Clean Up Oklahoma is a non-partisan, grassroots movement that’s had enough of corrupt politicians and big donors abusing their power and influence at the expense of Oklahoma taxpayers and voters. We’re joining together all across our state to finally clean up the mess that we call state government, and we’re so glad to have you on our team. Together, we can build the greatest accountability campaign this state has ever seen.

This document includes information about our anti-corruption petition, as well as resources to help you mobilize and build support in your community.

As part of this effort, we’ll be doing two things:

- **Collecting voter signatures to build a strong movement.** Together, we’ll remind politicians that their power comes from us — the people.
- **Holding politicians accountable.** We’ll ask every candidate to sign our anti-corruption pledge, and we’ll let voters know who’s with us and who’s not.

It’s time for real transparency, and to send the special interests packing. This is our chance to finally take our government back and say “no more” to the politicians and lobbyists who are more interested in serving themselves than the rest of us.

### WHAT CAN I DO?

Supportive individuals and organizations can get involved in any of the following ways:

- Get your friends and family to sign the petition online at www.CleanUpOklahoma.org or contact us to check out a petition sheet at volunteer@CleanUpOklahoma.org.

- Sign up for a text shift or find an event near you at www.CleanUpOklahoma.org. Reaching out to people in your community to get them to sign is easy, and we’ll help you do it!

- Help get the word out on social media. Find resources to share at CleanUpOklahoma.org.

- Donate. We’re a people-powered movement, and we’ll need funds for clipboards, signs, flyers, and mailers.

- Ready to do more? Email us at volunteer@CleanUpOklahoma.org if you are interested in taking on a leadership role in your county.
When discussing the need to clean up corruption in Oklahoma, include these points.

- **HIGHLIGHT RECENT EXAMPLES OF CORRUPTION**
  (See backgrounders and website for examples.)

- **IT’S TIME TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH AND CLEAN THIS MESS UP**
  Too many politicians, donors, and special interests are profiting off taxpayers. It’s wrong, and it needs to stop.

- **A NONPARTISAN FOCUS ON SOLUTIONS**
  We’re focused on one question: Will you sign the anti-corruption pledge or not? We’re not interested in excuses, the blame game, or partisan politics. We’re focused on fixing the problem.

- **VOTERS NEED TO KNOW WHO’S WITH US AND WHO’S NOT**
  If a politician can’t sign an anti-corruption pledge, they’re not worth having — regardless of party.
Oklahoma is suffering through one of the most corrupt time periods in its history with unethical politicians and special interests profiting off taxpayers at record levels, flouting transparency laws and refusing to disclose government spending through open records requests. The handout of taxpayer money to big donors and political staffers has become standard practice in Oklahoma City rather than the outrage it should be.

Money and influence — not the needs of everyday Oklahomans and our children — currently shapes the agenda in state government. Even when politicians are caught red handed misusing our tax dollars, they refuse to accept responsibility, and most of the time, they get away with it.

Take a look at what’s been happening in the Stitt administration in the last few years alone. With record spending has come record abuse. Hundreds of thousands of Oklahoma’s tax dollars were sent to a school in California, and millions have been misused by political donors like Epic Schools with little more than a slap on the wrist. Political staffers and donors have received big government contracts, and corporations — including the Governor’s family business — have cashed in with little oversight or accountability.

No one should run for office if they are doing it to profit off taxpayers — regardless of the party they belong to. It’s wrong, and it has to stop. That’s why our grassroots campaign is organizing around one question — will you sign the anti-corruption pledge or not? We’re not interested in excuses, the blame game, or partisan politics. We’re focused on fixing the problem.

RECENT EXAMPLES OF CORRUPTION, UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR, AND THE POWER OF SPECIAL INTERESTS

- Nearly $46 million in taxpayer money was sent to Epic Youth Services — even though it had zero employees besides the two founders most of the time. $200,000 worth of Oklahoma tax money was even sent to a school in California. Epic has handed out hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions to politicians all across the state.1, 2

- State government officials approved a bank charter and a state contract for Kevin Stitt’s company. The bank charter was approved after Stitt’s election and one day before he took office by a committee that the governor appoints. The state contract, which provides additional taxpayer subsidies to Stitt’s company, was approved by Stitt appointees. Although the governor stepped aside from the company’s day-to-day operations, the Stitt family trust still owns 60% of Gateway First Bank.3, 4, 5

- A former top aide in the governor’s office was given multiple public contracts, including a lucrative deal by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, shortly after she quit her government job.6 One of the governor’s campaign donors was given a $3 million contract to provide “public relation services,” paying his firm $95,000 a month.7

- Last year, legislation that would have reduced drug costs for all Oklahomans by nearly two thirds was denied a floor vote.8 The bi-partisan bill was overwhelmingly approved by two different committees and supported by the AARP, but opposed by pharmaceutical drug companies.9

STATE CANDIDATE PLEDGE

- **Stop politicians, their staffs, their families, and their donors from cashing in at the taxpayers' expense.** Elected officials and their personal staffs will be prohibited from lobbying for two years after they leave their government position, and the governor will be required to personally sign off on any state contract that includes a potential conflict of interest. No state elected official or member of their immediate family, business or family trust may receive private income that is generated directly or indirectly as a result of any state contract or state bank charter.

- **Increase transparency by requiring politicians to disclose their tax returns and conflicts of interest.** Moving forward, all candidates for statewide elected office must publicly release their tax returns for the most recent four years and disclose family income that is state regulated or generated from a state contract.

- **Stop secret meetings, undisclosed gifts and failures to comply with the state's open records act.** All state elected officials must disclose the receipt of any gifts, price breaks, flights on corporate jets, or other items of value greater than $25 on a public website within seven days. Oklahoma’s open records law will be strengthened to include the state legislature, disclosure of meetings with lobbyists, travel agendas for taxpayer funded trips, and all records pertaining to state contracts. All requests will be fulfilled within 30 days unless a state judge rejects the request or provides an extension.*

- **Clean up elections by getting big money out of politics and preventing politicians from handpicking their own voters.** Create an independent, and fully transparent redistricting commission that follows strict guidelines to ensure accurate representation for all voters, regardless of political party, and a publicly-financed campaign system that gives state candidates the option to run clean without relying on big dollar campaign contributions. Enable U.S. citizens who reside in Oklahoma to choose which primary they wish to vote in during a given election cycle and automatically register to vote when getting their driver’s license.

- **Return power to voters and protect our right to vote on important issues.** The authority of voters to veto bills through the initiative and referendum process will be restored, and the legislature will proactively guarantee that further restrictions will not be placed on the right of voters to pass laws and constitutional amendments at the ballot box. Voters will be further granted the power to initiate a recall vote on any state elected official by collecting signatures from registered voters equal to 20 percent of the votes cast in the last election for that office.

* Note: Nothing in this pledge would alter or reduce the protective status of tax, financial, or health record information that state lawmakers may receive when providing assistance to constituents. Such information would remain private.
PLEDGE BACKGROUNDER

- Stop politicians, their staffs, their families, and their donors from cashing in at the taxpayers’ expense.

Elected officials and their personal staffs will be prohibited from lobbying for two years after they leave their government position, and the governor will be required to personally sign off on any state contract that includes a potential conflict of interest. No state elected official or member of their immediate family, business or family trust may receive private income that is generated directly or indirectly as a result of any state contract or state bank charter.

Right now, no one is accountable when tax dollars are handed out to political donors and former staffers — even when problems finally become public. It’s far too easy for politicians to hide behind the bureaucracy, falsely deny knowledge of the deal, and ignore the problem.

This provision forces the governor to sign and take personal responsibility for any contract that includes a potential conflict of interest. It would dramatically reduce the number of shady contracts handed out to donors and former officials while still allowing for rare exceptions if a contract truly is in the best interest of the state. Under those circumstances, a governor who is personally responsible would be far more likely to take decisive action, terminate the contract, and hold the contractor accountable should problems arise. To ensure transparency, the governor should have to report any contracts that he/she signs on a public website within 72 hours with a rationale for why the contract was signed given the conflict of interest, and why it was selected over other competitors. Competing bids should be made public.

Prohibiting elected officials and their personal staff from lobbying for two years after they leave government would further reduce the revolving door of influence peddling.

How The Revolving Door of Power and Influence Works:
An example of how a former gubernatorial staffer turned their influence into state government contracts. This staffer helped oversee the state’s COVID relief fund.

Finally, this provision would bar any elected official, their family, or their family trust from receiving public tax dollars beyond their salary while in government office. It would also prevent politicians from profiting off their state office, ensuring that elected officials are focused on the well-being of everyday Oklahomans.
• **Increase transparency by requiring politicians to disclose their tax returns and potential conflicts of interest.**

Moving forward, all candidates for statewide elected office must publicly release their tax returns for the most recent four years, disclose family income that is state regulated or generated from a state contract prior to appearing on the ballot.

So little information is disclosed about statewide candidates that it is nearly impossible for voters to ascertain what conflicts of interest they may have. Requiring the release of tax returns and the disclosure of income that is regulated or generated from a state contract would give voters the opportunity to weigh that information prior to an election and ensure that elected officials remove themselves fully from any business interests that will seek tax subsidies, state contracts, or state bank charters. No elected official should be able to profit from their government office now or in the future.

• **Stop secret meetings, undisclosed gifts and failures to comply with the state's open records act.**

All state elected officials must disclose the receipt of any gifts, price breaks, flights on corporate jets, or other items of value greater than $25 on a public website within seven days. Oklahoma’s open records law will be strengthened to include the state legislature, disclosure of meetings with lobbyists, travel agendas for taxpayer funded trips, and all records pertaining to state contracts. All requests will be fulfilled within 30 days unless a state judge rejects the request or provides an extension.

Right now, elected officials take rides on corporate jets from companies seeking influence and government deals, lobbyists and special interests meet in secret with politicians and their staffs to develop policies that benefit them, and state contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars are often signed with no oversight – sometimes at the sole discretion of the governor and their appointees. When reporters or members of the public file open records requests to learn how their money is being spent, the requests often go unanswered for months or years, unreasonable costs are charged to keep information hidden, or requesters are simply told that the details of state contracts and the expenditure of public funds is private information.

The very people who want to hide the truth – along with their attorneys – make judgements about what can and cannot be released to the public. The system incentivizes politicians and state agencies to drag their feet and avoid disclosure whenever possible, and it forces expensive lawsuits, which are out of the reach for most regular citizens, to finally get to the truth. This provision of the pledge would change that. Records must be handed over from the start unless an independent judge agrees that there is a compelling legal reason why the records may be withheld. After all, if police are required to go to a judge for a search warrant, the government should have to go to a judge to deny the public information about how their money is being spent.

Oklahoma’s state legislature is one of only four in the country that is not subject to open records laws.

Nothing in the pledge would not alter the protective status of tax, financial, or health record information that lawmakers may receive when providing assistance to their constituents.
• Clean up elections by getting big money out of politics and preventing politicians from handpicking their own voters.

Create an independent, and fully transparent redistricting commission that follows strict guidelines to ensure accurate representation for all voters, regardless of political party, and a publicly-financed campaign system that gives state candidates the option to run clean without relying on big dollar campaign contributions. Enable U.S. citizens who reside in Oklahoma to choose which primary they wish to vote in during a given election cycle and automatically register to vote when getting their driver’s license.

LEARN MORE

Ever wonder why districts for politicians look like they were drawn by a mad scientists with little fingers that reach into different communities around the state that make no geographic sense? It’s because right now we let partisan politicians select their own voters for future elections – something that makes elections less competitive, dilutes the voting preferences of communities, and makes it harder to hold politicians accountable for bad behavior. If politicians think they are safe no matter what they do, they are far less likely to be responsible to us.

This part of the pledge takes partisan politics out of the election process – ensuring that every Oklahoma citizen can fully participate in elections and be fairly represented. Most Oklahomans don’t want politicians handpicking their own voters any more than they want to protect secret meetings for special interests.

It also seeks to reduce the impact of big donor money in elections by creating an election system that incentivizes candidates to run clean. Arizona has an election system where they give candidates the option of using public funding if they accept campaign spending limits. It gives candidates the chance to run without having to raise money from big donors that expect something in return. We want to see politicians commit to creating a clean option for candidates in Oklahoma so we can start reducing the corruption and pay-to-play system that is so prevalent right now.

• Return power to voters and protect our right to vote on important issues.

The authority of voters to veto bills through the initiative and referendum process will be restored, and the legislature will proactively guarantee that further restrictions will not be placed on the right of voters to pass laws and constitutional amendments at the ballot box. Voters will be further granted the power to initiate a recall vote on any state elected official by collecting signatures from registered voters equal to 20 percent of the votes cast in the last election for that office.

LEARN MORE

Oklahoma has a long and proud history of direct democracy that enables voters to decide key issues, but politicians and special interests are working to undermine that authority. Oklahomans have the right to veto legislative decisions, but politicians have started passing bills with emergency provisions to prevent voters from weighing in. That type of behavior needs to stop immediately, and so does the push by some politicians to make the process of putting issues on the ballot more difficult. Oklahoma already has one of the most stringent requirements in the country for putting issues on the ballot, requiring hundreds of thousands of signatures to be collected in just 90 days.

Special interest groups are behind many of the efforts to take away our right to decide state questions. It’s no secret that lobbyists and special interest groups hate the open initiative and referendum process. After all, it’s a lot cheaper and easier to buy off a politician than to defend an unpopular position in a public debate. Oklahoma voters know exactly what they want, and they don’t need to be told what to think. To counteract the corruption, unethical behavior, and power of special interests, we need to give more power to voters – including the right to call for an election to recall state politicians who become unresponsive to their constituents’ needs.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Below are responses to questions that you may get from a potential petition signer or member of the media.

ARE YOU CONNECTED TO A POLITICAL PARTY?
No. We’re a nonpartisan, grassroots movement of Oklahomans who’ve had enough with politicians, donors, and special interests profiting at our expense. State government is a mess, and we’re here to clean it up. We’re asking one question only. Will you sign our anti-corruption pledge? If a politician can’t do that, they’re not worth having — regardless of party.

HOW DID THIS GET STARTED?
Oklahomans, who were sick of all the government scandals and money being wasted, decided to do something about it. We launched a Facebook page, and discovered that lots of people were upset on these issues. Then we held a meeting and over 5,000 people attended. There are a lot of people in this state who want the mess that is state government to be cleaned up.

WHERE DOES YOUR FUNDING COME FROM? WILL IT BE REPORTED?
Right now, we’re focused on building a broad coalition of supporters, and we’re raising small dollar donations online. We’re asking people to contribute what they can — even if it is just five bucks. People can give at CleanUpOklahoma.org.

We will comply with all state disclosure and reporting requirements. (If a reporter needs more information, please have them contact media@CleanUpOklahoma.org.)

WHY WAS SOMETHING LEFT OUT OF THE PLEDGE?
We’re proud of the pledge and the anti-corruption policies that we’re promoting. Putting them into law would make a huge difference. We were also careful to only include policies that we thought would withstand legal challenges by special interest groups.

With that said, this is just the start of our movement for clean government. Just because something isn’t included this year, doesn’t mean we won’t tackle it eventually.

WHAT IF A POLITICIAN YOU LIKE REFUSES TO SIGN?
If a politician can’t sign an anti-corruption pledge then they’re not worth having — and that includes candidates I would otherwise support. I’m voting clean this year. It’s the only way we’ll ever fix this mess.
ASKING VOTERS TO SIGN

The most important thing to keep in mind when asking people to sign the anti-corruption petition is to keep it simple. We know there are a lot of great ideas in the pledge, and that you may want to talk about them, but the best approach is usually to keep it brief.

For example: Hi. I’m a volunteer working to clean up state government. Could you take a moment to sign our anti-corruption petition? We’re calling for a new law to make government more transparent and stop politicians from profiting at the taxpayer’s expense.

ASK FRIENDS AND FAMILY

To ask a family member or friend to sign the petition, send them a short text with a link to the website (CleanUpOklahoma.org). And feel free to have some fun with it! An example script is below:

Hi [name]. Can you help me clean up the mess that is Oklahoma state government? Please take a moment to sign our anti-corruption petition at www.CleanUpOklahoma.org.

And please pass this on. After all, everyone needs a reminder to take out the trash, and we have a lot of trash in state government! :-) 

SIGN UP FOR A SHIFT OR EVENT

The easiest way to help grow our movement is to sign up for an upcoming text shift that you can do from your home or join us at in-person event near you. We make it super easy and fun to participate and will provide you training to make sure you have a great experience. Click events from the home page of our website or go to mobilize.us/CleanUpOklahoma
I want to stop corruption and vote for clean candidates in 2022.

I agree we need to:

Stop politicians, their families, and their donors from cashing in at the taxpayers' expense. No more getting rich off state contracts or state bank charters, and no lobbying for two years after leaving government service.

Require candidates to disclose their tax returns and potential conflicts on interest.

Stop secret deals, undisclosed gifts, and failures to comply with the state’s open records act.

Clean up elections by getting big money out of politics and preventing politicians from handpicking their own voters.

Return power to the voters and protect our right to decide state questions. Empower voters to recall politicians who don't represent their constituents.

Become a Clean Voter
Sign the pledge at CleanUpOklahoma.org