

## **OKLAHOMA**

Voters in Oklahoma will elect a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and an Attorney General this cycle. All 101 House seats will be on the ballot, as well as 24 Senate seats. Republicans are expected to maintain control of all branches of government.

## Governor

## **Republican Nominee**

Governor Kevin Stitt (R)

Governor Kevin Stitt (R) is seeking a second term as head of state following a robust career in the private sector as the founder and CEO of Gateway, a mortgage lending and servicing company. The Governor won his 2018 election after being forced into a runoff election against former Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett in the 2018 Republican primary, and defeating opponent Drew Edmondson (D) in the general election by over <u>10 points</u>. His background as a businessman and a political outsider is a heavy theme in his reelection campaign this year, as he uses this image to bolster his administration's record.

Stitt's campaign platform is centered on the promise of making Oklahoma a top ten state for job growth, infrastructure, and education in his second term in office.

Stitt recently signed a bill <u>eliminating licensing barriers</u> for people with criminal records, allowing ex-offenders to reenter the workforce. Stitt has also released a <u>\$5 billion plan</u> called ACCESS Oklahoma to address ongoing highway infrastructure needs in February 2022.

Stitt is a supporter of school choice and expanding funding for charter schools. He has also raised salary pay to become regionally competitive.

Stitt has made headlines recently by calling for a <u>special audit</u> of Tulsa Public Schools. He is accusing the school district of mishandling COVID-19 funds. He is also launching an investigation to determine if the school district is failing to comply with state law regarding Critical Race Theory instruction. Actions such as these are a key part of the Governor's reelection campaign as he touts his previous audit conducted on the State Department of Education.

Stitt has received the endorsement of former President Donald Trump. <u>The Cook Political</u> <u>Report and Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball</u> rate this race as solidly Republican. On April 29, Governor Stitt's campaign released an <u>announcement</u> that they had raised \$1.2 million in the first quarter of the 2022 election cycle.

Trivia: Kevin Stitt is a father of six children.