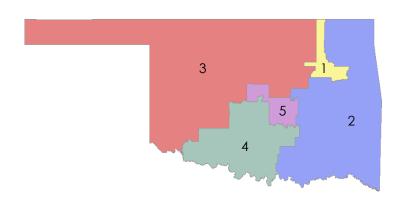
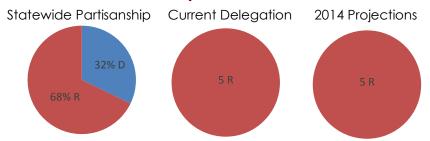
# 2014 ELECTIONS IN OKLAHOMA

July 2014

#### **Current Congressional District Map**



#### Representation



Partisanship is a measure of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. See our Methodology section to learn how Partisanship is determined.

# **District Competitiveness**

Majority	Swing	Lean	Safe	
Partisanship	(50-<53%)	(53-<58%)	(58%+)	
Districts	0	0	5	

### Redistricting

Oklahoma's most recent redistricting process produced few alterations to the previous district lines. Those lines were already drawn to ensure that none of the state's districts is in danger of becoming competitive.

Redistricting was controlled by the state legislature, which was dominated by Republicans. The redistricting bill was passed easily by the state House (88-0) and Senate (35-7), and GOP Gov. Mary Fallin promptly signed it a week later in May, 2011. Overall, Oklahoma's redistricting was an unusually swift and uncontentious process.

#### 2014 Projections: 5 R, 0 D

Republicans are overwhelmingly favored to win Oklahoma's five House seats once again in 2014, maintaining their monopoly on the state's congressional delegation.

All of Oklahoma's incumbents are projected to receive at least 63% of the vote, and all districts have at least a 61% Republican partisanship. The state's last congressional Democrat, Dan Boren, retired before the 2012 election after representing a district with 70% Republican partisanship.

Date 2014 Projections Announced: April 2013.2012 Projections: 5 R, 0 D. All projections accurate.

Races to Watch: None

Strongest Candidate: Cole (OK-4, R): -0.2% POAC\*

Weakest Candidate: Mullin (OK-2, R): -7.8% POAC

\*POAC (Performance Over Average Candidate) is a measure of the quality of a winning candidate's campaign. It compares how well a winner did relative to what would be projected for a generic candidate of the same party and incumbency status. See our Methodology section to learn how POAC is determined.

#### Race and Gender in the U.S. House

All Oklahoma districts are at least 65% white, and all five members of the current Oklahoma delegation are white males. Two of these, Reps. Markwayne Mullin and Tom Cole, are also enrolled members of American Indian tribes, making them the only two American Indians in the U.S. House.

The last woman to represent Oklahoma in Congress – and the first since 1923 – was current governor Mary Fallin, who served in the House from 2007 to 2011. J.C. Watts was the last African American elected to Congress from Oklahoma, serving four terms from 1995-2003.

#### **Dubious Democracy**

Oklahoma's Democracy Index Ranking: 50th (of 50)

Oklahoma's last place ranking in the Democracy Index stems from its low ratings in each measure of effective democracy. Just 31.2% of eligible voters voted for a winning candidate in 2012, primarily due to the state's sub-50% voter turnout. Four of the five congressional seats were won by landslide margins of at least 20%, and the average margin of victory was 33.5%.

Electoral outcomes in Oklahoma also distort the will of voters, as not a single Democrat was elected from the state in 2012 despite its 32% Democratic partisanship.



# **2014 ELECTIONS IN OKLAHOMA**

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Listed below are recent election results and 2014 election projections for Oklahoma's five U.S. House districts. All metrics in this table are further explained in the Methodology section of this report.

**Partisanship** is an indicator of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. It is determined by measuring how the district voted for president in 2012 relative to the presidential candidates' national averages. Developed by FairVote in 1997 and adapted by Charlie Cook for the Cook Partisan Voting Index, this definition of partisanship is based on only the most recent presidential election.

**Performance Over Average Candidate (POAC)** is an indicator of how well the winner did compared to a hypothetical generic candidate of the same district, incumbency status, and party, based on their winning percentages in 2010 and 2012. A high POAC suggests that the winner appealed to independents and voters from other parties in addition to voters from his or her own party. A low POAC suggests that the winner did not draw many votes from independents and other parties.

District	Incumbent	Party	Race/Gender	Year First Elected	2012 2- Party Winning Percentage		District Partisanship (Dem)	2014 Projected Dem %	2014 Projected Competition
1	Bridenstine, Jim	R	White/M	2012	66.5%	0.7%	32.3%	31.5%	Safe R
2	Mullin, Markwayne	R	White- American Indian/M	2012	59.9%	-7.8%	30.3%	30.8%	Safe R
3	Lucas, Frank	R	White/M	1994	79.0%	-3.1%	24.2%	22.3%	Safe R
4	Cole, Tom	R	White- American Indian/M	2002	71.1%	-0.2%	31.0%	27.4%	Safe R
5	OPEN (Lankford, James)	R	White/M	2010	61.2%	-2.2%	38.9%	38.9%	Safe R

#### Oklahoma's Fair Representation Voting Plan

Super District (w/current	# of	Pop. Per	% to Win	Partisanship	Current Rep.:	Super District Rep.:
Cong. Dist. #s)	Seats	Seat	(plus 1 vote)	(D/R %)	5 R	3 R 1 D, 1 ?
A (CDs 1,2, 3, 4, 5)	5	740,690	16.7%	31 / 69	5 R	3 R, 1 D, 1 ?



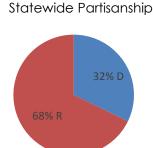
**Partisan and Racial Impact:** This fair voting plan would provide representation to Oklahoma Democrats, while Republicans would typically win three or four of the congressional seats. In addition, the plan would allow the state's racial minority groups to contribute significantly to the election of one candidate.

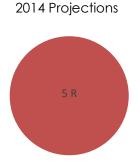
# **How Does Fair Representation Voting Work?**

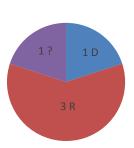
Fair representation voting methods such as ranked choice voting describe American forms of proportional representation with a history in local and state elections. They uphold American electoral traditions, such as voting for candidates rather than parties. They ensure all voters participate in competitive elections and ensure more accurate representation, with the majority of voters likely to elect most seats and backers of both major parties likely to elect preferred candidates.

Instead of five individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into one larger "super district." Any candidate who is the first choice of more than one sixth of voters will win a five-seat district.

### Comparing a Fair Representation Voting Plan to Oklahoma's Current Districts







FairVote's Plan

Partisanship is an indicator of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. See our Methodology section to learn how Partisanship is determined.

## Benefits of a Fair Representation Voting Plan

**More accurate representation:** Congressional delegations more faithfully reflect the preferences of all voters. Supporters of both major parties elect candidates in each district, with accurate balance of each district's left, right, and center.

More voter choice and competition: Third parties, independents and major party innovators have better chances, as there is a lower threshold for candidates to win a seat. Because voters have a range of choices, candidates must compete to win voter support.

**Better representation of racial minorities:** Racial minority candidates have a lower threshold to earn seats, even when not geographically concentrated. More voters of all races are in a position to elect candidates.

More women: More women are likely to run and win. Single-member districts often stifle potential candidates.