

Candidate Survey Responses for August 27, 2024, Runoff Election

Each election year beginning in 1980 we have surveyed candidates for public office regarding various life issues so that Oklahoma's pro-life citizens may have accurate information about candidates' positions on these important questions. Oklahomans For Life is our statewide right-to-life organization, affiliated with the National Right to Life Committee. In anticipation of the Primary Election on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, Oklahomans For Life asked the eight questions below of candidates for the Oklahoma state Senate and the Oklahoma state House of Representatives.

For state Senate and House races, the counties or partial counties (marked by an asterisk) in each district are indicated after the district number. **On each question, a "yes" answer indicates agreement with the position of Oklahomans For Life.** The abbreviation after a candidate's name indicates party affiliation (Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, or independent). The candidates' answers to each of the eight questions are indicated.

State Senate and state House candidates appearing on the August 27 Runoff ballot, and their responses, are shown below.

Oklahomans For Life 2024 Candidate Survey

On each question, a "yes" answer indicates agreement with the position of Oklahomans For Life.

1) For 50 years, the pro-life movement in Oklahoma worked to restore legal protection for the lives of unborn children. Due to actions of the U.S. Supreme Court and Oklahoma's pro-life legislators, that goal was achieved two years ago. There's a difference, though, between achieving protection and sustaining it. Oklahoma is one of the minority of states that allow non-legislators to get questions on a ballot for a statewide vote. As the experience of other states these past two years has shown, the unborn child is at a disadvantage in such an arena. The pro-abortion ballot measures have been victorious in every single case – seven pro-abortion victories, zero pro-abortion defeats – some in red states, most by big margins. Several factors explain this: the billion-dollar abortion industry's unlimited funds, the emotional impact of 30-second television spots on issues such as rape, biased media coverage, and a culture that has grown accustomed to unlimited abortion on demand. Oklahoma legislators, however, can reset the calculation voters will face when the statewide ballot measure comes by providing a more durable pro-life option. While a very small fraction of Oklahoma voters supports the current 1910 law under which abortion is legal to save the life of the mother but not in any other circumstance, there is overwhelming support for a law that would add three additional tightly-limited circumstances under which abortion would be allowed – and only in these circumstances. These are:

- To save the life of the mother;
- In a medical emergency posing serious risk of substantial, irreversible physical harm to the mother;
- In a case of rape reported to law enforcement;
- In a case of incest of a minor reported to law enforcement.

To the question of allowing abortion in these four circumstances – and only in these circumstances – 71% of Oklahoma voters are in support. To be clear, 71% of Oklahoma voters support only these four circumstances for legal abortion and no other reasons. Abortions for these four reasons comprise approximately 5% of all abortions. The Oklahoma legislature could amend our current abortion law in this way, thus adopting a position supported by 71% of voters and in so doing, protect 95% of Oklahoma's unborn children. This would make it much more likely that the statewide ballot measure that will be brought forward to legalize unlimited abortion on demand – thus depriving 100% of Oklahoma's unborn children of their right to life – can be defeated. **Will you support amending our current abortion law in this way?** Yes ___ No ___

2) The Oklahoma Supreme Court has long been notoriously opposed to protecting the lives of unborn children. Before *Roe v. Wade* was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2022, the Oklahoma Supreme Court repeatedly struck down or blocked enforcement of pro-life laws which were widely viewed by others as constitutional under *Roe v. Wade* – laws providing reasonable regulation of abortion in ways that did not *prevent* abortion. Since the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2022 *Dobbs* decision ruled that there is no “right” to abortion under the U.S. Constitution, the Oklahoma Supreme Court has continued to strike down or block enforcement of newly enacted Oklahoma pro-life laws. To many observers, the actions of the Oklahoma Supreme Court majority have been arbitrary and capricious and reveal a deep pro-abortion bias. **Will you support a mandatory retirement age, or a limit on years of service, or a combination of both, for Oklahoma Supreme Court justices?** Yes ___ No ___

3) There is currently an aggressive drive underway to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide across the United States. Causing the starvation or dehydration deaths of persons with disabilities and of incompetent patients who are deemed to be a burden on others or to have a diminished “quality of life” is the euthanasia movement’s interim goal while they seek eventual public acceptance of killing by lethal injection or by lethal overdose of controlled substances/dangerous drugs. Oklahoma’s Hydration and Nutrition for Incompetent Patients Act protects incompetent persons who have not directed that they be deprived of food and water so they will not be victims of death by starvation or dehydration. **Will you oppose any attempt to repeal or weaken this protective law?** Yes ___ No ___

4) Oklahoma’s Nondiscrimination in Treatment Act requires that a health care provider shall not deny to a patient a life-preserving health care service the provider provides to other patients, and the provision of which is directed by the patient or a person authorized to make health care decisions for the patient: 1) On the basis of a view that treats extending the life of an elderly, disabled, or terminally ill individual as of lower value than extending the life of an individual who is younger, nondisabled, or not terminally ill; or 2) On the basis of disagreement with how the patient or person authorized to make health care decisions for the patient values the tradeoff between extending the length of the patient’s life and the risk of disability. **Will you oppose any attempt to repeal or weaken this protective law?** Yes ___ No ___

5) Oklahoma law protects against the involuntary denial of life-saving medical treatment by requiring that if a health-care provider’s refusal to comply with a decision made by or on behalf of a patient to receive life-saving medical treatment would, in reasonable medical judgment, be likely to result in the patient’s death, then the health-care provider must provide the life-saving treatment pending transfer of the patient to a willing provider. **Will you oppose any attempt to repeal or weaken this protective law?** Yes ___ No ___

6) Oklahoma’s advance directive (living will) law recognizes the particular importance of food and water. In order to ensure truly informed consent, our law requires a separately-initialed paragraph in an advance directive in order for artificial administration of food and water to be rejected. Some proposals have been made that would, instead, combine food and water with “medical treatment” such as ventilators or surgery, so that choosing to forego life-sustaining medical treatment would be assumed to mean the individual wanted to die by starvation and dehydration. In order to avoid confusion and protect individuals who expect to die from their underlying illness or injury, not from starvation or dehydration, **will you vote against any bill that would repeal or weaken the existing requirement for a separately-initialed provision in an advance directive to indicate the rejection of food and water?** Yes ___ No ___

DISTRICT 53 - *Cleveland

JASON BLAIR
NICK POKORNY

Rep yes yes yes yes yes yes yes yes
Rep yes yes yes yes yes yes yes yes

DISTRICT 60 - *Canadian

MIKE KELLEY
RON LYNCH

Rep yes yes yes yes yes yes yes yes
Rep survey responses not returned to us

DISTRICT 98 - *Tulsa, *Wagoner

GABE WOOLLEY
DEAN DAVIS

Rep survey responses not returned to us
Rep survey responses not returned to us