



Letter: Time for Oklahoma to move to open primaries to improve civic involvement

Kathleen Strunk, Owasso Jul 5, 2024 Updated Jul 6, 2024 — The primary election results June 18 were dreadful for an Oklahoman registered as a Democrat or independent. Twenty-four winners were decided in Republican primaries in which only Republicans could vote.

There are 2.3 million Oklahomans registered to vote; of those, 52% are Republicans. Yet only 10% (240,000 Republicans) voted in the statewide primary election for Corporation Commissioner. Smaller percentages of the voting population determined the 24 Republican seats won in the primaries.

Closed Republican primaries excluded 1.1 million registered Oklahoma voters. The Oklahoma Legislature and state offices represent all 4 million Oklahomans. It is unthinkable that 10% of the voting public determines many of these elections.

I would like to have a vote. Please advocate to your legislators in this next session for a change to open primaries.