



State Chamber of Oklahoma 2016 Candidate Questionnaire

This questionnaire is a guide for the State Chamber, We Mean Business PAC and our members who engage in elections. Your responses will help our members, our partners and our staff better understand who you are as a candidate and the priorities you will pursue if elected.

The questionnaire should take around 30 minutes, and your responses will not be made public. After returning this survey, you may be contacted to arrange an in-person meeting with our Legislative Affairs Committee during the week of May 2 to discuss your responses more in-depth and provide you with the opportunity to ask any questions you may have for Oklahoma's business community.

For your convenience, the questionnaire is an interactive, editable pdf. Some questions will simply require checking boxes, but other questions are open-ended. Please try to limit your answers to the space provided for each question.

After completing the questionnaire, please **return no later than Wednesday, March 27** to the address below. If you have any questions about the survey or the issues contained, please feel free to contact me.

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March 15, 2016

To candidates for the Oklahoma State Legislature:

Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to seek public office in the Oklahoma State Legislature!

With more than 1,500 Oklahoma member businesses employing approximately 350,000 employees, the State Chamber of Oklahoma is unrivalled as the state's voice for business at the Capitol. As an advocate for Oklahoma's business community since 1926, we are committed to making Oklahoma a better place to live, work and raise a family by creating opportunities for all Oklahomans and fostering a pro-growth, pro-jobs business environment.

As part of this mission, we actively engage in state legislative races through a political action committee, independent expenditures and a political intelligence service for our members. It is our responsibility to our members to support business-minded candidates that share our vision for the future of Oklahoma. This questionnaire is the first step in that process, allowing Oklahoma's business leaders to assess each candidate's stance on issues before deciding whether to endorse, support or contribute to their campaign.

I would like to thank you for seeking office in the state of Oklahoma and for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Morgan" followed by a horizontal line.

Fred S. Morgan
President and CEO
State Chamber of Oklahoma

Section 1 – Personal Profile

1. Candidate name:
2. Address:
3. City: Zip:
4. Telephone Numbers:
Cell: Home: Campaign:
5. Email Address:
6. Campaign Web Address:
7. Party Affiliation: Office Seeking:
8. Education:

9. Occupation:
10. Employer:
11. Tell us about your family.

12. Have you ever run for an office before now and, if so, when and what office?

13. List any boards on which you serve (both profit and non-profit).

14. Describe your civic involvement.

15. Describe your political involvement.

Section 2 – Campaign Profile

16. Why are you running for this office?

17. What do you see as the top three challenges facing your district and its constituents?

18. If elected, which specific policies do you immediately plan to pursue in your first term?

19. Have you signed any pledges regarding what actions you will or will not take if elected? If so, please detail the pledge and how it will affect your decisions in the legislature.

20. The business community should support my candidacy because:

Section 3 – Issue Questionnaire

21. Please share three ideas on what our state can do to attract new business and encourage existing companies to expand their operations.

22. Please rank the following issues from 1 (high importance) to 10 (low importance) by how high of a priority they would be for you if you are elected to the legislature.

Aerospace and technology

Agriculture and rural issues

Education and workforce development

Labor law and workers' compensation reform

Energy, natural resources and water

Healthcare

Lawsuit and judicial reform

Taxation and economic incentives

Transportation and infrastructure

Social and domestic issues

23. Please explain why you chose your top three priorities in question 22. Include what you would like to accomplish in these areas and which policies or reforms you would pursue.

24. Assume the state is facing a budget shortfall, and you are in charge of drafting the next budget.
- a. Which agencies or spending priorities do you think should see the least, if any, funding cuts?

 - b. Which agencies or spending items do you think should see the largest funding cuts?

 - c. Would you propose to raise revenues and, if so, which specific taxes or fees would be raised?

 - d. Would you propose reducing off-the-top spending, which is money automatically directed toward spending priorities without being appropriated by the Legislature that includes healthcare, infrastructure, state employee retirement plans and tax credits and exemptions? If so, where would you propose reductions?
25. The State of Oklahoma accepted \$6.7 billion from the federal government in 2014. What are your views on accepting these funds realizing that they sometimes come with conditions or requirements?

26. What do you believe is the role of tax credits and tax incentives? How would you evaluate the effectiveness and necessity of tax credits and other economic incentive programs? Are there any specific incentives that you believe should be retained, altered or eliminated?

27. In 2015, the Legislature created the Incentive Review Commission to evaluate the state's tax credits and incentives for their effectiveness and efficiency at creating jobs and investment. Do you believe that lawmakers should wait to make decisions about retaining, altering or eliminating tax incentives until after its recommendations have been made?

Yes No

28. Will you ensure that user fees are used only for their original, designated purpose—such as hunting and fishing license fees going to the Department of Wildlife Conservation?

Yes No

29. More than 85% of Oklahoma businesses have fewer than 20 employees and more than half have less than 5 employees. What measures would you propose to help these small businesses improve their bottom line?

30. Do you believe testing in public schools should be reformed? If so, please indicate which reforms you would support (check all that apply):

Better test alignment with college and career readiness

Better use of technology to enhance testing

Use college entrance exams such as the ACT or SAT as a way to streamline end-of-instruction exams for high school graduation

31. Do you support policies that enhance accountability and create choice in the public education system? If so, please indicate which programs you would support and protect (check all that apply):

The A-F school site report card

The Teacher and Leader Effectiveness (TLE) teacher evaluation system

The use of student assessments to curb social promotion

Protecting and promoting school choice options such as public charter schools and educational savings accounts (ESA)

Other:

32. To improve education outcomes and meet future workforce development needs, please explain at least two reforms you would like to see in Oklahoma's education system?

33. Will you support policies and programs that aim to address the state's current and future health care needs? If so, what types of policies and programs would you support?

34. Will you oppose state insurance mandates on private health care payers that require coverage of benefits and procedures by all health care plans?

Yes

No

If not, what mandates do you support?

35. Which statement best reflects your position on health insurance coverage for Oklahomans? (check one)

Oklahoma should reduce its current efforts to increase health care coverage. That should be done by the private sector.

Oklahoma should preserve its current efforts under Insure Oklahoma, which assists working Oklahomans and small business in receiving coverage, and SoonerCare, but not expand either program.

Oklahoma should look at all funding options, including federal funding, to responsibly increase access to programs like Insure Oklahoma for a greater number of Oklahomans.

Other:

36. Will you oppose restrictions on research and development, including biomedical and stem cell research and the testing and flight of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)?

Yes No

If you support restrictions, what type of restrictions do you support?

37. Will you support product liability reforms that protect Oklahoma manufacturers from frivolous lawsuits?

Yes No

38. Will you support maintaining the current \$350,000 cap on non-economic damages (aka “pain and suffering”) in civil lawsuits?

Yes No

39. Will you support the establishment of a retirement age or term limits on Oklahoma appellate judges (those on the Supreme Court or the Court of Civil Appeals as opposed to district or local judges)?

Yes No

40. Which if any of the following judicial reforms for Oklahoma appellate judges on the Supreme Court and Court of Civil Appeals do you support? (check all that apply)

Direct election by Oklahoma voters

Appointment by the governor with confirmation by the legislature

Reducing the number of appointments to the Judicial Nominating Commission made by the Oklahoma Bar Association

Requiring a 60% “yes” vote for retention of appellate judges

41. Do you support eliminating rules and regulations that hinder job creation? If so, what current administrative rules or statutes would you seek to eliminate?

42. Will you support designating routes to accommodate oversize and overweight truck loads traveling in and out of state to make the transport of goods and services easier for business?

Yes No

43. Will you protect and continue funding for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Eight Year Construction Plan?

Yes No

44. Will you support legislation that encourages public-private partnerships between businesses and government to help fund infrastructure needs in Oklahoma?

Yes No

45. Will you support Oklahoma military installations by supporting base-specific programs and projects for expanded missions, which may include funding projects outside your district?

Yes No

46. Will you oppose legislation or state regulations that restrict access to water resources for use by cities and towns, business and industry, agriculture and irrigation, oil and natural gas development, mining and other water users?

Yes No

If not, what restrictions do you support?

47. On what issues do you either differ from your political party or would you be willing to find compromise in order to create certainty for business and foster a pro-business climate for Oklahoma?