



# 2016 CAIR-OK Voter Guide



**CAIR**  
OKLAHOMA

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## A MESSAGE FROM CAIR-OK'S GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COORDINATOR

This election cycle has corresponded to one of the highest increases in Islamophobia we have seen since 9/11. We have been assaulted, our businesses and mosques have been vandalized, and anti-Islam rallies have taken place across the state.

At the state level, we have seen our legislature fail to pass a budget that responsibly funds essential state programs such as education, mental health services, and support for single-parent families. These diminishing services are crucial to communities around Oklahoma and have a significant impact on the stability of our entire state. We must hold our elected officials accountable for creating responsible budget policy that does not result in a diminished quality of life for our state's most impoverished citizens.

**This November, it is all on the line.** Muslims in Oklahoma and across the country are taking a stand for the issues most important to us, and against hatred and bigotry in all its forms - starting at the ballot box. CAIR Oklahoma (CAIR-OK) is excited to be a part of MuslimsVOTE, an initiative for Muslims across America to get more active and engaged within our communities by increasing voter turnout among American Muslims.

**The MuslimsVOTE initiative has three goals for our community: educating Oklahoma Muslims about the major issues facing our state and our nation; engaging with our elected officials; and empowering you to make significant and lasting change in your community.**

We created this voter guide with the Oklahoma Muslim voter in mind. Many of you have come to us with questions not just about the voting process but also about how to find information about your local candidates and other ballot initiatives. In this guide, you'll find information about State Questions, how to find out who your candidates are locally, and the easiest and quickest way to make sure your vote is counted on Election Day. As we approach November 8, 2016, we are all trying to find ways to have our voices heard in a time of significant fear and uncertainty. The only question that remains is: what will you do?

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Facci".

Anna Facci  
Government Affairs Coordinator

# WHY WE'RE VOTING NO ON STATE QUESTION 790

## A Message from Veronica Laizure, Civil Rights Director

State Question 790 would repeal Section 5 of Article 2 of the Oklahoma Constitution, which prohibits public money from being spent for religious purposes. It would remove the following text:

*No public money or property shall ever be appropriated, applied, donated, or used, directly or indirectly, for the use, benefit, or support of any sect, church, denomination, or system of religion, or for the use, benefit, or support of any priest, preacher, minister, or other religious teacher or dignitary, or sectarian institution as such.*

**The problem with SQ 790 is that it weakens the separation between church and state that is an enshrined part of American constitutional history.** In the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Establishment clause sets forth that the government is not to make laws that respect a particular establishment of religion or favors one religion over another. Throughout American history, U.S. Supreme Court jurisprudence makes it clear that actions by state or federal governments that promote the establishment of a particular religion over another are against the principles in the First Amendment.

**SQ 790 sets a number of dangerous and costly precedents.**

**1.** By removing the language of Oklahoma's constitution that prevents state money from being spent for religious purposes, it would allow public money - your money - to be spent for nearly any constitutionally impermissible religious reason, whether you support that religion or not.

**2.** It removes the neutrality of the state government that prevents the majority religious view from completely dominating minority religions. It could allow for the passage of other anti-religious laws such as another anti-Shariah measure to be developed and passed by the state legislature.

**3.** This bill is intended to place the Ten Commandments monument back on Oklahoma Capitol property, which is something that has already been found unconstitutional by the Oklahoma Supreme Court. It would be a waste of taxpayer money to replace the monument and then defend it from a legal challenge that would almost certainly follow.

**4.** Even if SQ 790 does pass, it will almost certainly be struck down because of the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution. Under this legal doctrine, state laws are bound by the supreme law of the land, which is the U.S. Constitution and other federal laws. If state and federal law are in conflict, the federal law must take priority and the conflicting state law has no legal strength. SQ 790 would be unconstitutional even if it was passed by popular vote, and defending it from a legal challenge that would ultimately fail would cost hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars that could be better spent elsewhere.

**CAIR-Oklahoma encourages you to think carefully about how you vote on SQ790 and the impact of a measure being promoted in the name of "religious liberty."**



Veronica Laizure  
Civil Rights Director  
CAIR-OK



# DEMYSTIFYING THE STATE QUESTIONS

**State Questions give you, the voter, the power to decide major public policy issues.**

The Muslim community is no stranger to the power of the State Question. In 2010, State Question 755, an anti-Shariah initiative, sought to demonize and marginalize the Muslim community by banning Shariah law from being used in courts in Oklahoma. It passed the popular vote by a margin of nearly 50%.

**When passed by the voting public, State Questions immediately have the force of law.**

Although State Question 755 was later ruled unconstitutional, our community has firsthand knowledge of the best methods to defeat problematic policy proposals at the local level – making sure they are not passed in the first place.

State Questions can address a wide range of public policy issues, including everything from business decisions to constitutional amendments. Voting on these issues is a method of “direct democracy” that allows the people to decide.

The most challenging thing about State Questions is the way they are phrased. The language used to describe State Questions often includes information that is very brief or heavy on jargon – legal language that can be challenging for the average voter to understand.

Any text that is *italicized* represents the language of the State Question as it will appear on your ballot.

On your ballot, each State Question (SQ) will be followed with the following question:

SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?  
FOR THE PROPOSAL – YES  
AGAINST THE PROPOSAL – NO

To vote, you will mark the box corresponding to your answer. For more questions about voting and a preview of the ballot layout, check out the Frequently Asked Questions and Sample Ballot sections at the end of this voter guide.

In this section, you’ll be able to get not only a preview of the actual language of each State Question but also information about what that language means, and what both sides of the issue have to say about the matter.

## STATE QUESTION 776

### A Measure Related to the Death Penalty

*This measure adds a new section to the Oklahoma Constitution, Section 9A of Article 2. The new Section deals with the death penalty. The Section establishes State constitutional mandates relating to the death penalty and methods of execution. Under these constitutional requirements:*

- The Legislature is expressly empowered to designate any method of execution not prohibited by the United States Constitution.*
- Death sentences shall not be reduced because a method of execution is ruled to be invalid.*
- When an execution method is declared invalid, the death penalty imposed shall remain in force until it can be carried out using any valid execution method, and*
- The imposition of a death penalty under Oklahoma law—as distinguished from a method of execution—shall not be deemed to be or constitute the infliction of cruel or unusual punishment under Oklahoma’s Constitution, nor to contravene any provision of the Oklahoma Constitution.*

The death penalty was enacted in Oklahoma in 1976, and since then, the state has executed 191 men and three women. Current statute outlines the permissible methods of the death penalty, including lethal injection, gas inhalation, electrocution, and firing squad.

**State Question 776 deals with two issues: the method of state imposed execution, and whether or not the death penalty is considered “cruel and unusual punishment.” SQ776 is a direct response to challenges that the state has had with access to drugs used for lethal injections in the last five years. State executions were suspended in 2015 after an inmate had severe negative complications during his lethal injection. This “botched” execution caused the lethal injection protocols to be questioned and reviewed.**

**If approved, SQ776 would create a new section of the Oklahoma Constitution that ensures the state will be allowed to continue to impose the death penalty, even if lethal injection drugs were to become unavailable or their use was to be ruled unconstitutional. It would also ensure that the death penalty itself cannot be considered “cruel and unusual punishment” in Oklahoma.**

**YES** Those in favor of SQ776 say that the death penalty has a long history of public support in Oklahoma. Because the death penalty is supported by the public, it must be protected by the State Constitution. The state of Oklahoma must have options other than lethal injection protected by the State Constitution, in the case that lethal injection is ruled unconstitutional at the federal level.

**NO** Those opposed to SQ776 say that the death penalty is no longer publicly supported in Oklahoma. Execution methods like firing squad are barbaric and inhumane. If made part of the State Constitution, it would be much more difficult for the death penalty to be regulated or overturned. The state has a history of mistakes in administering the death penalty that should be cause for public concern, in addition to other concerns such as inconsistency in who receives the death penalty and changing science that has resulted in the exoneration of individuals previously placed on death row.

**CAIR-OK  
Recommends  
a NO Vote**

# STATE QUESTION 777

## A Measure Related to Agriculture

This measure adds Section 38 to Article II of the Oklahoma Constitution.

The new Section creates state constitutional rights. It creates the following guaranteed rights to engage in farming and ranching:

- The right to make use of agricultural technology
- The right to make use of livestock procedures, and
- The right to make use of ranching practices.

These constitutional rights receive extra protection under this measure that not all constitutional rights receive. This extra protection is a limit on lawmakers' ability to interfere with the exercise of these rights. Under this extra protection, no law can interfere with these rights, unless the law is justified by a compelling state interest—a clearly identified state interest of the highest order. Additionally, the law must be necessary to serve that compelling state interest.

Placed on the ballot by the Oklahoma Legislature, SQ777 would create a section of the State Constitution that prohibits the Oklahoma Legislature from regulating the agriculture industry unless there is a “compelling state interest.” This is a very strong legal standard that requires what is called “strict scrutiny” before new state regulations could be created.

**If passed, the standard of strict scrutiny in prohibiting agricultural regulations would have far reaching effects and would limit any organization that considers the state legislature as its source of power, including county and municipal (city) governments, from passing regulations.**

According to the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, the agriculture industry represents 1.5% of Oklahoma's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The measure—and the protections identified above—do not apply to and do not impact state laws related to:

- Trespass,
- Eminent domain,
- Dominance of mineral interests,
- Easements
- Right of way or other property rights, and
- Any state statutes and political subdivision ordinances enacted before December 31, 2014.

**CAIR-OK  
Recommends  
a NO Vote**

**NO** Major organizations that oppose SQ777 include the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, the Oklahoma Municipal League (mayors and city councilors), the Oklahoma Food Cooperative, and the Humane Society of the United States. Opponents say that the new section of the constitution is a “copy and paste” measure, promoted by out of state “Big Ag” interests that are directly in opposition to the ideals of democracy because the measure prevents the voters from making decisions about the agriculture industry in Oklahoma. Opponents also have concerns about the potential for drinking water pollution and other forms of environmental pollution caused by animal waste and chemical fertilizer disposal.

**YES** Major organizations that support SQ777 include the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, the Oklahoma Cattleman's Association, and the Oklahoma Pork Council. Supporters say that the new section of the constitution would protect the farms of Oklahoma from having to deal with increased regulation pushed by out-of-state interests, animal rights and environmental activists, and others. They also say that it will protect the rich history of the farming industry in Oklahoma, allow the consumer more freedom, and protect jobs on farms. Supporters of SQ777 refer to it as the “Right to Farm.”

## STATE QUESTION 779

### A Measure Related to a Sales Tax Increase to Fund Education

*This measure adds a new Article to the Oklahoma Constitution. The article creates a limited purpose fund to increase funding for public education. It increases State sales and use taxes by one cent per dollar to provide revenue for the fund. The revenue to be used for public education shall be allocated: 69.50% for common school districts, 19.25% for the institutions under the authority of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, 3.25% for the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, and 8% for the State Department of Education. It requires teacher salary increases funded by this measure raise teacher salaries by at least \$5,000 over the salaries paid in the year prior to adoption of this measure. It requires an annual audit of school districts' use of monies. It prohibits school districts' use of these funds for increasing superintendents' salaries or adding superintendent positions. It requires that monies from the fund not supplant or replace other educational funding. If the Oklahoma Board of Equalization determines funding has been replaced, the Legislature may not make any appropriations until the amount of replaced funding is returned to the fund. The article takes effect on July 1 after its passage.*

The National Education Association ranks Oklahoma 49th in the nation for teacher pay and state funding for education in Oklahoma has been reduced by more than \$170 million since 2008.

SQ779 was created through a citizen initiative petition in order to increase funding for public education. This State Question is a direct response to the rapidly decreasing portion of the state budget that is allocated to pay for education. The bulk of this question addresses the structure of the education fund to be created and how money (or revenue) brought in from the tax would be distributed.

**If passed, this measure would add one cent per dollar to the sales tax in all counties and municipalities in Oklahoma. It would also add a section to the Constitution creating the Education Improvement Fund, where all funds raised from the sales tax increase would be placed before being distributed based on the percentages outlined.**

**YES** Those who are in favor of passing this so called "Penny Sales Tax" initiative were motivated to take action after the state legislature failed to increase funding for education. Specifically, proponents of SQ779 say it will increase teacher pay, improve reading and high school graduation rates, give power back to voters to decide what is best for schools, and prohibit funds from being used for administrative pay raises.

**NO** Those who are against SQ779 argue that increasing sales tax is not a sustainable solution for education funding. If passed, Oklahoma would have the highest average local sales tax in the nation and many cities would be unable to raise municipal taxes for city projects and improvements. Because sales taxes are regressive, they have more of an effect on low- and moderate-income families than wealthy families. Opponents think that while teachers do deserve a pay raise, there are ways to fund this raise without placing the tax burden on lower- and moderate-income families. Regardless of the allocations made in the measure, SQ779 does not stop the legislature from continuing to slash education budgets, which could cause this measure to have a negligible impact.

**CAIR-OK  
Recommends  
You Vote Your  
Conscience**



# STATE QUESTION 780

## A Measure Related to Classification of Misdemeanors

*This measure amends existing Oklahoma laws and would change the classification of certain drug possession and property crimes from felony to misdemeanor. It would make possession of a limited quantity of drugs a misdemeanor. The amendment also changes the classification of certain drug possession crimes which are currently considered felonies and cases where the defendant has a prior drug possession conviction. The proposed amendment would reclassify these drug possession cases as misdemeanors. The amendment would increase the threshold dollar amount used for determining whether certain property crimes are considered a felony or misdemeanor. Currently, the threshold is \$500. The amendment would increase the amount to \$1000. Property crimes covered by this change include; false declaration of a pawn ticket, embezzlement, larceny, grand larceny, theft, receiving or concealing stolen property, taking domesticated fish or game, fraud, forgery, counterfeiting, or issuing bogus checks. This measure would become effective July 1, 2017.*

Oklahoma has the second highest overall incarceration rate in the United States, and the highest incarceration rate of women. At 119% capacity, Oklahoma also faces significant overcrowding in prisons and 77% of Oklahomans personally know someone who has been sent to jail, prison, or other correctional facility.

Unlike the other state questions on the ballot this year, State Question 780 is a change to existing statute (law). An initiative of Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform, SQ780 reclassifies low-level offenses, like drug possession and property offenses under \$1,000, from felonies to misdemeanors. This state question does not affect the classification of other felonies like production or distribution of illegal substances. The measure aims to reduce the amount of state funding spent on incarceration. Regardless of whether or not SQ780 is passed, the penalty threshold for felony property crime will increase from \$500 to \$1000 following legislation passed on the issue earlier this year.

**If passed, SQ780 would not change sentences for current inmates. Effective July 1, 2017, simple drug possession crimes currently considered felonies would become misdemeanors. It would increase the felony threshold of property crimes to \$1000.**

**“CAIR-OK  
Recommends  
a YES Vote”**

**YES** Those in favor of SQ780 say that first and foremost this measure would help alleviate the budget crisis in Oklahoma by reducing the tax burden created by the current prison population. Proponents also maintain that many people charged with low-level drug and property crimes are more in need of rehabilitation and mental health services than incarceration. Their plan allows for up to one year of imprisonment on misdemeanor charges with discretion given to the prosecutor.

**NO** Those opposed to SQ780 argue that reducing the charges for even low-level drug possession poses a danger to Oklahomans. There are also concerns about the burden on county jails to house those charged with misdemeanors, as county jails are also struggling with funding at this time.

## STATE QUESTION 781

### A Measure Related to SQ 780 and the Creation of the County Community Safety Investment Fund

*This measure creates the County Community Safety Investment Fund, only if voters approve State Question 780, the Oklahoma Smart Justice Reform Act. This measure would create a fund, consisting of any calculated savings or averted costs that accrued to the State from the implementation of the Oklahoma Smart Justice Reform Act in reclassifying certain property crimes and drug possession as misdemeanors. The measure requires the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to use either actual data or its best estimate to determine how much money was saved on a yearly basis. The amount determined to be saved must be deposited into the Fund and distributed to counties in proportion to their population to provide community rehabilitative programs, such as mental health and substance abuse services. This measure will not become effective if State Question 780, the Oklahoma Smart Justice Reform Act, is not approved by the people. The measure will become effective on July 1 immediately following its passage.*

SQ781 creates the County Community Safety Investment Fund. **If SQ780 and SQ781 are passed, SQ781 creates this fund, which will redirect the savings generated by SQ780's criminal justice reform into a fund that would provide funding for mental health and substance abuse services. This fund would be overseen by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services.**

Oklahoma ranks 44th in the United States for funding mental health services and has the second-highest rate of adults with one or more mental illnesses.

**YES** Those in favor of passing SQ780 are also in favor of SQ781. Proponents of SQ781 want to redirect the money saved from reduction in prison populations created through SQ780 to funding state mental health services. They believe that increasing funding for state mental health programs will help continue to reduce the number of people incarcerated. According to Adam Luck of the conservative group Right on Crime, a similar reform measure in the state of Texas "saved the state \$3 billion. They've closed three state facilities. ... They've cut their juvenile population by 52 percent, which has allowed them to close eight juvenile facilities, all while maintaining the lowest crime rates they've had since 1973."

**CAIR-OK  
Recommends  
a YES Vote**

**NO** Those who are opposed to SQ781 are also opposed to SQ780. Opponents are against the drug crime and low-level misdemeanor reforms that would be created by the passage of SQ780 and therefore do not support the passage of this initiative which would create a specific fund to channel the savings created by the reforms proposed in SQ780.

**Again, the outcome of SQ781 is directly linked to the outcome of SQ780 and will only go into effect if SQ780 is also passed.**

## STATE QUESTION 792

### Alcohol Modernization

*This measure repeals Article 28 of the Oklahoma Constitution and restructures the laws governing alcoholic beverages through a new Article 28A and other laws the Legislature will create if the measure passes. The new Article 28A provides that with exceptions, a person or company can have an ownership interest in only one area of the alcoholic beverage business-manufacturing, wholesaling, or retailing. Some restrictions apply to the sales of manufacturers, brewers, winemakers, and wholesalers. Subject to limitations, the Legislature may authorize direct shipments to consumers of wine. Retail locations like grocery stores may sell wine and beer. Liquor stores may sell products other than alcoholic beverages in limited amounts. The Legislature must create licenses for retail locations, liquor stores, and places serving alcoholic beverages and may create other licenses. Certain licensees must meet residency requirements. Felons cannot be licensees. The Legislature must designate days and hours when alcoholic beverages may be sold and may impose taxes on sales. Municipalities may levy an occupation tax. If authorized, a state lodge may sell individual alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption but no other state involvement in the alcoholic beverage business is allowed. With one exception, the measure will take effect October 1, 2018.*

State Question 792 would eliminate an existing section of the Oklahoma Constitution that prohibits grocery and convenience stores from selling wine and high-point beer. **If passed, the measure would create a new section allowing grocery and convenience stores to sell wine and high-point beer, with some specifications. It would also create a new section allowing liquor stores to carry refrigerated items as well as “alcohol accessories” (bottle openers, glasses, straws, sodas, other mixing liquids, etc). Additionally, liquor store owners would be allowed to operate more than one storefront that sells alcohol, though they would be limited to two stores per person if spirits other than beer and wine are sold (currently, liquor store owners are limited to owning and operating one store).**

**YES** Proponents of SQ792 argue that Oklahoma’s existing liquor laws are very outdated and overregulate store owners. This measure will help grow the economy, eliminate inconveniences for store patrons, and encourage development.

**NO** Those who are opposed to SQ792 are concerned that the measure would allow big box stores to take over the existing small business industry of wine, beer, and liquor sales in Oklahoma. SQ792 would allow retail liquor operations, potentially causing existing liquor stores to go out of business.

**CAIR-OK  
Recommends  
You Vote Your  
Conscience**

## 3 WAYS TO MAKE VOTING EASIER

### #1 Vote By Mail

While the State of Oklahoma does not have an automatic vote by mail system, we do have a fairly simple process for requesting an Absentee Ballot. An Absentee Ballot allows you to vote before Election Day with minimal effort. If you request an absentee ballot before the deadline, it will be mailed to you. Once it is mailed to you, all you have to do is fill it out, have it notarized, and mail it back to the State Election Board, who will then count your vote!

You can even request your ballot by mail online by filling out this form: <https://services.okelections.us/AbsenteeApplication/>

If you want to vote by mail, be sure to request your ballot no later than November 1, 2016. Once you have received your ballot, be sure to have it notarized before you return it, otherwise it will be invalid. If you need help finding a notary public, please contact the CAIR-OK office.

### #2 Vote Early

Did you know that you can vote before November 8? You can vote early at the County Election Board office in the county where you are registered to vote from 8 AM to 6 PM on Thursday and Friday before all elections. For state and federal elections only, you also can vote early from 9 AM to 2 PM on Saturday before the election.

In 2016, that means you can vote at your County Election board on Thursday, November 3, Friday, November 4, and Saturday, November 5!

### #3 Do Your Research Ahead of Time

Congratulations, by taking the time to read this voter guide, you've already started to do your research! Finding out information about the candidates can be challenging because Oklahoma has no centralized database of background information about each candidate. The best places to find out more about local candidates is either through campaign websites and social media accounts.

As you do your research, we encourage you to take notes! You can take these notes into the voting booth with you to speed up your voting process. On pages 13 and 14, you will find a sample ballot that looks pretty close to what you'll be given on Election Day. We encourage you to use this page to make notes about who your choices are for each office, how you'll be voting on state questions, and to practice filling out the ballot!



# FAQ ABOUT VOTING IN PERSON / KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN VOTING

If you aren't planning to vote by absentee or early at your County Election Board, do you know what it takes to vote at your polling place on November 8? Check out our FAQ below to make sure you're prepared!

## How do I know where my polling place is?

If you are registered to vote, you can verify your voter registration and find your polling place by looking in two places. First, you can use the Oklahoma Election Board's Online Voter Tool, found here: <https://services.okelections.us/voterSearch.aspx>. Or, if you have your voter registration card handy, your polling place is listed on it. If you're having trouble using the Voter Tool or can't find your registration card, you can always call CAIR-OK and we will help if we can!

## What do I need to bring with me to vote? Am I required to show ID?

Oklahoma does require that you provide proof of identity by presenting either your Voter Identification card or a photo ID with your full legal name that does not expire before the election. You may also show any document issued by the United States, the State of Oklahoma, or a federally recognized tribal government if it includes your full legal name, a photograph of you, and an expiration date that is later than the election in which you are voting. Eligible forms of ID include but are not limited to: an Oklahoma Driver's License, a US Passport, an Oklahoma ID card, US Military ID card, or a tribal ID card.

There are two exceptions to this requirement: If you are over age 65, an Oklahoma ID card that has been issued to you is valid even though it has no expiration date. A Voter Identification card issued by the Election Board is a valid form of proof of identity even though it does not have an expiration date or photograph.

## Does the name of my ID need to match my name on the voter rolls?

YES. The law requires that your name on your proof of identity must match your name in the voter rolls (or precinct registry).

## When can I vote on November 8?

Polling places are open from 7:00am to 7:00pm on election days.

## Yikes! I'm running late to vote - what if I don't make it to my polling place until 7:00pm?

If you are in line at your polling place by 7:00pm, you are legally permitted to vote!

## Can I write in my preferred candidate?

No. Oklahoma does not allow write-ins for any elected office.

## Will my ballot be counted if I don't vote in every race on the ballot?

Whether you vote in all races that appear on your ballot, in only some of the races, or in only one race, any vote you cast is always counted. If you prefer not to vote for a candidate or a question, you are entitled to make that choice. It will not affect the counting of your votes in any other races on your ballot.

## Can I wear my hijab or kufi to vote?

Yes! Your religious clothing is legally protected at your polling place and in the voting booth.

## Can I take a picture of my ballot?

Yes! While some states do not allow the photography of ballots, there is no law in Oklahoma that penalizes taking a photo of your ballot.

# I #CAIR2Vote because...

MUSLIMS.VOTE

ONCE YOU HAVE VOTED, TEAR OUT THIS SHEET, WRITE DOWN WHY YOU VOTE, AND THEN SNAP A SELFIE! SHARE IT ON FACEBOOK OR TWITTER AND LET US KNOW WHY YOU #CAIR2VOTE! BE SURE TO TAG US AND ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS TO DO THE SAME!

 @CAIROKLAHOMA  CAIR OKLAHOMA

# SAMPLE BALLOT

This sample ballot worksheet was created with you in mind. There are blank spaces for you to write in your selection for each office as you do your research and make your personal voting selections. Then, when you head into the ballot box, you can take this worksheet with you to help you fill out your official ballot! The sample ballot pictured is a sample ballot from Oklahoma County. Your county wide races may differ, so there may be more or fewer boxes, especially for judicial retention. To find your precinct location, absentee ballot request form, and personalized sample ballot visit:

## SAMPLE BALLOT

OFFICIAL BALLOT  
GENERAL ELECTION  
November 08, 2016

COUNTY, OKLAHOMA






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PRECINCT \_\_\_\_\_

POLLING LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

TO VOTE: FILL IN THE BOX NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE(S) LIKE THIS:		CONGRESSIONAL OFFICERS	JUDICIAL RETENTION
		<b>FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR</b> (Vote for One)	Vote separately on each justice or judge; they are not running against each other.
<b>STRAIGHT PARTY</b> A straight party vote is a vote for all candidates of that party in partisan races.			<b>JUSTICES OF THE OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT</b>
<b>STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING</b> (Vote for One)			<b>SUPREME COURT DISTRICT</b> Shall _____ of the OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT be retained in office? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<input type="checkbox"/> REPUBLICAN 		<b>FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> (Vote for One)	<b>SUPREME COURT DISTRICT</b> Shall _____ of the OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT be retained in office? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<input type="checkbox"/> LIBERTARIAN 			<b>JUDGES OF THE OKLAHOMA COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> DEMOCRATIC 			<b>COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS DISTRICT</b> Shall _____ of the OKLAHOMA COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS be retained in office? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>PRESIDENTIAL</b>		<b>LEGISLATIVE, DISTRICT, AND COUNTY OFFICERS</b>	<b>COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS DISTRICT</b> Shall _____ of the OKLAHOMA COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS be retained in office? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>ELECTORS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT</b> (Vote for One)		<b>FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT</b> (Vote for One)	<b>JUDGES OF THE OKLAHOMA COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT</b> DONALD J. TRUMP MICHAEL R. PENCE REPUBLICAN FOR ELECTORS [DAVID OLDHAM [TERESA LYN TURNER [MARK THOMAS [BOBBY CLEVELAND [LAUREE ELIZABETH MARSHALL [CHARLES W POTTS [GEORGE W. WILAND, JR.		<b>FOR COUNTY CLERK</b> (Vote for One)	<b>COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS DISTRICT - OFFICE</b> Shall _____ of the OKLAHOMA COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS be retained in office? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT</b> GARY JOHNSON BILL WELD LIBERTARIAN FOR ELECTORS [ERIN ADAMS [MIKEL DILLON [JOEL BRITT DIXON [REX L LAWHORN [EPHRIAM ZACHARY KNIGHT [CRAIG A. DAWKINS [MARK C. DeSHAZO		<b>FOR COUNTY SHERIFF</b> (Vote for One)	<b>COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS DISTRICT - OFFICE</b> Shall _____ of the OKLAHOMA COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS be retained in office? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT</b> HILLARY CLINTON TIM KAINE DEMOCRAT FOR ELECTORS [MARQ LEWIS [BILL JOHN BAKER [MARK HAMMONS [BETTY McELDERRY [W. A. DREW [EDMONDSON [JEANNIE McDANIEL [RHONDA WALTERS		<b>FOR COUNTY COURT CLERK</b> (Vote for One)	<b>COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS DISTRICT - OFFICE</b> Shall _____ of the OKLAHOMA COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS be retained in office? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

# SAMPLE BALLOT

OFFICIAL BALLOT  
GENERAL ELECTION  
November 08, 2016

COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

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PRECINCT \_\_\_\_\_

POLLING LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

STATE QUESTIONS		
<p><b>STATE QUESTION NO. 776</b> <b>LEGISLATIVE</b> <b>REFERENDUM NO. 367</b></p> <p>This measure adds a new section to the Oklahoma Constitution, Section 9A of Article 2. The new Section deals with the death penalty. The Section establishes State constitutional mandates relating to the death penalty and methods of execution. Under these constitutional requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Legislature is expressly empowered to designate any method of execution not prohibited by the United States Constitution.</li> <li>• Death sentences shall not be reduced because a method of execution is ruled to be invalid.</li> <li>• When an execution method is declared invalid, the death penalty imposed shall remain in force until it can be carried out using any valid execution method, and</li> <li>• The imposition of a death penalty under Oklahoma law-as distinguished from a method of execution-shall not be deemed to be or constitute the infliction of cruel or unusual punishment under Oklahoma's Constitution, nor to contravene any provision of the Oklahoma Constitution.</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO</p>	<p><b>STATE QUESTION NO. 779</b> <b>INITIATIVE PETITION NO. 403</b></p> <p>This measure adds a new Article to the Oklahoma Constitution. The article creates a limited purpose fund to increase funding for public education. It increases State sales and use taxes by one cent per dollar to provide revenue for the fund. The revenue to be used for public education shall be allocated: 69.50% for common school districts, 19.25% for the institutions under the authority of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, 3.25% for the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, and 8% for the State Department of Education. It requires that teacher salaries be funded by this measure raise teacher salaries by at least \$5,000 over the salaries paid in the year prior to adoption of this measure. It requires an annual audit of school districts' use of monies. It prohibits school districts' use of these funds for increasing superintendents' salaries or adding superintendent positions. It requires that monies from the fund not supplant or replace other educational funding. If the Oklahoma Board of Equalization determines funding has been replaced, the Legislature may not make any appropriations until the amount of replaced funding is returned to the fund. The article takes effect on July 1 after its passage.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO</p>	<p><b>STATE QUESTION NO. 781</b> <b>INITIATIVE PETITION NO. 405</b></p> <p>This measure creates the County Community Safety Investment Fund, only if voters approve State Question 780, the Oklahoma Smart Justice Reform Act. This measure would create a fund, consisting of any calculated savings or averted costs that accrued to the State from the implementation of the Oklahoma Smart Justice Reform Act in reclassifying certain property crimes and drug possession as misdemeanors. The measure requires the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to use either actual data or its best estimate to determine how much money was saved on a yearly basis. The amount determined to be saved must be deposited into the Fund and distributed to counties in proportion to their population to provide community rehabilitative programs, such as mental health and substance abuse services. This measure will not become effective if State Question 780, the Oklahoma Smart Justice Reform Act, is not approved by the people. The measure will become effective on July 1 immediately following its passage.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO</p>
<p><b>STATE QUESTION NO. 777</b> <b>LEGISLATIVE</b> <b>REFERENDUM NO. 368</b></p> <p>This measure adds Section 38 to Article II of the Oklahoma Constitution. The new Section creates state constitutional rights. It creates the following guaranteed rights to engage in farming and ranching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The right to make use of agricultural technology,</li> <li>• The right to make use of livestock procedures, and</li> <li>• The right to make use of ranching practices.</li> </ul> <p>These constitutional rights receive extra protection under this measure that not all constitutional rights receive. This extra protection is a limit on lawmakers' ability to interfere with the exercise of these rights. Under this extra protection, no law can interfere with these rights, unless the law is justified by a compelling state interest-a clearly identified state interest of the highest order. Additionally, the law must be necessary to serve that compelling state interest. The measure-and the protections identified above-do not apply to and do not impact state laws related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trespass,</li> <li>• Eminent domain,</li> <li>• Dominance of mineral interests,</li> <li>• Easements,</li> <li>• Right of way or other property rights, and</li> <li>• Any state statutes and political subdivision ordinances enacted before December 31, 2014.</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO</p>	<p><b>STATE QUESTION NO. 780</b> <b>INITIATIVE PETITION NO. 404</b></p> <p>This measure amends existing Oklahoma laws and would change the classification of certain drug possession and property crimes from felony to misdemeanor. It would make possession of a limited quantity of drugs a misdemeanor. The amendment also changes the classification of certain drug possession crimes which are currently considered felonies and cases where the defendant has a prior drug possession conviction. The proposed amendment would reclassify these drug possession cases as misdemeanors. The amendment would increase the threshold dollar amount used for determining whether certain property crimes are considered a felony or misdemeanor. Currently, the threshold is \$500. The amendment would increase the amount to \$1000. Property crimes covered by this change include: false declaration of a pawn ticket, embezzlement, larceny, grand larceny, theft, receiving or concealing stolen property, taking domesticated fish or game, fraud, forgery, counterfeiting, or issuing bogus checks. This measure would become effective July 1, 2017.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO</p>	<p><b>STATE QUESTION NO. 790</b> <b>LEGISLATIVE</b> <b>REFERENDUM NO. 369</b></p> <p>This measure would remove Article 2, Section 5 of the Oklahoma Constitution, which prohibits the government from using public money or property for the direct or indirect benefit of any religion or religious institution. Article 2, Section 5 has been interpreted by the Oklahoma courts as requiring the removal of a Ten Commandments monument from the grounds of the State Capitol. If this measure repealing Article 2, Section 5 is passed, the government would still be required to comply with the Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution, which is a similar constitutional provision that prevents the government from endorsing a religion or becoming overly involved with religion.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO</p>
		<p><b>STATE QUESTION NO. 792</b> <b>LEGISLATIVE</b> <b>REFERENDUM NO. 370</b></p> <p>This measure repeals Article 28 of the Oklahoma Constitution and restructures the laws governing alcoholic beverages through a new Article 28A and other laws the Legislature will create if the measure passes. The new Article 28A provides that with exceptions, a person or company can have an ownership interest in only one area of the alcoholic beverage business-manufacturing, wholesaling, or retailing. Some restrictions apply to the sales of manufacturers, brewers, winemakers, and wholesalers. Subject to limitations, the Legislature may authorize direct shipments to consumers of wine. Retail locations like grocery stores may sell wine and beer. Liquor stores may sell products other than alcoholic beverages in limited amounts. The Legislature must create licenses for retail locations, liquor stores, and places serving alcoholic beverages and may create other licenses. Certain licensees must meet residency requirements. Felons cannot be licensees. The Legislature must designate days and hours when alcoholic beverages may be sold and may impose taxes on sales. Municipalities may levy an occupation tax. If authorized, a state lodge may sell individual alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption but no other state involvement in the alcoholic beverage business is allowed. With one exception, the measure will take effect October 1, 2018.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR THE PROPOSAL - YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST THE PROPOSAL - NO</p>