

WELCOME TO THE LEGISLATIVE LEARNING LAB

Legislative Process Handbook State of Oklahoma



Compliments of the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
oica.org



Joe Dorman, CEO
Oklahoma Institute
for Child Advocacy

Every Two Years Voter Choose:	Every Four Years Voters Choose (Non-Presidential Years):	Every Six Years Voters Choose:
<p>24 State Senators (half of the State Senate, even or odd-numbered seats)</p> <p>101 State Representatives (entire State House of Representatives)</p> <p>5 Members of Congress (entire U.S. House of Representatives)</p>	<p>8 statewide officers:</p> <p>Governor</p> <p>Lieutenant Governor</p> <p>Attorney General State</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Superintendent of Public Instruction</p> <p>Insurance Commissioner</p> <p>State Auditor and Inspector</p> <p>Labor Commissioner</p>	<p>3 Corporation Commissioners</p> <p>2 U.S. Senators (elected for six-year terms and elected on a staggered basis)</p>



ELECTIONS - OKLAHOMA IS ONE OF THE 23 STATE GOVERNMENTS UNDER FULL REPUBLICAN CONTROL AND ONE OF 16 WITH A VETO-PROOF REPUBLICAN MAJORITY. SOURCE: BALLOTPEdia

▶ House of Representatives

- ▶ 101 Members
- ▶ Two-Year Terms
- ▶ Republicans have controlled the House since 2004
- ▶ Current Breakdown: 82 Republicans / 18 Democrats (one vacancy)
- ▶ Presided over by Speaker Charles McCall

▶ Senate

- ▶ 48 Members
- ▶ Four-Year Staggered Terms
- ▶ Republicans have controlled the Senate since 2008
- ▶ Current Breakdown: 39 Republicans / 9 Democrats
- ▶ Presided over by President Pro-Tempore Greg Treat
- ▶ Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell is the President of the Senate

OKLAHOMA'S BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE



Legislation which originates in the Senate is numbered consecutively beginning with “1”:

SB 1 SJR 1 SCR 1 SR 1

Bills

- ▶ have the force and effect of law
- ▶ must be passed by both chambers
- ▶ must be signed by the Governor (except when the measure submits a question to a vote of the people)
- ▶ generally proposes changes to the Oklahoma Statutes

Legislation which originates in the House is numbered consecutively beginning with “1001”:

HB 1001 HJR 1001 HCR 1001 HR 1001

Joint Resolutions

- ▶ have the force and effect of law
- ▶ must be passed by both chambers
- ▶ must be signed by the Governor (except when the measure submits a question to a vote of the people)
- ▶ often will not become part of the Oklahoma Statutes

LEGISLATION



Concurrent Resolutions

- ▶ do not have the force and effect of law
- ▶ must be passed by both chambers
- ▶ are not signed by the Governor
- ▶ will not become part of the Oklahoma Statutes
- ▶ are used to express the will or opinion of both chambers

Simple Resolutions

- ▶ do not have the force and effect of law
- ▶ must pass only the chamber which introduced the measure
- ▶ are not signed by the Governor
- ▶ will not become part of the Oklahoma Statutes
- ▶ are used to express the will or opinion of one chamber

LEGISLATION



Measures being considered by the Oklahoma State Legislature pass through a variety of forms.

Introduced Version

The bill or resolution, as filed, is has the heading, “AS INTRODUCED”. The measure is introduced in this form and remains this way until it is reported out of committee in the first chamber.

Committee Version

After a measure has been heard by a committee and reported to the floor for further consideration, it is printed with changes made in committee highlighted in bold.



READING A BILL OR RESOLUTION

Engrossed Version

A verified copy of the bill or resolution, complete with any committee or floor amendments, is executed after Third Reading. An Engrossed Version passed by one chamber is filed for committee work in the second chamber, then in the same form as above for floor action.

Conference Committee Substitute

Frequently, bills pass the two houses in different forms and go to conference committees to have the differences resolved. A report signed by conferees and a conference committee substitute that resembles the committee version will be considered by both chambers.

Enrolled Version

A verified, final copy of the identical bill or resolution passed by both chambers and ready for the Governor's signature or veto is filed.

READING A BILL OR RESOLUTION



Bills being considered by the Legislature can do any one or any combination of the following:

Create new law

Amend existing law

Repeal existing law

Appropriate money or set budgetary limits

Most often, bills amend existing law. The changes are easy to determine since what is being amended is denoted by strikeouts in the case of language being removed or underlines for new language. The most notable exception is for new law, repealers or non-codified sections which have no strikeouts or deletions.

READING A BILL OR RESOLUTION



January	February	March	April	May	June
On the first day of legislative session, the Governor Submits the Executive Budget to the Legislature for consideration	Legislature in Session				State agencies submit budget work program to Office of Management & Enterprise Services for approval
	Legislative Review of State Agency Budgets; Passage of Budgets for State Agencies				
	Final Review of Available Revenue for Expenditure by State Legislature by the State Board of Equalization				June 30 End of Fiscal Year
July	August	September	October	November	December
July 1 Beginning of the new Fiscal Year		State agencies submit budget request to the Office of Management & Enterprise Services	OMES Reviews State Agency Budget Requests; House and Senate Committees Hold Agency Performance Review Hearings		
					Preliminary Certification of State Revenue by the State Board of Equalization for next year



BUDGET TIMELINE



The Governor Serves as Chief Executive of the State

- ▶ Elected to a four-year term, two-term limit.
- ▶ Powers and Duties:
 - ▶ Head of state and chief executive for the State of Oklahoma
 - ▶ Commander in Chief of the Oklahoma National Guard
 - ▶ Appoints (with confirmation by the state senate) cabinet secretaries and various agency directors
- ▶ Delivers yearly “State of the State” address to the Legislature on the first day of session

Governor J. Kevin Stitt (R)

- ▶ Elected 2018

EXECUTIVE BRANCH





Upon receiving a bill or joint resolution which has passed both chambers of the Oklahoma Legislature, the Governor may:

Approve the measure

**by signing it within five days from receipt*

Veto the measure

**by returning it within five days (Sundays excepted) with objections*

**the Legislature might be in Session, thereby providing an opportunity to override*

Pocket Passage the measure if passed prior to the last five days of a session.

**allows it to become law without action by the Governor by keeping it five days (Sundays excepted) while the Legislature is in Session*

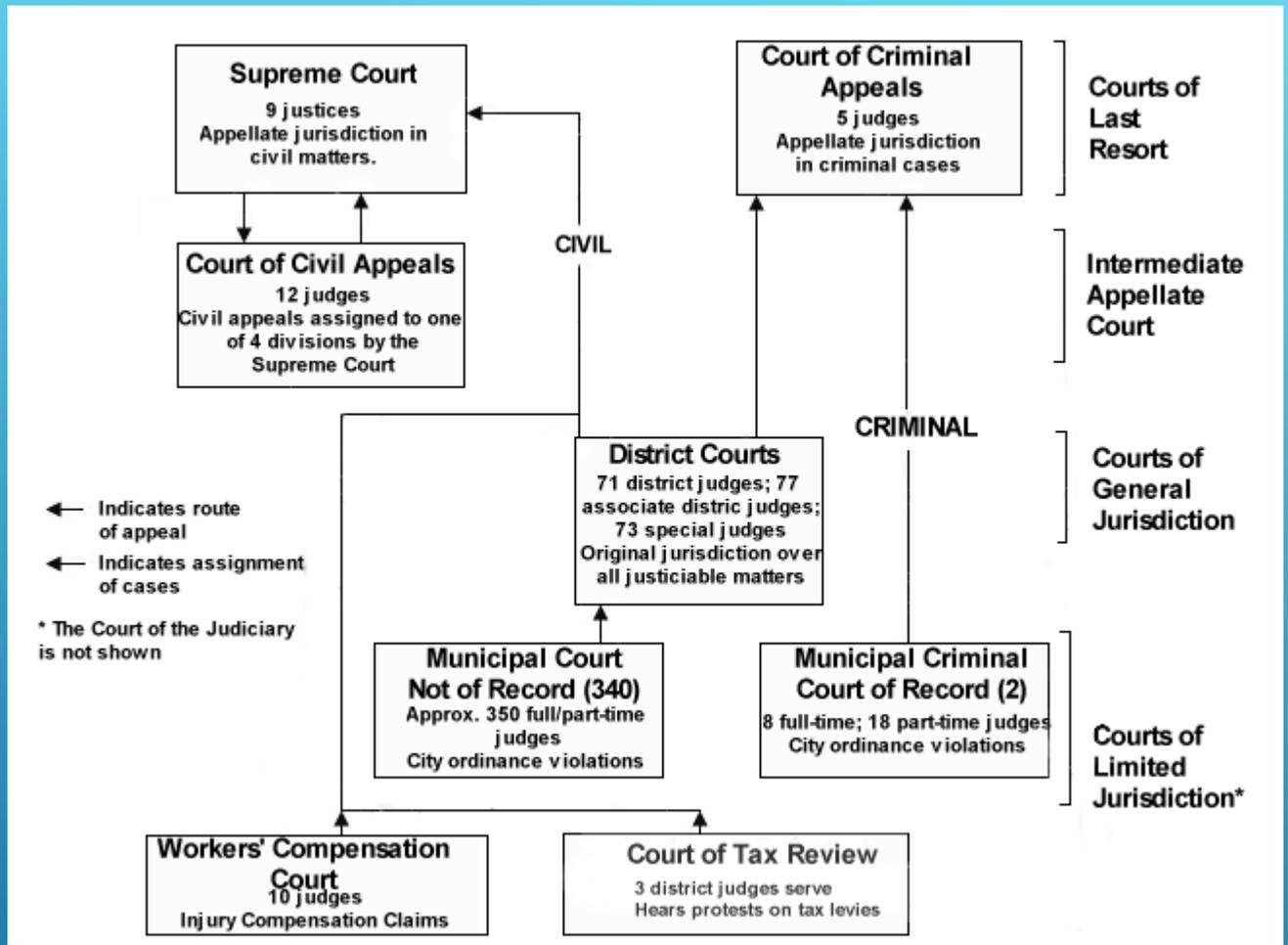
Pocket Veto the measure for bills passed during the final five days of a session.

**by keeping it up to fifteen days (Sundays excepted) without taking official action following the Legislative Session*

The legislature may override a veto of the governor by a two-thirds vote of each body, or a three-fourths vote for any action that required two-thirds for passage.



GOVERNOR'S ACTIONS ON LEGISLATION



OKLAHOMA'S JUDICIAL BRANCH

THE OKLAHOMA COURT SYSTEM IS DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER STATES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TEXAS, IN THAT OKLAHOMA HAS TWO COURTS OF LAST RESORT: THE OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT AND THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS .
 SOURCE: OKHISTORY.ORG

The nine Justices of the Oklahoma Supreme Court decide only civil cases.

The five Judges of the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals decide criminal cases.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court has immediate jurisdiction with respect to new first-impression issues, important legal issues, and cases of great public interest.

In addition to appeals from the trial courts, the Oklahoma Supreme Court has jurisdiction over all lower courts, excluding the Oklahoma Court on the Judiciary, and the Oklahoma Senate, when that body is sitting as a Court of Impeachment.

Judgments of the Oklahoma Supreme Court with respect to the Oklahoma Constitution are considered final.

SUPREME COURT CASES



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