



## EDMOND DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

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### **EDMOND DEMOCRATIC WOMEN ENDORSES JOY HOFMEISTER FOR OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR**

Edmond Democratic Women announces endorsement for Joy Hofmeister a democratic candidate for Governor of Oklahoma. Joy shares the values of the Edmond Democratic Women and we believe she is uniquely qualified to represent all Oklahomans. For more information about Joy or to volunteer to help with her campaign efforts, please visit her website <https://joyforok.com>.

#### **MEET JOY**

Joy Hofmeister is running for governor because she knows firsthand how the values of faith, family, education and hard work can bring people together to improve our lives. As state superintendent of public instruction, Joy has already led the fight for better education in Oklahoma. Now, Joy is prepared to stand up to both parties to strengthen our schools, get our economy on track and ensure Oklahoma is a place our kids will stay and put down roots.

When Joy was a child, her father, an electrician, moved the family to Oklahoma for a good-paying job at a manufacturing company. Joy and her two sisters grew up in Tulsa where they learned about hard work from their dad. More than anything, Joy learned from both her parents to stand up for what is right.

That's why Joy stood up to Janet Barresi, an incumbent within her own party, to run for state superintendent in 2014. For Joy, it has always been about kids – not politics – and doing what is right. Over and over again, Joy has battled against extremism and partisan politicians whose policies are dead wrong for Oklahoma.

Joy has always put faith and family first. When her husband Jerry was attending Baptist seminary, Joy dropped out of college to support Jerry's call into ministry. Then, ever determined, she returned to school and graduated at the top of her class.

The path to a college degree wasn't easy for Joy. She struggled with reading and dyslexia as a child. Joy often shares that it was her school teachers who believed in her and pushed her to keep trying – and that support made all the difference. Joy believes every Oklahoma child should be surrounded by strong, committed teachers. To this day, that determination has driven her to help Oklahoma kids succeed.

For 15 years, Joy owned a successful small business working with thousands of Oklahoma families. She understands that Oklahoma needs a governor who doesn't just cater to big corporations, but stands beside small business owners, farmers and ranchers, and workers across the state.

As chair of the state's CareerTech board, she has championed improvements in workforce readiness. As governor, Joy will work hand in hand with business leaders to address worker shortages and ensure our economy works for *all* Oklahomans. In her role as state superintendent, Joy also chairs the State Board of

Education, is one of five Commissioners of the Land Office, serves on the state Board of Equalization, and dozens of other boards and commissions.

Schools were in free fall when Joy became state superintendent, but they began seeing key improvements in just a few years under her leadership. Just as Oklahoma's children deserve access to exceptional schools, their parents and grandparents deserve the freedom to access quality, affordable health care and greater economic opportunities. Self-dealing politicians are standing in the way – on education and health care, on diversifying our economy, and improving our infrastructure. There is much more work to do. And it's time for a governor who knows how to get things done.

Joy and Jerry have four grown children and recently welcomed their first grandchild, Willa! All of Joy's children live here in Oklahoma, a blessing she will work to make possible for every Oklahoma family.

## **JOY'S ISSUES**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The pandemic exposed a digital divide between urban and rural Oklahoma. As state superintendent, Joy acted, distributing 50,000 internet hotspots to students so they could connect with their teachers. But the problem needs a long-term solution. Whether you're working, learning, or worshiping from home, Joy believes all Oklahomans deserve the freedom to access high-speed internet. She will get it done for families and communities with well-vetted contracts and accountable leadership. If we can't trust the current governor [with BBQ](#), we can't trust him with broadband.

Fixing our physical infrastructure is a critical piece of the picture. Joy will make Oklahoma roads, bridges and infrastructure a top priority across the state — especially in places that seem forgotten — like the Southeast corner of Oklahoma where booming out-of-state tourism and traffic have created unmet needs. Joy's infrastructure plans will help build a modern future including a forward-thinking strategy that prepares Oklahoma for electric vehicles and renewable energy, and builds communities where our kids want to put down roots.

For far too long, the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority has had unchecked power over individual property rights. Recent projects have undermined the public's trust and trampled on our system of checks and balances. Joy supports Eminent Domain reform and an OTA audit to ensure Oklahomans don't sacrifice their homes, land, or livelihoods to shortsighted politicians.

In addition, restored relationships with sovereign tribal governments is a high priority for Joy. She knows that stronger partnerships are key to improved infrastructure and opportunities to build for our future.

### **WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS**

Joy knows education is an investment, not an expense—and calls for a bold investment in our children's futures. To build a world-class education for Oklahoma's 700,000 school kids, Joy is focusing on five priorities developed in collaboration with parents, teachers and representatives of local communities from across the state.

Joy's education priorities are:

Solving the Teacher Shortage      Partnering With Parents      Supporting Students' Mental Health and Wellness

Extending Care and Learning Opportunities      Preparing the Workforce of the Future

## FAMILIES

As a mom of four and former small business owner, Joy knows what it's like to work hard and dream about a better future for her family. Families need a governor who will fight for them so they have the stability, confidence, and support they need to start businesses, earn degrees, buy homes, and put down roots in our state.

Countless Oklahoma families feel left out and left behind. Simply having a job (or three) is not enough. To support a family, Oklahomans need good jobs. As governor, Joy will work to restore a community's freedom to raise the minimum wage and decide how much they value local workers.

Joy will eliminate regressive taxes on families like the grocery tax. She supports suspending the gas tax until sky-high fuel prices come down. Oklahoma deserves a governor who will fight for their bottom line for a change.

Joy knows childhood hunger is a huge challenge for Oklahoma families. Today, 1 in 5 Oklahoma children don't get the food they need. Joy believes Oklahoma must do better for its children. Hunger costs Oklahoma over \$1.4 billion each year through increased illness and decreased academic achievement alone. Joy will work to end childhood hunger in Oklahoma by leading public-private partnerships that invest in programs like Breakfast After the Bell, which aims to feed all students a nutritious breakfast at the start of every school day.

And addressing the state's high infant and maternal mortality rates will be among Joy's top priorities. Oklahoma is the top ten worst places in the country to have a baby. To change that, Joy will work to expand a mother's postpartum Medicaid coverage, as many other states have done — giving families more resources and support when it is needed most. Sadly, Kevin Stitt is out of touch with the biggest issues affecting Oklahoma families. While Stitt is focused on self-dealing and political games, costs are rising and families continue to face challenges like access to strong neighborhood schools and finding good-paying jobs.

## RESTORING TRUST

It's hard to keep track of the scandals, mismanagement, and backroom deals happening in the governor's office today. But make no mistake—the scandals surrounding Epic, the Department of Tourism, the Commission of the Land, mismanaged GEER funds, the Oklahoma Pandemic Center and rampant cronyism have one thing in common: Kevin Stitt.

His behavior has destroyed our trust in state government. The only bottomline Kevin Stitt cares about is his own. And he's running the state into the ground.

Joy knows Oklahomans are the ones who suffer when politicians choose self-dealing over the people they are supposed to serve. Sadly, shady backroom deals and wasting countless millions in taxpayer dollars have become the norm. Under Stitt, the state has awarded [nearly \\$20 million](#) in lucrative [government contracts](#) to some of his campaign donors and allies. That's not his money, it's yours.

Joy believes Oklahoma belongs to you. As governor, she'll make accountability and transparency the cornerstone of her administration. She will embrace the advice of industry and policy experts to focus on long-term strategic planning instead of short-term political pandering.

Once in office, Joy will institute a line by line audit of every state contract to root out waste, fraud, and abuse. And she will work to restore the capacity of state agencies that our current governor has mismanaged to the point of collapse.

Joy will restore honesty, transparency, and accountability to the governor's office.

This information was taken from Joy's website: [joyforok.com](http://joyforok.com)

[www.edmondemocraticwomen.org](http://www.edmondemocraticwomen.org)