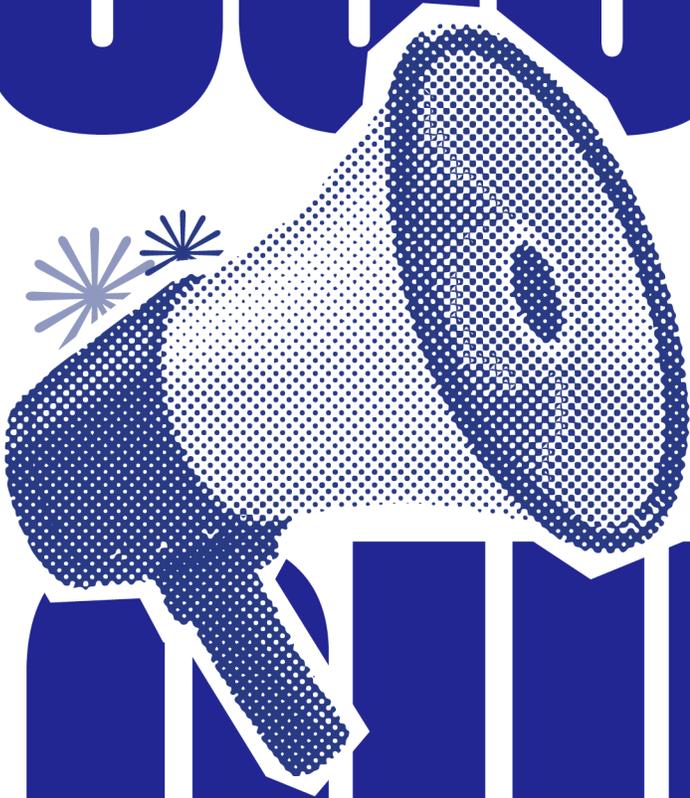


OKLAHOMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

# COUNTY

2025



# CHAIR

# GUIDE

OKDEMS

# YOU ARE A COUNTY OFFICER, YOU ARE HOW WE WIN ELECTIONS

Dear County Officers,

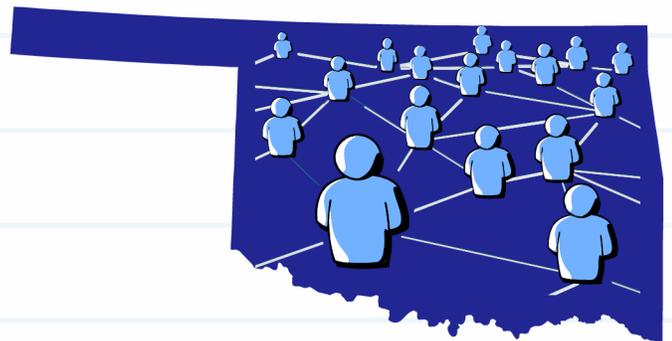
Congratulations on your election or re-election! Your leadership in your community is invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for your dedication to strengthening our party at the grassroots level. By stepping up in this role, you are not only organizing and empowering local Democrats, but you are also helping us better understand the needs, concerns, and passions of voters across Oklahoma. Your work ensures that every Democrat—whether highly engaged or quietly supportive—feels a sense of community and belonging.

The work you do is the foundation of our success. Through the Precinct Officer Program, you are building relationships with voters, improving the quality of our voter data, and making sure that every campaign starts with a strong and accurate foundation. Every conversation you have, every precinct meeting you support, and every volunteer you inspire brings us closer to victory. Talking with voters is both an art and a science, and as you continue in this role, you will develop and refine these skills, making a lasting impact in your community and our state.

We are incredibly inspired by your willingness to step up as a loud and proud Democrat. Your leadership, passion, and commitment are what will drive our movement forward. Thank you for your service to your community and our party—we are excited to work alongside you and support you in this journey.

Let's get to work and win together!

In solidarity,  
Lauren Craig  
Executive Director  
Oklahoma Democratic Party



**Have a question?**

Contact the officers and staff working on our Precinct Officers Program.  
Email [Precinct@okdemocrats.org](mailto:Precinct@okdemocrats.org)

# COUNTY OFFICER 2025

## FIRST STEPS:

**This document is designed as a follow-up to the County Convention.**

[Click here to find our comprehensive County Party guides for Conventions.](#)

-  Ensure your precinct officers and delegates have been reported within the State Democratic Party system. Find your County Sheet [here](#).
-  If you're newly elected, reach out to the former Chair and officers of the County Party to transfer documents, records, banking information, and more. Prepare a list of questions and don't forget to ask for advice!
-  Take a moment to write down notes from your County Convention. What would you do next time, what is your vision for your term as chair? Use the next page to plan and brainstorm.
-  Review the Precinct Officers Guide and the Every Door, Every Vote Guide. We're counting on you to help your precinct officers feel inspired and a part of a large grassroots movement.
-  Check out our governing documents! Bylaws, Constitution, and our Party Platform can all be found on our website [www.okdemocrats.org](http://www.okdemocrats.org)
-  Research your county! Get to know the districts in your community from school boards, city council, county electeds, and state. Research to find each municipalities' election dates as they differ. Determine what races you hope to recruit candidates in.
-  Start planning your calendar for your term! Jot down election dates and important city, county, and local celebrations and festivals.
-  Connect with Team OK DEMS HQ, we're here to help you succeed everyway we can. Contact [County@okdemocrats.org](mailto:County@okdemocrats.org) to meet with the team or call our office at 405-427-3366

# DEVELOP YOUR GOALS FOR IMPACT



What happened that made you decide to run to be chair?  
What motivated you? What change do you think you could create?

What are the values you care about?

Examples: compassion, honesty, integrity, kindness, generosity, humility, courage, empathy, determination, appreciation, empathy, tolerance, and trustworthiness.

What do you have in common with your county?

Did you go to the same schools? Do you have common struggles like finding healthcare or paying down student debt? Do these values match the values of your voters?

How is your approach to problem-solving or leadership new or different?  
What is something different that you would do that they're not doing?

What do you bring to the table that this position needs?

Write your "why" here:

Why Example:

"I am running for office because I have watched our public school system crumble under the current leadership. As an educator and a parent, I have the skills and expertise to guide our public schools to a better future."

# ORGANIZER'S TOOL BOX

## GRASSROOTS COMMUNICATION

The “Personal Story” or “Story of Self” is a powerful tool organizers use to connect with and convince friends and neighbors. Most importantly, your story is what inspires others to vote.

Taking the time to create your personal story will solidify your motivation towards helping to elect Democrats in your precinct. When you share it with your community you're organizing in, you build momentum for others to join you in creating change.

**Use the boxes below to make notes about your story. Once you've honed your perspective, you'll be prepared to share your story while canvassing and to train your volunteer team to create their own Personal Story.**



### Why You Care:

- What issues matter most to you?
- What story or experience illustrates this?  
How can Democrats in office have an impact?



### Your Values:

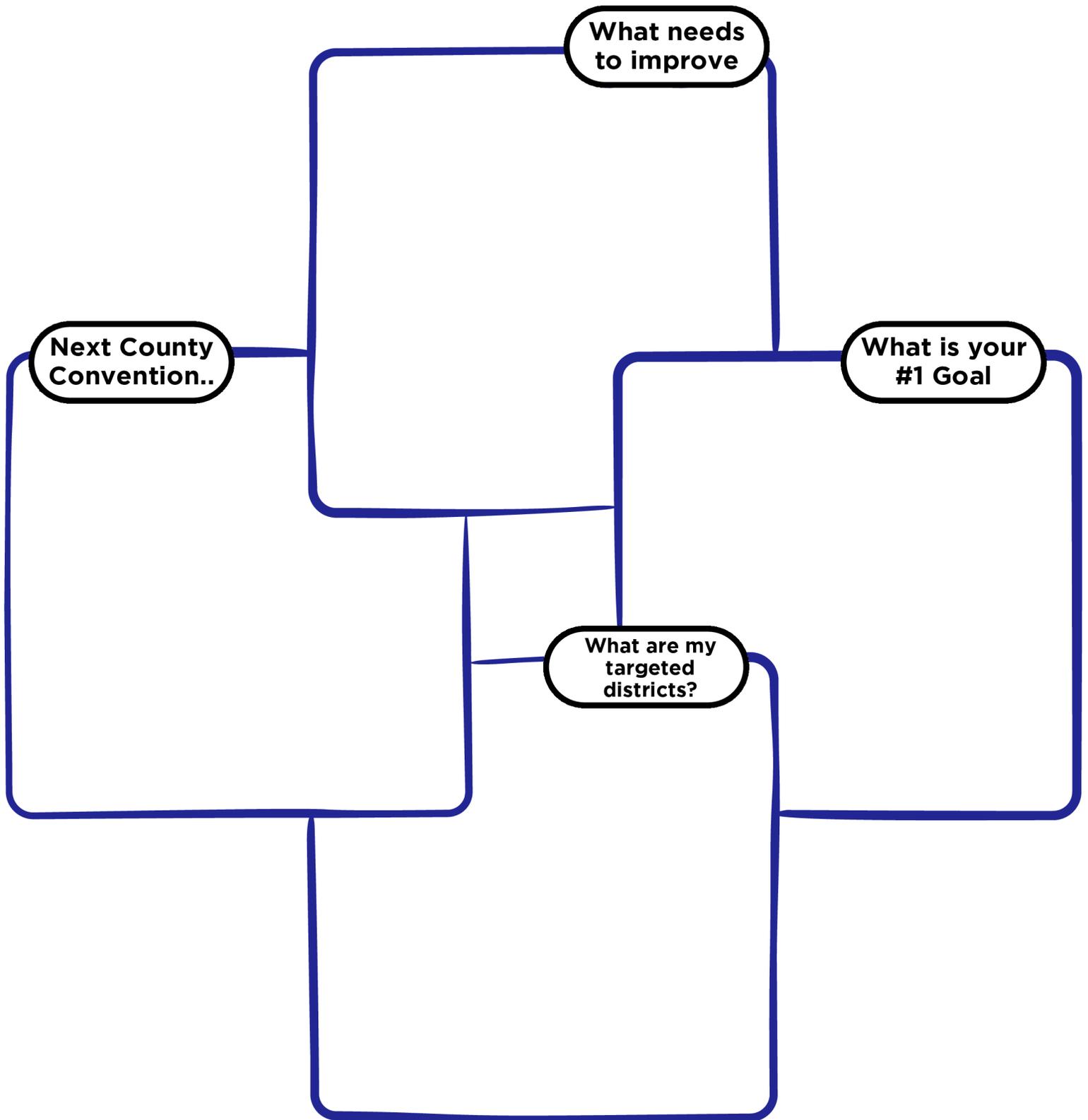
- What character traits or ideals do you hold dear?
- How do these relate to the issues you care about?



### Election Connection:

- Explain the connection between your story and the election.
- Why does the outcome matter to the issues you see?

# COUNTY OFFICER 2025 GOAL SETTING:



# TIMELINE OF EVENTS

**2025**

**MARCH - APRIL**

COUNTY ORGANIZING &  
CONVENTIONS  
FUNDRAISING MONTH

**APRIL 1 ELECTIONS**

**MAY**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
CONVENTION  
SUMMER KNOCKING STARTS  
MAY 13 ELECTION

**JUNE**

STATE CONVENTION  
JUNE 28-29

**JULY**

CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT  
BEGINS

**AUGUST**

FALL CANVASSING  
FUNDRAISING BEGINS

**SEPTEMBER**

VOTER REGISTRATION MONTH

**OCTOBER**

PEAK FUNDRAISING

**NOVEMBER**

ONE YEAR TO WIN

**DECEMBER**

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

**2026**

**JANUARY & FEBRUARY**

WINTER VOTER CONTACT  
CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

**MARCH**

FUNDRAISING FOR FILING  
CAMPAIGN ACADEMY

**APRIL**

CANDIDATE FILINGS  
CANDIDATE SUPPORT PLAN

**MAY**

DOOR KNOCKING  
SUMMER VOLUNTEER  
RECRUITMENT

**JUNE & JULY**

SUMMER COMMUNITY BUILDING  
EVENTS

**AUGUST**

RAMP FUNDRAISING  
40 VOTERS A DAY BEGINS

**SEPTEMBER**

PUSH FOR ABSENTEE  
FINAL VOTER REGISTRATION

**OCTOBER**

GET OUT THE VOTE  
MAIL-IN VOTES

**NOVEMBER**

ELECTION SPRINT

**DECEMBER**

BREAK

# COUNTY PARTY RESOURCES:



IF YOU NEED:	HERE'S HOW WE CAN HELP YOU:
<b>Email for the County</b>	For \$15.00 per month, the State Party can supply you with an email address you can access, manage Google workspace files, and more. Complete with data protection and security. Example: Countyname@okdemocrats.org
<b>Banking Help</b>	From establishing a new account to accessing an account from the previous officers, we are here to help. Email Treasurer@okdemocrats.org
<b>Voter Data</b>	We provide FREE access to the State Voter Access Network to county chairs, vice chairs, secretaries, and two people of their choosing to serve on their VAN committee.
<b>Volunteer Recruitment</b>	All volunteer leads we have for your county we populate into an Activist Code in the State Voter Access Network (VAN) Volunteer emails, phones, etc.
<b>Event Promotion</b>	We use Mobilize.us, the State Democratic Party, will advertise any events your county is holding. Email: Events@okdemocrats.org
<b>Candidate Recruitment</b>	Whole, we can help provide leads for candidates in your area; we rely on you to encourage people you meet to run! We will attend any meeting and provide district analysis reports to help seal the deal!
<b>Speakers and Guests</b>	We can help you plan your monthly meetings and special events by connecting you to State Electeds and former Democrat superstars.
<b>Training</b>	The staff are here to help train you and your county members on anything from data, knocking on doors, hosting fundraisers and more!
<b>Website</b>	We can connect you to simple and easy website tools that ANYONE can do at minimal to no-cost. Contact us for more information.
<b>Texting and Paid Phones</b>	We can connect you to your own account OR send texts on your county behalf for invitations or get out the vote efforts at \$0.04 a text.
<b>Press and Media</b>	We can help promote any press release you have, connect you to local media, or provide help in creating press releases for issues happening in your county.

# PLANNING YOUR COUNTY MEETINGS

Whether you decide to hold monthly or quarterly meetings planning your schedule ahead of time sets you and your members up for success. It's important to remember our collective goals for 2026 in every meeting we hold.



## YOUR AGENDA FOCUS:

- **How many Precinct Officers have we onboarded?**
- **PRE-FILING: What Districts/Races are we actively recruiting Candidates for?**
  - Filing countdown: How many days till filing for \_\_\_\_\_ district.
  - Names of who's announced/what they are running so far.
- **FILING FEES: Contest Every Race plan encourages counties to raise money during 2025 to cover filing fees in 2026.**
  - How much have we raised so far?
  - When is our next fundraising event?
- **POST-FILING: Candidate Support Plan:**
  - What events are we promoting for candidates?
  - How many doors have we knocked for candidates?
  - Does the candidate have driver shifts filled?
  - Have we helped to invite people to the next fundraiser?
  - Does the candidate need support in other ways? (ie Parade)
- **Fundraising:**
  - Current Balance
  - Balance at last Meeting
  - # Monthly Recurring Donors
  - Next Fundraising event

# COUNTY PARTY FINANCE & COMPLIANCE



Take this National Democratic Training Committee training for Fundraising 101 for County Party Officers



Set up your bank account and then determine where you will take and process online donations we recommend the GoodChange.app or ActBlue

## Who can contribute to the County:

- Individuals and Couples
- LLC's with one owner
- Contribution limit of an individual: Your county + all Organizations in Dem Party = \$10K in a calendar year

## They donated; now what?

- You must deposit within 10 days of receipt.
- You must keep a record of the donor's full name, address, donation amount, date, occupation, and employer.

Template [sheet here](#).

## Compliance & Finance Reporting

To avoid the need ("a Triggering Event") to file State Ethics Reports, do not do any of the following actions: 1.) Donate to a Candidate Directly 2.) Give In-Kind gifts to a Candidate. 3.) An expense for electioneering communications: communication referencing an identifiable candidate.

## County to Candidate Contribution Pass Through

The Oklahoma State Party holds a fund for Candidate Support called Oklahoma Future Fund. A County Party and the State Party can make unlimited contributions to one another without qualifying as a "triggering event." A county party can chip into the Oklahoma Future Fund for a particular race, and the State Party will gift this contribution in your County Name directly to the Candidate Committee. [Click here for more info](#)

## What Is & Isn't Allowed

Oklahoma Democratic Party will provide Election Day Slate Cards for Counties at the cost of printing and walk-card, flyers, and printout designs. DO NOT PRINT: Billboards, cards, yard signs, flyers, invitations, or advertisements for candidates directly.



# INTRO TO: FUNDRAISING

## First Things First Rolodex Your Network:

Use the QR code to find NDTC's sample spreadsheet. When you rolodex someone — your candidate or other supporters — your goal is to include everyone your candidate has ever met in your central contacts list. That means you should be looking everywhere. This includes:

- Contact lists in their phone, computer, and email
- Social media lists — LinkedIn, Facebook, etc.
- Make sure to include every single friend/ follower on all of their social media accounts, both personal and for the campaign
- Lists of members from boards, charities, and professional groups they're involved in
- Lists of members of high school and college alumni groups (or dig through Facebook group members together)
- Religious or Social Organizations
- Spouse/partner's contact lists from their phone, computer, and email
- Closest friends and family's contact lists from their phone, computer, and email.



Rolodex Sheet



Make Your Campaign Budget

## Schedule Call Time & Protect It

Asking someone for a donation to your campaign can be daunting. Yet, “making the ask” is the most critical step in raising funds for your campaign.

### 1. Make a Connection, Then Listen

What do you know about this person? What is your connector

### 2. Establish Credibility & Viability

Why are you a good candidate? Why will you win?

### 3. Make the Ask

What specifically are you asking for?

### 4. What did they agree to?

### 5. Other information (credit card, notes, etc.)

### 6. Send a Pledge Letter, Email, and Text



Call Time  
Check - In  
& Prep Sheet

# GET YOUR COUNTY KNOCKING DOORS



miniVAN class

- Complete the miniVAN training
- Plan your door knocking day of action!

Will you be going solo, inviting a friend, or launching an event? To launch a public volunteer event:

- Email [precinct@okdemocrats.org](mailto:precinct@okdemocrats.org) to list and promote your event
- Choose a meeting space and time
- Be ready to help your volunteers download the app & craft a "story of self"
- Organize your materials (if applicable)
- Download the miniVAN app, create an Action ID, log in.

- **Identify your list number cut from Votebuilder/VAN**

- OKDEMS is here to help you "Cut Turf" or train you on how to do it yourself. Email [VAN@okdemocrats.org](mailto:VAN@okdemocrats.org)
- Use the Distributed Precinct Officer List

- Know your script and survey questions. Practice talking the script with a friend or family member.

- Smile and have fun! Voters will respond to your enthusiasm and your energy.

- Look around before you knock. See if there is anything relatable you can use in your conversation.

- Check out the print-from-home guides you can use anywhere in the state.  
[www.okdemocrats.org/precinct](http://www.okdemocrats.org/precinct)

## Pro - Tips on Organizing:

1. Encourage volunteers to drink water.
2. Volunteers should go in pairs or teams of three.
3. Be sure to charge your devices the night before a canvass.
4. Share contact info:

Your number & volunteers results! Remind others!

**NEVER PUT LITERATURE  
IN MAILBOXES**

# CANDIDATE PRE-INTERVIEW

OKLAHOMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY: INTERNAL USE ONLY

Candidate Name:

Candidate Desired District:

Interviewed in person

Date of Interview:

Before the Interview:

Location:

1.)	Determine if this District has a Democrat candidate who has announced their intentions to run OR if someone has registered a candidate committee on the Oklahoma Ethics Commission website.
2.)	Research the candidate online: social media, online search, voter history, news, linkedin, google images
3.)	Determine if this individual is active in local or party civic groups such as the county party, church, local nonprofits, local civic organizations, etc.
4.)	Think about what questions you have for the candidate.

Candidate Research:

Lives in:	School Board District: _____ Municipal / City District: _____ County District: _____ House District: _____ Senate District: _____
VAN SCORES (votebuilder.com)	DEM Support Score ( 2022 or 2024 ) : _____ 2022 Turnout Score: _____
Any criminal background? or History that could be used against the candidate?	

# CANDIDATE ROADMAPPING

OKLAHOMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY: INTERNAL USE ONLY

Candidate Name:

Candidate Desired District:

Interviewed in person

Phone: (     )     -

About the Candidate:

Email:

ADDRESS OF VOTER  
REGISTRATION

**BIOGRAPHY NOTES:**

SCHOOL &  
EDUCATION  
BACKGROUND

CAREER & CURRENT  
EMPLOYMENT

FAMILY

Why are you running?

**POINT SENTENCE**  
(Elevator Speech)

**First example and  
explanation**

Why this district or specific seat?	
<b>What issues are you running on?</b>	
What are your goals once you are elected?	

### The District & Running

<b>Last Election for the District</b> (Ballotpedia.org)	<b>YEAR:</b> _____ <b>DEMOCRAT IN RACE?</b> (circle) YES NO <b>DEM PERFORMANCE:</b> _____ % <b>LAST DEMOCRAT TO RUN NAME:</b> _____
Republican / Opposition Research	<b>Incumbent Republican?</b> (circle) YES NO Why is she/he bad for the district in your own words?
<b>FINANCE</b> (Guardian.ok.gov)	<b>How much did the Republican raise last cycle?</b> _____ <b>How much did the Democrat raise? (if applicable)</b> _____
<b>Candidate Fundraising</b> How much can you raise from self, family, friends	
Voter Registration in District	# of DEM: _____ # of IND: _____ # of REP: _____ # LIB: _____

## Campaigning Preparation:

<p><b>Candidate Fundraising</b> How much can you raise from self, family, friends</p>	
<p>How much time per DAY / WEEK will you be able to dedicate to campaigning?</p>	
<p>Are you willing to knock on doors?</p>	
<p>Are you willing to call strangers &amp; ask for money?</p>	
<p><b>Are your family members and loved ones ready for you to run and help you run?</b></p>	

## Candidate Needs:

<p>What are the candidate's immediate needs?</p>	
<p>Does the candidate...</p>	<p>( ) Have a website ( ) a campaign email ( ) campaign social media ( ) Bank &amp; EIN # ( ) Ethics Commission Filing ( ) VAN Access</p>
<p>Does the candidate have campaign staff or consultants?</p>	
<p>Launch date or upcoming event?</p>	

**NOW IS THE TIME TO  
ORGANIZE**

**TO RESIST AND INSPIRE OUR NEIGHBORS**

**FIGHT BACK**

**FOR JUSTICE AND FREEDOMS**

**TOGETHER**

**WE WILL OVERCOME. WE WILL**

**WIN ELECTIONS**

**OKDEMS**

