

# Citizen Involvement in the Legislative Process

Simple Action Steps

# Our System of Government

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Representative Republic – elected officials

- Local – City Councilors, Mayor
- County - Commissioners
- **State – House Representatives, Senators**
- State - Governor
- Federal – House Representatives, Senators
- Federal - President
  
- They represent you - or the lobbyists

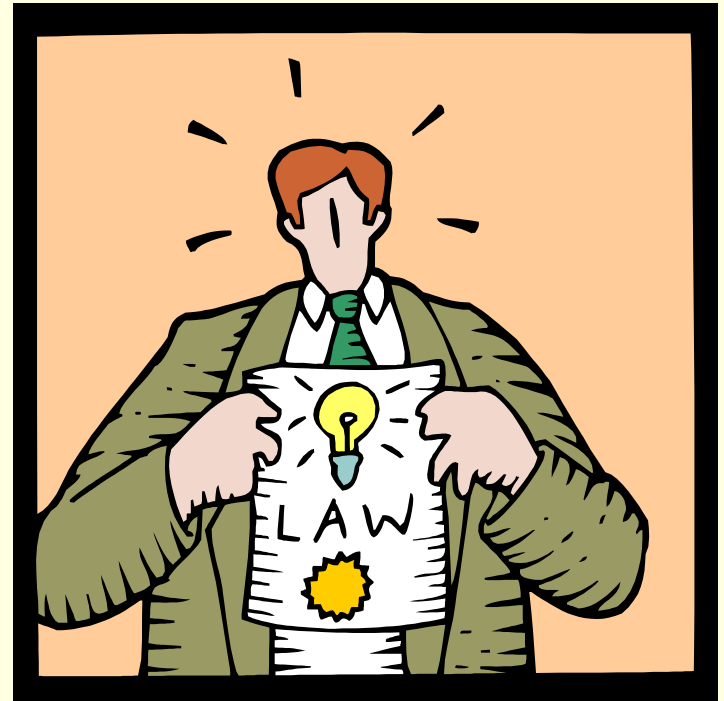
# State – Two Chambers

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- House
- Senate

To Find Your Legislator:

- Official State Website
- County Election Board
- County Party Hdqtrs
- Your Dad




[www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) – enter your zip code to find your elected officials

# Your Representative

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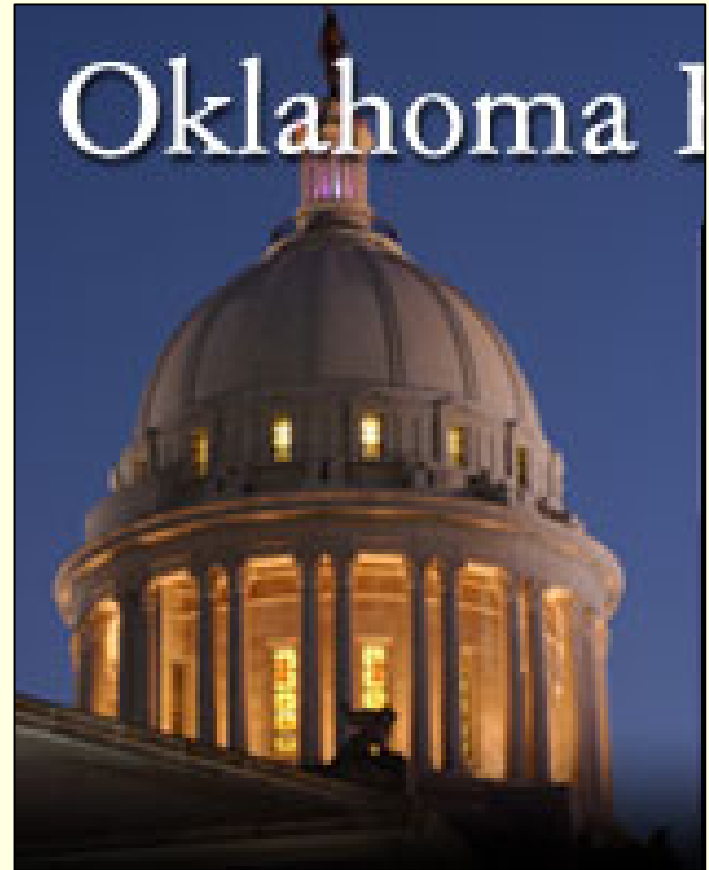
- Call your representative
- Introduce yourself and invite out for coffee 
- Be polite and calm
- Explain your interests
- Keep in touch via phone and email
- Get to know the legislative assistant
- Send thank you

If possible, visit their office at the Capitol

# Lobbying – Be prompt, friendly

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- Meet in their office
- Make appointment or drop in - inquire
- Go in groups of 2 or 3
- Identify yourself and your organization
- Explain briefly why you're there
- Have a handout for research, 1-2 pages



# Know when to Lobby

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- Interim studies/research
- Introduction of bill
- First Reading – perfunctory/public can read
- Second Reading – also brief; bill assigned to committee
- Committee Assignments – amendments
- Floor consideration and Third Reading
- Calendar/General Order
- Engrossment/Enrolling (scrivener's errors removed)
- To Senate – similar process
- If amended – back to House
- **If passed – to Governor**

# Make your letters count...

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- Have a Specific Message – i.e. REAL ID, Fusion Centers, “*direct electronic access*”
- Be Brief
- Target Your Letters – i.e. Legislative Assistance or Directors
- Write Letters to the Editor
- Personalize Your Letters – use your own words
- E-Mail Has Limitations – include your name, home address and phone #
- Be Timely, Be Courteous, & Follow Up.



# Bill Tracking –



## At the State Level:

- State Legislative Website
- Find “Bill Tracking” or “Text of Measures”
- House or Senate?
- Search by Subject
- Search by Author
- Bill Tracking Notification

## At the Federal Level:

- The Library of Congress – Thomas
- Both Houses
- Search by Year – i.e. 110<sup>th</sup> Congress
- Bill Number, Author
- Text, Key Word
- Status of Bill
- Gov.Track.us

# Oklahoma Legislature...

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Oklahoma Legislature Home Page. The address bar shows the URL <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/>. The page features a large, stylized header for "OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE" with a state seal icon. Below the header, the page is organized into three columns of links, each with a small icon:

- HOUSE HOME PAGE**
  - [House Members](#)
  - [Committees](#)
  - [Meeting Notices](#)
  - [Calendar](#)
  - [Information](#)
  - [Session Highlights](#)
- LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM**
  - [Status of Measures](#)
  - [Oklahoma Statutes & Constitution<sup>1</sup>](#)
  - [Text of Measures<sup>2</sup>](#)
  - [Search Text of Measures](#)
  - [Capitol Complex \(JPG-463KB\) \(PDF-2MB\)](#)
  - [Glossary of Legislative Terms \(Senate, House\)](#)
  - [Find Your Legislators](#)
- SENATE HOME PAGE**
  - [Senate Members](#)
  - [Committees](#)
  - [Meeting Notices](#)
  - [Schedule](#)
  - [News](#)
  - [Legislative Summary](#)

At the bottom of the page, a message reads: "Thank you for visiting the Oklahoma Legislature Home Page". The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, open applications (Microsoft PowerPoint, Oklahoma Legislature...), and system tray icons including the clock showing 5:10 PM.

# Bill Tracking - Oklahoma

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Oklahoma House of Representatives website. The address bar shows <http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/>. The page title is "Oklahoma House of Representatives". The main content area features a "Welcome" message and a "News" section. A navigation menu is visible on the left side, and a search bar is located in the top right corner. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button and several open applications, including Microsoft PowerPoint and the Oklahoma Legislature website.

Oklahoma Legislature Home Page - Windows Internet Explorer

<http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/>

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Google  Go  Bookmarks  465 blocked  Check  AutoLink  AutoFill  Send to  Settings

Oklahoma Legislature Ho... Texas Legislature Online Yahoo!

Cut Copy Paste Home Print Page Tools

## Oklahoma House of Representatives

Search:  GO



### Welcome

The Oklahoma House of Representatives meets in Oklahoma City at the state capitol to consider changes in Oklahoma laws. The actions we take here in the capital city have a direct effect on Oklahomans and their quality of life. We encourage all Oklahomans to take advantage of the information available here. We hope that you will find the resources here valuable as you follow the work of the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

**The House stands adjourned Sine Die.**

### News

Conference Committee Reports

Main Floor Amendments by Bill Date [more...](#)

Main Floor Amendments by Bill Number [more...](#)

Main Floor Amendments by Date Filed [more...](#)

House Journals

House Votes

Legislative Deadlines

Oklahoma Constitution & Statutes

Search Text of Measures

Status of Measures

Text of Measures

Home

Speaker of the House

Press Room

House Leadership ▶

House Membership ▶

House Committees ▶

Legislation ▶

Calendars ▶

House Staff ▶

Information ▶

Committee Schedule

Click image to listen when the House is in session or for session audio archives.

**Thank you for visiting the Oklahoma Legislature Home Page**

<http://www.okhouse.gov/#>

Internet 100%

start Microsoft PowerPoint... Oklahoma Legislature... Desktop My Documents My Computer 9:01 AM

# Text of Measures

WebForm1 - Windows Internet Explorer

http://webserv1.lsb.state.ok.us/TextOfMeasures/TextOfMeasures.aspx

**http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/**

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Google Go Bookmarks Popups okay Check AutoLink AutoFill Send to Settings

WebForm1 Welcome to Freedom21 Tuesday's agenda? - Sent ... Trans Texas Corridor is de...

**Select Chamber**

- Senate
- House

**Select Session**

2009 Regular Session

**Select Status**

- Introduced
- Committee Substitute
- Committee Report
- Floor Version(Printed Bill)
- Floor Amendments
- Amendments to Engrossed
- Engrossed
- Conference Committee Substitute
- Conference Committee Report

Search

Signed Legislation (Senate and House)

Note: You will be redirected to the Secretary of State website

Internet training sessions will be held on January 20th at 9 a.m. and January 28th at 9 a.m. in room 419-C for anyone interested in learning how to track legislation online.

Please check this website in the event of bad weather to see if the dates or times need to be changed. Streaming audio and video of the training sessions will also be available on the Senate website at [www.oksenate.gov](http://www.oksenate.gov).

start 4 Internet E... Microsoft Pow... Document1 - ... Desktop My Documents My Computer My Network Places Internet 100% 3:45 PM

# Introduced House Bills

http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/

## Introduced - Bills for the 52nd Legislature (2009-2010)

64 Records found

Measure	Intro Date	Short Title	Author(s)
<a href="#">HB1001</a>	2/2/2009	Schools; creating the Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act; codification; effective date; emergency.	Reynolds(H)
<a href="#">HB1002</a>	2/2/2009	Sales tax; Indian country; close proximity; codification; noncodification; effective date.	Dank(H)
<a href="#">HB1003</a>	2/2/2009	Workers' compensation; providing statutory reference; effective date.	Kern(H)
<a href="#">HB1004</a>	2/2/2009	Professions and occupations; Mechanical Licensing Act; modifying definition; effective date.	Morgan(H)
<a href="#">HB1005</a>	2/2/2009	Legislature; transferring certain responsibilities and personnel to the Legislative Service Bureau; effective date; emergency.	Morgan(H)
<a href="#">HB1006</a>	2/2/2009	Roads, bridges and ferries; designating Billy B. Walkabout Memorial Highway; codification; effective date.	Wesselhoft (H)
<a href="#">HB1007</a>	2/2/2009	Handicapped parking; requiring certain language be displayed on signage for physically disabled reserved parking spaces; effective date.	Wesselhoft (H)
<a href="#">HB1008</a>	2/2/2009	Criminal procedure; specifying statute of limitations for certain crimes; effective date.	Carey(H)
<a href="#">HB1009</a>	2/2/2009	Contracts; creating the Oklahoma Lemon Law; modifying motor vehicle return policy; codification; noncodification; effective date.	Duncan(H)
<a href="#">HB1010</a>	2/2/2009	State government; Oklahoma Sunset Law; clarifying language; effective date.	Wright(H)
<a href="#">HB1011</a>	2/2/2009	State government; Oklahoma Sunset Law; clarifying language; effective date.	Wright(H)
<a href="#">HB1012</a>	2/2/2009	Sunset; re-creating the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board.	Wright(H)
<a href="#">HB1013</a>	2/2/2009	Sunset; re-creating the State Board of Cosmetology.	Wright(H)
<a href="#">HB1014</a>	2/2/2009	Sunset; re-creating the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision.	Wright(H)
<a href="#">HB1015</a>	2/2/2009	Sunset; re-creating the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.	Wright(H)
<a href="#">HB1016</a>	2/2/2009	Sunset; re-creating the Oklahoma Real Estate Commission.	Wright(H)

# Introduced Senate Bills

http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/

## Introduced - Bills for the 52nd Legislature (2009-2010)

430 Records found

Measure	Intro Date	Short Title	Author(s)
<a href="#">SB1</a>	2/2/2009	Insurance; creating Nick's Law. Effective date.	Gumm(S)
<a href="#">SB2</a>	2/2/2009	Motor vehicles; providing for In God We Trust License Plate. Effective date.	Gumm(S)
<a href="#">SB3</a>	2/2/2009	Public health; prohibiting use of certain vaccines. Effective date.	Gumm(S)
<a href="#">SB4</a>	2/2/2009	Elections; requiring proof of identity to vote; providing exceptions. Effective date.	Ford(S)
<a href="#">SB5</a>	2/2/2009	Elections; allowing political parties to allow non-members to vote in certain elections. Effective date.	Gumm(S)
<a href="#">SB6</a>	2/2/2009	Ethics; modifying limits on things of value that may be received or reported; requiring electronic filing of reports. Effective date.	Crain(S)
<a href="#">SB7</a>	2/2/2009	Revenue and taxation; modifying expiration date on income tax credit relating to clean-burning motor vehicle fuel. Effective date.	Gumm(S)
<a href="#">SB8</a>	2/2/2009	Revenue and taxation; increasing earned income tax credit. Effective date.	Wilson(S)
<a href="#">SB9</a>	2/2/2009	Revenue and taxation; modifying income tax credit relating to wind and photovoltaic energy systems. Effective date.	Gumm(S)
<a href="#">SB10</a>	2/2/2009	Revenue and taxation; modifying income tax credit under Rural Venture Capital Formation Incentive Act. Effective date.	Wilson(S)
<a href="#">SB11</a>	2/2/2009	Revenue and taxation; modifying procedures relating to interest on income tax refunds. Effective date.	Gumm(S)
<a href="#">SB12</a>	2/2/2009	Revenue and taxation; creating income tax credit for investments in clean-burning motor vehicle fuel equipment and property. Effective date.	Anderson(S)
<a href="#">SB13</a>	2/2/2009	Aerospace; creating the Regional Airport Modernization Act. Effective date.	Gumm(S)
<a href="#">SB14</a>	2/2/2009	Insurance; requiring a health benefit plan to fully cover medically necessary health care services. Effective date.	Wilson(S)
<a href="#">SB15</a>	2/2/2009	Poor persons; creating a pilot program for a comprehensive health program for the uninsured. Effective date.	Wilson(S)
<a href="#">SB16</a>	2/2/2009	Cities and towns; granting volunteer firefighters leave with pay to participate in the delivery of fire protection services. Emergency.	Gumm(S)
<a href="#">SB17</a>	2/2/2009	State Department of Health; making an appropriation to establish and maintain a public umbilical cord blood bank. Effective date. Emergency.	Gumm(S)

Contains commands for working with the selected items.

start | Internet E... | Microsoft Pow... | Document1 - ... | Desktop | My Documents | My Computer | My Network Places | 3:48 PM

# Action Steps

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- Open Letter to each Federal and State Legislators – mailed (include voting address)
- If no response in 10 days, email legislator, requesting reply
- Make an appointment to meet personally
- Inform yourself and others – (Sunday school, work, etc. Recruit them to lobby)
- Keep in touch – read the information and alerts
- Consider joining conservative groups; donate to them
- Attend Monthly Townhall Meetings
- Get involved in your precincts, county and state party



# Fusion Centers

or

"I Spy" for the Intelligence Enterprise

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# Enabling Legislation - SB 483:

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- **Leverages a database**
- **Would allow “direct electronic access” to the computerized photo in the DPS database**
- **For law enforcement purposes**
- **By law enforcement or *by any political subdivision* of the state**



**Oklahoma Capitol**

# OK-SAFE, Inc.



Oklahomans for Sovereignty and Free Enterprise, Incorporated (OK-SAFE) is a non-profit, 501(c)4 Oklahoma Corporation made up of individuals and coalition groups dedicated to the Principles of American Free Enterprise and the Constitutional Sovereignty of Oklahoma and the United States of America.

OK-SAFE sees a concerted, dedicated and well funded effort by Social and Economic Elites to transition the United States from a Representative Republic to a Socialist Group Democracy and finally into a World Governmental Structure.

Website: [www.ok-safe.com](http://www.ok-safe.com)

# OK-SAFE, Inc.™



TM

- Coalition of grassroots activists
- Determined objectives and goals
- Formed a 501c4, non-profit education/lobbying group
- By-Laws, Structure
- Officers, committees
- Memberships/dues
- Refer to Source documents
- Research/Open Records
- Email Newsletters and Action Alerts
- Monthly Action Forums
- Conferences/DVDs
- Recognizing God's grace

Website: [www.ok-safe.com](http://www.ok-safe.com)

# Bill Tracking - Federal

The screenshot shows the THOMAS (Library of Congress) website in a Windows Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar shows <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. The browser's menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, and Help. The toolbar contains various icons for navigation and utility. The website content is organized into several sections:

- Navigation Menu:** A vertical list of links on the left side, including THOMAS Home, About THOMAS, Bills, Resolutions, Congressional Record, Presidential Nominations, Treaties, Committee Reports, Government Resources, For Teachers, and Help. Below this are links for House of Representatives, Senate, and U.S. Code.
- Related Resources at the Library:** A section with links to Law Library of Congress, Century of Lawmaking, Continental Congress and Constitutional Convention, and Related Webcasts from the Library.
- THOMAS Header:** The main heading "THOMAS" with the tagline "In the spirit of Thomas Jefferson, legislative information from the Library of Congress".
- Search Bill Text:** A search box with a "SEARCH" button and radio buttons for "Word/Phrase" (selected) and "Bill Number".
- Browse Bills by Sponsor:** Two dropdown menus for "Select a Representative" and "Select a Senator", each with a "GO" button.
- Legislation in Current Congress:** A section with a heading and a "SEARCH" button.
- Find More Legislation:** A section with links to Search Multiple, Previous Congresses, Appropriations Bills, and Public Laws.
- Other Legislative Activity:** A section with links to Congressional Record, Committee Reports, Presidential Nominations, and Treaties.
- Current Activity:** A section with links to Yesterday in Congress, Congressional Record Latest Daily Digest, On the House Floor Now, and Schedules, Calendars.
- Learn:** A section with links to The Supreme Court, The Legislative Process, Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Constitution Day (Sept. 17).
- Features:** A section with a small image and text about "Publishing the Declaration of Independence" by Speaker Robin Shields, with a running time of 27 minutes.

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, open applications (Microsoft PowerPoint, THOMAS Library of Congress), and system tray icons including Internet, 100% zoom, and the time 9:09 AM.

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

# Bill Tracking - Federal

Legislation - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.govtrack.us/congress/legislation.xpd

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Google Legislation Go 465 blocked ABC Check AutoLink AutoFill Send to Tracking Federal Legislation Settings

Oklahoma Legislature Home Legislation Yahoo!

Cut Copy Paste Home Print Page Tools

**GovTrack.us**  
Tracking the 110<sup>th</sup> United States Congress

**EZGSA**  
GSA prefers EZGSA's proposals. More than 450 GSA Schedule Awards.  
www.EZGSA.com

Ads by Google

Bills Legislators Votes Track Congress / Log In Active Bills Recent Votes Learn More About GovTrack Find: bill number/keyword

**Feeds**

The following general tracked events feeds are available for legislation:

- **Recently Active Legislation:** View all recent legislative activity, including the introduction and passage of legislation.
- **Recently Active Legislation-Excluding Newly Introduced Bills:** View all recent legislative activity, excluding the introduction of new bills and resolutions.
- **Newly Introduced Bills:** A feed just for newly introduced bills and resolutions.
- **Enacted Laws:** A feed just for bills that are enacted as law.

Other customized feeds are available for committees, subject

**Federal Legislation**

Members of Congress introduce some ten thousand bills in each two-year session of Congress, only a small fraction of which are seriously considered and fewer still enacted as law. GovTrack fetches the status of federal legislation from the official websites using an automatic process on a daily basis. The information here is usually a day or so behind.

**Search Legislation**

Find a current bill by number or keywords:

Search:

See the [advanced search](#) page for more options.

**Browse Legislation**

**Subject Areas**  
What interests you? Thousands of keywords are used to index all of the bills in Congress. Browse bills by [subject area](#) and find the subjects that interest you to monitor legislative events in those categories.

**Committee Assignments**  
Browse bills by the committee or subcommittee they have been assigned to.

**United States Code References**  
Bills that amend the United States Code, one aspect of federal law, are indexed by the sections of the U.S.C. they refer to.

Done

start Microsoft PowerPoint ... Legislation - Windows... Desktop My Documents My Computer Internet 100% 9:07 AM

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/legislation.xpd>

# Bill Tracking - Example

The LIBRARY of CONGRESS THOMAS

The Library of Congress > THOMAS Home > Bills, Resolutions > Search Results

THIS SEARCH	THIS DOCUMENT	GO TO
Next Hit	Forward	<a href="#">New Bills Search</a>
Prev Hit	Back	<a href="#">HomePage</a>
Hit List	Best Sections	<a href="#">Help</a>
	Contents Display	

1000 Bills from the 110th Congress ranked by relevance on "**REAL+ID+Act**".

- 44** bills containing your phrase **exactly as entered**.
- 0** bills containing all your search words **near each other in any order**.
- 21** bills containing all your search words **but not near each other**.
- 935** bills containing **one or more of your search words**.

Listing of **44** bills containing your phrase **exactly as entered**.

- 1 . To extend the deadline by which State identification documents shall comply with certain minimum standards and for other purposes. (Introduced in Senate) [\[S.563.IS\]](#)
- 2 . Photo Identification Security Act (Introduced in House)[\[H.R.1314.IH\]](#)
- 3 . Prevention of Unsafe Licensing Act (Introduced in Senate)[\[S.2356.IS\]](#)
- 4 . To withhold 10 percent of the Federal funding apportioned for highway construction and maintenance from States that issue driver's licenses to individuals without verifying the legal... (Placed on Calendar in Senate)[\[S.2718.PCS\]](#)
- 5 . To withhold 10 percent of the Federal funding apportioned for highway construction and maintenance from States that issue driver's licenses to individuals without verifying the legal... (Placed on Calendar in Senate)[\[S.2334.PCS\]](#)

Search words – REAL ID Act