



2018 Oklahoma Senate Voter's Guide



CAIR
OKLAHOMA



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A MESSAGE FROM CAIR-OK GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR



Assalamu Alaikum and Greetings of Peace,

This 2018 Primary Candidate 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 and confident voter in the June primary election.

In 2018 a record number of citizens filed to run for office. We narrowed it down, reaching out only to candidates running in districts identified as having a higher concentration of Muslim voters. We asked their stances on issues of immigration, budget, bullying, hate crimes, and education. We were working with an aggressive timeline in order to get this guide to you in time to help you make educated decisions for the primary (June 26th). Thus, some candidates did not have the time to answer all of our questions. This is not necessarily a statement on their support or opposition to CAIR or the Muslim community.

My goal as your Government Affairs Director is to encourage diversity and equity at our legislature; in both representation and in legislation. Prosperity, innovation and art 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.

I hope you find this guide valuable as you exercise your right to vote and engage in the political process.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lani Habrock". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Lani R. Habrock
Government Affairs Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Oklahoma Chapter

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!

INTRODUCTION TO OKLAHOMA'S STATE LEGISLATURE

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.**

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>.



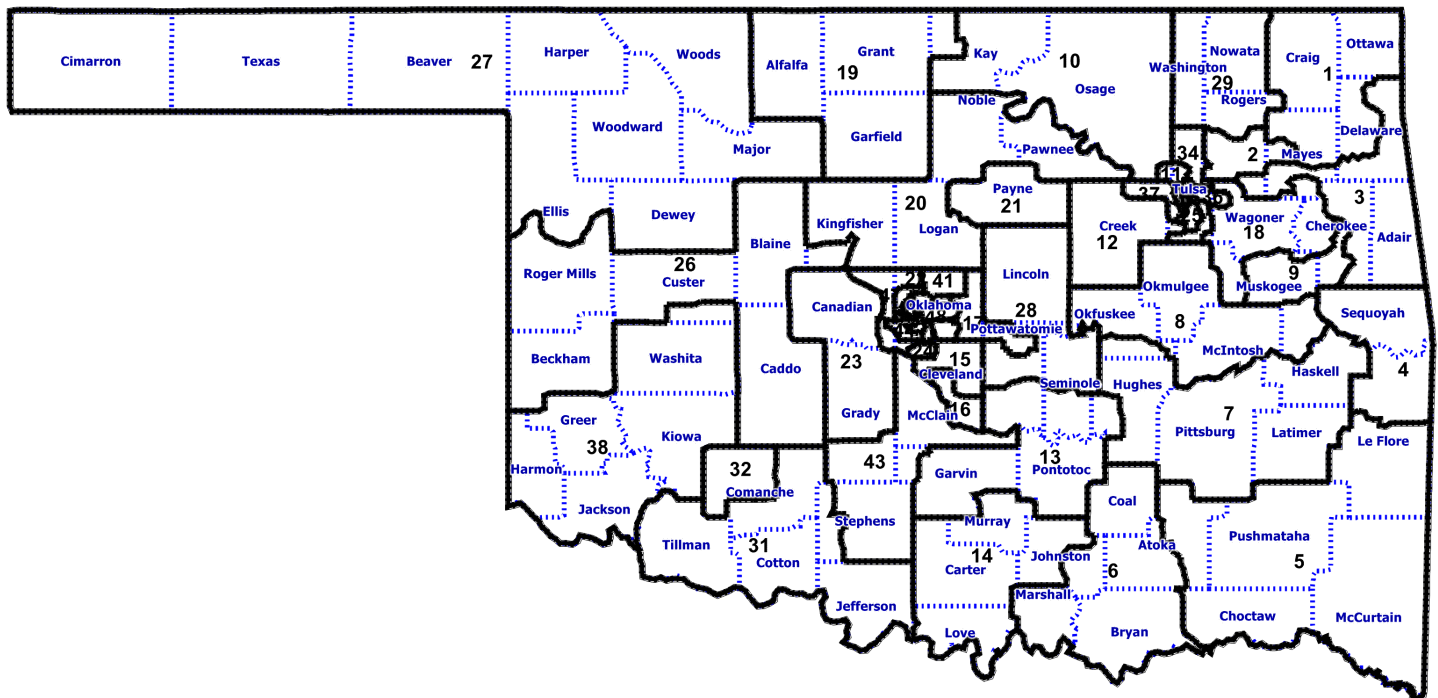
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES is made up of members of 101 districts. Currently, there are 100 active members of the House of Representatives with one district holding a special election in 2018. There are 72 Republicans and 28 Democrats. Representatives are elected to two-year terms, and all Representatives 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 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.

DISTRICT MAP



CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

1. What is your stance on **immigration**- What are your views on immigration and what role do you see immigrants playing in Oklahoma's economy?
2. Stance on Oklahoma's **budget**- should we pass more revenue raising measures and if so, where and what services and infrastructures would you prioritize funding first?
3. If elected, how would you serve the Muslim and **interfaith** community? How would you increase civic engagement in minority communities that feel routinely ignored or harassed?
4. **School bullying/harassment** - with the increase in harassment and anti-Muslim bullying in public schools, how would you strengthen the protections available to minority students and their families?
5. **Hate crimes** - What would you do to strengthen or change Oklahoma's treatment of bi-as-motivated crime?
6. **Education** - What would you do to improve the status of Oklahoma's public education system?

SENATE DISTRICT 14



Justin Arledge

Party | Democrat

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A proud citizen of the unconquered and unconquerable Chickasaw Nation, Justin is President of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma City and a graduate of the Leadership Native Oklahoma program. Through these leadership programs Justin has been able to visit with and learn from tribal leaders all over Oklahoma, which include, Chief Bill John Baker of the Cherokee Nation, Chairman Rocky Barret of the Citizen of the Potawatami Nation and many others.

Professionally, Justin is a Certified Insurance Counselor and Vice President of Sullivan Insurance Agency, an award winning agency which specializes in insuring tribal entities commercial agriculture, small to large business, personal lines and all lines of healthcare. Justin is also a recent graduate from the Future Insurance Leaders of Oklahoma. Understanding workers compensation and all lines of insurance Justin will be a great candidate to oversee the insurance commissioner.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

I see immigration as vital to our economy. The United States was founded on immigration and the workforce that it provided. Immigrants in Oklahoma's economy make up all spectrum's of the workforce. Having these immigrants is a blessing.

BUDGET

Yes, we need new revenue measures, such as allowing the tribes to implement sports gambling (which was just allowed by the U.S. Supreme Court), repeal the capital gains tax exemption, pass SQ788 for medical marijuana, start taxing rock companies that are hauling our states property to another state (these usufruct rights must be protected). Also, accepting the Medicaid expansion from the federal government that our FICA dollars pay into is critical to helping rural hospitals and are aging baby boomer population. These new revenue measures can fix infrastructure, fully fund education, and provide quality health insurance. We certainly need to prioritize rural communities and fixing the dilapidated water situation and crumbling infrastructure. If I were to put a number of priority it would be

1a) Fully fund education

1b) Overhaul our water system to provide clean water to citizens

1c) Fund healthcare with the medicaid expansion and start funding nursing homes, assisted living, and hospice for the upcoming baby boomer population

1d) Provide benefits to all volunteer fire departments to protect the brave men and women who choose to volunteer for their community.

INTERFAITH

It all starts with education, if you provide quality education that focuses on sympathy, understanding, and cultural recognition over the next 15 years you can start to see a change. We currently focus on test scores and children's mental health and well being are overlooked. Also, community engagement and sit downs for people to meet and get to know each other will go a long way.

BULLYING

Again, I think it starts at home. If you can change the minds of parents and educate students that we all have similarities and compassion and grace is our biggest strength we can work towards ending racism and bullying. If a child is a bully and continual harassment is evident parents need to be brought in and confronted about their child's behavior. Here are a few steps that are recommended by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory - Equity Center

- 1) Strong well-publicized policies and procedures - I like this stance because it takes a no tolerance stance and provides upfront what is acceptable and what is not*
- 2) Training for all district employees - quality training is currently lacking in our education system*
- 3) Informing all students, parents, and community members about what constitutes harassment, the districts tolerance for harassment, consequences for harassment, and resources available for victims*
- 4) Classroom and curricular strategies for establishing and reinforcing equitable attitudes and actions.*

HATE CRIMES

To strengthen our community we must develop strong links with the community. Family and community support is critical to the success of any effort to reduce harassment. Providing a hand book to parents may reduce parent concern and build support. To change our attitude creating a multicultural education environment as a tool to prevent harassment and help everyone understand we are all just people and we all hurt. This could be implemented as working environments in a harassment free learning environment.

EDUCATION

This is going to be a generational change and must be implemented at all levels of education. In order for the programs to work, that I mentioned above, we first must have revenue to support these programs. However, we can't keep going to the legislature to ask for more revenue we must decrease our expenses to lengthen our budget. The number 2 expense in our education system is utilities, so I would propose placing solar and Geo-thermal on every school to decrease this expense and allow the opportunity to have year around schooling so children aren't falling behind in reading levels over the summer by 2-3 grade levels. Every school system will be different so addressing the needs and problems first before throwing money at it must be the first step.

SENATE DISTRICT 14 (con.)



Frank Simpson

INCUMBENT

Frank Simpson was encouraged to run for the Oklahoma State Senate by friends, family and mentors. He was elected to his first term of office on November 2, 2010, and reelected November 4, 2014. He is honored to serve the citizens of Love, Carter, Murray, and Johnston Counties.

Frank and his wife Linda moved to southern Oklahoma in 1995. Although not native Oklahomans, Senator Simpson says he and Linda like to say, "We got here as quick as we could."

Senator Simpson is a native of Arkansas and graduated from Little Rock Central High School in 1963. After graduation from high school, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served 26 years active duty retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer in 1988. During his naval career, Senator Simpson served on nine sea commands; including a six month deployment with the Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Beirut, Lebanon. He received the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal and numerous other awards and citations.

Senator Simpson's civilian career involved positions with Kmart, Dollar General, and Big Lots where he served in facility management and logistics. He managed the construction of major distribution centers for all three retailers. Senator Simpson has also served in the ministry since 2000. He has pastored United Methodist Churches in Thackerville and Gene Autry, Oklahoma, and currently pastors the First United Methodist Church in Mannsville.

He is married to the former Linda Patoka. They have four daughters: Teresa, Cynthia, Tonya, and Lyn. They have 15 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Senator Simpson is a member of the Military Officers Association of America, and is past president of the Southern Oklahoma Chapter and past president of the State Council of Chapters. He is also a member of the American Legion.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE

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Joe Caudle

Party | *Republican*

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Today we face more challenge and controversy than ever before. I believe it is now time for all men to be measured! To find answers to our problems today, we must first look to our God and his Word as our founders of this great country did, and understand that they had a better knowledge of human nature than we do today.

Thomas Paine wrote in his pamphlet, "Common Sense", "Society in every state is a blessing, but government even in its best state is but a necessary evil, in its worst state, an intolerable one".

Society is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness. The former promotes our happiness positively by uniting our affections, the latter negatively by restraining our vice. The one encourages intercourse, the other creates distinction. The first is a patron, the last a punisher.

In times of comfort we become relaxed and find that we unintentionally lay aside our responsibility and duty to our God, our Family and our Neighbor. Because of our failure in these areas, we give up our freedom by handing over our responsibility to government. I have never had a political belief that comes from anywhere but the Word of God and our Declaration of Independence. In that:

"We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these are the rights to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness".

I believe that to retake and sustain these rights, we must look to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and follow his teachings and example of love for our Neighbor.

If we do this we can limit the size of government and turn entitlement back to Liberty!

In this, we can truly find peace and unity as a people!

I was born and raised in Senate District 14 and never have I felt a need to run more than I do right now. I graduated high school from Dickson, Oklahoma, then went on to Southeastern Oklahoma State University, where I received my Bachelor's Degree in Conservation. My wife, Audrey and I raised our two daughters in Sulphur and have been happily married for 37 years. I have been a Deacon at Calvary Baptist Church in Sulphur for over 20 years, where I also teach a children's Sunday school class. My parents have owned and operated Circle C Boot Repair in Ardmore for over 50 years, where my father, Harold Caudle, still works at the age of 78. Audrey and I are blessed to be able to spend time with our daughters, their husbands and our five grandsons. We believe that they deserve a better Oklahoma than the path our legislature is currently leading us down.

If you agree with me that happiness is up to ourselves, Prosperity by the fruit of our labor and life always worth fighting for then I seek your vote, your support and, most of all, your prayers as your next State Senator.

SENATE DISTRICT 16



Mary B Boren

In 1992, Boren graduated law school with Distinction from OU, and began her education policy career as a Carl Albert Executive Fellow with the State Regents for High Education and also worked for the State Department of Education. Governor Walters and Governor Henry enlisted Boren to serve as an interim legal analyst during the last weeks of the legislative sessions in 1993, 1994, and 2003. Boren credits her participation in the Institute for Child Advocacy's Kids Count Leaders training, and American Bar Association's Children and Law Committee, as motivation to represent foster parents, grandparents, and parents undergoing family crisis. She has volunteered for the Oklahoma Lawyers for Children since 1997, and in 2007 she also worked with other attorneys to start Trinity Legal aid Clinic.

Mary Boren is married to Nathan Boren, M.D. In 2003, He completed his rural commitment through the Oklahoma Physicians Manpower Training Commission and they moved back to Norman. Since then, Boren's family has been a member of the Alameda Church of Christ, and all three of their children were educated within the Norman Public School system. "Balancing work and life is a challenge, but like most Oklahoma parents we know the importance of staying involved in PTA, school and church activities," Boren said. She is currently a member of Latina's Women In Norman to support the Mosaicos after-school program for English language learners at Truman Elementary, and served as coordinator for the Alameda Church of Christ's tutoring program. After the 2013 storms, Boren worked for the Center for Children and Families to connect storm survivors with mental health resources working closely with the Native American mental health network, the Red Cross, Catholic Charities, The Salvation Army, and Society of St. Vincent DePaul.

My most challenging and inspiring work was serving others as a school counselor from 2009-2015. I served many students in need of weekend food, housing, clothing, academic support and even out-patient mental health care. I worked closely with parents to help them acquire the skills needed to access extra help for their children," Boren said.

In 2013, Boren was elected to represent nearly 3000 teachers on the district's bargaining team. "The extra scrutiny I experienced for participating as a member of bargaining team prepared me to understand the stress teachers experience under the high-stakes, and under-funded climate in Oklahoma's public schools," Boren said. "The stories and experiences of Oklahoma teachers that I witnessed haunt me but also inspire me to fight against detractors who compromise the trust and value of public schools and teachers."

"As State Senator I will serve to build trust in our public services by those who've become dismayed by current political climate. I'll continue to work hard with Oklahomans of every kind, location, and experience, to improve the well-being of our family, friends and neighbors.

Party | Democrat

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QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

My position on immigration is formed by The Constitution of the United States and also personal experiences with immigrants. The US Constitution sets a clear expectation that we are to treat immigrants with dignity and fairness. I will advocate for laws and the enforcement of laws that are consistent with The US Constitution, and the expectation that people should be treated equally, fairly and with dignity. I've worked as a pro-bono attorney with Catholic Charities of Oklahoma to protect the legal rights of immigrants.

As a school counselor I've served the children of immigrant parents and recognized that our economy is enriched by their lives because of their diverse experiences, desire to work hard and make their way through the opportunities our state offers.

Currently, my family is helping a person who is on a student visa with housing because of state budget cuts that have limited his income.

My oldest son was the roommate of a young man from Palestine in 2014-2015 on the International Floor in the dorms at OU. We delighted in his friendship and were enriched by his experiences.

Oklahoma has so many global connections. We must find a way to extend our value for loving our neighbors into our immigration policy. In doing so, we can leverage our economic capacity beyond traditional sources.

BUDGET

Yes we must pass more revenue raising measures. From talking to Oklahomans I've learned there is a strong support for 7% tax bracket, 7% Gross Domestic Product Tax, and 7% Capital Gains Tax (with ag exemption).

My priority for funding is to fully fund classrooms K-College. This means competitive wages for teachers, and professors, funding for instructional materials, and the OK Promise Scholarship, and safe environments for learning. My next priority would be to fully fund our courtrooms and justice system and eliminate private prisons. Finally, core services that enhance the wellbeing of Oklahomans would be my priority.

INTERFAITH

I would serve the Muslim and interfaith community by building relationships within the community. This means meeting with leaders personally and regularly. The other day, I shared an article about Noah and Ramadan on social media. Through the article, I learned more about the story of Noah and it enhanced my personal faith, greatly. In sharing this, I hoped to share information within my religious groups about the ways diverse religious experiences can enhance one's personal faith.

I love sharing my family's experience of my oldest Christian son sharing a dorm room with a devoted Muslim student at OU. My son witnessed first hand the discrimination and hostility his roommate endured. My son was also able to attend the Mosque one weekend which broadened his understanding of the importance of religious community. While attending OU graduate school, I have actively met students from diverse experiences including a student from Malawi who is also Muslim. I tried to help him get acclimated to Norman during his first class.

BULLYING

As a school counselor I was trained to implement and teach an anti-bullying curriculum. Unfortunately, these lessons are under-cut by unfunded mandates of school testing. My professional training allows me to understand and see the progression of dehumanizing people as part of the bullying cycle. To prevent the dehumanizing of others, it is critical to promote and teach empathy and compassion to students and even adults. Improving the Emotional intelligence of Oklahomans could increase our overall wellbeing by reducing child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and hate crimes.

I attempt to live out this important civic goal each time I engage around politics on social media. Instead of "blocking" people who disagree with me, I model peace-making skills that my faith and professional training has taught me.

To strengthen the protections of minority students and their families, I believe it is vitally important to articulate the morality supporting our anti-discrimination laws. I also believe it is important to empower immigrant and minority elders and parents to participate in the education of children. So many barriers keep the immigrant and minority parents alienated from public forums. One way I attempted to do this was a pilot program with Hispanic families at Adams Elementary that provided homework help in their mobile home communities in the evening. This pilot program resulted in an afterschool program called Mosaicos to has been in place for several years at Truman Elementary.

HATE CRIMES

The work of the Southern Poverty Law Center is most helpful to me regarding bias-motivated crime. The art exhibit regarding lynching in America is powerfully effective in addressing the impact that bias-motivated crime can have on a culture and people. To strengthen or change our treatment of our laws, I think it is important to stir up the sense of emotional and human connection first, through public forums, art, poetry, film, story-telling. These avenues prepare the heart and mind to accept the needs to become more civil towards one another.

I would also recognize within communities the benefits of having strong laws. Norman and Oklahoma City are moving forward with better protections and we need to figure out ways to highlight how these laws are working well. In doing so, it would reduce the fear more traditional communities may have and open up the possibilities for accepting the assistance of legal reforms.

EDUCATION

The unfunded mandates need to stop. These have been tolerated too long to advance the political goals of a few. Teachers need to be released from the burden of "reforms" that stigmatize public schools and the children and families they serve. As a school counselor from 2009-2015 I witnessed first hand the demise of the morale of teachers due to legislative measures. Unfortunately, Oklahoma's education policy and funding is controlled a few powerful and wealthy people, and power must shift from their grasp to the pen of the voter. I'm working very hard to engage and register voters to offset the misuse of power by a few

Once power shifts to voters, then we can enact policies that make sense and will work for Oklahomans. We've had shining moments in Oklahoma education where we have come together to address our problems. We enacted HB 1017 in 1990. We enacted comprehensive Pre-K. We enacted the professional educator standards before many other states were able to accomplish certification standards. Oklahoma has the resources and the information to provide world-class education, but we need the leaders who love Oklahomans, and listen to Oklahomans, more than their campaign donors.

SENATE DISTRICT 16 (con.)



Claudia Griffith

State Representative Claudia Griffith is a lifelong Oklahoman who has spent her adult life in Norman. She raised her three children in Norman Public Schools and spent countless hours volunteering as President of the PTA at Jefferson Elementary, Longfellow Middle School and Norman North High School.

Claudia and her husband Jim have been married 46 years and together they have built a successful small business in Norman. She is a Registered Nurse with a Masters in Public Health from the University of Oklahoma. Claudia was Norman Regional Hospital's first full time Patient Education Coordinator, she worked at Cleveland County Health department and was a program consultant at Oklahoma University Health Promotions, working with Native American tribes all over the United States on health issues. She served as Executive Director of Health for Friends, a healthcare non-profit organization which provided prenatal, chronic disease, pharmacy and dental services to the underserved.

Claudia was one of the first Oklahomans to volunteer as a responder in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. She remembers an Oklahoma that came together after that horrible tragedy and she believes that Oklahomans can come together again to solve any problem.

In the State House Rep. Griffith has worked on legislation to help victims of rape and domestic violence, develop public-private partnership business opportunities, and increase equality for the elderly and disabled. She was appointed by the Governor to the Oklahoma Veterans Task Force which works to improve services for veterans across our state.

Party | Democrat

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Phone

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QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE



Aleisha Karjala

Aleisha moved to Norman two decades ago, seeking a more family-oriented place to raise her son, Alec. Her family ties go back decades to southwestern Oklahoma and indeed, family brought her here from California. She earned her bachelor and graduate degrees in political science from the University of Oklahoma, while raising her son, Alec. She experienced the struggles of living on a shoestring but never lost faith in the values of education and community. Alec took advantage of the community opportunities -- strong public schools (McKinley Elementary, Alcott Middle School, and Norman High), the Firehouse Art Center, and sports opportunities through the Optimist Club and Norman Youth Soccer Association. Alec recently graduated with a geology degree from Colorado College where he played varsity soccer for four years. Following graduation, he spent two years with AmeriCorps teaching at a school in inner city Denver. Aleisha accepted a teaching position at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha so that her family could stay in Norman. She is a one-person political science department and loves her small classes. Aleisha was named a DaVinci Scholar in 2014 for her innovation in the classroom and won her campus' Regents Superior Teaching Award in 2015. Once Alec left for college, she wanted to give back to the community she loves. Her first opportunity was on the City of Norman Library Board, where she served as vice chair. She was elected to the Norman City Council in 2016 and has been a champion for seniors, public safety, strong neighborhoods, and small businesses. Additionally, she serves on the board of the Oklahoma Single Parent Scholarship Program, a new non-profit organization bringing resources to college students who are balancing family life with attending school. She is running for the State Senate to work hard for everyday Oklahomans.

Party | Democrat

Website

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Email

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QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE



Becki Maldonado

Party | *Republican*

I am a secondary English teacher. I have my Masters in Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum from the University of Oklahoma. Currently, I am completing my dissertation, which will focus on teacher advocacy, education, and politics. My bachelors degree is in Business Management.

I began working at the age of 14. At the age of 19, I became a retail manager. I was responsible for hiring and training employees. In one year, our counter grew from two employees to twenty employees.

2005 - I began working for a non-governmental organization and managed volunteers to advocate for hunger and poverty, immigration, disaster readiness, and disaster recovery issues.

2008 - I moved to Oklahoma and managed a loan company. I worked with the judicial system to create a win-win situation that allowed customers to have a second chance to pay back their defaulted loans without being garnished but also perserved the rights of the company to garnish customers, who refused to work with the company and pay back their loans.

2011 - I became the escrow manager for a local mortgage company. I was responsible for training employees in the areas of property taxes and home owners insurance.

2015 - I entered the education world and began to pursue my masters and Ph.D. I work in the urban setting with at-risk youth from diverse backgrounds. I received my masters in Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum December 2016 from the University of Oklahoma. It is anticipated I will be receiving my Ph.D. in Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum May 2019 from the University of Oklahoma.

I am a single mother of two teenage boys. I love watching movies and reading graphic novels and young adult books.

I believe the way to achieve equality for all is through equity and providing access and opportunity for people regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, etc.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE

Gary D Caissie

Party | *Republican*

NO RESPONSE

SENATE DISTRICT 16 (con.)



Ed Crocker

Party | Republican

Email

edcrockerok@hotmail.com

Phone

405-596-9107

I am running for Senate District 16 because state government is broken. Wisdom, civility and the best interest of the citizens must become the focus. I have a financial background as well as the experience to get Oklahoma moving forward again. Auditing agency performance should never be off the table. Responsible budgeting requires identification of necessary as well as wasteful spending. I hope you will join us in this campaign for a better Oklahoma future.

- Vice-Chair - 2015 to 2017, Oklahoma Judicial Nominating Commission - 2011 to 2017
- Self-employed Financial Advisor - 1996 to 2011
- Former State Representative, HD 45, Norman - 1990 to 1996
- Served on Public Health Committee, Mental Health Committee Chairman, Appropriations & Budget Committee, Health & Human Services Sub-Committee, Vice-Chairman Revenue & Taxation Committee.
- Graduate, Leadership Oklahoma and Leadership Norman
- Board Member, Women's Resource Center - assists women victimized by domestic or sexual violence.
- Executive Director, Oklahoma Association on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse - 1988 to 1989
- Commissioner, Norman Social Voluntary Services Commission - 1987 to 1988
- Oklahoma State Senate, Finance Committee Staff Coordinator - 1985 to 1988
- Oklahoma Tax Commission, Analyst - 1984 to 1985
- Oklahoma County Assessors Office, Field Appraiser - 1981 to 1984
- University of Oklahoma, Master of Public Administration - 1985
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of California - 1980
- Married to his best friend Ann for 37 years
- Worship at McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

U.S. immigration policy is a federal responsibility under the U.S. Constitution. States have limited powers in this policy area. I do not support the idea that individual states have the power to create "sanctuary" jurisdictions within the United States. We live in a world composed of separate "nations" or "nation-states". The very definition of "nation" or "nation-state" implies and includes the power of any individual nation or nation-state to create and enforce its own borders which would also include the power to set its own immigration policy. The logical proposition that any nation has no inherent power to establish its own borders or immigration policy is a false proposition. A nation is not, in fact, a nation at all, if it does not possess that power.

I am a strong supporter of the U.S. policy of legal immigration. The United States continues to attract the various peoples of the world to its borders because of the great freedoms we enjoy as U.S. citizens. Immigrants in the U.S. are a vital part of the economy and the social fabric. It is not possible to overstate the critical importance of legal immigration and legal immigrants in promoting the ideals of the United States. We, as a nation, are better off for this policy.

I am concerned that illegal immigration into the U.S. is serving to undermine the historical consensus in favor of legal immigration. The federal government, through the Congress and the President, has the power to address the entire immigration policy and they have generally failed to do so. That fact does not, then, make it a state responsibility. It means that more public pressure must be brought to bear on the Congress and the President to perform their constitutional duty of tending to the immigration policy of the United States.

I strongly support efforts in Congress to statutorily create the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program. This is the "low hanging fruit" in the immigration debate. It is unconscionable that the President and the Congress have failed to act in this important area and have instead wasted time in theatrics and political posturing.

BUDGET

Oklahoma's budget for FY19 was passed with historic increases in taxation and spending for education. The spending increases for teacher salaries was a long overdue change. However, most of the problems associated with education policy in Oklahoma have not really even begun to be addressed. Even with recent increases in oil prices and state revenue collections, the financial posture of the State of Oklahoma remains precarious. Much work remains to be accomplished on the spending and the revenue side. Oklahoma should commit itself to broadening its tax base while simultaneously lowering tax rates, resulting in increased revenues. Most people do not understand that Oklahoma annually loses between \$500 million and \$1 billion annually due to current laws related to deductions, exemptions and tax credits. Looking first to reducing the size of the latter policies the state can quit relying on always resorting to tax rate increases. The overuse of deductions, exemptions and tax credits literally creates revenue losses and causes the state to impose rate increases that in turn impose undue burdens on working families. Oklahoma can create a consensus on spending priorities if it will first do the heavy lifting and create a consensus for a modernized tax code.

As to the second part of the question, spending priorities for me will always emphasize education, healthcare, transportation, and mental health. The tax code changes I have suggested above will give Oklahoma access to the revenue to support those and other spending priorities.

INTERFAITH

I am a strong believer in the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution. We were founded as a nation upon those rights and upon the belief that these rights, being founded on Truth, are "self-evident" and that we have been endowed by God with these rights. As a private citizen and a public official, I will always act consistent with this belief. Amendment #1 in the Bill of Rights states, "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." I believe that this restriction on federal government power extends to state government as well. The constitutional language says what it means and means what it says, with no exceptions.

I can best serve the Muslim and interfaith community by strictly adhering to the language in Amendment #1 to the U.S. Constitution Bill of Rights. As to the level of civic engagement in minority communities that feel routinely ignored or harassed, I would work to remove all barriers, legal and otherwise, to civic engagement. Amendment #1 to the U.S. Constitution also confers an absolute right to peaceably assemble and petition the government for a redress of grievances. My commitment to that provision is as solid as my commitment to freedom of religion.

As to the issue of harassment, I will work with law enforcement to ultimately reduce this to zero and would encourage any affected communities to do the same. We need to have a zero tolerance policy to harassment in all our communities. In that sense, we must be a single community and not tolerate harassment for any reason.

Changing the human heart is more complicated than official government action on harassment. We are reminded in both The Qur'an and The Bible that we are fallen and live in a fallen world. While we work to create a world where we both live and let live, we need to remember that government has its proper role but also that God is in control. God will ultimately change the human heart if human law falls short of its goal.

BULLYING

First, please see my answer to the immediately preceding question #3 above. School bullying and harassment are intolerable conditions and must be controlled to the maximum extent possible. Such behavior creates hardship for the victims and their families. The scars can be both physical and emotional. As a victim of such behavior in my early teenage years, I can speak knowledgeably on this subject. Speaking out against the behavior is important. Having advocates for victims is also important. "Kids being kids" is one thing but when it crosses the line into bullying and harassment it must be confronted and addressed through official policy changes and community action.

HATE CRIMES

First, please see my answer to the two immediately preceding questions #3 & #4 above. I would be willing to sit down and discuss this issue with any affected parties. The goal of the discussion should be to strengthen Oklahoma's treatment of bias motivated crime. The crux of the legal issue here is that prosecuting and proving a crime is one thing while prosecuting and proving "hateful or biased intent" (key work "intent") is another thing. Proving intent is a much more difficult legal standard than proving an associated, underlying crime has been committed. Prosecuting "intent" and losing may end up weakening the case in the prosecution of the underlying crime itself. The existence of biased and hateful behavior is incontrovertible. Affected parties need to be ready to speak up in the face of such behavior. I will speak out on this issue where appropriate, as I am here.

EDUCATION

First, please see my answer to the preceding question #2 above. A myriad number of problems continue to exist with respect to Oklahoma's education system: (1) Protecting the gains enacted in 2018; (2) addressing the \$256 million increase under HB1010xx in Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) obligations and the resulting decrease in TRS actuarial soundness; (3) increasing resources into the classroom, including textbooks; (4) replacing the outmoded state aid formula that subsidizes low property tax counties with high property tax counties' tax dollars; (5) encouraging the administrative consolidation of school districts in Oklahoma; (6) adopting merit pay policies that reward excellence in the teaching arts; and (7) encouraging development of charter schools in the metro areas, targeting resources to under-served minority populations on the basis of economic need.

SENATE DISTRICT 22



William Andrews

Party | Democrat

Website

www.andrewsforok.com

A fourth-generation Oklahoman, William Andrews decided to run for office after witnessing the dysfunction in state government. A legislature that was either unwilling or unable to come to an agreement that would provide adequate education funding enraged tens of thousands of parents, educators and Oklahomans who believed that the promise of the state lies not in catering to corporate interests and lobbyists, but in the proper education of the state's youth.

A graduate of Deer Creek, Andrews has lived in the area most of his life. He graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1993 and currently works for the university as a web developer.

After nearly a decade as an award-winning newspaper reporter and graphic designer, Andrews made the transition to new media. For the past twelve years he has worked as a web developer at the University of Central Oklahoma. As an employee of the metropolitan area's only public university, he has assisted thousands of students in their journey towards a college degree. His dedication has twice earned him honors as staff member of the year in the College of Liberal Arts.

His wife has taught elementary grades in Oklahoma City for almost 20 years, and was a finalist for the district's teacher of the year. The couple's daughter who will graduate high school in May as high-school valedictorian and will be attending Dartmouth on scholarship in the fall.

Andrews said he believes legislators can find solutions if they are willing to be reasonable. Unfortunately, the current group of legislators is incapable of that. So, it's time to change that.

As senator for the 22nd district, encompassing most of the Deer Creek area, Piedmont, Yukon, Okarche and parts of Oklahoma City, Andrews said he would not only value the diversity of rural and urban communities, but depend on it when making decisions.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

INTERFAITH

I would serve the Muslim and interfaith community by advocating a strict separation of church and state, as our founding fathers envisioned. Thomas Jefferson coined the phrase 'wall of separation' in a letter to the Danbury Baptists who had complained to him about the harassment and unfair treatment they received. It is the ultimate irony that the descendants of the same people who sought relief from religious persecution are now the very ones seeking to persecute those of other or no faith. The Oklahoma Constitution also makes it clear that no public monies shall be used to benefit -- directly or indirectly -- any faith or sect. Too many of our politicians are willing to ignore the very words which created our state and nation.

I do advocate hate crime prosecutions when the crime is committed against a person or group because of their religion, sexual orientation, gender or race. I would encourage groups of all faiths and belief systems to attend events at the capitol and I would encourage members of the legislature to do greater outreach to communities that have been historically marginalized or been victims of discrimination. It's not enough to talk about fairness and equality. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and John Lewis and Muhammad Ali endured all sorts of vileness and in some cases the show of force from the state was required to ensure that equal treatment was provided. Hopefully we will not see those actions become necessary again, but we must make it clear that the state is ready, willing and able to enforce laws mandating equitable treatment for all Oklahomans, not just the majority.

IMMIGRATION

Other than Native Americans, every person in this country is only a few generations removed from being an immigrant. I believe that immigrants play an essential role in Oklahoma's economic success. Immigrants provide more than simply the skilled and unskilled labor positions that are portrayed in stereotypes; they perform a vast range of roles. Working at a university, I engage with people from five other continents on an almost daily basis and I value the contributions they make. Were it not for the expertise and diverse knowledge they bring, our state would be much poorer – both economically and culturally. We should encourage more immigration to Oklahoma, from all over the world.

BUDGET

Priority One for all candidates should be adequate funding for common and higher education. Over the past decade, drastic cuts by the legislature have caused tuition at universities to increase far faster than inflation. Students are working long hours, sometimes at more than one job, and in many cases taking out more loans to pay for higher education. Teachers in common education have not seen a raise in a decade and our educational infrastructure is crumbling with outdated materials and substandard equipment. HB1010XX was a start, but just barely. The raises necessary for teachers and support staff should be about twice what the legislature approved. In addition, I would like to see the legislature support the allocation of \$90 million a year for five years to improve materials and facilities at Oklahoma public schools; this can be reviewed biennially for adjustment as necessary after we get Oklahoma's public schools on par with surrounding states.

We can raise this revenue in a number of ways, and not just by raising taxes on the middle class.

- The Gross Production Tax was put in place to lure drillers to Oklahoma to try the then-untested fracking process, which succeeded well beyond expectations. That program was put in place to lure drillers to Oklahoma to try the then-untested fracking process. Oklahoma deserves to be repaid for the chance they took for the oil and gas industry; eliminating the tax break on horizontal wells would be a start.

- The Capital Gains exemption that benefits only a few dozen of the wealthiest Oklahomans could be eliminate, along with returning the state income tax rate to 5.25 percent from 5 percent. The rate was lowered when a short-sighted legislature and governor refused to recognize the boom-bust cycle that has always caused fluctuations in Oklahoma's revenue. They willingly exchanged future prosperity for an immediate election gimmick. Obviously, this is not sustainable.

- Finally, I would reduce the exorbitant spending of our corrections department by reduced the number of people Oklahoma incarcerates. Oklahoma now leads the world in incarceration, with 75% of those in prison being non-violent offenders, the majority of those for simple possession. Those people could be productive members of society and contribute rather than consume.

BULLYING

The state must make it clear that a zero-tolerance policy will be adopted. Students and families who suffer harassment and bullying in schools will receive swift and immediate correction. Administrations who turn a blind eye to such behavior will be called to account for permitting the violation of civil rights of students and families – this includes school administration, law enforcement or any other government employee. Further, I would advocate an aggressive campaign to inform Oklahomans that the only people not welcome in the state are those who would advocate violence or hatred for another because of their religion, race, sexual orientation or any other class.

HATE CRIMES

I do think current laws that exist are adequate, but I do not think they are being adequately enforced. I would welcome more information about the subject, however. I think, in most cases, the perpetrators of bias-motivated crime do not receive sufficient correction, however. In many places in Oklahoma, an antiquated, racist, sexist, xenophobic attitude has been allowed to persist in the local and sometimes even statewide government. It needs to be rooted out and exposed wherever and whenever it occurs.

Justice Louis Brandeis once wrote that "publicity is justly commended as a remedy for social and industrial diseases. Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." That still holds true

EDUCATION

The first part of the solution calls for investing in Oklahoma education as though it was something we valued. A nation-leading educational system will pay for itself when businesses relocate to Oklahoma rather than trying to escape the state. Ideally, a sizeable initial investment would be made to raise the pay of our teachers to an adequate level and stop the hemorrhaging of qualified personnel to other states and other professions. I do not support vouchers, forced consolidation or using building funds to pay teacher salaries. In one of her books, Molly Ivins quotes an East Texas legislator who said of public education, "We don't know if throwing money at the problem won't solve it. We've never tried it." While I don't support wasteful spending, the data is clear about how, where, and how much we should be spending to provide a quality education to every child.

SENATE DISTRICT 22 (con.)



Stephanie Bice

INCUMBENT

Party | *Republican*

Website

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Phone

405-747-4147

A new kind of leader, Stephanie Bice was elected to the Oklahoma state Senate in 2014. She represents District 22 which is comprised of northern Oklahoma County and eastern Canadian County, including parts of Edmond, Deer Creek, Piedmont and Yukon.

In her first term in office, Stephanie proved to be out-of-the-ordinary because of her extraordinary accomplishments.

Stephanie is a fourth-generation Oklahoman, mom, wife, and former vice president of a digital marketing company.

She graduated from Putnam City High School in Oklahoma City, and earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing with a minor in international business from Oklahoma State University.

Before her election to the state Senate, Stephanie worked in her family’s technology company in a variety of capacities, including financial oversight, business strategy and marketing, and she partnered as an owner in her own social media company.

Stephanie previously has served on the Executive Board of the Oklahoma City chapter of American Marketing Association as well as School Advisory Board member and chair of the Pastoral Board for St. Eugene Catholic Church and School.

Stephanie and her husband, Geoffrey, were married in 1996 and are members of St. Eugene Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. They have two daughters.

Despite serving as a first-term senator, Stephanie’s leadership skills and abilities garnered state and national attention. She was chosen as one of 52 legislators across the U.S. for the State Legislative Leaders Foundation Emerging Leaders Class of 2015. She also was selected a GOPAC Emerging Leader for 2015 and received the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce Rising Star award. Stephanie also was selected a member of the Governing Institute Women in Government Leadership Class of 2016.

Stephanie serves as assistant majority floor leader in the Oklahoma Senate.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE

Leslie NesSmith

Party | *Republican*

NO RESPONSE

Phone

405-747-4147

SENATE DISTRICT 30



Julia Kirt

Party | Democrat

Email

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Phone

405-226-8514

A fifth generation Oklahoman, Julia Kirt is an experienced community leader who has run statewide nonprofit organizations for more than 18 years. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Oklahomans for the Arts. Her organization works with the state legislature and municipalities to support public investments and arts education in Oklahoma.

The daughter of an Air Force veteran and a minister, Julia learned the value of giving back to her community from an early age. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Masters in Art History. For 15 years, Julia led the Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition, working with thousands of artists to develop strong small businesses. She created business training workshops, secured grants, and coordinated public events across the state with public and private partners.

A committed leader, Julia uses her experience to serve the public. She works to help all students in Oklahoma City receive arts education by serving on the All Access Arts Committee. Julia also served as a Leader in Residence at the University of Central Oklahoma. She continues to help connect the university, students and the community as an Advisory Board Member of UCO's College of Fine Arts & Design. She is a Board Member for Downtown OKC Strategic Initiatives, which encourages creative businesses and street level activity downtown.

Julia has been recognized for her work in the community. She graduated from Leadership OKC Class XXI and Salt & Light Leadership Training Class 6. She was named a "Forty under Forty Making a Difference" by Oklahoma Magazine, a "40 under 40" by OKC Business, and an "Achiever Under 40" by the Journal Record. In 2014, Julia received a Governor's Arts Award.

Julia lives in Oklahoma City with her husband, Nathan Guilford, and their two children, Roger and Lila, who attend their neighborhood public elementary school. Nathan owns a small business in Warr Acres. The two remain active in the community. Julia actively participates at her church, St Paul's Episcopal, Rotary Club 29 and serves as a volunteer for the Oklahoma City Public School District.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

Immigration is an important part of our country and state's culture and economy. State senators should not attempt to legislate immigration decisions that are guided by federal policy. Our legislature should protect all Oklahomans from discrimination and harassment. I respect all Oklahomans. I admire Oklahoma's immigrants and their stories.

BUDGET

We should consider all types of revenue to ensure we fully fund important state services. Short term, I would consider eliminating the capital gains tax deduction, increasing income tax on high earners and reducing tax incentives and tax credits.

State Department of Education- First we must add back in the funds cut over the past few years. Then, we must increase funds so that our per pupil expenditures exceed the regional average.

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services- Our state critically underfunds mental health services, leaving many without treatment. This agency could serve more, helping stabilize families and make communities safer. Investments in mental health would reduce problems for the criminal justice system, Department of Human Services and more.

INTERFAITH

I would serve the Muslim and interfaith community with respect. As a legislator I would work to ensure their rights and safety. Every Oklahoman should be able to participate in the political process and trust that lawmakers have their best interests at heart. Many of our lawmakers have focused on divisive legislation instead of balancing our budget or ensuring wellbeing. Some even avoided their constituents and ignored Open Meeting rules, instead negotiating behind closed doors. As a State Senator, I will lead with transparency and cooperation.

BULLYING

We have to ensure implementation of ongoing bullying prevention strategies for the safety and wellbeing of minority students. Our State Department of Education has policies in place. I would assess our outcomes from the strategies and evaluate the effectiveness of these policies. As we approach to bullying prevention as a public health issue, our legislature has to lead the state in stopping harassment.

HATE CRIMES

All Oklahomans should feel safe in our state and should know that the legal system will provide justice fitting to the crime. I would welcome CAIR to provide me information to help me understand the types of changes needed and more about the challenges faced.

EDUCATION

Our education system must give children better opportunities and clearer career paths. We also must improve lifelong learning, allowing adults to retrain, build new skills and reenter the workforce. We must add back in the funds cut over the past few years. Then, we must increase funds so that our per pupil expenditures exceed the regional average.

Larry Dean Buss

Party | Democrat

NO RESPONSE

SENATE DISTRICT 30 (con.)



Lori Callahan

Oklahoma is last in everything that is important and first in everything that is embarrassing. I am dedicated to putting the people of Oklahoma above politics. We need to ensure we continue to be represented by an independent voice that will make the tough decisions and fix our structurally deficient budget, increase teacher pay, reduce classroom size, adequately fund mental health programs, and invest in our roads and bridges. As your Senator I will fight each day to ensure a better quality of life for all Oklahomans.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS NO RESPONSE

Party | *Republican*

Website

callahanforoksenate.com



Evan Vincent

Evan is an attorney and partner at Crowe & Dunlevy, P.C. He is involved in complex civil litigation in a wide range of legal areas at both the trial and appellate levels in state and federal courts. His expertise includes product liability, construction, energy and natural resources, antitrust and intellectual property. Evan has also worked as an adjunct professor at the OU College of Law teaching civil pretrial litigation.

Evan obtained his juris doctorate and a bachelor of science in aerospace engineering from the University of Oklahoma. During the college career, Evan earned many prestigious honors and awards. He received his J.D. with Highest Honors and was a member of the Order of the Coif, Oklahoma Law Review, and was recipient of the Gene & Jo Anne Sharp Outstanding Appointed Editor Award. As an undergraduate, Evan was named Outstanding Senior in Aerospace Engineering and named to the Men's Letzeiser Honor List.

Evan has been honored as an Oklahoma Super Lawyers Rising Star and placed on the Benchmark Litigation Under 40 Hot List, iON Oklahoma Next Gen 30 Under 30, Journal Record's Achievers Under 40, and Oklahoma Magazine 40 Under 40. He is a member of Leadership Oklahoma City, Class VI.

Evan has served on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Blood Institute since 2009. His grandfather, Dr. Don F. Rhinehart, was a founder of the Oklahoma Blood Institute and one of Vincent's role models growing up. Vincent's grandmother, Melba Rhinehart, is chairing Vincent's campaign committee.

Evan and his wife, Beth, also an attorney, have two sons: Grant, 4 and Clark, 17 months. They are members of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, where Evan has previously served as a member of the Vestry.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS NO RESPONSE

Party | *Republican*

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405.306.6570



John Symcox

I am a life-long Oklahoman and community leader with strong principles & values rooted in my faith and constitutionally conservative values. As a Republican, I believe that government has the responsibility to allow people to fulfill their maximum individual potential. The government must be a great steward of the tax dollars it has been entrusted with. I believe that personal responsibility and consequences are the bedrock of personal growth. Every person is valuable and should have the opportunity to pursue the life they dream.

I bring extensive finance and banking experience. I will work with our communities and businesses to help strengthen and grow the economy, and bring more jobs to the state. I have deep roots in Oklahoma and a commitment to public service through volunteerism and community involvement. My desire to help our state overcome its financial problems and education system deficiencies has led me to run for public office. I am extremely passionate about education, jobs, mental health, prison reform, economic growth, the homeless and fiscal responsibility.

As a fifth-generation community banker and financial advisor, I am a fiscal conservative with a passion for helping others and developing financial solutions for the state, nonprofits and businesses that bring stability to our state systems. Currently, I serve as the president of the board of directors of Upward Transitions, a nonprofit dedicated to helping the homeless and people most at risk of being homeless. I was raised in Norman, Oklahoma and am a product of the Norman Public School system. I graduated from Westminster College with a degree in Business Finance. I am not a politician, but a private citizen with a passion to help others. Our state government doesn't currently represent our true values or the determined spirit I know is at the core of Oklahoma. Join me in making a difference for generations to come. I promise to be authentic, maintain my integrity, and bring innovation to our state government. Regardless of our political leanings, we all truly care about Oklahoma and the people that call this place home. Let's change the conversation and pursue "A Stronger Oklahoma" together!

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE

Party | *Republican*

Website

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Email

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Tim Haws

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Tim Haws understands the values and beliefs dear to this state. As a resident of Bethany for 30 years, Tim knows the community and the challenges facing its citizens. As a public educator for 29 years, Mr. Haws has been an educational leader in both Putnam City and Bethany. Tim Haws is a communicator, problem solver and is ready to fight full time for a better Oklahoma.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE

Party | *Republican*

Website

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Email

Timhawsoksenate30@gmail.com

SENATE DISTRICT 30 (con.)



Jeffrey Cartmell

Born in Oklahoma City and raised in Bethany, Jeffrey Cartmell learned the importance of serving others from his father who was a physician at Baptist Medical Center, his mother who was a respiratory therapist and community volunteer, and his grandfather who served as a state trooper.

Cartmell graduated from Putnam City West High School and became a third-generation Sooner, earning his bachelor's degree at the University of Oklahoma and his law degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

After graduating law school, Jeffrey went to work for the governor's office as Deputy General Counsel. In that role, he worked on a wide range of issues impacting Oklahomans, including education, criminal justice, economic development, and infrastructure. Cartmell went on to serve as the Director and Counsel of the State's Gaming Compliance Unit, where he worked to increase transparency, improve regulatory efficiency, and modernize the agency's operations. During his tenure, overall funding to education from gaming revenue increased nearly \$10 million.

Today, Jeffrey is an associate attorney with the Lytle Soule & Curlee law firm, and an active member of our community. He serves on the steering committee for the United Way's Emerging Leaders Program, the board of advocates for the Stephenson Cancer Center, and previously served as a member of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma's Leadership Council.

Cartmell was recognized by the Journal Record as an "Achiever Under 40" and as a "NexGen Under 30" in 2016.

Jeffrey lives in The Village with his wife, Jordyn, who is also an attorney, and their two dogs, Paisley and Scout.

Party | *Republican*

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QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE



Eric Roberts

Party | *Republican*

Website

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Email

info@ericrobertsforsenate.com

Phone

405-673-2856

Eric Roberts has been an owner and operator of Colonial Center LP for the past 26 years. Eric's success as a commercial real estate developer has helped bring jobs, commerce, and services to the families of Northwest Oklahoma City for two decades. He has a unique understanding of how to incentivize and promote new business development in Oklahoma, having brought retailers and revenue to the local economy. Furthermore, Eric understands how to start a business and run it effectively. As an entrepreneur in commercial and residential investments, fuel retailing, and federal firearms brokerage, Eric creates jobs for Oklahomans. He believes firmly that we need more legislators who have real world experience balancing a budget and staying out of the red.

A third generation Oklahoman, Eric is a native of Northwest Oklahoma City, attending high school there before earning his degree at Southern Methodist University.

Eric has long been involved in his local church and is active in other civic organizations. He has been a member of Rotary Club International since 1992 and serves as a board member of Ozarks Teen Challenge. Eric was appointed by Mayor Cornett to be on the Maps 3 Citizens' Oversight Committee for the Oklahoma State fairgrounds.

Eric has been married for 24 years and has two college age children, a son and a daughter. Eric has coached his son's baseball team and his daughter's softball team, as well as raising a fourth generation of Oklahomans who are proud of the state.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE



Erick W. Harris

Party | *Republican*

Website

www.erickharrisok.com

Born to a family of lifelong Democrats, Erick Harris grew up believing Democratic policies were the answer to America's problems. He assumed he was a Democrat without ever stopping to think about the issues or his own values.

While a student, Erick attended the Democratic National Convention, which was the first time he began to question what he had assumed about himself for his entire life. Once he left the convention, Erick read the book, "What Color Is A Conservative," and reached out to his good friend and mentor, former Congressman J.C. Watts, Jr. After some soul searching, prayer, being out of school and living in the real world, he realized that the party of Barack Obama was not the party of Erick Harris. Erick realized that the Republican Party best represented his views of fiscal responsibility and conservative values. He now serves on the Executive Committee of the Oklahoma County Republican Party.

Erick graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Law and went to work for Republican Attorney General Scott Pruitt, where he served as an Assistant Attorney General. Erick was a tough prosecutor who prosecuted elder abuse, abuse of the mentally disabled, and criminal fraud.

Erick is an adjunct professor of political science at the University of Central Oklahoma and volunteers with many organizations. Currently, he is a member of the Putnam City Schools Foundation Advisory Board and a member of the board of trustees for Tuskegee University and the Oklahoma Humanities Council. Erick was previously a member of the Rotary Club (Club 29) of Oklahoma City, the Board of Advocates for the Stephenson Cancer Center, and the Oklahoma City Leadership Council for the American Lung Association. He is also a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE

SENATE DISTRICT 32



Deborah Farler

Party | Democrat

Website

dfarlerforsenate.com

Born into humble beginnings, in Eudora, Arkansas; it was instilled in Deborah early, the importance of family, community and hard work. That mentality of “if you want something, you have to work for it” served her well, as she achieved Salutatorian standing in her graduating class. It was also during her younger years that she realized that service to/for others brought her the greatest joy and satisfaction.

What better way to continue with that service, and on a much larger scale, than to enlist in the US Army serving not only the people of the United States but also the people of the world.

During a distinguished 22-year military career, Deborah held many different leadership/staff positions, but her greatest pleasure came from Soldier level interaction. This gave her the opportunity to care for and mentor Soldiers, not only on their personal and professional needs but ensuring that everything they needed was made available to them, to guarantee their success in their professional and personal lives.

In 1995, her career brought her to the Lawton/Ft. Sill, where she has been a resident ever since. As with all prior assignments, Deborah served as a dependable and reliable leader for her Soldiers and supervisors accomplishing every task delegated to her, with a standard that was recognized as second to none. It was at this time that Deborah recognized that not only did her Soldiers need her guidance, but there was a next generation that was desperately in need of a voice of wisdom. The Army Partnership with Lawton Area Schools (APLAS) program provided her with another service opportunity. She monitored her unit’s involvement and personally mentored several students on what is needed to be a success in life and in the world.

Deborah continued serving the Army and her Soldier’s needs until her retirement in 2003. But her desire to help people continued to be the driving inspiration in her life and that, in turn, led her into a career in the insurance industry. She opened the Deborah Farler Insurance agency, and it was through this experience that she realized that many people were not being taken care of by the people they put their trust, time and money into. People were being sold a bill of goods that at first looked promising, but as time passed, they were unable to afford what they had.

This same awareness is what has driven Deborah to seek the State Senate District 32 seat. The people of this District and Oklahoma have placed their trust in the elected official to do right by that trust, and they have been let down and abandoned. They were sold a bill of good that they can no longer afford to accept. It’s time for a change; it’s time that District 32 becomes the beacon and standard for what the whole Oklahoma can be and achieve. It’s time for a New Oklahoma; it’s time to elect Deborah Farler as the next State Senator for District 32.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

I do not know how to discriminate because of ones differences or their economic background, or what part of the world they come from, but I do know how to treat people, all people with dignity, and respect whereas good judgement produces good order and discipline.

SENATE DISTRICT 32 (con.)



Jacobi Crowley

Party | Democrat

Website

www.jacobi4ok.com

Email

jacobicrowley@gmail.com

As a Lawton native and graduate of Eisenhower High School, Jacobis' roots to our community run deep. He credits his family and teachers for being instrumental in the achievement of earning a scholarship to Southeastern Oklahoma State University. The positive role models in his life influenced his decision to major in Special Education with a minor in Behavioral Management. Upon earning his degree, he moved back to his hometown to help make a difference in the lives of the youth.

His brother, Mark Berry Jr., and he were raised in a single parent home by their mother, Virginia Berry. She taught them the value of dedication, credence, hard-work, and perseverance. Most importantly, she taught them how to keep God first. He will not waiver from these core principles while pursuing change in his community.

He works as a Crisis Interventionist at Lawton Public Schools and is an ordained minister at New Life Fellowship Church. He is a mentor, instructor, adviser, and role model for his students. Jacobi is able to help invest in the youth and share his love of football by working as an assistant football coach at Eisenhower High School.

Jacobi is passionate about education, as it is fundamental to the success of all children. Vital programs are facing cuts and more of Oklahoma schools may be forced to close or consolidate. It is inexcusable for our leaders to expect us to accept paying more, getting less, and consistently see the needs of our children being put last. Our financial struggles in regards to education are absolutely due to poor planning, political game play, and a lack of effort on the part of our leaders.

Jacobi believes that funding directly impacts our teachers' ability to develop a well-educated workforce and this will adversely impact both our city and state's ability to attract successful companies with competitive wages and benefits. If we truly want a stronger economy, an economy that will continue to flourish for generations to come, it is imperative that we provide a concentrated focus on supporting our schools. Our schools currently receive 28% less funding today than they did in 2008. Jacobi believes as long as we continue to allow our leaders to fail our schools, we will continue to see qualified teachers and graduates with education degrees leave us for states where their skills are appreciated and their work is supported.

Jacobi is running to represent Senate District 32, because of his commitment to his community and the youth. As your representative, Jacobi will implementing programs to assist in education, stimulate new business growth, support responsible budget & taxes, and establish smart on crime approach to our justice system.

"If we want to get serious about the betterment of our state, we must invest in it. Investing in something requires commitment on every level, and the commitment on this level starts with your vote. I can't wait to meet you during the campaign, so I can earn your vote."

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE



John Michael Montgomery

Born and raised in Lawton, I have learned the importance of conservative values and was taught the importance of hard work and integrity. I believe in building strong families.

I graduated from Eisenhower High School and began college at Cameron University, where I became involved in ROTC and student government. I then transferred to the University of Oklahoma to pursue a B.A. in International Studies. I studied abroad in Brazil and studied Russian for two years.

My time in Brazil reaffirmed my belief that we must have a strong middle class in order for this country to continue being great. Being the son of a Goodyear worker, it is quite personal to me to fight for a community which has the kind of jobs on which a family can be raised.

I am committed to building an education system which uses common sense, not Common Core. We should challenge and encourage our children to become the best that they can be. I understand state funding cuts and ridiculous mandates over the last few years have hurt Lawton's schools more than others.

The challenges we have are great, but last time I checked, this is the United States of America, one nation under God. Get behind me, and I will fight for our teachers, children, and most of all for Lawton. I am confident that with your support, we shall overcome.

Party | *Republican*

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405-557-7374

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE

SENATE DISTRICT 36



Alan R. Leizear

Party | Democrat

Email

Alanleizearsd36@gmail.com

I am Alan Leizear and I am running for Senate in Oklahoma's 36th District. My wife and I live in Broken Arrow with our two dogs. I am originally from Florida, but moved to Oklahoma upon meeting my wife, Jessie Leizear, in law school. Moving to Oklahoma is the best decision I have ever made because Oklahoma is filled with good people who truly care about each other. For the last few years, I have had the pleasure to serve the people of Oklahoma as an Assistant General Counsel with the Oklahoma Tax Commission. Every day I go into work to fight for your taxes, and if elected, I will continue to fight to make sure they are being used responsibly for you in the Senate.

I am running for Oklahoma Senate because the one thing that Oklahoma cannot afford is the status quo. I am running to bring new ideas and balance back to Oklahoma. When one party dominates the legislature for such a long time, balance becomes an issue. So I am running to right that balance and change the status quo. In addition, our representatives in Congress have not listened to, nor represented, the citizens that they were elected to represent. This needs to change. We need to start electing representatives that truly believe and understand that Democracy is government of the people, by the people, and for the people. I firmly believe we need strong, fresh leadership with new ideas serving Oklahoma citizens.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE

Bryan O'Brien

Party | Democrat

NO RESPONSE



David Dambroso

Party | Republican

Website

daviddambroso.com

A Broken Arrow native that is uniquely qualified to identify and address the issues facing the city and greater District 36 area. David attended K-12 schools in the Broken Arrow School District and graduated BAHS with 2 years college credit due to advanced course selection and subsequent College Board testing, he received the AP Scholar with Distinction designation upon graduation, going on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma Wesleyan University, graduating cum laude. David is a featured conservative commentator on local radio and internationally on social media platforms such as YouTube. He is married with one child: Alexa Marie, to his wife, Kellie whom he met at historic Central Middle School circa 2000.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE



Dana Prieto

Party | *Republican*

Email

danaprieto@oksenate.com

Dana Prieto was born and raised in Western New York, the grandson of immigrants. His family life instilled in him a deep love and reverence for American freedoms, citizenship, education and history. His father, the late Lt. Colonel Floreal Rivera Prieto laid the foundation for a strong moral compass and the importance of keeping ones word.

As early as 7, Dana's trip to the library found him coming home with every book he could find on early explorers and outdoorsmen. He found it fascinating that the West was opened by early explorers and trappers scouting out new territory. This inspired him to learn the art of trapping. While Dana's father was not an outdoorsman, he was always supportive of Dana's dreams and would drive him to his various adventures.

While living in New York, Dana built a successful carpet and tile floor cleaning company from the ground up which he operated until moving to Oklahoma in 1991 to attend Rhema Bible College. From this experience, Dana gained an understanding of how important small business is to the local economy.

After moving to Oklahoma, Dana promoted several internationally acclaimed motivational speakers and sales trainers including Jim Rohn, known as America's foremost business philosopher. These voices greatly impacted Dana and he continued to develop an unquenchable entrepreneurial spirit.

Dana presently owns and operates Everlasting Enterprises Inc., an online marketing company for small businesses. Dana is uniquely qualified to understand both the business owner and the needs of the employee.

Dana grew up in an era when American freedoms were taken for granted, and when people said what they meant. When Americans could no longer say, "Merry Christmas," and hunting, trapping, and fishing rights were slowly eroding, he knew the time had come take action to protect these and other important rights that were slowly being taken away, one statute at a time. He realized that for the sake of his grandchildren, he could no longer stay silent. It was time to take action and run for State Senate. One of Dana's greatest qualities is that he does not quit. If he starts something, he works hard to achieve that goal with excellence.

When Dana was just 4 years old, he decided that he wanted to play guitar, so his parents bought him a small guitar which he quickly taught himself to play. By 14, Dana was an accomplished classical and folk guitarist. He primarily performed in city-wide crusades in Western New York in the 1980's and in Oklahoma at both Rhema Bible Church and World Outreach Church.

Dana's faith in God is the foundation upon which he has built his life and businesses. His faith is the moral compass which will guide him when he serves as State Senator for District 36. Dana and his wife have been faithful members of World Outreach Church since its start in 2008.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE

SENATE DISTRICT 36 (con.)



Bill Day

Party | Republican

Website

day4ok.com

Phone

918-994-2112

My wife Jennifer and I come from families of school teachers, administrators, and a superintendent, all of whom were educated in public school systems and public universities. She's a public school speech-language therapist, and I volunteer for our school long range planning committee and coach our son's youth soccer team. Our daughter and son both attend public schools. We see the book shortages, participate in the PTA fundraisers, buy and donate basic supplies to keep our schools running. So when it comes to the recent standoff between public school supporters and the state legislature, we get it.

I am also an engineering graduate from the University of Oklahoma. I've helped build, manage, and grow technology companies from mobile app startups to Internet services and computer makers. All of these companies have one big need in common: A well educated work force.

I'm tired of our state government settling for "ok" instead of aiming high. I'm sick of being told we can't compete with Silicon Valley or Austin for bold initiatives like attracting Amazon's second headquarters. We need leaders who understand that public education enables economic growth. The two are inseparable!

I'm a Republican, but I believe we can do better than the party-line politics we have experienced lately at the Capitol. Whether you're a Democrat or Republican, donkey or elephant, red or blue...if you're tired of hearing "that's just the way it is", please join me. And if you believe that our state needs new ideas and better leadership at the Capitol, then I'm asking for your vote.

Our current legislature has not attacked our state's problems with both public education and economic innovation. I will.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

Immigration is critical to the vitality of our state's social and economic fabric. I support merit-based immigration policies. People who are following the legal process to immigrate should be "at the front of the line", others who wish to apply should be added at the back of the line just as is done in other aspects of life (of course noting special cases of extreme urgency such as political asylum).

BUDGET

I have put forward a plan for what I will do if elected to the State Senate. This includes first class public education, a number of economic innovation initiatives, and best practices in budgeting and management of state resources. The plan illustrates what I would prioritize first. It is at: <http://day4ok.com/what-i-will-do/>

INTERFAITH

I take family, community, diversity, and Freedom of Religion seriously, and would like to regularly meet with community civic and religious leaders to discuss how we can work together to ensure their concerns are heard and we're working to address them. I am a win-win thinker and have worked professionally for 22 years on building partnerships and communities; I'd bring that same approach to our community's issues and the State Senate.

BULLYING

I want all of our children to feel safe and cared for at our schools. I'm a supporter of increasing parental and community involvement in the schools in every way we can. I would like to hear your ideas for specific protections you'd like to see implemented.

HATE CRIMES

I believe we should prosecute such crimes to the full extent the law allows. I'd like your input on what changes in the law, if any, the legislature should investigate.

EDUCATION

I would create a 4 Year Public Education Plan analogous to the existing 8 Year Construction Work Plan (aka the "Roads and Bridges" plan). This 4 Year Education Plan would establish a fund for salaries and operational expenses, with a goal of leading our region in both by year four if not sooner. I will work with parents, PTAs, School Boards, Superintendents, statewide education leaders, and the legislature to enact this 4 Year Education Plan as quickly as possible. We cannot afford to wait! This isn't magic, but it is necessary to stop the loss of our best teachers and to secure the future for our children and our state.



John Haste

John and his wife, Jennifer, have been married 19 years. They are members of First Baptist Church of Broken Arrow where John serves as an usher and as chairman of the personnel board. John wants his adult son to have abundant opportunities that will keep him in Oklahoma for the long haul to live and raise his own family.

John was born and spent his early childhood in rural Arkansas. He attended secondary schools and college in Tennessee. His career has taken him internationally and all over the country, but he's an Okie by choice. Oklahoma may sit at the bottom of many rankings, but John knows the heart of our state is top notch and he's determined to change the rankings to reflect our true potential.

As a successful business executive for more than two decades, John Haste's career has been about common sense leadership, setting ambitious goals, and then exceeding them. He has expertise in driving collaboration between competing interests to develop real solutions. It's exactly what Oklahoma needs now.

Party | *Republican*

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Phone

918-809-6930

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE

SENATE DISTRICT 40



Danielle Ezell

Party | Democrat

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Phone

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Website

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Facebook

[EzellforSenate](#)

Danielle Ezell is recognized as a community leader who has been on the frontlines fighting to improve Oklahoma.

As the former executive director of the Oklahoma Women's Coalition, Danielle helped pass laws that have helped thousands of Oklahomans. She fought to protect our vote on State Question 780, which will reduce the prison population and make Oklahoma communities safer. She has worked tirelessly with other community leaders to pass legislation that will help victims of domestic violence. And she has been an advocate for working families by fighting for equal pay and paid family leave legislation.

She has also seen firsthand how the mismanagement of the state's budget is devastating education. Danielle has served as an Oklahoma Public School Principal for a Day, been a reading mentor for struggling third graders and taught high schoolers at NE Academy about entrepreneurship.

As a former small business owner and corporate executive, Danielle has the business savvy, education and experience to understand our state's complex budget and to work to fund education and other programs that directly impact Oklahoma's future.

During her career, she has been recognized many times as a community leader and volunteer. She currently serves on the board of the Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform coalition. She has also served on the board of Junior Achievement of Oklahoma City; was a board member and financial committee member for the Central Workforce Investment Board; and recently joined the board of the Women's Research Center and BGLTQ+ Student Center at UCO. She is also a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma City, a program working to develop community leaders and volunteers.

Danielle has lived in the Oklahoma City area her entire adult life. She is a graduate of Syracuse University as well as Oklahoma City University, where she earned her MBA while working full-time. Danielle and her husband, Joe Smith, have three teenagers. The family attends St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

I am very supportive of immigration. As a former corporate executive at a large employer in OKC, I have actively been involved with recruiting foreign job candidates and the visa/citizenship process. I appreciate the hard work, economic impact and cultural diversity immigrants bring to our community.

BUDGET

Yes, we must have more revenue raising measures. Education remains a top priority but also the restoration and expansion of critical state programs that could improve health outcomes, reduce incarceration rates, teen pregnancy and much more. In my opinion, we have often put band-aids on Oklahoma's chronic and long-term problems. We must reduce adverse childhood experiences, treat addiction, stop domestic violence, etc. if we want to have a real impact on the quality of life in our state.

INTERFAITH

My door (and phone) is always open to anyone. That said, I will host regular town hall community meetings and constituent coffees across the district to stay in touch with everyone - in the communities they call home. I would facilitate increased community engagement by exploring options to decrease intimidation and harassment of people in our community. Along these lines, I have strong views against voter ID laws and other discriminatory practices. I would also support more efforts to increase voting by mail. At town hall meetings, I would convene people from all levels of government to increase awareness of community needs and concerns, and provide access to public servants who can be intimidating to talk to in City Hall or Under the Dome.

BULLYING

We need more partnership across all levels of government. On this front, I would work closely with school administrators and school board members. On the legal front, because our schools receive federal funds, we have an obligation to protect students under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. I would be a champion and a partner on any formal complaint registered and use my power to convene to shine a light on this issue. I would also be open to working with education leaders in Oklahoma to design anti-bullying policies that has enumerated protections - so the expectations are clear that no religious discrimination is acceptable. We can also go further by teaching our students to consume media with a critical eye and build their skills around how to stand up for their peers to bullies. That said, its more than laws and policies. This discrimination and bigotry is the outcome of the bigotry and ignorance rife in our state and country. More than anything, I want to be clear that I'm happy to follow the lead of the folks impacted the most by this discrimination and welcome a partnership on these issues.

HATE CRIMES

Enhanced penalty provisions are tricky. While I do agree with the premise that there should be escalation for bias-motivated crimes, I am also mindful these laws are often only applied in prosecutions to nonwhite perpetrators, which often escalates systemic biases in our criminal justice system. I would prefer Oklahoma move more toward a restorative justice model rather than pursuing additional mass incarceration.

EDUCATION

Funding. Funding. Funding. Our schools are underperforming, but before we can even begin addressing higher standards we need to put textbooks in kids' hands; paper in the printer; qualified teachers in the room; enough chairs to sit in; reduce class sizes; offer arts classes to attend; and so much more.

SENATE DISTRICT 40 (con.)



Carrie Hicks

Party | Democrat

Website

www.carrihicks.com

Carri Hicks is a mother, an educator, and a lifelong Oklahoman. The daughter of a public school teacher, Hicks graduated from Oklahoma City University. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications and Political Science. Hicks furthered her education at OCU by earning a Master's Degree with a focus on Leadership Management. She went on to work for United Way of Central Oklahoma and Saint Luke's United Methodist Church. Hicks developed skills in fundraising, advertising, and publishing throughout her career in the nonprofit sector.

A life-long learner with a passion for education, Hicks decided to seek a career change. She earned her Masters in Early Childhood Education and applied for a teaching certificate. Hicks began working as a public school teacher at the Putnam City School District in 2011. After three years teaching Kindergarten at Tulakes Elementary, Hicks moved to the Deer Creek School District. After two years teaching First Grade, Hicks now teaches Fourth Grade Math and Science at Grove Valley.

Today Hicks lives in Northwest Oklahoma City with her husband of six years, Spencer. They are the proud parents of three children: Camilla, Holli, and Sawyer. A dedicated community servant, Hicks is an active volunteer for education-related causes. Hicks leads the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Camp. STEM camp gives more than 200 students each year a chance to learn outside the classroom.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

America is a nation of immigrants. We are a stronger country when we have a rich tapestry of peoples. With different life experiences, immigrants offer their culture and background to any community. We particularly see this in the business community. Our state would be much less vibrant if it weren't for our citizens from around the world. Immigrants play a vital role in our economy. We see it in thriving small business owners, the medical field, education, and other important facets of our workforce.

BUDGET

We need a more stable revenue stream. Our current leadership keeps adding regressive taxes and fees to fund our government services, which as we've seen with shortfall after shortfall is tough to budget. Education is my top priority, followed by healthcare. Having a well-educated population affects change in graduation rates and incarceration rates.

INTERFAITH

Governor Henry has been an incredible mentor to me. He has told me about the Iftar Dinner held at the mansion. It was one of his favorite yearly events. Sadly, the current governor did away with this event. It was a great way to bring people of all faiths and beliefs together, to get to know one another. I feel the more opportunities we have to come together, to meet each other, the more tolerance and understanding there will be.

BULLYING

Every child deserves a quality education, and every child deserves to feel safe at school. As a teacher I have experienced first-hand the increase in classroom sizes. In that environment it is extremely difficult to create the kind of community and respect among peers. With smaller classroom sizes I know teachers would be more effective and proactive in their roles to keep all children safe. Additionally, that leadership starts at the top. We need continued collaboration and dialogue about the protections afforded to all students under Title VI of the Civil Rights act across all major education stakeholders, administration, school boards, classroom teachers, parents, and students.

HATE CRIMES

People need to be held accountable for their actions. There is indisputable evidence that violent, bias-motivated crimes are a serious, widespread problem in Oklahoma and across the United States. It is not the frequency or number of these incidents that set them apart from other crimes. It is the effect they have on the victims, their families, their communities, and in some instances, the entire state or nation. Many police departments do not have protocols in place for the accurate reporting of bias-motivated crimes. We need leaders who are willing to be a loud voice for the fair and equal treatment of all peoples.

EDUCATION

Education is one of the primary reasons I declared my candidacy. Oklahoma is failing a generation of students by approving emergency certifications at a record number. Over 2,000 certifications were issued in the past year. This gives the impression that as long as schools are open, everything is fine. It is not fine. We have to ensure that the pay afforded to classroom teachers and support staff, supports a cost of living. We need protected classroom sizes for optimal learning. We know we need more funding dedicated to the classroom for basic supplies like textbooks. Anyone who is promising to fix education, also needs to understand that we need to fix the budget. In order to move Oklahoma's education system forward we need to be aggressive in finding responsible recurring revenue.

Christopher Hensley

Party | Independent

NO RESPONSE



Ervin Yen

INCUMBENT

Born in Taipei, Taiwan in 1954, Yen and his family immigrated to the United States after the Communist takeover of China. He moved into what is now Senate District 40 in 1961. He attended Putnam City public schools and graduated from Putnam City High School in 1972. Yen then went on to the University of Oklahoma and the OU College of Medicine. After completing his residency, he began practicing as an anesthesiologist in 1984. He has worked as a cardiac anesthesiologist at Saint Anthony Hospital and Integris Baptist Hospital for more than 20 years.

Dr. Yen and his wife, Pam, have been happily married for 27 years. They have five children and are active members of Christ the King Catholic Church. Yen is a past president of the Oklahoma Society of Anesthesiologists and past Chief of the Anesthesiology section at Saint Anthony Hospital. He has served as a member of the University of Oklahoma President's Associates for 29 years.

Dr. Yen's roots in his community run deep and he is running for State Senate to make sure that this area, which has meant so much to his family, will continue to be well-represented at the Legislature and to help make Oklahoma a better and more prosperous place for his children and grandchildren.

Party | *Republican*

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Phone

405-521-5543

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE



Joe Howell

Oklahoma-native Dr. Joe Howell has spent his career serving both the community of, the residents, and their beloved animals of the area. He served as President of the American Veterinary Medical Association 2002 - 2003 and Chairman of Executive Board of the American Veterinary Medical 2004-2004.

Dr. Howell has served on the Board of Trustees and as President of the Oklahoma City Museum of Art for nearly twenty years.

Dr. Howell has served on the Board of Trustees of the Kirkpatrick Foundation for over seventeen years and is proud to support Oklahoma's largest philanthropic foundation in history supporting arts, education and animal welfare.

Additionally, Dr. Howell has been a member of the Downtown Oklahoma City Rotary Club for twenty-three years, he is serving as a consultant to American Humane Association serving as one of two Ethetists in USA and is a member of the Board of Governors of the Oklahoma State University Foundation. Oklahoma-native Dr. Joe Howell has spent his career serving both the community of Oklahoma City, the residents, and their beloved animals of the area. He served as President of the American Veterinary Medical Association 2002 - 2003 and Chairman of Executive Board of the American Veterinary Medical 2004-2004.

Dr. Howell has served on the Board of Trustees and as President of the Oklahoma City Museum of Art for nearly twenty years. Dr. Howell has served on the Board of Trustees of the Kirkpatrick Foundation for over seventeen years and is proud to support Oklahoma's largest philanthropic foundation in history supporting arts, education and animal welfare.

Additionally, Dr. Howell has been a member of the Downtown Oklahoma City Rotary Club for twenty-three years, he is serving as a consultant to American Humane Association serving as one of two Ethetists in USA and is a member of the Board of Governors of the Oklahoma State University Foundation.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE

Party | *Republican*

SENATE DISTRICT 46



Kay Floyd

INCUMBENT

Kay Floyd graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology, a minor degree in political science, and a minor degree in philosophy. After graduating from OSU, Senator Floyd attended law school at the University of Oklahoma where she received her Juris Doctor degree.

After two years in private practice, Senator Floyd became an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma working in both the civil and criminal divisions. During the development of Oklahoma's equine industry in 1987, Senator Floyd became Deputy Executive Director for the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission.

In 1989, Senator Floyd was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of Oklahoma and served in that capacity for 22 years. Her appointment made her one of the youngest women in Oklahoma history to receive a judicial appointment. During that time she also served as a Special Municipal Court Judge for the City of Oklahoma City.

Along with her judicial duties, Senator Floyd has been an adjunct professor at Oklahoma State University and an attorney for the senior citizens division of Legal Aid of Western Oklahoma. Senator Floyd has worked as a volunteer on the Citizens Action Committee for the Oklahoma City Animal Shelter and is also a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association's Women in Law committee, Legislative Monitoring committee, and Government and Administrative Law Practice committee.

Senator Floyd is a founding member and Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Justice Alma Wilson SeeWorth Academy which was established in 1998 and which currently serves 485 at-risk youth in the Oklahoma City community. She has served on the OKC AIDS Walk Board of Directors and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Lyric Theatre in Oklahoma City.

Senator Floyd was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 2012 where she focused on improving our education system and working for Oklahoma's women and children. She authored bills to provide suicide prevention assistance in Oklahoma's schools, curb domestic violence and study its correlation with poverty, and worked to provide measures to analyze the frivolous costs of the Legislature considering and approving unconstitutional legislation.

Senator Floyd was elected to the State Senate in 2014 and plans to continue her work and service to the people of Oklahoma there.

Party | Democrat

Email

floyd@oksenate.gov

Phone

405-521-5610

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE

SENATE DISTRICT 48



George E Young

George Young is an experienced leader with deep roots in our community. Prior to serving as our State Representative, George was the senior pastor at Oklahoma City's Holy Temple Baptist Church and has served in the ministry for over 30 years.

As a man of faith, George will continue to stand up for what's right and fight for our families at the State Capitol.

In fact, George Young is highly respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle for his commitment to criminal justice reform, public education, and better jobs.

Party | Democrat

Website

youngforoklahoma.com

Email

info@youngforoklahoma.com

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

NO RESPONSE

Christine Byrd

Party | Democrat

NO RESPONSE



Willard Linzy

Party | Republican

Email

willard.linzy@gmail.com

Phone

405-512-3754

Willard Linzy has a Son who is an active-duty Marine and two grandsons, and a daughter who is a highschool senior. He was born in Oklahoma City and attended public schools. His earliest interest as a child focused on law enforcement and community development. During his high school years he participated in the Oklahoma City Police Explorers Post and rose to the ranks of Chief, serving three consecutive terms. He studied piano as a child and through his sophomore year at the Univ. of Oklahoma in Norman, OK while serving as youth minister of music and organist at the church of his youth. He served fifteen years as the benevolence ministry leader and deacon for the Britton Road Church of Christ and served four years as a deacon for the Garden Oaks Church of Christ

He completed undergraduate studies at Central State Univ. in Edmond, OK while pursuing a career in law enforcement with the Oklahoma Dept. of Human Services and later transferred to the social work division. In 1992 he accepted his first appointment in the areas of public finance as a fiscal analyst with the Oklahoma Office of State Finance serving under the administration of both Governor David Walters and Governor Frank Keating. For a short time afterward he served as finance officer for the Office of the Oklahoma State Attorney General and then served as the disaster financial manager for the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, the state companion agency to FEMA. After twenty-six years of state service, he turned his focus towards community and economic development through his private sector commitment and his candidacy to become a member of the Oklahoma State House of Representative. He ran unsuccessfully in 2006 and 2008. He is a licensed insurance agent with Allstate as an Employee Benefits Specialist and works with employers to address the needs of their uninsured & under-insured employees in the workplace.

In 1993 he began volunteer service as a mentor with the Brotherhood Association of America Development Inc. which is a youth mentoring organization "Where African American Young Men Become Leaders" and as an answer to the question which he raised regarding "who will they lead?", he formed the Oklahoma Central Region Interdisciplinary Steering Council in 1995 as an effort to foster community rebuilding within the Greater Oklahoma City areas. He continues to work with commitment towards "Building a More Benevolent Community" and this effort has been expanded to reach into communities throughout the Caribbean and across the continent of Africa.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

I believe that most American citizens came to our country as immigrants and were welcomed here by those who occupied the land at the time of their arrival... we have formed a nation governed by the Rule-of-Law and however bad those laws have been in past years all citizens have held a duty to obey them or be subjected to the penalty for engaging in unlawful conduct (civil disobedience) ... our country is justly comprised of U.S. born (DACA) and Naturalized citizens... illegal immigration represents an unlawful action and justifiably should subject such a dweller to due process criminal penalties.

BUDGET

I oppose increased taxation and the Oklahoma Constitution mandates the enactment of a balanced budget... Grow the economy if we need more evenues or cut spending... prioritization is a matter of legislative debate.

INTERFAITH

I view that law-abiding citizens should exercise every right and enjoy the privileges that any other law-abiding citizen enjoys... increased engagement within a minority community is incresed best by members of that community becoming more engaged with each other, and that is not something that should be legislated.

BULLYING

I believe that conscietious reporting and more aggressive enforcement will bring about the change that your association seeks.

HATE CRIMES

I will speak well of good conduct and oppose bad... the voice of one can bring about change.

EDUCATION

I believe that there are systemic biases and inefficiencies in the current education model which produce undesirable outcomes... allocation of funding prioritizations, low performing schools, lack of classroom resources, high level of failing test scores, and secondary remediation cost do not suggest a need for increased funding... in my view the state is underwriting outcomes that don't merit the level of spending that we are forcing taxpayers to pay for... major reforms are needed.

NOTES



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