

PERSPECTIVE

May 29, 2026



OKFB Ag Fund endorses, supports political candidates ahead of June 16 primary election

The Oklahoma Farm Bureau Ag Fund political action committee announced the endorsement and financial support of several state-level candidates ahead of Oklahoma's June 16 primary election.

The state Ag Fund board – a group of Farm Bureau members selected by their representative OKFB districts – met May 26 at the OKFB home office in Oklahoma City to consider and discuss candidate support and endorsement based on feedback gathered from county and districtwide PAC meetings throughout the month of May.

The OKFB Ag Fund supports political candidates who value agriculture and rural Oklahoma. While an endorsement from the Ag Fund is the highest level of support given to a candidate, the committee can also give financial support to candidates.

Candidates endorsed by the OKFB Ag Fund are shown in the list to the right.

The Ag Fund board also gave financial support to three additional candidates: **Jason Blair, House District 53; Ron Stewart, House District 73; and Teresa Sterling, House District 91.**

At the state Ag Fund meeting, members in attendance elected Jackson County Farm Bureau member Keeff Felty to serve as chairman of the Ag Fund board. Dillon Johnson of Ottawa County was elected as treasurer, and Alan Jett of Beaver County was elected as secretary.

Other members of the Ag Fund board include Wayne Taggart, Caddo County, District 3; Dan Childs, Johnston County, District 4; Terry Caldwell, Choctaw County, District 5; Steve Clark, Alfalfa County, District 7; Chuck Roberts, Pontotoc County, District 8; and Sue Farmer, Lincoln County, District 9.

OKFB Ag Fund endorsed candidates

Endorsed candidates with an asterisk (*) by their name also received financial support from the OKFB Ag Fund.

Statewide races

John Pfeiffer* – Labor Commissioner
Brad Boles – Corporation Commissioner

Oklahoma Senate

Ally Seifried – SD 2
Tom Woods* – SD 4
David Bullard – SD 6
Bill Coleman* – SD 10
Todd Gollihare – SD 12
Chuck Hall – SD 20
Tammi Didlot* – SD 24
Jessica Winegeart* – SD 26
Grant Green* – SD 28
Brenda Stanley – SD 42

Oklahoma House

Rusty Cornwell – HD 6
Crystal Campbell* – HD 9
Judd Strom – HD 10
John Kane – HD 11
Chris Sneed – HD 14
Jonathan Wilks – HD 20
Danny Sterling* – HD 27
Kyle Hilbert* – HD 29
Collin Duel* – HD 31
Dillon Travis* – HD 35
John George – HD 36
Madison Bolay* – HD 38
Torry Turnbow – HD 40
Cindy Roe* – HD 42
Alexander Torvi – HD 54
Mike Kelley – HD 60
Trey Caldwell – HD 63
Sam Mitchell* – HD 65
David Hardin* – HD 86
Preston Stinson* – HD 96

OKFB members discuss political candidates at district Ag Fund meetings



Upcoming Oklahoma election dates

June 16

Oklahoma primary election
(candidates and SQ 832)

August 25

Oklahoma runoff
primary election

November 3

General election

Make your plan to vote

Verify your voter registration, confirm your polling place and see sample ballots on the State of Oklahoma's voter portal website, available at:

oklahoma.gov/elections

Remember to vote NO on SQ 832 on June 16

As Oklahoma voters head to the polls on June 16 to vote in the state's primary election, voters will also be faced with a single state question at the ballot box: SQ 832.

SQ 832 is a statutory change that seeks to increase the minimum wage in the state of Oklahoma from the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 to more than \$15 by 2030.

While the initiative may seem to be a boon to Oklahoma workers, SQ 832 comes with numerous hidden consequences buried in its language that would negatively impact Oklahoma farmers, ranchers, businessowners and everyday consumers.

Increase in minimum wage

SQ 832 would begin raising the state's minimum wage in 2027 according to the following schedule:

- 2027: **\$12 per hour**
- 2028: **\$13.50 per hour**
- 2029: **\$15 per hour**
- 2030+: **\$15 per hour plus** annual increases tied to the federal CPI-W price index

While the increase in wages are a major

selling point for supporters of SQ 832, tying Oklahoma's minimum wage to a federal price index that tracks prices in other states – including California and across the east coast – takes control out of the hands of Oklahomans while drastically inflating the price of labor.

Loss of agricultural exemptions

Currently, Oklahoma agricultural producers have exemptions that allow them to forego overtime pay and minimum wage.

SQ 832 would remove those exemptions, meaning that farmers and ranchers would be required to pay overtime to their hourly workers. This means that during harvest, planting or other critical times of the year when days in the field could mean 14 to 16 hour days – or more – the cost of labor for family agriculturalists will grow exponentially.

Additionally, SQ 832 would require youth workers to be paid the increased minimum wage along with overtime pay, effectively pricing young Oklahomans out of jobs and taking away the opportunity for them to learn the strong

work ethic and lifelong lessons that agricultural work provides.

In a time when agricultural producers are feeling the pinch between high input costs and low commodity prices, increasing labor costs would further harm the viability of Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers.

Rising costs for consumers

SQ 832 also increases operating costs for businesses and would force local businesses to make difficult decisions about how many employees they can afford to hire.

This will put the most vulnerable Oklahomans – the ones SQ 832 supposedly tries to help – at risk of losing their jobs.

And when labor costs increase, those costs get passed on to consumers, further inflating the cost of goods and services for all Oklahomans.

Vote NO on SQ 832

Be sure to vote NO on SQ 832 on June 16 during Oklahoma's primary election.

Learn more about SQ 832 online at okfarmbureau.org/sq832.



OKFB to host FFA Communications Conference July 13 in Edmond

Registration is now open for Oklahoma Farm Bureau’s sixth-annual FFA Communications Conference on Monday, July 13, in Edmond.

The FFA Communications Conference will equip students with knowledge of basic communications techniques and concepts in areas including writing, photography, social media and more, all taught by leading Oklahoma communications professionals.

The conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Edmond. A lunch will be provided, and students will have an opportunity to win prizes that will help them tell their FFA chapter’s story

throughout the upcoming school year.

Because space is limited, the conference will accept students on a first-come, first-served basis, with a maximum of two students per chapter. The registration cost is \$25 per student.

To sign up, students must register through their agricultural education instructors, who have received an email with conference registration information. Payment must be submitted no later than Monday, June 29, to secure your registration.

For more information about the conference, contact Rachel Havens at (405) 523-2300.



Victoria Wiedel

Wiedel joins OKFB staff as federation financial assistant

Oklahoma Farm Bureau recently named Victoria Wiedel to serve as the organization’s federation financial assistant.

In her position, Wiedel will work with county Farm Bureaus to maintain accurate financial records and create financial reports and statements. She will also work collaboratively with county Farm Bureau leaders and field staff to ensure the financial soundness of county Farm Bureaus to enable counties to achieve Farm Bureau’s grassroots, member-focused mission.

A Muskogee native, Wiedel was raised on a multi-generation ranch where she grew up helping manage the family’s black Angus cattle herd and horses.

“I’m excited to work at Oklahoma Farm Bureau because it gives me the opportunity to grow professionally at a company that values community and service to farmers and ranchers,” Wiedel said.

Wiedel is a graduate of Southwestern Christian University in Bethany where she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business.

She is currently continuing her education as she works to earn a master’s degree in finance at the University of Central Oklahoma.

2026 Oklahoma School Garden Contest applications open through June 15

The Oklahoma Farm to School program and the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee are once again sponsoring the yearly School Garden Contest.

The contest provides cash awards and recognition to school gardens in five different categories: Best start-up garden, best education-based garden, best harvest school, best community

collaboration and best pollinator garden.

Schools can apply online now through June 15. Applicants can be any public or private K-12 school, early childhood education facility or alternative learning environment.

Full contest details and the online application can be found on the Oklahoma Farm to School website at okfb.news/schoolgarden26.



2026 School Garden Contest

Open to all Oklahoma educational environments!

Applications are Open! Due June 15th 2026



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Farm Bureau members appointed to state boards and commissions

Four Oklahoma Farm Bureau members were recently appointed to several state boards and commissions by Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt.

State Board of Agriculture

Garfield County Farm Bureau member **Tyler Schnaithman** was appointed to the Oklahoma State Board of Agriculture, which oversees the work of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. In his role, Schnaithman will represent 16 counties in Northwest Oklahoma. Schnaithman is a fifth-generation farmer, and he and his family raise cattle, wheat, corn and soybeans on their family farm in Garber.

Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Jessica Wilcox, a Major County Farm Bureau member, was tapped to serve a five-year term as Area 1 Commissioner for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, which works to conserve, protect and restore Oklahoma's natural resources. Jessica and her husband,

Clint, raise cattle, wheat, soybeans, canola and milo near Fairview.

Arkansas River Compact Commission

Adair County Farm Bureau member **Megan Langley** was appointed to the Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission, which oversees the apportionment of water from the Arkansas River between the two states and manages pollution abatement efforts in the waters of the Arkansas River Basin. Megan and her husband, Kyle, raise poultry for Simmons Foods in Adair County.

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Russell Isaacs, a Beaver County Farm Bureau member, was appointed to serve a seven-year term on the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the state's water resources planning and development agency. He raises wheat, cotton, corn and milo in the Oklahoma panhandle.

Each appointee was tapped by Gov. Kevin Stitt and confirmed by the Oklahoma Senate in May.

Bushels for Books applications due June 10

Oklahoma educators have until June 10 to apply online for a chance to receive a package of accurate agriculture books through Oklahoma Farm Bureau's Bushels for Books program.

The program is a collaborative effort between the OKFB Women's Leadership Committee and the OKFB Foundation for Agriculture to enhance agricultural literacy in our state.

Bushels for Books awards Pre-K to eighth-grade teachers with books that target their class' grade level and subject, and school librarians can apply for books that span multiple grade levels.

All books are grade-level appropriate and will be chosen from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's agriculture book database.

The online application can be completed on the OKFB website at okfb.news/BushelForBooks26