



July 6, 2018

Dear candidate:

As part of our efforts to add transparency to Oklahoma elections, we are asking all statewide candidates this year if they will voluntarily disclose financial information that is typically required of candidates in federal and many state-level races across the country.

As you may know, Oklahoma currently doesn't require state or local candidates to report detailed finances or release their tax returns before the election. Even financial disclosure forms required of elected officeholders provide relatively little information. We believe that a release of financial details by statewide candidates is of great value to Oklahoma voters and helps ensure that any potential conflicts of interest are made public.

To that end, we are asking if you will voluntarily disclose the attached information to Oklahoma Watch, which will then post the information on its website. Other than tax returns, the requested details are based on what's required of congressional and other federal candidates under the [Ethics in Government Act](#). (The general website is ethics.house.gov; click "Specific Disclosure Requirements".)

Because the primary runoff is approaching, **we are asking that candidates respond by Friday, July 27**. If you are not able to provide the information by that date, please indicate a future release date for any or all of the information.

You may want to tell us soon that you decline to release any of the requested information. Feel free to add an on-the-record comment about your reasons for providing or withholding any or all information. Our state government reporter, Trevor Brown, also would be happy to speak with you about your decision and your views on Oklahoma's current candidate disclosure laws.

Mr. Brown will follow up to make sure you received our request and that all campaigns have a chance to respond. You can reach him any time at (630) 301-0589 or at tbrown@oklahomawatch.org.

Respectfully,

David Fritze
Executive Editor
Oklahoma Watch



Requested Financial Information

___ Sources and exact dollar amounts of the candidate's 2017 earned income when it totals \$200 or more for the calendar year.

___ Copies of the candidate's 2016 and 2017 federal and state income tax returns.

___ Any assets held for an investment purpose, such as real estate, stocks, bonds, ownership interest in a business, saving accounts and retirement accounts, worth more than \$1,000. (The identity of the asset and its values should be listed, and the name of each company, or the name of a mutual fund, in which stock or ownership interest worth over \$1,000 is held should be listed.).

___ A brief description, the date and value of any purchase, sale or exchange of real property, stocks, bonds, commodities, futures or other forms of securities (including trust assets) that exceeds \$1,000.

___ Personal obligations aggregating over \$10,000 owed to one creditor at any time during the calendar year, regardless of repayment terms or interest rates.

In addition, please provide a list of nongovernmental positions held by the candidate, such as with boards of nonprofit organizations or corporations, whether or not they involve compensation.