2026

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP



THE 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WAS FAST, FURIOUS, AND NEVER SHORT ON SURPRISES.

It was an election-year session that threw its own punches from the opening weeks through sine die. Lawmakers moved quickly on an early budget agreement, spent long days on the floor, navigated late-session negotiations, and pushed major policy debates across education, taxes, energy, health care, workforce, infrastructure, and economic competitiveness.

Through it all, The State Chamber Government Affairs team was in the building, in the meetings, and in constant conversation with lawmakers. The filings may show a few coffees along the way (looking at you Dalton), but the real investment was time, trust, and persistence.

That work delivered results.

The Strong Readers Act was signed into law, marking a major win for literacy reform and one of the most important long-term investments Oklahoma can make in workforce readiness. The State Chamber made early literacy a top priority because reading proficiency is not just an education issue. It is a workforce issue, an economic issue, and a competitiveness issue.

Innovation, research, and commercialization also gained new attention at the Capitol this year, reflecting the growing understanding that Oklahoma's future economy will depend on talent, entrepreneurship, and the ability to turn ideas into jobs. Core business priorities advanced, and our team worked throughout session to keep the focus on policies that help Oklahoma companies grow, compete, and create opportunity.

This was also a session shaped by state questions. Major debates on Medicaid, TSET, judicial reform, tax policy, and other issues continued moving toward voters, while SQ 832 emerged as one of the most significant business issues heading into the summer. As those fights shifted beyond the Capitol, The State Chamber remained focused on making sure employers, workers, and communities had a clear voice in the conversation.

At the same time, the 2026 election cycle was already taking shape. Candidate filing, open seats, competitive races, and leadership transitions added another layer to the session. Through OKDecides, candidate interviews, political tracking, and member engagement, our team worked to help the business community understand not only what happened this year, but what comes next.

The final weeks were exactly what you would expect from the Capitol: long days, moving targets, inter-chamber friction, last-minute coordination, and a few farewell speeches from lawmakers closing out their time in office. It was compressed, unpredictable, and, at times, messy.

That is the work.

And this year, our team showed up every day for our members.

With session complete, the focus now turns to implementation, interim studies, ballot questions, candidate engagement, and the next phase of Oklahoma's policy agenda. The 2026 session may be over, but the work is not.

The State Chamber will continue fighting for policies that help Oklahoma businesses grow, families prosper, and our state compete and win.

SAVINGS

To the business community thanks to The State Chamber

- **SB 2074** - average of $1.2 million on prescription dispensing fee costs per year
- **HB 4329** - $25 to $50 per employee per month for fully insured dental benefits
- **HB 3844** & SB 1268 Minimum wage increase - $16,130 per year per minimum wage earning employee
- **HB 3725** - E-Verify for every new full time employee – $83/ per year in HR/admin costs to run E-Verify
- **HB 3959** - algorithmic pricing - $7,000 per violation in penalties
- **HB 3725/SB 1850** - e verify penalties - $1,000 to $50,000



2026 AGENDA PRIORITIES

The first year with the Oklahoma Competes framework gave the 2026 legislative agenda an education & workforce and innovation & entrepreneurship focus. Monumentally helping pass the next iteration of the Strong Readers Act, updating the R&D rebate, and providing a modern framework for university led commercialization.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SB 1778
Sen. Adam Pugh

Makes changes to the Strong Readers Act including: directing the State Department of Education to approve one screening instrument for literacy, requiring more frequent parent notifications about their student's progress, directing local school districts to provide more intensive interventions in first through third grades, and requiring literacy-based third grade promotion. ✓

S. Committee	S. Floor	H. Committee	H. Floor	Gov. Signature

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SB 1530
Sen. Kristen Thompson & Rep. Anthony Moore

Enhances the Oklahoma Research and Development Rebate by allowing an increase of the rebate by 2% for partnerships with higher education institutions, ensures the qualified rebate investments are related to non-routine projects, like product testing or application of existing knowledge. ✓

S. Committee	S. Floor	H. Committee	H. Floor	Became Law Without Signature

SB 1670
Sen. Aaron Reinhardt & Rep. Anthony Moore

Requires the State Regents for Higher Education to adopt new technology transfer policies for all institutions. ✓

S. Committee	S. Floor	H. Committee	H. Floor	Gov. Signature

ECONOMIC CLIMATE

SB 1990
Sen. Chuck Hall & Rep. John Kane

Modifies the Incentive Evaluation process to include analysis on whether a business would have acted in the same manner in the absence of an incentive and comparing the incentive to other states, and whether the incentive as a whole fits within Oklahoma's strategic economic development plan. ✓

S. Committee	S. Floor	H. Committee	H. Floor	Gov. Signature

OKLAHOMA COMPETES

1731
SENATE BILLS & RESOLUTIONS FILED

2149
HOUSE BILLS & RESOLUTIONS FILED

2149
HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS CARRIED OVER FROM 2025

33 FAILED MEASURES

506 MADE IT TO THE GOVERNOR'S DESK FOR ACTION

SIGNED	LAW WITHOUT SIGNATURE	VETO	VETO OVERRIDES
368	89	37	9 attempts*

*4 had no action by the Senate: **HB 3003, HB 3320, HB 4324, HB 4434; 1** failed **SB 1461**

3 POCKET VETOES **SB 237, SB 423 & SB 1894**

SESSION: FEBRUARY 2 – MAY 14

54 DAYS IN SESSION

88 COMMITTEE MEETINGS
8,546 MINUTES ON THE FLOOR

58 DAYS IN SESSION

144 COMMITTEE MEETINGS
8,091 MINUTES ON THE FLOOR

3 JOINT COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET

The **Senate** held the longest session of **11 hours and 6 minutes**, while the **House** held the shortest session of **4 minutes**.

BUDGET
$12.63 BILLION

$78 MILLION total within the formula for coaches, teacher training academics, and screeners.

An early budget agreement led to session's early end.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SB 1992, **SB 1826**, **HB 4426**, and **HB 2849** strengthen Oklahoma's economic development toolkit by improving access to incentives, supporting investment in targeted geographies, and aligning state programs to drive long-term job creation and business growth.

HB 3781 ***by Rep. Stacy Jo Adams and Sen. Aaron Reinhardt***

Moves Oklahoma from a "use-and-file" insurance rate process to a "file-and-wait" model similar to Texas. This model involves insurers submitting rates for regulatory review before they take effect and allows the public more transparency.

Effective July 1, 2026

HB 3498 ***by Rep. Collin Duel and Sen. Aaron Reinhardt***

Updates various provisions within the General Corporation Act and Limited Liability Company Act to match best practices of Delaware. These updates make Oklahoma more competitive as a place to form, retain, and grow companies, which directly benefits in-state businesses by lowering legal friction and improving access to investment.

Effective Nov. 1, 2026

SEE MORE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILLS HERE

INFRASTRUCTURE

SB 1531 ***by Sen. John Haste and Rep. Nicole Miller***

Directs the Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics to invest in public infrastructure to support unmanned aerial systems and advanced air mobility. The bill also directs the Department to collaborate with other states and industry stakeholders to create technical centers of excellence to integrate UAS and AAM technology.

Effective November 1, 2026

SB 2060 ***by Sen. John Haste and Rep. Mark Lawson***

Creates the Building Utilities and Infrastructure for Long-term Development (BUILD) Act. The bill authorizes the creation of master development districts through approval from the city council or county commissioners with consent of 100% of the property owners in the proposed district. The district will be overseen by an independent board of supervisors that can finance public infrastructure projects in the district through bonds or other mechanisms.

Effective November 1, 2026

SEE MORE INFRASTRUCTURE BILLS HERE

WORKFORCE & EMPLOYMENT

HB 3127 ***by Rep. Kevin West and Sen. Jerry Alvord***

Makes changes to Oklahoma's medical marijuana employment protections, imposing broader zero-tolerance standards for safety-sensitive positions while giving employers wider authority to act on positive marijuana tests under any compliant written drug and alcohol testing policy.

Effective November 1, 2026

HB 2398 ***by Rep. Brian Hill and Sen. Aaron Reinhardt***

Establishes a statewide framework allowing the State Regents for Higher Education and the Department of Career and Technology Education to designate certain degrees, certificates, licenses, and industry-recognized credentials as "credentials of value," requiring programs to demonstrate strong student outcomes including a positive return on investment and alignment with state and regional workforce needs.

Effective August 15, 2026

HB 3315 ***by Rep. Ryan Eaves and Sen. Julie Daniels***

Requires the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to conduct a feasibility study on implementing three-year bachelor's degree programs, so that Oklahoma can join the growing number of states to institute these workforce centric degrees.

Effective May 4, 2026

SEE MORE WORKFORCE & EMPLOYMENT BILLS HERE

ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 2992 ***by Rep. Brad Boles and Sen. Grant Green***

Creates the Data Center Customer Ratepayer Protection Act which requires all governing bodies responsible for reviewing electric rates establish separate terms, conditions, and tariffs for large load data centers or computing facilities that are connected to the grid. These separate terms and tariffs should protect other customers from inflated rates because of data centers. The bill also requires developers to notify adjacent property owners after land is purchased for a data center.

Effective July 1, 2026

HB 4338 ***by Rep. Anthony Moore and Sen. Grant Green***

Updates brine water regulations, including providing the Corporation Commission being the regulating entity.

Effective May 12, 2026

HB 1371 ***by Rep. Anthony Moore and Sen. Grant Green***

A negotiated agreement to update the Production Revenue Standards Act, which sets interest limits, and various other provisions.

Effective November 1, 2026

SEE MORE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES BILLS HERE

LEGAL & LABOR REFORM

SB 1439 ***by Sen. Julie Daniels and Rep. Anthony Moore***

Prevents frivolous lawsuits based solely on claims of climate change or greenhouse gas emissions. The measure prohibits most civil liability actions against companies that lawfully produce, manufacture, and sell fossil fuels, shielding the industry from speculative claims of fraud, misrepresentation, or failure to warn tied to claims of climate effects.

Effective November 1, 2026

HJR 1024 ***by Rep. Anthony Moore and Sen. Todd Gollihare***

A proposed state question to change the composition of the Judicial Nominating Commission. Now SQ 845, the measure would update the boundaries of the congressional districts used for geographic representation from the 1967 map to current day, allow for members to serve successive terms, and would eliminate restrictions on membership based on bar membership and political affiliation.

On ballot November 3, 2026

SEE MORE LEGAL & LABOR BILLS HERE

BAD FOR BUSINESS

HEALTH - SB 2074 ***by Sen. Jerry Alvord and Rep. Preston Stinton***

Sets reimbursement amounts for PBMS at no less than the national average drug acquisition cost plus a professional dispensing fee no less than the Medicaid fee-for-service rate. This bill would add a professional dispensing fee of around $11 to every prescription filled. Vetoed by Gov. Stitt because **SB 2074** allows the state to continue "inserting itself into the marketplace to pick winners and losers… [and] functions as a hidden tax, one that will ultimately be passed on to Oklahoma families, employers and small businesses through higher premiums and increased healthcare costs."

Read the full veto message here.

STATE QUESTION 832
MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

ORIGIN: Citizen-initiated Petition
TYPE: Statutory Changes

WHAT VOTERS WOULD DECIDE: Whether to raise Oklahoma's minimum wage above the federal level ($7.25), using a phased-in schedule through 2029 then tying annual increases to the Consumer Price Index beginning in 2030.

WHAT IT WOULD DO:

- Gradually increase the minimum wage over time
- Include annual automatic increases tied to inflation after the phase-in period
- Apply broadly to employers statewide, eliminating all existing exemptions allowed under current law.

State Question 832 (SQ 832) seeks to amend the Oklahoma Minimum Wage Act in Oklahoma Statutes by untying the state from the federal minimum wage.

The question will appear before voters on the June 2026 primary ballot, and if approved, it would increase Oklahoma's state mandated minimum wage beginning in 2025 to $9 per hour and continue with annual wage increases until 2029. Beginning in 2030, the wage will increase with the cost of living, as measured by the U.S. Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index.



ELECTION DATE: JUNE 16, 2026

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

STATE QUESTIONS

STATE QUESTION 844
PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

ORIGIN: HJR 1087
TYPE: Constitutional Amendment

WHAT VOTERS WOULD DECIDE: Whether to modify the reimbursement process and procedures for the ad valorem (property tax) exemption for manufacturing businesses.

WHAT IT WOULD DO:

- Adjust how the state reimburses local governments for manufacturing businesses utilizing the ad valorem tax exemption
- Continue Oklahoma's policy of encouraging manufacturing investment through tax relief with adjustments
- Affect local revenue streams, especially for schools and counties

STATE QUESTION 846
VOTER ID

ORIGIN: SJR 47
TYPE: Constitutional Amendment

WHAT VOTERS WOULD DECIDE: Whether to require proof of identity as a requirement for voting in Oklahoma elections.

WHAT IT WOULD DO:

- Elevate voter ID requirements from statute to the Constitution
- Limit future legislative changes to election identification rules
- Require voters to present government-issued identification or equivalent proof while voting

ELECTION DATE: AUGUST 25, 2026

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

STATE QUESTIONS

STATE QUESTION 845
JUDICIAL SELECTION

ORIGIN: HJR 1024
TYPE: Constitutional Amendment

WHAT VOTERS WOULD DECIDE: Whether to change how judges are selected in Oklahoma by restructuring the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC).

WHAT IT WOULD DO:

- Alter the makeup of the JNC (who appoints members and how many)
- Increase the role of elected officials in judicial selection
- Modify checks and balances in the judicial appointment process

STATE QUESTION 847
PROPERTY TAX CAP

ORIGIN: SJR 39
TYPE: Constitutional Amendment

WHAT VOTERS WOULD DECIDE: Whether to lower the annual cap on increases in property tax valuations for residential and commercial properties.

WHAT IT WOULD DO:

- Reduce how much a property's taxable value can increase from year to year
- Provide predictability and relief for homeowners
- Limit future revenue growth for schools, counties, and cities

ELECTION DATE: NOVEMBER 3, 2026

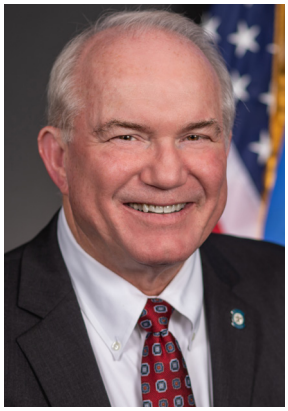
CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

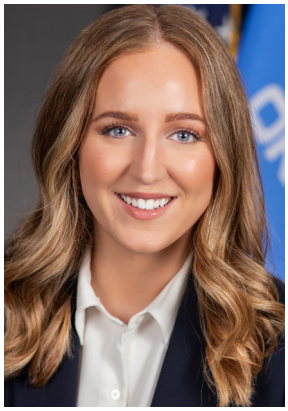
LEGISLATORS RECEIVING AN A



Senator
Chuck Hall



Senator
John Haste



Senator
Ally Seifried



Senator
Julie Daniels



Senator
Brenda Stanley



Senator
Kristen Thompson



Senator
Adam Pugh



Pro Tem
Lonnie Paxton



Representative
Josh West



Representative
Chris Kannady



Representative
Mark Tedford



Representative
Derrick Hildebrant

OKLAHOMA'S PRO-GROWTH CHAMPIONS

PRIORITY BILLS – 130 AVAILABLE POINTS

Bill	Position	Issue area	Summary	Points
SB 1778	Pro-growth	Workforce / Education	Expanded interventions under the Strong Readers Act to improve student literacy, supporting long-term educational attainment and workforce readiness.	25 pts
SB 1530	Pro-growth	Innovation & Entrepreneurship	Enhanced the Oklahoma Research and Development Rebate, with additional support for partnerships with higher education and applied innovation.	20 pts
SB 2074	Anti-growth	Economic Climate / Healthcare	Created a PBM reimbursement mandate. The Chamber opposed the bill because it would increase costs and add a new marketplace mandate.	20 pts
HB 2398	Pro-growth	Workforce / Education	Directed higher education and career technology leaders to identify “credentials of value” tied to employment and earning outcomes.	15 pts
SB 1670	Pro-growth	Innovation & Entrepreneurship	Required the State Regents for Higher Education to adopt technology transfer policies to help move research and innovation into the marketplace.	15 pts
SB 546	Pro-growth	Innovation & Entrepreneurship	Created a comprehensive data privacy framework to provide regulatory certainty and avoid a fragmented privacy patchwork.	10 pts
SB 1439	Pro-growth	Infrastructure / Liability	Limited climate change-related liability claims against fossil fuel companies and trade groups, reducing litigation risk for key industries.	5 pts
HB 3315	Pro-growth	Workforce / Education	Authorized three-year bachelor’s degree programs to make higher education more affordable, flexible, and responsive to workforce needs.	10 pts
SB 1990	Pro-growth	Economic Climate	Strengthened the state’s incentive evaluation process by adding analysis of necessity, competitiveness, and alignment with economic development strategy.	5 pts
SB 2060	Pro-growth	Infrastructure	Created the BUILD Act, establishing a financing pathway for long-term development districts and infrastructure improvements tied to economic growth.	5 pts

SCORE FORMULA

Scores include a weighted system of votes: 80% for the priority bills,15% for all floor votes from the Watch List, and 5% for normalized committee votes (meaning legislators’ scores were not dinged for being in a committee with less bills). Legislators who missed half or more of the priority bill votes were not scored, and were not counted against below that.

For All Scores Visit: https://www.statechamberresearch.org/app/


A CENTURY STRONG FOR OKLAHOMA BUSINESS
THE STATE CHAMBER
OKLAHOMA
1926-2026