



2026 Gubernatorial Interviews

Gentner Drummond

The Tulsa County Republican Party Candidate Support Committee conducted gubernatorial candidate interviews between January 13 and February 10, 2026. Each candidate received the same questions.

Candidates did not know the questions before the interview, nor the responses of other candidates.

The committee gave 45 minutes to each candidate to speak on the record without interruption. Candidates were not directed on how long to answer each question. Each candidate was free to speak longer or shorter on particular questions as he or she saw fit. With the remaining time available after answering each question, each candidate had the opportunity to revisit previous questions or talk about new topics the committee did not ask. You will see those comments at the end of this document.

Each interview was conducted by a male and female interviewer asking each question. Other Candidate Support Committee members in the room remained silent during the 45 minutes. In a few instances, interviewers carefully asked follow-up questions to clarify the candidate's comments or to address an angle to the issue that had been covered in earlier interviews. When these questions are in the transcript, they are surrounded by [brackets].

The text below faithfully presents the word-for-word responses from each candidate. The committee used accurate AI tools to both transcribe and gently "clean" incomplete or run-on sentences into complete sentences in the candidate's own words. The committee used the same transcription process for each candidate without manual human subjectivity to faithfully convey each candidate's presentation of these ideas to voters. The resulting transcripts are verified by human comparison to the original audio recordings.

For questions or comments about this interview, please contact candidates@tulsacountygop.org.

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Candidate's Political Philosophy, Family, & Business

Do you identify as a conservative, moderate, or liberal?

Please give us your definition of what your answer means.

I'm a conservative.

As Attorney General, I was elected and took office in January of 2023. I have fought for Oklahomans, not for political elites or lobbyists. I've been focused on what people throughout our state need. I sued the Biden administration 17 times and defeated or pushed back many of his overreaching policies that would have significantly harmed Oklahomans.

I have aligned dramatically with President Trump's America First policy, principally through shutting down illegal cartels that have invaded our state. The FBI estimated that when I took office, about 100,000 people from mainland China were engaged in medical marijuana grow facilities. At that time, we had about 12,000. We have shut down an average of 15 marijuana grow facilities per day for the last three years, bringing that number down to about 2,500.

It was amazing, when President Trump took office with the border closure, to partner with ICE on a weekly basis and deport mainland Chinese citizens who are here illegally. I have focused on advancing border security, criminal justice, and aligning with President Trump on all things important to put Oklahoma and America first.

Oklahoma is often called the buckle of the Bible Belt, and many voters will be interested to know if you attend church regularly. Could you please share with us more the importance of faith in your life?

I'm a born-again Christian. Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and directs my actions on a daily basis. I have a threshold of: is this literally... would Jesus approve of this action or not? And that provides guidance for me in everything that I do.

I'm a daily reader of my Bible in prayer frequently, daily at least, if not many times a day with my Lord. My wife and children and I attend regularly weekly at our little church in Hominy, merged in the Presbyterian Church at Pawhuska, which merged into a Disciples of Christ congregation. So we're the Presbyterian Disciples of Pawhuska, and where we serve leadership roles there.

My background while our children were in the home: I taught Bible school for 18 consecutive years for my children and have served as a deacon in two of our congregations in an excess of 12 years. So faith



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is very important to me. All of my children are Christian and believers; my grandchildren, I hope that are on that very same path. So it's important that we reflect those values in our day-to-day actions. And I'm very proud and unashamed to be a Christian.

It is informative on everything that I do. And rarely do I take an action in certainly my role as Attorney General that I don't first go to prayer in that matter. Not that I'm claiming to have a direct line to God, but I know that He listens and I know He guides us and I'm informed by His word, which is important to me.

What does your family think about you running for such a demanding position?

So my wife certainly has known that this is a trajectory that I've been on literally for 48 years. It's interesting, my story: I'm the oldest of 65 in my generation of Drummonds in the Osage.

When I was 14, my grandfather sat me down and said, "You know, you're the oldest, you're the leader. I want you to make me two promises. One, I want you to serve in the military because none of us have. We're ranchers. We don't get drafted. I want you to serve. I want you to get out, come back, and raise your family here in Osage County. And then when all of your children are grown, I want you to go back and serve the state."

I shook hands on those two promises, and I fulfilled those promises. It's the most rewarding thing in my life to serve as Attorney General, and I would be deeply honored to serve our state as governor.

My wife and children pray daily that I serve honorably and did not compromise my integrity. I pray daily for them that they're protected from the armchair warriors of the internet. None of us now look at online social media as very tough, mainly for them. I asked for this. So my memory is short and my skin is thick, but I pray daily for those children and grandchildren and my wife.

Does your family share your views and values?

They do. Differing degrees. It's interesting with six children. None of them are just carbon copies of me or Wendy, but they each are conservative in their views.



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How will your business be affected by your candidacy and possible term or terms in office?

I have adopted the federal requirements on me. The state is very permissive. You can continue to be engaged in businesses, but I've adopted the federal.

So when I was elected Attorney General, I resigned from any leadership capacity in the companies that Wendy and I have built over these years. And I'm 100% devoted to serving the people of Oklahoma as Attorney General.

And in my off hours, at the evening and over the lunch hour, I campaign as governor.

Education

What are your ideas about funding education and rural infrastructure with money generated by sports betting or gaming revenue?

Education is remarkably important to Oklahoma, and choice of education is important to Oklahoma. I think that parents are the threshold decision makers for the education of their children. So, I'm a proponent of school choice, be that homeschool, private school, charter school, public school. And that informs how I approach education.

We do not need to add more money to education. About half of our state budget presently is devoted to education. Is it the most efficient application of dollars? No. As governor, I would reallocate money from administrative expenses into the classroom. And for us to change the trajectory of Oklahoma, we cannot be 50th. We are better than last in the nation. And to do that, if you look at the states that have been successful, they have had governors that are education governors. People talk about the "Mississippi Miracle." I call that the "Mississippi Marathon." That started two governors ago, and it started with a commitment to preparing children pre-K so that by third grade they could read proficiently and math proficiently in fourth grade.

And as it relates to your question on funding rural, there is effectively three types of school districts in Oklahoma. We have our rural schools, of which I'm a graduate. We have our suburban schools, and we have our urban schools. And those are profoundly different. I think that the next governor is going to have to deal with the phenomenon of sports betting. We don't have it legally in the state today, but we certainly have it illegally in the state today. And with the contractual rights that the tribes have, they will be at the table determining how that is rolled out.



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But what we need is a governor that understands fully the downside of sports betting and gaming. The states that have adopted that, I've studied, and the incidence of gambling addiction has skyrocketed, and the monies reserved for addiction are inadequate. Chris Christie made this bold statement: "10% of all funding from sports betting will go toward mental health." And now, 10 years after the fact, it was in fact less than 1%. And the addiction rate in New Jersey has skyrocketed.

So, as a governor, I have to be mindful of Oklahomans, putting Oklahoma families first by protecting them from addiction. And we know in Christian walk of life often we talk about alcohol. If I know you have a propensity to be an addiction, I don't need to consume alcohol or be with you around alcohol. Similarly, we have people that are addicted to gaming, and we don't yet have a leader, have not had a leader in the state that is aware of that and is proactive in it. And so the monies that we would generate from gambling would have to go toward addiction and education.

Do you support school choice, including the use of tax dollars to help families pay for private or home education expenses?

Yes. So, directly, I'm pro-school choice. Parents are the deciders of their children's education; government simply facilitates. I think we have it wrong right now in Oklahoma, where we have a tendency for the government to dictate how we educate our children. And that's just wrong.

As a parent of six, it was my choice and decision where and how they got educated, and I would expect the same for all Oklahomans. One: two, the plurality of educational alternatives are in the best interest of Oklahomans.

Just today, I spoke to a homeschool coalition and acknowledged the sacrifice—the financial sacrifice—that they make to teach their children at home. So it would make sense: with tax credits toward private education, which I'm a supporter of, we should also adopt tax credits for homeschooled parents because they are sacrificing.

All Oklahomans pay toward public education, right? Our taxes are used for education. I want to redefine that—not public education, but education. So if you elect private education, then we need to give you the tax credit equivalent of what you've paid in. If you choose homeschooling, we need to do the same, and charter school and public schooling.

I think as we launched school choice, it was appropriate to do the separate funding. I think as we evolve as a state, we need to readdress the formula approach to distribution of funds.

And I'm not a proponent to defund public education, but I'm a proponent to properly fund all forums of education. And that will require that we revisit how we fund public education.



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Do you support requiring all Oklahoma public school students to pass a reading evaluation before advancing beyond third grade?

I believe—I'm not going to pretend to be an expert in education—but I do believe firmly that we socially promote children irresponsibly. So I think that there are—I think the policy should be—that we don't promote socially, with exception. And there are going to be exceptions. And an educator explained this to me.

So to our listeners, I want to explain this as best I can: if Little Jimmy begins first grade reading at a pre-K level, but advances 18 months over that year into second grade, he should be promoted into second grade, but he's still behind peers. And in second grade, he advances 18 months to now he's getting closer and closer to the third grade equivalent. But if Jimmy's on that path, then we keep him on that path and continue to promote him if he even is slightly deficient. But the rule should be: we do not socially promote.

Please identify what factors you believe are causing the failure of the Oklahoma public school system and explain your plan as governor to make Oklahoma a leader in education.

On my website, I'm the only candidate that has taken this seriously with a plan. At DrummondOK.com, there is a link to my SCHOOLS program, one.

Two, as I mentioned earlier, the state will not advance in reading performance and educational performance unless you have a governor who is an education governor. The number one priority in my administration will be education, because we are better than last. We are better than 50th.

That requires a governor who is engaged, attentive, and driving those performance ratios and demanding phonics be taught in the classroom, and not the unproven and failed techniques that have permeated throughout public education. To teach children phonics and then ensure that they can read competently by third grade so that they are no longer learning to read, but reading to learn.



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Life

Do you believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn must be protected regardless of the circumstances of their conception?

I believe that life begins at conception and I am pro-life 100%.

Do you support ending the practice of abortion in Oklahoma without exception?

I am unequivocally pro-life. Life, I mean, I believe with all in my heart that God creates life and that all lives are valuable. And I would take that beyond the womb. We need to do better in Oklahoma for that pre-K child, that in the elementary programs, we need to take care of those less able to take care of themselves throughout the life. So I'm pro-life all the way through, and I believe absolutely that I adopt as a personal motto to do under others as I would have them do unto me. And so I respect you and I would expect respect back and we value each other, even if we disagree. We value life because God created you and me.

So the question on the abortion pill, I believe that life begins at conception. Right. No exception.

Taxes

Many states like Texas, Florida, Tennessee have eliminated their state income tax and found that it stimulated economic growth and prosperity. Do you support eliminating the state income tax in Oklahoma?

Yes, I support eliminating state income tax, and we need to make sure that we have sufficient funds elsewhere to fund the core services that the state delivers. For instance, to elaborate on that, presently the all-in tax rate for Oklahomans is about 6.5% when you add in ad valorem, income, and sales. Texas is 7%.

So Texas has shifted the tax burden onto sales, fuel, and ad valorem that Oklahomans have not. So I would love to find a path where we have no income tax. I would also like to find a path where we



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restrict ad valorem taxes at a certain age and for certain classes of people. But we must develop our economic base, which is what Texas has done. Yes, it has driven income and commerce to its borders that permit it to have zero income tax.

And for Oklahoma to get to that path of zero income tax, we have to have a governor who understands business, doesn't give you sound bites, but actually understands business. And you know from my background, I formed a law firm. I formed a wireless retail company. I formed title and abstract companies. I formed and purchased a very small bank and built it into a large bank. I know how to sign the front of a paycheck and drive commerce in our communities.

Do you support freezing property taxes on the primary residence of seniors over 65?

I do. I think that it is unconscionable to take a retired person on a fixed income and require that they mortgage their home or sell their home so as to satisfy property taxes. And we need to readdress the formulaic equation through which we assess property taxes, because it is simply outstripping inflation presently, so we have to reassess that.

McGirt

What are your ideas about the McGirt versus Oklahoma decision?

The McGirt decision, for the listener, is when the Supreme Court said, Oklahoma, you no longer have the right to prosecute Native Americans who commit a crime on their tribal land. That's the law, and I enforce the law.

Where I have worked diligently these last three years is meeting with every tribal chief in the state of Oklahoma, and those that are impacted by McGirt, working toward a solution. These are the solutions that I have accomplished, not talked about—accomplished.

We now cross-deputize our state law enforcement officers into tribal law enforcement, so the state law enforcement officer can stop the Native American perpetrator, ticket him or her, or charge him or her with the crime, and refer it to the tribe for prosecution.



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What you have not seen are the tribes invest the billions of dollars necessary for them to supplant what the state does. And here's the why: they've been meeting with me on a plan for when I become governor, such that we have an intergovernmental agreement where we, the state, then cross-deputize prosecutors and judges so that if you are a Cherokee committing a crime, the state of Oklahoma prosecutes you. A district attorney prosecutes you in the name of the state of Oklahoma and the Cherokee Nation, and an Oklahoma judge adjudicates you in the name of the nation and the state.

And then when you're put in prison, you're not transported to Texas or Kansas, but you're put in a prison system in Oklahoma, which then further permits the family unit to remain intact. So the tribes look forward to a Drummond governorship where we can work that plan out, principally starting first with the Ottawa tribes—there's nine in Ottawa County—and then spreading to the five tribes.

Prosperity

How do you make Oklahoma the most business-friendly state in the nation?

Where we have deficiencies is when people now come to Oklahoma to determine whether they want to relocate or expand, they're meeting with the Attorney General. I'm the business Attorney General and more likely than not governor. What they are saying, where we are deficient, is we must advance education. We cannot be 50th. That is just like a black mark in front of the name of Oklahoma, so that's almost a no-go.

So we have to increase our performance ratios in education, and we have to have children that are workforce ready. Presently, the emphasis is on every child needing to go to the university. And I'm all for university study, but not every child should go to the university. We need pipe fitters, welders, electricians. We need commercial drivers. We need people that can graduate from high school through career tech and be workforce ready.

The companies I met with—the Williams Companies CEO and general counsel just last week—and he's saying, "Please, Gentner, increase the attendance and the funding for career tech so we can have more young people in the state of Oklahoma so we can grow." So back to the lower income tax, we need more workforce-ready Oklahomans that can go into industries to make a difference.

I'm studying states that are getting it right, and this is what I've observed. The states that have gone from 50th to 25th, or 40th to 15th, have done three principal things. One, they back it up—they look at the child at the two-, three-, and four-year-old stage. Oklahoma funds at the lowest in the nation on childcare subsidy. So if you're an eligible parent for a subsidy in your childcare—and so many Oklahomans, both parents work but don't make a lot of money, so they're eligible—New Mexico is 10 times our reimbursement rate.



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So if we put more money into childcare providing, then that child whose parents work is fed and stimulated academically so that when he or she starts preschool, they have the advance necessary to be successful. So at two, three, and four, preschool, then in preschool and kindergarten, the states that are successful have in the elementary a reading czar—my word—and that reading czar has the authority to hire reading teachers for first, second, or third grade in addition to the classroom teacher. Those states are excelling as we fall behind.

So these are just fundamental. We don't need to be original; we just need to be successful. And other states have proven if you do those two things and you drive the children toward being workforce ready—either military, first responder, college, or workforce through career tech—then that is an equation for success for the state.

Many of us have seen our homeowners insurance rates nearly double in recent years. What can Oklahoma do to bring homeowners' insurance rates in line with other states?

Your Attorney General is doing that. I have spent inordinate time with my analysts and agents as we've investigated out-of-state insurance companies and what they've done. Oklahoma pays, per capita, more for homeowners insurance than any other state and twice the national average. That informs my behavior as the protector of consumers.

As we've gone deeper, and as your listeners will know, I've presently intervened and I'm suing State Farm. It is my opinion, based on the research and the data I've looked at, that they overcharge and underpay on claims. We go into a mediation in about two weeks. I think that will result in good success by probably April, where we will disgorge from State Farm hundreds of millions of dollars for the repayment of Oklahomans that have been underserved.

Then I will pivot to Allstate and I will continue that. So the Oklahoma Constitution gives the Attorney General the right to protect the consumer. I act on that right through informed information gleaned from Oklahomans who have complained to my office: "I've had wind or hail damage, I can't afford to buy the new roof, and State Farm won't pay it." That is important to my behavior, and I believe them to be guilty of exploiting Oklahomans.

So what you will have with me as Attorney General—what you have—is a fighter for Oklahomans. And what you'll have as a governor is one who's informed and will drive that behavior so that Oklahomans are better.



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Do you support full transparency of all annual revenues and expenditures of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority?

I am presently auditing the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. It has been cumbersome, and it's been about a two-year process with the auditor and me. We cannot permit state funds and federal funds to go unaccounted. And I have profound concerns that, with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, there are not bright lines between those two funding sources. One has federal requirements; one does not.

Now, am I a proponent to abolish OTA? No, and this is why: we have \$16 billion of bonds through OTA. So if we abolish it today, those bonds would be due, and taxpayers—we would have to come up with \$16 billion. We can't afford that. But do we need a governor who is directly involved in OTA to hold it accountable and be responsive to Oklahomans? Yes. And I am that person.

I look at tolls much as the drug user looks at that next drug. We have become addicted under the Turnpike Authority to tolls. What was sold to Oklahoma was, "We will charge you a toll until the construction costs have been repaid and the interest carried satisfied." That was a lie. What we observe now is bigger and grander projects and more tolls.

And what has happened in West Tulsa County, to that stretch of highway known as Gilcrease on the west side, is highway robbery. To those poor citizens who would go one mile to get on I-44 now have to pay to access our interstate system—it's wrong-headed. We've just not had a governor that enforces this and cares in this space.

And my first week in office as Attorney General, many of those citizens came knocking at my door and said, "Please help." And I've talked to them blue in the face with OTA. So things will change.

Closing Statements

Could you identify the three most important policies you would fight for as governor to make this a better state for Oklahoma families?

Great. Three: education. We've talked about it—absolutely have to own it as governor and make it fundamental to the administration. All effort on education: not more dollars, smarter dollars, driving results.

Healthcare and mental health are the other two. We are at the bottom of the United States in healthcare deliverables and mental health. The state budget for mental health has stayed level or gone



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down each of the last seven years, and we see the results. You and those who live in Tulsa and those who live in Oklahoma City don't have to look very hard to see where homeless people are living. I talked to the leadership of Broken Arrow a few months ago and said, "How's your homeless population?" They said, "Oh, we don't have it. We find them and take them to Tulsa, where Tulsa can get the services." So Tulsa has to figure it out.

So we have to fix it. And in my role as Attorney General, I have the Victim Services Unit and the Opioid Abatement Board and so many other service-providing organizations under my umbrella. So I see firsthand our failures as a state. We have to increase our awareness of mental health. So many of these homeless people, whether they got homeless through drug abuse or through true mental health problems, we have to change that trajectory. Because back to your question about creation and every life, these homeless people are God's creation too. And those that need services, we need to provide. And those that are simply drug addicts, we need to dry out. But we have to address that.

As I talked about healthcare, our rural hospitals and our rural service providers—we have healthcare deserts in Oklahoma. My hometown's hospital closed down 15 years ago, and it was almost a death knell to my hometown. Now we have to travel to the next city for healthcare providing. So just like with education, where we have inner city and suburban and rural, we have the same dilemma in healthcare.

And we need a governor who's aware, informed, and will fight for Oklahoma under our 340B program. You've observed in my office I am now the enforcer of the Pharmacy Benefit Managers Act. It was not being done in the Insurance Commission. We have clawed back, in the last nine months, over \$200 million from pharmacy benefit managers who are robber barons. They're stealing from us. And that fight will go on through my administration and the next administration—holding accountable pharmaceutical benefit managers and big pharma who exist to exploit us.

So we need a governor that understands that, drives down healthcare costs, and protects us from out-of-state predators.

Do you have any additional thoughts on the questions we asked, or about any other topics we have not covered today?

So I would simply add, as a macro, as a big view from the role, Oklahomans need a governor who is unafraid to lead and unafraid to make hard decisions. What you've observed as Attorney General is really my resume of leadership. I've shut down drug cartels. I've deported those that are in our state illegally. I am suing Chinese landowners that own their land unlawfully to take it back and sell it through sheriff sales back to Oklahomans.

You've seen me stand with President Trump on border security and law enforcement and work hard hand in hand with him to put Oklahomans first—not lobbyists, not political elite, not those with a driven agenda, not out-of-state corporations. You've seen me make hard decisions with regard to our



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religious liberties. You've seen me make hard decisions with regard to our water quality throughout Oklahoma.

What we need is a governor who understands leadership, is unafraid to make hard decisions, and who will always put Oklahomans first. And that is what you will get with me—not just because I say it, but because you've witnessed it for these last three years.

I'm not a career politician. I've been a fighter pilot for eight years, a businessman for 30 years, and now an elected official for three. And what you've seen in those three years is more than you've ever seen from an attorney general over the last 20 combined. So you will get results from Gentner Drummond as governor, and to the listeners, I hope that they vote for me.