



LONGACRE INC

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Legislative News Update

Week of Jan. 2, 2026

Happy New Year, and we hope you had a wonderful holiday!

Gov. Stitt recently announced that the state of Oklahoma has been awarded \$223.5 million in federal grant support through the Rural Health Transformation Program. Below are articles related to his announcement:

- **Governor's Press Release:** [Oklahoma Lands Historic Funding to Reimagine Rural Health Care](#)
- **Tulsa World:** [State gets \\$223.5 million federal boost for health care](#)
- **KOCO Channel 5:** [Oklahoma to receive \\$223 million from federal Rural Health Transformation Program](#)
- **News on 6:** [Oklahoma secures \\$223 million to expand rural healthcare access](#)
- **Journal Record:** [Trump administration ties rural health grants to policy compliance](#)

Pre-session Committee Meetings

Please [click here](#) to view notices and agendas for upcoming pre-session committee meetings scheduled to date.

[2026 Legislation Filed to Date](#)

[2025 Carryover Legislation](#)

[Official State Press Releases](#)

- **Dec. 29: Oklahoma Lands Historic Funding to Reimagine Rural Health Care**
- **Dec. 29: Senator Green Celebrates Reopening of Route 66 Bridge in Wellston**
- **Dec. 30: Harris Bill Strengthens Support for Adoptive Families**
- **Dec. 31: Woolley Files Resolution to Expand Voter Accountability Over Public Universities**
- **Dec. 31: Drummond Granted Intervention in State Farm Hail Focus Lawsuit**
- **Dec. 31: Sen. Nice, Death Penalty Coalition Urge Clemency for Kendrick Simpson**
- **Dec. 31: Election Calendar Modernization Law to Take Effect**
- **Dec. 31: Dempsey Announces He Will Not Seek Reelection**

New year, new laws: 12 bills took effect Thursday

Quorum Call: New year, new laws: 12 bills took effect Thursday

Twelve bills took effect Thursday, one from the 2024 session and 11 from the 2025 session, the start of the new calendar year. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma Voice: New Oklahoma laws take effect Jan. 1. Food stamp changes delayed.

A dozen new laws take effect Jan. 1, including one designed to provide more consistency in sentencing of felony crimes. [Read more.](#)

Early Oklahoma bills focus on protecting taxpayers, investing in schools and excluding immigrants

Bill filing for Oklahoma's 2026 legislative session began in earnest early this month, and more than 100 new laws have already been proposed. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma explores letting doctors deny care based on conscience

Oklahoma lawmakers are considering legislation that would allow physicians to deny patients services based on moral objections to the treatment. [Read more.](#)

Lawmakers to consider funding options for mental health help line

With funding for the Oklahoma mental health crisis hot line set to run out at the end of the budget year, lawmakers will have to determine how to fund 988 this session. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma lawmaker proposed bill would slow state's eviction timeline

Sen. Julia Kirt, D-Oklahoma City, will try again to extend Oklahoma's eviction timeline after Gov. Kevin Stitt vetoed a similar measure last legislative session. [Read more.](#)

Walters' free school meals policy not a GOP priority, lawmakers say

A mandate that public schools offer free meals to all students appears to have failed to capture widespread support in the GOP-controlled Oklahoma Legislature after being ignored by school districts. [Read more.](#)

New Oklahoma law to offer \$5 million for teacher pipeline programs

A new Oklahoma law will open \$5 million in state funds for programs supporting aspiring teachers. [Read more.](#)

Funding, staffing cuts hamper release of special Oklahoma audits

A number of high-profile audits have yet to be released by the State Auditor and Inspectors office. [Read more.](#)

Irritating employees, Corporation Commission terminates Brandy Wreath as administrative director

After more than three hours of discussion in executive session, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission unanimously voted Tuesday to terminate the employment of the regulatory agency's administrative director, Brandy Wreath, with a "confidential" severance agreement and no public explanation. [Read more.](#)

Poultry Federation calls for stay during Illinois River appeal

The Poultry Federation is urging a federal court to pause enforcement of a recent ruling in the Illinois River Watershed case while the decision is appealed, arguing that immediate implementation would cause serious harm to family farmers and rural communities. [Read more.](#)

Oklahoma AG Drummond allowed to join lawsuit against State Farm

Oklahoma's attorney general has officially joined the lawsuit against State Farm over allegations that the insurance company intentionally avoided paying out legitimate claims for roof damage. [Read more.](#)

Complaints of open records violations increased with launch of Oklahoma AG's compliance portal

The Oklahoma Attorney General's Office has received over 220 complaints of open records violations this year, with the numbers increasing since a public complaint form launched, officials said. [Read more.](#)

Special Elections for House District 35

The special primary election to fill House District 38, which covers parts of Pawnee, Payne, Creek, Noble and Osage counties, is set. The election dates are:

- **Jan. 13:** Special Runoff Primary Election
- **Feb. 10:** Special General Election

Republicans Dillon Travis and Mike Waters advanced to a runoff in the House District 35 primary election. Travis received 41% of the vote, while Waters received 21%.

Republican Candidates in Runoff Primary Election

- [Dillion Travis](#), R-Maramec, owns and operates Southern Plains AG-CO, an agricultural business that serves farmers across four states, and runs a large cattle and hay operation in Maramec.
- [Mike Waters](#), R-Pawnee, previously served as the Pawnee County sheriff and worked in law enforcement for 25 years.

Democrat Candidate

- **Luke Kruse**, D-Glencoe, is the lone Democrat to file for his party's nomination. He has served as a tenured professor at Northern Oklahoma College for nearly two decades, where he teaches political science and history. He also serves as a volunteer football coach. His website is listed as being under construction.

2026 Election Filings

With the 2026 primaries less than a year away, the following candidates have established Candidate Committees with the Oklahoma Ethics Commission indicating an intention to run for statewide office in Oklahoma next year.

Governor

Republican Candidates

- [Gentner Drummond](#), R-Hominy, entrepreneur, cattle rancher, U.S. Air Force veteran, Oklahoma State Attorney General
- [Leisa Mitchell Haynes](#), R-Tuttle, entrepreneur, former city manager in New Mexico
- [Chip Keating](#), R-Oklahoma City, a former Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper and son of former Oklahoma governor Frank Keating
- [Mike Mazzei](#), R-Tulsa, financial planner, former state Senator, former State Secretary of Budget
- [Charles McCall](#), R-Atoka, businessman, banker, former Oklahoma Speaker of the House, former Mayor of Atoka
- [Jake Merrick](#), R-Tulsa, radio host, podcaster, minister, former state Senator
- [Kenneth Leroy Sturgell](#), R-Goldsby, mechanical contractor

Democrat Candidate

- [Cyndi Munson](#), D-Oklahoma City, nonprofit worker, Oklahoma House Minority Leader
-

Lt. Governor

Republican Candidates

- [Cindy Byrd](#), R-Oklahoma City, Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector
- [Victor Flores](#), R-Edmond, business and financial consultant, former Chief of Staff and Finances for the Absentee Shawnee tribe
- [Brian Hill](#), R-Yukon, State Representative for House District 37
- [Justin Jerome 'JJ' Humphrey](#), R-Lane, cattle rancher, former drug prevention and parole officer, State Representative
- [Darrell Weaver](#), R-Moore, State Senator, former director of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs
- Chris White, R-Broken Bow (*no website/bio has been posted yet*)

Democrat Candidates

- [Kelly Forbes](#), D-Oklahoma City, educator, entrepreneur
 - [Candice Jay](#), D-Norman, self-described 'advocate,' according to her Facebook page
-

Superintendent of Public Instruction:

Republican Candidates

- [John Cox](#), R-Peggs, Superintendent and Principal of Peggs Public Schools, president of the Oklahoma Rural Elementary Schools, Treasurer of the Oklahoma Schools Insurance Group
- [Gerald 'Jerry' Griffin](#), R-Tulsa, former Tulsa Public Schools board member
- [Ana Davine Landsaw](#), R-Tahlequah, educator
- [Rob Miller](#), R-Bixby, Bixby Public Schools Superintendent, U.S. Marine Corps veteran
- [Adam Pugh](#), R-Edmond, Senate Education Committee chair

Democrat Candidate

- [Jennettie Marshall](#), licensed funeral director, pastor, Tulsa Public Schools board member – Democrat from Tulsa
- [Craig McVay](#), former public school superintendent

State Auditor and Inspector:

Republican Candidate

- [Melissa Leann Capps](#), R-McCloud, Deputy Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector, certified fraud examiner
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Attorney General:

Republican Candidates

- [Jon Echols](#), R-Oklahoma City, entrepreneur, attorney, former Oklahoma Majority Floor Leader
- [Jeff Starling](#), R-Tulsa, entrepreneur, attorney, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment

Democrat Candidate

- [Nick Coffey](#), D-Oklahoma City, currently a trial attorney at the Crowe Dunlevy law firm; formerly with Oklahoma City-based assistant U.S. attorney
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State Treasurer:

Republican Candidate

- [Todd Russ](#), R-Washita, banker, former State Representative, Oklahoma State Treasurer, running for reelection
-

Commissioner of Labor:

Republican Candidates

- [Lisa Janloo](#), R-Spencer, nonprofit worker, Vice President of Spencer Chamber of Commerce
 - [John Pfeiffer](#), R-Orlando, cattle rancher, U.S. Marine Corps veteran, State Representative
 - [Kevin West](#), R-Moore, State Representative, local businessman
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Insurance Commissioner:

Republican Candidates

- [Chris Merideth](#), R-Edmond, insurance professional, Farmer's Insurance lobbyist
 - [Marty Quinn](#), R-Claremore, entrepreneur, insurance professional, former State Representative
-

Corporation Commissioner:

Republican Candidates

- [Brad Boles](#), entrepreneur, former mayor of Marlow, State Representative – Republican from Marlow
 - [Justin Hornback](#), energy industry contractor – Republican from Broken Arrow
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2026 Election Deadlines

The filing deadline for the 2026 elections begins April 1 at 8:00AM and ends April 3 at 5:00PM at the State Capitol in OKC.

Election Date	Election Type	Voter Registration Deadline	Absentee Ballot Request Deadline	Early Voting Dates and Hours	Election Day Voting Hours
Tuesday, June 16	Primary Elections	Friday, May 22	Monday, June 1	June 11-12 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 13 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday, August 25	Runoff Primary Elections	Friday, July 31	Monday, August 10	Aug. 20-21 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. August 22 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday, November 3	General Elections	Friday, Oct. 9	Monday, October 19	Oct. 28-30 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 31 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Legislative Dates & Deadlines

January 2026

- **Tuesday, January 13:** Special Runoff Primary Election for House District 35, if necessary (*Rep. Burns' seat*)
- **Thursday, January 15:** House and Senate Deadline for Filing of Bills and Joint Resolutions for the Second Session of the 60th Legislature
- **Thursday, January 15:** Oklahoma Senate Republican PAC Committee Dinner, Mayo hotel, Tulsa
- **Saturday, January 24:** Oklahoma Speakers Ball, Oklahoma City Convention Center, OKC

February 2026

- **Monday, February 2:** First Day of the Second Session of the 60th Legislature
- **Tuesday, February 10:** Special General Election for House District 35 (*Rep. Burns' seat*)

March 2026

- **Thursday, March 5:** Senate Deadline for Bills and Joint Resolutions to be Reported from Committee of Origin
- **Thursday, March 26:** House and Senate Deadline for Third Reading and Final Passage of Bills and Joint Resolutions by the Chamber of Origin

April 2026

- **Thursday, April 23:** Senate Deadline for House Bills and Joint Resolutions to be Reported from Committee

May 2026

- **Thursday, May 7:** House and Senate Deadline for Third Reading and Final Passage of Bills and Joint Resolutions by the Opposite Chamber
- **Friday, May 29:** Sine Die Adjournment of the Second Session of the 60th Legislature

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