



Legislative News Update

Week of September 4

2026 Interim Studies

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.](#)

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

Official State Press Releases

- **Aug. 31:** [Senator Christi Gillespie Appointed to Early Childhood Task Force](#)
- **Sept. 2:** [Drummond Secures Legal Victory Against NY Climate Change Superfund Act](#)



House Rules Committee to hear allegations against Williams

Quorum Call: House Rules Committee to hear allegations against Williams

The House Rules Committee will meet Tuesday to hear the accusations against Rep. Danny Williams concerning alleged improper conduct toward a House staffer. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma Voice: Oklahoma House set to hear evidence in staff allegation of lawmaker's 'improper behavior'

Oklahoma House Republican leaders have blocked off three days next month to look into allegations of misconduct against a member of their own party. [Read more.](#)



Paxton appoints Gillespie to Oklahoma Early Childhood Task Force

Senate President Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton has appointed Senator Christi Gillespie to serve on the newly established Oklahoma Early Childhood Task Force, a two-year initiative created to study and improve how Oklahoma delivers services to children ages zero through five and their families. [Read more.](#)



Democratic Senator picks up where Republican colleague left off with gun safety incentives study

A Democratic State Senator is considering creating tax incentives for safe gun ownership. The idea is to improve and revive a failed 2020 bill proposed by one of the legislature's most conservative Republicans. [Read more.](#)



State regents approve first four reduced-credit bachelor's degrees at three public universities

Quorum Call: State regents approve first four reduced-credit bachelor's degrees at three public universities

The State Regents for Higher Education approved four accelerated degree programs at three public universities at their monthly meeting Thursday. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma Voice: Reduced credit hour bachelor degrees approved at 3 Oklahoma colleges

Three Oklahoma universities were given the greenlight to offer the state's first reduced credit hour bachelor degree programs. [Read more.](#)

Inola smelter lawsuit returns to state court

Attorney General Gentner Drummond's lawsuit seeking to stop a proposed aluminum smelter near Inola is headed back to Rogers County District Court after a federal judge ruled the case does not belong in federal court. [Read more.](#)

Whitmarsh resigns as CLO secretary; Fischer appointed acting secretary

Commissioners of the Land Office Secretary Dan Whitmarsh formally resigned Monday and will be succeeded by John Fischer, the current assistant secretary who will serve as acting secretary until a permanent appointment is made. [Read more.](#)

TSET board chooses firm to find next executive director

The Board of Directors for the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund (TSET) has selected Bird Dog Recruitment to spearhead the search for their next executive director. [Read more.](#)

Invest in Oklahoma Board to ask 10 firms to discuss endowment fund management

The Invest in Oklahoma Board will ask the 10 firms that submitted proposals to become the investment manager for the Taxpayer Endowment Fund to come to the state for interviews. [Read more.](#)

OTA Director, board react to City of Norman vote against interchanges

Quorum Call: OTA Director, board react to City of Norman vote against interchanges

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) governing board and Director Joe Echelle discussed the Norman City Council's disapproval of a plan to add intersections to the new Toby Keith Expressway at three locations within the city limits. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma Voice: Interchanges removed from controversial Oklahoma turnpike design amid local opposition

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is moving forward without two interchanges on a planned turnpike after the proposal failed to secure approval from the Norman City Council. [Read more.](#)

Pension funds' investment in Oklahoma firms limited, commission told

Less than one-quarter of 1 percent of state pension investments are in Oklahoma-based companies, the Oklahoma State Pension Commission was told Tuesday. [Read more.](#)

Regional airport projects continue as ODAA reaches final phases of PREP projects

Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics (ODAA) Executive Director Grayson Ardies told the agency's governing board in early August that regional airport projects related to Progressing Rural Economic Prosperity (PREP) state funds and COVID-19 federal dollars will be entirely completed within the calendar year. [Read more.](#)

OHCA notifies members of new federal work requirements with yellow letters

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The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) began notifying qualifying SoonerCare members this week of new federal work requirements that could impact them beginning in 2027. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma Voice: New work requirements could affect 250,000 Oklahomans on SoonerCare, agency warns

Over 250,000 Oklahomans have been sent letters warning that new federal work requirements may put them at risk of losing their Medicaid health coverage. [Read more.](#)

Osage Nation Congress approves special counsel investigation into new principal chief

The Osage Nation Congress is hiring special counsel to investigate allegations against Principal Chief Joe Tillman, which will help determine if removal is in the cards. [Read more.](#)

Oklahomans can now add digital state ID, driver's license to Apple Wallet

For the first time, Oklahomans can add their state ID and Oklahoma driver's license to their Apple Wallet. The feature is currently limited to iPhones and Apple Watches. [Read more.](#)

National Democrats hope to flip 3 Oklahoma House seats in November

National Democrats are targeting three seats in the Oklahoma House that they believe the Democratic Party can flip during the November elections. [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)
- **Thursday, May 28:** Sine Die Adjournment of the First Session of the 61th Legislature

