

TODAY'S WEATHER

81° / 55°

Sunny · 20% rain

The Oklahoma State Capital

Reporting from Oklahoma's First and Best Capital City

YESTERDAY

0.00"

of rain at the Guthrie Mesonet

An interactive edition: every headline marked ↗ is a link. Tap it to read the whole story at [oklahomastatecapital.com](#).

THE MORNING REPORT

Sunny and 81 Degrees in the First Capital

The morning's news from Guthrie, Logan County and Edmond, gathered for Wednesday by The Morning Capital

By THE MORNING CAPITAL STAFF

GUTHRIE, Okla. — Good morning, First Capital. Fire crews were called to a single-vehicle crash on Highway 77 just south of County Road 64 where a woman was hurt, and deputies were sent to a crash in the I-35 median near mile marker 155 that damaged a

cable barrier. Chamber Coffee is at The Buff Fox at 9:30 a.m., and Edmond's Citizen TIF Oversight Committee holds a special meeting at noon. NonDoc reports a judge dismissed an Edmond mother's speedy trial motion. Enjoy a sunny Wednesday.

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FIRST CAPITAL FORECAST ↗

Wednesday: Sunny, high 81, low 55. 20% chance of rain. Sunrise 7:41 a.m., sunset 6:46 p.m.

"Summer's sneaking back into the First Capital with a sunny high of 81, well above normal for this time of year. Leave the jacket on the hook."

Mesonet Yesterday at the Guthrie Mesonet: high 76, low 55, no rain. [mesonet.org](#) ↗

Weather data from Google.

YOUR MORNING COMMUTE

Southbound I-35, Guthrie (Exit 157) to the I-40 junction: 33 minutes at 7:17 a.m. No slowdown.

Southbound SH-74, Crescent to Lake Hefner Parkway: 44 minutes at 7:17 a.m. No slowdown.

Southbound Broadway Extension, Edmond to downtown Oklahoma City: 19 minutes at 7:17 a.m. No slowdown.

Southbound Broadway, SH-33 west of Guthrie to 2nd Street in Edmond: 25 minutes at 7:17 a.m. No slowdown.

Eastbound Waterloo Road, Broadway to I-35: 6 minutes at 7:17 a.m. No slowdown.

Westbound Waterloo Road, Douglas Boulevard to I-35: 4 minutes at 7:17 a.m.

No slowdown.
Traffic data from TomTom.

LOGAN COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO ↗

These are over-the-air radio reports, not confirmed facts.

TUE 6:03 A.M. Woman hurt in single-vehicle crash on Highway 77 south of County Road 64 ↗
Guthrie Fire

TUE 8:32 P.M. Adult-man custody transport to county jail ↗
Guthrie Police

TUE 9:09 P.M. Crescent Rescue 14 response south of Cooksey ↗
Crescent Fire

TUE 9:32 P.M. Bland Road medical response remains active ↗
Guthrie Fire

TUE 10:03 P.M. Deputies take person into custody in 13000 block of South Penn ↗
Logan County Sheriff

TUE 10:49 P.M. Deputy responds to reported assault in 14400 block of South Coltrane ↗
Logan County Sheriff

WED 12:50 A.M. Crash in I-35 median near mile marker 155 damages cable barrier ↗
Logan County Sheriff

STATE REPORT

Robert Franklin's OU Teaching Role Raises Questions About University's Political-Candidacy Policy ↗



THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITAL

State payroll records show the Republican nominee receiving OU salary payments during his campaign, raising questions about a longstanding policy requiring employees seeking state office to resign or take approved unpaid leave.

By JASON W. MURPHEY

TULSA, Okla. — (October 6, 2026) A sign identifies the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education at OU—Tulsa's Schusterman Center, where Robert Franklin has taught in the Educational Administration, Curriculum and Supervision program. Franklin's continued teaching during his campaign for state superintendent has raised questions about the university's policy requiring employees seeking state office to resign or obtain approved unpaid leave.

More than six decades after University of Oklahoma President George Cross told legendary football coach Bud Wilkinson that he could not run for Oklahoma's governor's seat while remaining a university employee, OU's longstanding restriction is potentially facing another test.

Robert Franklin, the Republican nominee for state superintendent of education, announced his campaign in March while working as a part-time adjunct faculty member at OU, continued in that role into May and reappeared on the university's September course schedule—raising questions about how OU applies its political-candidacy policy to part-time faculty and, in particular, to Franklin, whose first-place Republican primary finish in June elevated him to statewide prominence.

At issue is a university policy dating back to 1943 requiring of the university to either resign or receive approval from a to take an unpaid leave of absence

upon becoming a candidate for state office.

Franklin, in a Friday email to *The Capital*, stated that he notified university officials prior to campaigning for office, acknowledged working for the university as a contracted part-time lecturer in April and part of May, and indicated that, if elected, he would resign from his part-time position at the university.

Also corresponding with *The Capital*, university officials confirmed that but did not elaborate on the specifics of Franklin's case.

State payroll records list payments from OU to Franklin through May and again in September, with payment dates as recent as September 18. OU's fall course schedule lists Franklin as the instructor for with nine students enrolled in a class with a capacity of 20.

The university reports Franklin's compensation as through the state's payroll datasets, described by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services as representing

If elected state superintendent of public instruction, Franklin will lead the agency responsible for administering state and federal education funding and implementing an extensive framework of laws, policies, administrative rules and federal grant requirements affecting nearly 700,000 Oklahoma public school students.

The university's prohibition has a storied history in Oklahoma politics, effectively preventing university employees from running for office since 1943, including an iconic figure of Oklahoma political lore: Coach Bud Wilkinson. As described by former University of Oklahoma President George Cross in his book, *Presidents Can't Punt*, Wilkinson was approached by a university regent close to then-Gov. Howard Edmondson and asked to run for governor. Wilkinson consulted Cross, who reportedly told Wilkinson that it would be impossible to run because of the policy. Cross said Wilkinson agreed and believed that it for him to run.

President John F. Kennedy, left, meets with University of Oklahoma football coach Bud Wilkinson in the Oval Office on March 23, 1961. Ahead of Oklahoma's 1962 governor's race, Gov. J. Howard Edmondson, one of Kennedy's few prominent allies among Oklahoma's Democratic leadership, backed efforts to recruit Wilkinson as a candidate. OU President George Cross maintained that university policy would require Wilkinson to resign if he sought major public office.

In 1950, Cross had asked the Regents to approve the dismissal of the longtime dean of the Pharmacy College, who had failed to resign when running for the

state senate. The Regents subsequently accepted Cross's recommendation.

The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents amended the policy in 2018, after 10-year employee Breea Clark was forced to choose between campaigning for State House District 45 and giving up her university employment. The Regents relaxed the provision, allowing employees to take an approved unpaid leave of absence during their candidacy rather than requiring outright resignation. The amendment also established a Candidacy Review Committee to evaluate the leave requests.

Franklin entered the crowded Republican field of candidates in March 2026. At the time, Franklin described his role with OU as that of an in an interview with Tulsa's Fox 23. He was considered largely unknown to the wider public, challenging a group of established politicians and previous candidates for office. He ultimately emerged with the nomination after defeating James Taylor in the August Republican primary.

Voters will decide between Franklin and Democratic nominee Jennettie Marshall in November's general election.

YOUR GOVERNMENT MEETS TODAY

City of Edmond: Citizen TIF Oversight Committee Special Meeting, 12 p.m.

The committee will elect a chair and vice-chair, and it will hear the City of Edmond's annual report on its TIF (tax increment financing) districts for the 2026 fiscal year.

City of Edmond: Visit Edmond Tourism Advisory Board Meeting, 12 p.m.

The board will consider two marketing sponsorship requests: one from the Edmond Area Chamber of Commerce for City of Edmond maps, and one for Edmond Public Schools athletic tournaments.

City of Edmond: KickingBird Golf Advisory Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

The board will continue discussing green fee increases for 2027 and changes to twilight, super twilight and 9-hole fees at KickingBird Golf.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Chamber Coffee - The Buff Fox 9:30 a.m. • Guthrie

ON THIS DAY • 1910

Rain and a late band spoil the farm train's welcome in Guthrie

The A. & M. demonstration train reached Guthrie on schedule Thursday night, but the Woodman band sent to meet it was late, so the two never met. Facing cold rain and the long walk to convention hall, the experts called off their lectures until Tuesday evening. About 200 people came to the train the next morning to hear how to raise and care for cattle.

NOW OPEN • DAY AND NIGHT

The OSC Wire Room

Watch what we're watching.

Newsrooms across Oklahoma, and the wires from Washington and the world, as they file — on one live page.

oklahomastatecapital.com/wire-room

AROUND THE STATE AND BEYOND

From other newsrooms, each credited to its own; every headline opens the story where it was published.

— LOCAL —

Judge dismisses Edmond mother's motion arguing violation of speedy trial right

NONDOC

— STATE —

Headlines: Oklahoma's gubernatorial race, tribal sovereignty ruling & Thunder beat the Spurs

KOSU

After ousting incumbent, Cindy Byrd takes on Kiefer Perry in Oklahoma treasurer race

NONDOC

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scores 32 as Thunder beat Spurs in season opener

NEWS 9

— NATIONAL —

How Saudi Arabia's defense vulnerabilities could become Trump's problem amid Houthi onslaught

FOX NEWS

GOP senators not happy about Trump's warming relationship with Putin

THE HILL

Russia frees 74-year-old retired Michigan teacher in latest gesture to Trump

JUST THE NEWS

University president sounds alarm as nearly half of students justify violence to stop 'hate speech'

FOX NEWS

— INTERNATIONAL —

US citizen Stephen Hubbard freed by Russia and 'on his way home', Trump says

BBC NEWS

Russia releases American teacher imprisoned on Ukraine mercenary charges after Trump pressed Putin

FOX NEWS

AT THE AIRPORT

Guthrie-Edmond Regional, 6:50 a.m. Tuesday to 6:50 a.m. Wednesday: 2 takeoffs and 3 landings, by 5 aircraft.

Aerial patrol: 1974 Cessna 172M (N13683), owned by American Patrols Inc of Midland, Texas, took off at 8:12 a.m. Tuesday.