of office of the Lieutenant Governor shall be four years. A person elected**  
9 **to the office of Lieutenant Governor may serve subsequent terms. The qualifications to serve**  
10 **in the office of Lieutenant Governor shall be the same qualifications as for the office of**  
11 **Governor, except that any person who has served as Governor for eight successive years is**  
12 **ineligible to serve as Lieutenant Governor. The duties of the office of Lieutenant Governor**  
13 **shall be as assigned by law.**

14 **SECTION 7b. (1) The election for the first Lieutenant Governor shall be in the November**  
15 **2028 regular general election for a two-year term. Each election for the office of Lieutenant**  
16 **Governor thereafter shall be as set forth in section 7a of this Article and laws implementing**  
17 **section 7a of this Article.**

18 **(2) This section is repealed on January 1, 2032.**

19 **Sec. 8a.** In case of the removal from office of the Governor, or of [*his*] **the** death, resignation,  
20 or disability to discharge the duties of [*his*] office **of the Governor** as prescribed by law, the  
21 **Lieutenant Governor; or if there be none, or in case of the death, resignation, or disability**  
22 **to discharge the duties of office of the Lieutenant Governor as prescribed by law, then the**  
23 Secretary of State; or if there be none, or in case of [*his*] **the** removal from office, death, resignation,  
24 or disability to discharge the duties of [*his*] office **of the Secretary of State** as prescribed by law,  
25 then the State Treasurer; or if there be none, or in case of [*his*] **the** removal from office, death,  
26 resignation, or disability to discharge the duties of [*his*] office **of the State Treasurer** as prescribed

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 by law, then the President of the Senate; or if there be none, or in case of [*his*] **the** removal from  
2 office, death, resignation, or disability to discharge the duties of [*his*] office **of the President of the**  
3 **Senate** as prescribed by law, then the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall become Gov-  
4 ernor until the disability be removed, or a Governor be elected at the next general biennial election.  
5 The Governor elected to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the outgoing  
6 Governor. The **Lieutenant Governor**, Secretary of State or the State Treasurer shall appoint a  
7 person to fill [*his*] **their** office until the election of a Governor, at which time the office so filled by  
8 appointment shall be filled by election; or, in the event of a disability of the Governor, to be **Acting**  
9 **Lieutenant Governor**, Acting Secretary of State or Acting State Treasurer until the disability be  
10 removed. The person so appointed shall not be eligible to succeed to the office of Governor by au-  
11 tomatic succession under this section during the term of [*his*] **the** appointment.

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13 **PARAGRAPH 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the**  
14 **people for their approval or rejection at the next regular general election held throughout**  
15 **this state.**

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