



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Voter Guide

November 6, 2012 General Election

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa is a nonpartisan organization that provides information about political issues and candidates for public office in order to promote greater citizen responsibility and participation in government. As a nonpartisan organization, the League neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. It publishes and distributes factual information for citizens to use when preparing to cast an informed vote.

General Election — Tuesday, November 6th, 7AM to 7PM

The general election is open to all registered voters in the State of Oklahoma. All candidates who won primary races for their respective party's candidacy, who were the only candidate for their party for a particular office or who filed as independents will be on the ballot.

Voters may select any candidate who appears on the ballot. Six state questions and two Tulsa County propositions will also be on the ballot.

Your Vote. Your Voice.





This Voters' Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. The League offers this Voters' Guide to help citizens make informed decisions at the polls. The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

- All candidates in this guide are listed in alphabetical order by last name.
- Candidates who drew no opponents and candidates who drew opponents from their own party and were elected in the June 26 primary or Aug. 28 run-off primary elections will not be on the general election ballot and are not listed in this guide.
- Every candidate was sent a questionnaire and given the opportunity to respond. The League neither edits material nor changes spelling, punctuation, or grammar of candidate submissions. If word limits are exceeded, the extra words are deleted and this is indicated by ellipses (...).
- Six state questions and two Tulsa County propositions will be on the general election ballot. Each proposal is printed with the exact wording that will appear on the ballot followed by arguments of proponents and opponents. A separate insert outlines the League's support or opposition on state questions 759 and 762. Voters will be asked to vote for or against each state question and/or county propositions on their ballot.
- Offices and ballot questions are listed here in the order in which they appear on the ballot.

The League provides complete voting information on our website at www.lwvtulsa.org. In addition, the Tulsa World includes an informative non-partisan in their paper on the Sunday before the general election and online at www.tulsaworld.com. Lastly, check out www.vote411.org to create your own personalized ballot and go into the voter box prepared!

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The Maxine & Jack Zarrow Family Foundation • The Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation

Ruth Nelson • Williams Foundation

Support production of our nonpartisan voter guides: www.lwvtulsa.org/donate

Voter Identification Requirements

When voting in person you will need one of the following valid types of identification with expiration dates that are later than the day of election. See the expiration date exception below for those persons 65 years or older with an Oklahoma ID card.

- A valid Oklahoma driver's license State identification card
- A U.S. passport
- Military identification
- A voter identification card received by mail from the County Election Board when you registered to vote. The law allows use of the voter identification card even though it does not include a photograph or an expiration date.
- An Oklahoma ID card issued to a person who is 65 years old or older is valid even though it does not have an expiration date

Don't have ID? Ask for the provisional ballot!

It will take a little more time to fill out the paperwork. When you cast a provisional ballot you will be required to fill out and sign an affidavit swearing, or affirming, you are the person named in the precinct voter registry. Your provisional ballots will be sealed inside a special envelope and not put through the voting device.

After Election Day, County Election Board officials will review the information you provided on the affidavit. Be sure the name you put on the affidavit matches the name you used to register to vote. If the information you provided does match your voter registration information, your vote will be counted.

Vote!

Polls open at 7 a.m. on Election Day and remain open until 7 p.m. If you are in line by 7 p.m., you can vote. You can vote in person at your polling place for the precinct in which you live. There are three ways to find your precinct:

- Look at your voter identification card for the name of the polling place;
- Go to Vote411.org; or
- Use the Tulsa County Election Board's Precinct Locator at <http://www.tulsacounty.org/TulsaCounty/TulsaCoHtml.aspx?framesrc=pctloc>.

You can also vote early or by absentee ballot. Please read below for important information regarding voting early and the absentee ballot.

- Early voting takes place before election from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Monday, and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.
- Absentee ballot application deadline for the November 6 election is 5 p.m., October 31.
- Mailed absentee ballots must be returned by mail and must be received by 7 p.m. on November 6 to be counted.
- For more information on absentee ballot voting, please visit http://www.ok.gov/elections/Absentee_Voting/Absentee_Ballot_Applications/ email info@elections.ok.gov, or call 918-596-5780.

Time off to vote

Employees who begin their work less than three hours after the polls open and finish less than three hours before the polls close are entitled to two hours leave to vote. You must give notice the day before the election and must provide proof of voting to not have your pay reduced. The employer can set the time the employee can leave to vote.

President of the United States

Presidential Nominee Response Submission Ground Rules:

1. All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to six specific questions. Candidates were qualified if they met the following criteria:
 1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President;
 2. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes; and,
 3. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website by the date of publication.
2. Responses were limited to a specific number of characters and were truncated thereafter.
3. If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, "Candidate has not responded." is printed.
4. The League of Women Voters is where hands on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Learn more at www.lwv.org and www.VOTE411.org.

About the Office of President

Salary: \$400,000 per year

Term: Four years. Limit of two terms.

How Elected: Every four years, political parties nominate candidates to run for President of the United States in a general election that is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The popular vote for President and Vice President within each state determines how the members of the Electoral College may vote. There are 538 members in the Electoral College, with 270 votes required to win the Presidency. See <http://www.lwv.org/files/ElectingThePresident.pdf> for more details.

Duties: The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. Subject to Senate approval, the President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.



Barack Obama

Party: *Democratic*

Biographical Info:

No Personal Statement Submitted

Website: www.barackobama.com

Campaign Phone: (312)698-3670

Address: Obama for America

PO Box 803638

Chicago, IL, 60680

Questions:

Q: Please identify your top three goals if elected.

A. As a nation, our challenges can be met by rebuilding the middle class and our economy on a stronger foundation. I have laid out a set of concrete goals on manufacturing, energy, education, national security, and the deficit that will create jobs, expand opportunity, and create an economy build to last.

Q: In this time of high unemployment, what are the most important things that should be done to improve our nation's economy?

A. When I took office we were losing private sector jobs at a rate of nearly 800,000 a month. Now we have experienced 30 straight months of private-sector job growth, creating 4.6 million private sector jobs. I have proposed steps to create a million more jobs by preventing teacher layoffs, putting construction workers back to work, bringing jobs back from overseas, and helping small businesses grow.

Q: How can the federal government, in collaboration with other levels of government, provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?

A. My administration spurred 46 states to raise standards for teaching and learning and strengthened Head Start. Millions of students are paying less for college because we cut student loan subsidies for banks and doubled scholarships. We will recruit 100,000 math and science teachers, train 2 million workers for real jobs through community colleges, and cut the growth of tuition in half.

Q: Please explain why you do or do not support cutting Medicare and Social Security to address the federal deficit.

A. Social Security and Medicare are sacred compacts with seniors who earned benefits after a lifetime of hard work. I added eight years to the solvency of Medicare without cutting benefits by cracking down on waste, fraud, and subsidies to insurance companies. I have proposed steps to strengthen Medicare and Social Security without slashing benefits or subjecting it to the whims of the stock market.

Q: Please explain why you do or do not support requiring timely and full disclosure of all political expenditures in federal campaigns.

A. Powerful special interests should not drown out the voices of the American people. We need to pass the bipartisan Disclose Act that would establish the toughest-ever disclosure requirements for election-related spending. I also support campaign finance reform, by constitutional amendment if necessary.

Q: Please explain why you do or do not support the Environmental Protection Agencies' efforts to enforce strong clean air and clean water standards in America.

A. Nothing is more important than ensuring the air we breathe and the water we drink is safe. We have broken decades of gridlock to double fuel mileage standards, effectively cutting your cost at the pump in half and reducing air pollution. And we've set standards for new mercury and other toxic air emissions from power plants and other sources that combined will save up to 21,600 lives a year.



Mitt Romney

Party: *Republican*

Biographical Info:

Personal Statement: I am running for president because I believe in America and know that our best days are still ahead. I will make it my priority to create 12 million new jobs and get our economy going again.

Website: www.mittromney.com

Campaign Phone: (857)288-3500

Address: Mitt Romney for President

PO Box 149756

Boston, MA, 02114

Questions:

Q: Please identify your top three goals if elected.

A. The first priority of a Romney Administration will be to create 12 million new jobs and get our economy going again. We must get our fiscal house in order. President Obama has put our nation on an unsustainable course. As president, Mitt Romney will set the country on the path to a balanced budget. And he will ensure we have a military so strong that no adversary would want to test it.

Q: In this time of high unemployment, what are the most important things that should be done to improve our nation's economy?

A. Mitt Romney will get America back to work by reforming our tax code so businesses can hire more workers, developing our domestic energy resources to create new jobs here at home, reversing burdensome job-destroying regulations—including Obamacare, and ensuring Americans receive education and training for today's jobs. His plan will also get spending under control to prevent a debt crisis.

Q: How can the federal government, in collaboration with other levels of government, provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12?

A. Mitt Romney believes that this important goal begins with providing parents with increased choice and information. He has put forth a plan that would allow federal funding to follow low-income and special needs students to the school of their choice. This plan also would support high quality charter schools in scaling up and reward states that recruit and retain the best teachers.

Q: Please explain why you do or do not support cutting Medicare and Social Security to address the federal deficit.

A. Entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare are large parts of the federal budget. Mitt Romney's plan to reform these programs will not only protect the benefits and services of current seniors and those nearing retirement, but will strengthen the programs so they are available for future generations.

Q: Please explain why you do or do not support requiring timely and full disclosure of all political expenditures in federal campaigns.

A. Mitt Romney understands that money can be a corrupting influence in politics. But layers of regulations have not taken money out of politics; they have instead created a system of PACs that are not accountable to the candidates they support. He believes the best solution is swift and full disclosure of all donations to candidates. This allows the American people to hold politicians accountable.

Q: Please explain why you do or do not support the Environmental Protection Agencies' efforts to enforce strong clean air and clean water standards in America.

A. Mitt Romney is proud of the environmental progress that we have made to improve our nation's air and water quality and supports continued progress. However, while our air and water laws have served us well over the years, he recognizes that they are significantly out of date and in need of reform.

Oklahoma State Court Judges

Justices of the Oklahoma Supreme Court

These are nonpartisan judicial retention races. Voters may vote either to retain or not retain these judicial officers. Voters vote separately on each justice or judge; they are not running against each other.

Douglas L. Combs

District 8

Biography

Combs was born October 17, 1951 in Shawnee, Oklahoma. He graduated from Shawnee High School in 1969. Combs attended St. Gregory's Junior College for one year on an athletic scholarship and transferred to the University of Oklahoma receiving his Bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1973. Combs received his Juris Doctorate degree from Oklahoma City University in 1976. While in law school Combs worked as a Deputy Court Clerk for the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Following admission to the Oklahoma Bar Association in 1976, Combs served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma under Attorney General Larry Derryberry. In 1977, he returned to his hometown, Shawnee and entered private practice as an associate with the firm of Henry, West and Sill.

Combs began his judicial career in January 1995 as a Special Judge for the Twenty-third Judicial District, serving both Pottawatomie and Lincoln Counties. While a special judge, Combs was responsible for the establishment of the first Drug Court in the Twenty-third Judicial District. Combs presided over the Drug Court docket while a special judge, and subsequently as district judge until his appointment to the Supreme Court. Combs was first elected without opposition to District Judge in November 2002 and again without opposition in 2006. He served eight years as District Judge for the Twenty-third Judicial District.

Combs was appointed by Governor Brad Henry to serve as a Supreme Court Justice for District 8 and began in that capacity January 1, 2010.

Justice Combs has been married to his wife, Janet for 38 years. The couple has two sons, both members of the Oklahoma Bar Association. Justice Combs is a member of Muscogee Creek Nation. Justice Combs and Janet are members of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Shawnee.

Questions:

1) Why should voters retain you?

I was appointed to the Supreme Court January 1, 2011. At the time of my appointment I had served as a Deputy Court Clerk, an Assistant Attorney General, been in private practice for over 15 years, a Special Judge and a District Judge in Pottawatomie County. I believe experience is the best attribute for a Supreme Court Justice. I have been a trial Judge, handling all aspects of civil, criminal, probate, guardianship dockets, including drug court and community sentencing as well as all administrative functions in the operation of the courts. In the twenty-one months I have been on the Supreme Court, I have come to the office with my background as the compass in my quest to interpret the law. A Supreme Court Justice must have a diverse background, the ability to listen to other members of the Court and the vision to understand the effects of the Courts decisions.

I have lived in Oklahoma my entire life, and still reside in my hometown, Shawnee. My roots are deep in this State and I believe I understand the values and principles of the people. When I first became a judge, I took an oath to support the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Oklahoma and to administer justice to the best of my knowledge and ability. If retained I will continue to abide by my oath and do this job to the best of my ability.

2) How can you ensure a fair judiciary process for all parties involved?

Members of the Supreme Court are appointed by a process where applicants are reviewed by the members of the constitutionally created Judicial Nominating Committee. This committee is comprised of members from both political parties appointed by members of the Executive branch, Legislative branch and elected by the members of the Oklahoma Bar Association. The purpose of this process is to attempt to find qualified candidates regard-

less of political background to serve in the third branch of government, the Judiciary.

This exercise of the balance of power between the branches of government provides the infrastructure for an independent judiciary. An independent judiciary provides a fair judicial process to all parties involved. Not unlike a sporting event, where everyone wants a fair referee or umpire, we must have fair impartial judges, not owing favors to either side of a dispute. All a party can ask for is a level playing field. That is the role of the judiciary. There will always be "winners and losers" in any dispute but the objective of the judiciary is to allow each party to have the opportunity within the established procedural rules to present their case, have their issues heard and finality brought to their dispute. A fair process would demand an equal and balanced application of the procedural rules to the facts of the dispute. As a member of the judiciary the goal of fairness and equal application of the law will be an unbending requirement of the judicial process.

James E. Edmondson

District 7

Biography

James E. Edmondson was appointed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court by Governor Brad Henry on December 2, 2003. He was a District Judge for the Fifteenth Judicial District of Oklahoma, initially appointed by Governor George Nigh in 1983. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1967 from Northeastern State University, served in the U.S. Navy, and earned a Juris Doctorate degree in 1973 from Georgetown University.

Edmondson served as a District Judge for twenty years without opposition. Prior to his appointment as District Judge, he was in private practice for five years. He served as an assistant U.S. Attorney then as the court-appointed United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, having first been an Assistant District Attorney in Muskogee County.

Retained by Oklahoma voters for a six-year term in 2006, Edmondson served the Supreme Court as its Chief Justice in 2009-2010.

He and his wife, Suzanne, have two children, Jimmy and Sarah, and one grandchild, Jack.

Questions:

1) Why should voters retain you?

When I volunteered for naval service in Vietnam, I had no idea that my brother Drew and I, and the son of a Tennessee Senator named Albert Gore, would be the only Congressional kids to do so.

From nearly my birth, my Mother, June Maureen, who enlisted in the Navy during World War II, and my Father, Ed Edmondson, who served in the South Pacific during the same war, and was an FBI agent, two-term County Attorney and a Congressman for twenty years, impressed upon me that there is no higher calling than public service; and, in fact, one should be ashamed to die without first having done something for the benefit of humanity.

In that spirit, I have tried to dedicate my life to public service. After ten years in practice as a lawyer, I felt ready for the trial bench.

Twenty years later, I sought this position

and now retention, still inspired by the lessons of my parents; inspired also by the selfless courage of my wife, Suzanne, as a volunteer in corrections, and by the exemplary service of my predecessor, Justice Hardy Summers.

2) How can you ensure a fair judiciary process for all parties involved?

It is essential for each of us to give earnest and respectful attention to all who plead for justice. We must be committed to the principles upon which our Nation and State were founded. We must resist prejudice and bias in any form. We must continue to labor in accordance with established rules, mindful of the solemn oaths we have taken. I can do only my part, but I renew each day my pledge to do so.

Noma D. Gurich

District 3

Biography

The Honorable Noma D. Gurich was born in South Bend, Indiana. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Indiana State University in 1975. Gurich received her Juris Doctorate degree from OU College of Law, where she served on the American Indian Law Review and received the Professional Responsibility Award.

For 10 years, Gurich practiced law in Oklahoma City. In 1988, she was appointed Judge of the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Court by Governor Henry Bellmon. She served as Presiding Judge for 4 years, and was reappointed judge in 1994 by Governor Walters.

In July 1998, Governor Frank Keating appointed her District Judge of Oklahoma County. In November of the same year, she won a contested county-wide nonpartisan judicial election. She was re-elected without opposition in 2002, 2006 and 2010. Judge Gurich served as Presiding Administrative Judge for 2 years. Justice Gurich served as Presiding Judge of two Multi-County Grand Juries.

On February 15, 2011, Gurich began serving as Justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma after being appointed by Governor Henry.

Justice Gurich is a 3 time Journal Record Honoree for Oklahoma Woman of the Year and a member of the Circle of Excellence.

In 2011, the American Board of Trial Advocates named her Oklahoma Judge of the Year. Oklahoma state and county bar associations, OU Law School, and Indiana State have honored her. She chaired many legal and community organizations including the William J. Holloway, Jr. Inn of Court and the Kiwanis Club of Oklahoma City.

A member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, she is a Mobile Meals driver and is a TV camera operator. Justice Gurich was a missionary to Russia in 1993, 1997, 2000, 2002, and 2004.

Her office is located in the Oklahoma Judicial Center in the Capitol complex. More information is found at www.justicegurich.com

Questions:

1) Why Should voters Retain You?

I have served the citizens of Oklahoma for over 24 years as a member of the state judiciary. I am hard-working, honest, and strive to maintain high ethical standards. My judicial experience over the past 24 years is extensive. I served as a judge on the Workers' Compensation Court, a district judge on the Oklahoma County District Court, and now, I am serving as a Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. The constitutionally created Judicial Nominating Commission (the majority of the members are non-lawyers) nominated me to fill judicial vacancies in 1988, 1994, 1998 and 2011. The judicial selection process included an extensive interview process and background checks conducted by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. Four different Governors of Oklahoma (two Republicans and two Democrats) appointed me to serve as a judge or justice. The majority of voters in Oklahoma County elected me in 1998, to continue to serve as district judge, in a non-partisan county-wide election.

I am highly qualified by ability and experience. The judicial oath of office requires that I support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma. I take that oath of office seriously. I am a person of faith and commitment, and I share the values of the citizens of Oklahoma. Thank you for your consideration.

2) How can you ensure a fair judiciary process for all parties involved?

My parents were hard working and were good providers for me, but they were not people of privilege or wealth. They taught me to work hard, set high goals, and treat people of all walks of life with dignity and respect. All citizens of Oklahoma male or female, regardless of income, race, or religion deserve fair and equal treatment in the eyes of the law and must have access to the courts of this state when their constitutional and statutory rights are in jeopardy. Equal justice under the law is the foundation of our great country. I have always followed and applied the law without being swayed by the position of the parties. I am fair minded and impartial, and I am

dedicated to improving our society. I work with students in high school, college and professional schools to encourage our future business and community leaders to understand and respect the rule of law. I volunteer for many community events and with civic organizations because I believe it is important for judges and justices to set good examples for others.

The strength of our nation and state depends on the deep appreciation and commitment our citizens have for our Constitution and for our unique form of government. As a trial judge, I always reminded my jurors that in the United States, there are three direct ways to serve their country—to serve in the armed forces, to vote, and to answer the call to serve as jurors. In that way, we will help guarantee that our democratic form of government survives for all future generations of Americans, and will ensure a fair judiciary process for all.

Yvonne Kauger

District 4

Biography

Justice Yvonne Kauger, is a fourth generation Oklahoman from Colony, Oklahoma. She was appointed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court on March 14, 1984, by Governor George Nigh and adopted by the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes of Oklahoma that same year. Justice Kauger is the only woman to serve as Vice Chief Justice and Chief Justice on the Court. She recently chaired the Building Committee and the Art in Public Places Committee for the new Oklahoma Judicial Center. Under her leadership, the Art Committee received the Governor's Arts Award for restoring some of the State's most historical art treasures including the Oklahoma Veteran's Memorial.

Kauger has received many awards including valedictorian of her high school class, first in her class at Oklahoma City University School of Law, National Delta Zeta of the year, member of the Washita County Hall of Fame, Oklahoma City Pioneer Award, honorary doctorate from OCU, distinguished alumnus by OCU and by Southwestern Oklahoma State University, the Herbert Harley Award for the effective administration of justice by the American Judicature Society, the Oklahoma Bar Association with the Judicial Excellence Award, inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma City Orchestra League 10 most notable women in Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma City University Alumni Association award for distinguished community service and professionalism, the Byliner Award from the Association for Women in Communications, and Red Earth Ambassador of the year.

She is a member of All Souls' Episcopal Church, was a featured Esther Woman speaker, and contributing writer to Jayne Jayroe's book, Devote 40 Days. She founded the Gallery of the Plains Indian and co-founded Red Earth. She has acted as Co-ordinator for The Sovereignty Symposium, an Indian law seminar, since its inception in 1987. She serves as an advisor to the Oklahoma Senior Follies.

Questions:

1) Why Should Voters Retain You?

The Oklahoma Constitution and the United States Constitution forbid a Justice to be "pro or anti" anything. Rather, the characteristics to inquire of are: experience, integrity, impartiality, fairness and efficiency. I strive to possess all of these.

I have unparalleled experience on the Court. In 1972, I became the first woman staff lawyer at the Supreme Court. I currently serving as the senior Justice. I was first in my class in Law School. The experience gained from the countless litigation issues that I have participated in my career is invaluable to Oklahomans.

My integrity speaks for itself through many honors received by my peers, lawyers, women's groups, community groups, and even national groups. Honors that would never have been given had my integrity been questionable or unknown.

Impartiality is reflected in the ability to remain unbiased when deciding a case—a charge I strive for every day. Impartiality is also reflected by appearance. By not being involved in politics, or participating in cases in which I might have a financial or personal interest, any alleged appearance of impartiality is erased --- I strive for this in everything I do, too.

My charge as a Justice is to ensure citizens have access to Courts and a quick and fair remedy and to apply the law to the facts of each case fairly. My Western Oklahoma farm girl roots, coupled with my career experience have created a strong work ethic and keen ability to decide the legal issues swiftly, fairly, and correctly. I stay current and timely on my docket. I value my service to Oklahomans and take my responsibilities very seriously. My work shows it.

2) How can you ensure a fair judiciary process for all parties involved?

A fair judicial process in Oklahoma begins in the vetting by the Oklahoma Judicial Nominating Commission. It is comprised of Republicans and Democrats who, after investigation by the OSBI, send three names to the Governor for Appointment. After appointment, the voters have the opportunity to approve the Governor's choice by deciding whether the Justice or Judge should be retained.

Another part of the ensurance of a fair

judicial process comes from my years of service to the Oklahoma Judiciary. My career has provided me an opportunity to hear thousands of legal issues, both large and small, that touch the lives of everyday Oklahomans. I have seen the ups and downs of the economy, the oil booms and busts, the highs and lows of civil rights, the challenges families face both together and apart, the heroism of veterans and the aftermath of their service which influences their daily lives. These issues among many others come before the Court every day. My work ethic and work product speak for themselves. My commitment is to uphold the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma and the United States and to apply the applicable law to the facts presented in the case before us.

My enthusiasm for my work is unwavering.

At a time when there were very few women lawyers, my Daddy told me that "I could be anything I wanted to be." My Mother told me that "I had better do it right." I do my upmost every day to do it right!

Oklahoma State Court Judges (cont.)

Judges of the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals

These are nonpartisan judicial retention races. Voters may vote either to retain or not retain these judicial officers. Voters vote separately on each justice or judge; they are not running against each other.

Arlene Johnson

District 4

Biography

The Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals is a court of last resort with exclusive jurisdiction in criminal cases. It hears appeals in all criminal cases from misdemeanors to death penalty cases.

Arlene Johnson was appointed to that Court in 2005 and currently serves as Presiding Judge. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1964 with a degree in English. She received a Juris Doctorate from OU Law School in 1971, and has spent most of her legal career in the practice of criminal law. She began practice with the Oklahoma City firm of Bulla and Horning in 1971, leaving that firm in 1973 to work as law clerk to Judge Tom Brett of the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. She left the Court in 1976 to work as a prosecutor in the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office ultimately serving as First Assistant. In January of 1983 she accepted the job of Criminal Chief in the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office, leaving in November of 1983 to work as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma. She served as an Assistant United States Attorney for more than twenty years, prosecuting white collar and public corruption cases and serving for several years as Criminal Chief. Johnson is an emeritus member of the William J. Holloway, Jr. American Inn of Court and served as President in 2003-2004.

Professional awards include:

Mona Lambird Spotlight Award Recipient (2004); Director's Award, Executive Office of the United States Attorneys for Superior Performance (2001); FBI Director's Recognition of outstanding prosecution (1999); United States Attorney General's John Marshal Award for Outstanding Legal Achievement (1998); FBI Commendation for Exceptional Service in the Public Interest (1998); Director's Award Executive Office of the United States Attorneys for Superior Performance (1996).

Questions:

1) Why should voters retain you?

No response

2) How can you ensure a fair judiciary process for all parties involved?

No response

David B. Lewis

District 5

Biography

Lewis was born in Ardmore, Oklahoma, and is the first African American to serve on the Court of Criminal Appeals. Governor Brad Henry appointed him to the position on August 4, 2005. Lewis earned a bachelor's degree with high honors from the University of Oklahoma in 1980. He also earned his law degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1983. He spent four years in private practice. He served four years as a Comanche County prosecutor. Lewis was a special judge from 1991 to 1999. He was a district judge for Comanche, Stephens, Jefferson, and Cotton counties from 1999 to 2005. He has served as president of the Oklahoma Judicial Conference and is a fellow of the Oklahoma Bar Association. He was selected as a member of the Class of 2008 Henry Toll Fellowship Program of the Council of State Governments and most recently, served as Board Chairman of Reach Out and Read Oklahoma. Judge Lewis has two children, David Jr. and Danielle.

Questions:

1) Why should voters retain you?

I have served the people of Oklahoma since 1987. I began as an assistant district attorney. Since January 1991, I have had the tremendous opportunity to serve our great state as a judge. I have always prided myself on the unquestioned fact that all parties appearing before me were treated with dignity and respect. I have considered

it an honor and a privilege to serve our state in my role as an appellate judge. I look forward to continuing to serve our state.

2) How can you ensure a fair judiciary process for all parties involved?

No response

Inns of Court for three years and received the James Sontag Professionalism Award in 2010. She has two children and four grandchildren.

Questions:

1) Why should voters retain you?

No response

2) How can you ensure a fair judiciary process for all parties involved?

No response

Carlene Clancy Smith

District 1

Biography

Smith was appointed to the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals on September 1, 2010, to fill the unexpired term of Judge Charles S. Chapel. Smith is a native of Hugo, Oklahoma, and graduated from Hugo High School. She attended Oklahoma State University, receiving a bachelor's degree in English in 1964. She taught high school English in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Jacksonville, Florida. Smith received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Tulsa College of Law in 1980. After graduating from law school, Smith worked in the private practice of law from 1980 to 1994. She then served as a Special Judge in the Family Division in Tulsa County from 1994 to 1998. She received the Outstanding Family Law Judge Award from the Family Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association in 1996. From 1998 to 2005, Smith served in the Criminal Division in Tulsa County, conducting preliminary hearings, arraignments, plea hearings, and bond hearings. In 2005, Governor Brad Henry appointed Smith to be a District Judge for the Fourteenth Judicial District. From 2005 to 2010, Smith served in the Criminal Division in Tulsa County and presided over more than 110 felony jury trials. Smith is a member of the Tulsa County Bar Association, the Oklahoma Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. She served as president of the Johnson-Sontag Chapter of the America

Oklahoma State Court Judges (cont.)

Judges of the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals

These are nonpartisan judicial retention races. Voters may vote either to retain or not retain these judicial officers. Voters vote separately on each justice or judge; they are not running against each other.

Robert (Bobby) Bell

District 5, Office 2

Biography

Judge Robert (Bobby) Bell was born May 11, 1967, in Norman, Oklahoma. He is the oldest son of Bob and Jaynee Bell, who still reside in Norman. Judge Bell graduated from Norman Public Schools and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma. Judge Bell completed his legal education and received his law degree from the University of Tulsa College of Law.

Judge Bell practiced law in a private law firm in Norman, Oklahoma. While practicing law full time, Judge Bell served as Municipal Judge in Moore, Blanchard, Noble, Purcell and as a Special Municipal Judge in Broken Arrow. He has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Oklahoma College of Law since 1998.

In June 2005, Judge Bell was appointed to the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals. In November 2006, he was retained in a statewide vote for a full term. In that same year, the Journal Record named Judge Bell as one of Oklahoma's outstanding achievers under forty. In 2011, Judge Bell was elected Chief Judge of the Court of Civil Appeals by his peers. While performing administrative duties as Chief Judge, Judge Bell maintained a full appellate case load and ranked as a top author of appellate opinions. In 2011, Judge Bell was appointed Vic-President to the Oklahoma Judicial Conference.

Judge Bell and his wife, Carolyn, have two children in high school. Judge Bell enjoys Thunder basketball, college football, and is an avid outdoorsman. Judge Bell has been active in many charitable organizations, including Habitat for Humanity and Feed the Poor and enjoys devoting his free time to coaching youth sports. Judge Bell and his wife sit on the Board of Advisors for Young Life of Oklahoma City. He is an active member of Christ the King Church in Oklahoma City.

Questions:

1) Why should voters retain you?

I have served the state with honor and dignity. When I was sworn in as a judge, I took an oath to support, obey and defend the Constitution and that is exactly what I have done. It is with enthusiasm that I hope I'm retained for another term so I may continue to serve the state of Oklahoma.

2) How can you ensure a fair judiciary process for all parties involved?

The answer to this question is simple... follow the law. It does not matter who the parties are because the scales of justice should be the same for everyone. Fairness is the critical element for the system to work.

Kenneth L. Buettner

District 5, Office 1

Biography

Kenneth L. Buettner was appointed to District 5, Office 1, of the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals by Governor Frank Keating, and was sworn in February 26, 1996. This followed four years as a Captain in the Air Force JAG Corps (1976-1980), and 16 years of practice with a major Oklahoma law firm (1980-1996). His practice emphasized civil litigation in which he represented individuals and businesses in state and federal courts.

Judge Buettner is married, has two children, and two grandchildren with one on the way.

Born and raised in Oklahoma City, graduating from John Marshall High School (1968). Graduated Texas Christian University, with a B.A. in political science (1972); and Southern Methodist University, J.D. (1975). Graduate work at University of Denver and University of Central Oklahoma. Judge Buettner is

a member of the Oklahoma County and Oklahoma Bar Associations, as well as the Colorado Bar and State Bar of Texas. He has served on the OBA Bench & Bar Committee, Civil Procedure Committee, and other OBA and OCBA committees. He is an Oklahoma Bar Foundation Sustaining Fellow and a Master in the Luther Bohanon American Inn of Court (President 2003-04).

Judge Buettner was a participant in Leadership Oklahoma Class XVI and Leadership Edmond Class IX. He is a trustee of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and was an Edmond Public School Foundation trustee (1995-2001) and St. John's Endowment Fund trustee (1995-2003). He is also a member of the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, and has served on the Finance Board, Board of Christian Education, and Pastoral Council.

During his judicial career, Judge Buettner has served as Chief Judge of the Court (2005-2006), and served on the Oklahoma Judicial Conference Executive Board (2002-2006), and as its President (2005).

Questions:

1) Why should voters retain you?

My experience includes four years as an Air Force lawyer, 16 years in private civil practice, and 16 years on the Court of Civil Appeals. This experience provides the basis for timely analysis of complex legal issues. An appellate judge is presented with the trial court's decision, and must make the difficult determination whether to affirm or reverse the trial court judgment. Experience helps make that decision based upon the applicable rules of law, and efficiency helps make the decision expeditiously. It is important for judges to acknowledge their duty is to interpret and apply the laws of Oklahoma as written. A review of the decisions I have written will demonstrate my commitment to that principle.

2) How can you ensure a fair judiciary process for all parties involved?

The Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals is assigned cases by the Oklahoma Supreme

Court. Our job is to review the trial court judgment and the record of the case to determine whether an error has occurred in the trial court process or the application of law to the case. In performing that duty, we put on the blindfold of Lady Justice to disregard the status of the parties, or the reputation of the attorneys, or the winds of public opinion, and apply the law to the case. If we do that in a timely manner, all parties should feel that the appellate review of their case has been fair. That has been my operating principle for the last 16 years.

William C. Hetherington

District 4, Office 1

Biography

Judge Hetherington was born in Oklahoma City February 21, 1947 and has lived in Norman, Oklahoma for sixty-five years. He is a graduate of Norman High School, University of Oklahoma and received his Juris Doctorate degree in 1979 from Oklahoma City University School of Law.

After graduation from Oklahoma University in 1969, Judge Hetherington managed Hetherington Insurance Agency and was elected President of the Norman Home Builder's Association in 1973.

Judge Hetherington's judicial career began in 1982 as a Special District Judge. He was appointed District Judge, Office No. One, Cleveland County in 1992. He was re-elected through five four-year election terms, unopposed. He served as Chief Judge for Judicial District 21, Cleveland County, six terms and was elected by his peers as Presiding Judge of the South Central Administrative Judicial District during 2001 and 2002. Judge Hetherington served on the Executive Board of the Oklahoma State Judicial Conference for six years and as President of the Conference in 2000.

Judge Hetherington serves on the Oklahoma Court Of Civil Appeals, District Four Office One, appointed to that position in November, 2009. Judge Hetherington has extensive experience in mass tort litigation, having

been the assigned Judge in the State of Oklahoma Attorney General Tobacco case, oilfield mass tort actions, cases involving the Oklahoma Wal-Mart employees and the “Hepatitis C” cases out of central Oklahoma. He received special recognition for administration of the Cleveland County Community Corrections Intervention system and for implementing and overseeing the Cleveland County Mental Health Court program.

Judge Hetherington is a guest lecturer at the University of Oklahoma School of Law and Master member of the Luther Bohanon American Inn Of Court.

Judge Hetherington is enjoying his 44th year of marriage to Susan Wright Hetherington, and are extremely proud parents of three children and grandparents to three.

Questions:

1) Why should voters retain you?

I first want to thank the League for being a non-partisan resource for voters to gain information about the retention of Justices and Judges. Except for the Oklahoma Bar Association, this is our only informational source.

It has been a unique honor and privilege to serve my District and State as Judge of the Court of Civil Appeals, District 4, Office 1, since my appointment in November, 2009.

I present my biographical information both personally and as to my professional judicial career in support of my retention. It demonstrates my scope and depth of experience. My hope is it also conveys the respect and level of trust I feel I have had the privilege to earn by my career commitment to professional judicial behavior, fairness and love for what I do. Alexander Hamilton so famously said we are, “... the immediate and visible guardian of life and property”... and who contribute “more than any other circumstance to impressing upon the minds of the people, affection, esteem, and reverence towards the government.” In today’s terms, this judicial branch duty is critical. I believe I have served to do just that for now almost twenty-four years at the trial and appellate court levels and respectfully ask our

citizens to again place their trust in me and allow me to continue my life’s cherished journey.

2) How can you ensure a fair judiciary process for all parties involved?

Before appointment to the Court of Civil Appeals, I served on the District Court trial bench in Cleveland County for twenty years. I very quickly learned how I affect and cause change to our citizen’s lives and that of their families almost every day of that service. This reality causes me to reflect on the trust our citizens place in me, and that is very humbling. The rule of law and the independence of the judicial branch is the true cornerstone of our republic form of governing. The impartial and independent application of the rule of law by our trial courts and our appellate courts must be preserved. In spite of political or public popularity or lack thereof in any case, regardless of who the parties are, those of us who serve as Justices and Judges are expressly charged with the public duty to follow our legal precedent and render fair and impartial determinations. To ensure a fair judiciary process for all, I can only promise that I will uphold and promote the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the Judiciary by my adherence to these principles and by my professional and personal behavior, promote confidence in our Judicial branch.

E. Bay Mitchell

District 6, Office 1

Biography

Judge Bay Mitchell was born in 1953 in Enid, Oklahoma and attended Enid public schools. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Oklahoma. He was admitted to the bar in 1979 and then spent the next 14 years in private practice in Oklahoma City and Enid.

In 1993, he became a staff attorney for the Hon. Carl Jones of the Court of Civil Appeals and in 2002 was appointed by Governor Keating to fill the vacancy on that court left by the retirement of Judge

James Garrett. Judge Mitchell was retained by the voters in 2004 and 2006 and is on the ballot again in 2012. In 2009, Judge Mitchell served as Chief Judge of the Court of Civil Appeals.

Judge Mitchell is a member of the Oklahoma County, Garfield County and Oklahoma Bar Associations. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma County Bar Association and as Chairman of its Continuing Legal Education Committee and Bench and Bar Committee.

Judge Mitchell is also a member of the O.B.A. Appellate Practice Section, a Sustaining Fellow of the Oklahoma Bar Foundation, a member of the Supreme Court Committee for Uniform Jury Instructions and a Master of the Ginsburg Chapter of the American Inns of Court.

He has been admitted to practice in all Oklahoma state courts, the United States District Courts for the Western and Northern Districts of Oklahoma, the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Mitchell and his wife, Debra, have been married for thirty-six years. They have three grown children. He and his wife are members of St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City. Judge Mitchell enjoys traveling, working in his yard, reading and fishing.

Questions:

1) Why should voters retain you?

I have been a judge on the Court of Civil Appeals for over ten years and an opinion-writing staff attorney on this Court for another nine years. In these capacities I have written hundreds of appellate opinions and have reviewed and voted on many hundreds more. I have two decades of experience reviewing nearly every imaginable issue that might arise in a civil case and be raised on appeal. This experience has served me well, allowing me to provide leadership and guidance to colleagues and staff.

Litigants and their attorneys are entitled to decisions from the appellate courts explaining the basis and reasoning for the court’s decisions. The opinions and

decisions I have authored are matters of public record. Each decision is explained in light of applicable law and the relevant facts presented in the trial court. Reviewed as a whole, my opinions will reflect an even-handed treatment of all concerned and an absence of bias or partiality toward either side. I always strive to make legally correct and clearly explained decisions without regard to who prevails.

There will always be people who disagree, or are displeased, with any judicial decision. This is a given that “comes with the territory” for all judges. I do not shy away from difficult cases which may result in unpopular decisions. I have always tried to be fair, impartial, independent and respectful of all parties and their attorneys, and show respect for the rule of law.

I am fortunate to have the knowledge, training and experience to serve as an appellate judge. I am honored to be able to serve the people of Oklahoma and the judiciary in this capacity, and I hope to be allowed to continue this important and meaningful work.

2) How can you ensure a fair judiciary process for all parties involved?

To ensure that the judicial process works for everyone involved, judges must be familiar with and be prepared to require compliance with federal and state constitutional protections. The Oklahoma statutes and court rules also provide appropriate procedures that must be followed in every case and applied consistently.

Even when it is inconvenient and will cause delay, there is no excuse for not zealously protecting the due process rights of all parties involved. Judges at all levels must be on guard to ensure all parties have appropriate notice of all proceedings and an opportunity to be heard. It is also important for litigants to feel they are being given the same rights, considerations and courtesies that anyone else would receive.

As a Court of Civil Appeals judge, I primarily review the records of the trial court proceedings and appellate filings to determine if any “reversible error” exists. Regardless of the size or nature of the case, I try to reach a decision and write an

opinion that is clear, well-reasoned and consistent with applicable law and prior precedent. It is important to me that litigants and their attorneys on the losing side feel the appellate judges were fair and unbiased in their treatment of the appeal; that the judges listened to and carefully considered their positions and arguments, but ruled against them for justifiable and understandable reasons. I believe clear and well-reasoned written opinions will minimize the feelings of litigants that they were treated unfairly or arbitrarily.

P. Thomas Thornbrugh

District 3, Office 1

Biography

Judge Tom Thornbrugh was appointed to the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals by Governor Mary Fallin in September 2011. Prior to his appointment to the appeals court, he served 15 years as a District Court Judge for the 14th Judicial District, where he presided over numerous jury and non-jury trials in both civil and criminal felony matters. While serving as district judge, he was elected by his fellow jurists as Presiding Judge of the District, as President of the Assembly of Presiding Judges, and as a member of the Oklahoma Judicial Conference Executive Committee. He was named Trial Judge of the Year in 2011 by the Oklahoma Association for Justice.

Judge Thornbrugh received his law degree in 1974 from the University of Tulsa, where he was on the Dean's Honor Roll and Res Nova law review. After law school he served on the staff of U.S. Senator Dewey F. Bartlett (R-Okla.), in Washington D.C., before returning to Oklahoma, where he practiced law for 20 years before being appointed to the district court bench by Governor Frank Keating in 1997.

Born in Garnett, Kansas, Thornbrugh graduated from Emporia State University at Emporia, Kansas, in 1968. He served in the U.S. Army as a commissioned officer following training at Ft. Benning, Ga., and completed one tour in South Vietnam before being honorably discharged in 1971. His honors include the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Award with Oak

Leaf Cluster for service with the 1st Signal Brigade at Khe Sanh during the 1971 Laotian invasion.

In addition to his judicial duties, Judge Thornbrugh is an adjunct professor at Tulsa University and St. Gregory's University, where his wife, Dr. Jean Thornbrugh, is Dean of the College for Working Adults. The couple has five children and five grandchildren.

Questions:

1) Why should voters retain you?

I have always believed that the privilege of citizenship carries with it certain obligations. I willingly served my country in Vietnam as an Officer of the United States Army, and I have spent virtually my entire professional life in service: to the legal profession, my clients, the judiciary, and my community. Those I have served and those who have served with me will confirm that I work hard, am productive, and am an effective leader. I am fortunate to have learned, through my life experience, the truth of Theodore Roosevelt's advice that "far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

As a trial judge and as Presiding Judge of my District Court, I managed civil and criminal felony dockets for 15 years. I presided over hundreds of jury trials and made thousands of decisions affecting the lives of the parties appearing before me. Those parties and their attorneys recognized me for what I was: a "no nonsense" judge who was not afraid to make hard decisions in the timely manner required. The voters of my judicial district returned me to office three times without opposition and by more than 60% of the vote in the one contested challenge I faced. The Oklahoma Judicial Nominating Commission nominated me, and our Governor, Mary Fallin, appointed me as Judge of the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals. I have been a productive member of the Court since that time.

I also believe that judges have a duty to advance the common good by promoting respect for law and the courts. I do this by being involved in activities that promote community understanding of the legal

system, and by sharing my experience with students at our local schools and universities.

2) How can you ensure a fair judiciary process for all parties involved?

The individuals who drafted our Constitution perfected a "roadmap" to fair and equal justice under the law. They gave us a framework that provides for divided government so that no one branch could overpower or infringe on the functions of the other. For me, the beginning point on that roadmap is the Judicial Department of government. The Courts, as "Guardians of the Constitution," provide restraint on government intrusions into the individual affairs of citizens, and ensure due process of law to each of us by following the Rule of Law. An independent judiciary is indispensable to the health of the democratic society in which we live. In turn, the good health of a democratic society is dependent on equal justice under law for all of our citizens. As a member of the judiciary, I have taken an oath that I will follow the Rule of Law, equally and impartially, without exception in every case that I decide, and that is what I will continue to do. A judge has a duty to apply the law with rigorous intellectual analysis, logical consistency, and the highest ethical standards. Simply stated, I will seek to do justice by strictly interpreting our Constitution and our laws, independently and without regard to the pressures of the politics of special interests, political parties, or individual partisans. As Alexander Hamilton wrote: "Justice is the first duty of society."

U.S. House of Representatives

Oklahoma Congressional District 1



Jim Bridenstine

Republican

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Biographical Info:

Occupation: Pilot, U.S. Navy Reserve
Age: 36

Professional Experience: Pilot,
Lieutenant Commander, E2-C
Hawkeye & F18, U.S. Navy,
1998-present, E2-D subject matter
expert, Wyle Laboratories, 2007-08,
Executive Director, Tulsa Air and
Space Museum & Planetarium, 2008-
10, Network-Centric Warfare Subject
Matter Expert, Deloitte Consulting,
2010-11, E2-C Subject Matter Expert,
Wyle Laboratories, 2011-present,
Marketing Consultant, Dr. Robert
Zoellner, 2011-present.

Education: Jenks (Oklahoma) High
School, 1993 Graduate, Rice University,
BA (Triple major: Business, economics
and psychology), 1998, Cornell
University, MBA, 2009

Volunteer Service: U.S. Navy service,
Eagle Scout, elementary school student
mentoring.

Questions:

1) What educational and public service endeavors have prepared you to hold the office you are seeking? What is the most important factor that influenced you to seek public office, and why?

I received a triple major from Rice University and an MBA from Cornell. After graduating from Rice I joined the U.S. Navy and became a pilot. I flew combat missions in Afghanistan and Iraq, accumulating 333 aircraft carrier landings. Returning home, I flew F18s with the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, the parent command for TOPGUN where I helped train TOPGUN instructors. While flying in the Navy I built up profitable real estate and livestock businesses. I also participated in Department of Defense procurement projects. In Tulsa, I was executive director of the Tulsa Air and Space Museum, responsible for finance, human resources, development and programs. Under my leadership Museum attendance increased and financial stability was restored. I've also done business consulting. I was motivated to run for Congress because we face a potentially devastating financial crisis due to Congress' inability to control spending and limit debt to levels that don't threaten our children's future.

2) What is the role of the federal government with respect to issues such as energy, the environment, housing, education, and health care?

The Constitution defines a limited role for the federal government. The Tenth Amendment says, "The powers not delegated to the United States by this Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved respectively to the States, or to the people." The federal government should facilitate domestic energy production by removing barriers to energy development including oil and gas drilling on federal territory, onshore and offshore. Environmental policies should be left primarily to the States except where multiple state laws and regulations could inhibit interstate commerce, as in

the case of multiple automotive emission standards. The Constitution grants the federal government no role in housing or education. Health care is mainly the responsibility of individuals and the private sector. The federal government should ensure that health insurance may be purchased across state lines and that persons with pre-existing conditions can purchase health insurance.

3) What are your ideas with respect to creating greater employment?

It is not the role of government to spend money to create jobs. Government's legitimate role in fostering greater employment is to create the most attractive capital investment environment possible and to allow people and companies to keep what they earn. Individuals and companies seeking places to set up operations can go anywhere in the world they judge to offer the best business environment. Countries that ensure the rule of law, protection of intellectual property rights and offer low tax rates will have the greatest success in attracting start-up businesses, small businesses and large businesses and will therefore experience the greatest employment growth. Entrepreneurs and skilled workers will be drawn to these same countries because they offer the best opportunities for bringing new products and services to market and reward those who do so. Government policies highly favorable to entrepreneurs, business and investors promote strong employment growth.

4) What are your ideas with respect to the future of Social Security, Medicare and the social safety net for the poor?

Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid make up the majority of federal spending. However, these programs represent promises made by previous Congresses and Administrations and those promises must be kept for Americans 55 and over who based their retirement plans upon what the government committed to do. Unfortunately, the costs of these programs as now constituted will greatly exceed the

tax revenue available to pay for them. If they are to be preserved, the programs must be changed for younger Americans. Possible changes include raising eligibility ages for social security payments, enhancement of health savings accounts to encourage people to shop for the most cost effective medical care and increased emphasis on healthy life styles that make us less susceptible to disease, including diseases associated with aging. Help that's provided by family members, churches, charities, and local and state agencies should be used before the federal social safety net is called upon.

U.S. House of Representatives

Oklahoma Congressional District 1



John Olson

Democrat

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Biographical Info:

Occupation: Businessman

Age: 34

Professional Experience: Soldier
(15 years) Business Owner - HR
Consulting (2 years) Attorney (2 years)

Education: Law Degree: University of Tulsa

Masters Degree: University of Tulsa

Bachelor of Arts: Northeastern State
University

Volunteer Service: Rotary International

Social Media: Facebook: John Olson
for Congress

Questions:

1) What educational and public service endeavors have prepared you to hold the office you are seeking? What is the most important factor that influenced you to seek public office, and why?

I am qualified for this office because of my experience as an Army officer, small business owner, lawyer, husband and father of six children. My time as a Soldier has taught me about the full cost of war and the stresses that face our service members. As a small business

owner, I understand the difficulties small businesses face. As a lawyer I understand the tension between the Constitution and its application. As a husband and father I know about the pressures families experience as they try to make ends meet while providing the best opportunities for their children.

The biggest factor that led me to seek public office relates to my time in the military. Last year training across the entire Army Reserve, including my own unit, was cancelled because Republicans in the U.S. House were unwilling to compromise on raising the debt ceiling. As a result, units preparing to deploy were placed under unnecessary pressure prior to going overseas. I am running because I can do better.

2) What is the role of the federal government with respect to issues such as energy, the environment, housing, education, and health care?

We must strive to craft policies that allow everyone the opportunity to succeed. We should strengthen our communities by investing in education, ensuring the availability of safe and affordable housing, and making quality, affordable healthcare available to all.

The federal government should also foster innovation in renewable energy by adequately funding basic research. We must promote energy policy that encourages the industry to build the infrastructure it needs to power the nation. We should develop our energy resources in a manner that poses the least threat to human and environmental health.

3) What are your ideas with respect to creating greater employment?

We can bolster employment through a variety of strategies. First, we should incentivize companies to create the 21st century jobs in the United States. We should also make sure that credit is available to small businesses, which are the drivers of job creation in this country, by funding the Small Business Administration. We should continue to ensure that government regulations are necessary and appropriate, and eliminate

those that are overly burdensome or ineffective.

While these approaches to job growth are important, one the most important steps we can take is to pass a federal budget. When the government operates without a budget, it creates uncertainty and often leads to major public sector job losses.

4) What are your ideas with respect to the future of Social Security, Medicare and the social safety net for the poor?

Social Security and Medicare are earned benefits, paid for by the people who built this country. Social Security does not need to reduce benefits or increase the minimum age at which people become eligible to receive benefits. I will oppose all efforts to privatize Social Security and take us back to the days leading to the Great Depression. Likewise, Medicare is essential in ensuring that our most vulnerable Americans get the healthcare they need. The social safety net is an essential protection for many Americans when times are tough and must be preserved.



Craig Allen

Independent

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Biographical Info:

Occupation: Airline Pilot

Age: 53

Professional Experience: No response.

Education: Degrees in aviation and
business

Volunteer Service: No response.

Social Media: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Craig-Allen-for-Congress/264359950349363>

Questions:

1) What educational and public service endeavors have prepared you to hold the office you are seeking? What is the most important factor that influenced you to seek public office, and why?

I have degrees in aviation and business and have been working in the private sector for more than 30 years. I have seen how small businesses and large businesses operate.

2) What is the role of the federal government with respect to issues such as energy, the environment, housing, education, and health care?

We should do everything we can to maintain energy independence. We need to come up with cleaner alternatives and end our reliance on the necessary addiction to oil.

We need to reign in the EPA. It's a government agency out of control. We need to logically ensure we don't do things to harm the environment within reason.

All decisions in housing should be determined at the state level.

The Dept. of Education should be abolished. Too many tax dollars are going to basically a lobbying role. Education guidelines and all other decisions should be made at the state level.

We need to have a universal healthcare plan. We need to determine the total cost of healthcare in the U.S. and then divide it by the number of legal citizens of all ages. This creates a more responsible system not funded by tax dollars. If you're in this plan you will be guaranteed the same level of healthcare coverage our federal elected officials receive.

3) What are your ideas with respect to creating greater employment?

Let's relaunch the WPA. There can be work skills programs for those who need to learn skills and then use the education to find gainful employment. A new WPA would also reduce the taxpayer burden on entitlement programs like welfare while helping create job opportunities for those in need. It would also help strengthen our infrastructure with better roads and services.

4) What are your ideas with respect to the future of Social Security, Medicare and the social safety net for the poor?

If you have worked 25 years of full-time employment and reached the age of 60, you should be taken care of through Medicare. We have to take care of our elderly. Social

Security should not be touched by the government to borrow money from it. It should go back to its original form. You cannot receive any benefit from it if you've never contributed to it. See my previous answer for helping the poor regain their footing in our country.

U.S. House of Representatives

Oklahoma Congressional District 2

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Biographical Info:

Occupation: Attorney

Age: 50

Professional Experience: Salesman, Electrical Wire and Cable Distributor, 1984-1996; Assistant District Attorney, Tulsa County, 1996-1998; Attorney in private practice, 1998- current; State Senator, 2004-current Business Owner - HR Consulting (2 years); Attorney (2 years)

Education: Putnam City West High School, 1979 University of Oklahoma, B.BA in Business Administration, 1983 University of Tulsa, Juris Doctor, 1991. Currently enrolled in the University of Oklahoma seeking a Master's in Public Administration

Volunteer Experience: Tulsa Lawyers Helping Children Various programs at First Baptist Church - Tulsa Mayo Demonstration School Foundation PTA for Mayo Demonstration School, Thoreau Demonstration School, Edison Preparatory School and Booker T. Washington High School

SOCIAL MEDIA:
www.briancrain4ok.com

Questions:

1) What is the single most important factor that influenced your decision to seek public office? Explain why this factor is so influential in your decision.

Oklahoma was suffering from the oil bust. No jobs were available in Oklahoma, which forced me to go out of state to find employment. As the father of two daughters, I want them to have the job opportunities in Oklahoma that weren't open for me. I want to see my grandchildren raised in Tulsa, not Texas.

2) What educational endeavors have prepared you to hold the office you are seeking?

My undergraduate degree allowed me to work in a large business enterprise, which served me well for 13 years. It allowed me to marry, raise my family, pay our bills, put food on the table and provide a comfortable home and clothes to wear.

My law degree allowed me to serve the people of Tulsa, prosecuting criminals and representing Tulsa County. This experience, combined with that of my private practice, showed me the clear need that government should be the servant of the people, not their master. We function best when citizens have the opportunity to succeed or fail based upon their own talents and energies; not when they become dependent upon government.

As a legislator, my education provides the knowledge required to deal with a multi-billion dollar budget. Life experiences give me the perspective necessary to weigh policy decisions based on real-world impact and not abstract theory.

3) Do you believe that teachers in the state of Oklahoma are provided adequate tools to competently educate Oklahoma's students? Please explain your point of view.

Oklahoma teachers provide our children with a great education, especially when you consider the demographic challenges their students face. Oklahoma ACT scores are among the highest in the region and

that is due in large part to the hard work of many teachers. As a parent, I know that teachers have a great impact on students, and I work to support them as much as possible. The debate over school funding will never be fully resolved because there is always the opportunity to do more. At the same time, there are limits on the amount of funding we can provide while balancing the budget. Finding the balance between these two goals will always be challenging. Furthermore, the question is not only how much you spend, but also on what are you spending your money on. We must insure that more dollars reach the classroom and reduce the diversion of funds to needless administration or other uses.

4) Do you believe that every registered voter should be allowed to vote? Please explain your position, including what restrictions on the right to vote are appropriate.

The right to vote is one of the most precious rights held by citizens and we must protect it. That is why I supported voter identification requirements to insure no citizen's vote is diminished by someone else's fraud. Law abiding citizens who register to vote should not be prevented from participating in the electoral process by overly cumbersome requirements. Fortunately, Oklahoma provides both ample opportunities for citizens to register and vote, including early voting and registration by mail, while also maintaining safeguards to prevent fraud.



Julie Hall

Democrat

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Biographical Info:

Occupation: Grant Writer

Age: 44

Professional Experience: 10+ years as an independent grant writer including currently consulting with Community Service Council as Grant Manager ensuring compliance with federal grants involving sub-recipients. I have secured grants to benefit students, veterans, and the elderly, as well as, cancer research. I have worked with the Warren Cancer Research Foundation for over a decade on their Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP) and have written CCOP grants for other regional organizations in Kansas and Missouri. I was recruited to work briefly as a grant writer with Tulsa City-County Health Department. Prior to grant writing, I served as Director of Contracts at the OU-Tulsa College of Medicine working in collaboration with the Dean and Chairs of Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, and Obstetrics and Gynecology primarily negotiating insurance reimbursement rates with major insurers. I interned at the City of Tulsa in Public Affairs my last year of law school and went to work in Environmental Operations after graduation where I worked directly for the Director and four Managers on special projects including compliance, and a five-year equipment replacement plan. I am happy to provide my resume upon request.

Education: BA from Oklahoma State University in Sociology with Political Science Minor; JD and MA in Technology and Human Affairs from Washington University in St. Louis

Volunteer Service: Partners in Education Committee and Community Resource Bank at All Souls Unitarian Church; 2011-2012 mentor to three McLain High School Students; 2012 recipient of Metropolitan Tulsa Urban League Marion Taylor Award for Community Engagement; 2011 recipient of Community Spirit Award from Supporters of Families with Sickle Cell Disease, Inc.; 2009-2012 volunteer parent at Carnegie Elementary; 2006-2009 neighborhood association president; volunteer on Kathy Taylor, Maria Barnes, and Dan Arthrell campaigns; and others (additional information available upon request).

Social Media: Facebook, Julie Hall and Julie Hall for Senate

Questions:

1) What is the single most important factor that influenced your decision to seek public office? Explain why this factor is so influential in your decision.

Community service isn't just my livelihood, it is my life. It is better to light a torch than curse the darkness (admittedly, I do some of both). For the past few years, I have been concerned with the legislature's actions, but this last session was especially appalling. Before deciding to run, I signed online petitions and wrote e-mails trying to influence the misdirected efforts of our representatives. When I received an urgent call asking me to run, it was a surprising honor and a unique opportunity. Given my experience in public service and my concern for the future of my daughter and all Oklahoman children, it seemed like the next logical step in serving the community and frankly, a moral imperative. My opponent has done a tremendous disservice to women, our children, and our state. He has done it unopposed for eight years and this is his last term in office. I am deeply concerned that he will have no accountability whatsoever except to the

large PACs which support him.

2) What educational endeavors have prepared you to hold the office you are seeking?

I studied Sociology and Political Science at Oklahoma State University because I was interested in how people and systems functioned. While at OSU, I became involved with a group called 'The Students for the First Amendment' and took a lead role in the organization including writing several editorials for the student paper. That experience led me to law school. However, like many life experiences, law school was not what I expected. Although it was an excellent learning experience, I knew traditional practice would not provide me the fulfillment I was seeking. It did teach me to think like a lawyer, a skill that has been invaluable in my grant writing and other public service work. I chose Washington University for its excellent environmental law program. In my second year, I joined the Engineering Policy Masters program which included a heavy emphasis on strategic planning. The Masters in Technology and Human Affairs provided very practical application of the skills from law school.

3) Do you believe that teachers in the state of Oklahoma are provided adequate tools to competently educate Oklahoma's students? Please explain your point of view.

No. Funding has been cut by \$214 million since 2008 while statewide enrollment has increased by 24,000 students. Teachers must do more with less while facing criticism and uncertainty. In many schools, class sizes have increased dramatically. Schools have lost teachers or sought outside sources of funding while others struggle to find qualified educators. Critical programs linked to improved performance such as music and arts have been eliminated. HB1017 was a major step forward, but we have taken 10 steps back. The legislature has delegated too much authority to the state superintendent. The new proposed teacher evaluation system unfairly punishes those assigned to lower performing schools. Now, she

proposes changing our model alternative education program which provides a viable alternative to students who do not thrive in a traditional environment without input from stakeholders or legislators. This program should be expanded, not arbitrarily limited or changed.

4) Do you believe that every registered voter should be allowed to vote? Please explain your position, including what restrictions on the right to vote are appropriate.

Every person legally qualified to register to vote should have the right to do so. It is difficult to get individuals to register and to vote. The fact that restrictions on registering and voting come predominantly from one party and have the effect of reducing participation of minorities makes the restrictions suspect. Florida, which is expected to be a vital swing state once again in this year's presidential election, is enrolling fewer new voters than it did four years ago as prominent civic organizations have suspended registration drives because of what they describe as onerous restrictions imposed last year by Republican state officials. Laws requiring identification disenfranchise millions of voters nationwide. 11 percent (21 million) of American citizens do not possess a government-issued photo ID. Election laws should encourage participation, not restrict it. In a democracy, participation is a fundamental right and should not be impinged without a compelling rationale.

Oklahoma State House of Representatives

Oklahoma House District 23



Shawna Keller

Democrat

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Biographical Info:

Occupation: Teacher

Age: 31

Professional Experience: Teacher Owasso Public Schools 2006- present

Education: 2006- Teaching Certification NSU

2004- BA in History University of Tulsa

Volunteer Service: No response

Social Media: Facebook: Shawna Keller for Oklahoma House District 23

Twitter: ShawnaforHD23

Questions:

1) What is the single most important factor that influenced your decision to seek public office? Explain why this factor is so influential in your decision.

The single most important factor that influenced my decision to run for office was my role as a teacher and the impact I have had on my students. As a teacher I see great accomplishments in my classroom everyday, but with increasing class sizes, decreasing funding, and high

stakes testing, we are not setting our kids up for success. I believe that it is vital that we have more teachers at the table when discussing education. We need people at the Capitol who have classroom experience to advocate for our children. Education is the most important thing that we can do for our state. When we provide a highly educated workforce and competitive schools, companies will want to relocate here, home sales will increase, and families will prosper.

2) What educational endeavors have prepared you to hold the office you are seeking?

My life began and continues as a resident of East Tulsa. I graduated from East Central High School, a school in HD23. Upon graduation, I attended the University of Tulsa and graduated with a degree in History.

3) Do you believe that teachers in the state of Oklahoma are provided adequate tools to competently educate Oklahoma's students? Please explain your point of view.

No. I do not believe that teachers are provided adequate tools to prepare our students for 21st Century jobs. I do believe that teachers have found a way to make do with what we have at our disposal and are competently educating our students. But competently is not good enough. Our kids are being taught in overcrowded classrooms that do not allow for individualized instruction or creativity. When teachers are being given limited time with too many students, we are left with few options beyond force feeding them information so that they can pass the high stakes testing needed to receive their diploma. We need to be preparing our students for jobs in an ever changing technological world, teaching them how to work as part of a team, and giving them real on the job experiences. In education we talk a lot about rigor and relevance, the rigor is easy, but the relevance often takes a back seat to time.

4) Do you believe that every registered voter should be allowed to vote? Please explain your position, including what restrictions on the right to vote are appropriate.

I believe that every registered voter should be allowed to vote. Once a person has "paid their debt to society" they should be allowed to participate in what I feel is our greatest right and responsibility. Every person deserves the right to choose their representation. People should not be excluded from this process due to prior mistakes.

Terry O'Donnell

Republican

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No response

Oklahoma State House of Representatives

Oklahoma House District 66



Jadine Nollan

Republican

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Biographical Info:

Occupation: State Representative

Age: 53

Professional Experience: Executive Director, Sand Springs Community Service, Inc. – 2007-2010

Pastor/Founder for C3 Ministries, Word of Life Fellowship – 2006-2010

School Board Member, Sand Springs Schools – 1999-2010

Education: Bachelor of Science – Oklahoma State University - 1981

Charles Page High School in Sand Springs – 1977

Volunteer Service: Sand Springs Rotary – 2008-2012

Sand Springs Chamber of Commerce - 2008-2012

Tulsa Chamber of Commerce – 2008-2012

Word of Life Church Member – 1990-2012

Sand Springs Board of Education - 1999-2010

Oklahoma Secondary School Board Association Member – 1999-2010

Cooperative Counsel Oklahoma School Administration (CCOSA) – 1999-2010

Social Media: facebook page

Questions:

1) What is the single most important factor that influenced your decision to seek public office? Explain why this factor is so influential in your decision.

To invest my life serving the people, community, and state that I love. I really want to work to make a difference with my life. Also my children are grown so I have more time and flexibility to serve.

2) What educational endeavors have prepared you to hold the office you are seeking?

I received my bachelors from OSU and have been learning ever since. While raising our 3 children I worked outside of the home coaching cheerleading and running a small part-time business. Dealing with emotional teenage girls and their moms helped me learn a lot about communications, conflict resolution, team work, resolving issues, how to have thick skin, and I luv'd every minute of it. I also learned a lot while serving on the School Board, Community Services and other civic organizations.

3) Do you believe that teachers in the state of Oklahoma are provided adequate tools to competently educate Oklahoma's students? Please explain your point of view.

Yes and no... It depends on the school and the school district. There is disparity in funding for the schools across the state and that affects not only teachers, but also our children. I am a big advocate for our teachers and support them every way I can. Having served on the Sand Springs school board for 11 years I really do understand the complexity of this state wide issue.

4) Do you believe that every registered voter should be allowed to vote? Please explain your position, including what restrictions on the right to vote are appropriate.

If they are a "valid" registered voter they should have the right to vote.

David Phillips

Democrat

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Biographical Info:

Occupation: Attorney

Age: 62

Professional Experience: Trial attorney for 22 years

Education: B. A. & J.D.

Questions:

1) What is the single most important factor that influenced your decision to seek public office? Explain why this factor is so influential in your decision.

My father told me that one generation can either tear down or build up the next. We all have a responsibility to uplift the next generation, to make it better for our children and grandchildren. I have strived to do that. I worked in biomedical research hoping to make life better through understanding different disease processes. I have worked as a public defender to try and help people correct their behavior and to make society safer while safe guarding their rights. If elected, i hope to be able to help people by enacting sensible laws

2) What educational endeavors have prepared you to hold the office you are seeking?

Being an attorney has taught me critical thinking, listening and the ability to make sound choices and arguments. I have had to deal with the effects of the law on everyday people.

3) Do you believe that teachers in the state of Oklahoma are provided adequate tools to competently educate Oklahoma's students? Please explain your point of view.

No, i have talked to many teachers that have not been given adequate tools. They are short of materials and supplies to work with and many dig into their own pockets in an effort to fill the gap. At times we fail to provide a proper environment for teaching. More importantly we have failed to incentivize parent participation in the educational system. The best teacher in the world cannot teach a student who refuses to learn.

4) Do you believe that every registered voter should be allowed to vote? Please explain your position, including what restrictions on the right to vote are appropriate.

Yes, i believe that we should encourage voting for everyone. The only restrictions to voting should be age and citizenship. A certain amount of maturity is required to understand what you are voting for and people who are not citizens should not be included in making decisions for our country.

Oklahoma State House of Representatives

Oklahoma House District 71

Dan Arthrell

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No response

Katie Henke

Republican

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No response

Oklahoma State House of Representatives

Oklahoma House District 72

Randall Reese

Republican

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No response



Seneca Scott

Democrat

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Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/SenecaScott.OK>

Biographical Info:

Occupation: State Representative for District 72

Age: 35

Professional Experience: Tribal, Energy, and Municipal Government experience

Education: B.A. in History/Native American Studies, University of Oklahoma

Volunteer Service: Rotary club of north Tulsa, Springdale development council, First united Methodist Church, Green Country Friends of NRA, Turley Round-up Club, McLain High School Foundation Board Member, Eisenhower and Springdale PTA member, Member of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Sustainability Network, Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry, Tulsa Fatherhood Coalition

Questions:

1) What is the single most important factor that influenced your decision to seek public office? Explain why this factor is so influential in your decision.

My desire to help other people is what lead me to my current career in public service for the past 4 years. My initial interest in public service came from my background studying Native American tribes and local government relations. This led me to my first job where I worked as an Economic Developer for Oklahoma City. From there, I gained an appreciation and understanding of how a city works with its people. I became more involved with local support by helping people receive what they need from the government in order to become successful.

2) What educational endeavors have prepared you to hold the office you are seeking?

I have experience working as a city planner and a project overseer for a local energy company. My work experience was filled with opportunities to work with a group in a teaching role to help others learn more about the legislative process and what they can do to accomplish their goals. I plan on continuing this during my term in office.

3) Do you believe that teachers in the state of Oklahoma are provided adequate tools to competently educate Oklahoma's students? Please explain your point of view.

I believe that the teachers on Oklahoma have been operating with more responsibility, yet less support, both financially and institutionally. Teachers are currently facing record-breaking classroom sizes in recent years. I have been working with the teachers at McLain High School and other schools in the Kendall-Whitier area, including helping them with the National Teacher Board Certification.

Oklahoma State House of Representatives

Oklahoma House District 76

4) Do you believe that every registered voter should be allowed to vote? Please explain your position, including what restrictions on the right to vote are appropriate.

My biggest dedication in politics is protecting civil rights. I believe that voting is one of those rights. Everyone should have the right to choose who their government officials are.

David Brumbaugh

Republican

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No response



Glenda Puett

Democrat

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Social Media: Facebook: Puett for House District 76

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Teacher

Age: 63

Professional Experience: I taught in Oklahoma Public Schools for 39 years;

Mid-Del P.S. - 6 yrs; Norman P.S. -3 yrs

Watonga P.S.- 5 yrs; Cleveland, OK P.S.- 4 yrs.; (Tulsa) Union P.s. - 21 yrs.

Education: B.S & M.Ed Elementary Ed 1973 1975 Central OK University

M.Ed Gifted Ed 1989 Oklahoma City University

Volunteer Service: Union Public Schools Foundation

Union Public Schools Long Range Planning Committee

Elementary schools' chess clubs, scrabble clubs, children's after school activities

Questions:

1) What is the single most important factor that influenced your decision to seek public office? Explain why this factor is so influential in your decision.

For 39 years I have been involved in talking with OK legislators to try to persuade them to put Oklahoma's public schools at the top of their agenda and to fully fund excellent public schools for Oklahoma's Children. Ok's Public schools have had millions of dollars of cuts in the last five years, while gaining more students and more state mandates without funding. The 2012 session ended with public school funding being put aside again and tax cuts being the top of the legislative agenda. This partisan session frustrated me to the point that I said "ENOUGH"! I filed to run for HD 76, retired from teaching to campaign for this position and have been walking neighborhoods since, on the issue of restore funding for public schools! Public education should NOT be a partisan issue. It is THE hope for a better future for Oklahoma! Tax cuts should come after our state pays for its obligations. Great Public Schools should be at the top of the list.

2) What educational endeavors have prepared you to hold the office you are seeking?

I am life long learner. When gifted education became a requirement for children in public schools, I felt I did not know enough, so I worked for four years, commuting to OKC to get another M.Ed in gifted education. My 39 years of experience in teaching in public schools and dealing with legislators have prepared me to know what schools need and the education legislators need before they pass laws which hurt schools. I have spent my life listening to others and developing ideas to create solutions. I know about the economic problems, the social problems, the life changing problems parents are experiencing in our state today. I believe that when there are problems, action is hope and I am an activist.

3) Do you believe that teachers in the state of Oklahoma are provided adequate tools to competently educate Oklahoma's students? Please explain your point of view.

I believe that teachers are under a great deal of stress from national and state mandates which do not reflect good educational policy. Using high stakes testing to label children, teachers and schools is an agenda accepted by our lawmakers in power, without research and data from educational professionals about its worth. Many of the laws, such as third graders not moving on to fourth grade without grade level reading skills, come without funding for remediation or tutoring. Adequate professional development for teachers has had its funding cut. Schools have had to cut aides and teachers because of state budget cuts. In many schools, class sizes are huge, making individualized learning almost impossible. Without addressing adequate funding, Oklahoma has turned its back on teachers and therefore its children.

4) Do you believe that every registered voter should be allowed to vote? Please explain your position, including what restrictions on the right to vote are appropriate.

I believe that every citizen who registers to vote has the right to vote, without any further qualification. If there has been a great deal of voter fraud, then that fraud should be researched to find the problem. I believe that voter fraud has been rare and therefore to make "wholesale" restrictions on all voters is unacceptable and inappropriate. The right to vote has been interfered with in our country's history too many times. We cannot make that mistake again.

Oklahoma State House of Representatives

Oklahoma House District 78

Paul Catalano

Republican

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No response



Jeannie McDaniel

Democrat

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Social Media: No response

Biographical Info:

Occupation: State Representative HD78

Age: 63

Professional Experience: Crime Commission - 1981-1991, City of Tulsa - Mayor's Office for Neighborhoods 1991-2002, Tulsa Public Works- Community Services 2002-2004

Education: Associates - Tulsa Community College, BA - the University of Oklahoma

Volunteer Service: Metro Tulsa YMCA Board, 9 years (Secretary), Habitat For Humanity Tulsa (Chairman 2003), Will Rogers Rotary Club, Safe Place - Youth Services of Tulsa Cty (over 15 years), First United Methodist Church - Day Center meals

Questions:

1) What is the single most important factor that influenced your decision to seek public office? Explain why this factor is so influential in your decision.

From 1981-2004 I worked on community issues throughout the metro area - first as staff/director at the Crime Commission (1981-1991) and then at the City of Tulsa where I created the Mayor's Office for Neighborhoods. Listening at hundreds of meetings on front porches, yards and homes helped link services to the needs expressed by neighbors - sidewalks, trails, safety, using grant dollars for demolition of blighted conditions. Our goal was to put citizen's dreams of safe and healthy streets into reality.

2) What educational endeavors have prepared you to hold the office you are seeking?

My husband and I raised five children in Oklahoma public schools. We were blessed with great teachers and community leaders who partnered with us to provide an outstanding education for our family. Today, we have eight grandchildren who, along with all of the children in our state, deserve a public school system that offers them this same opportunity. I believe our public education system should be a reflection of our values and strengths and is the backbone of our democracy. I have served as a volunteer, mentor and regular visitor to our schools. I listen to parents, teachers, community leaders and administrators to seek better ways to meet the needs of an ever-changing school age population that enters our classrooms today. Today - schools help raise our children in ways we never dreamed years ago. In years past - schools educated and provided paths to knowledge for our children. Now, the role has drastically changed. I believe we must provide teachers resources to do the job.

3) Do you believe that teachers in the state of Oklahoma are provided adequate tools to competently educate Oklahoma's students? Please explain your point of view.

No. Absolutely not. Teachers need resources to do their jobs that encompass counseling, hunger, drug abuse and many kids with disabilities resulting from risky lifestyles - all reflections of a changing society. Kids coming through the classroom door today are very different from those in years past. We have 26,000 kids whose parents are in prison, 100,000 being raised by grandparents and some homeless. Yet, we expect schools to produce excellent test takers and forget to measure the gains these kids make each day by being in safe and healthy environment. Our schools are trying to provide a safe place (no violence, drugs) where kids can learn (textbooks, technology, attention to needs, social skill building, inspiring curiosity, etc.) We have shortchanged school funding in exchange for quick results, but forget investments grow over time. These investments in our public education system that we have ignored are a sad statement for our state. Parents and kids deserve better

4) Do you believe that every registered voter should be allowed to vote? Please explain your position, including what restrictions on the right to vote are appropriate.

Absolutely. There has been NO crisis in voting fraud in our state. We have not experienced people trying to vote who are not registered. Yet, we implemented an ID program that actually may deter folks from exercising their right to vote. We have a voter apathy problem. In June's primaries in Tulsa County there was a record for "low" voter turnout! Something like fewer than 14% of eligible voters decided to vote. We need more people to register, become knowledgeable about the issues and VOTE. Women have only had the right to vote for the past 92 years and I'm hopeful that we can energize more people to have their voices heard. When I knock on doors of

registered voters each summer I am always saddened that I walk past more than half the homes in neighborhoods - because no one is registered to vote at these addresses. Every voice matters but folks must register to be heard. With recent precinct changes due to the 2010 Census, I fear we will have fewer voters because of confusion.

State Questions

There are six (6) state questions on the November General Election Ballot.

On issues where the League has no official position, it researches and presents the positions of those who support the measure and those who oppose the measure. There are four (4) state questions with pros and cons in this document.

There are two (2) state questions where the League has a position; these are noted and published elsewhere.

STATE QUESTION NO. 758 Legislative Referendum No. 358

This measure amends the State Constitution. It amends Section 8B of Article 10.

The measure deals with real property taxes also called ad valorem taxes. These taxes are based on several factors. One factor is the fair cash value of the property.

The measure changes the limits on increases in fair cash value. Now, increases are limited to 5% of fair cash value in any taxable year.

The measure changes the cap on increases to 3% for some property. The 3% cap would apply to homestead exempted property. The cap would also apply to agricultural land.

The measure also removes obsolete language.

SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES

AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO

STATE QUESTION NO. 759 Legislative Referendum No. 359

This measure adds a new section to the State Constitution. It adds Section 36 to Article II.

The measure deals with three areas of government action. These areas are employment, education and contracting.

In these areas, the measure does not allow affirmative action programs. Affirmative action programs give preferred treatment based on race, color or gender. They also give preferred treatment based on ethnicity or national origin. Discrimination on these bases is also not permitted.

The measure permits affirmative action in three instances. 1. When gender is a bonafide qualification, it is allowed. 2. Existing court orders and consent decrees that require preferred treatment will continue and can be followed. 3. Affirmative action is allowed when needed to keep or obtain federal funds.

The measure applies to the State and its agencies. It applies to counties, cities and towns. It applies to school districts. It applies to other State subdivisions.

The measure applies only to actions taken after its approval by the people.

SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES

AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HAS A POSITION ON THIS PROPOSAL THAT CAN BE ACCESSED AT ITS WEBSITE: www.lwvtulsa.org

Proponents Say

- Only affects agricultural land and homestead properties.
- The cap would free up more home and farm budget dollars for other expenses.
- A lower assessment cap would help property owners whose market values are rising rapidly while shifting the tax burden to taxpayers whose property values are not rising, more equitably spreading the tax burden.

Opponents Say

- The revenue could be made up by valuation adjustments in other types of property.
- Hardest hit would be public education, to which 65% of ad valorem taxes are dedicated.
- The lower cap may require some districts to pass new bond issues to make up the funding shortfall, which would raise taxes (millage rate).

STATE QUESTION NO. 762 Legislative Referendum No. 360

This measure amends Section 10 of Article 6 of the Oklahoma Constitution. It changes current law, decreasing the power and authority of the Governor by removing the Governor from the parole process for persons convicted of certain offenses defined as nonviolent offenses. It enlarges the power and authority of the Pardon and Parole Board by authorizing that Board, in place of the Governor, to grant parole to persons convicted of certain offenses defined as nonviolent offenses.

The Legislature defines what offenses are nonviolent offenses and the Legislature may change that definition.

The measure authorizes the Pardon and Parole Board to recommend to the Governor, but not to itself grant, parole for persons convicted of certain offenses, specifically those offenses identified by law as crimes for which persons are required to serve not less than eighty-five percent of their sentence prior to being considered for parole and those designated by the Legislature as exceptions to nonviolent offenses. For those offenses for which persons are required to serve a minimum mandatory period of confinement prior to being eligible to be considered for parole, the Pardon and Parole Board may not recommend parole until that period of confinement has been served.

SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES

AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HAS A POSITION ON THIS PROPOSAL THAT CAN BE ACCESSED AT ITS WEBSITE: www.lwvtulsa.org

STATE QUESTION NO. 764 Legislative Referendum No. 361

This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It adds a new Section 39A to Article 10. It would allow the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to issue bonds. Any bonds issued would be used to provide a reserve fund for the Board. The fund would be a reserve fund for certain water resource and sewage treatment funding programs. The fund could only be used to pay other bonds and obligations for the funding programs. The bonds could only be issued after other monies and sources are used for repayment. The bonds would be general obligation bonds. Not more than Three Hundred Million Dollars worth of bonds could be issued. The Legislature would provide the monies to pay for the bonds. The Legislature would provide for methods for issuing the bonds. The Legislature would provide for how the fund is administered.

SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES

AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO

Proponents Say

- Creates a new fund for the OWRB to increase its leveraging capacity, by providing low interest loans to local governments for water and sewer improvements.
- If the measure fails, the agency's Financial Assistance Program for cities/towns would be reduced to funding only 5 to 10 percent of infrastructure needs over the next 50 years.
- If the measure fails, water and sewer rates would increase because local governments would have to go to other, more expensive sources for capital improvement funding. Those other sources usually charge higher interest rates.
- There has not been a loan default in the 30 years of the current program.

Opponents Say

- Oklahoma does not need to incur additional public debt.
- If passed, this measure would put the Legislature in a position of committing to repay up to an estimated \$25 million to cover defaulted loans.
- Non-governmental funding sources, even those with higher interest rates, may be more stable in the future.

STATE QUESTION NO. 765
Legislative Referendum No. 362

The measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It abolishes the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, the Oklahoma Commission of Human Services and the position of Director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. These entities were created under different names by Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Article 25 of the Oklahoma Constitution and given duties and responsibilities related to the care of the aged and needy. The measure repeals these sections of the Constitution and consequently, removes the power of the Commission of Human Services to establish policy and adopt rules and regulations. Under the measure, the Legislature and the people by initiative petition retain the power to adopt legislation for these purposes.

The measure adds a provision to the Constitution authorizing the Legislature to create a department or departments to administer and carry out laws to provide for the care of the aged and the needy. The measure also authorizes the Legislature to enact laws requiring the newly-created department or departments to perform other duties.

SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES

AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO

STATE QUESTION NO. 766
Legislative Referendum No. 363

This measure amends Section 6A of Article 10 of the Oklahoma Constitution. At present that section exempts some intangible personal property from ad valorem property taxation. This measure would exempt all intangible personal property from ad valorem property taxation.

An ad valorem property tax is a tax imposed upon the value of property.

Intangible Personal Property is property whose value is not derived from its physical attributes, but rather from what it represents or evidences.

Intangible Personal Property which is still currently taxed but would not be taxed if the measure is adopted, includes items such as:

- patents, inventions, formulas, designs, and trade secrets;
- licenses, franchise, and contracts;
- land leases, mineral interests, and insurance policies;
- custom computer software; and
- trademarks, trade names and brand names.

If adopted, the measure would apply to property taxation starting with the tax year that begins on January 1, 2013.

SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED?

FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES

AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO

Proponents Say	Opponents Say
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current DHS oversight system is out of date. Asking volunteer individuals to oversee four distinct areas: Oklahoma’s indigent, aging, and disabled populations along with family and children services, requires a group of individuals to have a broad knowledge base. • Would shift the power to care for the affected individuals from the executive branch of government to the legislative branch. • Allows the Legislature to almost start from scratch to restructure the agency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite recent events, the current DHS system is not so broken as to require such drastic measures. • If passed, the measure would put the power back in the hands of the Legislature, possibly making the system even more unstable, • There is no mechanism to serve the affected populations while a new structure is being debated and created during future legislative sessions?

Proponents Say	Opponents Say
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the question does not pass, hunting leases, unused mineral rights, insurance policies, customer lists, computer software, and even patents and inventions would all be subject to taxation. • This would ensure that Oklahoma is poised for future jobs, investment, and economic growth. Almost no other state taxes this type of property. • A 2009 Oklahoma Supreme Court ruling requires county assessors to find intangibles to tax even on small businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lost revenue may be made up by valuation adjustments in other types of property, or new taxes. • Worst case scenario would be a \$50M loss of revenue across the state for education which generally receives 65% of ad valorem tax revenues, and other county services.

Tulsa County Propositions

The Board of County Commissioners has placed on the November 6 ballot “Vision2,” two measures which together are a proposed extension of the 0.6 percent Vision 2025 sales tax rate through 2029.

There will be two propositions on the ballot:

- **Proposition 1** is for the purpose of promoting economic development within Tulsa County Oklahoma
- **Proposition 2** is for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, furnishing and equipping capital improvements to be owned by Tulsa County, Oklahoma, or the State of Oklahoma or any instrumentality thereof. Cities in Tulsa County must identify projects for inclusion in the new Vision2 “Quality of Life” program. After five public forums, Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett developed a list of twelve projects he has submitted to the City Council, which is to ultimately prepare a final list of project recommendations to present to constituents.

The Questions are:

Proposition 1

Shall the County of Tulsa, Oklahoma, by its Board of County Commissioners, levy and collect a thirty one percent of one percent (.310%) sales tax for the purpose of promoting economic development within Tulsa County Oklahoma, and/or to be applied or pledged toward the payment of principal and interest on any indebtedness, including refunding indebtedness, incurred by or on behalf of Tulsa County, Oklahoma for such purpose, such sales tax to commence on the first day of January 2017, and continuing thereafter for thirteen (13) years from the date of commencement of such tax?

FOR THE PROPOSITION - YES

AGAINST THE PROPOSITION - NO

Proposition 2

Shall the County of Tulsa, Oklahoma, by its Board of County Commissioners, levy and collect a twenty nine percent of one percent (.290%) sales tax for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, furnishing and equipping capital improvements to be owned by Tulsa County, Oklahoma, or the State of Oklahoma or any instrumentality thereof and/or to be applied or pledged toward the payment of principal and interest on any indebtedness, incurred by or on behalf of Tulsa County, Oklahoma or incorporated municipalities located in whole or in part within Tulsa County, Oklahoma for such purposes, such sales tax to commence on the first day of January 2017, and continuing thereafter for thirteen (13) years from the date of commencement of such tax?

FOR THE PROPOSITION – YES

AGAINST THE PROPOSITION – NO

Proponents Say

- If Vision2 is approved, the City of Tulsa will immediately gain financing to begin many projects outlined in the resolution.
- The aerospace industry is vital to the Tulsa economy. Thousands of jobs are at stake, and Tulsa needs continued investment in updating and renovating its publicly-owned, aging aerospace assets in order to be competitive in attracting businesses and jobs.
- Proposition 2 will provide fund to meet a number of the region’s economic and quality of life needs, such as parks, recreation centers, the Arkansas River, zoo, library etc.
- Tulsa needs continued investment in infrastructure in order to be competitive in attracting businesses and jobs. The \$50 million Job Creation “closing fund” is intended to offer incentives that will attract and keep companies who create jobs.

Opponents Say

- There is no need to pass the extension at this time. The process has been unnecessarily rushed, and is being presented with no specifics as to how it will be used. The City and County are simply asking the public to trust them to use the money to deal with real needs and things that will enhance the Tulsa area. Much more public input is needed before decisions are made on specific projects.
- The principal purpose of Vision2 seems to be a bail-out for American Airlines. There is very little reason to believe that this gift to a troubled company in a declining industry will actually save jobs.
- The City and County should not be in the business of providing a taxpayer -funded employment agency.

Tulsa City Council

Tulsa City Council District 1

Jack Ross Henderson

No Response

Twan T. Jones

No Response

Tulsa City Council

Tulsa City Council District 7

Thomas Mansur

Republican

Address: 10927 East 76th Street Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133

Phone: (918) 520-2600

Campaign Phone: (918) 520-2600

Email: tomfordistrict7@gmail.com

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Engineer

Age: 65

Professional Experience: US Army Officer, Corps of Engineers, 1969-1990

Consulting Engineer, 1990-2011

Education: BS, Civil Engineering, University of Oklahoma, 1979

MS, Civil Engineering, Oklahoma State University, 1998

Volunteer Service: Advisory Board, Assistance League of Tulsa

Homeowners Association Officer

Questions:

1) What experience, insights and abilities will you bring to the City Council that make you especially qualified for the position?

I have worked as a civil engineer for over 20 years with municipalities throughout the State and have served on the Tulsa Council for 9 months.

2) What would you do as a City Council member to positively impact efforts to attract new employers and retain those we currently have?

A City Councilor should support appropriate programs and initiatives to attract new employers and support those businesses we already have. Since it is my intention, if re-elected, to resign, I, personally, will not be in a position to actively participate in such activities. My resignation however will enable the citizens of District 7 to conduct a special election wherein multiple candidates

appropriately vie for the councilor position based on their qualifications, experience, and abilities to promote such initiatives, work with government and business leaders, and develop consensus among District 7 voters.

3) What do you see as the top priorities for the City as a whole?

I believe the City has, in order, the following priorities:

- 1) Attract and train skilled labor to serve manufacturing and energy sectors;
- 2) Strive to reduce incidents of crime and indiscipline, particularly violent crime, illegal drugs, spouse and child abuse, and similar threats to the safety of our families;
- 3) Operate a city government which is both bold and prudent in the application of its resources.

4) What are the top priorities for your District? What will you personally do toward accomplishing those goals?

I believe the priorities of District 7 citizens are:

- 1) Adequate and responsive police protection for our neighborhoods;
- 2) Appropriate maintenance and repair of neighborhood streets;
- 3) Appropriate control of commercial and apartment developments which affect the peace of existing neighborhoods and contribute to undue traffic congestion.

Arianna Moore

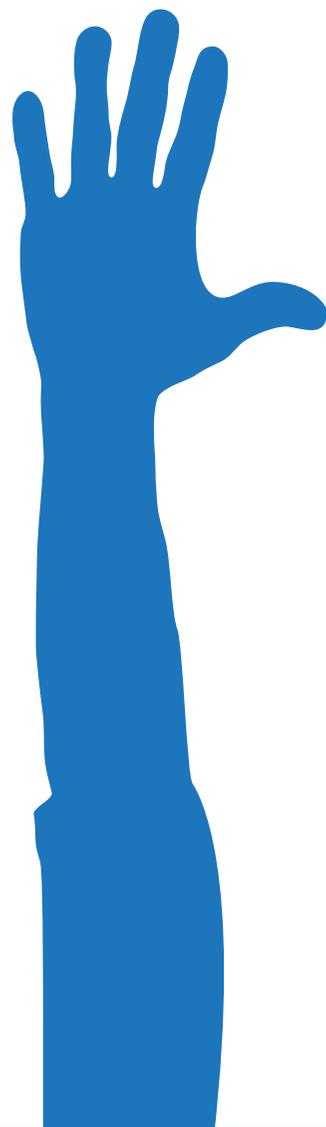
No Response

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2012 Voter Guide



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