

5-Minute Campaign Speech

Who I Am

- Of the people: my life experiences are more like yours than like most politicians'
 - Grew up poorer than most members of Congress
 - Worked on the family farm from the age of 6
- Labels
 - Unhelpful labels: liberal, conservative, radical
 - More important to know about me: independent thinker, open-minded, prefer to listen rather than talk, pragmatist, realist, optimist
 - Labels I accept: Christian, engineer

Why I'm Running

- Restore trust: hard to find the truth in the information avalanche
- Restore confidence: truth telling, common decency, common sense, respect for people's dignity
- Restore unity: stop anti-government rhetoric and disparagement of public servants for political gain, and instead focus on common ground, common goals to move forward

Transition: common ground on three important issues facing Oklahomans

Leadership: Health Care

- Problems:
 - Oklahomans have poorer health outcomes than most states in the US (lack of access to health care/affordable health care)
 - 42 Oklahoma rural hospitals and as many as half of our nursing homes are closing
 - ongoing insurance market instability means that Oklahomans pay more for health insurance than most in the US
 - US has more than double the maternal mortality rate of any other country in the developed world, and the US is the only developed country with increasing mortality rates (US rate is 26.4%, next highest country is UK with 9.2%)
 - US babies are less likely to survive their first year than babies in other developed countries: 3x more likely to die from extreme immaturity and 2.3x more likely to die from SIDS
 - These problems are worse in rural areas where people are far away from hospitals, especially when rural hospitals are closing
- Solutions:
 - Expand Medicaid
 - \$900 million/year in federal funding, \$100 million/year state matching funds
 - boost the economy
 - save hospitals and nursing homes
 - Fix PPACA
 - restore insurance market stability
 - amend the parts that need improvement
 - healthier insureds balance the cost for sicker insureds

Leadership: 2nd Amendment

- Problems:
 - in 2018, 373 people were killed and 1,347 wounded in 340 mass shootings in the US

- firearm suicides account for more than half of suicides in the US and in Oklahoma, and
- more gun deaths are the result of suicide than of homicide
- Solutions: sensible gun laws
 - provide for responsible gun ownership and protect people when they're vulnerable
 - red flag laws

Leadership: climate change

- Problems:
 - implications for Oklahoma are significant
 - greater drought frequency and severity
 - increased risk of wildfires
 - more intense individual rainfall events
 - more runoff and flash flooding
- Solutions:
 - the best scientific information, including support for research in Oklahoma and around the country
 - leadership willing to speak truthfully about the issues
 - courage to make difficult choices
 - commitment to resolving the problems

Wrap-Up: Issues

- Health care
- 2nd amendment
- Climate change

Wrap-Up: Candidates

- Congress is an equal branch of government, must act independently of the executive branch
- Frank Lucas is a good man, but little to show for 25 years in office
- Most democratic method of term limits is the vote, not a law
- No ideology to swear by, no axe to grind, no interest in financial gain or notoriety
- No support from the rich or any PAC: **I'm of the people.**

Closing

- *"A bad attitude is like a flat tire. You are not going anywhere until you change it."* **(Author unknown)**
- It's time to stand up for each other, and **I'm standing up for you!**
- I humbly and respectfully ask for your vote.

Quotations List

- "A house divided against itself cannot stand." **Abraham Lincoln**, June 16, 1858
- "Every two years the American politics industry fills the airwaves with the most virulent, scurrilous, wall-to-wall character assassination of nearly every political practitioner in the country – and then declares itself puzzled that America has lost trust in its politicians." **Charles Krauthammer**
- "My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." **John F. Kennedy**, January 20, 1961
- "I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." **Matthew 25:45** (NIV)

- “If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.” **Martin Luther King, Jr.**
- “I very much dislike doctrinaire liberals - they want to own your minds. And I don't like reactionary conservatives. I like to face issues in terms of conditions and not in terms of someone's inborn political philosophy.” **Carl Albert** (former Oklahoma Congressman and Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives)
- “A good leader can engage in a debate frankly and thoroughly, knowing that at the end he and the other side must be closer, and thus emerge stronger. You don't have that idea when you are arrogant, superficial, and uninformed.” **Nelson Mandela**
- “The question we ask ourselves is not ‘What can we do?’ But what should we do?” **Tim Cook**, Apple CEO at Duke University Commencement 2018
- “People may try to tell you that you have to choose between doing your job and doing the right thing, but it’s a false choice. Doing the right thing is your job.” **Margot Lee Shetterly**, author of *Hidden Figures* at Worcester Polytechnic Institute Commencement 2018
- “With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds....” **Abraham Lincoln**, Second Inaugural address, March 4, 1865
- “We’re the ones who decide, ‘Do I hate, or am I filled with love?’” **Jimmy Carter**, former U.S. President at Liberty University Commencement 2018
- “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.” **Exodus 20:16** (NIV)
- “..... that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that Government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.” **Abraham Lincoln**, Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863
- “Love your neighbor as yourself.” **Matthew 22:39** (NIV)
- “There is now more tolerance for dishonesty in politics than I have seen in my lifetime.” **Michael Bloomberg**, three-term New York City mayor at Rice University Commencement 2018
- “The only thing more dangerous than dishonest politicians who have no respect for the law is a chorus of enablers who defend their every lie.” **Michael Bloomberg**, three-term New York City mayor at Rice University Commencement 2018
- “... Congress is failing its constitutional obligations to counteract the power of the president, and in so doing is dishonoring itself, at a critical moment in the life of our nation. Our presidency has been debased by a figure who has a seemingly bottomless appetite for destruction and division and only a passing familiarity with how the Constitution works.” **Jeff Flake**, Arizona Republican Senator at Harvard Law School Commencement
- “A responsibility of every American citizen to each other is to preserve and protect our freedom by recognizing what truth is and is not, what a fact is and is not, and begin by holding ourselves accountable to truthfulness and demand that our pursuit of America’s future be fact based.” **Rex Tillerson**, former U.S. Secretary of State at VMI Commencement 2018
- “Truth, like gold, is to be obtained not by its growth, but by washing away from it all that is not gold.” **Leo Tolstoy**
- “There are more martyrs to nonsense than truth, truth preferring missionaries.” **Robert Brault**
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- “This will go over like a Vespa at Sturgis. The problem isn’t that Harley is unpatriotic – it’s that tariffs are stupid. They’re tax increases on Americans, they don’t work, and apparently we’re going to see more of this.” **Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE)** response to Harley Davidson move

Notes/Sources:

Oklahoma health care

OK insurance rates among highest in the country (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/21/health/how-gop-in-2-states-coaxed-the-health-law-to-success-or-crisis.html>)

Rural health care crisis

(https://www.realclearhealth.com/articles/2018/03/15/rural_americas_health_care_crisis.html)

OK nursing homes closing (<http://www.koco.com/article/budget-cuts-threaten-oklahoma-nursing-homes/12790250>)

Health outcomes by Oklahoma county and demographics

(<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/reports/state-reports/2018/oklahoma>), by state (<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/reports/state-reports>), data (<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/use-data>)

OK closed and bankrupt hospitals (<https://newsok.com/article/5542311/oklahomas-bankrupt-and-closed-rural-hospitals>)

Rural hospital closures looming (2017) (<https://nondoc.com/2017/04/26/rural-hospitals-facing-closures/>) (<http://ktul.com/news/local/tulsa-nonprofit-seeks-community-support-as-42-rural-hospitals-are-at-risk-of-closing>)

Not expanding Medicaid causes hospital closures (<https://www.statnews.com/2018/01/08/medicaid-hospital-closures/>)

US has more than double the maternal mortality rate of any other country in the developed world, and US is the only developed country with increasing mortality rates; US rate is 26.4%, next highest country is UK with 9.2% (<https://www.npr.org/2017/05/12/528098789/u-s-has-the-worst-rate-of-maternal-deaths-in-the-developed-world>)

Though rates are declining in most developed countries, including the US, US babies are less likely to survive first year than babies in other developed countries: 3x more likely to die from extreme immaturity and 2.3x more likely to die from SIDS (<http://time.com/5090112/infant-mortality-rate-usa/>)

Infant mortality rates for 2016 higher in Oklahoma than in most states

(https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/infant_mortality_rates/infant_mortality.htm)

OK vs US stats 2016—most recent published

(<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/oklahoma/oklahoma.htm>)

2nd amendment

2018 mass shootings (<https://www.vox.com/a/mass-shootings-america-sandy-hook-gun-violence>)

CDC retracted study that was the basis of the news stories about high rates of suicide among farmers and ranchers because the study misclassified farmers and ranchers as managers instead of as agriculture (VLS-I: presumably, that means the farm/ranch suicide rate will increase once the CDC corrects this, *but that's just my speculation*) (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cdc-retracts-study-that-found-farmers-had-highest-suicide-rates-of-any-occupation/>)

Most recent CDC stats (2015): all suicides—44,193; firearm suicides—22,018 (suffocation—11,855; poisoning—6,818) (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/suicide.htm>)

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention stats (2016): all suicides—44,965; firearm suicide—22,938 (51%), (suffocation—11,642; poisoning—6,698; other—3,687) (<https://afsp.org/about-suicide/suicide-statistics/>)

More gun deaths are suicide than homicide (<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/09/upshot/gun-deaths-are-mostly-suicides.html>)

Gun suicide is more common than gun homicide (<https://www.npr.org/2017/09/30/554789675/report-finds-suicides-are-even-more-common-than-gun-homicides>)

Climate change

<https://science2017.globalchange.gov/chapter/executive-summary/>

Oklahoma Climatological Survey, Statement on Climate Change and Its Implications for Oklahoma, http://water.okstate.edu/documents/external/OCS_climate_statement.pdf

Oklahoma Mortality Data	Deaths	Rate**	U.S. Deaths	U.S. Rate***
Firearm Deaths	766	19.6	38,658	11.8
Homicide	322	8.6	19,362	6.2
Drug Overdose Deaths	813	21.5	63,632	19.8

2016 Stats of the State of Oklahoma

OK Leading Causes of Death, 2016	Deaths	Rate***	State Rank*	U.S. Rate**
1. Heart Disease	10,209	228.2	2nd	165.5
2. Cancer	8,115	177.8	6th	155.8
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	2,794	61.4	4th	40.6
4. Accidents	2,592	64.1	6th	47.4
5. Stroke	1,859	41.8	10th	37.3
6. Alzheimer's disease	1,590	36.1	13th (tie)	30.3
7. Diabetes	1,393	30.8	3rd	21.0

OK Leading Causes of Death, 2016	Deaths	Rate***	State Rank*	U.S. Rate**
8. <u>Suicide</u>	822	21.0	8th	13.5
9. <u>Chronic Liver Disease/Cirrhosis</u>	640	14.6	5th	10.7
10. <u>Kidney Disease</u>	577	12.9	25th	13.1

2016 Stats of the State of Oklahoma

Other Oklahoma Data	State	U.S.
<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u> (Deaths per 1,000 live births)	7.4	5.9
<u>Percentage of Persons Without Health Insurance</u>	16.5	9.0††
<u>Marriage Rate</u>	6.7	6.9
<u>Divorce Rate</u>	4.4	3.2†

2016 Stats of the State of Oklahoma

Oklahoma Engaged survey about trust in government: <https://oklahomaengaged.com/jobs-economy-top-concerns-southeastern-oklahoma>

Oklahoma Engaged—economy is biggest concern:
<https://oklahomaengaged.com/jobs-economy-top-concerns-southeastern-oklahoma>