

OKLAHOMA

CELEBRATING
THE
OKLAHOMA
CENTENNIAL

1907 - 2007



**America's Legislators Back to School Program
2007 - 2008**

OKLAHOMA STATE SENATE

My name is _____.

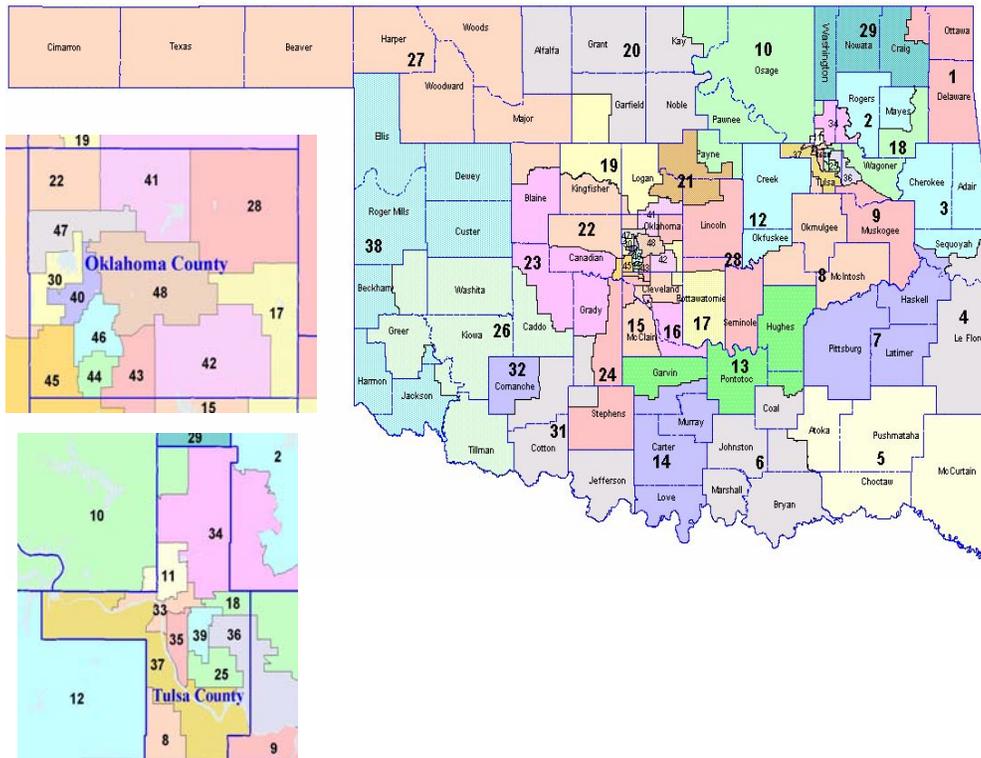
I am in Grade _____.

I live in the city or town of _____.

I attend _____ School.

Mark the county in which you live.

Oklahoma Senate Districts



I am an Oklahoman!



OKLAHOMA LAWMAKER

My Senator is _____



State Flag Salute

“I salute the flag of the State of Oklahoma. Its symbols of peace unite all people.

STATE BIRD
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher



State Bird

Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher

Oklahoma!

State Name

“Land of the Red Man”

State Motto

“Labor Omnia Vincit”

“Labor Conquers All Things”

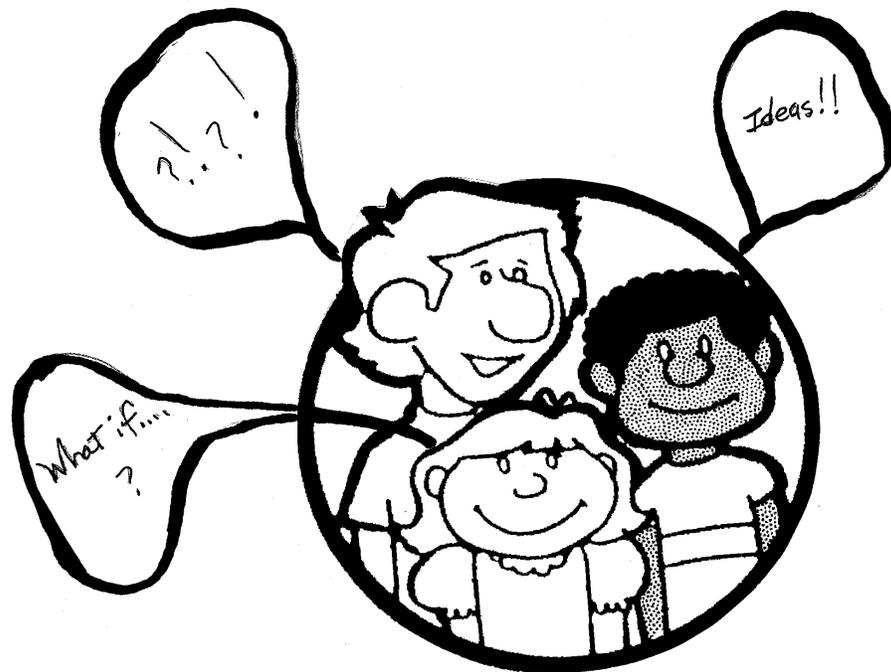
Your Ideas Count!

de·moc·ra·cy (di mäk'rasē) Government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system.

-Random House College Dictionary

rep·re·sent·a·tive de·moc·ra·cy: The system of government in which power is held by the people and exercised indirectly through elected representatives.

-Center for Civic Education, We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution



The Oklahoma State Senate

Every two years Voters elect 24 State Senators which is half of the Senate. The Senate meets in Session February through May of each year to enact new laws and amend old laws.



Ideas for laws come from many sources: constituents*, interest groups, government agencies, interim* studies, and the Governor.

If a Senator decides the idea would make a good law, the Senator asks for a bill that Senate Staff will research and draft*. The bill is then filed, numbered and printed. It is introduced* into the Senate and is assigned to a committee. After a bill is reported out by the committee, it goes to the Senate floor* where the sponsoring Senator explains the bill.

The Committee meets and studies the bill. They may recommend:

That the bill would not be good for the State and so not recommend it.



Report to full Senate Do Pass; Do pass as Amended by the Committee; Do Pass using a Committee Substitute in place of original bill.

Now all the Senators have an opportunity to ask questions about the bill and tell whether they like the bill or not and why.

Floor Consideration



Sometimes there is debate* on the bill.

Amendments* may be made to the bill and the Senators may compromise* in order for the bill to be accepted by a majority of the Senate.

Because Oklahoma has a bicameral* legislature, when the Senate reaches a consensus* to pass the bill, it is sent to the House of Representatives for their approval or disapproval. Or the Senate may have a consensus that the bill is not good for the State and it is defeated in the Senate.

Bill does not pass Senate.



Bill Passes the Senate.

If a bill is approved by both houses of the legislature, it is enrolled* and sent to the Governor for approval or disapproval.



Sometimes the Senate and the House of Representatives do not agree about the bill and have to hold other meetings to discuss the bill. This is done by conference committees which are made up of members of the Senate and the House. A consensus may or may not be reached in these committees so the bill may “die” in the conference committee just as it may in the Senate committee that first considers the bill.

If the conference committee reaches a consensus to report a bill out favorably, the bill is voted on again by the entire Senate and the House of Representatives where again it may or may not be accepted. If it is accepted, the bill is enrolled and sent to the Governor, who may approve the bill by signing it or veto* all or part of the bill. After the Governor signs the bill, it officially becomes law on its effective date.

If the Governor does sign the bill, it is enacted – becomes law immediately or on the effective date of the bill.



Becomes Law

On 90th day after sine die adjournment
Or on certain date with an emergency clause.

Or the Governor may veto the bill.

Governor vetoes bill.

Two-thirds vote in each house overrides veto, unless an emergency clause is part of the bill which requires a three-fourths vote to override veto. If the Legislature overrides the veto, the bill becomes law.

Legislature does not override veto.



Amendment: A formal change made according to official procedures.

Bicameral: Having two legislative chambers.

Bill: A suggested law.

Committee: A group of persons chosen to do certain work.

Compromise: The settlement of an argument or dispute by agreeing that each side will give up part of its demands.

Consensus: A generally accepted opinion or decision among a group; opinion held by the majority of those present.

Constituent: A voter in a particular district.

Debate: To argue or discuss.

Draft: A sketch, plan, or rough copy of something written.

Effective date: Provisions of a bill that tell when the entire bill or parts of the bill become effective as law. This can be on the date that the bill is signed by the Governor; it can be 90 days after it is signed; it can be July 1st, or any other date chosen by the authors of the bill.

Enrolled: The preparation of an official copy of a measure in its final form to be sent to the Governor for signature.

Floor: The Senate Chamber.

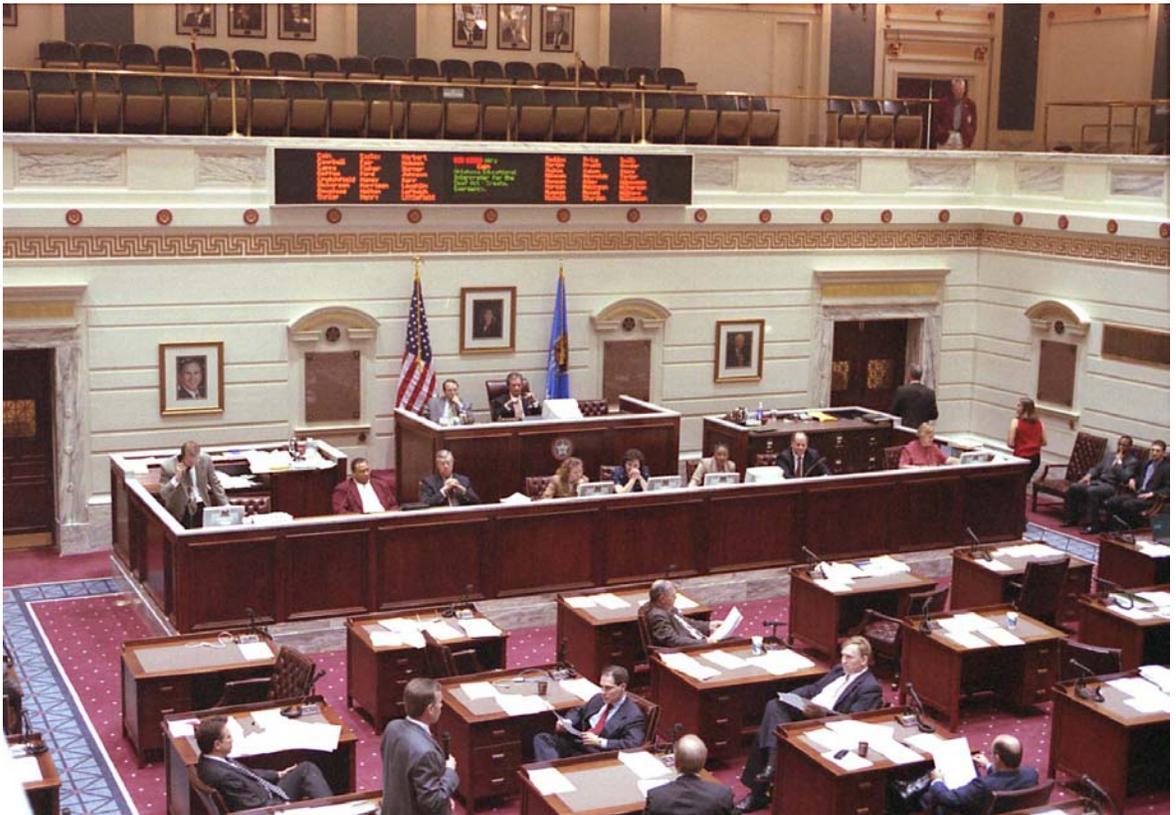
Interim: The period of time from the end of one regular legislative session to the beginning of the next legislative session.

Introduced: After a bill has been drafted by Senate staff and approved by the sponsoring Senator, it is filed with the Senate clerk and assigned a bill number.

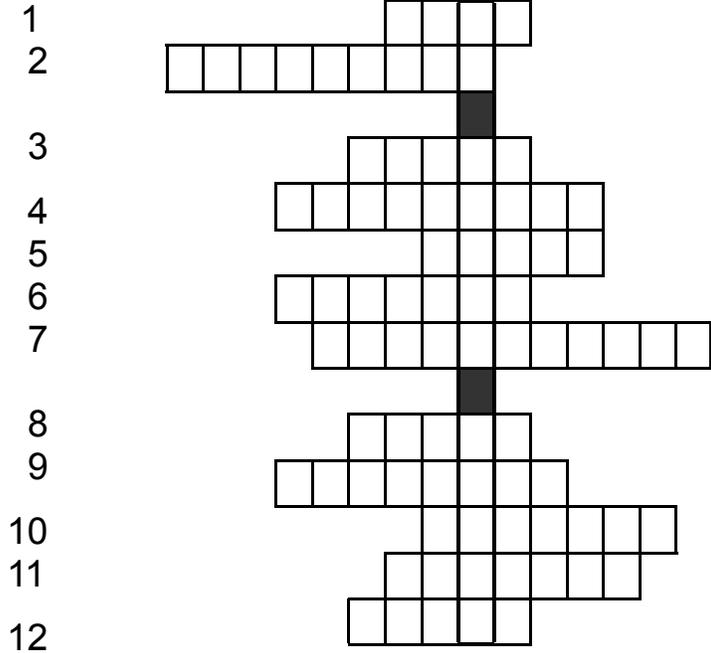
Veto: The governor refuses to approve a bill or a part of a bill and keeps it from becoming law unless the legislature overrides the refusal.

(Most definitions are from the *Macmillan Dictionary for Children*.)

Work in progress
in the Senate Chamber.



Oklahoma
Mystery Word
Puzzle



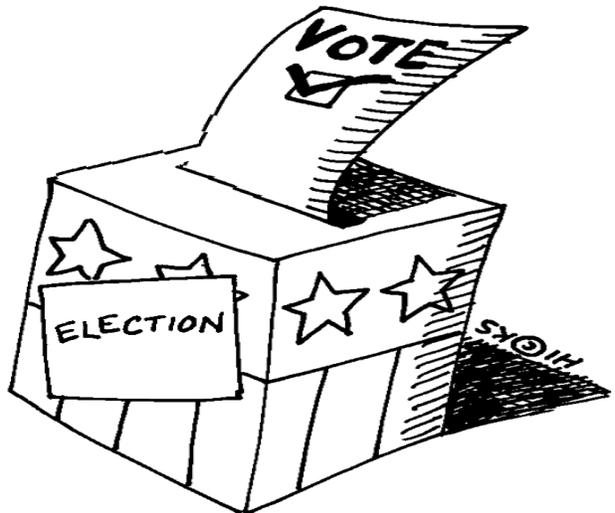
1. The State Flag has a peace _____ on it.
2. Construction on this was stopped because of World War I. In 2001 workers began building a _____ on top of the State Capitol.
3. The Senate and the House of Representatives make up the Oklahoma State Legislature.
4. The first land run in Oklahoma Territory occurred on _____ 22, 1889.
5. Our special speaker at school today is a member of the State _____.
6. The state capital is _____.
7. Oklahoma became a state on _____ 16, 1907.
8. The first state capitol was located in _____.
9. Oklahoma Territory and _____ Territory were united to form the State of Oklahoma.
10. The governor of Oklahoma is Frank A. _____.
11. Our special speaker today is a State _____.
12. November 16, 1907, Oklahoma became the _____ - sixth state of the United States. In 2007, Oklahoma celebrates its centennial as a state.

What does the mystery puzzle say?

Government

B P O R M Y S T N I K T C O R
I N H G E E T O A O L O J K F
L O Q D N K I I A B X L P L C
L J I A M T A S R H V L I A Q
O W T X C D U E T O L A J H A
G O V E R N O R P A J B K O Y
R F L N O I S S E S T A Y M L
T E H N W A L V T W Y U M A A
H P B J S H O J U I T O T P Y
M M G G A T O S F P I Q J E C
S G P E E H G U T Z R B S Q S
N O I T U T I T S N O C A F V
D E B A T E W U V E N M T X M
Y F G R W D Q L H G I I D X G
C W U T K O B D V U M C C V P

BALLOT
BILL
CONSTITUTION
DEBATE
ELECTION
GOVERNOR
HOUSE
LAW
MAJORITY
MINORITY
OKLAHOMA
SENATOR
SESSION
SPEAKER
STATUTES
VOTE





Notes



The Guardian

“I will stand guard here, over our great state, over our majestic land, over our values. My lance pierces my legging and is planted in the ground. I will not be moved from my duty, from my love of Oklahoma and all of its people.”

Statue designed and executed by Senator Enoch Kelly Haney, raised to the dome June 7, 2002, as the State Capitol at last has the dome it was meant to have from the beginning.