

Voter Guide

Gubernatorial Primary

Primary Election June 26, 2018

After forty-five years of electing pro-life politicians who have promised to fight abortion, we find a well-regulated, growing—no, thriving—abortion industry in Oklahoma. One of the reasons Oklahomans United for Life was founded is to provide analysis and critique of abortion-related policies, proposals, and politicians in Oklahoma. With an overwhelming majority of Oklahoma voters self-identifying as "pro-life," why is the barbaric practice of abortion still legal in our state? The answer is complex and multi-faceted. It involves voters ignorantly believing legal and strategic lies, and it involves devious politicians lying to the voters who naively believe their duplicitous rhetoric.

With a major state-wide election upon us, it is critical for anyone who identifies as pro-life or abolitionist to study the candidates for governor. The governor provides leadership and direction and is the highest ranking executive in the state. If the governor were willing, he could lead a state like Oklahoma to criminalize abortion. Mary Fallin ran and was elected two times calling herself "very pro-life." But her actions proved that she was actually pro-abortion. So, it is important to ascertain what candidates really believe about abortion, and it is even more important to find out what they have done, or specifically will do, to criminalize abortion. This voter guide is our attempt to provide you with that analysis.

For the sake of time and space, we will only examine those candidates who have positioned themselves in a general way as being against abortion. This precludes analysis of any Democrats. The Democratic Party platform says: "We believe unequivocally...that every woman should have access to...safe and legal abortion." Likewise, we will not analyze any Libertarian Party candidates. Their platform says: "We believe that government should be kept out of [abortion], leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration." The Oklahoma Republican Party platform says: "We believe that at the point of conception, a person is granted the rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution." "We believe in the sanctity and value of human life from conception through natural death, unless forfeited by capital offense. We oppose abortion..." Therefore, only Republican candidates warrant our analysis, and what follows is a synopsis of what is known of each candidate's position on abortion.

Dan Fisher



Dan Fisher is the only candidate who has pledged to make abolishing abortion his number one priority. He has published a strategic plan to accomplish his mission using state sovereignty. He is the only candidate who endorses and supports the "Abolition of Abortion in Oklahoma Act," which would criminalize abortion. Fisher has pledged to enforce this law, once enacted, regardless of any court attempt to thwart the exercise of justice. Learn more at FisherforGovernor.com.

Gary Jones



When we asked **Gary Jones** what he would do about abortion, he said, "I will sign whatever bill the legislature sends to me, as long as it is constitutional," indicating that he believes abortion is constitutional. When Jones was a candidate for the legislature he favored keeping abortion fully available in many cases, and now as a candidate for governor, he has not announced any plan to work against abortion.

Todd Lamb



Like Governor Fallin, **Todd Lamb** calls himself "very pro-life." When Oklahomans United for Life asked him for specifics, he promised to keep doing what he has done in the past. In fact, Lamb loves to brag about the "pro-life" bill he authored many

years ago in the Senate, but what he does not tell you is that his bill was nothing more than a minor health care regulation. Then, in 2016, when Governor Fallin vetoed SB 1552, which would have removed medical licenses from doctors who perform elective abortions, one of our pastors pleaded with him to help. Lamb flatly refused the request to step into the Senate and ensure that SB 1552 received a final vote to override Governor Fallin's veto. Of course, it is easy for Lamb to look back now and tell his constituents that, had he been governor, he would have signed SB 1552, but actions speak louder than after-the-fact words. As a result of Mary Fallin and Todd Lamb's choices, two new abortion providers have opened for business. We do not need another "very pro-life" governor.

Gary Richardson



Gary Richardson believes that Christians must obey civil authorities; therefore, they must submit to abortion until the Supreme Court changes the policy. By Richardson's logic, German Christians were wrong to protect their fellow human beings from ethnic cleansing, and American Christians were wrong to help slaves escape to freedom on the underground railroad. Even the apostles, who refused to quit preaching about Jesus, would be in violation of Gary Richardson's political policy.

Kevin Stitt



Kevin Stitt has said he believes abortion is a federal issue and we must pray about it. He has refused to say he would criminalize it and would not offer to support Senator Silk's bill to abolish abortion. The strategy of praying and waiting for the federal government to stop abortion has been ineffectual for forty-five years; it ignores the moral and legal obligation of Oklahoma officials to protect the lives of those

within their jurisdiction and to uphold the "equal protection of the laws," as stated in the Constitution of the United States.

Mick Cornett



Mick Cornett is the mayor of a city which is now hosting a new abortion facility. Cornett did nothing to keep it from opening, nor has he ever issued any public statement against the facility opening in his city. We are left to believe that his policy would be to beautify the roads to the facility and provide public transportation to the front door. Cornett has never been strong on social issues. He is a self-

professed moral relativist who seems to care only for taxing and spending.

Barry Gowdy, **Christopher Barnett**, **Blake Stephens**, and **Eric Foutch** had no websites or published positions on abortion at the time this guide was written.