

Charlie's Picks 2026 General Election

Note from Charlie:

I have been doing these picks for over 30 years, and thanks to all who encourage me to keep doing them. Please forward them to your friends, neighbors, and family. Also check out my podcast: the ABCs of Politics and Culture found on Facebook, [YouTube](#), X, and Rumble. The in-depth interviews with many of the candidates have allowed me to be more sure of my picks. I will endorse 1 Democrat and do a “your choice” on 2 other races.

GOVERNOR **MIKE MAZZEI** Mike has always had the best ideas, and he explains how he intends to accomplish them. He has a good chance to be a better Governor than Governor Stitt. Cyndi Munson is very personable but is very liberal on policy matters.

LT GOVERNOR **T. W. SHANNON** T.W. was the most conservative and best Speaker of the House we have ever had. I have always appreciated how he never uses race as an issue; for those who don't know, he is half black and half Chickasaw.

ATTORNEY GENERAL **JON ECHOLS** I am very excited about Jon becoming our next AG. I have known Jon since before he became a legislator. A graduate of Christian Heritage Academy and finished first in his law class. I believe him to be better suited for AG than a legislator.

STATE TREASURER **CINDY BYRD** Cindy did a good job as State Auditor, and though I believed Todd Russ was more prepared, Cindy will do a far better job than a Democrat.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION **DEMOCRAT JENNETTIE MARSHALL** There are actually 2 Democrats in this race; Franklin registered as a Republican 2 years ago so he could win. A trusted conservative leader talked with Jennettie and found out she is against DEI and Critical Race Theory and is absolutely opposed to indoctrinating our children with the homosexual agenda. She is actually more conservative than Franklin, the golden boy for the teachers' union bosses!

COMMISSIONER OF LABOR **KEVIN WEST** Representative West was a strong conservative who sponsored many pieces of good legislation in the 10 years he was in the legislature. He thoroughly understands the responsibilities of the job and will be a great commissioner.

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER **BOB SULLIVAN** I favored Marty Quinn, but Marty didn't win, and between the 2 on the ballot, I believe Bob will be better.

CORPORATION COMMISSIONER **BRAD BOLES** I believe Representative Boles is one of the most prepared candidates to ever run for this position. As a legislator, he authored the “behind the meter” bill and legislation to prevent citizens from having to pay for increased infrastructure for high-use businesses such as data centers or cryptocurrency. He has also

conducted interim studies on nuclear energy. This position regulates about 70 percent of the economy.

UNITED STATES SENATOR **KEVIN HERN** U.S. Representative Hern is the 2nd most conservative member of Congress from Oklahoma. He will be quite a bit more conservative than Markwayne Mullin or Senator James Lankford was.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DIST 1 **MARK TEDFORD** I was so disappointed when Jackson Lahmeyer dropped out of the race because I thought he might be conservative enough to join the Freedom Caucus. However, Tedford is one of the most liberal members of the state legislature, having a paltry 53 lifetime conservative index score. But no matter if his score was a 10, we need every Republican possible in the U.S. House.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DIST 2 **JOSH BRECHEEN** Josh is the most conservative member of our Congressional delegation. He is the only member of the Freedom Caucus from Oklahoma and follows Jim Bridenstine as the 2nd person from Oklahoma.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DIST 3 **FRANK LUCAS** Frank is our longest-serving member, and while he is very personable, he is not very conservative.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DIST 4 **TOM COLE** Tom is our second longest-serving member, and he has a voting record similar to our other lifer, Frank Lucas. Until the next Congress is sworn in, he holds the very powerful position of being the Republican House budget director. If the Democrats gain control of the House, there's one question on my mind: Will this be the last term for Cole and Lucas?

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DIST 5 **STEPHANIE BICE** Stephanie is running for her 3rd term.

STATE SENATE CANDIDATES Check the bottom of your voter I.D. to see if this applies to you.

While I am endorsing almost every Republican over a Democrat, if the Republican has a lifetime average score below a 60 on the Oklahoma Constitution Newspaper's Conservative Index, I will list their score and suggest they may need to have a Republican run against them in 4 years.

SD 2 **ALLY SEIFRIED** Rogers and Tulsa counties; her Index Score is 57.

SD 4 **TOM WOODS** Adair, Cherokee, Delaware & Sequoyah counties; his Index Score is 57.

SD 6 **David Bullard** Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Johnston & Pushmataha counties, a conservative.

SD 8 **BRYAN LOGAN** Creek, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee & Okmulgee counties.

SD 10 **BILL COLEMAN** Kay, Osage & Tulsa counties; this will be his last term in office.

SD 12 **TODD GOLLIHARE** Creek & Tulsa counties; his Index Score is 53.

SD 17 **JUSTIN WOOD** Cleveland, Oklahoma & Pottawatomie counties; this is an open seat.

SD 18 **TYLER HERRING** Canadian & Oklahoma counties; he defeated Senator Anderson.

SD 22 **KRISTEN THOMPSON** Canadian & Oklahoma counties; her Index Score is 54

SD 24 **JON PAINTER** Cleveland county; this open seat was Senator Weaver's.

SD 28 **YOUR CHOICE** Lincoln, Logan, Oklahoma, Pottawatomie & Seminole counties.

Those who follow the performance of elected officials closely know Grant Green is one of the most liberal Senators, and some believe him to be very corrupt. If the Democrat were to win, we would have 39 Republicans in the Senate to 9 Democrats, so it won't really matter in the balance of power for the Senate. In the primaries 4 years ago and again this year, we had a conservative each time, and this year our candidate probably spent nearly \$150,000 of his own money and worked his tail off only to lose by 67 votes. He just couldn't overcome the massive amount of dark money spent to keep Green in office. Should Green lose, 4 years from now it will be easy to defeat the Democrat in this very strong Republican seat. This is the district in which I live. Green's defeat will impact whether or not we have a good or bad President Pro Tem in 2 years.

SD 32 **CURTIS ERWIN** Comanche County, Mr. Erwin defeated Senator Dusty Deever.

SD 34 **AARON FROST** Tulsa County, Mr. Frost defeated Senator Dana Prieto.

SD 42 **BRENDA STANLEY** Oklahoma County; this will be Senator Stanley's last term in office.

STATE HOUSE CANDIDATES Again, any incumbent that has a lifetime Conservative Index Score below a 60 should have someone run against him in 2 years.

HD 3 **RICK WEST** Leflore County, Representative West is one of the best we have.

HD 4 **BOB ED CUVER** Cherokee & Wagoner counties; his Index Score is 58.

HD 9 **SCOTTY STOKES** Rogers & Tulsa counties; this is an open seat.

HD 10 **JUDD STROM** Nowata, Osage & Washington counties; his Index Score is 57.

HD 12 **MARK CHAPMAN** Wagoner County; this will be his 2nd term.

HD 14 **CHRIS SNEED** Cherokee, Muskogee & Wagoner counties; this will be his 5th term.

HD 16 **DAVID NELSON** Muskogee, Okmulgee & Tulsa counties; this is an open seat.

HD 20 **JONATHAN WILK** Cleveland & McClain counties; this is his 2nd term.

HD 23 **DERRICK HILDEBRANT** Rogers, Tulsa & Wagoner; his 2nd term; very conservative.

HD 24 **CHRIS BANNING** Creek, Okmulgee & Tulsa; in 2022 he defeated a RINO and is better.

HD 26 **LEAH LONGEST** Pottawatomie County; this is an open seat.

HD 27 **DANNY STERLING** Cleveland & Pottawatomie counties; this will be his 5th term.

HD 28 **DANNY WILLIAMS** Pottawatomie & Seminole counties; he is a conservative under fire.

HD 30 **MARK LAWSON** Creek & Tulsa counties; his Index Score is 58.

HD 32 **JIM SHAW** Lincoln, Logan & Payne counties; he is very conservative.

HD 33 **MOLLY JENKINS** Logan & Payne counties; she is very conservative.

HD 35 **AARON MEANS** Payne County; he barely lost to the Democrat incumbent 4 years ago.

HD 36 **JOHN GEORGE** Cleveland & Oklahoma counties; his Index Score is 57.

HD 38 **MADISON BOLAY** Garfield, Grant, Kay, Logan & Noble counties; this is an open seat.

HD 41 **DENISE CROSSWHITE HADER** Canadian, Logan, Kingfisher & Oklahoma; she is very conservative.

HD 45 **CAROLYN WOMACK-BIELICH** Cleveland County; this seat is now held by a Democrat.

HD 47 **TOBY THOMPSON** Canadian County; this is an open seat.

HD 49 **JOSH CANTRELL** Carter, Love & Marshall counties; his Index Score is 58.

HD 53 **JASON BLAIR** Cleveland County; he is a conservative; this is his 2nd term.

HD 54 **HEATH KUFAHI** Cleveland & Oklahoma counties; Heath was a long-time basketball and volleyball coach at Christian Heritage Academy. I believe he will be very conservative.

HD 56 **DICK LOWE** Caddo, Canadian & Grady counties; his Index Score is 58.

HD 59 **CARL NEWTON** Alfalfa, Garfield, Major, Woods & Woodward counties. His last term.

HD 60 **MIKE KELLEY** Canadian County; he was first elected to office in 2024.

HD 62 **DANIEL PAE** Comanche County; his Index Score is 51, very liberal, and he has 4 years left.

HD 63 **TREY CALDWELL** Comanche, Cotton, Kiowa & Tillman, powerful budget director.

HD 64 **LOUIS JACKSON** Comanche County; this is an open seat.

HD 66 **CLAY STAIRES** Osage and Tulsa counties. 4 years ago I moderated a forum, and he was the best man who made the runoff.

HD 68 **MIKE LAY** Creek and Tulsa counties; Mike is a conservative legislator.

HD 69 **SHELIA DILLS** Tulsa County; this is an open seat replacing a RINO.

HD 72 **ADAM MARTIN** Tulsa County; he is running in a Democrat district.

HD 74 **KEVIN NORWOOD** Rogers and Tulsa counties; this is an open seat.

HD 75 **T.J. MARTI** Tulsa County; his Index Score is 58.

SD 76 **ROSS FORD** Tulsa County; Ford, elected in a special election, took office 11-28-17.

SD 79 **PAUL HASSINK** Tulsa County; he is running against the Democrat incumbent.

HD 80 **STAN MAY** Tulsa County; he was first elected in 2018 & is the Republican caucus chair.

HD 81 **TROY TALLEY** Oklahoma County; this is an open seat the Democrats have targeted.

HD 82 **NICOLE MILLER** Oklahoma County; she was first elected to office in 2018.

HD 83 **ERIC ROBERTS** Oklahoma County; elected to office in 2018, supported by OCPAC.

HD 84 **TAMMY WEST** Oklahoma County; her Index Score 57, Sally Kern's liberal replacement.

HD 85 **JOE FALLIN** Oklahoma County; Rep. Munson's open seat, Gov. Fallin's first husband.

HD 86 **DAVID HARDIN** Adair, Cherokee, Delaware & Mays counties; he is a conservative.

HD 87 **CODY BATTLE** Oklahoma County; he is running against the Democrat incumbent.

HD 90 **EMILY GISE** Cleveland and Oklahoma counties; her Index Score is 58.

HD 91 **YOUR CHOICE** Cleveland County; the Republican is terrible and will replace Rep. Kannady, one of the worst Republicans to ever hold office in Oklahoma, in my opinion.

HD 95 **MAX WOFFLEY** Cleveland and Oklahoma counties, was supported by OCPAC.

HD 96 **YOUR CHOICE** Oklahoma county, Republican Representative Stinson is the most liberal Republican in the House.

HD 98 **GABE WOOLEY** Tulsa and Wagoner counties; he is very conservative.

HD 99 **MELVIN LATHAM** Oklahoma County; he is running in a seat held by a Democrat.

HD 100 **MARILYN STARK** Oklahoma County; she was first elected in 2018.

DISTRICT JUDGES: not everyone will have a district judge on your ballot. If you do, it will be next on the ballot. I don't have time to research district judges; however, we have such a race in Logan County where I live, and it is very important that **JUDGE DIANE VAUGHAN** be re-elected, as she is far better than her very liberal opponent. A District Attorney once told me a DA can't do a good job if the DA doesn't have good judges!

JUSTICES OF THE OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT

SUPREME COURT DISTRICT 1 M. JOHN CANE IV - YES

SUPREME COURT DISTRICT 4 TRAVIS V JETT - YES

SUPREME COURT DISTRICT 6 DANA KUEHN - YES

SUPREME COURT DISTRICT 9 RICHARD B. DARBY - NO

JUDGES OF THE OKLAHOMA COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS DISTRICT 1 OFFICE 1 ROBERT L. HUDSON - YES

He is probably the best judge on this court.

JUDGES OF THE OKLAHOMA COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS

COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS DISTRICT 1 OFFICE 1 STACIE L. HIXON - YES

A Governor Stitt appointment in 2020.

COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS DISTRICT 1 OFFICE 2 JANE P. WISEMAN - NO

She was a Brad Henry appointment back in 2005, probably the worst of the 4 on the ballot.

COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS DISTRICT 2 OFFICE 1 DEBORAH B. BARNES - NO

Another Brad Henry appointment in 2008.

COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS DISTRICT 2 OFFICE 2 JAMES R. HUBER - YES

A Governor Stitt appointment in 2023.

STATE QUESTION NO. 845 NO

This is a convoluted attempt to change the method the Judicial Nominating Commission uses to select the people who will be put on our 3 appellate courts. One thought is: did Legislative leaders do this “smoke and mirrors” State Question so it will be defeated? And then the legislature can say we tried to fix the problem, and the people voted it down; therefore, no need to try again?

STATE QUESTION NO. 847 NO

I have decided you cannot trust legislative leadership to do something really good for the people of Oklahoma. At first glance, I was in favor of this, but on closer examination, I believe it is much like a peanut under 1 of 3 shells, and you must determine where the peanut is as the shells are moved around. There are already clear limits on the property taxes for commercial and homestead exemption properties. Currently, there is a freeze on increased property taxes for most seniors. Could this be an attempt to say, if it passes, we have fixed the problem (when they really haven’t), so that people will not support soon-to-be-Governor Mazzei’s plan to eliminate property taxes for veterans and seniors?