



2018 Legislative Guide



CAIR
OKLAHOMA

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MESSAGE FROM CAIR-OK GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR



Assalamu Alaikum and Greetings of Peace,

My name is Lani Habrock and I am honored to introduce myself as the Government Affairs Director for CAIR Oklahoma (CAIR-OK). Although I am the newest member of the CAIR-OK team, I have spent the last three years doing advocacy work at another local non-profit, and I look forward to bringing my skills and resources to work for the Oklahoma Muslim community. My hope is that by working together we can bring about positive change in our state and country.

Speaking of change, for the last year I have been asking myself: what makes America great? Beyond the political talking points, memes, and divisive stump speeches, what actually defines our greatness? As Government Affairs Director, my answer is, and always has been, diversity.

Innovation, art, and prosperity all wither in environments of homogeny. The great challenge put before humanity is not just to “tolerate,” but to accept and embrace those different from ourselves as our brothers and sisters. Oklahoma is home to many walks of life, each having their own view of the divine.

As your Government Affairs Director, I will work tirelessly to ensure you are valued as people of faith and are represented and respected in our places of governance. Discrimination against one is a threat to the freedom of all. My goal is to be both a watchdog for you, identifying and educating you on legislation pertinent to you and your family, and to motivate and encourage you in your own advocacy efforts. With the shared dream of having an Oklahoma where we can be proud to raise our children and future generations, together we will move Oklahoma forward.

The 2018 Legislative Guide was created with the Oklahoma Muslim community in mind, in order that you may have the tools and resources available to be an informed, confident citizen advocate. Additionally, you can always reach out to me directly for guidance, support, and encouragement as we advocate together for our rights and issue that are important to all Oklahomans.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lani Habrock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lani Habrock
Government Affairs Director

5 REASONS YOUR VOICE COUNTS

1 If you're not at the table, you're on the menu. You've probably heard this before, and in 2018 it's more true than ever. This is a time when it is vitally important for all citizens to have their voices heard and counted, because otherwise, their needs are pushed aside. If our elected leaders do not know and understand the realities of the Oklahoma Muslim community, it is all too easy for them to vote against your interests. The last few years have seen more anti-Muslim hate crimes and more legislation, at every level, that infringes on the rights of American Muslims. Now is a time to make your needs and opinions heard!

IN 2017, HATE CRIMES AGAINST AMERICAN MUSLIMS REACHED HIGHER LEVELS THAN WERE SEEN DIRECTLY FOLLOWING 9/11. IN A SURVEY OF OKLAHOMA MUSLIMS, 28% REPORTED HAVING EXPERIENCED HARASSMENT OR DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH.

2 Justice requires YOUR voice. Justice isn't passive - it depends on people to take action and stand up against unfairness and injustice. By taking a stand for the causes you find important, you are enacting a more just society, taking part in the process that can either enshrine or disregard the rights of Oklahoma's most vulnerable populations: the poor, elderly, children, people of color, and other marginalized communities.

3 It's not just a citizen's duty - it's also a religious duty. The Qur'an tells us, "O you who believe! Stand out firmly for Allah and be just witnesses and let not the enmity and hatred of others make you avoid justice. Be just: that is nearer to piety, and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Well-Acquainted with what you do. (Al-Ma'idah 5:8)". We are meant to take a stand in our communities, even though it might be scary or difficult. As Muslims, and as members of the Oklahoma community, we must all work together to build our state into a prosperous, just, and equitable home for all.



"Whosoever amongst you sees an evil, let him change it with his hands; and if he is not able, then with his tongue; and if he is not able, then let him hate it in his heart, and that is the weakest of faith." (Authenticated by Al-Albani)

4 Our state is stronger when all communities are actively engaged. There are around 40,000 Muslims in the state of Oklahoma. Elections in some districts in Oklahoma have been won or lost with as few as 25 votes - or even a single vote! Imagine the power of the Muslim voting bloc if we all participated fully in every election. When all voices are heard, our lawmakers can fully consider all the perspectives that affect their communities and the people they serve.

90% OF MUSLIMS SURVEYED REPORTED HAVING VOTED IN THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

5 YOU can make a difference! Civic engagement is more than just voting - it's also taking part in the systems that create and protect our laws and regulations. It's volunteering for the causes you find important, rallying behind the issues that affect you, and taking a stand when you see intolerable injustice. It's introducing yourself to new experiences with local and state politics, getting to know our leaders, and making new friends and allies wherever you go. There has never been a Muslim elected official in Oklahoma. **Will you be the first?**

CAIR-OK'S 2018 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Each year, CAIR Oklahoma develops a state legislative agenda to advance key issues and promote civic engagement among Oklahoma Muslims. The agenda is informed by research, community interest, and CAIR-OK's mission, and is approved by our Board of Directors. The CAIR-OK 2018 Legislative Agenda supports policies that maximize religious freedoms, Constitutional protections, and work aimed at eliminating inequality in Oklahoma.

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO FIX OKLAHOMA'S BUDGET CRISIS



The State of Oklahoma faces an unprecedented budget crisis brought on by years of irresponsible fiscal policy. We strongly support policy initiatives that work to make responsible increases to state revenues and provide prosperity for all Oklahomans.

STRENGTHENING FEDERAL AND STATE HATE CRIME LAWS



In the last several years, the number of hate crimes reported to the FBI has continued to grow, with a 67% increase in the number of hate crimes against Muslims between 2014 and 2015. In Oklahoma, state and federal hate crime charges are rarely, if ever brought against perpetrators, and when they are, they only constitute misdemeanors. We support policies that seek to strengthen both state and federal hate crime laws

OPPOSING ANTI-RELIGIOUS FREEDOM LEGISLATION



For the last decade, CAIR-OK has zealously defended the Oklahoma Muslim community from legislation aimed at undermining their First Amendment freedoms to religion and speech. We will continue this tradition in 2018, with a renewed effort to ensure that all individuals are guaranteed their constitutionally protected rights.

OPPOSING BULLYING, DISCRIMINATION, AND PUBLIC SHAMING



Whether it's workplace discrimination, school lunch shaming, or voter discrimination, CAIR OK is committed to standing for equality, social justice, and human dignity for everyone. We have already seen handfuls of discriminatory measures drop in the 2018 session and we are here to stand with you in opposition to legislation that threatens to harm our fellow Oklahomans. Discrimination against one is a threat to the freedom of all.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SERVICES



As an organization, we often work with vulnerable and disenfranchised communities. Social service programs are an important part of making those communities healthier, safer, and happier. We support any policies aimed at reinforcing and improving important services such as affordable healthcare, mental health counseling and treatment, and food assistance for needy families.

INTRODUCTION TO OKLAHOMA'S STATE LEGISLATURE



IN 1990, OKLAHOMANS VOTED TO APPROVE TERM LIMITS FOR LEGISLATORS. REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS CANNOT SERVE MORE THAN 12 YEARS IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE COMBINED. IN 2018, 13 REPRESENTATIVES AND 6 SENATORS WILL FINISH THEIR 12 YEARS OR BE "TERM LIMITED" IN 2018.

HOW DO I KNOW WHO MY LEGISLATOR IS?

Your legislator is determined by the address where you are registered to vote! Scan the QR code or go to <http://www.oklegislature.gov/FindMyLegislature.aspx>.



The **Oklahoma Legislature** is made up of two bodies, or **chambers**: the **House of Representatives** and the **Senate**. Representatives and Senators run and are elected in areas called **districts**, which are drawn up every 10 years on completion of the federal Census. Your legislator is determined by the address where you are registered to vote.

These elected people in the legislature are responsible for drafting, debating, and passing the laws of our state, which are then either approved or vetoed by our **Governor**. Our current governor is Mary Fallin, who will be terming out in 2018. The legislature is also responsible for approving members of the Governor's cabinet, providing oversight to state agencies, and balancing the state budget. **With all that responsibility, you can see why it is vitally important that our legislators know and understand our communities as they do their work.**

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES is made up of members of 101 districts. Currently, there are 100 active members of the House of Representatives with one district holding a special election in 2018. There are 72 Republicans and 28 Democrats. Representatives are elected to two-year terms, and all Representatives are up for election every two years. The House of Representatives is led by the Speaker of the House and Speaker Pro Tempore. In 2018, these positions are held by Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) and Speaker Pro Tempore Harold Wright (R-Weatherford).

IN 2017, SPECIAL ELECTIONS TURNED FOUR SEATS IN THE OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE FROM REPUBLICAN TO DEMOCRAT: HOUSE DISTRICTS 46 AND 75, AND SENATE DISTRICTS 37 AND 44.

THE SENATE is composed of members of 48 districts. There are currently 48 members of the Senate with 38 Republicans and 10 Democrats. Each Senator is elected to four-year terms, with elections staggered so that half the Senate is up for election every two years. The Senate is led by the

HOW TO FIND AND TRACK LEGISLATION

The process by which bills are passed is complex and confusing! Luckily, organizations like CAIR-OK are here to help you find, understand, track, and organize around the bills that you care about. If there are issues you are passionate about, find a non-profit advocacy or lobbying group working around those issues – they will help you understand where you are needed and how to get involved.

A lobbyist is a person who works to advocate on behalf of a cause or interest group, in order to advise legislators to vote a certain way. While some lobbyists work for companies or industries, others work for nonprofits like CAIR-OK! Your support is vital to ensuring that the voices of Oklahoma's Muslim community are heard by our state lawmakers.

President Pro Tempore and the Majority Floor Leader. In 2018, these positions are held by President Pro Tempore Mike Schulz (R-Altus) and Majority Floor Leader Greg Treat (R-Oklahoma City).

THE FIRST DAY OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION begins at noon on the first Monday in February and must adjourn by no later than 5:00pm on the last Friday in May. During legislative session, legislators are at the Capitol from Monday through Thursday, and they return to their home districts on Fridays. Legislative session is when pieces of law, or bills, are introduced, debated and amended in committee, researched, and voted on – it's when a lot of the work of lawmaking happens. But after session adjourns in May, legislators still have lots of work to do, meeting with residents of their districts, or constituents, and researching the bills they may propose at the next session. Sometimes, the Governor calls Special Sessions or additional meetings of the state legislature in the event that they are not able to come to agreements on vital issues such as the state budget.

When each bill is submitted, it is assigned a number, which is how you follow or “track” legislation as it passed through committees and is changed, or **amended**, and subsequently voted on. Each bill has one or more authors who drafted and proposed it. You can find these bills at www.oklegislature.gov under “Legislation.” On this webpage, you can also search for legislation by bill number, author, subject, committee, and more. As it goes through the lengthy process, a bill has several different versions: “introduced” is the initial version of a bill, “engrossed” is the version that passed the first chamber, and “enrolled” is the final version approved by both chambers. You can find more about this process at www.okhouse.gov or by contacting the CAIR-OK Government Affairs Department.

IN ADDITION TO OKLAHOMA'S STATE LEGISLATURE, THERE ARE MANY OTHER BODIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO AFFECT YOUR COMMUNITY: SCHOOL BOARDS, ZONING BOARDS, CITY COUNCILS, MAYORS, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, JUDGESHIPS, POLICE CHIEFS, AND MANY MORE. IN FACT, FOR ANY ASPECT OF LIFE IN A CITY, TOWN, OR RURAL COMMUNITY, THERE IS AT LEAST ONE OFFICIAL WHO IS ELECTED TO TAKE CHARGE. MANY OF THESE POSITIONS ARE ELECTED WITH LITTLE TO NO OPPOSITION, AND SOME OF THEM ARE OPEN TO ANYONE WHO WANTS TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN THE FUTURE OF THEIR COMMUNITY. NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE, OPPORTUNITIES FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ARE ALL AROUND YOU!

CITIZEN ADVOCACY, STEP BY STEP

**CONSTITUENT
(ADJECTIVE):
BEING A VOTING
MEMBER OF A
COMMUNITY OR
ORGANIZATION
AND HAVING
THE POWER TO
APPOINT OR
ELECT.**

IDENTIFY YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

- ✿ Find out who your district's elected officials are. Legislators prioritize meetings with people who actually live in their district when they schedule meetings and respond to requests.
- ✿ Find out which elected officials are members of committees that are relevant to your interests. These committees do in-depth research and amend or reject bills as they come through the legislative process. If your legislator is not on a committee where the bill you are following is being considered, contact those committee members as well as your own legislator.
- ✿ Research the voting record and stated position of elected officials on the issues important to you. Elected officials should be accountable for their voting records and their recorded statements.

KNOW & DEFINE YOUR ISSUES

- ✿ Know what your "ask" will be before you meet with your legislator. Do you want a Representative to vote for or against a specific bill? Do you want their help to address an issue in your district? Do you have information that would help a legislator make an informed decision about a particular issue? Identifying the specific actions you want to see is helpful to you and to your legislator.
- ✿ Develop a personal story around why the issue is important to you. These personal stories help legislators convince their colleagues that these issues affect their constituents and can help change their mind! If you don't have a personal story to share, list three reasons why you do or don't support the issue you are meeting with them about.
- ✿ If you're meeting with your legislator in a group, coordinate beforehand to streamline your message.
- ✿ Research the bill and read its latest version, making sure that you understand where your bill is in the process. This helps you develop your "ask."
- ✿ Draft some short talking points explaining your position and why you think the issue is important. You should be able to explain your stance quickly and clearly and be able to state why you think they should vote for or against a particular measure, or what steps you'd like to see to have an issue addressed. Having well-researched statistics and stories about the issue can be helpful!

PREPARE MATERIALS

- ✿ Materials for yourself: research on your bill or issue, your legislator's history of voting or speaking on that issue, your personal story or talking points about the issue.
- ✿ Materials to leave with your elected official: clear outline of the issue you wish to discuss, your talking points (limited to one page if possible), information about your group, the legislation you want to see action on, the issues you care about, and your contact information.

PLAN YOUR MEETING

- ✿ An elected official's legislative assistant is the most important person on that official's staff. They are responsible for developing the schedule.
- ✿ Between committee meetings, floor hearings, and other business, legislators are very busy. If you want a face-to-face meeting, scheduling an appointment is key. If you don't hear back after emailing to request a meeting, follow up with a phone call.
- ✿ Be prepared for 30 minutes – or 5 minutes. Make the most of your time with your busy elected official by having your message prepared beforehand and your leave-behind materials streamlined. You may have to meet with their staffer or meet them outside in a hallway – every minute is an opportunity to form a positive relationship that may have a lasting impact.

DURING YOUR MEETING

- ✿ If you are asked a question that you do not have an answer to, tell them you will contact them later to follow up. Don't guess, and don't fabricate; it's always better to be honest and plan to provide correct information later.
- ✿ If your legislator says, "I am sympathetic to your position but I do not think there are enough people who support it," you can organize your friends to visit that office, write letters, and make phone calls.
- ✿ If your legislator says, "I am sympathetic to your position but it isn't affordable/there isn't funding for it," explain again what the problem is and then ask them for other solutions about how to fix that issue.
- ✿ Advocacy does not require arguing. You can certainly express your points with emotion or passion, but be prepared for the fact that your legislator may disagree with you. You can still be firm in your position without begin aggressive.
- ✿ If your legislator says there is nothing they can do, ask them respectfully who the next person to contact would be.
- ✿ Take notes on what your legislator says and on the items you need to follow up with them. You may also want to record the names of staffers you meet and other information that helps you make the most of your meeting.

FOLLOW UP AFTER YOUR MEETING

- ✿ Send a thank you note to your elected official, their legislative assistant, and any staffers you may have met with. Even if they did not vote the way you wanted them to, it's a good practice to thank them for taking the time to meet with you.
- ✿ Keep records of your meeting and your notes so that you can follow up later if necessary.
- ✿ If you were asked a question and you did not have the answer during the meeting, remember to follow through in providing that answer.
- ✿ Follow the issue you were advocating for and contact your elected official later to make them aware that you are still interested in that issue.
- ✿ Invite the elected official and their staff to visit your community! Building bridges of mutual understanding is the key to forming strong relationships with your elected officials.



TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- **Be respectful.** Your legislator and their staff are busy people with a lot on their schedules. Treat them with respect and consideration at all stages of the process, even if they disagree with you.
- **Be prepared.** Know what your issue is and have a plan of action before you step into your meeting. Beforehand organization helps you streamline your "ask" and makes the most of your limited meeting time.
- **Take notes.** Keep records of when you request meetings, when you get those meetings, and what the outcome is. If you're making repeated requests and your elected official is being evasive and won't meet with you, contact us!
- **Be consistent.** Maintaining contact with your elected official outside of a single meeting helps them to get to know you and your community. Thank-you notes, invitations, and continued correspondence keep your face in their mind.
- **Follow up.** Providing more information, tracking your issue, and soliciting more support are all ways to keep the issue fresh and build more momentum for the changes you want to see.

VOTING IN OKLAHOMA

OSEB: ok.gov/elections | (405)521-2391 | **CAIR-OK:** cairoklahoma.com | (405) 286-6009

VOTER REGISTRATION

You must have a Voter Identification card to be able to vote in any election. You must get a form, fill it out, and then mail to the OSEB:

Oklahoma State Election Board
PO Box 52880
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-8800

✿ Forms are available for download at the OSEB website under the Voter Info/Register to Vote tabs. Printed forms can be found at county election boards, tag agencies, post offices, libraries, and some other locations. CAIR OK can also provide voter registration forms for your mosque, Islamic Center, or MSA.

✿ The voter registration form requires your name, birthdate, address, and identification number (Driver's License or Social Security). You must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of Oklahoma, and an adult over the age of 18 in order to register to vote. The forms are pre-addressed and do not require an envelope, only a stamp. If you complete the form at a county election board or at the CAIR-OK office, you do not need to mail the form. If you complete the form at another local government agency, the agency will stamp and mail the form to the OSEB for you.

TO FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE (WHERE YOU VOTE), CONFIRM YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION, OR VIEW A SAMPLE BALLOT BEFORE AN ELECTION, VISIT THE WWW.OK.GOV/ELECTIONS WEBSITE AND CLICK ON "VOTER INFO" OR "ONLINE VOTER TOOL."

✿ OSEB forwards the form to your county election board, which mails you a Voter Identification card. Your county election board must receive your form at least 24 days before the next election in order for you to vote in that election; otherwise, your Voter ID card will be mailed after the next election.

Voter registration forms also require you to designate whether you wish to affiliate with a political party. Party registration determines whether or not you can vote in presidential primary elections.

For information on the Democratic Party, visit: www.okdemocrats.org.

For information on the Republican Party, visit: www.okgop.com

For information on the Libertarian Party, visit: www.oklp.org.

HOW TO VOTE

WHERE AND WHEN Your local polling station is open from 7AM to 7PM on election days. You can find your local polling station on your Voter ID card and using the Online Voter Tool at OSEB's website. You can also contact any of Oklahoma's political parties or CAIR Oklahoma for assistance. You can vote at the County Election Board office in the county where you are registered to vote from 8AM to 6PM on the Friday and Monday before all elections. For state and federal elections only, you can also vote from 8AM to 1PM on the Saturday before the election.

HOW Oklahoma requires that you provide proof of your identity by presenting your Voter ID card or a photo ID with your full legal name that does not expire before the election and which matches the name as registered in the Precinct Registry. You may show any document issued by the United States, the State of Oklahoma, or a federally recognized tribal government if it includes your name, a photograph of you, and an expiration date that is later than the election in which you are voting.

✿ Oklahoma Driver License

✿ Oklahoma State-Issued Identification Card

✿ United States Passport

✿ United States Military Identification

The law provides only two exceptions to these requirements:

✿ An Oklahoma ID Card issued to a person who is 65 years or older is valid as proof of identity for voting even though it does not have an expiration date.

✿ The Voter Identification Card issued by the County Election Board is valid as proof of identity even though it does not include a photograph or an expiration date.

At your polling place, if you do not have, or choose not to show, proof of your identity, you may cast a provision ballot and verify your identity by signing a sworn affidavit. These ballots are examined after Election Day by the Election Board to verify their information before they are counted.

After proving your identity, you will receive your ballot. Each ballot has the candidates for that election listed and/or the issues that are up for a vote. It will provide instructions on how to vote for the candidate(s) or option(s) of your choice. There will also be a sample ballot available for viewing on the OSEB election website prior to Election Day. Viewing your sample ballot will help you be prepared to vote quickly and with confidence.

VOTER INTIMIDATION IS A VERY SERIOUS VIOLATION OF A CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO CAST A VOTE. IF YOU OBSERVE VOTER INTIMIDATION, REPORT IT TO A PRECINCT WORKER OR POLL OBSERVER AND TO CAIR-OK IMMEDIATELY!

Examples of voter intimidation:

- aggressive questioning about citizenship, nationality, religion, or criminal background
- demanding the removal of religious clothing such as hijab or kufi
- false statements about voting requirements, such as an ability to speak English
- any activity intended to prevent or discourage someone from exercising their right to vote

WHY State and Local elections are the most important elections! The laws and policies that significantly impact your everyday life and the budgeting decisions that fund them are made at the state and local level: roads and streets, schools, libraries, social services, sales taxes are all determined by decisions made by municipal and state government. Zoning boards and school boards determine the shape of your neighborhoods and affect the quality of your children's education. Elected judges and District Attorneys defend and interpret the laws that govern our state. Elected clerks and commissioners set priorities and manage properties funded by your tax dollars. Professionals such as doctors, lawyers, engineers, and others are governed by elected Boards that determine membership requirements and set standards for practice in the state. Even the implementation of federal policies can be determined by state and local governments. **At every level, your voice is vital to the processes that keep our communities running. Make sure you are heard!**

STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

STATEWIDE ELECTION DATES:

June 26, 2018: Primary Election

Primary elections are held to determine the candidates for an election. In Oklahoma, the Republican primary elections are open only to voters who register as Republicans. Democratic primary elections are open to voters who are registered as Democrats or those who are unaffiliated with a political party.

August 28, 2018: Primary Runoff Election

This election further narrows down the field of candidates who will run for the general election.

November 6, 2018: General Election

In 2018, half of the 48 seats in the Oklahoma Senate and all 101 seats in the House of Representatives are up for election. There will also be special elections for certain Senate and House seats.

2018 Special Elections:

State Senator, District 27

Voter registration deadline: January 19
Deadline to request absentee ballot: Feb. 7
Early voting: February 8, 8AM-6PM;
Feb. 9, 8AM-6PM; Feb. 10, 9AM-2PM
General Election: February 13

State Representative, District 51

Voter registration deadline: February 9
Deadline to request absentee ballot: Feb. 28
Early voting: March 1, 8AM-6PM;
March 2, 8AM-6PM; March 3, 9AM-2PM
General Election: March 6

On November 6, Oklahomans will vote to fill a number of state and municipal positions:

State Offices:

Governor	Superintendent of Public Instruction
Lieutenant Governor	Commissioner of Insurance
Attorney General	Commissioner of Labor
Treasurer	Corporation Commissioner
State Auditor and Inspector	(one of three seats)

Federal Elections:

United States House of Representatives

Judicial Elections (to retain judges appointed by Governor):

Oklahoma Supreme Court (5 of 9)
Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals (2 of 5)
Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals (4 of 12)

Municipal Elections:

Canadian County, Oklahoma - County commissioner, county treasurer, county assessor, and county district attorney
Cleveland County, Oklahoma - County commissioner, county treasurer, county assessor, and county district attorney
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - Mayor
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma - County commissioner, county treasurer, county assessor, and county district attorney
Osage County, Oklahoma - County commissioner, county treasurer, county assessor, and election board secretary
Tulsa, Oklahoma - City council and auditor
Tulsa County, Oklahoma - County commissioner, county treasurer, county assessor, and election board secretary

Many websites and public policy organizations will have information on the candidates for these offices as the year progresses. Check out our Resources page for links and websites that will help you be the most informed voter at the polls!

VOTING FAQ

I'VE ALREADY REGISTERED BUT I NEED TO CHANGE MY NAME, ADDRESS, OR POLITICAL PARTY.

In order to change your name, address, or party affiliation, you must fill out and mail in another voter registration form.

I HATE VOTING IN PERSON – IS THERE A WAY TO VOTE BY MAIL IN OKLAHOMA?

Yes! Absentee voting, or voting by mail, is an easy and convenient way to exercise your right to vote without standing in long lines or making extra trips. Any registered voter can vote by absentee ballot for any reason. You can fill out the form online by visiting the State Election Board's website! You will have the option to apply for absentee ballots for one election, for several elections, or for all the election for which you are eligible to vote in the calendar year.

WHAT DO I NEED TO VOTE BY MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Once you have received your absentee ballot, you can take your time to study your choices. When you are ready, you may mail, fax, or deliver your absentee ballot to the county election board. Your ballot must either be notarized or be witnessed by two people, which is considered by law to be sufficient to establish your identity. The ballot must be received by the county election board before 7pm on Election Day.

WILL MY BALLOT BE COUNTED IF I DON'T VOTE EVERY RACE ON IT? WHAT IF I LEAVE SOME RACES BLANK?

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

RESOURCES

OKLAHOMA POLICY INSTITUTE

An independent nonpartisan non-profit that provides factual information and advocates for fair and responsible public policies.

www.okpolicy.org

Oklahoma Policy Institute's 2017 Legislative Primer

<https://okpolicy.org/resources/2018-oklahoma-legislative-primer/>

TOGETHER OKLAHOMA

A grassroots education and advocacy group connecting Oklahoma values to state budget priorities.

www.togetherok.org

SCHOLARS STRATEGY NETWORK

Encourages collaboration between scholars at universities and state-level policy groups to benefit the public good.

www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/regional-network/oklahoma

BALLOTPEDIA

A hub for state political coverage of elections, policies, and more

www.ballotpedia.org/Oklahoma

LET'S FIX THIS

A nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to educating our fellow Oklahomans on the laws, policies, and other political issues that affect them the most and creating opportunities for the public to interact with their elected officials in meaningful ways.

www.letsfixthisok.org

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE HOME PAGE

The House of Representatives and Senate, how bills become law, bill tracking, committees, calendars, and more

oklegislature.gov

Find My Legislator: www.oklegislature.gov/FindMyLegislature.aspx

OKLAHOMA STATE ELECTION BOARD

Voter registration, election dates and deadlines, sample ballots, find your polling place, absentee ballot applications, etc

www.ok.gov/elections



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