



CAPITOL NETWORK NEWS

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SUPPLEMENT

WE VOTED FOR THEM, NOW THEY VOTE FOR US

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(GIT) The people of Oklahoma have spoken and for the first time ever an all Republican delegation will head to Washington to represent the great sooner state. James Inhofe won his first full Senate term and will accompany Oklahoma's senior delegation member, Don Nickles, in the U.S. Senate.

Wes Watkins will return to Washington after reclaiming the third district seat he vacated six years ago. Watkins' republican conversion and subsequent victory, completes a cast of all Republican Representatives. Incumbents Steve Largent, Tom Coburn, J.C. Watts, Ernest Istook and Frank Lucas were all reelected.

Seven new faces will occupy senate seats, while fifteen first time house members find their place in Oklahoma's 46th Legislature. Republicans will have five new members walking the corridors on both the Senate and House sides. The Democrats take pride in initiating two new Senators and ten new Representatives.

Overall, the Republicans gain one additional Senate seat making their total fourteen. President Pro Tempore, Stratton Taylor will continue to preside as the Democrats maintain control of the Senate with 33 members. In the House, newly elected Speaker Loyd Benson finds 65 Democrats taking office. The Republicans will field 36 Representatives as they pick up two important seats.

Below is a profile of the Oklahoma law makers you elected. Vital statistics and information is given for all 101 state Representatives and 48 Senators. Likewise, Oklahoma's six U.S. Congressmen and two Senators are listed.

In 1997, 38 percent of our state Senators will range in age from 50 to 59 years old. Thirty-one percent will fall between the 40 and 49 year mark, 21 percent will top out over 60 and 10 percent will not have reached their 40th birthday. Shawnee's Brad Henry and Oklahoma

City's Brooks Douglass are the Senates youngest members, turning 34 next year. Gene Stipe is the Senate's most seasoned veteran finding 71 candles on his cake in 1997. The McAlester Senator enters into his 40th year of proudly serving Oklahoma's seventh Senate district.

The House also finds its strongest contingent in the 50 to 59 age group with a 31 percent tally. A close second is the 40 to 49 year olds ringing in at 31 percent. Twenty-two percent are still reaching for 40 while 17 percent have mastered the 60 plus mark. Betty Boyd from Tulsa is the House's most distinguished Representative and Loyal's Clay Pope is the youngest turning 28 next year.

The professions of the 46th Legislature are as vast as they are diverse. Everything from Bob Ed Culver, Tahlequah funeral director to Carol Martin spending time as a Goldsmith in Comanche to Lindsay barber Bill Mitchell to Tulsan Penny Williams who works with countless community service organizations.

House Representatives have 22 percent of its members engaging in business operations. Eighteen percent describe themselves as educators, 13 percent are attorneys and 12 percent invest their time farming and ranching. On the Senate side 25 percent admitted to practicing law, while 23 percent earn incomes in business operations. Farming and ranching make up 15 percent and 8 percent declare themselves educators.

With the new addition of Oklahoma City Senator Kathleen Wilcoxson, six Senate seats are now held by women. Successful election efforts of Tulsan Mary Easley keeps nine women Representatives. Mary Easley's addition, also creates the first mother-son legislative team, as her son Kevin Easley represents Broken Arrow in the Senate.