

February 3, 2022

2022 Legislative Learning Lab

**Presentation by Secretary Paul Ziriaux
Oklahoma State Election Board**



OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION

Art. 3 § 4

"The Legislature shall prescribe the time and manner of holding and conducting all elections, and enact such laws as may be necessary to detect and punish fraud in such elections. The Legislature may provide by law for the registration of electors throughout the state and, when it is so provided, no person shall vote at any election unless he shall have registered according to law."



OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION

Art. 3 § 1

"Subject to such exceptions as the Legislature may prescribe, all citizens of the United States, over the age of eighteen (18) years, who are bona fide residents of this state, are qualified electors of this state."



OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION

Art. 3 § 2

"The Legislature shall create **a State Election Board to be charged with the supervision of such elections as the Legislature shall direct.** Not more than a majority of the members of said Board shall be selected from the same political party."



OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION

Art. 3 § 3

"The Legislature may enact laws providing for a mandatory primary system which shall provide for the nomination of all candidates in all elections for federal, state, county and municipal offices, for all political parties, **except for the office of Presidential Elector, the candidates for which shall be nominated by the recognized political parties at their conventions."**



OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION

Art. 3 § 3 *(continued)*

"The Legislature also shall enact laws providing that citizens may, by petition, place on the ballot the names of independent, nonpartisan candidates for office, including the office of Presidential Elector."



OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION

Art. 3 § 5

"All elections shall be free and equal. No power, civil or military, shall ever interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage, and electors shall, in all cases, except for treason, felony, and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance on elections and while going to and from the same."



OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION

Art. 6 § 5

Duties at Legislature's Organizational Day:

- Open and publish returns for state elective offices in joint session;
- Declare that those receiving highest number of votes are duly elected; and
- If necessary, break tie by joint ballot.



United States Constitution

Art. I § 4

"The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of choosing Senators."



United States Constitution

Art. II § 1

“Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.”

“The Congress may determine the Time of choosing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.”



United States Constitution

Amendment XIV

"§ 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But **when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation** therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State."



United States Constitution Amendment XV

"§ 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

§ 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."



United States Constitution

Amendment XVII

- “The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years...”
- “The electors in each State shall have the **qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures...**”
- “...**the legislature** of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as **the legislature may direct...**”



United States Constitution Amendment XIX

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."



United States Constitution Amendment XXIV

"§ 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

§ 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."



United States Constitution Amendment XXVI

"§ 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

§ 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."



Overview of the State Election Board

Mission Statement:

“To achieve and maintain uniformity in the application, operation and interpretation of the state and federal election laws with a maximum degree of correctness, impartiality and efficiency.”

Board and Agency

The name "State Election Board" refers to both the appointed Board and the Agency itself.

Same for a
"County Election Board."

The Secretary

Chief State Election
Official; Agency
Administrator

The Board: Chair, Vice- Chair, Member

Certify Election Results;
Appoint County Election
Officials; Hear Contests
of Candidacy

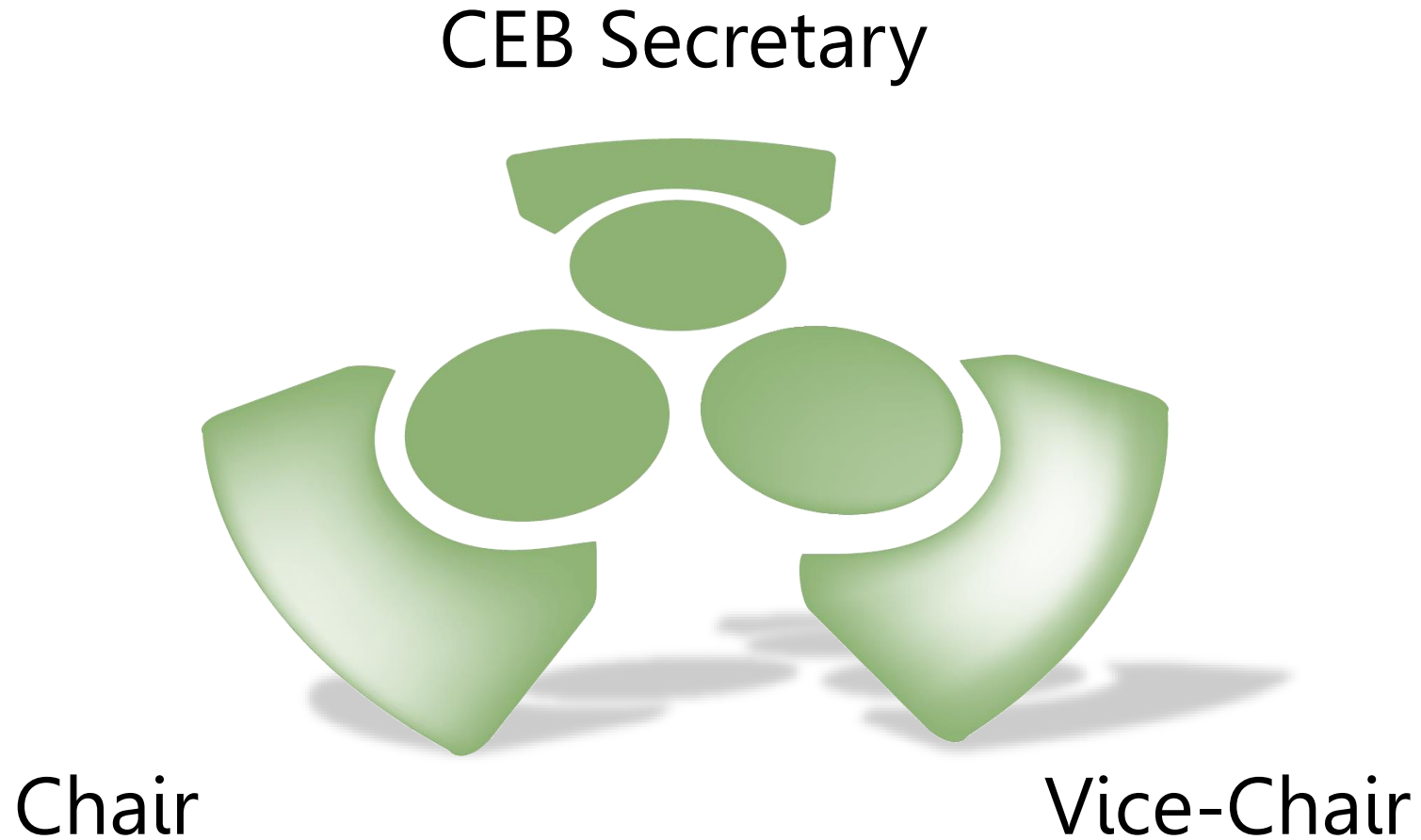
Secretary

The Secretary of the State Senate serves as the Secretary of the State Election Board.



Overview – County Election Board

Structure . . .



Overview – Precinct Officials

Each official has specific duties . . .



Judge: Determines proof of identity & which ballots to issue



Clerk: Issues ballots to voters



Inspector: Chief precinct official.

Early 1990s: Oklahoma first implemented a uniform, statewide voting system using paper ballots that were hand-marked by voters and counted by accurate, reliable precinct-based optical scan tabulators.

2012: Current voting system deployed, utilizing paper ballots that are hand-marked by voters and counted by accurate, reliable precinct-based optical scan tabulators.



Oklahoma has one of the most **reliable**, most **accurate**, most **secure**, most **efficient**, and most **cost-effective** voting systems in the entire world.



Voting & Voter Registration in Oklahoma

Easy. Secure. Accurate.

oklahoma.gov/elections



Ways to Vote in Oklahoma

In-Person on Election Day

In-Person Absentee (Early Voting)

Absentee (Mail, Nursing Home)

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OK Voter Portal

- Complete a Voter Registration Application
- Request Absentee Ballots
- Verify Voter Registration Information
- View Voting Districts
- Find Polling Place or Early Voting Site
- View a Sample Ballot
- Check the Status of Absentee Ballots.

oklahoma.gov/elections



Election Security

Election Integrity

Misinformation

oklahoma.gov/elections/security-integrity



Be a Poll Worker

oklahoma.gov/elections/volunteer



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