

OKLAHOMA

Voters in the Sooner State will head to the polls to select a new governor as Governor Kevin Stitt (R) is term limited. Voters will also select their picks for attorney general and treasurer.

Twenty-four (24) out of 48 senate seats and all 101 house seats are also up for election. Republicans are expected to maintain control of the executive branch and state legislature.

Treasurer

Republican Nominee

Cindy Byrd

Cindy Byrd defeated incumbent Treasurer Todd Russ by over 20 points in the Republican primary on June 16. Byrd is the current State Auditor and Inspector, a position she has held since 2019. Prior to her time in office, she worked for 20 years as a CPA at the Oklahoma State Auditor's County Audit Division.

Throughout her time in office, Byrd has conducted audits at every level of government and identified hundreds of millions in misappropriated and wasted public funds. Her office performed a first-of-its-kind in the nation audit of Medicaid expenditures, identifying \$1.6 billion in questionable Medicaid expenditures. Upon conducting an audit of the largest public school in the state, her office identified \$200 million in misappropriated public-education funds, removing these expenditures from the school's general fund and placing them into private accounts.

As treasurer, Byrd plans to **expand performance and efficiency audits** across state agencies. She proposes using modern tools, including AI, to identify and reduce patterns of institutional waste. In addition, she would conduct a comprehensive review of state health care agencies to identify overlapping services and administrative inefficiencies that drive up costs.

Byrd vows to increase **transparency** in education funding by requiring public reporting of how education dollars are used, evaluating education programs based on measurable results, and increasing local control over education funding.

Byrd also plans to **strengthen Oklahoma's tourism industry**, prioritizing the needs of small and local businesses. This includes removing state-level barriers to doing business and aligning workforce development programs with the needs of Oklahoma employers.

Byrd is effectively guaranteed to become Oklahoma's next treasurer as she faces no Democratic challenger in the general election.

Trivia: In 2023, Cindy Byrd received the Dr. Tom Coburn Transparency in Government Award.