Lieutenant Governors of South Carolina 1730–2026

(Originally compiled by A. S. Salley, Jr., State Historian.)

There were no lieutenant governors under the government of the Lords Proprietors (1670–1719).

A governor who received a commission from the Proprietors was empowered to appoint a deputy to serve in his place in case of his absence from the province. Only twice in the fifty years of the Proprietors' rule was there an exercise of that power. In Oct. 1696, when Governor Archdale was leaving for England, he appointed Landgrave Joseph Blake to serve as deputy governor. Blake served as such until early 1697, when he purchased the share of Thomas Archdale and assumed the governorship in right of a proprietor. In Apr. 1716, when Governor Craven was leaving for England, he appointed Robert Daniell deputy governor. Daniell so served from Apr. 22, 1716 to Apr. 30, 1717, when Governor Robert Johnson arrived and assumed the government. After the Crown had bought the interest of the Lords Proprietors in Carolina in 1729, the British government appointed a governor and a lieutenant governor for South Carolina, with terms of office beginning Jan. 1, 1730. Only three men filled the office of lieutenant governor from Jan. 1, 1730 to Mar. 26, 1776, when South Carolina established an independent government. These were Thomas Broughton, William Bull, and William Bull, Jr., father and son.

Prior to the constitution of 1865, the governor and lieutenant governor were elected by the legislature. The lieutenant governor did not preside over the Senate. The Senate elected its own president from its body.

Thomas Broughton, 1730 until his death Nov. 22, 1737

William Bull, 1738–1755—(Assumed the government on death of Thomas Broughton, Nov. 22, 1737, as president of the Council; Lieutenant Governor Dec. 23, 1738–Mar. 21, 1755.)

William Bull, 1755–Mar. 26, 1776—(The second Bull, son of first Lieutenant Governor.)

Henry Laurens, Vice-Pres., 1776–1777—(Laurens was elected to Congress Jan. 10, 1777. James Parsons elected in his stead June 27, 1777 and served to Jan. 9, 1779.)
Thomas Bee, Jan. 9, 1779–1780—(Elected to Congress Jan. 24, 1780. Christopher Gadsden elected in Bee's stead.)
Richard Hutson, Jan. 31, 1782–1783
Richard Beresford, 1783—(Elected Feb. 4, 1783. He was elected to Congress Mar. 15, 1783. Alexander Gillon elected Aug. 22, 1783, to succeed Beresford, but declined Aug. 27, 1783. Gen. William Moultrie elected in his stead Feb. 16, 1784.)
Charles Drayton, 1785–1787—(Elected Feb. 10 and 11, 1785.)
Thomas Gadsden, 1787–1789—(Elected Feb. 20, 1787.)
Alexander Gillon, 1789–1791—(Elected Jan. 22, 1789.)
Isaac Holmes, 1791–1792—(Elected Feb. 15, 1791.)
James Ladson, 1792–1794
Lewis Morris, 1794–1796—(Elected Dec. 17, 1794.)
Robert Anderson, 1796–1798—(Elected Dec. 8, 1796.)
John Drayton, 1798–1800—(Elected Dec. 6, 1798, became Governor upon death of Edward Rutledge, Jan. 23, 1800.)
Richard Winn, 1800–1802—(Elected Dec. 4, 1800.)
Ezekiel Pickens, 1802–1804—(Elected Dec. 8, 1802.)
Thomas Sumter, Jr., 1804–1806—(Elected Dec. 7, 1804.)
John Hopkins, 1806–1808—(Elected Dec. 9, 1806.)
Frederick Nance, 1808–1810—(Elected Dec. 10, 1808.)
Samuel Farrow, 1810–1812—(Elected Dec. 8, 1810.)
Eldred Simkins, 1812–1814—(Elected Dec. 10, 1812.)
Robert Creswell, 1814–1816
John A. Cuthbert, 1816–1818—(Elected Dec. 5, 1816.)
William Youngblood, 1818–1820—(Elected Dec. 18, 1818.)
William C. Pinckney, 1820–1822—(Elected Dec. 7, 1820.)
Henry Bradley, 1822–1824—(Elected Dec. 7, 1822.)
William A. Bull, 1824–1826—(Elected Dec. 3, 1824.)
James H. Witherspoon, 1826–1828—(Elected Dec. 9, 1826.)
Thomas Williams, 1828–1830—(Elected Dec. 10, 1828.)
Patrick Noble, 1830–1832—(Elected Dec. 9, 1830.)
Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, 1832–1834—(Elected Dec. 10, 1832.)
Whitemarsh B. Seabrook, 1834–1836—(Elected Dec. 9, 1834.)

William DuBose, 1836–1838—(Elected Dec. 10, 1836.)
B. K. Henagan, 1838–1840—(Elected Dec. 18, 1838, became Governor upon death of Patrick Noble, Apr. 7, 1840.)
W. K. Clowney, 1840–1842—(Elected Dec. 9, 1840.)
Isaac Donnom Witherspoon, 1842–1844—(Elected Dec. 8, 1842.)
J. F. Ervin, 1844–1846—(Elected Dec. 7, 1844.)
William Cain, 1846–1848—(Elected Dec. 8, 1846.)
William H. Gist, 1848–1850—(Elected Dec. 12, 1848.)
Joshua John Ward, 1850–1852—(Elected Dec. 13, 1850.)
James H. Irby, 1852–1854—(Elected Dec. 9, 1852.)
Richard Detreville, 1854–1856—(Elected Dec. 11, 1854.)
Gabriel Cannon, 1856–1858—(Elected Dec. 9, 1856.)
M. E. Carn, 1858–1860—(Elected Dec. 11, 1858.)
W. W. Harllee, 1860–1862—(Elected Dec. 14, 1860.)
Plowden C. J. Weston, 1862–1864—(Elected Dec. 16, 1862.)
Robert G. McCaw, Dec. 1864–May 25, 1865
W. D. Porter, 1865–1868—(Inaugurated Nov. 30, 1865.)
Lemuel Boozer, 1868–1870
A. J. Ransier, 1870–1872
R. Howell Gleaves, 1872–1874
R. H. Gleaves, 1874–1876
W. D. Simpson, 1876–1879—(Became Governor Feb. 26, 1879, upon resignation of Wade Hampton. He resigned Sept. 1, 1880, to become Chief Justice.)
John D. Kennedy, 1880–1882
John C. Sheppard, 1882–1886—(July 10, 1886 to Nov. 30, 1886 served as Governor, succeeding Hugh S. Thompson appointed Assistant Secretary of the Treasury by President Cleveland.)
William L. Mauldin, 1886–1890—(Two terms)
Eugene B. Gary, 1890–1893—(Resigned in 1893 upon being elected to the Supreme Court.)
W. H. Timmerman, 1893–1897—(President *Pro Tem.* of the Senate and upon resignation of Eugene B. Gary became Lieutenant Governor in 1893.)
M. B. McSweeney, 1897–1899—(June 2, 1899 became Governor on death of William H. Ellerbe.)
Robert B. Scarborough, 1899–1901—(President *Pro Tem.* of the Senate became Lieutenant Governor upon the succession of M. B. McSweeney to the governorship.)

James H. Tillman, 1901–1903
J. T. Sloan, 1903–1907—(Two terms)
Thomas G. McLeod, 1907–1911—(Two terms)
Charles A. Smith, 1911–1915—(Two terms)
Andrew J. Bethea, 1915–1919—(Two terms)
J. T. Liles, 1919–1921
Wilson G. Harvey, 1921–1923—(Succeeded R. A. Cooper as Governor May 20, 1922, and served until Jan. 1923.)
E. B. Jackson, 1923–1927—(Two terms)
Thomas Bothwell Butler, 1927–1931—(First Lieutenant Governor to serve under the four-year term.)
James O. Sheppard, 1931–1935
J. E. Harley, 1935–1941—(Became Governor Nov. 4, 1941, upon resignation of Governor Burnett R. Maybank and served until his death Feb. 27, 1942.)
Ransome J. Williams, 1943–1945—(Became Governor upon resignation of Governor Johnston, Jan. 2, 1945.)
George Bell Timmerman, Jr., Jan. 1947–Jan. 1955
Ernest F. Hollings, Jan. 1955–Jan. 1959
Burnett R. Maybank, Jr., Jan. 1959–Jan. 1963
Robert E. McNair, Jan. 1963–Apr. 1965—(Became Governor upon resignation of Governor Donald S. Russell, Apr. 22, 1965.)
Office vacant Apr. 23, 1965 to Jan. 1967
John C. West, Jan. 1967–Jan. 1971
Earle E. Morris, Jr., Jan. 1971–Jan. 1975
W. Brantley Harvey, Jr., Jan. 1975–Jan. 1979
Nancy Stevenson, Jan. 1979–Jan. 1983
Michael R. Daniel, Jan. 1983–Jan. 1987
Nick A. Theodore, Jan. 1987–Jan. 1995
Robert Lee Peeler, Jan. 1995–Jan. 2003
André Bauer, Jan. 2003–Jan. 2011
Ken Ard, Jan. 2011–Mar. 9, 2012—(Resigned)
Glenn F. McConnell—(President *Pro Tem.* of the Senate sworn in as Lieutenant Governor Mar. 13, 2012. Resigned June 18, 2014.)
J. Yancey McGill, June 18, 2014–Jan. 2015—(President *Pro Tem.* of the Senate sworn in as Lieutenant Governor to succeed Glenn F. McConnell, resigned June 18, 2014.)
Henry D. McMaster, Jan. 2015–Jan. 24, 2017

Kevin Lee Bryant, Jan. 25, 2017–Jan. 8, 2019—(President *Pro Tem.* of the Senate sworn in as Lieutenant Governor to succeed Henry D. McMaster who succeeded Governor Nikki Randhawa Haley, resigned Jan. 24, 2017.)

Pamela S. Evette, Jan. 8, 2019–