



TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Dan Judy and Whit Ayres

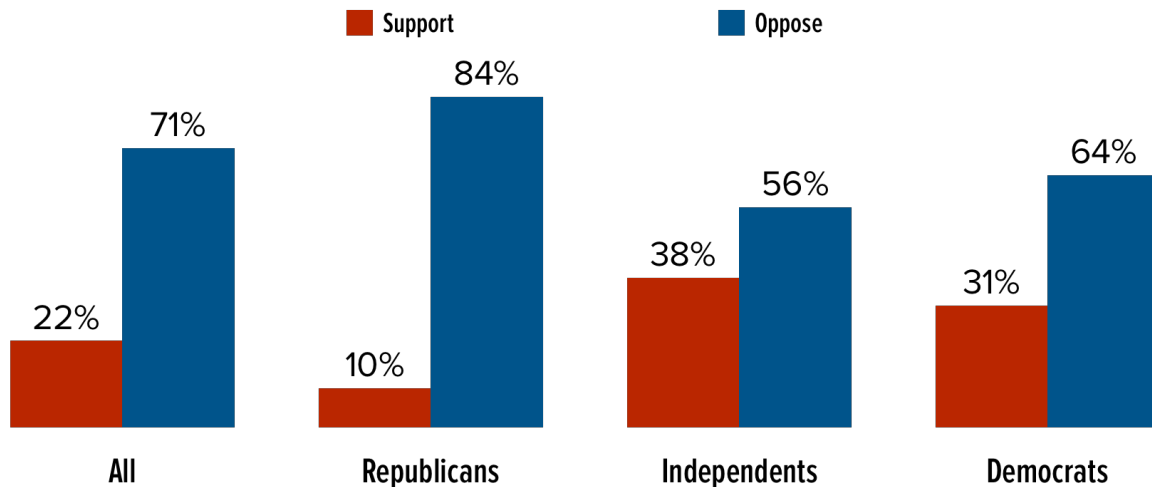
DATE: November 23, 2015

RE: Key Findings from Survey of Oklahoma Registered Voters

Our survey of Oklahoma registered voters, conducted November 3-5, 2015, finds that voters overwhelmingly oppose the state Supreme Court's recent decision to have the Ten Commandments monument removed from the State Capitol grounds. Additionally, voters want to change the way the state selects its judges – continuing to overwhelmingly prefer election of state judges over the current method of selection by commission, with their preference for the governor-focused method of selection seeing an increase in support since 2013.

Highlights of the 500 interviews, with a margin of error of ± 4.38 percent, are:

1. Voters disapprove of the decision to remove the Ten Commandments monument from the State Capitol grounds by more than three-to-one. Oklahoma voters oppose the state Supreme Court's decision to remove the monument by an overwhelming 71 to 22 percent margin, with fully 61 percent saying they “strongly disapprove” of the ruling. By party, Republicans disapprove of the ruling by 84 to 10 percent, independents by 56 to 38 percent, and Democrats by 64 to 31 percent.

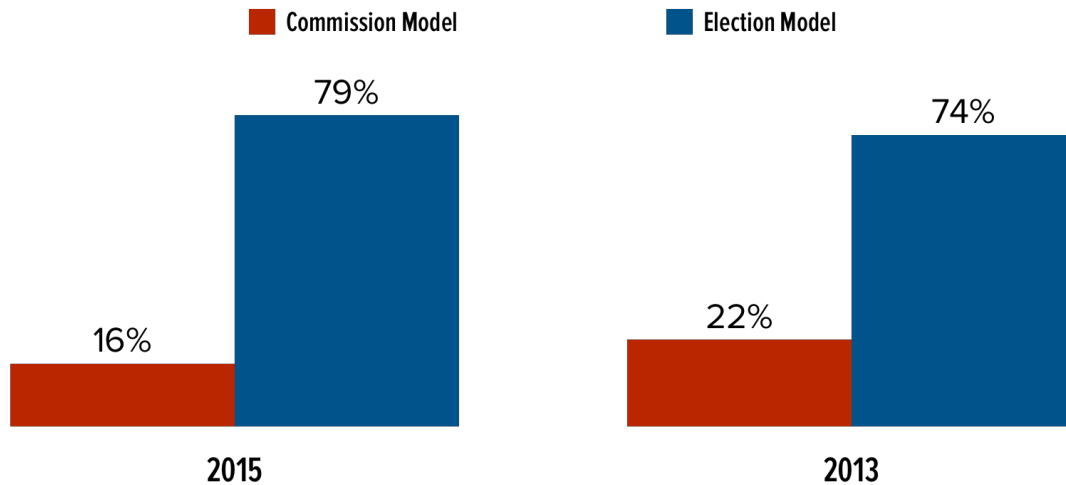


2. Over three-fourths of Oklahoma voters prefer election of state judges to the current commission system. Voters were presented with the following two models for choosing Oklahoma judges:

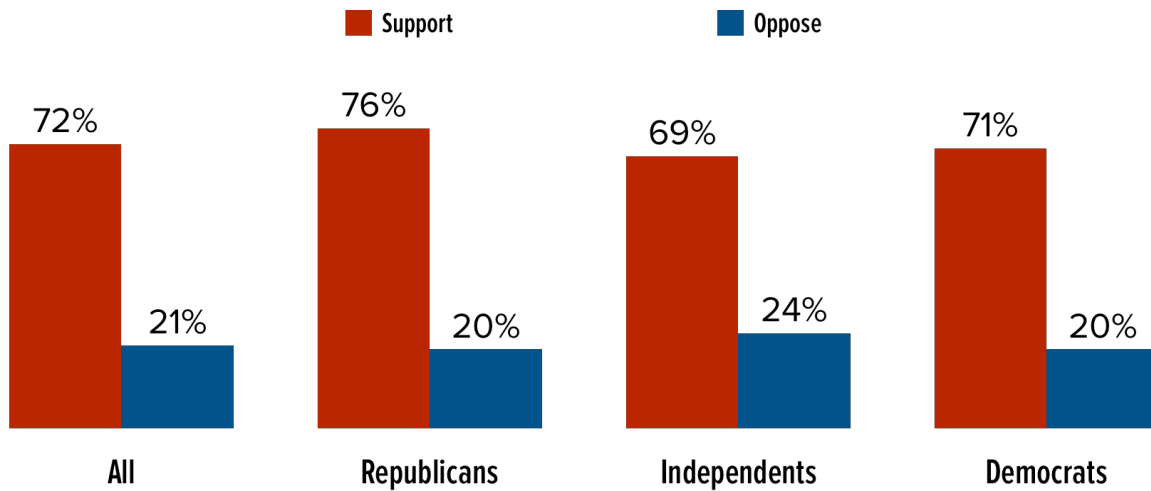
a. In the commission model, the Judicial Nominating Commission – made up of six lawyers named by the Oklahoma Bar Association, six-non-lawyers named by the Governor, and three members named by the state legislature and the commission itself – submits three candidates for the court vacancy to the Governor, from which she must appoint one.

b. In the election model, candidates for court vacancies would run for those offices and be elected by the voters for a term, at the end of which they would have to stand for retention or reelection.

Voters prefer the election model by an overwhelming 79 to 16 percent margin, up from a 74 to 22 percent margin in June of 2013.



Moreover, support for an amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution to abandon the commission model and instead allow the voters to elect all state Court of Appeals and Supreme Court judges has grown to a 72 to 21 percent margin (up from 69 to 25 percent), including margins of 76 to 20 percent among Republicans, 69 to 24 percent among independents, and 71 to 20 percent among Democrats.

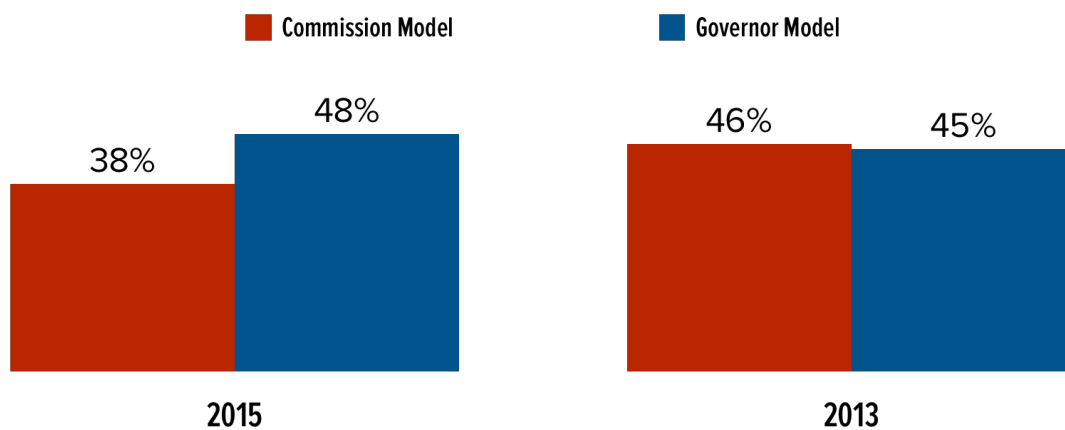


3. Oklahoma voters now prefer a governor-focused method of selecting judges to the current commission system. Voters were presented with the following two models for choosing Oklahoma judges:

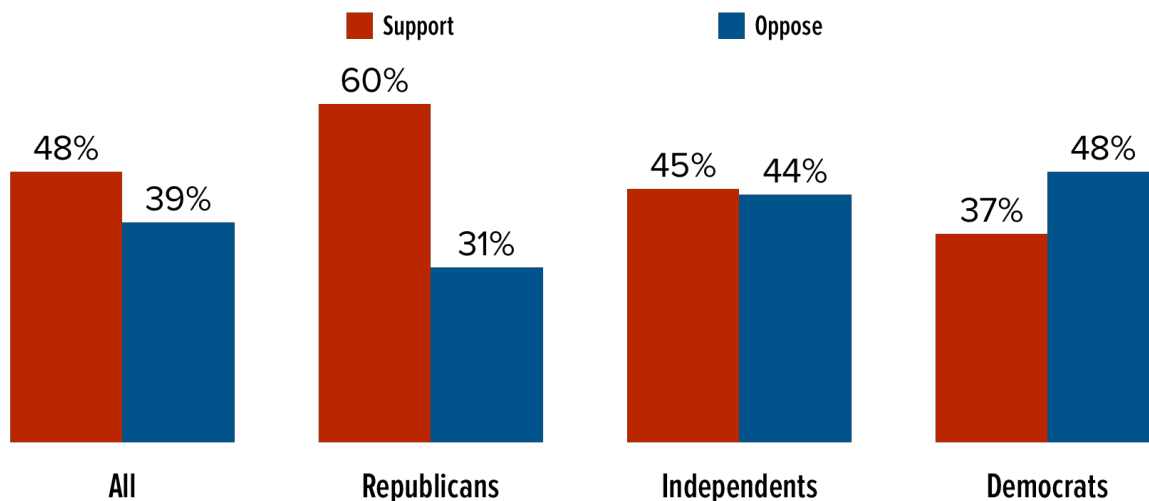
a. In the commission model, the Judicial Nominating Commission – made up of six lawyers named by the Oklahoma Bar Association, six-non-lawyers named by the Governor, and three members named by the state legislature and the commission itself – submits three candidates for the court vacancy to the Governor, from which she must appoint one.

b. In the governor model, the Governor submits a nominee for the court vacancy to the Judicial Nominating Commission, who gives him or her a rating of “qualified” or “not qualified.” The State Senate then confirms or rejects that appointment. This is similar to the process laid out in the U.S. Constitution.

Given this choice, voters prefer the governor model by a 48 to 38 percent margin, whereas in 2013 they were split, preferring the commission model by 46 to 45 percent.



Voters also support an amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution to abandon the commission model and adopt the governor model by a 48 to 39 percent margin, up from 49 to 42 percent in 2013. Republicans support such an amendment by 60 to 31 percent, independents split with 45 percent in support and 44 percent opposed, and Democrats oppose it by 48 to 37 percent.



Methodology

The sample for our Survey of Oklahoma Registered Voters, conducted November 3-5, 2015, consists of 500 respondents selected randomly from a list of registered voters throughout the state. The demographic construction of the sample reflects current registration and past turnout. By party registration, the sample is 44 percent Republican, 43 percent Democrat, and 13 percent independent/other. By race, the sample is 81 percent white, 7 percent black, 5 percent Native American, and 7 percent other/refused. By gender, the sample is 46 percent male and 54 percent female. By age, the sample is 11 percent 18 to 29, 33 percent 30 to 49, 31 percent 50 to 64, and 24 percent 65 or older. Forty percent of the interviews were completed on cell phones, and the margin of error is ± 4.38 percent.