



Election 2006- Key Senate Races*

Both Republicans and Democrats are focusing heavily on the Oklahoma Senate. There are five key races identified by both parties. The Center has compiled a list of these races and researched the candidates position on two very important issues that could potentially impact consumer and patient rights and safety.

First, the biggest piece of legislation presented this past session that would have seriously taken away consumer and patient rights and compromised safety was HB3120, also referred to as the Corporate Immunity Bill. HB 3120 would have provided immunity to corporations for their negligence. The bill would also seriously limit damages that children, the elderly, and the poor could collect for being injured.

Second, another issue that has the potential to seriously impact the services and safety of consumers and patients is TABOR. While TABOR sounds appealing, when you look at the shortfalls it created in Colorado, the only state to have tried the failed experiment, one is left to wonder why anyone would advocate for such terrible legislation.

| | Candidate | Dist. | Counties | Website | Corporate Immunity*** | TABOR** | Comments |
|---|------------------|-------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|--|
| D | Sean Burrage | 2 | Mayes, Rogers | www.voteburrage.com | Not Addressed | Not Sure | |
| R | Ami Shaffer | 2 | Mayes, Rogers | www.shafferforsenate.net | Support* | Support | - According to website and other promotional materials |
| D | John Mark Young | 12 | Creek, Ofuskee | www.youngforsenate06.com | Against | Oppose | |
| R | Brian Bingman | 12 | Creek, Ofuskee | www.brianbingman.com | Support* | Oppose | -Vote was in House of Representatives |
| D | Mary Easley (i) | 18 | Mayes, Tulsa, Wagoner | N/A | Voted Against | Oppose | |
| R | Mark Wofford | 18 | Mayes, Tulsa, Wagoner | N/A | Not Addressed | Not Sure | |
| D | Daisy Lawler (i) | 24 | Cleveland, Grady, McClain, Stephens | N/A | Against | Oppose | |
| R | Anthony Sykes | 24 | Cleveland, Grady, McClain, Stephens | www.sykes4senate.com | Not Addressed | Support | |
| D | Tom Ivester | 26 | Beckham, Caddo, Greer, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman, Washita | www.ivesterstatesenate.com | Not Addressed | Oppose | |
| R | Todd Russ | 26 | Beckham, Caddo, Greer, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman, Washita | www.toddruss.com | Not Addressed | Support | |
| D | Randy Bass (i) | 32 | Comanche | N/A | Against | No Reponse | - Senator Bass authored a comprehensive Identity Theft Bill supported by the Center. |
| R | Ed Peterson | 32 | Comanche | www.petersenforsenate2006.com | Support* | No Reponse | *Based on questionnaire from Citizen's Policy Center |



Election 2006- Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor position has largely been a ceremonial role in the years past, however, functionally, the position can hold much power. This election, both parties are trying to keep or take control of the State Senate. Should there be a tie vote in the senate, the vote of the lieutenant governor will be the deciding vote.

There are three candidates for Lieutenant Governor, Todd Hiatt (rep.), Jari Askins (dem.), and Elmer Zen "E.Z." Million (Indep.)

The Independent Candidate does not have a voting record having not served in the legislature this past session. However, both Jari Askins and Todd Hiatt have an extensive voting record.

The biggest piece of legislation presented this past session that would have seriously taken away consumer and patient rights and compromised safety was HB3120, also referred to as the Corporate Immunity Bill. HB 3120 would have provided immunity to corporations for their negligence. The bill would also seriously limit damages that children, the elderly, and the poor could collect for being injured.

When asked "[w]hat would you do as Lieutenant Governor to promote Oklahoma businesses and to attract new businesses to Oklahoma?" the three candidates responses are listed below****:

Todd Hiatt:

Oklahoma must break down barriers keeping businesses from creating quality jobs. Authentic lawsuit reform is also needed. Todd was a co-author of HB 3120, providing immunity to corporations who negligently injured consumers and patients.

Jari Askins:

We must be aggressive in promoting our skilled workforce, our abundant natural resources and exceptional technology education centers. I have done this for twelve years as State Representative. Jari voted against the corporate immunity bill, HB 3120.

Elmer Zen "E.Z." Million:

Oklahoma can not compete internationally, unless & until we can successfully compete with TEXAS . Our # 1 problem is a severe lack of State Pride & Image. E.Z. was not in the legislature when the Corporate Immunity Bill was presented and has not expressed his opinion on the issue.

** For answers to all senate races where there are two candidates, please visit www.okccps.org*

*** All answers to the TABOR question are from the [Citizen's Policy Center On the Ballot 2006](#), produced in cooperation with Oklahoma Publishing Today.*

**** Answers to Corporate Reform are based on voting record or the candidate's website issues position unless otherwise noted.*

***** According to the League of Women Voters of Oklahoma Questionnaire*