



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF METROPOLITAN TULSA

Voter Guide for the Special Election Primary for Oklahoma House District 71 to be held Tuesday, February 14, 7am to 7pm

Representative Dan Sullivan resigned from House District 7 in December of 2011. A special election was called to fill this seat.

The primary election will be held on Tuesday, February 14 and the general election will be Tuesday, April 3. A primary election allows voters to choose which candidates will represent each party in the general election. Voters must be registered as either Democrats or Republicans to vote in the primary, and they will vote only for members of their own party.



Oklahoma House District 71

Oklahoma House District 71 extends from 21st Street southward along the east bank of the Arkansas River to 81st Street. The eastern boundary is Lewis Avenue, with the exception of the area around Utica Square.

This Voter Guide is made possible by the League of Women Voters of Tulsa Education Fund and the following generous donors:
Ruth Nelson, Frederic Dorwart Lawyers, Jill and Robert Thomas & William and Susan Thomas, Joe and Ellen Graham, George Kaiser Family Foundation, Williams Foundation, Tulsa Jewish Retirement and Health Center, the Anne and Henry Zarrow Family Foundation, the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation, and George Krumme.

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Special Election Primary Voter Guide

Voter ID

Oklahoma's Voter ID law took effect July 1. All voters are now required to produce proof of identity before casting a ballot whether voting at a regular polling place or voting early at the County Election Board.

Acceptable identification includes documents issued by the federal, state or a tribal government that includes the voter's name, photograph, and an expiration date that is after the date of the election in which the voter is attempting to vote. Voters also may use a voter identification card or a temporary voter identification document issued by the County Election Board.

The following ID will be accepted:

- A valid driver's license with an expiration date later than the day of the election.
- A state identification card, which is not a driver's license, with an expiration date that is later than the day of the election; persons 65 or older are not required to have an expiration date on their state identification card.
- A tribal government ID, with a photo and expiration date later than the date of the election.
- A military/uniformed services ID, with a photo and expiration date later than the date of the election.
- A United States passport with an expiration date later than the date of the election.
- A voter registration card or a temporary voter registration document – the only forms of ID without a photo that will be accepted. A voter registration card does not have an expiration date. However, the temporary voter ID does have an expiration date and that date must be after the election.

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

It will take time to do the paperwork, but the Tulsa County Election Board says your vote will be counted if the name on the affidavit that accompanies the provisional ballot substantially conforms to the name on the voter rolls. Be sure the name you put on the affidavit matches the name you used to register to vote.

VOTE!

You can vote in person at your polling place for the precinct in which you live:

- The name of your polling place is on your voter identification card.
- The polls are open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. on election day. If you are in line by 7 p.m., you will be able to vote.

You can also vote early or by absentee ballot:

- Early in-person voting will also take place from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Friday and Monday before the February 14 elections.
- An absentee ballot may be requested in person or by mail. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is the Wednesday before an election.

Notes on this Voter Guide

All primary candidates who will be on the February 14 ballot were sent questionnaires and given an opportunity to respond. The League does not edit or change responses. If word limits are exceeded, the extra words are deleted and this is indicated by ellipsis. Candidates are listed in this guide by party affiliation, then in alphabetical order by last name.

2012 Oklahoma House District 71 Special Election Primary Voter Guide

Democratic Party Primary Candidates



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Dan Arthrell

1. *Please provide relevant biographical information for voters (education, work experience, community involvement) Limit: 150 words*

Dan and Claudia Arthrell have lived in House District 71 for 37 years. Dan has worked at the highly successful Community Service Council (CSC) for the last 33 years. His job is to evaluate community needs and then work to provide effective solutions. His achievements include developing the LIFT program at Tulsa Transit, home health care services for the elderly and making sure all children were ready for school through the Smart Start Oklahoma program. He has worked with police, and courts on juvenile delinquency prevention programs. Throughout his career Dan formed collaborations with city, county and state officials as well as a wide variety of agencies. It is this ability to form working coalitions that will make Dan able to fight successfully for the residents of House District 71.

2. *What is your opinion of the current move to eliminate the personal income tax in Oklahoma? Limit:150 words*

The basis for eliminating personal income tax by state lawmakers is based on an assumption that Oklahoma will attract more businesses and industries, thus grow the economy. In 2001, an Oklahoma state study was completed on what would be needed to eliminate personal income tax and sales tax on groceries and keep the revenue neutral.

The report concluded that there are only three tax sources potentially capable of generating enough revenue from existing sources to achieve revenue neutrality: a tripling of property tax; and sales tax expansion to practically all sectors of the state's economy.

Without a specific plan to make-up for lost revenue, I could not support eliminating the personal income tax, much less support a significant increase in the property tax because it would have serious negatives effects on the real estate market or sales tax that would be regressive for low and moderate households.

3. *How will you balance the needs and concerns of your constituents with those of the state as a whole? Limit:150 words*

I will review each proposed bill and measure the impact on the people that live in House District 71 and the needs of Oklahoma as a whole. The best simple measurement should be "Does the bills provide for the common good? If Oklahoma prospers District 71 will prosper.

Democratic Party Primary Candidates

Dan Arthrell (*continued*)

4. *What could be done to better insulate Oklahoma's economy against national economic downturns? Limit:150 words*

Over the past five years it has become clear that we are not only tied to the national economy, but we are also affected by the international economy. There are no simple answers to this question, but there are many.

First, Oklahoma's educational system must be improved from early childhood programs that prepared children to learn to higher education. There must be a continuous learning and skill building process which progresses through the grades and into the workplace.

Second, Oklahoma's infrastructure must be maintained and expanded. Oklahoma has great needs for highways and bridges, including in rural Oklahoma.

Third, we must develop a plan to reduce our loss of young people to other states, Oklahoma brain drain.

Finally, Oklahoma needs to broadcast its' assets, including its low cost of living.

5. *What do you think is the proper role of government? Limit:150 words*

Government's role is to:

- keep neighborhoods safe;
- provide a court system for administering justice, protecting property rights, enforcing contracts, and resolving disputes;
- provide an infrastructure for commerce to thrive and provide for public policy that promotes business;
- protect the public health and safety, and maintain a healthy environment, including air, water, and land;
- provide education and skills development for all citizen of the state; and
- provide for those that cannot help themselves, and help move them to independence if possible.

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Democratic Party Primary Candidates



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Robert Walpole

1. *Please provide relevant biographical information for voters (education, work experience, community involvement) Limit: 150 words*

I was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana, son of a construction worker and housewife and a sibling to seven. As a youngster, I learned the value of hard work by carrying a paper route. After graduation from Indiana University with a BA degree in political science, I moved to Tulsa and then was graduated from the University of Tulsa College of Law in May, 1982. Since that time, I have engaged in the private practice of law in Tulsa representing individuals who have the various legal issues facing many of our fellow citizens. I attend the Church of St. Mary.

2. *What is your opinion of the current move to eliminate the personal income tax in Oklahoma? Limit: 150 words*

I am against it because there is no plan to replace the \$2 billion dollars generated by income taxes that helps fund the present state budget of \$6.5 billion.

The tax rate is dropping 0.25% in 2012, which leaves the current legislature \$107 million dollars less to spend this year. This tax cut will save a taxpayer earning \$50,000.00 a year \$84.

A legislative committee will recommend in the upcoming session additional cuts in income taxes which will be paid by cutting personal exemptions and the earned income credit. This will cause a tax increase for working Oklahomans, and for those most vulnerable, the children, elderly, and disabled.

Besides funding problems at DHS, DOC, roads and bridges, the Capitol building needs repairs costing \$125 million. The way to make Oklahoma business friendly is to build the infrastructure for society's needs, not to let it crumble down around us.

Democratic Party Primary Candidates

Robert Walpole (*continued*)

3. *How will you balance the needs and concerns of your constituents with those of the state as a whole?*

Limit: 150 words

House District No. 71 is as diverse as any district in the state. The citizens are of every race, creed and economic status. Economic activity is comprised of shops, stores, hotels, and restaurants. And whether these are national or regional companies or local partnerships and sole proprietorships, each relies upon government to provide basic services.

With that being said, it could be just as difficult to balance the concerns of the citizens of District 71, let alone balancing their needs with those of the state.

I believe that the citizens of District 71 realize that building roads and bridges in other areas enhance not only those areas but all of the State of Oklahoma. And I hope that same belief applies to funding DHS, DOC, the educational system as well as the other issues facing the state.

4. *What could be done to better insulate Oklahoma's economy against national economic downturns?*

Limit: 150 words

Oklahomans have always exhibited a resiliency, resourcefulness, and determination in the face of economic downturn. Over the years, the Oklahoma economy has diversified from the oil and gas industry to other industries such as aviation, telecommunications, technology and companies like Kimberly Clark and Whirlpool to name a few. Today, the unemployment rate is much lower here than the national and regional average.

We need to continue to invest in the educational system, to maintain roads and bridges, to provide the financial resources so that DHS can better protect children and the vulnerable, and to provide funding so that DOC will have sufficient prisons and manpower. These are factors that businesses and individuals consider when deciding to relocate. Oklahomans have begun this process but it still needs the steady hand of government to provide services that can not be provided by any other entity.

5. *What do you think is the proper role of government? Limit: 150 words*

The Preamble to the state constitution refers to promoting the general welfare. And over time, the concept of general welfare has evolved to include state agencies and state programs that were not necessary or envisioned when those constitutions were enacted. And both constitutions included provisions for those additions to the function of government.

Representative government is to be responsive to the will of the people but oftentimes there is no true consensus. When that happens, the legislator must consider all positions and make decisions based upon his perception of what is in the best interests of his constituents and the State of Oklahoma.

Government must provide a safe and secure physical environment and also provide the means for its citizens to prosper. How that is accomplished is the great experiment that is the United States of America.

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Republican Party Primary Candidates

Lydia M. D’Ross — candidate did not respond to questionnaire



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Katie Henke

1. *Please provide relevant biographical information for voters (education, work experience, community involvement) Limit: 150 words*

I am a fifth generation Oklahoman and a life-long Tulsan. I am a graduate of Cascia Hall Preparatory School and the University of Alabama, where I received a BS in early childhood development. I have taught for 7 years in various schools, including Tulsa’s Little Light House, Undercroft Montessori and Riverfield schools. I enjoy volunteering with local charities and have also been involved with the Tulsa County Republican Party, serving on their executive and platform committees. I am a member of the Tulsa Republican Club, the Republican Women’s Club of Tulsa, the Oklahoma Federation of Republican Women, the National Federation of Republican Women, and the Oklahoma First Ladies (OFRW).

2. *What is your opinion of the current move to eliminate the personal income tax in Oklahoma? Limit:150 words*

I strongly support the reduction of the personal income tax, and any other tax when feasible.

3. *How will you balance the needs and concerns of your constituents with those of the state as a whole? Limit:150 words*

The needs and concerns of my constituents will always come first. I think an elected State Representative should be accessible to all Oklahomans, and I strive to be available and responsive if elected.

4. *What could be done to better insulate Oklahoma’s economy against national economic downturns? Limit:150 words*

I feel we should work to make Oklahoma a more business friendly state. By doing this, we will grow existing business and attract new business to Oklahoma. Broad-based growth diversifies industry which better insulates our state from economic downturn.

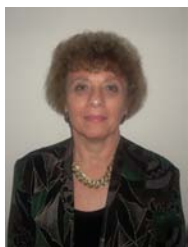
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Republican Party Primary Candidates

Katie Henke (*continued*)

5. *What do you think is the proper role of government? Limit:150 words*

Government should provide basic services and infrastructure. I am a proponent of reducing the size of government, wherever possible. I believe people should be empowered, not our government.



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Bonnie Huffines

1. *Please provide relevant biographical information for voters (education, work experience, community involvement) Limit: 150 words*

I have lived in the Brookside neighborhood since 1990. I ran a state licensed Day Care Home in this area for over 15 years. I am a college graduate and have a BA in art with a minor in music. I have been on the board of the Brookside Neighborhood Association for the past 6 years. I have been a precinct secretary/treasurer for 6 years also. I have been a delegate to the State Republican Conventions for the last few years and was on the platform committee last year in Tulsa. I have been involved in my church for the last 25 years and have been employed there for the past 3 years. I am married and have 1 grown son.

2. *What is your opinion of the current move to eliminate the personal income tax in Oklahoma? Limit:150 words*

It is my opinion that anytime you can eliminate a tax it is a good thing. The more money you can leave in the hands of the citizens the better the economy will be.

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Republican Party Primary Candidates

Bonnie Huffines (*continued*)

3. *How will you balance the needs and concerns of your constituents with those of the state as a whole?*
Limit:150 words

I believe that if it is good for District 71 it should be good for the city and if it is good for the city it will be good for the state, and if it is good for the state it will be good for the nation.

4. *What could be done to better insulate Oklahoma's economy against national economic downturns?*
Limit:150 words

I believe that as we allow God and the Bible to be involved in the decisions we make, as we invite Him in to the governmental processes, into the economics, into the school systems, into every area of life, then He will help us to make decisions that will cause us to rise above national trends.

5. *What do you think is the proper role of government? Limit:150 words*

Government was designed to be by the people for the people, not by the minority to rule the majority. Governments are put in place to protect its people and to protect its borders. There is much good that government does and when we curtail the size of government we allow its people to rise to their full potential. As we allow God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, back into every aspect of society we the people will be able to govern our lives properly.

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Republican Party Primary Candidates



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Gerald Lovoi

1. *Please provide relevant biographical information for voters (education, work experience, community involvement) Limit: 150 words*

I have a Law Degree from the University of Tulsa. I have a Finance Degree from the University of Notre Dame. I am a lifelong Tulsan, and I have many relatives who live in Tulsa County. I have a wife and two daughters. I am a lifelong member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, and my core beliefs are conservative, however in the practice of law I am always mindful of constitutional rights which belong to all citizens I have found that a broad practice is both intellectually stimulating and bolsters my understanding of virtually all constitutional issues such as due process and property rights issues. Since I am in solo practice I am also forced to file and respond to appeals on a regular basis. I have prevailed in numerous published opinions before the Oklahoma Supreme Court, and to that extent I have already had an impact on Oklahoma Law.

2. *What is your opinion of the current move to eliminate the personal income tax in Oklahoma? Limit:150 words*

The state should move slowly towards the reduction of the State Income Tax. Additionally studies should be conducted to see if the reduction in State Income Tax attracts retirees and businesses from other states. Additionally policy makers should insure that the lack of state revenue does not affect critical and necessary state services, such as education, law enforcement, roads and prisons.

3. *How will you balance the needs and concerns of your constituents with those of the state as a whole? Limit:150 words*

My core beliefs are conservative. I am opposed to profligate government spending. However, if the State Government feels compelled to spend money I believe the spending should occur in Tulsa and not Oklahoma City, whenever possible. Over the years I have seen huge amounts of State spending for the benefit of Oklahoma City **only**, and I have seen Tulsa neglected (i.e. the railroad, highway development and museums.) This matter must be corrected. The voters should consider that Oklahoma City benefited (with the help of Tulsa officials) from phase I of the passenger railroad funding. Tulsa was asked to wait for phase II. Phase II never arrived. Tulsa supported the enactment of pari-mutuel horse racing. The racing commission was formed, and Oklahoma City was awarded the big track at Remington. Tulsa was told to wait. This will not occur on my watch.

Republican Party Primary Candidates

Gerald Lovoi (*continued*)

4. *What could be done to better insulate Oklahoma's economy against national economic downturns?*
Limit:150 words

To insulate Oklahoma's economy against national economic downturns the State should fully support our aerospace, oil and natural gas industries. Certain industries are fundamental and unique to Oklahoma. The pipeline terminal in Cushing is unique to Oklahoma and absolutely necessary to our Nation's economy. The Port of Catoosa is unique to Oklahoma and the furthest inland port in the United States. These industries must be supported to the fullest extent. Oklahoma's quality Jobs act was brilliant and needs our continued support. Spirit Air and American Airlines are players in the National Aviation Industry. Oklahoma voters and elected officials should focus on our strengths and not our weaknesses.

5. *What do you think is the proper role of government? Limit:150 words*

Government's role in our lives should be limited. Freedom and Liberty are very important words, and are fundamental to our system. However, on a State level there are certain critical and necessary services that only government can provide. It is only government that can maintain and improve our roads. It is only government that can provide for public safety and maintain our prison system. Our public education system is the best in the world and should receive our full support. We should be mindful that government over-regulation can do more harm than good. I fully re-reject the notion that the federal government should be allowed micro-manage our state activities with unfunded mandates, and I am a strong believer in the 10th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

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Republican Party Primary Candidates



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Evelyn Rogers

1. *Please provide relevant biographical information for voters (education, work experience, community involvement) Limit: 150 words*

AA in Nursing/Psychology – Pasadena City College, Pasadena CA
BS in Healthcare Mgmt – Univ. of LaVerne, La Verne CA
MA in Practical Theology – Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK
MLIS in Library & Information Studies – Univ. of Oklahoma, Tulsa OK
Current work – Librarian @ Tulsa Community College, Tulsa OK

2. *What is your opinion of the current move to eliminate the personal income tax in Oklahoma? Limit: 150 words*

If the Oklahoma state budget can be balanced by a different system then elimination of the personal income tax in Oklahoma would be a blessing.

3. *How will you balance the needs and concerns of your constituents with those of the state as a whole? Limit: 150 words*

Work as a state representative will require both to be considered. Surveying constituents will give opportunity for district 71 feedback as well.

4. *What could be done to better insulate Oklahoma's economy against national economic downturns? Limit: 150 words*

A good balance can be obtained through savings, investment and then spending.

5. *What do you think is the proper role of government? Limit: 150 words*

Encourage, Legislate, Enforce, and obtain feedback. Survey constituents about what works and what can be changed. Change laws that need to be changed, to benefit the people being legislated.