



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF OKLAHOMA

Voters' Guide

2008 General Election November 4, 2008

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 assist citizens in their decision making process as they prepare for participation in the 2008 presidential election. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, has been working for the past 88 years to encourage citizen participation in government. Believing that informed voters are essential to our democracy, the League provides information on candidates and issues to the public.

This Voters' Guide lists candidates for the Presidency of the United States as well as statewide races for U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative and Corporation Commission races and the judicial retention ballots for Oklahoma. The questions and responses are presented below. The League does not edit or alter in any way the candidates' information or responses except if the word limit is exceeded. Information and Presidential statements are provided by the League of Women Voters US Education Fund.

ELIGIBILITY FOR VOTING IN OKLAHOMA:

A person who is eligible to register to vote must be:

- at least 18 years old
- a United States citizen
- a resident of Oklahoma

However, a person who has been:

- convicted of a felony may not register until a period of time equal to the original judgment and sentence has expired.
- adjudged to be an incapacitated person may not register.
- adjudged to be a partially incapacitated person prohibited from voting may not register.

ABSENTEE VOTING IN OKLAHOMA

Absentee voting is an easy and convenient way to exercise your right to vote. Any registered voter in Oklahoma may vote by absentee ballot. It is not necessary to give a reason for voting absentee.

HOW TO APPLY. Applications for absentee ballots must be made in writing. Absentee ballot application forms are available from all county election boards and from the State Election Board. Or, download a form [here](#). You are not required to use the form, however. You may write a letter to your county election board to apply for absentee ballots. The letter must contain the following information: your name, your birth date, the address at which you are registered to vote, the election or elections for which you are requesting ballots, the address to which the ballots should be mailed, and your signature.

You may apply for absentee ballots for one election, for several elections or for all elections in which you are eligible to vote during the calendar year in which the application is submitted.

You may mail your absentee ballot application to the county election board, you may fax it or you may deliver your own application personally to the county election board office. (You may not deliver an application for another person, however. It's the law.) You also may send a telegram to apply.

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot to be mailed to you is always 5 p.m. on Wednesday preceding the election (October 29, 2008).

RETURNING YOUR BALLOT. If your absentee ballot is mailed to you, you must return it to the county election board by mail. **The absentee ballot must be notarized and received by the county election board before 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.**

IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING. Voters may cast an absentee ballot in person at the county election board office from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Monday before all elections. For state and federal elections only, in-person absentee voting also is available from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. In-person absentee voters must fill out and sign an application form when they arrive to vote.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS. Although any voter can vote an absentee ballot without giving a reason, the law still contains some "excuses" for voting absentee. Some voters benefit by using one of those excuses when they apply for absentee ballots. These excuses activate special conditions that make absentee voting even easier. Physically incapacitated voters and voters who care for physically incapacitated persons who cannot be left alone may vote by absentee ballot. These voters may submit their applications only by mail, fax, or telegraph. They are not required to have their signatures on the absentee affidavits notarized. They are required to have their signatures witnessed by two people. Voters in nursing homes in the same county where they are registered voters may vote absentee. They may submit their applications only by mail, fax, or telegraph. An Absentee Voting Board will go to the nursing home a few days before the election to allow these voters to cast their ballots.

Oklahomans who are in the military or who are living overseas and their spouses and dependents may vote by absentee ballot even if they are not registered to vote. (They must be eligible to be registered, however.) Military and overseas voters may submit their applications only by mail or by fax. Military voters should contact the Voting Assistance Officers in their units for application forms and information. Overseas voters may obtain the same materials at United States military installations, embassies and consulates, or online from the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTERS. Voters who become incapacitated after 5 p.m. on the Tuesday preceding an election may receive an absentee ballot through special emergency procedures. These voters must make a written request to the county election board. The request must be accompanied by a statement from a doctor that the voter is incapacitated and will be unable to vote in person on Election Day. The voter's request and the doctor's statement must be taken to the county election board office by a person the voter chooses. The person becomes the voter's "agent." The county election board can provide a form to be used for both the voter's request and the doctor's statement. The agent will receive the voter's ballot and will deliver it to the voter. After the voter marks the ballot, the agent must return it to the county election board office before 7 p.m. election day.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. For additional information about voting in Oklahoma, contact your local county election board or the State Election Board. (<http://www.ok.gov/~elections/>)

Oklahoma State Election Board
Room B-6, State Capitol Building
PO Box 53156
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152
405-521-2391
405-521-6457 fax

WHERE DO I VOTE? And other questions. Web links for additional information for voting in Oklahoma, including where to vote, Voters' Guides for local elections, maps of state and U.S. senate and representative districts, are listed on page 15 of this Voters' Guide

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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 in November of years divisible by the number four. Candidates may also directly petition each state individually to gain access to the ballot. The way the voters cast their ballots for President and Vice President determines how the members of the Electoral College will vote.

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.

GROUND RULES FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

1. All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to five issue specific questions. Candidates were qualified if they met the following criteria: a) the candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President; and b) the candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes; and, c) 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 Web site as of August 8, 2008.
2. Responses were limited to 50 words and truncated after the 50th word.

Question 1. GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: *What, if anything, do you believe the federal government should do to control global climate change? (50 Words)*

Question 2. COST OF HEALTH CARE: *What should be done at the federal level, if anything, to combat the high cost of health care? (50 Words)*

Question 3. ECONOMIC DISPARITY: *What, if anything, should the federal government do about the growing economic disparity between the middle class and the well-to-do? (50 Words)*

Question 4. EDUCATION: *What, if anything, should the federal government do to create the world's best educational system for all children in America? (50 Words)*

Question 5. U.S. STRATEGY - RISING GLOBAL POWERS: *What should the U.S. strategy be towards rising global powers like Russia and China? (50 Words)*

JOHN MCCAIN (Republican) WEB SITE: www.johnmccain.com



BIOGRAPHY: John McCain graduated from the Naval Academy and served for 22 years as a naval aviator. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1982 and the Senate in 1986. He has served as chairman of the Commerce Committee and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee.

Answer 1: I support developing a cap-and-trade system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2050, providing tax credits for alternative energy, promoting zero-carbon nuclear power, reducing the federal government's carbon footprint, funding research into clean-coal technology, and offering incentives for America's automobile industry to develop electric cars.

Answer 2: Under my plan, American families will receive \$5,000 tax credits to purchase insurance, either through employers or the private market—insurance that can follow them if they change jobs or leave the workforce. I will work for reforms to lower costs and provide coverage to Americans with pre-existing conditions.

Answer 3: We must spur growth, create jobs, improve educational attainment, and enhance financial security. My plan will keep income and payroll taxes low, reduce the price of gas, double the dependent exemption, bring down

health-care costs, give deserving homeowners new fixed mortgages, slash our high business taxes, and expand trade.

Answer 4: Our education system must focus on standards, accountability, and choice. My plan calls for recruiting highly qualified teachers in the neediest communities, empowering parents to choose the best schools for their children, expanding online educational opportunities, providing low-income families with access to tutors, and funding professional development for teachers.

Answer 5: As President, I will work to establish good relations with other nations. At the same time, I will stand up for democratic values and human rights, and I will oppose aggression and international lawlessness that threaten our security.

BARACK OBAMA (Democrat) WEB SITE: www.barackobama.com



BIOGRAPHY: Obama began his career as a community organizer on Chicago's South Side and headed a voter registration drive. Obama practiced civil rights law and taught constitutional law. He served eight years in the State Senate before his election to the U.S. Senate. He graduated from Columbia University and Harvard Law.

Answer 1: I believe the federal government should pursue multiple paths to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the threat of global climate change, including implementing aggressive cap and trade requirements to reduce U.S. emissions by 80% from 1990 levels and investing heavily in clean energy and advanced vehicle technologies.

Answer 2: My healthcare plan will make aggressive investments in cost-cutting technologies and will place more focus on prevention and chronic care management. The net result will be to bring down the costs of healthcare spending by \$2,500 for a typical family, annually, and lower the expense of Medicare's services.

Answer 3: I will cut taxes for the middle class and roll back some of the Bush tax cuts for those making over \$250,000 to restore fairness to the tax code. I will make long term public investments in R&D, clean energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing to create millions of good-paying jobs.

Answer 4: I will strengthen public schools by expanding early childhood education, reforming and funding No Child Left Behind, recruiting and rewarding high-quality teachers, and expanding after school and summer learning opportunities. I will create a \$4,000 American Opportunity Tax Credit and expand financial aid to make higher education affordable for all.

Answer 5: We must enhance our abilities both to collaborate and compete with China, while being vigilant about China's military modernization and respect for human rights. As we seek a future of clear-eyed engagement with Russia, we must ensure Russia acts as a force for progress, not regression to past conflicts.

Note: Ralph Nader will not be listed on the Oklahoma ballot for President, nor did he qualify as a write-in candidate in Oklahoma. He did meet the LWVUS criteria for inclusion in their Voters Guide.



RALPH NADER (Independent) WEB SITE: www.votenader.org

BIOGRAPHY: Attorney, author, and consumer advocate, named by Time Magazine one of the "100 Most Influential Americans in the 20th Century." Over 4 decades of public service. Helped establish the OSHA, EPA, Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Safe Drinking Water Act, Motor Vehicle Safety Act, and Freedom of Information Act.

Answer 1: The government should stop subsidizing fossil fuels: oil, electric and coal mining interests. Invest in renewable energy that is efficient, sustainable, and environmentally friendly: wind and solar power. Encourage more efficient automobiles, homes and businesses. Ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Create an independent Oceanic Protection Agency. Adopt a carbon pollution tax.

Answer 2: Adopt a private delivery, free choice of hospital and doctor, single payer public health insurance system. This would save \$350 billion annually by eliminating exorbitant executive pay, advertising, computerized billing fraud and abuse, and apply those savings to comprehensively cover everyone without increasing taxpayer costs. Lower costs through bulk purchasing.

Answer 3: Unfair legislation allows the middle class to suffer while the rich entrench their status. To correct this we should enact a living \$10 wage, adopt a fair tax, and provide equal pay for women. We must end corporate subsidies and bailouts. Repeal NAFTA and the anti-union Taft/Hartley Law.

Answer 4: Increase civic education and decrease standardized testing. Repeal “No Child Left Behind” Act. Do not tie test performance to school funding. Provide full funding for pre-school and nutrition programs. Get product marketing out of the schools. Ensure that the nation’s crumbling schools are repaired within 3 years.

Answer 5: The US should be a humanitarian superpower. Our foreign policy must redefine global security, peace, arms control, an end to nuclear weapons and expand the many assets of our country to assist with major initiatives against global infectious diseases. Stop support of foreign dictators. Human rights come before trade, profit.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE. The Electoral College was established by the founding fathers as a compromise between election of the president by Congress and election by popular vote. Voters actually cast their ballot for electors who then vote for the President and Vice President. Every four years, the 538 members of the Electoral College, a little known feature of our Constitution, meet in their respective states to perform their sole constitutional function: to elect the President and Vice-President of the United States. Under the Electoral College system, almost all of the states award their electoral votes on a winner take all basis, so that the candidate who receives the most popular votes in a state receives all of that state’s electoral votes. Two ballots are taken, with each elector casting one vote for the President and one for the Vice-President. Electors almost always vote for the candidates to whom they have been pledged. However, the Constitution does not bind them to do so.

UNITED STATES SENATOR. Six-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a resident of the United States for at least nine years, and a resident of Oklahoma. One of 100 members of the U.S. Senate which has specific powers to advise and consent to presidential appointments and treaties and to try impeachments. Powers the Senate shares with the U.S. House of Representatives include the power to levy taxes, borrow money, regulate interstate commerce, and declare war. Authorized annual salary: \$165,200

Question 1. *List the educational, professional and/or community experiences that prepare you to be a good senator. Please include your campaign website to give voters access to additional information. (75 Words)*

Question 2. *What should be done, if anything, at the federal level to reduce our use and dependence on fossil fuels? (75 Words)*

Question 3. *What should be our short term and long-term goals in Iraq and the rest of the Middle East? (75 Words)*

Question 4. *What should the federal government do, if anything, to ensure that every American has health coverage? (75 Words)*

Question 5. *What should the federal government do about immigration? (75 Words)*

Question 6. *Do you favor any changes in federal laws protecting water quality, air quality, the landscape, endangered species or laws to reduce global warming? (75 Words)*

JIM INHOFE (Republican)

WEB SITE: www.jiminhofe.com

Answer 1: What prepares a good senator is the time spent getting to know the state and the people you represent. Before I was elected to Congress, I was in public office on the local level and a small businessman for over 30 years. I was raised and educated in Oklahoma and served in the U.S. Army. Addressing the needs of your constituents and staying true to your values is the most important aspect of public service.

Answer 2: We need to create an American energy supply that is stable, diverse, and affordable. Oklahoma’s oil and gas industry is a major contributor to our state’s economy and America’s energy security. I have led efforts in Congress to increase our domestic supply at home, along with encouraging the use of alternative sources including

renewables such as wind, biofuels, and bioenergy crops and geothermal heat pumps, so that Oklahoma remains a leader in America's energy future.

Answer 3: Achieving stability in the Middle East is vital to U.S. national security and stability in the world. We must be committed to supporting a democratically elected government in Iraq. We must also continue to fight extremism wherever it exists. Supporting Israel and resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is essential to realizing peace in the region. I will continue to lead the effort in Congress to ensure we have the resources necessary to achieve this vision.

Answer 4: I am proud to serve on the Senate Rural Health Caucus working to provide rural America affordable health care. I support consumer driven health care policy that provides all Americans with more choices in determining the best care for themselves and their families. In order to make health care more affordable and accessible, we need to increase competition, pass medical malpractice reform, remove laws restricting competition between health insurance providers, and eliminate bureaucratic red tape.

Answer 5: I understand the American people want government to secure our borders and not grant amnesty to illegal aliens. I have been the leading voice in Congress authoring the ENFORCE Act (S. 1269) and backing legislation to enforce our laws, make English the official language, and improve our naturalization processes. I support a border fence, empowering the U.S. Border Patrol and law enforcement to apprehend illegal immigrants, and providing surveillance measures to decrease illegal border crossings.

Answer 6: As the Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I've worked hard to build upon the environmental accomplishments of the past thirty years. We must strike an appropriate balance between protecting and developing our natural resources in a manner which contributes to our energy independence and security. I recognize the value of conserving our resources and authored the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act to build on public-private partnerships to encourage conservation.

ANDREW RICE (Democrat) WEB SITE: www.andrewforoklahoma.com

Answer 1: Born and raised in Oklahoma City, I attended Casady High School and graduated from Colby College (ME) with a Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies. I received a Masters degree in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School. I spent more than a year as a Christian missionary in impoverished villages in Sri Lanka and Thailand. In Oklahoma, I've launched initiatives to protect voting rights and combat hunger. I was elected State Senator, District 46, in 2006.

Answer 2: We can no longer depend on one source of energy to fuel our economy. Legislation like the bipartisan Warner-Lieberman bill rewards innovators who find the cleanest, most efficient ways to generate energy for the sustainable future. I believe that Oklahoma, with our boundless natural resources like wind, switch grass and natural gas, can lead this shift to the new energy economy rather than watch as China, Japan or Europe takes the lead.

Answer 3: There is no easy way out of the Civil War in Iraq but Congress should work with the next President to implement an orderly redeployment of American troops and adequately finance their health and well-being as they return home. It is time for the Iraqis to assume more responsibility for their own security and political future. This will allow the U.S. to refocus more fully on identifying and destroying terrorist cells around the world.

Answer 4: American taxpayers are already subsidizing public hospital emergency room care for the uninsured. Access to routine, preventive care is less costly. Sen. Rice believes that quality health care for every American is one of the great moral issues that our country faces. As U.S. Senator, he will work with the business community, insurance companies, health care providers and patient advocates to ensure that basic health care is affordable to all American workers and their families.

Answer 5: Illegal immigration has undermined the faith of the American people in their government to enforce the rule of law. In the Oklahoma Senate, I supported one of the toughest immigration laws in the country. We were forced to address this federal issue due to Washington's failure to act. When I am U.S. Senator, I will work for a

comprehensive immigration policy that secures America's borders while forcing illegal immigrant workers to enter the system.

Answer 6: Oklahoma farmers, anglers and hunters have expressed to me their concerns about the impact of climate change on crops and wildlife habitat. I support a plan that puts a price on carbon emissions and rewards clean energy technologies that put America on a path to energy independence while reducing greenhouse gases. I will also oppose any effort to weaken the clean water and clean air laws that guarantee minimum environmental standards from state to state.

Stephen P. Wallace (Independent)

No Response.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE Two year term. Must be must be at least twenty-five years old, a U.S. citizen for at least the past seven years, and, at the time of the election, an inhabitant of the state represented. It is not required for the representative to live in the district. There are 435 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Powers the U.S. House of Representatives share with the Senate include the power to levy taxes, borrow money, regulate interstate commerce, and declare war. Authorized annual salary: \$169,300.

Question 1. *List the educational, professional and/or community experiences that prepare you to be a good Congressman. Please include your campaign website to give voters access to additional information. (75-word limit)*

Question 2. *What should be done, if anything, at the federal level to reduce our use and dependence on fossil fuels? (75-word limit)*

Question 3. *What should be our short term and long-term goals in Iraq and the rest of the Middle East? (75-word limit)*

Question 4. *What should the federal government do, if anything to ensure that every American has health coverage? (75-word limit)*

Question 5. *What should the federal government do about immigration? (75 word limit)*

Question 6. *Do you favor any changes in federal laws protecting water quality, air quality, the natural landscape, endangered species or laws to reduce global warming? (75-word limit)*

U.S Representative – District 1

Georgianna W. Oliver (Democrat)

Answer 1. I have literally lived the American dream. I grew up poor in West Tulsa, was able to work my way through college at OSU, go to work for a Congressman in Washington, DC and now lead a national company as its CEO. Now I want to make sure I give back by insuring the same opportunities which were there for me, continue to be there for the next generation. www.oliverforuscongress.com

Answer 2. The painful prices at the pump are finally forcing Congress to do what they wouldn't for years – seek solutions to our energy dependence issues. I have long advocated for reliable “green” friendly alternatives, but I also believe we must open new venues for exploration, while simultaneously increasing our refining and production capacity here at home – not overseas. I will lead this fight in the Democratic Majority to pass effective new laws that offer real solutions.

Answer 3. Safety and stability will be my guiding principles when it comes to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East. We don't need a “wild west” strategy – rather a balance of strength and diplomacy. America must stand with

our friends, while also understanding that peace and growth will lessen the threat of terrorism here at home. Peace in this region will only come with a steady and reliable foreign policy backed by a strong military.

Answer 4. While a European-style national health care system isn't the answer, Congress must ignore the lobbyists and powerful interests and finally pass legislation that fills the gap for those who have no other place to turn for coverage. Oklahoma also needs a member of Congress in the majority who can pass legislation that will reduce the burden of uncompensated care on our hospitals and I will make it a priority.

Answer 5. Immigration is an issue where, once again, Congress has had its head buried in the sand. Simply building a fence isn't enough. I know the first thing we have to do is provide more resources to federal, state and local law enforcement so that those on the front line of the fight can do their job to end this problem.

Answer 6. Oklahomans are raised with a love for the land and believe in protecting it so that our children will have a world where they can hunt, fish and experience the outdoors the way generations before them did. By changing our existing tax and business laws and regulations to free private enterprise to seek "green" solutions we can grow the economy and still protect the land we love.

John Sullivan (Republican)

No Response

U.S. Representative – District 2

Dan Boren (Democrat)

No Response

Raymond W. Wickson (Republican)

No Response

U.S. Representative – District 3

Frank D. Lucas (Republican)

No Response

Forrest Michael (Independent)

No Response

Frankie Robbins (Democrat)

No Response

U.S. Representative – District 4

Tom Cole (Republican)

No Response

Blake Cummings (Democrat)

Answer 1: www.blakecummingsforcongress.com. I have a BBA in Petroleum Land Management from OU and have worked in the oil and telecommunications industries most of my adult life. I have supported Habitat for Humanity and the Red Cross. My work in government relations over the years has allowed me to organize and participate in community events, negotiate contracts with city governments, and discuss local issues with elected officials.

Answer 2: Because of our fuel crisis, we must place all options on the table, but any opening up of restricted drilling areas should be associated with a concurrent reduction of foreign oil imports. We must also pursue, as a country, advances in renewable energy technology with the same level of dedication and commitment that we had when putting a man on the moon in the 1960s.

Answer 3: In the next few months, we should work toward giving Iraq back to the Iraqis to govern and provide security for themselves, and to bring our troops home. Long-term, we should reduce our dependence on their oil reserves and let the region find ways to peace. We can't force them to do it; they have to do it for themselves. Our continued presence in Iraq will hinder, not help, the process.

Answer 4: I think we should have a program that will provide health care for all children under the age of 18. Healthy children become healthy adults; healthy people do not burden the system. At all ages, life and death, or quality of life issues, should be addressed by the doctor and patient only, not a profit-oriented business manager for an HMO. Insurance Company dollars and HMO profit margins have influenced health decisions far too much.

Answer 5: First, secure our borders. Second, give hard-working illegals a chance to be legal and pursue citizenship by their paying taxes and social security like the rest of us. If they are not working, have committed crimes, or are otherwise a burden, and do not want to follow the rules going forward, deport them. With a more secure border, only those that want to follow the rules will be allowed in.

Answer 6: For the most part, current standards for air and water are fine; stricter enforcement of the laws would help greatly. We cannot ignore global warming. Too many changes for it not to be real. Reduction of pollutants over a number of years is fine, if they are structured to provide actual reductions, are set in stone, and won't be repealed by future administrations. Advancements in renewable energy will help cut down on carbon emissions.

David E. Joyce (Independent)

No Response

U.S. Representative – District 5

Mary Fallin (Republican)

No Response

Steven L. Perry (Democrat)

Answer 1. Website: steveperry08.com; the ability to offer a choice to the voters of the 5th district, after the disastrous tenure of Bush/Chaney.

Answer 2. The Federal Government should open up access to all areas of our Country for hydrocarbon development so as to buy time for our scientists and inventors to create an alternative energy future. The World is counting on us.

Answer 3. The Bush/Chaney administration has privatized the war in Iraq. It is a war without National sacrifice except for the troops and their families. We need to be out of Iraq within 18 months and seriously consider withdrawal of all American troops from the Middle East. America has never been a good colonial power and this area is not conducive to a transplanted Jeffersonian democracy.

Answer 4. The Federal Government must accept the challenge of providing health care to all Americans.

Answer 5. The Federal Government needs to face the facts that we won't mine our borders, electrify our border fences or have guards in towers with shoot to kill orders. It needs also to face the fact that we will never go door to door, like KGB agents, dragging people from their homes for deportation. Between these facts there is room to craft a workable policy in our National Interest.

Answer 6. These laws have been weakened by the neglect of the current administration. We should enforce the laws as written or shift the power to the States to handle.

No Response

CORPORATION COMMISSIONER

Question 1. *What educational, professional or community experiences prepare you to be a Corporation commissioner? Please list you campaign website to give voters access to additional information. (75-word limit)*

Question 2. *How would you as commissioner protect needs of consumers in a time of increasing energy costs? (75-word limit)*

Question 3. *How would you encourage new energy sources? (75-word limit)*

Corporation Commissioner (Full Term)

Jeff Cloud (Republican)

No Response

Charles Gray (Democrat)

No Response

Corporation Commissioner (Short Term)

Dana Murphy (Republican)

Answer 1: www.danamurphy.com. As an attorney, geologist, and Administrative Law Judge for almost six years at the Corporation Commission, I'm ready to serve Oklahomans. I've also served as an expert geological witness and represented clients before the Commission. In 2001 I was given the Commissioner Public Servant Award for work inside and outside of the Commission, and in 2007 I was named an Outstanding Woman in Energy by Energy Advocates. Presently, I own and operate an energy law practice.

Answer 2: Protecting the needs of consumers, in any cost environment, begins with ensuring transparency into the workings of the Commission, making sure any requested rates and fee adjustments are fair and legitimate, encouraging and promoting development of Oklahoma's resources in the best and most effective manner, providing consumers with information to become more efficient users of power and encouraging conservation and reduction in power demand through outreach of both the Commission and the regulated entities.

Answer 3: Increased development and greater innovation in using Oklahoma's existing resources of natural gas, oil, wind, coal and water, combined with promoting bio-fuel development and other alternative energy sources are important parts of any energy plan. We must also become more efficient users of energy. Based on my years of Commission experience, I would work to streamline and improve Commission procedures for permit filing, advance greater consumer awareness and information dissemination electronically and through public forums.

Jim Roth (Democrat)

Answer 1: My community service began at an early age of volunteerism and a spirit of giving. My elected career began in 2002 as Oklahoma County Commissioner and I served in that post until my appointment to the Corporation Commission in 2007. I graduated from Kansas State with a Bachelor of Arts and earned a law degree from Oklahoma City University. I hold Graduate certificates from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and The U.S. Air War College. www.ROTH2008.com

Answer 2: Unlike other elected officials, I don't think of tax dollars as the government's money – I think of it as your money. That's why as County Commissioner I cut bloated staff and slashed government waste. I have
www.Vote411.org

cracked down and have exposed price gouging at the pump. I work to protect consumers from being overcharged by big utilities, and I support giving incentives for innovative energy developments for consumer's sake. It's that kind of fiscal responsibility that we need on the Corporation Commission.

Answer 3: At the Corporation Commission I am working to grow Oklahoma's use of renewable energy. I see wind energy as a cheaper, cleaner energy that can be a multi-billion dollar industry for our state. That's why I am working with energy producers in Oklahoma to create wind farms that can power entire communities. I promise to continue working to make wind energy a key part of Oklahoma's 21st Century energy program

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

Statewide Judicial Retention Ballot. Oklahomans voted in 1967 to amend the Oklahoma Constitution to change the way in which Oklahoma Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals judges are chosen. Before 1967, appellate judges were elected in partisan statewide elections that required them to raise large sums of money to fund their campaigns and to devote a great deal of time away from their offices while campaigning. In 1987, a statute was added that provided retention ballots for judges of the Court of Civil Appeals. The current method provides for a retention ballot on which voters indicate "yes" or "no" on whether or not a justice or appellate judge should be retained in office based on their performance in office.

Appellate judicial terms are for six years. Appellate judges are first appointed by the governor from a list of three names of qualified individuals prepared by the Judicial Nominating Commission. At the end of their terms, appellate judges wishing to remain in office must declare their candidacy for retention. When a judge seeks retention, the judge's name is placed on the ballot for the next general election. If the judge does not file for retention or is not retained by voters, the governor appoints a new judge. Appellate judges cannot be listed on the ballot by their political party. The Oklahoma Constitution provides that if an appellate judge does not receive a majority of "yes" votes, the office becomes vacant and the governor appoints a replacement. (Information provided by the Oklahoma Bar Association at www.okbar.org/public/judges/retention.htm).

Question 1: *List college(s), and law school(s) attended including any academic distinctions received in law school and your legal employment since becoming a member of the state bar. (60-word limit)*

Question 2: *What do you believe would be your most important contribution to the court? (100-word limit)*

Question 3: *State any achievements or activities in which you have been involved which demonstrate your commitment to equal justice under the law. (100-word limit)*

JUSTICE OF THE OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT

District 1

John F. Reif

Answer 1: University of Tulsa, B.S. Criminal Justice

University of Tulsa, Law School, J.D. December 1977

Assistant District Attorney, Tulsa County April 1978-February 1981

Special District Judge, Tulsa County, February 1981-May 1984

Court of Civil Appeals Judge, Tulsa Division, May 1984-December 2007

Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice, State Capitol, October 2007-present

The League of Women Voters is non-partisan and **never** endorses candidates.

www.Vote411.org

Answer 2: Twenty-three years of judicial service as both a trial court and appellate court judge.

Answer 3: One way I believe that equal justice under the law can be achieved is maintaining competence by the member of the bench and bar. Over the past 23 years I have made 60 presentations for continuing legal education for Oklahoma Bar Association, local county bar associations, the Oklahoma Judicial Conference, and National Judicial College.

District 6

Tom Colbert

No Response

District 9

Joseph M Watt

Answer 1: Texas Tech University, B.A., 1969

University of Texas Law School, J.D., 1972

Outstanding Law Student in the Nation, Delta Theta Phi Fraternity

University of Texas Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa National Honorary Leadership Society

Answer 2: For the first time in the State's history, in 2004, I was re-elected to a second consecutive term as Chief justice. In my 16 years of service on the Court I have erased the backlog of cases I inherited in 1992 and have remained "current" on cases on my assignment, averaging 3-5 months from assignment to written opinion. One can NEVER catch up completely – the goal is to stay current. Lastly, during my two terms as Chief Justice, we accomplished several goals which positively affected the Judiciary for years to come.

Answer 3: For 16 years, I have been blessed to serve the citizens of Oklahoma on the Supreme Court. Each day – in every case - I do three things, (1) seek the truth, (2) apply the facts of each case to the existing case law and our Constitution, and (3) craft the appropriate opinion whether I might personally agree or disagree with result reached. I have authored several opinions, the result of which I personally opposed, but I am commanded by my oath of office, our Constitution, and "The rule of Law" to follow the three principles set out above.

JUDGE OF THE OKLAHOMA COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

District 2

Charles A Johnson

No Response

District 3

Gary L. Lumpkin

No Response

JUDGE OF THE OKLAHOMA COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS

District 1, Office 1

Jerry L. Goodman

Answer 1: Judge Goodman is a graduate of the University of Tulsa, and Georgetown University where he received his law degree in 1964. He is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association; the Tulsa County Bar Association, which he served as Vice President; and the Oklahoma Judicial Conference, which he served as President. He is a member and former director of the American Judicature Society. His experience includes a variety of legal, business and governmental assignments over the course of his career as a lawyer and judge.

Answer 2: Hopefully, my experience on this court allows me to produce quality work efficiently which means correctly deciding cases as soon as possible. I strive for a judicial temperament that promotes collaboration, collegiality, civility and consensus among my fellow judges while maintaining my independent judgment. An appeals court culture must embody and implement these values in order to produce good work and judicial economy.

Answer 3: If justice is not equal, there is no justice. I have found that a careful review of the trial court's findings of fact and an objective determination of the law applicable to those facts is the way to achieve justice. Accomplishing this while disregarding all of the subtle prejudices and biases common to humankind is the greatest contribution to justice a judge can make.

District 1, Office 2

Jane P. Wiseman

No Response

District 2, Office 2

Keith Rapp

No Response

District 3, Office 1

John F. Fischer

No Response

Oklahoma STATE QUESTIONS FOR GENERAL ELECTION November 4, 2008

STATE QUESTION NO. 735 LEGISLATIVE REFERENDUM NO. 343

This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It adds Section 8D to Article 10. The measure takes effect January 1, 2009. It creates an exemption from personal property tax. The exemption would be for the full amount of taxes due on all household personal property. The exemption would apply to certain injured veterans. It would also apply to those veterans' surviving spouses. To qualify for the exemption an injured veteran would have to meet certain requirements. First, a branch of the Armed Forces or the Oklahoma National Guard would have to have honorably discharged the veteran from active service. Second, the veteran would have to be an Oklahoma resident. Third, the veteran would have to be the head of the household. Fourth, the veteran would have to be one hundred percent permanently disabled. Fifth, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs would have to certify the disability. Sixth, the disability must have occurred through military action or accident, or resulted from a disease contracted while in active service. The Legislature could pass laws to carry out the exemption. Such laws could not change the amount of the exemption.

**SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED? FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES
AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO**

STATE QUESTION NO. 741 LEGISLATIVE REFERENDUM NO. 344

This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It would add a new Section 22A to Article 10. This section is related to exemptions from property taxes. It would require a person or business to file an application for an exemption. No exemption could be granted prior to filing an application. The Legislature may write laws to carry out the provisions of this section.

**SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED? FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES
AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO**

STATE QUESTION NO. 742 LEGISLATIVE REFERENDUM NO. 345

This measure adds a new section to the State Constitution. It adds Section 36 to Article 2. It gives all people of this state the right to hunt, trap, fish and take game and fish. Such activities would be subject to reasonable regulation. It allows the Wildlife Conservation Commission to approve methods and procedures for hunting, trapping, fishing and taking of game and fish. It allows for taking game and fish by traditional means. It makes hunting, fishing, and trapping the preferred means to manage certain game and fish. The new law will not affect existing laws relating to property rights.

**SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED? FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES
AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO**

STATE QUESTION NO. 743 LEGISLATIVE REFERENDUM NO. 346

This measure amends Section 3 of Article 28 of the Constitution. It requires a customer to be twenty-one and physically present to purchase wine at a winery, festival or trade show. The measure changes the law to allow certain winemakers to sell directly to retail package stores and restaurants in Oklahoma. The change applies to winemakers who produce up to ten thousand gallons of wine a year. It applies to winemakers in state and out of state. Those winemakers may not also use a licensed wholesale distributor. They must sell their wine to every retail package store and restaurant in Oklahoma that wants to buy the wine. The sales must be on the same price basis. The sales must be without discrimination. Those winemakers must use their own leased or owned vehicles to distribute their wine. They may not use common or private carriers. If any part of this measure is found to be unconstitutional, no winemaker could sell wine directly to retail package stores or restaurants in Oklahoma.

**SHALL THE PROPOSAL BE APPROVED? FOR THE PROPOSAL — YES
AGAINST THE PROPOSAL — NO**

Five Things You Need to Know on Election Day:

1. **Go To The Right Place** Poll locations can change. Be sure to locate your polling place before you go to vote. Check www.VOTE411.org or contact the elections office or board of elections for your county, city or state.
2. **Bring I.D.** You may need to show I.D. at the polling place. To be safe, bring your driver's license or another photo I.D. In some places, a current utility bill, paycheck or other document that includes your name and street address may also work.
3. **Get a Ballot** Don't panic if you registered to vote but your name is not on the list. Get help from a poll worker to make sure your vote is counted. You should be given a provisional ballot or given directions to another polling place.
4. **Get Help** Poll workers are there to help you. They'll show you how to use the voting machine or give you a provisional ballot if you need one. Ask, or read the signs at your polling place, which have instructions, list your voting rights and say how to file a complaint.
5. **Stay and Vote** You probably won't have to wait too long. But even if the line is long, don't leave without voting. The outcome of this election will be important!

Check Your Name Before Election Day, check the Web site or call the elections office or board of elections for your county, city or state to be sure you're on the list of registered voters.

Avoid the Crowds If you can, go to the polls during off hours: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. That's when it's likely to be less crowded. Take a Friend to Vote Why go alone when you can take a friend or loved one to vote? www.lwv.org



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IS WHERE HANDS-ON WORK TO SAFEGUARD DEMOCRACY LEADS TO CIVIC IMPROVEMENT. LEARN MORE AT WWW.LWVOK.ORG, WWW.LWV.ORG, AND WWW.VOTE411.ORG

League of Women Voters of Oklahoma

500 N. Broadway, Suite 125
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102
405-232-8683
www.lwvok.org

League of Women Voters US

www.lwv.org

Local Leagues in Oklahoma:

<http://www.lwvstillwater.org/voter.htm> (Voters' Guide for local elections)
<http://lwvtulsa.org/> (Voters' Guide for local elections)
http://norman.ok.lwvnet.org/election_news.html
<http://bartlesville.lwvok.org/default.htm>

Oklahoma State Election Board

<http://www.ok.gov/~elections/>

Vote411 provides information from the League of Women Voters on voter registration and laws (by state), how to learn about the candidates and the issues.

www.vote411.org

Project Vote Smart (a nonprofit group) provides information on United States candidates, ballot measures, issues and legislation, and voter registration.

www.votesmart.org

Where do I vote?

Oklahoma State Election Board: www.ok.gov/elections/ppl/index.php
Vote411.org www.vote411.org
Google.com www.maps.google.com/vote

Internet links to maps of Oklahoma's state and congressional districts:

<http://www.okhouse.gov/Research/HouseDistricts.aspx>

<http://www.oksenate.gov/Senators/maps.htm>

Information about judges and courts in Oklahoma:

www.okbar.org/public/judges/default.htm

2008 Platforms of the Democratic and Republican parties:

www.democrats.org/a/party/platform.html

<http://www.gop.com/2008Platform/>