



Legislative News Update

Week of October 23

[Click here to view the interim study schedules and agendas.](#)

2026 Election Update

With Oklahoma's November 3 general election less than two weeks away, campaigns are entering their final push and voters are taking a closer look at the candidates and issues that will shape the state's future. Below are several recent articles highlighting key races and ballot issues.

ELECTION NEWS

- Oklahoman: [Everything you need to know about the Oklahoma midterm elections](#)
- KOSU: [How do Oklahoma gubernatorial candidates' time in the legislature match their campaign agenda?](#)

- **Oklahoman:** [Attention grows on Oklahoma governor's race between Mazzei, Munson](#)
- **Oklahoman:** [Mike Mazzei leans on Trump ties as he seeks Oklahoma governor's office](#)
- **Oklahoman:** [Democrat Cyndi Munson builds momentum running for Oklahoma governor](#)
- **Oklahoma Voice:** [Democratic gubernatorial nominee talks Trump, money](#)
- **Oklahoman:** [Nick Coffey, Jon Echols clash in Oklahoma attorney general race](#)
- **Lawton Constitution:** [Candidates for attorney general hold spirited debate in Oklahoma City](#)
- **nondoc.com:** [Kelly Forbes, T.W. Shannon run friendly race for lieutenant governor](#)
- **Oklahoma Voice:** [Democrat in lieutenant governor's race hopes to bridge divides, fix Oklahoma's big problems](#)
- **Oklahoman:** [Oklahoma's superintendent candidates focused on policy, not politics](#)
- **Oklahoman:** [Sullivan, MacIntyre square off over Oklahoma's insurance crisis](#)
- **nondoc.com:** [After ousting incumbent, Cindy Byrd takes on Kiefer Perry in Oklahoma treasurer race](#)
- **KOSU:** [Who's running to be Oklahoma's next Commissioner of Labor?](#)
- **nondoc.com:** [HD 28: Amid harassment, ethics inquiries, Danny Williams challenged by Blake Cummings](#)
- **nondoc.com:** [SD 34: After ousting incumbent, Aaron Forst faces Amy Hossain for Tulsa-area seat](#)
- **nondoc.com:** [HD 64: Louis Jackson, Kathy Suttles offer competing visions for Lawton, SWOK](#)
- **nondoc.com:** [HD 100: In top target for Democrats, Chaunté Gilmore challenges Rep. Marilyn Stark a third time](#)
- **KOSU:** [Democrat Jena Nelson, 2 independents challenge Republican Stephanie Bice for Oklahoma's CD5 seat](#)

- KOSU: [Oklahoma SQ 847 proposes decreasing cap on property tax growth](#)

WATCH: 2026 GOVERNOR'S DEBATE

Republican Mike Mazzei and Democrat Cyndi Munson met for an OETA debate October 1, discussing education, health care, affordability, taxes, insurance costs, immigration, data centers and other issues facing Oklahoma. The debate is currently the only gubernatorial debate scheduled between the two major-party nominees before the November 3 election.

[Watch the full 2026 Oklahoma Governor's Debate on OETA](#)

WATCH: 2026 ATTORNEY GENERAL DEBATE

Republican Jon Echols and Democrat Nick Coffey faced off in a live general election debate for Oklahoma Attorney General on yesterday, October 22.

[Watch the full 2026 Oklahoma Attorney General Debate on News9's YouTube channel](#)



2026 Interim Studies

The deadline for interim studies to be heard is next Friday, October 30.

Approved House Interim Studies

[Click here to view the list of approved House interim studies.](#)

Approved Senate Interim Studies

[Click here to view the list of approved Senate interim studies.](#)



Official State Press Releases

- Oct. 19: [Lawmakers Launch Bipartisan Reading Caucus](#)
- Oct. 20: [Governor Stitt Applauds Federal Court for Clarifying Narrow McGirt Ruling](#)
- Oct. 20: [Miller Examines Wrong-Way Driving Prevention](#)
- Oct. 20: [State, Local Leaders Celebrate New Public Safety funding for Downtown Norman](#)
- Oct. 20: [Lawmakers Examine SNAP, Nutrition Programs and Home-Delivered Meals](#)
- Oct. 20: [Dobrinski Studies Biochar Impacts for Oklahoma](#)
- Oct. 20: [OK Broadband Office Celebrates Completed Projects in Rural Communities](#)
- Oct. 21: [Governor Congratulates Adria Berry on Next Chapter, Jason Yingling to Replace](#)
- Oct. 21: [Grego Visits Angola Prison Rodeo](#)
- Oct. 21: [Rader, Miller Study Length of Prison Stays, Re-Entry Programs](#)
- Oct. 21: [Interim Study Explores Ways to Boost Oklahoma's Appeal to Employers](#)
- Oct. 22: [Joint Study Examines Issues Related to Sexual Assault Kits](#)
- Oct. 22: [Pro Tem Paxton and Senator Pederson Celebrate Taiwan Regional Trade Office](#)
- Oct. 22: [Hardin, Turner Study Department of Corrections' Employee Pay](#)
- Oct. 22: [Drummond Comments After Swadley Sentenced for Defrauding OK Taxpayers](#)

- Oct. 22: [Joint study examines Methods of Dealing with Continued Delays in Chain of Custody, Testing of Sexual Assault Kits, Storage of Non-Reported Kits](#)
- Oct. 22: [Hardin, Turner Study Department of Corrections' Employee Pay](#)
- Oct. 22: [Bullard Explores Historic Status for Southern Oklahoma Highway](#)
- Oct. 22: [Sen. Nice holds study on elder abuse through coercive control](#)
- Oct. 22: [Pro Tem Paxton and Sen. Pederson Celebrate Opening of Taiwan Regional Trade Office](#)
- Oct. 22: [State Regents Approve Plan to Meet Oklahoma's Workforce Needs](#)

Adria Berry exits OMMA as Oklahoma marijuana industry falls

The executive director of the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority, who said the regulatory agency is being painted as the “agency to blame” for the cleanup of abandoned grow sites, has announced her resignation. [Read more.](#)

Legislators told talent, ‘quality of place’ should be development focus, not tax cuts

Quorum Call: Legislators told talent, ‘quality of place’ should be development focus, not tax cuts

Oklahoma is at an inflection point, Sen. Dave Rader said Tuesday, as it considers what it can do to help keep and attract businesses to the state. The suggestions offered Tuesday veered away from the usual suggestions of lowering taxes to make Oklahoma a more business friendly state and focused instead on ways to improve the state’s quality of life, talent pool and workforce. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma Voice: Panel studies ways to make Oklahoma more attractive

A legislative panel was told Tuesday to look past tax policy and to invest in education and other areas to make the state a more attractive place to live and work. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoman: Oklahoma leaders rethink strategy after energy sector departures

Oklahoma can no longer rely on tax cuts, business incentives and low operating costs to retain major employers and further strengthen its modern economy, business leaders and lawmakers stressed this week. Instead, sustaining the state's economic future will require urgent investments in public education, quality of life, housing and public safety. [Read more.](#)

Joint State-Tribal Relations Committee haggles over new allocation for tribal cases

The Joint State-Tribal Relations Committee voted Thursday to allocate \$500,000 from the State-Tribal Litigation Revolving Fund to the District Attorneys Council to pay the latest costs of lawsuits brought by Native American tribes against three Oklahoma district attorneys, but not before some haggling over the new amount. [Read more.](#)

House A&B Committee discusses inflation

Oklahoma lawmakers have little ability to influence inflation, House Appropriations and Budget Committee members were told Wednesday, but there are things they can do that might help lower the costs of certain services and goods. [Read more.](#)

Transportation future appears shaky, Gatz says

Quorum Call: Transportation future appears shaky, Gatz says

Tim Gatz gave one of his final presentations as the leader of Oklahoma's Department of Transportation to the Senate Aerospace and Transportation Committee on Thursday. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma Voice: Inflation hits Oklahoma road, bridge construction

Inflation has taken a big bite into the state's ability to maintain its roads and bridges, a legislative panel was told Thursday. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma State Department of Education requests \$4.4 billion budget

A new literacy law and rising insurance costs drove a request for \$123.3 million in additional funding for the Oklahoma State Department of Education. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma rolled out a competitive funding formula for higher ed. Who wins, and who loses?

A new formula from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education positions the state's colleges and universities to compete for a percentage of their state funding allocations. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma benefits for aerospace lag behind neighbors

Oklahoma has a lot to offer the aerospace industry, according to recent study from the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics. But while the aerospace ecosystem in Oklahoma is flourishing, there is some concern that the incentives package offered to these companies lags behind offerings from Oklahoma's neighbors. [Read more.](#)

Solutions for wrong-way drivers may be simple, but not easy or cheap, subcommittee told

The House Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Transportation heard Monday from representatives from Victims of Impaired Drivers (VOID,) as well as transportation and public safety representatives, during an interim study on wrong way drivers. [Read more.](#)

Legislative solutions for poor nutrition offered at interim study

The Senate Rules Committee hosted an interim study on Monday offering legislative solutions to improve nutrition statewide for lawmakers in attendance to consider ahead of the 2027 regular session. [Read more.](#)

Lawmakers launch bipartisan, bicameral Reading Caucus

A bipartisan, bicameral group of legislators announced the formation Monday of the Oklahoma Reading Caucus, which will focus on sustaining and expanding recent progress in early literacy and student outcomes. [Read more.](#)

Workforce intermediaries focus of House interim study

The House Business Committee hosted an interim study Monday afternoon focused on workforce intermediaries and the services they provide. [Read more.](#)

Senate Banking, Insurance committee discusses banking deserts

The Senate Banking and Insurance Committee's discussion Tuesday of banking deserts exposed some the divisions between the state's banking and credit union industries. [Read more.](#)



Infrastructure needs of all kinds hold UAS development back in Oklahoma

Some of the presenters during the House Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Transportation's interim study on Monday described the different Oklahoma-based organizations and businesses working in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) as little gardens, others called them pockets. [Read more.](#)



Advocates, legislators prepare to bring Dylan's Law II back to State Capitol

Hannah Whitten was shocked with Gov. Kevin Stitt vetoed HB4294, often referred to as "Dylan's Law II". [Read more.](#)



Possibilities with Eastern Red Cedar biochar nearly endless, committee told

The name might be a new convention, but Dr. Lori Han, with the University of Oklahoma School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Sciences, told members of the House Agriculture Committee that the practice has been used for thousands of years. [Read more.](#)



Banning carries on Hill's annual in-depth OK economy overview interim study

Rep. Chris Banning continued the annual tradition started by departing Rep. Brian Hill with a daylong interim study hosted by the House Business Committee on Tuesday, allowing representatives from Oklahoma's top industries to present their efforts to innovate the state's economy. [Read more.](#)

State struggles to implement CCSIF, committee told

The State of Oklahoma is still struggling to implement the provisions of a 2016 state question that requires the criminal justice system savings from moving certain drug and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors, the House Appropriations and Budget Committee was told Wednesday. [Read more.](#)

House Public Safety Committee makes the case for DOC pay raise

At the end of an interim study Wednesday on Department of Corrections pay, Chair David Hardin told the multiple speakers that he and the other members of the House Public Safety Committee did not need to be convinced that correction officers are in desperate need of a pay raise and suggested it would be the House Appropriations and Budget Committee who would need to be convinced. [Read more.](#)

Protecting elected officials, the public at the OK Capitol Building topic of interim study

The safety of lawmakers, employees and the public at the Oklahoma State Capitol Building amid the nationwide rise in political violence was the

central topic of a day-long interim study hosted by the House Rules Committee on Wednesday. [Read more.](#)

Coercive control an ‘insidious,’ difficult to prove form of elder abuse, committee told

Sen. Nikki Nice first began looking at expanding the legal definition of domestic violence to include coercive control after a constituent told Nice about coercion in their child’s romantic relationship. [Read more.](#)

SAFE board brings legislative asks before joint, bipartisan interim study

Members of the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Board appeared before the House Public Health Committee for a joint, bipartisan interim study on Thursday, providing lawmakers with a series of legislative asks to consider for the coming 2027 session. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma health care agency boasts low payment error rate

Oklahoma’s Medicaid payment error rate is well below the national average, according to the agency that administers the program. [Read more.](#)

New accreditation rule downgrades dozens of Oklahoma districts for academics

Oklahoma Voice: New accreditation rule downgrades dozens of Oklahoma districts for academics

Fifty-nine school districts, including the three largest in the state, have had their accreditation status downgraded over poor reading and math test scores. [Read more.](#)

nondoc.com: State downgrades 67 school districts as ‘academic proficiency’ enters accreditation matrix

The Oklahoma State Board of Education voted Thursday to downgrade the accreditation status of 67 school districts, including three of the state’s largest. [Read more.](#)

Swadley to serve no prison time, ordered to pay \$1.2M for defrauding Oklahoma tourism department

A restaurant owner convicted of defrauding the state will serve no prison time, but must pay \$1.2 million in restitution, an Oklahoma County judge ordered. [Read more.](#)

Drummond calls for Troung to resign following Swadley sentencing

Attorney General Gentner Drummond called on Oklahoma County District Judge Cindy Truong to resign after she sentenced Brent Swadley for his role in a scheme to defraud the state during the renovation of restaurants at state parks. [Read more.](#)

OKC’s largest private employer Integris set to join Kaiser-backed Risant

Integris Health, Oklahoma City’s largest private employer, is set to become part of California-based Risant Health in an acquisition that is not expected to result in layoffs or changes in the Integris corporate headquarters. [Read more.](#)

2026 Election Deadlines

Election Date/ Filing Date	Election Type	Voter Registration Deadline	Absentee Ballot Request Deadline	Early Voting Dates & Hours	Election Day Voting Hours
November 3	General Elections	October 9	October 19	Oct. 28 - 30 8 A.M. – 6 P.M. Oct. 31 8 A.M. – 2 P.M.	7 A.M. to 7 P.M.

2026-27 Legislative Dates & Deadlines

October 2026

- **Friday, October 30:** Deadline for Interim Studies to be Completed

December 2026

- **Friday, December 4:** Deadline for Requesting Drafting of Bills and Joint Resolutions for the Second Session of the 60th Legislature (House and Senate)

January 2027

- **Tuesday, January 5:** Organizational Day for the First Session of the 61st Legislature
- **Thursday, January 14:** Deadline for Filing of Bills and Joint Resolutions for the Second Session of the 60th Legislature (House and Senate)

February 2027

- **Monday, February 1:** First Day of the First Session of the 61th Legislature

March 2027

- **Thursday, March 25:** Deadline for Third Reading and Final Passage of Bills and Joint Resolutions in the House of Origin (House and Senate)

May 2027

- **Thursday, May 6:** Deadline for Third Reading and Final Passage of Bills and Joint Resolutions in the House Opposite the House of Origin (House and Senate)
- **Friday, May 28:** Sine Die Adjournment of the First Session of the 61th Legislature

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