

## **PRESS RELEASE #3 – PARTY AFFILIATION CHANGES**

**Suggested Release Date: Early March (even-numbered years)**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR RELEASE:** (MONTH) (DATE), (YEAR)

**CONTACT:** (FULL NAME), (TITLE) of (NAME OF COUNTY) County Election Board, (PHONE) or (EMAIL)

### **DEADLINE TO CHANGE PARTY AFFILIATION APPROACHES**

Oklahomans who want to change their party affiliation must submit their change no later than March 31, Mayes County Election Board Secretary Kendal Rhoads said today. Voters may change their party affiliation online using the OK Voter Portal at [oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp](http://oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp) or by completing a new Voter Registration Application.

Rhoads reminds voters that no party affiliation changes are allowed from April 1 through August 31 during an even-numbered year.

“If we receive your request after March 31, we are required by law to hold that request and process it in September,” Rhoads said.

Oklahoma has three recognized parties: Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian.

In Oklahoma, a voter must be a registered member of a party in order to vote in that party’s primary election. Independents are permitted to participate in primary elections, **only** if a party officially requests its elections be opened to Independent voters. Currently, no party allows Independent voters to participate in its party’s primary elections. More information about primary elections can be found on the State Election Board website at [oklahoma.gov/elections](http://oklahoma.gov/elections).

All registered voters, regardless of political affiliation, may vote for any candidate during a General Election.

Voter Registration Applications can be downloaded from the State Election Board website at [oklahoma.gov/elections](http://oklahoma.gov/elections). Applications are also available at the Mayes County Election Board located at 1 Court Place, STE. 130. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For questions, contact the County Election Board at 918-825-1826 or [mayescounty@elections.ok.gov](mailto:mayescounty@elections.ok.gov).

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