

What to Know About State Question 846, the Voter Identification Measure

By Keeton Ross
Oklahoma Watch

Oklahoma voters know the drill.

You arrive at your precinct, get in line and prepare to present proof of identification to a poll worker manning the check-in station. The precinct official reads your name, checks it against the voter list and confirms that you're eligible to cast a ballot.

Nothing within State Question 846, which proposes enshrining Oklahoma's voter identification requirement into the constitution, changes this process. Concerns that a future legislature could eliminate the voter identification requirement, however, prompted Republican lawmakers to advance the constitutional amendment to the August runoff ballot.

"It's in concrete now," Rep. Eric Roberts, R-Oklahoma City, said of Oklahoma's voter identification law while presenting SQ 846 on the House floor in April. "We're going to set it in stone with this state question."

Proponents say SQ 846 would ensure voters have the final say on any legislative attempt to strike down voter identification requirements, which national polling shows is popular across party lines. Oklahoma's constitution cannot be amended, via legislative action or an initiative petition, without majority voter approval.

Opponents contend that the measure is redundant, sows doubt about election security and gives the legislature broad authority to decide what acceptable proof of identification is.

To assist Oklahoma vot-

ers in research ahead of the August 25 election, Oklahoma Watch compiled information about SQ 846 through interviews, research and public statements from supporters and opponents.

What are Oklahoma's current voter identification laws? Oklahoma has required voters to present identification since July 2011, following overwhelming voter approval of State Question 746 in November 2010.

The law requires voters to provide precinct officials with a government-issued photo ID or voter identification card, which county election boards provide free of charge. Voters whose identity cannot be immediately verified may cast a provisional ballot.

The law isn't unusual. Thirty-six states, including neighboring Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado, require voters to present identification at the polls. Some have limited exceptions for elderly or disabled residents of long-term care facilities.

SQ 746 faced a legal challenge on the grounds that it unduly burdened voters and would suppress turnout. The Oklahoma Supreme Court allowed the law to stand in 2018, describing it as a reasonable procedural regulation.

Does SQ 846 change this definition or otherwise define what acceptable voter identification is?

No. SQ 846 specifies that the legislature would be responsible for determining acceptable voter identification. The state's current identification requirements would remain in effect unless the legislature passes a new law.

Who Supports SQ 846, and why?

The proposal had widespread support in the legislature, with more than 100 Republican lawmakers voting to send the question to the ballot. They say the measure would bolster public confidence in election integrity and affirm that voters still approve of the changes they made in 2010.

While presenting SQ 846 at a House committee hearing, House Speaker Kyle Hilbert cited a 2025 study from the Pew Research Center showing that 83% of Americans support requiring voters to show photo identification at the polls.

"We're fortunate in Oklahoma, we have one of the strongest election systems in the United States," said Hilbert, R-Bristow. "I think it's important to continue to have protections in our constitution and our statutes so the people of Oklahoma know their elections are secure."

Who is Opposed to SQ 846, and why?

Most Democrats in the House and Senate voted against sending the measure to the ballot. Some raised concerns that SQ 846 could make it difficult for the legislature to address issues or make exceptions if unintended consequences arise.

The proposed move from state statute to the constitution could also have legal ramifications, said Rep. Andy Fugate, D-Del City. He said the change could embolden lawmakers to enact more restrictive voter identification laws with less concern about a drawn-out legal challenge.

"It's going to make it harder for marginalized communities to fight in the courts against



A voter presents identification to a precinct official at The Village Bible Church in The Village on June 16, 2026. (Brent Fuchs/Oklahoma Watch)

proposed legislation," Fugate said. "Those in the legislature defending new changes or restrictions will be able to say hey, we're just complying with the constitution."

Why is SQ 846 on the August ballot?

SQ 846 originated as Senate Joint Resolution 47 during the 2026 legislative session. It advanced with majority support in the House and Senate.

While legislatively referred statutes and constitutional amendments are typically set for the next general election in November, both chambers approved a special provision placing the initiative on the August ballot. Unlike voter-led initiative petitions, the governor has no say in setting election dates for legislatively referred state questions.

Critics described it as an

intentional maneuver to force the question onto a GOP-heavy, low-turnout election.

Four Republican statewide races will appear on the August runoff ballot, compared to just one for Democrats. Statewide turnout in August elections has hovered between 10% and 12% in recent election cycles.

Republican legislative leaders denied claims that the decision was politically motivated, saying instead that adding some state questions to the August ballot would allow voters to be better informed and not overwhelmed with a lengthy ballot in November.

Is anyone spending money to support or oppose SQ 846?

As of July 8, no state question committee had been formed to oppose or support

the measure, according to Oklahoma Ethics Commission records. Legislatively referred state questions tend to attract much less spending than voter-led ballot initiatives.

Who is eligible to vote on SQ 846?

All Oklahoma voters, regardless of party affiliation, are eligible to vote on State Question 846. State Question 844, another legislatively referred ballot initiative dealing with ad valorem tax reimbursements for local governments, will also appear on the August 25 runoff ballot.

The voter registration deadline for the August election is Friday, July 31 at 5 p.m. To view a sample ballot, confirm your polling place or register to vote, visit the OK Voter Portal.

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LOVE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

In the Matter of the Estate of)
EMMA JO WEST) PB-2026-34
and JAMES WELDON WEST, Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR PROBATE OF FOREIGN WILL, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, DEVISEES AND LEGATEES

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested in the estate of EMMA JO WEST and JAMES WELDON WEST, deceased, that TIMOTHY TALBOTT WEST has previously produced and filed in the District Court of Love County, Oklahoma, an instrument, in writing, purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of EMMA JO WEST and JAMES WELDON WEST, deceased, and also filed in said Court his Petition, together with a copy of said Will praying for the probate of the Will and asking that Letters Testamentary issue to the said TIMOTHY TALBOTT WEST as Personal Representative and for a judicial determination of the heirs, devisees and legatees of said decedent.

Pursuant to an Order of this Court previously entered herein, notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of July 2026 at 9 o'clock a.m. the Petition will be heard at the District Courtroom, Love County Courthouse, Marietta, Oklahoma, when and where all persons interested may appear and contest the same.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of July 2026.

/s/ Todd Hicks

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Attorney for Petitioner
Delashaw Law Office
Katllyn M. Lantrip OBA #36470
204 W. Chickasaw
P.O. Box 328
Marietta, OK. 73448
(580) 276-3136
(580) 238-6311

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Public Notice

CHILD FIND NOTICE 2026-2027

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS RESIDING WITHIN THE TRI-COUNTY INTERLOCAL COOPERATIVE DISTRICTS

FOX, GERONIMO, HEALDTON,
MARIETTA, RINGLING, RYAN, SPRINGER,
THACKERVILLE, TURNER, VELMA-ALMA,
WALTERS, WAURIKA, WILSON, ZANEIS

If you have a preschool or school age child residing within one of the above school districts that may require screening for hearing/vision, speech, physical therapy and occupational therapy; or has been identified as being hearing impaired, orthopedically impaired or having other handicapping conditions, please contact:

Fox Special Education Director	Terry Newell	580-366-0301
Gerónimo Special Education Director	Maris Palmer	580-355-3801
Healdton Special Education Director	Debbie Hill	580-229-0566
Marietta Elementary Special Education Director	Hope Willis	580-276-9444 Ext. 287
Marietta Secondary Special Education Director	Kim Terry	580-276-9444 Ext. 227
Ringling Special Education Director	Mike Claffin	580-409-2815
Ryan Special Education Director	Alana Miranda	580-324-3265
Springer Special Education Director	Jamie Roberts	580-850-1227
Thackerville Special Education Director	Jenny Winn	580-276-3610
Turner Special Education Director	Heather Hill	580-276-1307
Velma Alma Special Education Director	Felicia Harrel	580-203-3703
Walters Elementary Special Education Director	Jennifer Spence	580-875-3144
Walters Secondary Special Education Director	Heather Moore	580-875-2568
Waurika Special Education Director	Tara Gunter	580-228-2341
Wilson Special Education Director	Tara Buzidragis	580-668-2306
Zaneis Special Education Director	Debbie Dickinson	580-668-2955

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Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MARIETTA, LOVE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

In the Matter of the Estate of)
HENRY CLAY ALEXANDER,) Case No. PB-2026-30
Deceased)

ORDER AND NOTICE FOR HEARING PETITION FOR PROBATE, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, AND DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, DEVISEES, AND LEGATEES

TRACY LEIGH ALEXANDER having filed herein a *Petition* for probate of the estate of HENRY CLAY ALEXANDER, Deceased, requesting that *Letters Testamentary* be issued to TRACY LEIGH ALEXANDER and that, for purposes of executing *Consents* and *Waivers*, the heirs-at-law, devisees, and legatees of the Decedent be determined.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that said *Petition* be and is hereby set for hearing in this Court in the Love County Courthouse, Marietta, Oklahoma, on the 6th day of August, 2026, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the courtroom of the undersigned Judge, when and where all persons interested may appear and contest said *Petition*.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice be given as required by law.

WITNESS my hand this 10th day of July, 2026.

/s/ Todd Hicks

T. TODD HICKS,
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

ALEXA STUMPF WHITE, OBA #33056
P.O. Box 66
Ardmore, OK 73402
(580) 226-6270
alexa@ardmorelawyers.com
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

Published in the Marietta Monitor on July 17, 2026.

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LOVE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
ROBERT DEAN GOFF, SR., DECEASED) No. PB-2025-34

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Jennifer Knudtson, the Personal Representative has filed herein her First and Final Account and Petition for Order Allowing Account, Determining Heirs, and Authorizing Distribution, for the above-entitled Estate.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, AND IT IS ORDERED that said Petition is set for hearing in this court in the Love County Courthouse, 405 W. Main Street, Marietta, Oklahoma 73448, on the 30th day of July, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the undersigned Judge. All persons interested in said Estate are notified then and there to appear and show cause at said hearing, if any they have, why the following should not be granted: The approval of the First and Final Account, the determination of the heirs, the distribution of said Estate as requested, and the approval of any other necessary and equitable relief.

Dated: July 10, 2026

/s/ Todd Hicks

TODD HICKS, JUDGE

Richard A. Cochran, Jr. OBA #1747
Richard A. Cochran, Jr., P.C.
P. O. Box 262
309 West Main Street
Marietta, Oklahoma 73448
Telephone: 580-276-5111
Attorney for Personal Representative

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Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LOVE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
ANDY LEROY MERRIMAN, DECEASED) Case No. PB-2026-18

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Andy Montgomery Sims has filed herein a Petition for the estate of Andy Leroy Merriman, deceased, requesting that Barbara Darlene Sims be appointed as the successor Personal Representative, as to said estate and that the requirement of a bond be waived..

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN AND IS IT IS ORDERED that said Petition is set for hearing in this court in the Love County Courthouse, 405 West Main Street, Marietta, Oklahoma, 73448, on the 30th day of July, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the undersigned Judge, when and where all persons interested may appear and contest said Petition.

Dated: July 10, 2026

/s/ Todd Hicks

TODD HICKS, JUDGE

Richard A. Cochran, Jr. OBA #1747
Richard A. Cochran, Jr., P.C.
P. O. Box 262
309 West Main Street
Marietta, Oklahoma 73448
Telephone: 580-276-5111
Fax: 580-276-5121
Attorney at Law

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Public Notice

AVISO FIND NIÑO 2026-2027

NIÑOS CON NECESIDADES ESPECIALES
Que residan en el
TRI-COUNTY INTERLOCAL
DISTRITOS DE COOPERACIÓN
FOX, GERONIMO, HEALDTON,
MARIETTA, RINGLING, RYAN, SPRINGER,
THACKERVILLE, TURNER, VELMA-ALMA,
WALTERS, WAURIKA, WILSON, ZANEIS

Si usted tiene un jardín de infantes o niño en edad escolar que reside dentro de uno de los distritos escolares anteriores que pueden requerir pruebas de detección de la audición, la visión, el habla, terapia física y terapia ocupacional; o ha sido identificado como problemas auditivos, ortopédicamente deteriorado o tener otras condiciones de discapacidad, por favor contactar:

Fox Special Education Director	Terry Newell	580-366-0301
Gerónimo Special Education Director	Maris Palmer	580-355-3801
Healdton Special Education Director	Debbie Hill	580-229-0566
Marietta Elementary Special Education Director	Hope Willis	580-276-9444 Ext. 287
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Arthur Sulzberg, Jr.