



OEA 2018 Election Guide: Candidate Surveys

HELP TEACHERS
GIVE CHILDREN
HOPE!

Whiskey
Tango

CONSTITUTION
LAST NIGHT'S
FUNDING

Teacher Raises: \$10,000
Support Staff
Raises: \$5,000
School Funding: \$200
Million

Oklahoma House of Representatives

Candidate: **Tom Stites**
Office: **House District 2**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. We need significantly more funding for the classrooms.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I fully support benefits protections.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I will oppose any public school money ever going to charters or vouchers.

Candidate: **Ed Trumbull**
Office: **House District 5**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. The first step is to end incentives for Gross Production Taxes and return the GPT to 7%. This obviously adds needed revenue to strengthen the state budget. We need to set the stage to give teachers confidence in Oklahoma. Even with the recent teacher pay raises record numbers of Emergency Certifications have been approved. This brings up the question as to why? Why would teachers stay or come to a state that gives teachers a raise only once every 10 years? Why teach in a state with overcrowded classrooms that lack supplies and textbooks? We need to improve the entire school climate, bring back programs and personnel that have been lost over the years.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. It would be counterproductive to raise educators' salaries only to cut benefits. It was a long, hard fought battle for educators to receive state-funded individual health insurance and that must remain a benefit. Outside the realm of the question Oklahoma Retired Teachers are deserving of a COLA!

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Over 90% of Oklahoma students attend traditional public schools. The aforementioned programs are not a benefit to public education but instead draw attention away from the real problems which are poverty and improper funding. Often these programs are touted as a method to increase school choice. These programs rarely fully fund the tuition of private schools therefore they don't truly improve school choice but instead actually increase segregation. Only public schools are tasked with educating all students. Let's stay focused on the real issues and properly fund public education.

Candidate: **John Myers**
Office: **House District 6**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. it is of utmost importance to restore classroom funding while maintaining teacher and support personnel pay increases as we move forward so that we do not regress.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. it is important that we maintain promises made in regard to the preservation and protection of health insurance and retirement pensions for the educators of Oklahoma.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I am opposed to new charter schools, Education Savings Accounts and Opportunity Scholarship Funds. All of these proposals take money away from public education and are in conflict with the constitutional obligation of the state to provide a public education for the children of the state. These programs are designed to serve those who would profit from our children and our families under the premise of providing a quality education. It is far more important to adequately fund public education so that children in all communities of Oklahoma are served equitably and without prejudice.

Candidate: **William Leonard**
Office: **House District 7**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Education must take a priority again here in Oklahoma. We have slowly, over the last ten years, pulled back state appropriations to education. Justifying it by saying the lottery and casinos fee revenue is doing fine at taking the place of funding, rather than adding to funding as it was originally intended. Next would be an in depth audit of the Department of Education. Figure out why so little of every dollar is making it to the classroom. Once getting that information I would gladly work with education leadership to make the changes necessary to ensure the money is being spent as it should be. Next would be the auditing of our subsidy programs here in the state. I am aware of several cases where companies are receiving these subsidies past the allocated time provided under the agreements. Those funds could then be moved in support of advancing our education system.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Teachers are state employees and in that should maintain their benefit packages the same as other state employees.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

No.

- 1. Yes I oppose. I truly believe new charter school authorization should be left in the hands of the local school board and community they will be responsible for.**
- 2. Yes I oppose. I believe the vouchers would introduce more state involvement in our private education system. I also believe it would take away funds that some public schools are already short on. It also seems like it would be a doorway for citizens without children to eventually be able to pull their tax dollars away from public education.**
- 3. No I do not oppose. Opportunity Scholarship Fund I view as an incentive to grow and work hard to qualify for a chance at a better education. removing those type of opportunities would be a promotion of a ideology that you don't have to work hard to get special recognition and opportunities. To further that, if someone is willing to donate to a Non-profit with the proper tax exemption for the purpose of sponsoring better education opportunities, who are we to say they should receive a tax deduction. We should promote this type of donor that are willing to invest in our hard working childrens futures. I also believe that teachers that spend their own money on their classrooms and students (which I would say probably 99.9% do) should also qualify for a tax deduction. Because they are spending their private funds to help further and enrich our kids future.**

Candidate: **Darrell Moore**
Office: **House District 8**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. I'm open to any proposals that would increase support of public education in Oklahoma. Gross production tax indexed an additional 1% / \$10 barrel increase? Capital gains exemption reduced/eliminated?

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: Clay Layton
Office: House District 9

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Kevin Stacy**
Office: **House District 10**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. I applaud the increases to teacher salaries and small increase in classroom investment, but there is major work to be done. As a former superintendent, I saw my budget reduced by 1.5 million dollars while the enrollment was slightly increasing. Staff was reduced, bus routes consolidated, less revenue spent in the classroom, and other reductions to balance budget. We must increase allocations to replace lost positions and increase spending for classrooms. Oklahoma voters dislike tax increases, it was historic for the legislation to pass the revenue package last spring. So if we are hesitant to pass revenue increasing measures, then we must be more accountable when giving it away and providing tax credits to industry. I believe every \$1.00 provided to businesses and corporations must have a return of at least \$1.25 to justify the investment.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES. No explanation needed, just a solid yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

The answer is a yes I do oppose, but could be a maybe. Charter schools should only be authorized by local school boards that the school would reside. The school board is elected by that community and has the authority to approve policy changes. The only way I would support any state funds being used for voucher programs or opportunity scholarship funds, is if it was new money and public education spending was at the top of regional average. This would include salaries and per pupil spending. (This has never been the case in my 30 years in education)

Candidate: **Judd Strohm**
Office: **House District 10**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: Cyndi Ralston
Office: **House District 12**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. I believe that by increasing the GPT to its original 7%, eliminating corporate tax loopholes, repealing the Capital gains Tax Exemption, and restructuring our tax brackets to be more progressive, we would have the funds to provide increases in all three areas.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES. I will absolutely vote to protect existing employment benefits as well as work to reduce the amount charged for health insurance coverage for dependents. I am also committed to getting to getting a COLA for retirees.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES. All public funding for public schools should go to public schools. Period.

Candidate: **Avery Frix**

Office: **House District 13**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. I believe we have to take an "all of the above" approach to find sustainable funding, looking at all revenue options.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES. I was the principal author of the COLA bill this past session, and understand the importance of employment benefits as a means to keep teachers in Oklahoma.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES.

Candidate: Justin Arledge

Office: Senate District 14

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. My answer is a 3 step process:

- 1. We must reduce the cost of utilities in our school systems. By implementing renewable energy measures we can reduce our utility cost thus lengthening our budget. Using Wind, Solar, and Geo-Thermal will make these utility reductions possible.**
- 2. Additional revenue by restoring the tax on capital gains you bring between \$130MM to \$150MM additional revenue into the state. This is not a tax increase this is restoring a tax that is preventing Oklahoma from investing in our core services. Also, with the recent United States Supreme Court ruling allowing States to have sports gambling. If the legislature votes to allow Indian Tribes the ability to open sports gambling parlors, Oklahoma could again bring in \$130MM to \$150MM a year in additional compact fees.**
- 3. We have to cut wasteful spending. The State of Oklahoma has over 200 State Agencies compared to Arkansas who has between 20 and 40. Tax payers are footing the bill for an agency to eradicate the boll weevil at the cost of \$5MM a year. the boll weevil hasn't been an issue in Oklahoma since the 1930's and if a cotton or pecan farmer experiences boll weevil the technology is there to eradicate them. Other wasteful spending includes frivolous lawsuits that the state does not need to get involved in.**

With this three step process of restoring our historic tax rate, additional revenue, and cutting wasteful spending we can turn Oklahoma around and fully fund our school districts to include; teacher pay, staff pay, class room supplies, and bringing back much needed subjects that our children our missing out on.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Giving our teachers the protection of health care and pensions is a core part of government and as a state we have to quit "robbing Peter to pay Paul" to make ends meet. I will always protect health care and retirement plans for all state employees, especially teachers.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

No.

- 1. Yes, When charter schools take money from public education I do oppose that measure.**
- 2. No, I do not support taking any per pupil allocation away from a public school. Private schools do offer scholarships for low income families. Until Oklahoma is fiscally responsible to fund our states core services I will not support continually depleting reserves the state uses to fund public services. When the state becomes fiscally responsible and we have a balanced budget with a surplus will this only make sense.**
- 3. If donations are made to private schools by citizens of Oklahoma, I would agree, they could receive a state tax credit.**

Candidate: **Jack Reavis**

Office: **House District 14**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. A fair audit of state agencies, a return to 7% GPT, sunsets on all current and future tax incentives.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Chris Sneed**

Office: **House District 14**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Judy Ross Moore**
Office: **House District 15**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Increase Gross Production Tax on oil and gas to the original 7%. Add another .50 per pack tax on cigarettes. Fund the State Auditor Department at the original level and Audit all state departments on a regular basis. The current raises should be only the beginning of properly funding public education.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. These benefits must be protected. Educators need the guarantee of these benefits. The health insurance needs to be improved with lower copays and higher medication benefits.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Public money should go ONLY to public schools. PERIOD

Candidate: **Randy Randleman**
Office: **House District 15**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. According to the state Treasurer's report, Oklahoma's budget situation has turned around, and is more than \$1 billion ahead of projections. With the improved climate, this is a perfect opportunity for education to become a higher priority in the overall state budget. Last year, significant strides were made in funding teacher pay, but more has to be done while dollars are available. It's time to move Oklahoma to first place in the region in many categories, from teacher and support staff salaries to supplies for classroom instruction.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I've compared teacher benefits to other employee plans, such as city employees in Oklahoma City. Clearly, teacher benefits need to be improved.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. My answer is based upon limited knowledge of the Opportunity Scholarship Fund, but I oppose any attempt to divert dollars from public schools, rural schools in particular.

Candidate: **Chandler Torbett**
Office: **House District 16**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. GPT to 7%, end capital gains tax exemption, require mandatory combined corporate reporting.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Scott Fetgatter**
Office: **House District 16**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I want to look at potentially expanding to some dependent coverage as well.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: Peggy Defrange
Office: House District 17

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. The increases for school funding and teacher pay could be funded by restoring the GPT to 7%, restoring the income tax cuts, and doing away with capital gains tax incentives.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I will always vote to keep benefits for educators including the defined benefit pension plan and state funded individual health. Being a classroom teacher for 33 years, I understand how important it is for teachers to have good benefits.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I could never be in favor of diverting money from public education.

Candidate: **Jim Grego**

Office: **House District 17**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. I Support increasing Support Personal pay as well as increase spending in the classrooms, These items could be funded with the anticipated increase in revenue Oklahoma will experience.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Donnie Condit**
Office: **House District 18**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **David Smith**
Office: **House District 18**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. By using the funds budgeted for them through tax money.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Sherrie Conley**
Office: **House District 20**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. At this point in the process, I am unsure the best way to fund these needs. Upon entering the legislature, I plan to look at all revenue streams, familiarize myself with all funding sources and work with senior members to find solutions to the funding issues. I am interested in looking at data from other states and how they are successfully funding their schools.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Public money should stay with public schools. I am concerned about how much money is being given to private, charter and virtual schools and would like to see what changes can be made to this practice.

Candidate: **Steve Jarman**

Office: **House District 20**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Absolutely on all three sections of this question. Teachers salaries, support professionals and classroom funding. We got HB 1017 passed in the early 90's and I can't believe we are having to fight those same battles again twenty-eight years later.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Absolutely on both the health care benefit and defined benefit. The State of Oklahoma has an obligation to our teachers and to state employees as well.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Again, Absolutely! I oppose any efforts to divert funds away from our public schools.

Candidate: **Wayne Eidson**
Office: **House District 22**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Due to the lack of leadership from the current incumbent in HD22, Rep Charles McCall, educators, support personnel and even retired teachers have not seen a state funded pay raise for nearly a decade. There would have been money for earlier raises, and future ones as well, if McCall and others had not been determined to ruin Oklahoma's tax base. Their income tax cuts for the wealthiest of our citizens reduced the budget base by over \$1.2 billion dollars.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Benefit protection should include annual colas and if McCall and company had accepted the medicaid expansion money that we Oklahomans had already paid, cheaper monthly health premiums would be available to thousands of citizens.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Craig Hoxie**
Office: **House District 23**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Of course, my answer is yes. As the only (to the best of my knowledge) teacher who walked from Tulsa to the Capitol who is currently running for office, I am strongly in favor of restoring and increasing educational funding at all levels. In addition to our talking points of last spring - restoring the GPT to 7%, restoring the income tax cuts, and closing the capital gains loophole, we need to take a hard look at the entire tax structure in our state. For too long, we have been relying on volatile sales tax revenues to fund many core services in state and local government, which both unfairly targets lower income individuals by taxing a greater percentage of their relative income than the wealthier citizens of the state and increases the likelihood of revenue failures because we are dependent on the ever changing consumer habits of our citizens. We need to look at our property tax structure in relation to the surrounding states and we need to focus on building new businesses within our state that will keep their investment and revenue in Oklahoma, instead of draining the resources of our state and taking their profits elsewhere.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Again, of course the answer is yes. Not only should their benefits be protected, but they should be increased. The idea that teachers and other education professionals are only state employees when it's convenient for the legislature needs to go away. There is no reason other than greed for teachers to be on a different insurance plan than other state employees - we need to look at all of our insurance and retirement options, not only for the purposes of finding the most cost effective way to run the plans, but to afford all public employees the best quality of life possible at every stage of their career and retirement.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Lastly, and again, the answer is yes, I oppose all programs that divert money from public schools. The Oklahoma constitution, at the time of its creation, was one of the most progressive governing documents in the world. We need to restore that progressive promise. A free public education is at the cornerstone of creating a modern egalitarian society. A person's access to education should not be predicated on their zip code, skin color, or wealth of their parents or community. Attempts by the wealthy and special interest groups to divert public money into private pockets is just another example of the fact that greed has overtaken the public good in Oklahoma and that we must fight to preserve our modern society and prevent it from further slipping back into the days of the land barons and feudalism.

Candidate: **Steve Kouplen**
Office: **House District 24**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Ronny Johns**
Office: **House District 25**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Last spring was a great start and puts us on a track in the right direction. We need to keep that momentum going and lay all options on the table and figure out how we can get sustainable funding for public education.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Daniel Manuel**
Office: **House District 25**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Restoring the state income tax on earners over \$200,000 and \$400,000 can generate hundreds of millions of dollars. According to The Oklahoma Policy Institute, this restoration would only affect 3% or less of Oklahomans. Requiring out of state corporations to utilize combined reporting like many other states would also bring in revenue we are currently losing.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I will definitely do all I can to protect existing benefits such as state-funded health insurance coverage. I fully understand the difference between a defined benefit and defined contribution pension. I will fight to protect our defined benefit pensions.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I oppose diverting money from our existing public schools. It's critical that our public schools are fully funded. I will not support the authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education, Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers, or Opportunity Scholarship Funds. I will not fall for misleading titles meant to dupe citizens into supporting something that is detrimental to our public schools.

Candidate: **Dell Kerbs**

Office: **House District 26**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

I supported HB1010xx and HB 1023xx. Our teachers and support personal do a great job keeping our schools open and educating our future. I supported any revenue increase that would improve ADM apportionment. I will continue to request revenue be directed to increase ADM apportionment. A possible new revenue stream would be a portion of the new marijuana and licensing fees. As the states revenues continue to increase a portion should be directed to public education.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

The FLEX benefit to teachers will be a priority in securing for our educators. Since 2003 the legislature has promised this benefit to our educators and I will uphold that commitment.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

It is PUBLIC EDUCATION not SELECT EDUCATION. Oklahoma's constitution guarantees the state will support public education. The state's education dollars must be directed to securing the Equalization Funding Formula and not private schools. I can not support vouchers.

Candidate: **Steve Barnes**

Office: **House District 28**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. I believe that additionally funding is needed to expand pay raises for our teachers, support staff and increase the amount of funding per student in our public schools. I will propose legislation that will provide dedicated annual resources for funding education. We can accomplish a goal of increased and sustained funding for education by raising the income tax for individuals that make an annual income of \$500,000.00 per year. Additional revenue can be raised by increasing the gross production tax to 7% and reinstating the Capital Gains Tax, with an exemption for agriculture.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES. Employment benefits will bring better qualified teachers to our public schools. We have an obligation to our teachers to ensure they have employment benefits for themselves and their families. Oklahoma's teacher retirement program is one of the best in the country. Our retired teachers are dependent upon a sound retirement center. By continuing with the defined benefit pension our teachers will be assured of retirement future.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES. Our public schools are struggling everyday to make ends meet. We cannot afford to take money from public schools to fund private schools and charter schools. I believe in local school board control. The local school board should decide if they want a charter school in their district. I will propose legislation that will end the State Board of Education from overturning the decision of a local board to deny a charter school application.

Candidate: **Zack Taylor**
Office: **House District 28**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. I believe we must continue to invest in public education, including additional pay for our teachers and support staff, as well as more funding for our classrooms. I was proud to support the recent legislation to accomplish this. Moving forward, I believe the economic situation is improving to the point where we can accomplish additional funding through growth revenue, as well as other revenue raising measures that do not raise taxes on working families like eliminating some credits.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

It seemed like it was three questions in one, so for me it wasn't a yes or no answer. While I'm absolutely against vouchers, I can see the benefit of charter schools in some circumstances, and I do not have an issue with the tax credit scenario.

Additional candidate comments:

I also wanted to add that I am all in for education and my voting record shows that. I voted for more revenue than I ever thought I would because it was the right thing for education. I believe in our teachers and have worked to support them, even when it hasn't been politically expedient with some Republicans in my district.

Candidate: **Jesse Goodwin**
Office: **House District 29**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Just some of the options that I would support to pay for the increases in funding are one or more of the following:

- 1. Increasing the Gross Production Tax (GPT) back to 7%**
- 2. Proposing an ad valorem tax be established on oil and gas reserves already in the ground.**
- 3. Eliminating the Capital Gains Exemption (while carving out exemptions for family farms and incomes under a certain level)**

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Aaron Means**

Office: **House District 34**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. I believe funding for these areas are extremely important. The means by funding these area involve growing the economy.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I believe the state needs to keep any promise it made to recruit teachers. When a state employee starts working for the state under an established benefit package the employer (OK) needs to be faithful to its word.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I believe in parental choice for their children's education, but the public funding should not be remove from the local school district for a specific child if they attend a non-public school system. I do not agree with taking state funds allocated for public education for another purpose.

Candidate: **Trish Ranson**
Office: **House District 34**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. I think we need to look at the following to increase state revenue...

Raising the GPT back to 7%. Oil companies have been harvesting oil at a steal of a price at 2%. Raising it to 5% is a start at recapturing lost revenue. We can do more.

Repealing the Capital Gains tax exemption to recapture lost revenue. This was a bill that would've passed last session had there not been a line drawn in the sand over the teacher pay raise.

Diversifying our energy dependence on oil by cultivating more solar and wind energy revenue.

Income Tax Reform. By creating more economic tiers for tax collection, we can raise more revenue by taxing our population in a manner where everyone pays their fair share.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Public funds should fund public education.

Candidate: **Jasha Lyons-Echo Hawk**
Office: **House District 35**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. We need to raise the GPT to 7% or make the tax rate equitable across the board. Citizens in my district, small-business family-owned oil producers pay 7% and have struggled to earn an income and provide for their families as they have to compete with corporations who have been able to pay at a lower GPT. When you couple that with substandard funding for education, and it is a much larger imbalance of opportunity for my community. Ensuring fair taxation would not only benefit these economy in my district, but would add the much needed funding that we must prioritize for education.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

No. I OPPOSE Education Savings Accounts/Vouchers and Opportunity Scholarship Funds. I am generally OPPOSED to charter schools because I believe investments should be made in public schools first. However, given the high dropout rate and low college attainment rate among Native American students throughout Oklahoma (and beyond), I support schools such as the Sovereign Community School and tribal communities who choose to exercise their sovereignty in establishing their own charter schools. The dropout rate in some Indigenous communities approaches nearly 35% compared to 19.6% for the General population and research indicates discrimination of Native students as a factor. Tribal schools can create positive emotional connections to school by incorporating language and culture support and placing value on its significance in the learning environment. (Statistics from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4159099/>)

Candidate: **Richard Prawdzienski**
Office: **House District 39**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

We all know that the education funding system is broken. I am willing to put all funding issues on the table and discuss the pros and cons. One way to reduce school districts need to beg for federal and state funds - counties need to properly assess property and provide more funds to their school district, thus giving more local control to school districts.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

I will call for in-depth audit of the system.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

A free market education system will lead to a better education system with better salaries and benefits for all. Parents who choose private school land up paying for both a private school and also for the known broken public system, this is unfair. I am willing to discuss this unfairness. Government should not be deciding how donor's money should be use.

Candidate: **Norman Grey**
Office: **House District 40**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes, I support the increases in all three areas of concern. Our neglect of proper funding of public education for the last ten years is shameful and ignorant. The tax increases for the raises etc., in 2018 must be made permanent. The GPT on oil and gas should be restored to the full 7%. Exemptions on certain capital gains taxes should be repealed. Perhaps we should consider a modest GPT on production of wind energy. Perhaps we should consider restoration of personal income taxes to their original levels, also. These are all viable options, some of which may not be necessary because State leaders have told us in this election year that our State revenues have suddenly gone way up!

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes, without reservation.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes, I oppose any measure to divert money from funding for public education. Every Oklahoma taxpayer should be required to support public school funding. All of my children have graduated from public schools. Should I get that portion of my taxes that are used to fund public schools refunded to me each year? I don't think so!

Candidate: **Carri Hicks**
Office: **Senate District 40**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes, We saw many examples last year of how we can increasing funding. The Capital Gains Loophole, restore Income tax, restore GPT to 7%.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Absolutely!

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. We know the funding disparities will only be exacerbated by continuing to siphon money away from public schools.

Candidate: **Jennie Scott**
Office: **House District 41**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. I am very grateful for the increase in teacher pay, wages, especially for support professionals are still not competitive enough to keep teachers in the state. Furthermore, teachers are trained professionals and should not be required to marry well or work an additional job in order to make ends meet. We cannot expect professionals to earn college degrees to prepare for a career that does not pay well enough to pay off college loans. In regards to per pupil spending, we are still well below the region. I would like to raise per pupil spending to \$9,500 over a three year period.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Health insurance and retirement benefits are part of the teacher salary package and should be protected. The state must allow for reasonable COLA increases and maintain reasonable premiums so that the pay increases that teachers do receive are not negated by rising costs in health insurance.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Public money should be reserved for public institutions. I am not against charter schools and believe that some students are more successful in alternative settings, but the job of the state is to maintain high quality public schools so that the neighborhood school remains the best choice for the vast majority of Oklahomans.

Candidate: **Liz George**
Office: **House District 42**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES! I would be willing to consider a variety of revenue sources to fund the increase funding needed for these areas including many of those on the table during the Step Up proposal - such as additional cigarette tax, additional GPT, as well as doing away with some of the tax credits that benefit the wealthiest. We have to work together with those impacted by the proposed taxes to come up with a plan that works and will pass. I believe I can do that. As a community of Oklahomans, we all need to pay our fair share to support public education and the future of this state.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES! We must provide competitive benefits to keep Oklahoma teachers in Oklahoma!

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES! Keep tax payer dollars in our public schools where decisions can be made by our local school boards and communities.

Candidate: **Cindy Roe**

Office: **House District 42**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. SIGNIFICANT GROWTH REVENUE IS PREDICTED FOR NEXT YEAR

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

I NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

Candidate: **Merleyn Bell**
Office: **House District 45**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Additional resources are needed to fund public education. That funding needs to be new revenue brought in by the legislature. I propose this funding come mainly from ending tax incentives to the top 1% in Oklahoma. I propose raising the GPT from its current 5% to 7%, eliminating the Capital Gains tax loophole and increasing the tax bracket for Oklahoma's top earners. Although legislation such as State Question 800 is relevant, additional strengthen of the rainy day fund should come from adding revenue streams such as medical cannabis or renewable natural resources.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Public funds should go toward public education.

Candidate: Tom Hackelman
Office: House District 45

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. What was approved in 2018 was a start, but we still have much more room for growth. In looking at Oklahoma's neighboring States, it is my belief that we need to raise teacher pay, for example, an additional \$3,000 in order to be competitive with the average of our neighboring States. I look at classroom investment based on what we provide per pupil. We currently invest \$9,100 per pupil, but, again, in looking at the averages of our neighboring States, this needs to be raised to approximately \$11,000 per pupil at a minimum. What isn't mentioned in your question and is of utmost concern to me is that the pay raises for the 2018-19 school year are based on taxes that were increased. These increases are targeted for other sources effective July 1, 2019 making the teacher pay increase an unfunded mandate. If we allow much of our existing leadership in the Capitol in place, I fear these pay increases will be returned to pre-2018 levels. We cannot allow this to happen. I have some specific plans to address this. I propose raising the Gross Production Tax back to previous levels. This means raising it from 3% to 7%. I also propose attaching Legislative action that requires 100% of this increase to go directly to education. I am also proposing we begin to require sales tax collection from all online retailers. We currently do so with Amazon but it needs to be a requirement for all online retailers. Similarly to the GPT increase, I recommend that a portion of the online retail sales tax be set aside for education.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. We made a promise to our educators to provide them with a retirement pension for their years of service to the State of Oklahoma. This is the very least that we can do. I will fight to protect their pensions and work to create a State constitutional amendment to ensure the protection of this valuable benefit from any future pursuit from lawmakers. Second, regarding healthcare benefits, our existing healthcare benefits for educators and all State employees needs to be protected, but, more importantly, it must be improved. One of the things I'm proposing is to create a multi-state partnership to spread the risk pool in such a way that healthcare insurance providers will be encouraged to lower the cost of healthcare premiums in Oklahoma. As the 3rd most obese State in the Nation, it is imperative we find unique solutions to entice more healthcare insurance providers to enter Oklahoma and provide solid competition for our existing entity.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Both such programs divert needed funding for our local public schools and I oppose all efforts to water down our public education system by creating "alternative school options" that allow for State funds to be used. If a local school board seeks to establish a charter school to focus on specific areas, such as music, science, technology, etc., then this is up to the local school board to create the methods to make this happen. But the State does not need to be creating charter schools to compete with our existing programs. Additionally, private schools are just that: private. If a family chooses to remove their children from public education, the need to pay for those costs. As tax payers, we all share in the investment of our public education and it needs to be protected and not diverted to alternative private options.

Candidate: **Jacob Rosecrants**

Office: **House District 46**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES! Making the Oklahoma/Stronger Together plan a total reality is my main legislative goal. I propose that we restore revenue that's been cut, either through incentives or by targeted tax cuts. I propose we look outside the box to bring in new revenue to Oklahoma. I propose that we DO NOT tax the poor & middle class, as they already bear the weight of most of our taxes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES! I work closely with Oklahoma Retired Educators Association on ensuring that we protect our retirees. I'm ready to pass a COLA for all state retirees as early as this next session.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES! I am looking to author legislation that prevents the SDE from usurping the decisions of local school boards concerning charter schools. I will always fight against vouchers/ education savings accounts as they are inequitable and are only a tool to complete the privatization of our public schools. Yes, I will oppose Opportunity Scholarships as well. We MUST properly fund our public schools, so we can move them from simple survival to creative innovation.

Candidate: **Sarah Carnes**

Office: **House District 47**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Oklahoma is in crisis mode concerning staffing. Highly qualified teachers, school secretaries, cafeteria workers, custodial staff, substitute teachers, teaching assistants, maintenance workers, and bus drivers are essential personnel, and they are currently in high demand! We need to keep and retain teachers that are currently teaching in Oklahoma. We need to recruit Oklahoman's to go into teaching and education related careers. Oklahoma needs to restore the teacher mentoring program that was dissolved many years ago. Our new teachers need guidance to assist them through their entry level year of teaching. This program is effective and keeps new teachers teaching for many years. Teacher pay needs to be increased and fully funded with permanent revenue sources. Support personnel have been underpaid for years, they need to earn a living wage. They are essential staff members to the the viability of the schools districts' operation. The funding formula has been cut, rendering school districts helpless in this state. Teachers have supplanted their personal funds into classrooms for far too long. This needs to stop. The funding cuts need to be restored from the last eight years and a substantial increase needs to be added to the current funding formula.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Many current legislators want to get out of the "insurance" and benefits "business" for teachers, but have not offered any replacement solutions that are feasible. Teacher and family rates have sky rocketed over the last twenty years. Health insurance is the most costly "benefit" to teachers and their families. Rates need to be reasonable and comparable to private sector rates. The Teacher Retirement System (TRS) needs to be a secure and protected.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES, I oppose new statewide charters. Yes, I oppose vouchers. Yes, I oppose OSF. Oklahoma public schools are required to employ certified educators and provide educational services to all students. Public schools have to meet and exceed high standards of accreditation and employ all OAS-Oklahoma Academic Standards. Many private schools do not offer or provide equivalent services.

Candidate: Cheryl Key

Office: House District 48

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. It is vital we pay these hardworking, dedicated faculty and staff like professionals. Part of supporting our teachers and staff is adequately funding our classrooms to ensure that schools can provide the appropriate supplies, textbooks, technology, furniture and space needed to properly educate all children. So many of our school buildings are crumbling, textbooks are falling apart, and teachers are rationing paper. To this end, I support restoring the tax base to the same levels they were prior to the legislative revenue-slashing measures that took place during the past eight years. This includes restoring the GPT for horizontal drillers to 7 percent. Additionally, I support a hotel tax if the tax level is set at a percentage, rather than a flat rate.

In the fall of 2017 several Ardmore and Plainview teachers posted wish lists of modestly priced supplies needed in their classrooms. I gifted 20 teachers, many who are single moms holding part-time jobs to support themselves and their families. I came across only one wish list this fall on Facebook, which was posted by my primary opponent's sister. I was happy to purchase a globe for her third-grade class.

Running for office was not on my radar when I supported two recent Ardmore City School (ACS) bond elections. For last November's, I organized four Saturday phone-banking sessions leading up to the election, recruiting volunteers who identified supporters and urged them to get out the vote. There were two bond issues on that fall election date. One failed. The second, smaller bond issue passed. When the school board followed up in spring, I joined the committee, contributing money for messaging, hosting a neighborhood meet-and-greet in my home to introduce school patrons in my precinct to the school superintendent to hear first-hand the need for its passage, and canvassing a lower-turnout neighborhood the Saturday prior to the vote. I am pleased to report the measure, which funded a new performing arts theater and renovations to two elementary school, passed by 76 percent.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Health care is so incredibly important when addressing compensation for our education professionals. My husband is a retired educator and OEA member. I know first-hand the importance of the existing defined benefit pension and know how important it is for teachers to have this income when they retire. I will not support any changes to this program unless serious problems arise and I've consulted with OEA and local school leadership.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Any effort to divert even one dollar away from public schools is not acceptable. Our public schools do their best with what they have and could do so much more if tax dollars weren't being diverted to schools that do not have the same standards and requirements. Our local district leadership knows what is best for our community.

Last spring when organizers of a charter school presented its proposal to the ACS school board for approval, I wrote letters of opposition to school board members and urged my family and friends to do the same. Following the school board's rejection, the organizers chose not pursue the request at the state board level.

In my experience, it's important early-on to build relationships with those with whom you'll be working. During my campaign I have visited with numerous school superintendents in my district, attended their respective school board meetings to introduce myself to board members, met with several classroom teachers, and spoken to an ACS supervisors' meeting at the invitation of school superintendent Kim Holland. Mr. Holland was a valuable resource when I was completing the lengthy State Chamber of Commerce's survey.

Finally, my background in chairing the Ardmore Development Authority, the economic development arm of my hometown, as well as two other community development boards, has led me to put education at the forefront of my platform. The No. 1 need of business is a well-trained work force. Site location specialists tell us education is their No. 1 priority when seeking places for their clients to consider. Making education a priority of the state legislature is my No. 1 goal.

Candidate: **Leslie Bonebreak**
Office: **House District 53**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Our schools have repeatedly fallen below national standards for decades due to budget cuts and inadequate pay and benefits. As a representative, I refuse to put more tax burden on those who can least afford it. We must raise the Gross Production Tax to a level that reflects the energy rich states that surround us. The Capital Gains Tax Break has cost our state nearly a half billion dollars in revenue and only benefits about 1600 Oklahoman's. We can find a better source to protect the few small farmers who benefit from it during lean years. Our state tax income bracket system needs adjustment. Currently, someone who brings in \$400,000 annually pays the same rate as someone who earns only \$10,000. All of these were implemented in the past 14 and are the direct cause of our budget shortfalls.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Health Choice needs reformed. It offers little choice and family coverage costs teachers an average of \$20,000 a year. Yes, I will listen to what the teachers tell me works and is not working. We need to protect what little they currently receive. I will fight for affordable healthcare for all people. Pensions need to keep up with COLAs. Our teachers deserve to retire comfortably.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Charter schools maintain a private board for operations and should not receive public funds. Voucher programs lower school performance when we should focus on all children getting an equal education despite where they live, not reducing funds to schools that need it the most. We don't need to offer tax credits for private scholarships. It seems self defeating in these difficult times.

Candidate: **Katelyn Dockery**

Office: **House District 54**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. I believe that the pay raise and revenue measures passed in 2018 were a good start, but after a decade of neglecting our public schools, they were not enough. I strongly support additional funding for teacher pay, support professional pay, and classroom resources. There are a variety of mechanisms for funding these increases and I think they should all be given serious consideration, including restoring the GPT to 7% and reversing the last income tax cuts.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. As public servants, educators deserve to have high-quality and affordable healthcare and a pension plan that will enable them to live comfortably after retirement. I fully support a cost of living adjustment for current retirees.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I am adamantly opposed to all efforts to divert public funding away from our public schools. I believe we need to invest in our public schools in order to ensure that all children are provided with the same opportunities, regardless of family income.

Candidate: **Dennis Dugger**
Office: **House District 55**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Every Constitutional funding source must be on the table. Lowering the income tax is what put us in the mess we are in, and we need to also look at energy sources beyond oil & gas.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. It will take such a large raise to put our teachers at the top of the regional average that - while we are in the process of reaching that goal - we must keep their benefits as is in order to stay competitive with the regional job market.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **David Perryman**
Office: **House District 56**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. The raises that we achieved for teachers and support personnel and the additional classroom appropriations were the result of an extremely hard fought battle. There were many legislators who were giving lip service to teacher raises but were not willing to take the hard vote to fund the appropriations. By standing solidly together our small caucus effected real change by increasing the amount of the funding for education and increasing the Gross Production Tax. However, even that accomplishment does not make up for the greater than 28% cuts to Oklahoma's K-12 Education funding since 2008. With a pro-public education governor and a larger caucus, we will be able to restore even more education funding for our children's future. Oklahoma's gross production tax on oil and gas is still the lowest in the nation. Putting those tax rates at the regional average and also addressing the capital gains tax exemptions in a way that will protect agriculture will go a long way toward that goal.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Oklahoma educators dedicate their lives to our children and are the single most important hope for improving the future of our state. Oklahoma educators deserve a flex benefits package that provides them with real access to quality health care for themselves and their families. As a member of the house committee that reviews pension legislation, I have seen up close the attempts to convert the various retirement systems from defined benefit to defined contribution. Those actions are nothing more than attempts to privatize the retirement systems. Our caucus has stood shoulder to shoulder to prevent that. We will continue to do so. Teachers deserve better than to retire into poverty after spending their entire careers preparing our students for a brighter future in Oklahoma.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Legislation such as Senate Bill 782 in 2015 (authorizing charter schools in any county in the state even over the objection of the local school board) and vouchers, tax credits and ESA's in all forms undermine Oklahoma's ability to fund its system of public education and cripples the future of our democracy. Too many legislators soft pedal this issue and refuse to protect public education. The privatization of education and the siphoning off of public education dollars requires legislators and a governor who will stand strong against those groups who manufacture a false dialogue that vouchers and private schools and charter schools and lucrative tax cuts and credits are necessary and perform better than public schools. Funding public education is essential to Oklahoma.

Candidate: **Larry Bush**
Office: **House District 62**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. We have long term funding solutions-1.Restoring a higher top income rate on the highest earners 2. Ending tax breaks for oil and gas production 3. Limiting itemized deductions.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Daniel Pae**
Office: **House District 62**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Two crucial elements that have been missing from Oklahoma's budgetary process are stability and certainty. There are a few ways to put Oklahoma on a firmer financial footing and make significant investments toward education. First, I would support legislation that creates a new tax on wind energy. While it appears that this idea has currently succumbed to legislative gridlock, I predict that this is a topic that will be debated in future legislative sessions. Our revenue sources, as well as the overall economy, must be diversified going forward. Second, it is prudent to create a budget stabilization fund to prepare for any future economic downturns. One possible idea is depositing a percentage of the gross production tax revenue into this fund and allow for it to grow over the years. This will help mitigate some of the volatility associated with this revenue source. Third, the next governor of Oklahoma will have to renegotiate the tribal compacts in 2020, and a major topic of discussion will be whether to change the exclusivity fee rate that tribes pay the state for exclusive rights to gaming. Oklahoma has a relatively low exclusivity fee compared to other states. Therefore, a higher exclusivity fee that brings in more revenue could be on the table for consideration. Overall, my hope is that we can continue the build upon the bipartisan foundation from this past legislative session to fund core services and invest in our state's future.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I believe that it is extremely important to protect the benefits that teachers have earned throughout their career. Many teachers are working multiple part time jobs to pay their bills, and we should do more to ensure that teachers are given competitive wages and benefits. This will not only help with retaining high quality instructors, but also incentivizing young people to invest their lives in teaching.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I do not support diverting public funds toward paying for private schools because this would lead to declining quality for public schools. There is already a substantial funding challenge for our public school system, so I do not want to exacerbate it any further. While I respect the right of parents to educate their children through whatever option they feel is best for them, I personally believe in the vitality and power of attending public schools based on my own experience with Lawton Public Schools.

Candidate: **Trey Caldwell**
Office: **House District 63**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

I Need more information about specific proposals.

Candidate: **Joan Gabelmann**

Office: **House District 63**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Besides re-evaluating the current budget and looking at expenditures in all areas to establish need, over-spending, waste, etc. to allocate funds appropriately, I want to work in bipartisan manner to research and repeal capital gains exemptions on Oklahoma assets (guaranteeing an Ag exemption, raise the GPT further to 6.5% and then again to 7%. Reevaluate and modify current Wind GPT looking for a soft-cap on subsidies to Wind with new contracts guaranteeing GPT. Re-visit the repealed hotel/motel tax, ad valorem taxes of OIL Gas properties, increase state sales tax by \$0.01

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. These entities diminish funding to public schools; all privatization does this whether it is public schools or state penitentiaries.

Candidate: **Ashley McCarter**
Office: **House District 64**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. As a public school elementary counselor, and the mother of a public school student, I see firsthand the hardship that is Oklahoma Education. While the legislature did make a move the right direction, the work is not over. I am strong supporter of the Gross Production Tax increase and ensuring that money is earmarked for education. However, because the gas and oil produced in Oklahoma is finite, we must have other sources of sustainable income. I believe in restoration of taxes that Oklahoma has done away with. Perhaps re-evaluating our tax brackets and looking at doing away with the capital gains exemption. I do not believe that one person has all of the answers, which is why I believe in working across party lines for the betterment of Oklahoma.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes, without hesitation.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes, I oppose ALL. Public tax dollars should be used for public schools. My biggest fear is that many Oklahoman leaders want our public education system to become so ineffective and offer vouchers as an alternative in order to privatize education. If we consistently and responsibly invest our money equitably throughout common education across the state we would see tremendous and amazing outcomes for Oklahoma families.

Candidate: **David Pilon**
Office: **House District 64**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

No. We should first find a way to afford the current level of spending, while we wait and study its effects, so that we can determine how much more money is still needed and where, and then budget for that amount.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

No. The current benefits package isn't good enough and costs more than what it's worth. We should renegotiate.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

No. If we're worried that students leaving public schools causes funds to be diverted, then we should really concern ourselves with the reasons why: bullying and harassment, religious reasons, gifted and talented students not being challenged enough, students with disabilities not receiving enough support, and concerns over school security. It would be better for us to reform the public school system in order to better address those issues so as to encourage parents and guardians to return their dependents to public education or keep them enrolled there, rather than try to limit alternatives by attacking the competition.

Candidate: **Toni Hasenbeck**
Office: **House District 65**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. The first priority of the Legislature is to spend our tax dollars like education is a priority. We need to restore all historical money that Oklahoman's have voted to spend on Education. We need to form a long term plan for making Education spending a priority in the future. If taxes need to be raised to pay for education in the future- it must be fair and equitable for working Oklahomans and all citizens.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. The past, present and future work of educators. Teaching students is the most beautiful job in the world, done by the most resourceful and resilient workforce in the world.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

1 and 2. We must realize Charter Schools are public schools. 3. We can not dictate where people decide to donate money - if Grandparents gift money to their grandchildren, that money could be spent on Private School Tuition and be free of some tax penalty- A Person can make a tax deductible donation to any Schools Foundation and the Foundation can then create scholarships.

Candidate: **Brandon Thompson**
Office: **House District 65**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. The funding for additional increases should be funded by increasing the GPT to 7%. This would bring Oklahoma closer to the regional GPT average and be a good step to improving funding in Oklahoma education.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Over the past 46 years my mother has dedicated her whole life to the children of this state. Her benefits are going to be crucial in maintaining her quality of life if and when she retires.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I strongly oppose charter schools and vouchers that divert money from public education. Public schools are vital in providing all Oklahoma children with a quality education.

Candidate: **Jadine Nollan**
Office: **House District 66**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes, I was excited to be a part of the efforts to provide a much needed and deserved pay raise for our teachers ranging from \$5,000 to over \$8,000 dollars. And it was the largest teacher pay raise in state history moving our teacher avg pay to 2nd in the region and 12th in the nation when factoring in Oklahoma's low cost of living. We made some great first steps this year but realize we still have a lot more work to provide additional funding to the classroom and to reduce class sizes across the state. Just know I'm personally committed to finishing the good work we've started.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. And in fact, the legislature has already been dramatically protecting the teacher health benefits and pension the past 8 years. In 2011 when I first took office the teacher pension system was only funded at 48% and was so low it hurt the state's credit rating. We have greatly increased funding to the pension by up to 300 million per year and now the pension is over 70% funded. And we will continue to do so until it is considered solvent at 80% or better. The legislature has also been appropriating an additional 25-50 million per year to fund the increase cost to teachers health benefits. The additional investment to the pension and health benefits over the past 8 years has amounted to more than 2 billion and shows our commitment to fund these important programs for our educators.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. My voting record on the House Common Education Committee and on the Floor over the last eight years serves as a proven record of my heartfelt commitment to Oklahoma's students, teachers and schools.

Candidate: Angela Graham

Office: House District 66

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. I absolutely support increased funding for teacher pay, support raises for professional pay, and I strongly support an increase in classroom funding. The future of our state depends on properly and fully funding education not just for students and teachers now, but for generations to come. To do so, I support restoring the GPT to the pre-recession level of 9%. I also support revoking the capital gains tax exemption, a benefit given to a handful of wealthy Oklahomans that costs the State millions of dollars in lost tax revenue. We must restructure our income tax code, including restoring the top tax bracket for the wealthiest Oklahomans to make taxes fair and equitable for all Oklahomans, including corporations.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I will both advocate for and vote to protect state-funded individual health insurance and defined benefit pensions. While it is true that the state-funded health insurance is expensive for the State, those costs can be brought down. I will also vote to accept federal Medicaid expansion which will return tax dollars to Oklahoma, expand coverage across Oklahoma, and lower costs for everyone, including for the state-funded benefit plans. This will also serve to lower the insurance costs for teachers and professionals who opt to buy coverage for their families. For retirees, I believe we have a responsibility to our retired educators. The defined benefit pension that retirees (and current teachers) rely on is a promise, and it is a promise that Oklahoma must keep. That also means funding a cost of living increase for retired teachers.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes, I oppose all efforts to divert funding away from public schools towards private schools. First, any charter school that does not receive approval from the local school board should not have the option to appeal to the State Department of Education. Local school boards are best suited to determine the needs of their communities, and they are in the best position to determine if a charter school would fit a unique or special need in the community. Thus, second, while I do believe there are some circumstances in which a charter school could be beneficial, those circumstances are few and far between, and thus, those charters should require the full support of the local school board. Parents that are upwardly mobile and middle/upper-middle class already have abundant school choice. Those parents do not need to siphon funds from public education in order to send their children to private school. One of my children is a special needs student on an IEP that would qualify for vouchers to attend a private school. I know that the best place for my child, the place where his needs will be best addressed, is his local public school.

Candidate: **Carly Hotvedt**
Office: **House District 67**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes to all three. These increases should be funded by require Industry to pay their fair share. By repealing ineffective and inefficient tax credits and exemptions that do not return value to the state, we can secure revenue for public services including education. Tax breaks for horizontal drilling should be ended, restoring GPT to 7% at the outset of well production. Additionally, opportunities for expanding GPT to reach parity with regional Oil and Gas rich states should be pursued. We should also consider restore stable revenue sources like income tax for high earners by adding two more tax brackets for earners \$200,000+ and \$500,000+ at a higher tax rate. Oklahoma's tax code also has not been fundamentally updated since statehood. We should be looking at ways to better distribute tax burdens fairly and equitably in our modern economy.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. It used to be understood that working for the State of Oklahoma meant making a lesser salary for the position but receiving decent benefits. That is no longer the case. The State of Oklahoma needs to invest in its employees and cover a larger amount of the premium for health insurance. As state rep, I would support the allocation of more funding for employee salary/benefits to be competitive with other regional governments. Defined benefit pensions must be maintained especially as salary remains below competitive levels. Due to a failure to increase salary to levels that mirror inflation, teachers are left with take home income levels that generally require 100% consumer expenditure with very little opportunity to save extra dollars. Until salary can reflect a take home pay beyond average consumption, the state must maintain defined benefit pensions.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes, I oppose all funding diversions listed. Public dollars should only be spent for public purposes. Under no circumstances should public funds be diverted to private schools. Additionally, tax credits for private school donations should be eliminated. An educated public benefits all Oklahomans, not just those with children in school. We should all pay our fair share to ensure that we are investing not just in our own children but in Oklahoma's children statewide. I also believe in local control for district decision making. Only local school boards should be able to authorize new charters, taking into consideration local needs, demands, and budgets.

Candidate: **Heather Chenoweth**
Office: **House District 68**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes to funding schools, staff, teachers

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes to protect benefits

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Personally, I dislike vouchers. We can't wound our public schools further by taking money away to give to private schools. I also think it would cost more tax payer dollars. And it opens a potential door of discrimination. I actually don't oppose charter schools. I think many avenues of learning can be beneficial. Just like with our postal service, as Americans we have a government run service that we can utilize. It's affordable. However, there are private companies like UPS. It's the same with schools a student can go to public school, do an online/homeschool, charter or private. Many ideas of doing business. I see schools as a business and students are the customer.

Candidate: **J. Lee Miller Jr.**
Office: **House District 68**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

No. I believe that teachers should be treated as professionals both in their pay and treatment on a daily basis. I am a licensed mental health professional and no one in Oklahoma City tells me what to cover in therapy or when to cover it. They licensed me to conduct therapy and trust me to make the best decisions for my clients. As such I believe that pay is best determined at the local level, not in Oklahoma City where no one knows what is best for each community in the state.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. No one should have their plan for retirement cut out from under them nor should they have their insurance coverage cut with little to no warning. I would also support allowing teachers to opt out of each of these programs. Teachers should be allowed to take home the funds used for these programs if they are able to find a better fit for them and their family.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

No. I do not oppose all of these. I support each child obtaining the best education for him/her and sometimes this means attending a charter school or some other form of education. I support decreasing the regulations placed on public schools to the same level of regulation as that of charter schools. Also, if a donation is to be used as a tax credit I believe it should follow existing rules regulating donations to non-profit organizations.

Candidate: **Michael Ross**
Office: **House District 68**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. In order to accommodate the needed increases to teacher pay, support professional pay, and classroom funding, it is imperative that the state of Oklahoma return to pre-2008 tax rates, including the return to a 7% GPT. The rates in place through the 1990s and early 2000s were sensible and allowed the state to meet its basic needs across the board, including education, and raising the GPT by such a modest amount would only add approximately two cents to the cost of a barrel of crude oil. Additionally, I favor the expansion of Medicaid in Oklahoma, a move that would provide a tremendous boost to the state's healthcare system and, as a secondary effect, would help alleviate some of the burden in other departments within the state, education among them.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. The state of Oklahoma made a promise to its educators that, in exchange for their service to Oklahoma's children and schools, healthcare benefits would be provided. Furthermore, educators have been paying into their pensions from the beginning of their careers, and to force them into a change at the whims of the legislature would be a colossal "bait and switch."

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. While parents retain the option to pursue private education for their children, the people and state of Oklahoma are constitutionally bound to provide a free public education to each child. Public money is to be spent in this manner and, to divert tax dollars in to any form of private education is to deprive public schools of the support already codified into state law on the highest level. For legislators to support any of these three positions is to ignore that responsibility.

Candidate: **Sheila Dills**
Office: **House District 69**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Andrew Richardson**

Office: **House District 69**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. This is the number one issue when talking to voters and the reason I decided to run for office. Our public schools have continually been shortchanged by the current leadership and it is time for that to stop. Every possible funding option should be on the table when it comes to properly funding teacher and support staff raises as well as classroom investments. I believe that the GPT must be raised to at least 7%. This is the easiest way to make a huge step forward with our funding shortages that will have an immediate impact. From there, I will want to work with OEA leadership and local school leadership to come up with other ways to increase revenues without shifting the burden to working families, many of whom include educators and support staff.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. My parents were public school teachers in Oklahoma for the entire professional careers, and OEA members. My parents needed their teacher retirement to survive. My mom has passed away, but my father still receives his Oklahoma teacher's retirement. I fully appreciate that teachers do not get in the business of educating our children for the money, but it is our responsibility to compensate them for the professionals they are. We have a duty to ensure that they get the raises they deserve. Part of that responsibility includes providing high quality health care and a retirement plan. The existing defined benefit plans are most beneficial to our education professionals and they should not be modified by the Legislature, unless requested by education professionals. Health Care costs can quickly lead a family to financial hardships and even bankruptcy. We must protect and fund the existing employment benefits being offered. It is important that we look for long term solutions to protecting this funding source so that we aren't constantly putting our teachers and staff through the stress of whether they can see a doctor or not.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Our public schools are the foundation of our state, and it is the Legislature's constitutional responsibility to fund public schools and provide this service to all citizens. When we take money away for programs like charters or vouchers, we are taking away crucial dollars that go to benefit the greater population. If a family would like to send their child to a private school, they are free to do so, but it should never be at the detriment of the public school system. Opportunity Scholarship Funds are just fancy ways to take away tax dollars so that a family can have more cash for private school. No matter how proponents spin it, they are hurting public schools and I will not vote to support that.

Candidate: **J.J. Burnam**
Office: **House District 70**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. I support additional long-term and sustainable funding increases for teacher pay, support professional pay, and classroom funding. To achieve this, we must repeal the capital gains tax loophole. Last session, the Republican leadership bowed down to special interests and left the capital gains tax exemption intact. This harmful tax loophole is a proven loss for Oklahomans and I will stand firm for its repeal. Also, we must restore income tax rates for wealthy earners. Mary Fallin and the legislature chose to give our wealthiest earners a tax break while our schools were starving for funds. That was harmful and irresponsible, and I will support restoring pre-recession tax rates for wealthy earners.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES. Educators are vital public servants and I will commit to protecting their health insurance coverage and defined benefit pensions.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES. We can't have winners and losers when it comes to educating our kids, and I oppose laws, measures, mechanisms, or instruments like vouchers, K-12 ESA's, and the Opportunity Scholarship Fund that take money away from public education. Additionally, any decision to establish a charter school should be made with extraordinary caution, and left up to the local school board in transparent consultation with their community, not by the State Board of Education.

Candidate: Denise Brewer

Office: House District 71

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES! 1. Over the last decade the highest wage earners in Oklahoma have seen deep tax cuts. Not only do we need to roll back those tax cuts, we must increase their taxes so the highest earners carry the proportionate burden. Those tax cuts cost our state \$1billion in revenue so far. Rolling those back, in addition to proportionate increases to the super wealthy, will restore millions of dollars of revenue and eventually we'll get our billion back. Money which can be earmarked for education/major raises now, annual raises all supported by permanent funding.

2. We've finally made the "bold" step of raising the oil/gas GPT first to 5% then to 7%. I will champion another step to 10% GPT. I will also fight for more aggressive oversight of rig/drilling operations with an increase in fines related to safety, the environment & site cleanup. More funds to be directed to education/raises.

3. Oklahoma's tax laws have huge loopholes for businesses to avoid paying what they owe. One, in particular, allows OK based companies to hold their earnings in other states, therefore, avoiding paying state taxes. This single problem costs our state untold millions of dollars and OK is one of only a few states to allow such a thing. We change the tax law and we have millions more to fund education.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES! Not only will I vote to protect Educator's benefits & pensions, I will FIGHT to make sure our Educators have some of the best benefit packages in a 6 state region! I will fight to include family coverage in the insurance plans. As it stands, only covering the educator puts our professionals in an even more precarious financial situation: a common reason educators must get 2nd jobs. They have to pay for insurance for the rest of the family. We MUST offer amazing benefits to our current education professionals and to those we are recruiting. Our goals can't be to just get out of this funding hole & shameful education crisis, it must be to rise far ABOVE average and set the example for other states. We need the best teachers to WANT to move to Oklahoma for our amazing educational system.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES! As a citizen of Oklahoma, my tax dollars are meant to maintain or improve Public Services. That means Public Education. Taxes = Public. Taxes do NOT equal private, charter, refund, vouchers, etc. We can't allow our precious PUBLIC funds to be drained off by Private Flight (flying to private schools & using any excuse or method). In my opinion, far too often, it's STATUS parents are trying to buy. I had a constituent try to argue he was paying twice for education- taxes & tuition- as we were standing in front of his \$800k home with 2 \$70k cars in the drive. My answer was simple. "You've received more tax cuts over the last ten years than most people have made in 10 years. I wouldn't say you've been treated unfairly." He just smiled sheepishly because he knew I was right. On a final note, according to the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, the first budgetary action to be taken at the beginning of every new session, education should be fully funded. First. Before moving to anything else. However, over the last several years that Constitutional Law has been ignored with no repercussions. My first action in office will be to restore Constitutional order & law by moving to fully fund education & raises first.

Candidate: **Karen Gaddis**
Office: **House District 75**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. We have only just begun. We must continue to increase salaries of both professional educators and support personnel and to continue to increase classroom funding to provide up-to-date textbooks, technology, and teaching materials and to lower class sizes. We cannot expect to draw-in qualified people into professional education without these investments, and we would be cheating our own children not to make these investments.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. We must protect our currently employed teachers and our retired teachers by continuing and possibly expanding their current benefits. Defined contribution pensions are, in my opinion, a joke - they protect the pension business only, not the pensioner who is at the mercy of the stock market.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I oppose any and all methods of removing public funds from public schools, no matter what you call them - vouchers, scholarships, savings accounts, whatever. PUBLIC FUNDS SHOULD BE SPENT ONLY ON PUBLIC CAUSES!

Candidate: **T.J. Marti**

Office: **House District 75**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. When it comes to education, my campaign promise has been to increase our spending per student until we are in line with the top states in America by allocating tax dollars efficiently. The state is projected to have a 1-billion plus surplus next year. It's my goal to invest that money into our teachers, students and classrooms. Additionally, I will work to expand our state's rainy day fund limit in order to get the state through the next economic downturn so that our education system doesn't have to suffer through another financial crisis.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes, competitive employment benefits are an important piece of attracting and retaining teachers in our state.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes, public education is a public necessity that all members of the community should pay into regardless of whether a parent elects to send their child to public or private school. The state, on the whole, benefits from offering a quality education to all our youth until public education is fully funded then vouchers can be looked at as a viable option.

Candidate: **Forrest Mayer**
Office: **House District 76**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Oklahoma is one of the only states to not require combines reporting for corporations. This means that multistate corporations can pass their profits through their own subsidiary companies and cheat us out of millions of dollars in taxes. We also have the lowest gross production tax in the nation and we are not taking advantage of many growing industries. It's time everyone paid their fair share and we stopped disproportionately taxing the poor and middle class.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I'm so sorry you have to ask me this. I will do everything I can to work for teachers and protect them. I promise.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. These shady and underhanded tactics to distribute public funds to private schools have got to be stopped. School vouchers and so-called "Opportunity Scholarship Funds" are a blatant undermining of our education system when it needs us most.

Candidate: **John Waldron**
Office: **House District 77**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Oklahoma is still lagging in education and in retention of teachers. We must find additional funding to increase teacher incentives and to restore classroom spending levels. We should start by repealing the capital gains tax exemption, restoring the gross production tax and creating tax brackets for Oklahomans making more than \$100,000 per year. We can also find revenues by reducing the number of people in prisons and repealing nonessential corporate tax credits.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. We must protect these benefits as they are an essential part of the state's social contract with its workers. Incidentally I support accepting federal Medicaid expansion funds.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Vouchers are a drain on public education. I am not opposed to all charter schools where authorized by local school boards, but they should have the same standards of transparency and accountability as regular public schools. We should not redirect limited funds from our already struggling public schools.

Candidate: **Meloyde Blancett**
Office: **House District 78**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes! We have to explore further increasing the cigarette tax to the originally proposed \$1.50, returning the GPT to 7%, eliminating the capital gains exemption and look for other sources of funding opportunities that perhaps incentivize community and private investment

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes!

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes!

Candidate: **Paul Royse**
Office: **House District 78**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Oklahoma has some awesome teachers and I want to do what i can to support them. Audit all agencies for fraud and wasteful spending. It could be close to 400 million dollars. Lets use a lot of this money for education!

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. A teacher needs health insurance just like everyone else as they get sick too! Of course I would support protecting health insurance and benefits!

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. OEA does not want to divert money from existing Oklahoma funds to pay for a voucher program and I completely understand that. We do not want to take a step back in education funding for Oklahoma public schools and teachers. However, President Trump is considering giving Federal dollars to implement a nationwide school voucher program. At least on the surface it sounds really good to me but is it? Should states try a voucher program on his dime? Would this may help alleviate the large class sizes and help teachers at no cost to the States? Should States refuse the money? It would be an interesting discussion! In front of a joint session of Congress on Tuesday, Trump called for federal funding to help low-income students attend any school they want. These families should be free to choose the public, private, charter, magnet, religious or home school that is right for them," Trump said. During his address, Trump introduced Denisha Merriweather, a Florida student who had failed third grade twice but later received funding through a tax credit scholarship program to attend a private school. She eventually became the first in her family to graduate high school.

Candidate: **Melissa Provenzano**
Office: **House District 79**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Increasing revenue can be accomplished via the following ways:

- 1. Restore the Gross Production Tax to 7%. During the walkout, we lobbied for 7%. 5% was obtained (up from 2%). Even .5% more would have a net gain of 60 million dollars. At 7%, Oklahoma is still well below the GPT of all other states in our region and beyond.**
- 2. Remove the Capital Gains Deduction – granted to the top 1% of wage earners, this deduction on the sale of real estate has cost Oklahoma over 100 million in lost revenue per year.**
- 3. Repeal/Amend SQ 640 – SQ 640 has crippled our revenue-raising ability since 1992 with its ¾ majority requirement. It's time to look at what other states have done that works and update this policy!**

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Every time.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Public dollars should be used to fund public school education. Vouchers as currently proposed provide what amounts to a "coupon" or discount to attend private schools. They do not cover the full cost of tuition, therefore families must still offset the balance from their own pockets. For families who live in poverty, even this discounted price is too much to be able to pay. Added to that, private schools generally do not provide transportation, so families who do not live in the area and who do not have a reliable source of transportation are eliminated from the possibility of attendance. The voucher program sounds good for all families, but what it amounts to is a coupon of sorts to upper-middle-class families to attend private institutions.

Candidate: Janice Graham

Office: House District 80

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes, without a doubt. Oklahoma needs to “catch up” with funding public education. The attention to education from the “walk out” is just a beginning. I want to keep the pace and attention on moving Oklahoma up the ladder when compared to surrounding states. Funding simply needs to be addressed and given priority. It should not be last on the list when working on the states’ budget. My understanding is that the formula is efficient but simply needs the funds. There were only a couple suggestions given by the team/audit who analyzed it. We’ve got to continue to increase gross production tax. Taxation needs to be fair and equitable. The approximate 66% of the budget that is already “ear-marked” needs to have an “open audit.” Our governing body needs to analyze whether that “ear-marked” spending continues to be needed. Just like in budgeting for a household, you sometimes need to allocate funds differently.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators’ existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Absolutely yes, and even improve it in the area of health insurance. As an educator, to add your spouse or family to your health care plan never seemed affordable. And by this, when comparing plans to plans of others who worked outside of education. As a retired educator, I’m reaping the benefits of the pension and appreciate that our retirement funds are well invested. I want to protect that pot of money. I would like to see more of an incentive for retirement for with an increase in the amount given for health insurance.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student’s per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes, I do oppose public funds diverted to charters and private schools in the form of vouchers. It widens the opportunity gap of quality education for all of our kids. The children living in poverty throughout our state will be given less educational opportunities. I’ve seen “first hand” that charter and private schools have “kicked children out” due to challenging behaviors or disabilities. They’ve accepted public funds, but they do not educate all. This continues the divide. It concerns me greatly that charter schools have no regulations, only to be regulated by the school district in which the funds flow.

Candidate: **Stan May**

Office: **House District 80**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. With an increase in the State income this year there should be several fund sources which can be considered, but we will need to see which ones will have a surpluses that can be used for all of the extra needs of the state. I believe we can all agree that another tax increase will not be a viable avenue this session since it looks like there may be a budget surplus this year.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Jackie Phillips**
Office: **House District 81**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Oraynab Jwayyed**
Office: **House District 82**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. I would restore the Gross Production Tax to 7%. The Oklahoma Tax Commission's annual report ending June 30, 2017 reveals a drop in state revenue by over 50% in the ten years the tax was reduced to 2%. I would also look into taxing products to deter negative behavior, such as sugary drinks. New tax revenue from CBD and medical marijuana will increase the state's revenue flow as well.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Nicole Miller**
Office: **House District 82**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Need more information

Candidate: **Chelsey Branham**
Office: **House District 83**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Jason Reese**
Office: **House District 83**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes; I support long term planning to continue progress in such funding rather than revisiting this issue once every ten years.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes; further, I support a COLA increase at the earliest possible opportunity.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

No; though I do not favor repealing the scholarship tax credits, I do support expanding the credit to provide assistance to *public* school foundations.

Candidate: **William Cagle**
Office: **House District 84**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. I believe funding can be found by limiting the pay and number of administrators and superintendents. We can also find funding by cutting budgets of other agencies that have more than enough to complete their jobs. We can also eliminate the state income tax on teachers and support personnel which would increase take home pay. Taxing these people is just redundant.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I would do my best to keep the current benefits educators receive.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

NO! Education savings accounts and other school choice options give power to the parents.

Candidate: **Lauren Morris**
Office: **House District 84**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. More funding is needed in all three areas. While the recent increase was helpful, it was only the beginning. I believe the best way to finance the increase in public school funding is by raising the GPT to its historical Oklahoma rate of 7%. This will bring in around 450 million dollars annually, and can help Oklahoma properly fund our public education system.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Regarding Charter Schools: Given the statistics on Charter Schools (most fail within a few years, and a majority of the children who attend them are not better off for the experience), I would not support the authorization of additional Charter Schools. Regarding vouchers: I am from Indiana, where voucher programs have decimated public education, and I would vote consistently against voucher programs to prevent Oklahoma from following suit. It is our obligation to provide a high quality public school education to every student in our state, and that becomes much harder with every tax dollar that is diverted due to voucher programs. Regarding Opportunity Scholarship Funds: I am not opposed to people contributing to scholarship funds out of the goodness of their hearts. However, I do not feel these donations should merit a tax credit.

Candidate: Tammy West
Office: House District 84

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Cyndi Munson**
Office: **House District 85**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Restore the personal state income tax rate to at least 5.25%, end the capital gains tax exemption, raise the corporate income tax rate, and continue to work toward increasing the GPT to 7%.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. We should work toward providing health insurance coverage for dependents, even if we begin with partial coverage of their premiums. Educators should also have vision and dental care coverage included in their overall health insurance package. As I visit with educators, these concerns come up regularly. I have not and will not vote to decrease or eliminate existing employment benefits, health insurance coverage, or the defined benefit pensions.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Charter authorization should stay at the local level and not go around the local board to receive approval from the State Board of Education. I have not and will not vote to increase voucher programs in the state of Oklahoma.

Candidate: **Stephen Paulson**
Office: **House District 85**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

HELL NO! There is more than enough money put into education. Always has been. It's organizations like OEA that increase the cost while fighting against accountability. I want administrative consolidation, cities and counties freed to spend their tax dollars on education- including for teacher pay like Texas does and most importantly OEA out of politics.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

NO.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

NO. I support any program that puts options up for parents and students. If the edu-crats are against it, I'm for it.

Additional candidate commentary:

None of my responses will yield an endorsement from your group- and that is precisely how I want it.

Candidate: **Rhonda Cox**
Office: **House District 86**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

- **Increase GPT to 7%**
- **Eliminate capital gains exemption**
- **Increase cigarette tax to .50 cents**

At a minimum we need to increase school operational funds \$275 million, and increase teacher pay raise by \$2000, for the next 2 years to a minimum starter pay of \$40,000.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. We need to protect our retirement benefits from becoming a 401K plan and ensure our health insurance benefits will state intact.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Absolutely. Public funds should not be directed to private entities.

Candidate: **David Hardin**
Office: **House District 86**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. First I was raised by a educator my mother taught for 40plus years and I have a daughter currently teaching so supporting education will be a must for me and my family as are children are our future. Question number 1 supporting teacher pay and classroom funding I can promise you I will vote YES with my full support. I would like to look at the budget to see where we can cut unnecessary spending and put it back into education.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Benefit protection I will vote Yes not only to protect the benefits education currently offers but look at options to increase the benefits.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES. It's hard for to see giving state funds to private or charter schools when we are having trouble fully funding public schools. I my mind public schools come first.

Candidate: **LaVelle J. Compton**
Office: **House District 90**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. All three of these areas more than deserve an increase in funding. As the husband of an educator, we know first hand that it is not JUST about the pay increase. It is about schools being able to operate efficiently and impact the children of the state of Oklahoma. Quite simply, we will have to stop putting corporate interests and the wealthy ahead of the needs of Oklahomans. I recommend that we reform our taxation structure to no longer give breaks to the wealthy, and super wealthy at the expense of our state's revenue. We need to increase our GPT, and responsibly eliminate the capital gains exemption.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Not only will I vote to protect these existing benefits, I will move to make sure our educators have more options for their healthcare. Too often are there stories of educators who are riddled with turmoil to understand how to start a family when their insurance coverage will add so many expenses to their life.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. We can eliminate the consideration of these areas if we adequately fund public education. Though I understand the benefits that exist in charter schools and private education, why can't public education be just as good? If we work to uplift our public schools AND fund them - we can put them on the same playing field as what others would consider as the elite.

Candidate: **John Echols**
Office: **House District 90**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. We must continue increasing education funding. With recent reports on the record numbers of emergency certified teachers, it's clear that Oklahoma's compensation is not yet competitive. We have to increase funding to be competitive and have enough teachers to lower class sizes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

No. I'm opposed to vouchers and believe local school boards should make charter decisions, but I'm not entirely opposed to all expansions of the tax credit.

Candidate: **Amanda Jeffers**
Office: **House District 91**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. We must keep working towards fully funding education. This means finishing what we started with the teacher walkout. At minimum, we need the following: an additional \$5K in teacher pay, an additional \$3,750 for school support staff, and \$150M for the classroom. How do we pay for this? We need to end the GPT discount on new wells, end the capital gains tax exemption, and restore income tax rates to what they were before they were irresponsibly cut by the current leadership.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Yes, and I would work to reduce healthcare costs for spouses and dependents. Educators should not have half of their paychecks going towards providing health insurance coverage for their families. In fact, no Oklahomans should be in this position.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I oppose any legislation that diverts funds away from public schools. If a public school lacks resources and isn't performing as well as desired, reducing funds will only worsen the problem. Instead, we need to be investing more into our public schools, in order to make sure that we're better meeting the needs of students. When I hear parents talk about removing their children from the public school system, their reasoning is almost always because of a problem that would be solved if our public schools were fully funded.

Candidate: **Chris Kannady**
Office: **House District 91**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I'm with OEA on all three of these - with one small exception. I support the great work being done at Positive Tomorrows, a not-for-profit elementary school for homeless children. The Opportunity Scholarship Fund generates funding for Positive Tomorrows, so I do support the tax incentives offered to donors in this instance.

Candidate: **Andy Fugate**
Office: **House District 94**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Oklahoma still needs to invest to bring up our per-pupil expenditures to at least the regional average. It's critical that we fully-fund the state equalization formula. I support a return to the 5.5% personal income tax, the 7% across-the-board gross production tax, and a halt to playing favorites with business tax credits.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I firmly support retaining Oklahoma's defined benefit plan for teachers. I also believe Oklahoma should look at ways to reduce the cost of teacher health care without reducing their coverage.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I am also opposed to allowing charter schools to tap additional funding (e.g., ad valorem taxes) until such time as our state is funding public education at least at the regional average.

Candidate: **Kelly Albright**

Office: **House District 95**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. As a teacher, I am an everyday witness to underfunded classrooms, teachers and support staff. We need an increase in pay to provide the best for our students and teachers in regards to educational programs, research, and resources.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

No. The above educational options are symptoms of a poorly funded public education system. If we focus our attention into fixing the problem rather than creating different avenues for solutions we would be able to provide our students and teachers with better resources.

Candidate: **Kelly Albright**

Office: **House District 95**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. As a teacher, I am an everyday witness to underfunded classrooms, teachers and support staff. We need an increase in pay to provide the best for our students and teachers in regards to educational programs, research, and resources.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

No. The above educational options are symptoms of a poorly funded public education system. If we focus our attention into fixing the problem rather than creating different avenues for solutions we would be able to provide our students and teachers with better resources.

Candidate: **Lewis Moore**
Office: **House District 96**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

No, with an explanation. There isn't a law called the opportunity scholarship fund, Oklahoma already has vouchers for students with special needs and foster kids and vouchers for 8th-12th grade public school graduates to send them to any Oklahoma College of their choice and DHS covers by way of vouchers pre-k for low income parents.

Candidate: **Kathy Wallis**
Office: **House District 96**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Long term, if the necessary prison reform is established, current funds allocated to prisons can be reallocated to education to fund the increases. Short term, other funding sources must be found, which could include restoring tax rates that were cut over the past several years.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Kilmyn Easley Graf**
Office: **House District 98**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Over the past decade, Oklahoma's classrooms have suffered and endured a tremendous amount of funding cuts. I believe gross mismanagement at the Capitol has led to slush funds, such as the thirty million dollar slush fund that was recently reported by the state grand jury. It is crucial for the Oklahoma legislature to focus on funding public education, rather than on political and social gimmicks. Cozy relationships between legislators and lobbyists have led to special tax cuts for the "well connected." Eliminating these special tax cuts would allow additional funding for public education.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Absolutely! I will vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, state funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions. Additionally, I would vote to provide a permanent increase in teachers' retirement pay. Retired teachers have not received an increase in their pension in approximately twelve years. At the very least, retired teachers need a 10 percent cost of living increase in their pensions (now and recurring). Last session, the legislature voted to award retired teachers a meager one-time payment to their retirement checks. This is unacceptable!

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I fully agree with the OEA pertaining to the authorization of new charter schools, education savings/voucher programs, and state funded scholarships to private schools. Furthermore, I believe that funding these programs has led to the decline and ultimate failure of our public education system. Oklahoma's students are entitled to the right of a high quality education. Unfortunately, many of our current legislators lack concern for the quality of our students' education. On numerous occasions, they have voted to redirect state money to fund charter schools, savings/voucher programs, and private schools. This cannot continue!

Candidate: **Zach Pearson**

Office: **House District 100**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. I would look at capital gains, the gross production tax, we could expand Medicaid that would save us 300 million a year. Also, I think it is time we talk about updating and modernizing the state's tax structure. It is an outdated and old-fashioned system. We as Oklahomans are taxed 3 times in some situations. Not only do we pay taxes right out of the gate with our paychecks but we also have to pay a sales tax then a grocery tax. There are many avenues forward for providing funding to our states public school system. The students of Oklahoma may only be a small part of the population today but they are 100% of the future. We have a duty to provide them with the best education possible. One that prepares them for college, trade school or the work force. Education is not a place where we can cut corners.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES. We made a commitment to these educators to provide them with these benefits. That's all there is to it. We said you will get this when they signed their teaching agreements. We now have to honor those agreements and live up to the commitments we made.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES. Private school is just that private school if you wish for your child to attend such a school the state will not pay for it. That is a choice. The money should remain in public schools. It is not the states job to subsidize private schools. Like any business it is the business owners or board members responsibility to properly and effectively run their business. No business of any-kind whether that be a private school or business should be reliant on a state funded programs to survive. If that is the business model then that is just bad business.

Candidate: **Marilyn Stark**

Office: **House District 100**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. I believe we have to look at all options for increasing the monies getting to the classroom (teacher salaries; supplies; support persons; etc.) A clear accounting of where the money currently goes would be a huge benefit. Looking at our outdated formula for funding would be beneficial as well. Everything has to be on the table for clear, concise communication and long-term solutions to be possible. Public education must be excellent. Education is the cornerstone to success in all venues.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I don't want teachers to lose benefits. I'm not sure how all of this is defined currently so I need more information. There may be better ways to provide for them. I support educators. We have to recruit and keep good teachers in our state!

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

No. "Opposing all" of anything isn't necessarily the winning strategy. I'm open to a conversation with all parties involved. I will work to provide the best opportunity to all future generations. As a product of public education I am a strong and proud supporter of public education.

Candidate: **John Carpenter**
Office: **House District 101**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. To fund increases to the three areas I would first propose the capital gains tax deduction be repealed. The tax deduction resulted in a net loss of state revenue by an estimated \$465 million dollars in 2010-2014. I would also lobby to restore the Gross Production Tax to 7%, which would still make it one of the lowest rates in the Midwest for oil and gas producing states. In addition, I would propose an increase to the cigarette tax.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I would vote to protect educator's existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions. We should not short change our educator's health care or their retirement. It is essential that we protect our educator's benefits in these areas.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I oppose school vouchers in any form! I believe charter schools and vouchers expand education bureaucracy and drain available funds from public school districts. With a voucher and charter school system, education funding is less transparent. The result is more funding going to service providers instead of going directly to students and classrooms, as is the case with public schools.

Candidate: **Robert Manger**
Office: **House District 101**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. I don't think the next legislative session would be the time to go about it after just passing such a large tax increase. I would like to see all state employees paid at or or above the market rate.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I would be OK with a tax deduction, but not a tax credit.

Oklahoma Senate

Candidate: **Jennifer Esau**
Office: **Senate District 2**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. The actions of the legislature in response to the teacher walkout are the first steps towards properly funding public education. I will work to promote legislation that will continue the goal of properly funding public education. We need additional funding to make it happen. I would increase the GPT and the income tax on high income earners.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. I would absolutely protect all existing benefits for educators.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I would oppose any legislation that is designed to divert funding from public education, especially in the form of charter schools and vouchers.

Candidate: **Eddie Martin**
Office: **Senate District 4**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Arnold Bourne**

Office: **Senate District 6**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. Finding additional revenue will be a priority for me. Growing existing businesses and encouraging new businesses will be beneficial in growing Oklahoma's economy.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES.

Candidate: **Roger Thomopson**
Office: **Senate District 8**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Shannan Tucker**
Office: **Senate District 8**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Educational increases could be funded by eliminating the capital gains tax exemption, restoring the gross production tax, reversing the individual income tax reductions for top earners, and reconsidering corporate tax credits.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Health insurance premiums continue to rise, and having quality health insurance is vital to both employees and employers. Additionally, keeping the defined benefit is crucial to teacher retirement.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Public education suffers when tax money is diverted to charter schools and vouchers are used to pay for private schools; consequently, charter and private schools are not held to the same systems of accountability as public schools. Additionally, some donating to private schools actually profit by utilizing tax credits that end up being greater than their actual donations.

Candidate: **James Leewright**
Office: **Senate District 12**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Rick Parris**
Office: **Senate District 12**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. For starters, we need to increase the GPT to 7 percent and eliminate the capitol gains tax.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. In the last 10 years, Lawmakers have decimated our Quality Public Education System. We need to elect new Lawmakers, dedicated to providing a Quality Public Education to fix this problem.

Candidate: Justin Arledge

Office: Senate District 14

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. My answer is a 3 step process:

- 1. We must reduce the cost of utilities in our school systems. By implementing renewable energy measures we can reduce our utility cost thus lengthening our budget. Using Wind, Solar, and Geo-Thermal will make these utility reductions possible.**
- 2. Additional revenue by restoring the tax on capital gains you bring between \$130MM to \$150MM additional revenue into the state. This is not a tax increase this is restoring a tax that is preventing Oklahoma from investing in our core services. Also, with the recent United States Supreme Court ruling allowing States to have sports gambling. If the legislature votes to allow Indian Tribes the ability to open sports gambling parlors, Oklahoma could again bring in \$130MM to \$150MM a year in additional compact fees.**
- 3. We have to cut wasteful spending. The State of Oklahoma has over 200 State Agencies compared to Arkansas who has between 20 and 40. Tax payers are footing the bill for an agency to eradicate the boll weevil at the cost of \$5MM a year. the boll weevil hasn't been an issue in Oklahoma since the 1930's and if a cotton or pecan farmer experiences boll weevil the technology is there to eradicate them. Other wasteful spending includes frivolous lawsuits that the state does not need to get involved in.**

With this three step process of restoring our historic tax rate, additional revenue, and cutting wasteful spending we can turn Oklahoma around and fully fund our school districts to include; teacher pay, staff pay, class room supplies, and bringing back much needed subjects that our children our missing out on.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Giving our teachers the protection of health care and pensions is a core part of government and as a state we have to quit "robbing Peter to pay Paul" to make ends meet. I will always protect health care and retirement plans for all state employees, especially teachers.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

- 1. Yes, When charter schools take money from public education I do oppose that measure.**
- 2. No, I do not support taking any per pupil allocation away from a public school. Private schools do offer scholarships for low income families. Until Oklahoma is fiscally responsible to fund our states core services I will not support continually depleting reserves the state uses to fund public services. When the state becomes fiscally responsible and we have a balanced budget with a surplus will this only make sense.**
- 3. If donations are made to private schools by citizens of Oklahoma, I would agree, they could receive a state tax credit.**

Candidate: **Mary B. Boren**
Office: **Senate District 16**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. I will vote to increase funding by stabilizing the state budget by restoring revenue levels at pre-2008 rates. This means I am in favor of a GPT tax of 7%, a Capital Gains Tax (without wasteful exemptions) of 7%, and a higher wage income tax bracket of 7%.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES. Oklahoma must participate in the ACA Federal Match to stabilize our health care insurance coverage and rates. When Oklahoma participates in health care policies comparable to other states, teachers' salaries will increase by reducing the cost of health insurance.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES. There is a clear and threatening agenda of the powerful elite to shift resources and opportunities away from marginalized populations in favor of the powerful. The list you've provided are examples of this agenda, and I will identify and oppose that agenda with my vote.

Candidate: **Becki Maldonado**
Office: **Senate District 16**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. On top of raising the GPT to 7%, we need to diversify Oklahoma's economic portfolio to increase revenue.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES. I support providing more state paid benefits for educators to help lower the out of pocket costs for educators.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

- 1. No. Our goal as a community should be to have a well educated society. Right now all charter schools in Oklahoma are public. If students learn better at a charter school, then I am happy for them and think they should have that opportunity.**
- 2. I will not support any expansion of the program. When talking about vouchers there are two important facts that are often left out. (1) Public schools get paid based on attendance. This means even if the parents paid for their child to go to another school, the public school would not get the money for that students. (2) Right now only foster kids and special education students are eligible for vouchers. Some of those students need the smaller class sizes and resources that public schools in Oklahoma cannot provide at the time. While I do not stand opposed to the current voucher program, I do stand opposed to expanding the program. I believe the Legislature needs to spend its time focusing on creating new revenue to fully fund education and the other core services of Oklahoma.**
- 3. No. Focusing on getting rid of large corporate tax incentives will be more beneficial for education. Right now we have to be vigilant about the battles we choose. Because of how broken our system is we have to look for the most beneficial battles and fight those first.**

Candidate: William Andrews

Office: Senate District 22

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. I believe that although the raises passed by the legislature were a beginning, they were nowhere near sufficient or adequate. Even with an increase of \$5,000, Oklahoma teachers still remain at or near the bottom in terms of average compensation for the region. The amounts the legislature approved need to be doubled. A raise of \$10,000 for certified teachers and @2,500 for support staff would be the reasonable minimum in my book. Further, the increased investment of \$50 million is, quite frankly, pathetic. My daughter was in her senior year of high school last year and we received an e-mail from the school reminding us that her physics book had to be turned in or we would have to pay the \$150 for a new one. I did some quick calculating and found that \$50 million would buy one of those textbooks for about half of Oklahoma's 700,000 students. That's not even one book for every student. Now consider that many schools need to purchase ALL new curriculum and resources to replace outdated and tattered materials. \$50 million won't even come close. Personally, my plan would be to allocate \$90 million a year for five years to allow schools to purchase new books and materials. There are a number of viable revenue streams that could be tapped to fund these increases. First an increase in the GPT. I advocate a 9% GPT on all wells (horizontal and vertical) for the first three years of the well's production life. Second, elimination of the capital gains exemptions would, by itself, fund the classroom investments I propose. Third, Restoration of the 5.25 percent income tax rate. Other sources of revenue would include money from the medical (and possibly recreational) marijuana industry, and cost savings realized from updating or draconian and outdated correctional system to reduce the populations in our overcrowded prisons and invest in more cost-effective community-based solutions. These are just a few of the options.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES. I would vote to protect educators' existing benefits and insurance coverage. The first thing we need to do is accept the medicaid expansion would has devastated rural Oklahoma's hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. Then we need to expand, either on a national level or local if federal legislators can't get their act together, and establish something more like a single payer system that is used in Massachusetts. This will reduce insurance costs, cover more people and result in a healthier population. Regarding retirement benefits, I think all state employees' retirement benefits should be pegged to the consumer price index so retirees would receive a cost-of-living-adjustment to their pensions each year to keep pace with price increases.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES. I absolutely and unequivocally reject voucher schemes in all their forms. Not only do I consider vouchers an unconstitutional (both state and federal constitutions, by the way) action, they are merely a 'reverse Robin Hood' way to starve public education in favor of private and religious schools which do not have to submit to the same oversight or accept all students the way public schools do. I oppose the Opportunity Scholarship Fund for the same reason. My daughter graduate from Deer Creek High School last year as valedictorian and has just started her first semester on scholarship at Dartmouth. She attended Oklahoma public schools all 13 years of her common education career and it served her well. My wife teaches in Oklahoma City Public Schools and has for many years. I work at the University of Central Oklahoma, a publicly funded university. Public education is the most effective, most efficient, most equitable way to raise people out of poverty and the diversion of funds from that goal borders on criminal, in my opinion. Now, that said, I do advocate a state-funded scholarship or grant program to state universities that would pay for students to pursue careers in education in exchange for agreeing to teach in Oklahoma for a certain number of years – similar to the loan forgiveness programs that currently exist, but on a broader scale.

Candidate: **Renée Jerden**

Office: **Senate District 24**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. Create new tax brackets for individual incomes starting at \$250,000 at 6% and \$400,000 at 7%, eliminate the capital gains tax exemption, and raise the GPT to 7%. Also, there should be a way to enforce support pay raises with outsourced companies such as Sodexo - those people aren't guaranteed the raise under the new law and could potentially be taken advantage of.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES. And I intend to fight to include families in health benefits as well.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES. Anything that takes money away from public education for the sake of private education or charter schools (the potential for scams is too great) does NOT fall under the heading of what is good for kids.

Candidate: **Darrell Weaver**
Office: **Senate District 24**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. Increases would be funded through revenue growth and an evaluation of all industries making sure they are paying their fair share of taxes toward educating our kids. I would love to see our state in the top ten in the nation for education funding.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES. I was an elected trustee of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System for 14 years. I know the systems well and will fight to keep the defined benefit plans in place. I may be the only senate member in our state history that has served as an elected trustee of a retirement system.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES. I am baffled why we would take money from schools when they are so underfunded. We have to use common sense and fund our schools. Not divert money.

Candidate: **Stephanie Sanders**
Office: **Senate District 28**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Education in Oklahoma was neglected by our state for far too long. We have only just begun to repair the damage done by cutting education funding for years. We could increase education funding by reopening our weigh stations and imposing fines like our surrounding states. That money could be split between education and infrastructure. We could also begin producing products with hemp and split the money between agriculture and education.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Educators' pensions and insurance should be fully protected. Also, we need to look into the cost of educators' insurance and why it is much more costly than other state employees.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Finally, education funding should not go to more charter schools or private schools. They play by different rules and have the ability to choose their students. Public schools believe in equal education for everyone in order to create a better society.

Candidate: **Julia Kirt**

Office: **Senate District 30**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

YES. We must fund teacher salaries, support professional pay and classroom funding adequately. Short term, I would support eliminating the capital gains tax deduction, increasing income tax on high earners and reducing tax incentives and tax credits. Long term we should examine all revenue options to aggressively increase education funding.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

YES. Our state must show commitment to educators for their long term well-being by ensuring educators keep their current benefits. The state should improve them as possible, making sure that educators needs are met, attracting new educators and making it possible for them to continue teaching in our public schools.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

YES. Research does not support the value of vouchers for closing achievement gaps. Vouchers lack accountability and redirect funds away from public schools. I oppose redirecting public funds to private schools.

Candidate: **Jacobi Crowley**
Office: **Senate District 32**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes, if we restore the Gross Production Tax (Oil and Gas) to 7% education will be fully funded. I support additional increases in all three areas.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes, it is important to keep the educators' employment benefits in place. I will protect these existing benefits and fight for better solutions to some existing problems to the benefit plan.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes, I oppose all vouchers and charter school plans. Public schools are the foundation of education. Public services should always be taken care of first.

Candidate: **John Michael Montgomery**
Office: **Senate District 32**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes, while I believe classroom resources are more sought after, there is an overall need to provide a truly sufficient and stable budget so that all needs are met. The state must have a real vision for competing at the top instead of half-hearted efforts that produce mediocre support.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes, and all stakeholders need to be involved in resolving our healthcare dilemma. Which can be done without harming benefits.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes, opposed to voucher/ESA proposals to date. Would be open to reforming charter school approval process.

Candidate: **Bryan O'Brien**
Office: **Senate District 36**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. How will we need to pay for it? For now we need to return the GPT to 7%, reasonably return the capital gains tax for large entities many of which are headquartered out of state, and repeal the tax breaks given to those with expendable income over \$100,000. Of all the vital social services we are elected to fulfill, education has the largest influence on the quality of life of the citizens we serve. Education is a major factor in the usable social, work, and home skills and opportunities afforded our youth. It is the legislature's duty to prioritize and adequately fund our public education system for all its citizens. Through cooperation, study of models worldwide, and brainstorming, we need to formulate and enact an efficient state of the art plan to give the people of Oklahoma their monies worth.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. All human beings should have quality healthcare and get to live out their lives with dignity.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. Public education is public. Private education is private. I was the oldest of 11 in a blue collar home. My parents chose to send us to Catholic schools. They did not want public schools to lose money for us to attend the school of our choice.

Candidate: **Jeff Berrong**

Office: **Senate District 38**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.

Candidate: **Brent Howard**

Office: **Senate District 38**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. I would support the increased investment in support and classroom funding immediately, to get classroom sizes down to where they are manageable, while investing in books and technology that make it easier to teach and learn. I will support increases in teacher pay in the future, but think that there are many other more pressing issues with social services, roads and bridges and health care that need focus in my first couple of years with the Senate. As to the source of revenue to make such payments, I would like to look at production taxes on wind, solar, and mining, as well as looking to broad base taxes that can be increased in slight increments, if needed, to provide sustained funding for many years. Looking at market trends, I believe that with commodity prices increasing and the economy growing at a steady rate, that such funding can increase without the need for immediate increases in taxation.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Our state needs to have competitive pay and benefits to attract and keep excellent teachers. Fully funding these benefits is one of my goals and something I would know how to plan for long-term in accordance with accepted accounting principles. While it is imperative to keep the promises made teachers who have started funding in the defined benefit system, I would like to see the purely elective option for new teachers to opt-in to a defined contribution plan, as well. This option may be what is needed to get new teachers employed in our state because retirement would immediately vest through a 401(k) type plan, rather than having to serve for x years to vest in the defined benefit pension.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

No. There are benefits of having a variety of education options. Those options should not come at the expense of direct funding to public education. As such, I oppose the authorization of new charter schools by the State, and any type of ESA or voucher that would be used to take needed funding away from public schools. I do support the Opportunity Scholarship Fund because I have seen the impact it has had on families and students. I do not believe that this tax credit is a direct challenge to funding of public education and it should be continued.

Candidate: **Linda Wade**
Office: **Senate District 42**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Reality dictates that we must raise teacher pay by \$6 to 8K in the next 3 years if we are to stop the exodus that a decade of neglect has created. I intend to advocate for an \$800 million dollar budget increase. There are currently almost a billion dollars in revenues being diverted to special interest pockets. I am focused on ending that. I intend to stop the quashing of new industry here, such as wind and solar along with industrial hemp. Both of these industries could add 10's of billion to our economy and send real tax dollars to budget. Please visit my website where I detail how we get the state contribution to our education budget back to reality.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes. Matter of fact, I would like the state to step up and return to the pension system for all state employees. 401k performance is so poor that half who rely on them will never be able to retire. In addition, I support Medicaid expansion which will allow more competition in our health insurance markets. The state hasn't increased their benefit package in so long that it defies belief they ever intended to have a functioning government.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes. I am not going to support any legislation that diverts PUBLIC funds to private use. If it is private, let them earn their own market place and revenues without a state funded assist.

Candidate: **Williard Linzy**
Office: **Senate District 48**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Declined to respond.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Declined to respond.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Declined to respond.

Candidate: George Young
Office: **Senate District 48**

OEA Question: In 2018, the legislature increased starting teacher pay by \$5,000, increased support professional (cafeteria workers, teaching assistants, etc.) pay by \$1,250, and increased investment in the classroom by \$50 million. OEA believes further investment in all three areas is necessary to provide the public education that Oklahoma's students deserve. Do you support additional increases in all three: teacher pay, support professional pay, AND classroom funding? If yes, provide an explanation as to how you propose such increases be funded.

Yes. Remove the Capital Gains exemption, raise the tax rate on high income earners and repeal the tax break that went into effect January 2017.

OEA Question: Will you vote to protect educators' existing employment benefits, including both their state-funded individual health insurance coverage and their existing defined benefit pensions?

Yes.

OEA Question: Do you oppose all of the following that OEA deems to divert money from existing public schools? 1) Authorization of new charter schools by the State Board of Education (this does not include local school boards authorizing new charters); 2) Education Savings Accounts / Vouchers (allowing a student's per pupil allocation, or a portion of it, to be redirected from a public school to a private school); 3) Opportunity Scholarship Fund (private school scholarships funded by contributions for which the donor receives a state tax credit).

Yes.