We may elevate ourselves but we should never reach so high that we would ever forget those who helped us get there.

—WILL ROGERS

Sitting on the shores of life throwing our little pebbles in the great ocean of human events ... making ripples ... trying to grasp the opportunity to promote human progress regardless of personal risk or sacrifice.

—KATE BARNARD
WELCOME TO THE 2018 OKLAHOMA VOTER GUIDE

Voting History In Oklahoma

Dear Fellow Oklahomans,

As we approach the elections of 2018, all of us should celebrate the rights and privileges of casting a ballot. It has not always been the case in Oklahoma history.

While this year marks 100 years since women in Oklahoma received the right to vote, the path to universal voting for all Oklahomans took longer.

Many American Indians were denied the right to vote until the 1920s, even though every part and parcel of the State of Oklahoma at one time belonged in common to the tribes either through power of occupation, treaty, or title granted by the federal government. As their land base shrank under the assault of force, treaties, and laws, they were told to be good little Americans, to give up their languages, their spirituality, and their ancient governments that had bound them into diverse communities. As their world changed around them, many Indians had no place of their own, caught between two worlds. Today, with tribal sovereignty restored, American Indians can help shape their world through the rights and privileges of voting.

African Americans suffered a similar denial of voting rights for many decades. Although technically granted the right to vote by the 15th Amendment to the US Constitution, states such as Oklahoma imposed a series of qualifications such as the Grandfather Clause and the Poll Tax that in effect kept them from voting. The denial of civil liberties was extended through the terrorism of lynching and the Ku Klux Klan and ingrained into daily life by Jim Crow laws of strict segregation. Not until the 1960s would universal suffrage for African Americans become a hard-fought victory.

The largest single group of Oklahomans denied the right to vote in 1907 were women. Every delegate to the state constitutional convention was a man, and all but one of our statewide officials elected in 1907 were men. The lone exception was Kate Barnard, the celebrated crusader who fought for the rights of children, American Indians, and prisoners. She could not vote for herself. In 1918, exactly 100 years ago, a woman's right to vote was on the state ballot, a ball that was denied to women. Fortunately, a majority of men approved the issue and granted women the right to vote in all state elections. A year later, with passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, suffrage was extended to women across the nation.

The right to vote, to help chart the future of our world with our ballots, should be cherished and exercised every chance we get. We should neither take it for granted nor forget that universal suffrage is a recent achievement in our shared history. This year, the centennial of women getting the right to vote in Oklahoma, should be celebrated as another stepping stone to equal opportunity for all citizens.

Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, Executive Director
OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Q: Where can I find a sample ballot? The State Election Board website is a good place to start for voters in your county; additional resources are listed below.

A: The last day to register is Fri., Oct. 12. You can download a registration form from the State Election Board website or pick one up at your county election board, post offices, tag agencies, libraries, and other public locations. You will need to mail or deliver the completed form to your county election board.

Q: Is it too late to switch parties? You can change your party affiliation or register as an independent during Fri., Oct. 12. Doing so will not affect your ballot choices on Nov. 6, because the primary election season has passed.

A: Proof of identity is one of the following:
• A government-issued document that includes your name, your photo, and an expiration date no earlier than the date of the election in which you are voting.
• Your voter registration card issued by the County Election Board. Sign your card if unmarked and return it by 7 p.m. on Election Day.
• A Federal or State government ID issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Sign your card if unmarked and return it by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Q: Where else can I go for information? You should call the State Election Board at 1-866-OUR-VOTE (Spanish Language) or 1-888-1-VOTER (Language Line) and provide helpful information on these topics.

A: The state began distributing absentee ballots on Fri., Sept. 21. By the end of September, individualized sample ballots are available on the State Election Board website, elections.ok.gov. The state races are Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, U.S. Senators, Oklahoma delegates to the Electoral College, and members of the Court of Criminal Appeals, and three members of the Court of Civil Appeals, and the three Forest District Judges, and county commissioners will be on the ballot, as well as municipal officials and bond issues in some locations. There are also fine print questions.

Q: Do I need to make decisions about all of these? You can: notarize your absentee ballot and request it.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>CHRIS POWELL (L)</th>
<th>KEVIN STITT (R)</th>
<th>DREW EDMONDSON (D)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>• More local and online-based education</td>
<td>• Reduce school debt by $1 billion</td>
<td>• Teacher pay comparable to surrounding states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Believes schools should be decentralized</td>
<td>• Law that blocksallowing for K-12 Education Department</td>
<td>• Law that authorizes school bonds for bond issues in rural areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Support more in-state educational opportunities for Oklahomans</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Temporary loan program to recruit new teachers to rural areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Periodic teacher evaluations and increased accountability for teachers</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Allow school districts to spend property tax revenues on teacher pay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Work toward selling insurance across state lines to increase competition</td>
<td>• Views criminal justice reform as a priority and a fiscal and fairness issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Condemns the death penalty as a means of retribution</td>
<td>• Audit the Medicaid system to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse</td>
<td>• Believes state “sticks out like a sore thumb” because has the nation’s highest incarceration rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Eliminates those who are harming others”</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Would like to see state Legislature and Congress “allow schools to run their classrooms and practice their craft”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECONOMY</td>
<td>• Promote organic economic growth, without corporate incentives</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Work to raise teacher salaries to the regional average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cut regulations on businesses</td>
<td>• Increase higher education funding and make pre-K available to students on a sliding scale</td>
<td>• Reduce education funding lest it hurt budget cuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Eliminate licensing and certification requirements for those with strong work ethics and treated illnesses</td>
<td>• Work toward selling insurance across state lines to increase competition</td>
<td>• Eliminate “wasteful” licensing fees for companies that bring new jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Teacher pay comparable to surrounding states</td>
<td>• Budgets increases in Medicaid spending</td>
<td>• Skewed incentives tied to prison system are “immoral”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE</td>
<td>• Medicaid and provide wider health-care access to more residents</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Agrees with SQ 780, which lowered some drug and mental illness consumption taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Support medical marijuana legislation for those who are harmed; doctors prescribing it for valid reasons</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Negotiate price increases with drug companies; import drugs from Canada when necessary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES**

**CHRIS POWELL (L)**
- Age: 46
- Where he lives: Oklahoma City
- Family status: Married to Amy; three children
- Email: okcspowell@gmail.com
- Occupation: Former U.S. Marine
- Education:
  - University of Tulsa School of Law, 1978 graduate
  - Northeastern State University, 1964-1968, B.A. in speech education

**KEVIN STITT (R)**
- Age: 45
- Where he lives: Oklahoma City
- Family status: Married to Sarah; five children
- Email: kevin@stittforgovernor.com
- Occupation: Former Oklahoma State Representative
- Education:
  - Northeastern State University, 1975-1977
  - Oklahoma State University, bachelor’s in accounting, 1982

**DREW EDMONDSON (D)**
- Age: 72
- Where he lives: Oklahoma City
- Family status: Married to Linda; two children
- Email: info@drewforoklahoma.com
- Occupation: Former Oklahoma Attorney General
- Education:
  - University of Tulsa School of Law, 1978 graduate
  - Northeastern State University, 1964-1968, B.A. in speech education
As the second-highest executive official in Oklahoma, the lieutenant governor is in line to assume the governor’s office if the governor dies, resigns, or is unable to serve. The lieutenant governor also serves as the governor’s chief of staff and serves as a non-voting member of the Oklahoma State Board of Education. The lieutenant governor is elected in the general election for a four-year term that runs concurrently with the governor’s term. The lieutenant governor’s primary responsibility is to serve as the state’s vice governor, serving as chairman of the Board of Agriculture and Commerce. The lieutenant governor also serves as a non-voting member of the Oklahoma State Board of Education.

The attorney general is the chief legal and law enforcement officer of the state, overseeing the Oklahoma Department of Consumer Affairs, which includes the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. The attorney general also certifies the qualifications of all attorneys who practice law in Oklahoma and enforces the Oklahoma Supreme Court’s ethics and discipline rules. The attorney general also serves as the governor’s chief legal advisor and represents the state in all legal matters. The attorney general is elected to a four-year term that runs concurrently with the governor’s term.

The labor commissioner serves as the state’s labor commissioner, leading the Oklahoma Department of Labor, which administers federal and state laws that apply to labor issues and serves as the chief administrative officer for the state labor commissioner. The labor commissioner is appointed by the governor to a four-year term that runs concurrently with the governor’s term.

The state auditor and comptroller is the chief financial officer of the state, overseeing the state’s financial operations and ensuring that the state’s financial records are accurate and transparent. The auditor serves as the state’s fiscal officer and is responsible for auditing the state’s financial records and certifying the accuracy of the state’s financial statements. The auditor is appointed by the governor to a four-year term that runs concurrently with the governor’s term.

The insurance commissioner oversees the Oklahoma Insurance Department, which enforces the Oklahoma Insurance Code and regulates the insurance industry in the state. The insurance commissioner is appointed by the governor to a four-year term that runs concurrently with the governor’s term.

The treasurer manages the state’s assets and serves as the state’s financial officer, overseeing the state’s financial operations and ensuring that the state’s financial records are accurate and transparent. The treasurer is appointed by the governor to a four-year term that runs concurrently with the governor’s term.

As the state’s chief executive, the governor is the head of the executive branch, overseeing the state’s executive departments and agencies. The governor is elected to a four-year term that runs concurrently with the governor’s term. The governor is responsible for carrying out the laws of the state, overseeing the state’s executive departments and agencies, and serving as the state’s chief executive officer. The governor also serves as the state’s chief diplomat, representing the state in international relations and negotiating with foreign governments.

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The lieutenant governor, treasurer, insurance commissioner, and auditor serve staggered four-year terms, with the lieutenant governor serving a four-year term that runs concurrently with the governor’s term. The treasurer, insurance commissioner, and auditor each serve a four-year term that runs concurrently with the governor’s term.

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House and Senate
STATE ELECTIONS

HOUSE DISTRICTS MAP

STATE HOUSE

DISTRICT REPUBLICAN DEMOCRAT OTHER
1 47 1 0
2 47 1 0
3 47 1 0
4 47 1 0
5 47 1 0
6 47 1 0
7 47 1 0
8 47 1 0
9 47 1 0
10 47 1 0
11 47 1 0
12 47 1 0
13 47 1 0
14 47 1 0
15 47 1 0
16 47 1 0
17 47 1 0
18 47 1 0
19 47 1 0
20 47 1 0
21 47 1 0

SENATE DISTRICTS MAP

STATE SENATOR

DISTRICT REPUBLICAN DEMOCRAT OTHER
1 100 1 0
2 100 1 0
3 100 1 0
4 100 1 0
5 100 1 0
6 100 1 0
7 100 1 0
8 100 1 0
9 100 1 0
10 100 1 0
11 100 1 0
12 100 1 0
13 100 1 0
14 100 1 0
15 100 1 0
16 100 1 0
17 100 1 0
18 100 1 0
19 100 1 0
20 100 1 0
21 100 1 0

For information about the candidates and the state questions, check out www.ok411.org, Oklahomavotes.org and votingguide.com.

*Incumbents.
State Question 793 developed out of an initiative petition to allow retail establishments to provide optometric services on their premises. This proposal, if approved, would allow people to receive eye exams and purchase eyeglasses and contact lenses from retail establishments such as Walmart, Costco, and Target, rather than solely in optometry offices. Oklahoma is one of three states, including Delaware and Rhode Island, that do not permit optometric services in retail establishments.

The proposed constitutional change does include certain limits as outlined in the ballot title language, such as allowing the Legislature to restrict surgeries within retail establishments and limit the number of locations for an optometrist. Oklahoma’s economy would benefit because more consumers would buy eyewear from stores located here instead of from out-of-state online retailers.

Some supporters say:
- The measure would save consumers money because large retailers can offer lower prices by making bulk purchases at lower costs.
- Patients would have more options for choosing where they get their eye care and eyewear.
- Current Oklahoma law is designed to preserve an outdated monopoly, when 47 other states now allow these services in large retail stores.
- Oklahoma’s economy would benefit because more consumers would buy eyewear from stores located here instead of from out-of-state online retailers.

Some opponents say:
- The measure would give a degree of control over an optometrist’s practice to large retailers, who could pressure optometrists to increase eyewear sales and the number of patients seen in a workday.
- The measure would hurt Oklahoma’s economy by driving out local optometric practices in smaller communities and sending more retail profits to companies based out of state.
- Patients would end up with reduced options for eye care and eyewear if the retail establishment only sells its branded eyewear products.

The proposed constitutional change does include certain limits as outlined in the ballot title language, such as allowing the Legislature to restrict surgeries within retail establishments and limit the number of locations for an optometrist. Current laws and regulations prohibit retail establishments from selling prescription glasses and contacts unless a majority of the establishment’s income comes from the sale of prescription optical goods and materials.
Victims' Rights

STATEQUESTION

BALLOT TITLE
This measure amends the provision of the Oklahoma Constitution that guarantees certain rights for crime victims. These rights would now be equal to those of the defendants’ rights. The measure would also make changes to the rights, including:
1) requiring the court proceedings as to which a victim is a party to be fair;
2) doubling a victim’s measurable protection;
3) adding a right to protection from the perpetrator;
4) allowing victims to refuse interview requests from the defendant’s attorney without a subpoena;
5) the definition of “victim” is vague: any person who is “directly or indirectly harmed” by the crime. No distinction is made as to which victims would be protected in a manner equal to the defendants’ rights, the law as enacted in other states has come under scrutiny, making it uncertain how this provision would be interpreted in court.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
https://www.ok.gov/dac/Victims/Victims_Rights/index.html

The measure would require the Legislature to establish procedures for the joint nomination and election of candidates for Lieutenant Governor. If passed, this new election format would be used beginning in the 2026 general election cycle.

Shall The Proposal Be Approved? YES AGAINST THE PROPOSAL – NO

BOTTHTHESIDES OPPONENTS SAY: PROPOSERS SAY: YES
- The measure would assure victim’s rights are protected by having the constitution restate equal to defendants’ rights.
- The measure would add a provision to provide victims with their rights to crime victims and their family members. This measure would consist of clauses that ensure these rights are protected.
- The expansion would provide for a new constitutional provision that would allow a victim to have their rights protected.
- The measure would add a provision to the Oklahoma Constitution to change the manner in which the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are elected. Currently, voters cast one vote for their preferred candidate for Governor and a separate vote for their preferred candidate for Lieutenant Governor. Under this measure, if approved, candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor for the same state would run together as a single ticket, and voters will only cast one vote for their preferred ticket.
- The proposal would change the existing election process for governor and lieutenant governor from separate elections to a joint ticket, similar to that for the president and vice president of the United States. The provision would not take effect until 2026, allowing the Oklahoma Legislature time to develop the procedures for joint nomination and election. Of the 45 states that have a lieutenant governor, 25 are elected on a joint ticket. This year, South Carolina will become the 26th state to implement this approach of electing its two highest office on one ticket.
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- The lieutenant governor would be more effective because he or she would work in tandem with the governor.
- The leadership team would have a common vision when presenting oversight of executive agencies.
- The measure would eliminate an adversarial relationship between the executive and legislative branches.
- The measure would reduce the independence of the lieutenant governor in serving as the eyes and ears of the Senate.
- The current provision of separate elections allows candidates to be chosen on their own merit.
- Separating elections for governor and lieutenant governor would be less expensive than running both candidates on a joint ticket.
- The measure would reduce the effectiveness of the executive branch, which many elected offices.
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Shall The Proposal Be Approved? YES AGAINST THE PROPOSAL – NO

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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2018 OKLAHOMA VOTER GUIDE | 13
This measure would add a provision to the Oklahoma Constitution creating a new trust fund. This fund would be called the Oklahoma Vision Fund. The purpose of the measure is to establish an additional investment/savings fund for the state.

Oklahoma has a Rainy Day Fund, created in 1985, that holds surplus funds taken in by the state. Also in 2016 the Legislature created the Revenue Stabilization Fund to help the state save money for economic downturns. The Oklahoma Vision Fund is intended to serve as more of an endowment fund than the Rainy Day Fund and Revenue Stabilization Fund. It would receive 5 percent of the state’s oil and gas production tax revenue, and the Legislature would decide how to use funds from other sources into the fund. The State Treasurer would invest those monies in stocks and similar securities and the fund would be subject to the prudent investor rule, which requires the appointed investment trustees to invest monies as a reasonable and prudent investor would.

Four percent of the Oklahoma Vision Fund would be transferred annually to the state’s general fund. The transferred amount is calculated on the average balance of the fund over the previous five years. This constitutional amendment would prohibit more than 5 percent of the fund’s principal from being used to pay bond debt or to pay back the state for money raised for economic downturn. Four percent of the Oklahoma Vision Fund would be transferred annually to the state’s general fund. This fund would then increase by 0.2% per year.

The transferred amount is calculated on the average balance of the fund over the previous five years. This constitutional amendment would prohibit more than 5 percent of the fund’s principal from being used to pay bond debt or to pay back the state for money raised for economic downturns.

Shall The Proposal Be Approved?


http://www.schoolfundingfairness.org

http://www.schoolfundingfairness.org/unheralded-law-puts-increased-funding-in-doubt/


http://www.nyschoolfunding.org/101-aЩ-gauges雅e.php


SUMMARY

State Question 800—formerly known as the Oklahoma Oil and Gas Development Tax Revenue Stabilization Fund Amendment—was also called the Oklahoma Vision Fund. The purpose of the measure is to establish an additional investment/savings fund for the state.

The measure would create a Rainy Day emergency fund, available during bad times to help pay for state operations. The money is held in the state’s investment portfolio, and interest earnings go to the general revenue fund.

The state needs more revenue for state services, and this measure diverts taxes into a permanent fund from which only a small fraction of the money can be tapped each year. The fund could later be used to supplant, rather than grow, other financial obligations incurred by the state, agencies, or local governments.

The measure would be transferred annually to the state’s general fund. It would then increase by 0.2% per year. More of the fund’s principal would be transferred annually to the state’s general fund. The transferred amount is calculated on the average balance of the fund over the previous five years.

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One of the major issues the Oklahoma Legislature dealt with during the past session was teacher pay. This measure was concerned with state and federal tax laws that provide an average $6,100 a year raise to each Oklahoma teacher.

Shall The Proposal Be Approved?

http://www.nyschoolfunding.org/101-aЩ-gauges雅e.php


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OKLAHOMA VOTER GUIDE is a nonpartisan effort by the League of Women Voters of Oklahoma, with help from several non-profit and for-profit entities. After many months of planning, we are proud to offer readers a high-quality resource with analysis and education for the 2018 general election. This Voter Guide does not endorse or oppose any candidates for state or federal office, nor does it take any positions on the state questions. We welcome your feedback and encourage you to share this guide, which is available for download at okvoterguide.com. Questions may be sent to officeokclwv@gmail.com.

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