



2018 Oklahoma Gubernatorial Voter's Guide





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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 with a large "L" and "H".

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!

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

HOW DO I KNOW WHO MY LEGISLATOR IS?

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



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

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

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?



Drew Edmondson

Party | Democrat

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From growing up in Muskogee to serving in the Navy and then as Oklahoma's Attorney General for 16 years, Drew has spent his entire life fighting for the people of Oklahoma. He stood up to Wall Street, Big Tobacco, and the special interests who tried to take advantage of our families, farmers, and small businesses. As Governor, he'll put Oklahomans first and take on the outside interests and partisan politicians who, every day, are trying to hurt our way of life.

Drew's values are rooted in his Oklahoma upbringing. The second son of June and Congressman Ed Edmondson and the nephew of former Oklahoma Governor J. Howard Edmondson, Drew learned the value of true public service early.

After graduating from Muskogee Central High School, Drew attended Northeastern State College in Tahlequah on scholarship. While there, he met the former Linda Larason of Fargo, Oklahoma, who would become his wife. After their first date, Drew famously asked Linda, "When are we getting married?" and the rest is history.

Upon graduation from college, Drew enlisted in the United States Navy, where he reached the rank of Petty Officer Second Class and served a tour of duty in Vietnam. While in the Navy, he earned the Joint Service Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. His first job after the war was as a speech and debate teacher at Muskogee High School.

He was elected to the state legislature in 1974, and he graduated from the University of Tulsa School of Law in 1978. He was named Chief Prosecutor for the Muskogee County District Attorney's office in 1982. Drew was elected District Attorney the same year and he served in that position for 10 years. He was elected Attorney General in 1994.

Drew was re-elected Attorney General in 1998 without opposition, and as his popularity grew, he received more than 60 percent of the vote in his 2002 and 2006 elections for that office. He left office in 2011 and has been in the private practice of law since.

As District Attorney, his peers named him outstanding DA for the State of Oklahoma and elected him president of the District Attorney's Association.

As Attorney General, Drew served as president of the National Association of Attorneys General and chaired the association's committees on Consumer Protection and Tobacco Enforcement. In 2005, he received the prestigious Kelly-Wyman Award as the outstanding attorney general in the country.

Those honors follow a tremendous record of accomplishment. In 1998, Drew was one of eight attorneys general to negotiate a record-breaking settlement agreement with the country's largest tobacco companies. To protect the settlement money received by Oklahoma, Edmondson led the charge to establish the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust, which constitutionally protected the settlement money and ensured that it can only be spent on public health. To date, the Tobacco Trust balance stands at more than \$1 billion.

Drew's efforts on behalf of public schools have also been noteworthy. In 2001, he negotiated a settlement with then Southwestern Bell to establish the Oklahoma Educational Technology Trust. Since then, OETT has put more than \$12 million in technology and training into Oklahoma public schools.

A tireless advocate for crime victims, Drew's record includes establishing the first-ever Victims Services Unit in the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office. With victims in mind, he worked to streamline the death penalty appeals process in Oklahoma.

His love for Oklahoma's natural resources is evident in his efforts to protect our land and water. In 2006, he sued more than a dozen corporations for polluting the Illinois River Watershed. Because of Drew's work, the corporate poultry industry has changed its practices, trucking out thousands of tons of waste that was previously applied directly to land in the watershed.

DREW EDMONDSON CONTINUED

Today, Drew and Linda are proud parents to their daughter, Mary, and son-in-law, Mike, and their son, Robert, and daughter-in-law, Andrea. Drew and Linda also enjoy spending time with their twin grandchildren, Andrew and Catherine, who were born to Mike and Mary in 2008.

Linda is a retired medical social worker and active community volunteer and advocate. Drew has served on executive boards for Oklahoma City University School of Law, the Palomar Family Justice Center, the Oklahoma Mental Health Association, Bacone College and Rainbow Fleet, a private non-profit servicing parents and childcare facilities across the state. He is also a member of Rotary Club 29 and the Oklahoma Academy and a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma, Class IV. He is an ordained Elder in the Presbyterian Church.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

Immigrants have been and continue to be a great asset to the economy and the culture of Oklahoma. Oklahoma does not have a big population, and new residents from all over ready to pursue the American dream are essential for economic growth. Immigrants can bring valuable skills and community values to rural areas that can sustain and protect those communities in the long-term.

BUDGET

As a state we need to recognize that we have a revenue problem. This most recent tax package was a good start, but more needs to be done. We have cut revenue repeatedly in recent years and budgets were subsequently slashed. I have called for a restoration of the gross production tax to 7%. I have also called for an end to the capital gains tax exemption that goes primarily to the wealthy and has cost the state roughly \$465 million over five years. I have also called for an increase in the cigarette tax of \$1.50, not just the \$1 raise that the legislature passed. These funds would go to stabilizing the budget and stopping the cuts in the immediate short-term. My two biggest priorities would be fully funding education and healthcare in Oklahoma. Our education budget has not recovered from pre-recession levels and our children are suffering for it. If we want others to invest in Oklahoma, we need to invest in our future; and that means investing in education. We also need to care for the less-fortunate citizens of Oklahoma and provide reliable and accessible healthcare facilities. In support of that priority, I would accept the Medicaid expansion dollars to bring in hundreds of millions in federal funding.

INTERFAITH

Most importantly, I would veto unconstitutional legislation that would discourage participation and engagement by minority groups. As Governor I would reach out to organizations that represent minority groups across the state and actively participate with them in a dialogue. It is important to make every group and every person feel as welcome in the Capitol as any other resident of the state. That could mean participating in interfaith day at the Capitol, taking part in Iftar or Passover celebrations. Besides actively engaging with minority groups, I am committed to making diverse appointments to boards, committees, and commissions to access the full range of voices and experiences that exist in Oklahoma.

BULLYING

I support establishing programs in Oklahoma schools to emphasize diversity training and anti-bullying efforts. I would work with the Secretary of Education to prioritize these efforts across the state. In addition, I will have zero tolerance for public institutions discriminating on any basis against the people of Oklahoma.

HATE CRIMES

As Governor, I will work with law enforcement entities to establish statewide guidelines for policing diverse communities to make law enforcement more in-tune with hate crimes in our communities. The school programs mentioned above would also reinforce the need to eradicate hate crimes in Oklahoma. I also look forward to hearing from diverse viewpoints to better understand hate crime in Oklahoma and what can be done about it.

EDUCATION

Oklahoma has been lagging in education for far too long. Our teachers are moving to other states for large pay raises and 20% of our schools have gone to four day weeks. I have already gone over how I intend to raise revenue as Governor, and a majority of that would go to education. We need teacher pay raises that are competitive with the regional average, if not above. We also need to increase our per-pupil spending, which has dropped to the bottom nationally. If we want others to invest in Oklahoma, we need to invest in ourselves. Investing in ourselves means investing in education and Oklahoma's future. We need enough revenue for new textbooks, five day weeks, and adequately compensated teachers.



Connie Johnson

Party | Democrat

Website

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Social Media

[@ConnieJ4OK](https://twitter.com/ConnieJ4OK)

Senator Connie Johnson recently retired after serving thirty-three years in the State Senate, representing Oklahoma City's predominantly African American "Eastside," where her focus on health, mental health and human services issues that disproportionately affect the economic and social well-being of the poor, minorities, women, children, and people with disabilities was game-changing.

Johnson made Oklahoma history as the first woman and African American to win the US Senate nomination of any major political party. Her legislative efforts and reproductive health rights advocacy were featured on Jon Stewart's Daily Show's "Bro. Choice," and helped lead to the defeat of Oklahoma's "Personhood" Bill in 2012.

Sen. Johnson served on the full Senate Appropriations Committee and the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee. She was the ranking Democratic member of the Health and Human Services Committee. She also served on Energy, Finance, Veterans, Public Safety, and Rules Standing Committees.

The 2014, Oklahoma Democratic Party Veterans' Committee Legislator of the Year, Johnson is immediate past vice chair of the Oklahoma Democratic Party. As the 2016-2017, Chair of the Oklahoma Coalition To Abolish The Death Penalty, she led the statewide campaign against State Question 776, which put the death penalty in the Oklahoma Constitution.

Johnson is a native Oklahoman who was born in Holdenville, OK; she has lived in Dustin, Idabel, Oklahoma City, Stella and Forest Park, OK. She is the mother of three adult children, and she has two granddaughters. Connie graduated with honors from OKC's Frederick A. Douglass High School, the University of Pennsylvania, and Langston University's Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling Program. She is a lifelong member of The Church Of The Living God.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

I support real comprehensive immigration reform that allows any person who comes to America, adheres to the steps and procedures for becoming a citizen, and seeks to be law abiding should have a pathway to citizenship.

I support the Dream Act, and I'll support the bipartisan immigration reform legislation proposal currently under consideration in Congress.

We are a nation of immigrants. Oklahoma is no exception.

Our state's ancestry groups include everyone from Native American tribes to early African Americans, from German, Irish, Mexican, Dutch, Scottish, French, English, Scandinavian, and Italian settlers.

The ultimate goal of immigration reform, then, is to honor our rich immigrant history. To do so involves paving the way for college graduates with international backgrounds to remain legally in our country after they graduate—to stay here to create jobs, reduce our deficit, and spur economic growth.

Secondly, any person who comes to America, adheres to the steps and procedures for becoming a citizen, and seeks to be law abiding should have a pathway to citizenship. At the same time, we must also develop and enforce border security in ways that are sensible and humane.

Thirdly, every high school student—including young Oklahomans whose parents are undocumented—should have access to affordable college education that helps them become skilled, productive, civic-minded citizens.

Finally, we must hold businesses accountable for hiring undocumented workers, paying them low wages, and forcing them into unsafe working environments.

Sources: www.ontheissues.org/Senate/Connie_Johnson.html

CONNIE JOHNSON CONTINUED

BUDGET

The State of Oklahoma is in the midst of a critical revenue failure that impacts every facet of our society. Without responsible fiscal management and adequate revenue generation, our state cannot function properly. Balancing the budget on the backs of poor and middle-class citizens is neither wise nor just. Unless we address the budget crisis, our other priorities cannot succeed.

- *Look beyond our current crisis and fix the structural deficits of our budget.*
- *End the practice of balancing the state budget through the use of one-time revenues.*
- *Address the overall budget situation, prioritizing our most critical issues like public education.*
- *Generate sufficient revenue to avert further budget cuts and invest in key priorities.*
- *Acknowledge that revenue is part of the problem and modernize the tax system while ending special interest giveaways.*
- *Propose reforms to budgeting practices that will increase legislative oversight and reduce the potential for future revenue failures.*
- *Be transparent and take measures to ensure more transparency in state government.*

Sources: connieforgovernor.com/oklahoma-issues/budget-taxes/

EDUCATION

One of our highest priorities must be to adequately fund common, career tech and higher education before cutting taxes. Presently we lead the nation in cumulative cuts to education. Our future as a state for decades to come is being determined right now in our schools and colleges. A properly funded public education system ensures all students the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

Restore funding needed to meet Oklahoma's goals for children, including ending our teacher exodus by raising educational salaries to a level commensurate with other states in our region.

Restore vital programs that have been cut from Oklahoma schools due to budgetary concerns, including advanced placement courses, art, music, sports and extracurricular activities.

Extend policies that have been shown to close the achievement gap, such as community schools, bilingual education for English Language Learners, and early childhood education.

Restore funding to Oklahoma's colleges and universities. Encourage saving for college with matching contributions for 529 college savings plans.

Provide free 2-year college and career tech programs for all Oklahoma high school graduates.

Recognize that public education is the cornerstone of a successful society, and undo the detriment that charter schools and school vouchers are making on public education.

Sources: connieforgovernor.com/oklahoma-issues/education/

INTERFAITH

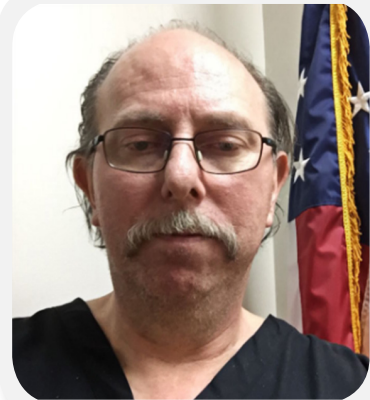
No Answer

BULLYING

No Answer.

HATE CRIMES

No Answer.



Barry Gowdy

Your candidate has been part of this community for many years, working tirelessly to make it a better place. As a Nurse for 18 years, Paramedic for 30 years, and a parent for 31 years. I see the need for a change in education, healthcare and farming. We must support teachers and education. We need to fund education, improve health care and help our farmers get back to farming. This is Oklahoma. We stand together!

Party | Republican

Website

gowdyforgovernor.com

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(580) 303-0955

Facebook

Barry Gowdy for Governor

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

As long it's done legally, I'm all for someone wanting to become a USA citizen.

BUDGET

All government agencies will be audited, restructured if needed and held accountable for funding," Gowdy said. "We need to start looking towards the future to fund our government.

Gowdy said his leadership would focus on holding state agencies accountable for funding. A way must be identified to restructure agencies more efficiently, he said. Gowdy said he has observed different agency waste funds over the years that could be used for many other important areas.

Sources: www.edmondsun.com/news/gowdy-wants-to-work-for-oklahomans/article_ffdf341e-520a-11e8-b197-2761726fb88b.html

INTERFAITH

There are many religions here in Oklahoma. Everyone has a belief system in place. I do and will not allow anyone to interfere with that belief system. I treat everyone alike I don't care what belief system you have.

BULLYING

I have a no tolerance policy on bullying period. Bullies will be educated and rehabilitated.

HATE CRIMES

I have a no tolerance policy on hate crime.

EDUCATION

Education and healthcare are my two concerns. We need to get education funded with a good teacher pay raise for our children. Teachers will be getting their raise without the stipulations of having a doctoral degree and 25 years experience. That is just ridiculous.

www.edmondsun.com/news/gowdy-wants-to-work-for-oklahomans/article_ffdf341e-520a-11e8-b197-2761726fb88b.html



Gary Richardson

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Gary Richardson was born in Caddo, Oklahoma. The son of a cotton sharecropper, Gary's family soon moved to Rio Hondo, Texas when he was 9 years old. He attended and graduated from Rio Hondo High School in 1959. Growing up in a small town, Gary had to push himself to accomplish his goals. Gary wanted to play tennis in High School, but Rio Hondo didn't have a tennis team. With no car, and the closest school with a Varsity tennis team was 8 miles away, Gary could have easily given up on playing tennis. Gary refused to take "no" for an answer and hitched a ride to San Benito every day to play tennis. His work paid off when he made State his junior and senior year of High School without ever having a coach other than what he learned standing on the sidelines in San Benito watching and listening to the San Benito tennis coach.

Gary continued this tenacity and drive when he attended Bethany Nazarene College, now known as Southern Nazarene University, (SNU) in Bethany, OK, not only playing on the varsity BB team where he started as a sophomore but also playing on the college tennis team. In fact, he was recognized as an "Outstanding Graduate" of Bethany Nazarene College in 1972.

After SNU, Gary worked in the insurance industry before earning his law degree at South Texas College of Law night school and began his law career in Oklahoma in the early 70's where he served as Assistant Insurance Commissioner and worked on the legal team. Gary later moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma and served as an Assistant District Attorney. In the late 1970's Gary was being encouraged to run for Congress in eastern Oklahoma. When he seriously began to consider a run, Gary met with both Democrat and Republican leaders in Congress. While a lifelong Democrat, Gary realized that he aligned more with Republican values than Democrat values. He changed parties and ran as a Republican for the 2nd Congressional District in 1978 and 1980.

Despite being in an overwhelmingly Democrat district, Gary made both races competitive. While, in the end, Gary did not win, he was the first Republican Congressional candidate ever to carry two counties in "Little Dixie." Gary's time in private practice would take a pause when Senator Nickles came calling on Gary to encourage him to accept President Ronald Reagan's appointment as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma. In 1981, Gary gave up his lucrative practice to tackle one of the largest corruption cases in Oklahoma. Gary, along with two other U.S. Attorneys in Oklahoma, convicted 210 County Commissioners who were engaged in a systematic kickback scheme that had been going on for decades.

In 1984, Gary returned to private practice and oversees one of the leading law practices in Oklahoma. He has also authored four books including the acclaimed "Black Robe Fever." Gary has three grown children - Chuck, who is a partner in Gary's firm, Chad, who practices law in Muskogee, and Chandra, who is married to a chiropractor in Edmond. Gary and his wife, Lanna, live in Tulsa. They are active members of South Tulsa Baptist Church. Gary has served in other churches as a Deacon, Sunday school teacher and music leader. Together, they have five children and eleven grandchildren.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

Some of our cities in Oklahoma have been splitting hairs on whether or not they will enforce our nation's immigration laws.

Sign the petition below to demand every city in our state, large and small, enforce all the laws on our books, including immigration law. No sanctuary cities in Oklahoma!

Oklahoma embraces all cultures and welcomes people from all over the world – as long as they're obeying the law," Richardson said. "But no working taxpayer should be expected to foot the bill for people who don't pay taxes because they're working here illegally. The data shows this problem costs Oklahomans an extra \$464 million in taxes each year. That ends on my watch. The investigative audits I'll demand will pinpoint the people exploiting the taxpayers and push them off the government roles. It's the fair thing to do."

Sources: https://www.garyrichardson.org/sanctuary_cities_petition
<http://mccarvillereport.com/archives/47540>

BUDGET

Gary Richardson has a plan that would fill the \$230 million budget gap for 2017-18, increase funding to the Department of Corrections, Public Safety, and DHS while still ensuring a \$5,000 pay raise for Oklahoma teachers. There needs to be a performance audit of the seven top funded agencies. There is no telling how much waste exists in these agencies and until we have a full accounting, we will never be able to ensure every tax dollar is being spent wisely.

I fully expect that we will be able to find hundreds of millions of dollars in waste and fraud which would be more than enough to fund our budget at current levels.

There's no reason we can't live within our means. It's time that our Republican leaders embrace conservative, Republican principles in our state government and drain the swamp at the State Capitol!

Source :<https://www.garyrichardson.org/ktp>

INTERFAITH

No Answer

BULLYING

No Answer.

HATE CRIMES

No Answer.

EDUCATION

1. Call for an audit of the education system
2. Ensure accountability for school funding and establish a sound source of revenue which flows to teachers and classrooms
3. Support and defend parents' rights to choose the education of their child, whether public, private, homeschool, public charter or online
4. Respect educators and their role in making educational decisions
5. Work to get and keep the federal government out of the public school system and return to true local control of education.
6. Promote sound proven education methods and materials
7. Provide students equal opportunities to learn to the best of their individual ability
8. Protect student information and other student privacy
9. Support well-rounded school plans with academics, sports, arts and other beneficial programs
10. Support job training opportunities for high school students that guarantee their freedom of choice, that do not eliminate educational opportunities and that will not track students"

Source: www.garyrichardson.org/education



Christopher Barnett

Christopher Barnett is the youngest person on the ballot. The Future is Now. We need a candidate that is young and familiar with technology and has fresh ideas to make Oklahoma grow and prosper.

Chris supports our Police, Fire Fighters, First Responders, Veterans and Active Service Members.

Christopher Barnett is the owner of several small business located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is married to George (Trey) William Barnett III. They have been married for over 2 years. They are the proud owners of 3 dogs and 5 rabbits. They hope one day to adopted kids and be able to provide them a safe and loving home.

Christopher is a candidate of the people. He has experienced many hardships and discrimination and isn't afraid to stand up for himself and others. Chris doesn't back down from a fight especially when he believes in the cause. He believes in the people of Oklahoma and wants to give them the tools to succeed in what they do and give the education system the tools they need to educate the future of Oklahoma.

Our Government has been run by private companies and corporations long enough. It is time to return the Government to the people and that is what Chris is promising to do.

Chris is a businessman, with ambition and understands he faces an uphill battle, but with your help, nothing is impossible. Your vote is all I ask for. I'm personally tired of paying more and more taxes and having very little left. It's time to put money back into the pockets of tax payers and bring our states out of control budget under control.

Party | Republican

Website

www.chrisforgov.com

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

No Answer.

BUDGET

Chris will fight hard for every Oklahoman to help create jobs and keep jobs in Oklahoma. If we keep raising taxes, this cannot be accomplished. By eliminating the corruption and waste that plagues Oklahoma and balancing our budget, more money can be put back into the tax payers pocket and with lower taxes put in place it will lead to long term job growth.

INTERFAITH

Chris and his husband Trey are both Christians and Chris will fight hard to ensure that every Oklahoman has the right to worship or not worship as they please, without the interference of Government.

BULLYING

No Answer

HATE CRIMES

No Answer

EDUCATION

We must fund education fully. Teachers and support staff must be fully funded. Why are others in State Government making over \$100k a year and our teachers are making as little as \$28k a year? We need to cap class sizes and keep them capped. We must put an end to the waste and fully fund education. Oklahoma ranks #50 in the US in education. Chris wants to make Oklahoma rank #1 in education in the USA. One of the ways we can do this is by providing funding that our schools need, stop Government waste and abusive spending habits. We must cap the salaries of all public employees. Currently, as Chris has talked about many times, we are paying a coach at University of Oklahoma \$5.9 Million dollars a year. Chris loves football as much as anyone else but we must do something about the wasteful spending. Oklahoma cannot afford to continue paying football coaches or anyone else millions of dollars. We must reduce how much we are paying people in Government and be responsible about our budgets. Under Chris' plan, he would put a cap on salaries for all Government employees. When Oklahoma doesn't have money to pay its bills, the solution for our current administration has been to raise taxes, repeatedly. We have plenty of money, it's time to put Oklahoma Government on a strict Budget for no less than 15 years.

Some have come to the defense and said that Football for the college brings in millions of dollars and that is how the coaches are paid. This doesn't matter. No public college should be paying any employee millions of dollars. If the school is taking in that much money, let's put it back into the school and lower tuition for students.

The Vice President of the University of Oklahoma is paid \$1.3 million dollars a year. This is another great example of wasteful spending. We can't improve education or the funding for education when the people in charge at those institutions are the ones taking all the money and continue to raise tuition at the expense of students.



Eric Foutch

Born 1973 Midwest City, Ok
K-12 Oologah, Ok
Rogers State College, Claremore, Ok
University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, Ok
Backpacked around the world Sep-Dec 1998
Joined USAF 1999
Stationed- Lackland AFB, TX, Ft Gordon, GA, Tinker AFB, OK, Incirlik AB, Turkey, RAF Croughton, UK, Tinker AFB, OK, Goodfellow AFB, TX
Deployments- Prince Sultan Air Base, 2000-2001, Thumrait, Oman 2001-2002, Al Dhafra, UAE 2003, Qatar 2005, forward deployment to Kabul Int'l 2005
Retired 2016
Began work as substitute teacher Mcloud Public Schools, 2017
Hired as Title VII, Native American Educator, McLoud Public Schools 2017-2018
Filed for Governor of Oklahoma

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QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

Legal immigration, no problem. Immigrants contribute heavily to our economy.

BUDGET

We have to repeal or lower the 75% threshold on SQ 640, we must repeal the Capital Gains Tax exemption that benefits about 2% of Oklahomans while costing the rest of us approx \$100 million per year...then we need to bump up the GPT to 7%. We'd still be one of the lowest in the US, some states are 13%! These three items alone would provide a massive injection of revenue from which we could actually fund core services.

INTERFAITH

I would serve all Oklahomans, if there are instances of harassment then immediate action would be taken to identify perpetrators and subsequent legal actions as well as increase awareness.

BULLYING

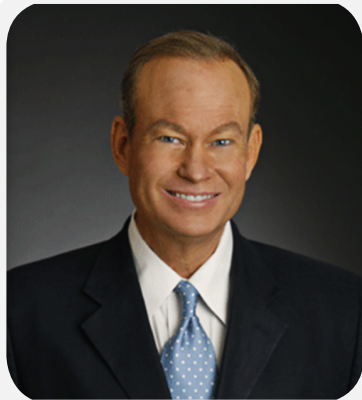
I am currently unaware of the statistics on anti Muslim bullying in our state, however one is too many. Awareness campaigns and using the full extent of the law against anyone guilty of such crimes.

HATE CRIMES

Honestly, I think the law is the law, I don't see a reason for hate crimes as they are simply redundant. Murder is murder, assault is assault regardless of race. I think it is appalling that someone would commit a crime against someone for that reason, however we have enough laws on the books to arrest, charge and punish offenders.

EDUCATION

Glad you asked, I'd fully fund our states education system by raising the GPT on oil and gas to 7%...we've been giving them a sweetheart deal at 3.2% for years, Texas is at 8.3% and several energy producing states are at 13%...they can afford it. I'd also repeal the Capital Gains Tax exemption which costs Oklahomans over 100 million per year and benefits maybe 2% of our state.



Mick Cornett

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Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett is the nation's most successful Republican Mayor. He recently completed his one-year term as President of the United States Conference of Mayors and is the longest-serving mayor among the nation's 50 largest cities. A thoughtful leader in American politics, Cornett was named Governing Magazine's "Public Official of the Year," one of Newsweek's "five most innovative mayors," and one of Politico's 50 "thinkers, doers and visionaries transforming American politics". A frequent guest on national television shows, Cornett has appeared on many programs to discuss Oklahoma and municipal issues. His TED TALK has been viewed nearly 2 million times.

The son of a postal worker and a school teacher, Mick was born and raised in Oklahoma City. As a 5th generation Oklahoman, his parents taught him early in life the value of public service and encouraged him to work hard and dream big.

After graduating from Putnam City High School and earning a journalism degree from the University of Oklahoma, he began his 20-year career in broadcast journalism, where he served as a reporter, anchor, and manager. He later earned a Masters in Business Administration from NYU.

After leaving behind his successful career in the news industry, Mick ran for Oklahoma City Council in 2001 against a two-term incumbent, winning on a platform of fiscal conservatism. In 2004, he was elected a Mayor of Oklahoma City and has been re-elected three times. Mick's leadership as Mayor has been instrumental in the continued revitalization and renaissance of Oklahoma City, including bringing the NBA to Oklahoma following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The New Orleans Hornets' stay in Oklahoma lasted two seasons and created proof that the city and the state would support a professional sports franchise.

In 2007, Mick stood in front of the elephant exhibit at the Oklahoma City Zoo and announced This City Is Going On A Diet, raising the awareness of obesity in Oklahoma City and pledging to lead the city to collectively lose 1,000,000 pounds. In 2012, that goal was achieved.

Mick also continued the legacy of Oklahoma City mayors pushing to make capital improvements to improve the quality of life in the city through the MAPS 3 initiative. During his tenure, Oklahoma City has invested nearly \$2 billion in schools and infrastructure dedicated to improving the city's quality of life. That investment generated nearly \$6 billion in private sector investment. The city has also consistently maintained one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

Mick is married to Terri (Walker) Cornett and has three sons and four granddaughters, who are seventh-generation Oklahomans.

Mick has earned several awards and honors during his career. A few of them include:

- Politico Magazine Politico 50 - the thinkers, doers, and visionaries transforming American politics, 2015
- Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame Inductee, 2014
- Dean McGee Award Winner, 2013
- Oklahoma Mayor of the Year, 2013
- Newsweek Magazine Top Five Innovative Mayors, 2012
- Governing Magazine Public Official of the Year, 2010
- World Mayors, No. 2 Mayor in the World, 2010

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

It's important to continue to welcome Muslim immigrants as residents to the U.S. to reaffirm the freedom of religion and right to live without fear or intimidation.

Source: <http://www.news9.com/story/34385870/cornett-conference-of-mayors-offer-support-for-refugees-and-immigrants>

BUDGET

While the state budget process remains a mess, Mick knows budgeting is about priorities and leadership. Mick has played a key role in developing Oklahoma City's annual budget transparently based on the consensus needs of the community. For years Oklahoma City has received the highest possible credit rating and keeps a rainy day fund equal to 15% of the annual budget. All MAPS projects were completed debt free with complete accountability to the taxpayer.

INTERFAITH

No Answer.

BULLYING

No Answer

HATE CRIMES

"I just think discrimination is wrong and to a certain extent this has to do with the image of the city. Are we a city that's accepting, a city that's open-minded? I believe we are."

Source: <http://kfor.com/2016/01/05/oklahoma-city-forbids-lgbt-discrimination-in-housing/>

EDUCATION

Mick's mother was a teacher and he understands the importance education plays in growing our economy, promoting a stronger workforce and creating better jobs that keep our kids and grandkids here. Mick believes teachers deserve a raise. He would like to see salaries increased to the regional average with competitive pay increases for STEM teachers. With advances in technology, education is a lifelong endeavor. Mick wants to raise the expectations for education in our state and create a culture that empowers families and individuals—regardless of age or income— to seek the best educational outcomes.



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Dan grew up in Arkansas and felt God's call to the ministry at a very early age. By the time he was 23, he was already serving as a full-time pastor. Forty-one years after preaching his very first sermon, Dan continues to serve in the ministry as the senior pastor of Liberty Church, Yukon, OK. He and his wife, Pam, have been married for 36 years and have two children and four grandchildren.

Throughout his life, Dan has believed that Christians cannot compartmentalize their lives into the "secular" and the "sacred," but are called by Jesus to be "salt and light" in every area of society - including government. He believes that since we Americans live in a representative republic, it is essential that "we, the people" fulfill our duties as citizens - especially so for those who are Christians.

In 2008, Dan began presenting what has become his highly acclaimed "Bringing Back the Black Robed Regiment" presentation. In it, he tells the inspiring story of the Patriot Pastors of the 18th century who preached the biblical principles of freedom and government from their pulpits and when the time came, led the men of their congregations off to defend those principles on the battlefields of our War of Independence.

Over the years, the "Bringing Back the Black Robed Regiment" presentation has grown into a full-blown stage production. In full period costume, Dan uses multimedia and actual relics from the War of Independence to challenge today's church, especially pastors, to stand for freedom as the 18th century church did.

As he travels around the country telling the Black Regiment story, Dan warns the church that if we do not stand as our founding generation stood, we could very well lose our republic and our liberties - especially religious liberty. In 2012, while continuing to serve as a full-time pastor and while continuing to present his Black Regiment message around the country, Dan successfully ran for the Oklahoma Legislature where he served as a state representative for two terms.

Dan's vision is that the church in Oklahoma and across the country will regain the "spirit" of the original Black Regiment and once again actively engage in the defense of truth and liberty. Through his work as pastor, state representative, leader in the modern Black Regiment movement and now candidate for Governor of Oklahoma, Dan endeavors to see that vision fulfilled.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

No Answer.

BUDGET

"I believe government does not have a divine claim on your hard-earned money. Tax revenue is property that is confiscated from you and spent on bureaucracy over which most have little control. The large difference between your gross and net pay is caused by the taxes you are forced to pay. If that much money is going to be confiscated by the government, you are entitled to know exactly where every dollar is spent. You and I run our homes and businesses that way – and as your Governor, I intend to make Oklahoma government run that way as well! When I find bloated, unnecessary government agencies and programs, I will work to eliminate them and return your money to you, the hardworking taxpayer. As a stakeholder in Oklahoma government, you have a right to know how your money is being used. You are entitled to a prospectus when it comes to your private investments, and since government often refers to your taxes as an investment, you deserve a prospectus from them as well. As Governor, I intend to ask for a special appropriation to bring state-of-the-art, understandable, transparency to you, the taxpayer. I want you to be able to go to your computer, connect with the state government, and see the following:

- 1. Who is employed by the state and how much you are paying them through your taxes*
- 2. What their total compensation package is, including benefits and time off*
- 3. The performance review process of every agency and how they are stacking up*
- 4. How much money each agency gets and where exactly it is being spent. There will be no more hidden fund balances or confusing lines in the budget.*

I intend to make this so transparent that the average junior in high school with basic economic training can understand where the money is going. As Governor of Oklahoma, I will work to free the economy from crony capitalism and corporate welfare that misuse tax dollars and stifle healthy competition."

INTERFAITH

No Answer.

BULLYING

No Answer.

HATE CRIMES

No Answer.

EDUCATION

"As Governor, I will work to return control of education to its rightful stakeholders: local citizens and their local school boards. As a former teacher and the husband of a teacher, I am weary of teachers being handcuffed by federal and state policy makers. I am weary of hearing that another teacher left the state for better pay and better working conditions in neighboring states. It is time to seriously examine the conditions and requirements that make it so difficult for teachers to do their jobs in Oklahoma. My administration will focus on the children, the teachers, and the local communities. I will not automatically do the bidding of state and federal bureaucrats. Many believe that spending more money will automatically solve the challenges we face in education in our state. I do not accept that premise – and neither should you. Focusing attention on spending alone distracts us from focusing on the inefficiencies and over-regulation in our bureaucratic system. Our precious education dollars need to be spent on teachers, classrooms, and students – not on duplicative administrative costs. If the business of education is teaching children, and I believe it is, then the focus of education should be teachers and empowering local schools – not bureaucrats on Lincoln Boulevard or in Washington D.C."



Todd G. Lamb

Todd Lamb, an Enid native, and Monica, a school teacher, have been married 22 years and have two children, Griffin and Lauren.

Lamb is a proven and conservative leader. A former special agent with the U.S. Secret Service, Lamb has always taken on leadership positions, including being president of his secret service academy class. As a special agent, Lamb was responsible for developing detailed plans, and contingency plans, a skill we need at the state capitol. Lamb's private sector experience includes working as a petroleum landman and as an executive in the telecommunications industry.

Elected to the State Senate in 2004 and as Lt. Governor in 2010, Lamb has successfully championed a conservative agenda and has been recognized as a proven pro-life leader and advocate for economic growth. Lamb helped override a gubernatorial veto of important pro-life legislation as well as pass meaningful tort and workers' compensation reforms to improve the business climate in Oklahoma. In 2012 was named recipient of the Christian Business Men's Coalition Salt and Light Award. The Lambs attend Quail Springs Baptist Church where Todd serves as a deacon and Sunday school teacher.

Party | Republican

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QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

No Answer.

BUDGET

Oklahoma must implement zero-based budgeting. Bureaucrats and agency directors need to justify every expenditure of taxpayer dollars - not just the new dollars they inevitably request each year. Todd's plan implements this long overdue reform.

Currently the budget is drafted by only a handful of legislators. The entire legislature should be engaged in the budgeting process. It is time to empty the back rooms and bring transparency to development of the state's budget. By reforming the structure of the legislative session, every legislator will be tasked with helping keep unelected bureaucrats accountable.

INTERFAITH

No Answer.

BULLYING

No Answer.

HATE CRIMES

No Answer.

EDUCATION

The status quo is unacceptable. Increasing money spent in the classroom is key to giving our teachers the pay increase they deserve. Oklahoma must improve its education system. We have to put parents back in control, maintain a focus on improving academic achievement, and reduce administrative costs so we get a minimum of 65% of every education dollar spent directly with teachers in the classroom.



Kevin Stitt

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Kevin Stitt is a conservative Republican candidate for governor who is running to end politics as usual at the State Capitol and to lead Oklahoma with a vision to be Top Ten in growth, education, infrastructure, healthcare, and government efficiency.

Stitt is an Oklahoman entrepreneur and businessman who founded Gateway Mortgage in 2000 with \$1,000 and a computer. By delivering strong leadership and vision, Stitt has grown Gateway into a nationwide mortgage company that today employs 1,200 people, has 164 field offices in 41 states, and holds a loan servicing portfolio of more than \$16 billion. Stitt is promising to bring his proven business experience to state government where he will put Oklahoma's checkbook online, apply performance metrics, and audit every state agency.

Stitt is a fourth-generation Oklahoman, raised in Norman where his dad was a pastor and spent many summers as a youth in Skiatook where his grandfather owned a dairy farm. Stitt graduated from Norman High School and worked his way through Oklahoma State University by selling books with the Southwestern Company. Stitt is a man driven by faith and family. He has been married to his wife, Sarah, for nearly 20 years and together they have six children and live in Tulsa.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

No Answer.

BUDGET

In 2016, Oklahoma had -3% GDP growth. In 2017, our state faced a \$900 million budget deficit. Too many of our children and grandchildren are leaving the state for better opportunities. I refuse to sit back and let this continue. As governor, I will be committed to growth and prosperity for our entire state." Plan: We going to do this by Capitalizing on President Trump's tax cuts that are leveling the playing field for America to compete in the global market place, recruiting new business to Oklahoma, and cutting unnecessary red tape and remove wasteful licensing fees for job creators in Oklahoma.

INTERFAITH

No Answer.

BULLYING

No Answer.

HATE CRIMES

No Answer.

EDUCATION

Raise teacher pay so that it matches the pay of teachers in our six-state footprint, Require line item budgeting for the Education Department, Review ways to empower local communities to best fund the needs of their local schools, Expand the use of video technology to deliver AP classes across our state, Recruit, train and retain great teachers.



Gary A. Jones

Gary was born at Fort Sill August 27, 1954, the fifth of seven children to M SGT James J. & Clara Jones. Gary started school at Jefferson Elementary in Lawton, but like most military families moved, and also attended school in Coleman, Texas, and Hanau, Germany. He returned to Lawton, attending Eisenhower Jr. High and graduating from Eisenhower High School in 1972.

In fall of 1972, Gary entered Cameron University while also working full-time for Southwestern Bell Telephone. At age 20, Gary was promoted to a management position for Southwestern Bell, becoming one of the youngest managers in company history. A year later, he was promoted to a position at Southwestern Bell's Oklahoma City headquarters.

Jones returned to Lawton in 1977, attending night classes at Cameron and earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a minor in accounting in 1978. Jones worked for Southwestern Bell for 10 years before starting a telecommunications company he owned and operated for 16 years. He was elected Comanche County Western District Commissioner in August 1994 and served 4 years.

In 1999, Jones returned to Cameron to finish the requirements needed to sit for the CPA exam, becoming a Certified Public Accountant in May 2000. He is also a Certified Fraud Examiner. Gary has spent much of his adult life seeking to expand government accountability and to improve the delivery of government services.

Gary was elected Oklahoma Republican Party Chairman in 2003 and is distinguished as the longest serving Chairman and Executive Director in the history of the state party. He resigned his position in 2010 to make a third attempt at being elected State Auditor & Inspector. He was re-elected in 2014. With Gary leading the auditor's office they have increased the quantity of audits it conducts without sacrificing the quality of the work product and have doubled the number of CPAs on staff.

Gary and his wife, the former Mary Jane Horton, have been married 40 years and live on their farm southwest of Cache where they raised two children, and built their cow-calf operation of over 30 years. After a 36-year teaching career, Mary Jane retired in May 2011. The Joneses have three wonderful grandchildren.

Party | Republican

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QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

BUDGET

1. *Budget Stabilization Fund.* Raiding revolving funds and using accounting tricks to appear to balance the budget has caused problems for our state, including the lowering of our credit rating and agencies postponing projects projects that have been planned for years. A stabilization fund would provide resources in downturns without raiding dedicated funds.

2. *Line-Item Budget.* In 2013, I proposed Oklahoma use a needs-based budgeting model, which is a modified version of zero-based budgeting. My op-ed received national attention after an article in the Washington Times suggested leaders in Washington should follow Oklahoma's lead. However, our state never implemented it. We need individual budgets for each major agency, voted on separately, to include individual line items.

3. *Independent Budget Office.* Currently the Oklahoma budget process involves the Oklahoma House, Senate and Governor's office, with three different fiscal staffs gathering information and independently developing a budget, only to be reconciled behind closed doors by a handful of people in the last weeks of legislative session.

I have proposed an Office of Accounting and Budgets, which will provide detailed and accurate financial information and proposed budgets for each agency, complete with supporting documentation. This information will be prepared by professionals using widely-accepted government accounting standards. The process will be open and transparent not only to all legislators, but to the public as well. The state could save up to \$1M annually.

IMMIGRATION

No Answer.

INTERFAITH

No Answer.

BULLYING

No Answer.

HATE CRIMES

No Answer.

EDUCATION

No Answer.



Blake “Cowboy” Stephens

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Blake “Cowboy” Stephens will tackle the state of Oklahoma like he tackles any other issue that lands in front of him; with hard work, dedication and the passion to see him through the job. He does not claim to be a politician going into this race but recognizes the act of entering, marks that transformation. With that involvement, he is focused on not becoming the stereotypical politician; he takes great pride in speaking directly. When his mother, Evelyn, called him on the way to his initial campaign meet-and-greet, she relayed a conversation she had with her pastor who made this observation about Blake, “I know one thing for sure, he won’t talk out of both sides of his mouth.” After the pastor’s comment, she inquired about the verse, “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.” The pastor reminded Evelyn that verse is found in Philippians 4:13. Blake took comfort from her words and the further encouragement of extending his original calling of serving others; they discovered together 4:13 (the verse in Philippians) also coincides with the day he filed to run 4/13/2018. Blake commits to being REAL and honest with those around him, embracing his servant’s heart especially through leadership, being true to how he was raised and how he raised his own family – nothing is achieved without hard work and dedication.

Time to get REAL Oklahoma. REAL people, making REAL sustainable change for both economic and social growth as a state. Blake “Cowboy” Stephens truly began his campaign for change during the Education Movement that called teachers, parents, students and supporters from all across the state of Oklahoma; he just didn’t know it yet. The sign he carried all nine days at the capitol had a two-sided message reading, “This REAL Cowboys says... Get REAL Oklahoma,” while the back relayed “The Counseling Cowboy says... Restore Funding.” Blake was repeatedly the last man standing at the end of the day, it would have been a full nine for nine but one day out of the nine he was afoot and needed to get the last available ride home from the capitol. He consistently shows the passion and dedication necessary to accomplish any task set before him. Right now, his goal is to serve ALL the people of Oklahoma; to bring transparency to our government, audit externally without bias, make education funding a priority, appreciate our educators by being competitive in our region, and work to the common goal of a greater Oklahoma. These goals are all attainable with someone like Blake as Governor.

Blake has been serving in what he considers his calling, working with children as a school counselor. He has been working for Locust Grove School district as a counselor for the past 21 years, at different school sites as necessary. He has a heart for the community and its children. His nickname “Cowboy” was earned at the site he is currently serving, the Early Learning Center. The kids also call him “Woody” like the character from the animated film “Toy Story,” who is also a cowboy. The kids, grades pre-K through 1st, love “Cowboy” and are always excited to receive a turkey feather on their birthday or after a big test. Blake collects all the turkey feathers himself, either shed naturally on the ranch or from his latest shot. Blake believes firmly in wildlife conservation and the efforts to maintain balance in the wildlife population. That being said, he thinks the best part is when his wife Kathy fries the turkey afterwards. Blake is a firm believer in living off of the land. He hunts, fishes and always has a garden in the spring through fall months. The gardening tradition he carries on from his own mother.

Blake has served a part in wildlife conservation for years with the state of Oklahoma. He has participated in land management practices with the NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service, formerly SCS (Soil Conservation Service) and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife. He is always interested in doing his part in the conservation of our natural, renewable and non-renewable resources. He has been in several practices and programs. Some of which are: EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program), Quail Restoration Program and currently CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program).

Leadership has been a point of focus throughout Blake’s life. Throughout his childhood and teenage years, Blake was heavily involved in the livestock and roping scene. He is a third generation team roper and cowboy. While he was growing up the Stephens’ family built a roping arena on the farm, they spent all the spare time they had roping in the (practice pen) arena they built on the family farm that is still there today. Four generations of Stephens have been able to rope in that arena and it is a source of great pride. They were very competitive in the rodeo world during this time and then later in his life Blake continued

BLAKE COWBOY STEPHENS CONTINUED

the tradition. Recently Blake was able to compete in the USTRC Team Roping Finals in Oklahoma City in October of 2017. Currently he is a member of the All Star Team Roping.

As a young adult he served in several leadership positions, many of which were connected to his work on the farm and the competitive world of rodeo as well. He served as a member of Sapulpa High School FFA all four years of his high school career. Elected as FFA Vice President his Junior year in 1978 and then FFA President his Senior year 1979, serving double duty that year also as President of the FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team. While heavily involved in FFA during high school he participated in the 1977 Oklahoma State and National Championship Livestock Judging Teams. In 1979 he was a recipient for the FFA Oklahoma State Chapter Farmer Degree. Also during his senior year he served as the Senior Class Secretary, and continues to be heavily involved with Sapulpa High School Reunions. While in attendance at NEO A&M he served on the 1980 Livestock Judging Team; his sophomore year in 1981 as the Sophomore Class President. He continued his FFA involvement as a student at Oklahoma State University in Collegiate FFA; he participated also in Alpha Tau Alpha and the Block and Bridle Club. Blake has continued to be a leader to the children he serves, as well as the teachers he works with on a daily basis. He is always ready to lend a hand or give direction to those around him. He leads by example, always putting in the work necessary to accomplish his goals. He does not believe good things just happen to people, they have to work for them. Blake is always willing to roll up his sleeves and get down to work, no matter the time or effort necessary.

Blake met his wife and best friend Kathy, whom he refers to as his gift from God, at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He claims that she is a saint for "putting up with my western way of life." Prior to attending OSU Stillwater, Blake attended Northeastern Oklahoma A&M in Miami where he received an Associate's Degree. Blake went on to graduate from OSU with a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Education and later went on to attend Northeastern State University in Tahlequah earning both a Master's of Education in Secondary School Counseling and Elementary School Counseling. Kathy is also an educator, she is a librarian at Locust Grove Upper Elementary School. Blake and Kathy have two grown children, Sarah who is married to Brandon Daniels and Joshua who is married to Jewely Stephens. They enjoy spending time with both their children and their spouses, but they really enjoy time spent with their two grandchildren, Kaitlyn and Annie on the ranch. Whether riding horses with Pa or picking blackberries or huckleberries with Granny, Blake and Kathy treasure the time they spend with KK and Annie.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

No Answer.

BUDGET

No Answer.

INTERFAITH

No Answer.

BULLYING

No Answer

HATE CRIMES

No Answer

EDUCATION

I absolutely support the teacher pay raise, not because I am an educator but because of the thousands of educators in Oklahoma that dedicate their lives to their students and to public education. Educators in our state have gone far too long without any significant increase and I believe we can do better than 49th in the nation in teacher pay. Educators have been more than patient with our legislators. The failure of the Step Up Oklahoma bill is the straw that broke the camel's back. Enough is Enough. The time is now. Drastic times demand drastic measures. Ten, twenty, thirty years of patience with Oklahoma lawmakers to do the right thing has finally come to a head. Educators have put up with a lot of harassment over the discussion of teacher pay raise and education funding. They have not been valued or appreciated. It is reflective in the state minimum pay schedule. Only one or two incremental pay raises in over 28 years. Our retired educators haven't seen a cost of living adjustment in retirement in 10 years. In addition, we do not encourage our teachers to stay in the classroom; the state minimum salary schedule caps out at 25 years. At that point in time a teacher would never receive another raise in their teaching career, so there is no incentive to stay in the classroom. I believe that the teacher walkout was a good thing for public education in Oklahoma. I believe that we raised awareness, demonstrated our commitment to our students and schools, and united even more as a collective group of people of like mind and purpose. The fact is we are in crisis and our public is now aware that we are losing more than 300 certified teachers a month, to other states or leaving the profession all together. We have to approach education as the top priority in our state. We handle that first. We fund education first. We make a statement to the nation that education is the most important thing in our state. Everything else will benefit from the positive ripple effect. We also have to be competitive with other states in our region concerning minimum teacher salaries. We will retain our educators, one of our greatest assets, by showing them and the world that we care about all of our citizens.



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Joseph A Maldonado “Schreibvogel” was born in Garden City Kansas in 1963 where he lived and grew up on a farm until the age of 13 years of age. Joe was very active in 4-H where he was the president of his local chapter and won several awards in parliamentary procedures. Raising and showing all kinds of animals from racing pigeons, chickens, turkeys, and steers, he began his life of loving animals.

In 1976 Joe’s family sold the farm and moved to a large cattle ranch in Centennial Wyoming where Joe joined the volunteer fire department at the age of 14 and was involved in fighting many forest fires. During the time of seeing the devastation of what a fire can do to the wildlife and their homes, he began rescuing all kinds of wildlife. Once he obtained a permit from the State of Wyoming, some of his first animals to rescue and raise included a baby Antelope, porcupines, raccoons, and squirrels.

Moving on with his parents who at this time raced race horses, his family bought a horse ranch in Pilot Point Texas, in 1980 and Joe finished his last two years of high school. Moving from Wyoming to Texas Joe had enough credits to graduate early and attended Cooke County Collage during his last year of high school for Medical School. Joe became an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and volunteered on a local ambulance service.

At the age of 19 Joe’s life took a huge turn in the professional world, owning his own ambulance service and joining the police force in Eastvale Texas. Texas law at that time allowed you to be a police officer for one year before you had to complete the police academy and before that year was up Joe was appointed Police Chief and went through the academy as the youngest Police Chief in Texas history.

Having a motor vehicle accident in 1985 while on duty involving a hit and run ended the career as a police officer leaving Joe in the hospital in traction for 56 days.

In 1986 Joe went to work for an exotic pet store called Pet Safari’s in Arlington Texas where Joe, his other half Brian and his brother become owners of the store just months later. Now owning his own exotic pet store Joe became licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture and began a life of working with exotics such as lions, tigers, lemurs and many other species of exotic animals. Growing to be the largest exotic pet store in the state the store reached 40,000 sq ft for the next 11 years.

In 1997 devastation hit when Joe’s Brother (G.W.) was hit south of Dallas Texas by a drunk driver leaving him on life support for 7 days before Joe made the decision to shut it off and let him go on October 14, 1997. The promise to his brother was made not to let him die without a cause so Joe, Brian, and Joe’s parents sold the pet store and bought some property in Wynnewood Oklahoma where they began building the G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation for un-wanted exotic animals. The park opened its doors on October 14, 1999. Soon hundreds of animals started coming in from all over the nation.

2001 devastation hit once again when Brian became ill and died in the parking lot of the Norman Regional Hospital in Norman Oklahoma, leaving Joe to carry on the goal of keeping the park going alone. By this time the park has grown into a huge undertaking that houses over 40 tigers and lions, along with bears, lemurs, exotic birds, camels, exotic deer, and over 100 other species of animals.

2004 Joe met John Finlay who later became partners in life for the next 8 years to present. Making the park one of the largest accredited facilities in the world now housing over 170 tigers and lions and 128 species of animals the G.W. Exotic Animal Memorial Foundation has been overwhelmed with honors. Joe learned to do magic and has toured the Nation, Canada and Mexico for the past 9 years performing to millions. Joe now has two shows on the road, a educational exhibit with tigers and other exotics, a magic show called illusions of the night, and his own internet television station located right in the middle of the animal park. He has been given the honor of being Oklahoma’s animal response team for the Oklahoma emergency disaster service, and spends most of his time traveling all over the nation educating and helping other zoos, private owners with exotics better themselves and the care of their animals.

JOE EXOTIC CONTINUED

Current Joe is the director of the largest private zoo for tigers in the world, housing nearly 187 big cats in Wynnewood Oklahoma. Joe seeks to run for President of the United States of America to give a voice back to the people who make up this country. Politicians and Lobbyist have way to much control on everyone's lives and rights, he thinks it is time to change this. He also believes that if you own your own property and pay taxes on it the Government should not have a right to tell you what you are allowed to do on that property, along with many more issues.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

No Answer.

BUDGET

Taxes- Simplify the tax code and transition to an 8% tax across the board.

INTERFAITH

No Answer.

BULLYING

No Answer.

HATE CRIMES

No Answer.

EDUCATION

One of the biggest issues I'm pushing in this campaign is the legalization of marijuana. It is the time we start paying the teachers a competitive wage and provide them with the tools they need. In addition. We must get our schools back on track so our students learn to become Entrepreneurs and pride in graduating, learning how to make it on their own as adults. We must get our students back to some basics of counting change, work ethics, learning how to use their hands and be teaching them about the real agriculture issues that allow this world to survive. I have a plan not only to bring real lunches to the schools but allow our farmers and ranchers the ability to supply that food instead of large corporations selling our school's processed food that does nothing for your child's health. In turn, this will make for better school lunches and increase interest in farming, create jobs and put more people back in business.



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Born in Kansas, Rex has traveled all over the world as an adult to finally set up roots in Tulsa with other members of his family. Much of his family has been here his entire life and as such, Rex has seen the rise and fall of many of Oklahoma's staple industries, repeatedly. He stands before you as a change agent, ready to stabilize Oklahoma's economy and to drag the education system into the 21st Century.

A Tulsan for a total of 16 years, Rex has worked in the telecommunications, energy, and aerospace industries as a technician, a machinist, quality assurance and control, production planning, and as Director of Manufacturing at various stages in his career, most recently as a premises technician for AT&T. He has seen a dramatic cross section of blue-collar Oklahoma and stands with his roots to enhance the quality of life for all.

Currently located in Broken Arrow, Rex has involved himself in state and federal levels of politics as an activist, Americans Elect party chairman, current Oklahoma State Director for the Our America Initiative, plaintiff in Lawhorn vs. Ziriak to update ballot access law and various other grassroots causes.

He was born into political life as a Democrat, until he realized that tax and spend will never solve any issues. He then migrated to the Republicans, where he spent most of his adult life, but still not comfortable with the overbearing micromanagement of citizens' lives, dictating what you do in your own home and with your own property. Rex finally found a home with the Libertarian Party of Oklahoma, where neither tax and spend policies, nor oppressive regulation are tolerated.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

Immigration is a benefit to every society and brings with it economic and social gains alike. Immigrants become new consumers and producers and create a greater diversity in both the economy and in social experience and is a foundational principle of all civilization. It is a fundamental right of every person to be able to travel from one place to another as long as they don't infringe on anyone else's rights.

BUDGET

No, we should not raise taxes, but rather find and reallocate the billions currently being misspent and misappropriated by the executive agencies. We should reassess after we have a handle on where the money is going, but raising taxes right now would do nothing more than throw fuel on the corruption fire and not alleviate our budget concerns. I'm confident we can find the money from current tax revenue to adequately fund every state agency.

INTERFAITH

First, I would veto any legislation that targets an individual or a community. I'm a firm believer in equal protection before the law. Secondly, I personally attend interfaith events and would use my voice to further strengthen the bonds of community. Third, I would enforce the laws that exist that are designed to prevent harassment and targeting. The majority of rights violations that currently take place are felonious as the law stands and should be prosecuted.

BULLYING

Again, this is a matter of enforcing code that already exists. If the rights of an individual are being violated in a criminal manner, they should be prosecuted. With the current climate of anti-bullying taking place, we need to ensure those local programs are inclusive of racial and religious bullying as well. This is mostly a community-based solution, as it should be.

HATE CRIMES

Crime should be prosecuted, regardless of bias. Since I intend to reduce prison population by removing those in custody for victimless crimes, the punishments for those who create actual victims will be much stiffer. Oklahoma will be a very painful state in which to violate other people's rights. Our crimes are stiffly punished - only we target the wrong individuals. There won't be another candidate who will more strongly protect individual liberties, and that includes especially those most heavily targeted, which tend to be religious and ethnic minorities.

EDUCATION

Find the money. It's my belief based on publicly available information that we have over a billion dollars being misspent in the state education system as it exists. Some of that comes from an over abundance of administration. Lowering the number of superintendents from 520 to 100 will save approximately \$400 million alone. Excessive luxury and architecture accounts for another \$300 million average spent over the last 4 years. Prioritizing spending on Oklahoma students, instead of spending \$800 million on out of state students that don't stay in Oklahoma will be part of the solution as well. Offering ESAs to Oklahoma residents instead of direct school funding will further the impetus to increase educational outcomes, as schools will now be competing for students rather than have a captive consumer class, and will remove the ties to the state legislature controlling what happens in the classroom.



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With roots on all sides going back before statehood, my kinfolk have lived in communities from Woodward to Idabel, from Grove to Frederick, and innumerable places in between. In addition to my political activities I am an avid genealogist. I am proud of being an Oklahoman, a place that has served as a crossroads of history and culture for the nation, and celebrate our state's deep and rich heritage.

I grew up in Choctaw as the youngest of five children. My father was a truck driver and my mother a bookkeeper. They taught us the value of family, hard work, and self-sufficiency, such as by keeping a large vegetable garden that we all helped tend. My wife, raised by her grandfather, Rev. John Gable, after her mother passed away, lived in many communities across rural Oklahoma before Grandpa Gable became pastor at Nicoma Park United Methodist Church. We met at the parsonage in 1992, just months after I returned from the first Gulf War. Amy and I married in 1994.

We moved to Bethany in 1996, a vibrant and diverse community that we enjoy and a place where we have grown our family through births, hosting a foreign exchange student, becoming a foster home, and by adoption. We have pursued career and educational goals and been active in political and civic affairs. The Powells have faced the kinds of issues that most Oklahoma families deal with every day but from which members of the political establishment are often insulated. Among the reasons that I am running for governor is to shine the light of the realities of everyday Oklahoma life into the often inaccessible world of politics.

In my experiences with education, military service, and both private and public sector employment, I learned firsthand how government fails to prioritize the rights of the people that it is intended to serve. Since joining the Libertarian Party in 2000 I have worked to limit the power of politics and thereby increase individual freedom. Please join our campaign so that we may work together to increase liberty and prosperity for all Oklahomans.

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS

IMMIGRATION

Oklahoma is not a border state and immigration is primarily a federal issue, meaning that the Governor has a limited amount of influence on immigration policy. However, we do have several vibrant immigrant communities in Oklahoma that make significant contributions, economically and culturally, to our state. As a Libertarian, I am committed to recognizing the inherent human rights of all people, equality before the law, and a federalist limited government approach. That last part refers to separation of powers and checks and balances in our system of government, with the idea that states are not intended to merely be lackeys of the national government but instead have their own priorities and prerogatives. In regard to the question of immigration the key practical point is that as Governor I oppose allowing our state and local agencies and resources to be co-opted to serve policy goals of the federal government. Our state and local law enforcement agencies have their own proper functions which do not include being henchmen for federal entities.

BUDGET

We need real prioritization of spending in our state budget. We've seen recently that the state Health Department did not need an emergency appropriation, we've had money management issues in the Tourism Department, and there are several other areas where waste and mis-management are suspected. More importantly, the Legislature has utterly failed to discern between core services that people demand and less necessary expenditures that we could do without. For instance, there is nearly half a billion dollars in incentive programs before the Incentive Evaluation Commission. Do we really need these corporate welfare programs more than we need to adequately fund mental health services, or education? I don't believe so but apparently the establishment party politicians do.

INTERFAITH

I am for equality before the law and will do everything I can to eliminate instances where individuals are treated differently because of religion or culture and will also work hard to protect freedom of religion for people of all faiths or of none by ensuring that state government does not oppress or promote any particular religious viewpoint. This commitment to freedom of religion would extend to avoiding exclusionary practices in regard to any public events that involve communities of faith.

BULLYING

A key issue for me is to move authority and responsibility for education away from the politicians at the Capitol and towards the school districts to put decision making power within reach of teachers and parents. Rather than passing more ineffective but expensive mandates that may allow some politicians to act as though they did something, I believe that by empowering the education professionals in our communities we will develop our educational system to be more responsive to the needs of individual students and the concerns of parents.

HATE CRIMES

At this time we have an over-burdened criminal justice system and overcrowded prisons. We need to do something to fix that we have too many people in prison overall and too many who should never have been put there in the first place. As we address that we will have greater latitude to be able to keep truly dangerous people in prison and away from society, such as those rare individuals who for whatever reason are motivated to commit violence against those who are of a differing ethnicity, belief, or culture.

EDUCATION

As I mentioned above we need to put control of our schools in the hands of people who are actually in that individual school on a regular basis. We also need to look at reform of the funding mechanisms for our public education system. When we compare K-12 with our CareerTech system, CareerTech is by and large on much better financial footing and does not have problems with paying instructors as our K-12 system does. It's also the case that CareerTech receives far less of its funding through appropriations from the state Legislature. We need to migrate K-12 to having a greater percentage of its funding from local or other sources that are not controlled by the establishment party politicians. In my view the only people who should be making decisions about the education of any individual child are parents and teachers who know that child.

NOTES



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