

### Plan of Action to Combat Racial Inequity

This organization is dedicated to more than just five days of simulated state government. It is an organization based on political activism. Consequently, it should be the responsibility of our members to lend their hearts and minds to combating the threat of racism, both institutional and otherwise. These past few weeks, we have witnessed an uprising in America, the likes of which we have not seen in over fifty years.

Anti-racist advocacy yields change. We are beginning to see changes in the OU community, our local communities, and on the global stage.

It is only fitting that we in the OU Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature delegation do our part to help in this fight, and we believe the fight should begin at home. We are committed to reforming the OU OIL delegation to establish a more equitable and inclusive community. First, by making education accessible and inclusive within OIL. This leadership team is dedicated to making intentional efforts to recruit students from marginalized communities. Second, by encouraging students to find and use their voice. We believe OIL provides the perfect opportunity to equip students with the tools to be actively and successfully antiracist. And finally, by creating a safe space for students to voice their thoughts and concerns freely through the Delegate At Large, Jade Ailey. We will not hesitate to take action against

discriminatory actions or behaviors should they be displayed by an OU delegate in the coming school year.

In addition, we are encouraging all of our members to get involved in this fight in any way you can as individuals. We also wish to unite the efforts of the delegation, so we will be hosting a Day of Action on July 18th focused on the points of **advocacy, charity, and education.**

**Advocacy:** As we are an organization whose primary focus is in crafting legislation, we feel the best way we can contribute is by advocating for proposed laws that would help address the pertinent issues. One way to do that is by reaching out to those who represent us. Talk with a representative, community leader, etc. about how they plan to help address racial inequities and suggest legislative solutions to them. There are several initiatives being proposed at the federal, state, and local levels.

Some great examples of federal legislation being proposed would be the PEACE Act (authored by Rep. Khanna and Rep. Clay) and the Ending Qualified Immunity Act (authored by Rep. Pressley and Amash). For more info about these proposals, check out our Policy Pack (more info on that below).

For a case right here in Oklahoma, please read about the story of Julius Jones. Read his testimony about how he was wrongfully convicted of murder. After examining his case,

please sign the petition requesting a commutation of his death sentence. Demand that the pardon and parole board grant him a fair hearing to review the evidence.

### [Justice for Julius Jones](#)

At the local level, demand your local/city government reallocate resources to other key municipal services i.e. defunding the police. Once again in Oklahoma, we saw that the Norman City Council voted to cut its police budget by a little under a million dollars. One major reason this was able to happen is due to the passion of concerned citizens who demanded action be taken. Change can occur; we just need to be bold enough to make it happen.

Of course, these are not the only initiatives which require your advocacy, we highly encourage you to find an issue in the realm of racial inequity that you are passionate about correcting. As we know, there are multitudes of injustices occurring every single day in this country, so it will take our combined efforts to tackle them all.

**Charity:** Another way to help contribute is via charitable means. We know not everyone may have the capability to donate, and that's okay! But if you can, there are several funds/organizations that would be grateful for your support.

On a related note, our Director of Philanthropy, Kamryn Yanchick, wanted to make everyone aware of a t-shirt fundraiser. The fundraiser is sponsored by several OU multicultural organizations. 75% of the proceeds will temporarily be collected by the Black

Student Association and the remaining 25% will be collected by other multicultural organizations on campus. These groups will then donate the money to various organizations as they deem necessary (Black Lives Matter, bail funds, etc). We will provide the option of a group order to reduce shipping costs, so please get in contact with either Kamryn or Kale Parker (Vice Chair) so we can add your name and shirt size to the list. Please contact Kamryn about payment. We will attempt to disperse group orders at the next general meeting. If you wish to order individually, that is also acceptable. To view the shirt or place an individual order, check the link below. Orders end on July 14th, so please let us know beforehand.

- [Shirt Orders](#)

**Education:** Thanks to the efforts of our treasurer, Becca Yanez, we have a policy pack available to you which has an abundance of information! Don't know what to talk about when contacting your representative? Don't worry, as the Policy Pack contains links to several bills/initiatives which seek to help with the issues (at various levels of government). Want to donate but don't know who or what to donate to? Check the Pack! It has several links to various organizations that could use your help. Curious about on campus resources? The Policy Pack discusses several offices, student organizations, and hotlines which may be helpful to you! It is a great resource you can use to help familiarize yourself with information that may assist you in your endeavors.

## **What does the Day of Action look like?**

On July 18th from 12 PM to 8 PM, members (and all those who wish to participate) will be encouraged to reach out to their various representatives and community leaders and ask that they implement some of the measures listed above. For example, if you wanted to talk about ending qualified immunity, it would be great if you could reach out to the Congressman who represents your district (if you live in Oklahoma, we've listed the contact links for all of Oklahoma's congressional delegation below). Feel free to contact via phone, but it might be more efficient to reach out via email ( a sample template is included in the policy pack). If you wish to create your own message or focus on a specific issue, we highly encourage you to do those things. The more personal the message, the more impact it will have.

Nonetheless, please remember when you are making contact that you are representing the University of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature, so be **respectful** and **professional**. Regardless of your personal opinion of a certain leader, we ask that you communicate with tact and grace.

Each member will have the opportunity to sign up a week before the event for hour long shifts, but feel free to take as many as you would like. The event itself will last approximately eight hours, but it is by no means required to participate for the whole length of the event.

To encourage participation, each shift will qualify as a service hour, which may be submitted to the session community service competition. As an additional requirement, be sure to forward us one (1) email that you sent or record one (1) video of yourself calling your

representative/community leader. Throughout the day, we will also be spreading awareness of various ways you can donate or contribute on social media, as well as providing links to our policy packs.

Given the complications of COVID-19, there is obviously no way we can do this event in a centralized, in-person fashion, but we do encourage you all to participate together via electronic means. After all, nothing in government gets done without a little collaboration! This would also be an excellent opportunity to get new bill ideas. Dive into the text of some of the bills mentioned previously to garner some inspiration. Maybe you will arrive at the next session with an awesome criminal justice bill!

Keep in mind, however, the primary purpose for this event is to demand change from the powers at be. It is up to everyone to ensure that these injustices, whether they be veiled or brazen, cease to exist within our society, so this is why we must act. We know that you are not content to sit by idly, so please join us on the Day of Action as we fight for fairness in our own time.

While we only have one year in these positions we hope that these efforts will have a lasting effect on OU OIL and make it a better, more accessible organization for everyone.

Sincerely,

OU OIL Leadership

## Table of Contents

[Plan of Action to Combat Racial Inequity](#)

[Campus Resources](#)

[Student Organizations](#)

[National Advocacy Organizations](#)

[Leading Local Organizations](#)

[Federal Policy](#)

[Local Policy](#)

[Taking Action](#)

[Reading List](#)

## Campus Resources

*The following information is subject to be updated and include topics that may be triggering to some*

### **Gender and Equality Center:**

Located in the Student Union, the Gender and Equality Center, otherwise known as the GEC provides a safe space for students as well as educational tools for students to be better advocates for one another against gender based violence.

### **OU Advocates-**

OU Advocates is a 24/7 crisis line that is completely confidential. All students are free to use this hotline and can contact an Advocate through Whatsapp/Text, Phone Calls, or by dropping by the GEC in-person. Their crisis number is 405-615-0013. OU Advocates also provide long-term advocacy, can accompany students to meetings in the Sexual Misconduct Office, with police officers/detectives and hearings at the courthouse.

### **Peer Educator Program-**

Students at the University of Oklahoma can become peer educators and directly interact with their peers regarding the topics of consent and what it means to be in a healthy relationship. These students are not just campus leaders, but also people that students can go to for support.

### **Diversity and Inclusion Center-**



The Diversity and Inclusion Center is located in Copeland Hall at OU and is the hub for information related to Diversity and Inclusion policies at the University. This is where students can find information related to minority interest student groups, the tribal liaison office and report academic bias. The Diversity and Inclusion center also hosts several discussions online and in-person to provide awareness and insight to the student body.

### **Goddard-**

Goddard is the health center for the University of Oklahoma. Goddard provides resources for both physical support and mental health resources. This includes but is not limited to; hormone therapy, counseling, PrEP/PEP, annual exams, contraceptives, and diagnostic screening.

To make an appointment or learn more Goddard's counseling services, call; 405-325-2911

To contact the Pharmacy, call; 405-325-5165

To contact Goddard's womxn center, call; 405-325-4441

### **Student Government Association:**

Under the SGA Constitution, every enrolled OU student is a member of SGA. SGA is divided into four branches ( executive, judiciary, legislative, and the programming branch).

The executive branch will always consist of a student body president, student body vice president, and chief of staff,

and usually, a cabinet. The student body president and vice president are elected under a single ticket every fall by your fellow undergraduate students. The judiciary branch consists

of an elections board/chair and the superior court which is appointed by the voting members of the legislative branch. The legislative branch is divided between the Undergraduate Student Congress and the Graduate Student Senate. Members of the Undergraduate Student Congress and the GSS are elected by the students within their representing districts ( ie. A representative of social sciences is voted in by students of undergraduate social sciences programs). The legislative branch serves to enact policies that directly affect OU. For instance, the official recognition of B.E.R.T ( Black Emergency Response Team) was made possible by members of the Undergraduate Student Congress. SGA congress is also in charge of allocating funds towards different organizations. The programming branch of SGA handles many student outreach events such as howdy week and homecoming week and partially self governed with various committee heads as well as an executive leadership team with the Chair being elected by the student body.

To access the SGA constitution and student bill of rights, follow this link:

<http://www.ou.edu/content/dam/sga/common/SGA%20Constitution%20-%20April%206.%202016.pdf>

### **Multicultural Center:**

The Multicultural Center serves to be inclusive to all students as well as specifically provide spaces for Asian Student Life, American Indian Student Life, International Student Life, and Latino Student life. There are also multi-purpose rooms that RSOs can use for any student event. The Jim Thorpe Multicultural Center is located behind the residential colleges

**Reporting Resources:**

The University of Oklahoma offers a 24-hour hotline to report any instances of discrimination, physical or mental harassment, or misconduct by OU community members.

The hotline can be accessed by calling; 844-428-6531 or visiting [ou.ethicspoint.com](http://ou.ethicspoint.com)

To report any hazing concerns within the University, you can call either the OU anti-hazing hotline; 405-325-50000 or the national hazing reporting hotline (888)-NOT-HAZE

To report OU members who may be in a form of severe distress, contact 405-325-7700

**Other Hotlines:**

There are often issues that students simply do not feel comfortable or safe going to the University for and that is simply a reality. Because of this, we felt compelled to include hotlines that students can and should use if needed.

**National Suicide Hotline;**

(800)-273-8255

**National Transgender Hotline;**

877-565-8860

**Trevor Project;**

866-488-7386

## Student Organizations

*The following organizations on campus specifically devote themselves towards inclusivity and the empowerment of minority students on and off campus,*

B.E.R.T

Black Student Association

Hispanic Student Association

Multicultural Greek Council

National Panhellenic Council

OU Cousins

Multicultural Engineering Program

Multicultural Business Program

Hispanic Journalists Association

American Indian Student Association

National Association of Hispanic Journalists

Muslim Student Association

Asian American Student Association

Southeast Asian Student Association

Arab Student Association

OU Hillel

### National Advocacy Organizations

*The following organizations are non-partisan organizations devoted to enacting legitimate changes to our systems in order to change the unjust laws that have been historically oppressive towards Americans for far too long.*

Black Lives Matter: ([www.blacklivesmatter.com](http://www.blacklivesmatter.com)) was founded in 2013 in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer. Their mission is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes. By combating and countering acts of violence, creating space for Black imagination and innovation, and centering Black joy, they are winning immediate improvements in their lives.

BYP100: ([www.byp100.org](http://www.byp100.org)) Their work is generally centered on ending systems of anti-Blackness and emphasizing the urgency of protecting folks living on the margins of the margins, including women, girls, femmes, and the gamut of LGBTQ folk. They approach their work through relational organizing, grassroots organizing, fundraising, public policy debate, electoral organizing, digital content creation, political education, and consciousness raising.

National Action Network: ([nationalactionnetwork.net](http://nationalactionnetwork.net)) was founded in 1991 by Reverend Al Sharpton, NAN works within the spirit and tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to promote a modern civil rights agenda that includes the fight for one standard of justice,

decency and equal opportunities for all people regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, citizenship, criminal record, economic status, gender, gender expression, or sexuality.

Campaign Zero: ([www.joincampaignzero.org](http://www.joincampaignzero.org)) is singularly dedicated to eliminating police violence and established a comprehensive platform of research-based policy solutions to end police brutality in America.

Race Forward: ([www.raceforward.org](http://www.raceforward.org)) A racial justice group devoted to fighting against structural inequities. Their mission is to build awareness, solutions and leadership for racial justice.

#### Leading Local Organizations

*The following are organizations based locally that are non-partisan and dedicated to ending violence against marginalized residents.*

CAIR

Dream Action Oklahoma

Black Lives Matter: Oklahoma

Norman Citizens for Racial Justice

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/NC4RJ>

## Federal Policy

*The following bills have not been passed, but are bills that could change the way the state handles racism and police brutality.*

### → **End Racial and Religious Profiling Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18) and Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) with 69 co-sponsors (All Democrats) in the House and 26 co-sponsors in the Senate (All Democrats)*

If passed, this legislation would prohibit racial profiling, mandate training on racial profiling issues in Federal law enforcement training & collection of data on all routine/spontaneous investigatory activities that must be submitted to the Department of Justice, authorize the Justice Department to provide grants for the implementation of policies ( early warning systems, technology integration, and other anti-profiling protocols), and require the AG ( Attorney General) to provide periodic reports to assess any potential discriminatory profiling practices.

### → **Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Henry “Hank” Johnson (D-GA-4) with 72 Co-sponsors ( 70 democrats, 1 republican, 1 libertarian)*

If passed, this legislation would direct the Secretary of Defense to limit the transfer of personal property to Federal and State agencies

### → **Amending the Insurrection Act**

*Bill was announced on June 3 2020 and Introduced by Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN-5) co-led by Reps Mark Pocan (D-WI-2) and Pramila Jayapal (D-WA-7)*

If passed, this legislation would amend the Insurrection Act to prevent the president from deploying military domestically without Congressional consent.

→ **Police Accountability Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Henry “Hank” Johnson (D-GA-4) with 16 co-sponsors ( all democrats)*

If passed, this legislation would establish a new criminal offense for conduct by certain state or local law enforcement officers in the line of duty that constitutes murder or manslaughter.

→ **Cooling Off Period Elimination Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Henry “Hank” Johnson (D-GA-4) with 25 co-sponsors ( all democrats)*

If passed this legislation would make the state or local law enforcement agencies ineligible to receive federal funds from a Department of Justice law enforcement grant program if they have a “cooling off period in effect”. A cooling off period means there is a period of time after an officer-involved shooting in which investigators cannot speak to the office.

→ **Urging the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation**

*Bill announced June 4th 2020, Introduced by Rep Barbara Lee (D-CA-13)*

If passed, this resolution would establish the first ever United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) which would serve to examine the effects of slavery, institutional racism, and discrimination against people of color and how this history impacts our legislation today.



### → **America Votes Act**

*Included in the H.R.1 "For The People Act" which passed the house. Introduced by Rep. Rick Larson (D-WA-2) with 59 cosponsors (all Democrats)*

If passed this legislation would permit an individual required to present identification as a condition of voting in a federal election to meet the requirement by presenting a sworn written statement attesting to the individual's identification and that they are registered to vote in the election. If an individual wishes to vote by mail they may submit such statement with the ballot which would require states with identification requirements to provide a pre-printed version of the statement with a space for an individual to provide a signature, make pre-printed copies available at the polls, include a pre-printed version with each ballot transmitted to an individuals who wishes to vote by mail, include the use of a sworn statement in voting information posted at polling places and prohibit states from requiring an individual who presents or submits this statement to cast a provisional ballot in the election.

### → **Native American Voting Rights Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM-3) and Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) with 96 democratic co-sponsors and one republican co-sponsor (Rep. Tom Cole!!!)*

If passed, this bill would expand the types of facilities that can be used as voter registration agencies, increase polling site accessibility, provide enforcement power to citizens and AGs, require approval for actions such as relocating polling places, validate certain tribal

identification for voting and registering, expand bilingual accessibility, establish a Native American voting task force grant program for the purpose of increasing voter outreach, education, registration, turnout, and accessibility for Native American communities.

→ **Police Exercising Absolute Care with Everyone (PEACE) Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA-17)*

If passed “would only permit lethal force by federal officers when necessary to prevent loss of life and serious bodily injury. Additionally, it would only permit less-than-lethal force when necessary.”

→ **Ending Qualified Immunity Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Justin Amash (L-MI-3)*

If passed, would end the protection of qualified immunity for police officers. Qualified immunity is a legal doctrine which automatically exempts members of the police from being tried for misconduct if there is no established precedent which specifically declares that misconduct illegal. This bill would seek to end the use of this doctrine at the federal level and hold negligent and malicious police behavior accountable.

→ **Washington DC Admission Act**

*Introduced by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton ( D-DC) with 223 co-sponsors ( all democrats) in the house and 35 co-sponsors in the senate ( all democrats). Passed the house.*

If passed, DC would be admitted as the 51st state in the United States

→ **H.J.Res.79 - Removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights**

**Amendment.**

*Sponsored by Rep. Speier Jackie (D-CA-14), passed the house.*

If passed, this would remove the deadline for ratification of the ERA ( Equal Rights Amendment-a constitutional amendment that makes all forms of sex discrimination unconstitutional). To learn more about the path to ratification for the ERA visit;

<https://www.equalrightsamendment.org/ratification-1>

Local Policy

*The state house and senate are only in session from January-May of each year, so there is not much to see on a state level in terms of what to advocate for. However, local legislation can be helpful in inspiring state laws. Some previous state legislation passed/voted in are also included to show what Oklahoma has previously accomplished.*

→**UNPTIF (University North Park Tax Increment Finance):**

Purpose: This policy was first implemented in 2006 as a way to increase state interest into the west side of Norman and was intended to encourage small businesses to be built in and around that area.

Point of contention: UNPTIF is contentious for two reasons; it first has only attracted chains (ie. Starbucks, Crest, and Target) which has hurt small businesses rather than help them as the original intent. It has been argued by many that the TIF increases gentrification

because it affects the small business community and corporate chains typically benefit the white upper class.

UNPTIF can inspire state legislation since TIF districts have been able to economically benefit from the expansions that TIF districts bring.

→[The Norman City of Council passed an ordinance through the human rights committee that protect LGBTQ+ residents from employment discrimination, making Norman the first city in Oklahoma to do so, far before the SCOTUS ruling that mandated federal protection for LGBTQ+ workers](#)

→**MAPS 4**

Context:

[MAPS 4](#) is a continuation of multiple MAPS programs implemented in OKC overtime.

MAPS 4 specifically is a temporary tax on OKC residents (intended to last through 2028) and works to fund several projects (ie. parks, youth centers, wellness centers, animal shelters, etc). MAPS 4. There is a citizens advisory board and several subcommittees to help further implement MAPS 4 into the community and make recommendations to the city council.

Purpose:

MAPS 4 is meant to better the Oklahoma City community by funding wellness and

recreational centers, crisis centers, animal shelters, and creating job opportunities for recently incarcerated offenders.

Point of contention: Some groups (ie. Citizens for Transparency) believed that the city government was trying to overreach its power and is “overspending”

*The legislation was voted in by citizens on December 10th and passed.*

### →**Marsy’s law**

Context: Marsy’s law is a national campaign dedicated to expanding the rights of sexual assault victims within the constitution. [Oklahoma voters overwhelmingly voted to pass Marsy’s Law on Nov. 6, 2018, in the form of a ballot initiative numbered State Question 794.](#)  
[As a result, today the Oklahoma Constitution guarantees greater protections for victims, survivors, and their families or guardians.](#)

Purpose: Marsy’s law is intended on ensuring that victims are informed of their rights, heard in court, and notified of all proceedings in their case.

### →**State question 802**

Context: On June 30, 2020 Oklahomans voted in favour of State Question 802, for those who are unaware of what a state question is,<sup>1</sup> it is a measure to change Oklahoma laws ( or

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<sup>1</sup>Oklahoma Policy Institute, 4 July 2020, okpolicy.org/.<https://okpolicy.org/state-question/>

the state constitution) that appear on the ballot for all voters of that state. State questions can be added to the ballot through petitions.

Purpose:

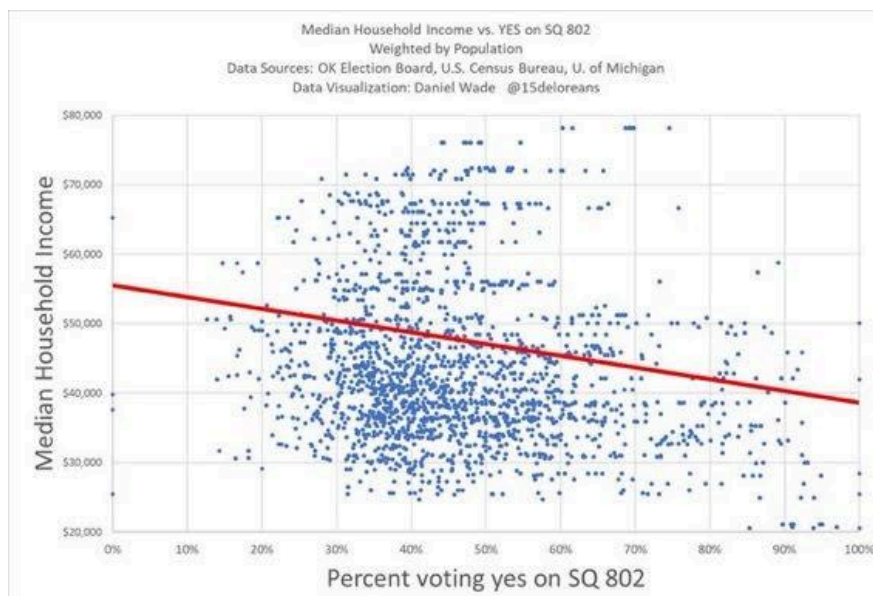
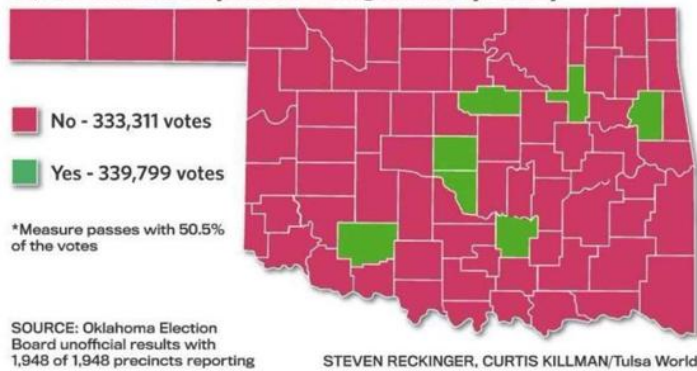
State Question 802 is designed to expand medicaid across the state of Oklahoma and seeked to benefit rural hospitals which are often heavily underfunded and thus susceptible to closing down.

Point of contention:

Interestingly enough, the most intriguing point of contention has more to do with the outcome of SQ802 rather than the policy itself. Fiscal conservatives have always been against expansion of medicaid because of the belief that private healthcare is inherently the best system and it helps keep down taxes which is part of what makes Oklahoma an attractive state for many. However, much contention that may not be expected has been over whether rural Americans actually want a policy like SQ802 in their communities based on public voter data. A popular map circulating the internet showing the “Yes” votes being highly concentrated in primarily the three major cities of Oklahoma (derived from Tulsa World). That being said, it is often important to consider other factors when looking at popular polls (ie. income and voter behaviour correlation). Shown below is that very polling map that is likely the most viewed and accessible at the moment and the latter is a graph showing the trend between income and voting “yes” or “no” on SQ802, more polling data in regards to

income averages in the state and precinct level are [linked here](#)

### SQ802 'Medicaid expansion' voting results by county



### →State question 788

Context: For information on what an SQ ( State Question) is, refer to SQ802. SQ788 was passed in 2018 in June, right at the start of mid-term season.

Purpose:

SQ788 allowed medical marijuana to be legalized in the state of Oklahoma which opens the door for recreational marijuana being legalized in the state down the road. Proponents of medical marijuana claim that it will help keep families together ( who may have had to separate in order to seek proper medical treatment in other states) as well as reduce the amount of individuals incarcerated for marijuana possession.

Point of contention:

Medical marijuana legalization has been contested on the basis of morality (arguably every policy has been but it is one of the most prominent arguments made against medical legalization) and on the presumption that it is “pseudo medicine” and therefore not worth legalizing.

Taking Action

You have the resources, now it's time to take action. There are several ways of doing this and it is important that you assess what you can and cannot give back in order to be most effective and intentional about the things you do. Real change cannot be implemented without being intentional of the things you are doing.

1. Donate! There are several organizations that are in dire need of donations and listed are just a few;
  - The Black Trans Travel Fund
  - National Bail Out



2. Under a similar vein, be an informed consumer and support local businesses as much as possible, especially POC owned businesses in your community.
3. Vote. If you are a United States citizen, voting is not only a moral obligation you have, but it is also a privilege you have as a citizen. If you have not registered to vote, there are resources designed to help you. To register to vote follow this link (<https://wevotenext.us/registertovote>). If you are unsure of your registration status follow this link (<https://votesaveamerica.com/verify/>). If you live in Cleveland County, follow the Cleveland County Election Board on twitter for election days updates!
4. Text Bank. Text banking is the simplest way to reach out to youth voters. Several campaigns are utilizing this as a way to get their platforms across to more Oklahomans. In addition to this organizations such as Sister District, League of Women voters, and Rock the Vote are also utilizing this method of organizing.
5. Phone bank/call your representatives. There are many ways to get plugged into phone banking. Phone banking is traditionally associated with political campaigns but is also a common way nonprofits such as March For Our Lives, Moms Demand Action, Students Demand Action, and Sunrise Movement. Unless you are phonebanking directly from a campaign or organization, it is better to refrain from a wordy script and focus on remembering the basic talking points:

- **Introduce yourself (ie. “ Hi, I’m \_\_\_\_\_ , resident of \_\_\_\_\_ )**
- **A brief sentence or two about why the issue matters**
- **A statistic to back up your claim**
- **Why the statistic is important/ why voting against said legislation is inherently harmful**
- **State exactly what you want your lawmaker to do**
- **Make an emotional appeal if you haven’t at this point**
- **Thank them for their time**

Want to host a phone bank? All you need is yourself, a few friends, and a quiet place with secure connection but if you want to host a formal phone bank ensure you do the following;

- Create a phone number database for your local/ federal lawmakers or school officials ( or acquire a phone database if doing this on behalf of an organization or campaign)
- Create/provide a script for participants in case they require the support
- If hosting a virtual phone bank, ensure you are using an effective video calling system and play some light background music noise, set a goal number, and encourage others to share how their calls are going throughout the event

6. Write to your representatives. Letter writing to Gen Z may seem old-fashioned, but to our boomer law-makers, it still makes an impact. Something personal and potentially emotional can really humanize constituents to a law-maker. The more personal you are with your letter, the better. These letters can be as simple or as decorative as you

want just as long as it is legible. The following guidelines are merely suggestions and can be taken as you desire.

- Start your letter with a simple salutation (ie. “ Dear Senator ( name)”,)
- Tell them who you are, your story, why this issue matters to you and why it should matter to them
- Be clear on what your intentions are and explain exactly what you want them to do
- Let them know you intend on being active on this issue
- Close by providing your contact information so they can get back to you ( if you want)

Letter writing parties can be casual in a similar way phone banking can be casual. However, if you want to host a formal letter-writing campaign, it is important to take the following steps

- Provide as many pens, envelopes, stamps, and paper as needed to ensure accessibility.
- Have a computer readily available to look up where participants need to send a letter
- Advertise your event! Reach out to campus organizations or student life centers, utilize social media as much as possible

5. Tweetstorm! Our president may have some swifty twitter fingers, but zoomers do it objectively better. Now what is a tweetstorm? A tweetstorm is a coordinated series of tweets directed towards a specific person/cause. Here are some steps for a successful tweet storm

- use a hashtag people can follow (use capitalization so you can be ADA accessible for example #MeToo rather than #metoo)

- With a couple of hours notice, give your followers/ partners a script. Platform for women's template best encompasses what the structure should look like;
- .@\_\_\_\_\_ (decisionmaker's twitter handle) ,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (outline the problem). Will you  
 join us in the movement to \_\_\_\_\_ (explain what you  
 want them to do)? #YourHashtag

6. Email your representatives. Most representatives usually have an online portal which allows you to send them an email about a particular issue you may have. If you are looking for something quick, efficient, and not so personal, this is a great method to make your voice heard. Below, we have a sample email prompt that can give you an idea of what to write.

Towards the bottom of the page, we also have the contact pages listed for the entire Oklahoma congressional delegation if you were curious about reaching out to them!

*(Month) (Day) (Year)*

*The Honorable (First name) (Last name) (Room Number), State Capitol Sacramento, CA (Zip Code)*

*RE: (state the topic or include the bill number, author and subject if you are writing to support or oppose a particular legislative bill)*

*Dear (Assembly Member/ Senator) (Last name):*

*My name is (your first and last name) and I am a regional center consumer (family member / service provider/ advocate/ community member) who resides in your district.*

*(State why you support or oppose the bill or other issue here. Choose up to three of the strongest points that support your position and state them clearly.)*

*(Include a personal story. Tell your representative why the issue is important to you and how it affects you, your family member and your community.)*

*(Tell your representative how you want her or him to vote on this issue and ask for a response.)*

*Sincerely,*

Y/N

7. Write policy! Yes, YOU can write policy. Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature is known for writing mock legislation that can at times become real legislation.

### **Oklahoma Congressional Delegation Contact**

#### **US House of Representatives**

- District 1 (Rep. Kevin Hern): <https://hern.house.gov/contact/>
- District 2 (Rep. Markwayne Mullin): <https://mullin.house.gov/contact/>
- District 3 (Rep. Frank Lucas): <https://lucas.house.gov/contact>
- District 4 (Rep. Tom Cole): <https://cole.house.gov/contact>
- District 5 (Rep. Kendra Horn): <https://horn.house.gov/contact/>

#### **US Senate**

- Sen. James Lankford: <https://www.lankford.senate.gov/contact/email>

- Sen. Jim Inhofe: <https://www.inhofe.senate.gov/contact/email-jim>

Norman People to Contact:

Norman PD Citizens Advisory Board

Listening Session Event Info:

<https://www.normanok.gov/events/norman-citizens-advisory-board-listening-session>

[n](#)

<https://www.normanok.gov/your-government>

Mayor Breea Clark [mayor@NormanOK.gov](mailto:mayor@NormanOK.gov)

All councilmembers: [citycouncilmembers@NormanOK.gov](mailto:citycouncilmembers@NormanOK.gov)

Councilmember Kate Bierman [ward1@NormanOK.gov](mailto:ward1@NormanOK.gov)

Councilmember Joe Carter [ward2@NormanOK.gov](mailto:ward2@NormanOK.gov)

Councilmember Alison Petrone [ward3@NormanOK.gov](mailto:ward3@NormanOK.gov)

Councilmember Lee Hall [ward4@NormanOK.gov](mailto:ward4@NormanOK.gov)

Councilmember Sereta Wilson [ward5@NormanOK.gov](mailto:ward5@NormanOK.gov)

Councilmember Bill Scanlon [ward6@NormanOK.gov](mailto:ward6@NormanOK.gov)

Councilmember Stephen Holman [ward7@NormanOK.gov](mailto:ward7@NormanOK.gov)

Councilmember Alex Scott [ward8@NormanOK.gov](mailto:ward8@NormanOK.gov)

## Reading List

*Below are links to free readings that have been influential to racial justice, there are a variety of different authors but you will have to click them to see them! (sort of like a blind date!) . Academic knowledge is imperative, and we hope that by providing some resources, you will be encouraged to find more.*

*As an OU Student you are also guaranteed a free subscription to NYT and JSTOR!*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bz011IF2Pu9TN01uZmUweXpXS1k/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bz011IF2Pu9TUENyXzkwZ2ILY1E/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bz011IF2Pu9Tb0gxUU9WQW50Unc/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Gfo4XOBE0HFFj9WnJeahETkB8hmExw5o/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Cmo20ticSGk1NTS7wnbwey5vPTfTRCpg/view?usp=sharing>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_ha8MgWAUVuJQd\\_LapKXUs6wpNfNnqEL/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_ha8MgWAUVuJQd_LapKXUs6wpNfNnqEL/view?usp=sharing)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bz011IF2Pu9TMW5aVWhfQWF4V00/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JOZ97xNkgbCtW8Qbko4XsoBUVPW2Txfx/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Qz0CaHW8pWfnpiDgE73Nl8uF5BURtmU9/view?usp=sharing>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mQjst4y-Pz\\_wu27ZIYhDKG86KRfjUoPt/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mQjst4y-Pz_wu27ZIYhDKG86KRfjUoPt/view?usp=sharing)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hSMBduLHe-G8V8YSwzHl8PRrTe5YFjmj/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bz011IF2Pu9TbVoyYXl0bGJ1VjA/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bz011IF2Pu9TRDhocloydGhoaEE/view?usp=sharing>