



# DIRTY POLITICS

Below is some of the scandalous behavior over the past couple of years that has contributed to growing public frustration and the need to Clean Up Oklahoma.

## MAY 2022



Stitt gave families \$8 Million for school supplies during the pandemic; They bought Christmas trees, gaming consoles, and hundreds of TVs. (Oklahoma Watch, 5/2/22)

Governor Stitt Vetoes Government Transparency Proposal. (Oklahoma Watch, 5/2/22)

State Officials Refuse To Release A Report On A Troubled Relief Program Where Parents Purchased TVs And Smartwatches (Oklahoma Watch 5/6/22)

Editorial: State must bolster financial oversight, accountability (Tulsa World 5/9/22)

Swadley's deal cost Oklahoma taxpayers \$12.4 million, state watchdog says (The Oklahoman 5/13/22)

Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell signed off on millions of Foggy Bottom Kitchen expenses (The Oklahoman 5/16/22)

Did a state official's Lake Murray land deal violate ethics rules? (The Frontier 5/17/22)

Proposed \$9.8B Oklahoma state budget includes direct \$75 rebates, state worker pay raises (The Oklahoman 5/17/22)

## APRIL 2022



Head of Tourism resigns and the state sues over Foggy Bottom Kitchen scandal (The Frontier, 4/29/22)

Fire Marshal report details new allegations of corruption against Swadley's, Governor's Office (KFOR, 4/28/22)

Swadley's Tourism Dept deal hits bottom — ethics surrounding it are foggy (Oklahoma Free Press, 4/27/22)

OSBI to investigate criminal activity between state Tourism Department, Swadley's barbecue (The Oklahoman, 4/4/22)

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation launches investigation into Swadley state contract. (The Frontier, 4/1/22)

Legislators grill Oklahoma Tourism director over Swadley's contract at state parks (The Oklahoman 4/1/22)



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## FEBRUARY 2022

State auditor questions why criminal charges have still not been brought against Epic Charter schools for the largest abuse of taxpayer funds “in the history of this state.” (Tulsa World, 3/11/22)

In an attempt to take power away from voters, state lawmakers file multiple bills that would make it practically impossible to pass state questions. (The Frontier, 2/15/22)

State lawmakers file SB1272, SB1159, and HB3475 to make it easier to deny open records requests. (The Frontier, 3/16/22)

Oklahoma officials waive competitive bidding to give EV startup Canoo at least \$35 million in guaranteed car sales. The company’s CEO has been quoted as saying the state has agreed to give his company \$300 million in incentives. The state refuses to release details. (The Frontier 2/25/22)

DPS settles lawsuit over trooper cheating and blackmail scandal. Former agency leaders call the settlement a ‘cover up’. (2/17/22, The Frontier)

State audit finds that pandemic spending at the Oklahoma Health Department violated the state constitution. Oklahoma Attorney General refuses to release the audit. (2/9/22, The Frontier)

Current Oklahoma state lawmaker hired to help people lobby legislature (Oklahoma Watch, 2/15/22)

Oklahoma lawmakers debate recall options for school board members, but not legislators (CNHI, 2/21/22)

## November 2021

Oklahoma congressional districts are further gerrymandered to maintain power, protect incumbents and punish enemies. (The Oklahoman, 11/18/21)

An audit of the shuttered Seeworth Academy charter school revealed more than \$250,000 in “misappropriated” expenditures. (Nondoc, 11/16/21)

## MARCH 2022

Education Secretary Ryan Walters exposed for failing to report campaign expenses. (The Frontier, 3/25/22)

The Oklahoman reports that Stitt donor Renzi Stone has received \$15.5 million in taxpayer funds for his company over the last three years for PR services. (The Oklahoman, 3/29/22)

Lawmakers stifle debate on applying open records law to themselves. Oklahoma is one of only four states in the country with no transparency. (Oklahoma Watch, 3/17/22)

## JANUARY 2022

House Representative Jose Cruz resigns over inappropriate actions. (KFOR, 1/19/22)

## DECEMBER 2021

Then House Speaker Pro Tempore Terry O’Donnell is indicted for conspiracy, perjury and misconduct. (News On 6, 1/6/22)

CNHI reports that the three elected commissioners of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission accepted \$200,000 from employees, subsidiaries or political action groups tied to companies they regulate or from individuals with a vested interest in those industries.(CNHI, 12/22/21)

State utility regulators and the Attorney General’s Office refused to say which companies profited from last February’s unprecedented spike in natural gas prices. In half a year, the state attorney general accepted more than \$50,000 in campaign contributions from companies regulated by the commission. About \$2 billion has been passed on to Oklahoma consumers from utility companies. (CNHI, 12/22/21)

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## – May 2021

Oklahoma's Attorney General resigns amid allegations of an affair with a state employee. (KFOR, 5/26/21)

## – March 2021

Oklahoma health officials can't account for more than \$20 million in protective equipment spending. (The Frontier, 3/31/21)

## – February 2021

Legislative report criticizes Stitt administration for not providing "a single complete set of documentation for any project funded with Coronavirus Relief Funds" and for spending COVID money on unrelated projects. (Tulsa World, 2/4/21)

## – December 2020

Gov. Kevin Stitt's Secretary of Digital Transformation is indicted (The Oklahoman, 12/18/2020)

## – October 2020

State's public health lab relocated in the midst of the pandemic over the objections of lawmakers and experts. The transition leads to testing delays, the mishandling of testing samples, and staffing shortages, according to a Sept. 2021 audit. (The Frontier, 1/20/22)

State auditor investigation finds Epic owes Oklahoma taxpayers millions. One improper transfer sent \$203,000 of Oklahoma tax dollars to an Epic school in California. (Tulsa World, 10/2/20)

## – May 2020

State senator proposes amendment to allow politicians to spend campaign funds on vacations, mortgages, gifts, and other personal expenses. (The Frontier, 5/14/20)

## – January 2020

Stitt appointees approve taxpayer funds for his family business (The Frontier, 1/15/2020)

## – January 2019

State board approves bank charter for Stitt's company (The Oklahoman, 1/9/19)

