

## GUIDED READING

### Oklahoma: Land of Opportunity

#### Chapter 19: Oklahoma Government

##### Section 1 State Government

**Directions:** Use the information from pages 494 - 503 to complete the following.

1. Oklahoma officially became the \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States on November 16, \_\_\_\_\_, making it one of the \_\_\_\_\_ states in the Union.
2. The state still operates under the original \_\_\_\_\_ adopted at statehood, with over 175 amendments.
3. The Oklahoma constitution states that all \_\_\_\_\_ power in the state is "inherent in the \_\_\_\_\_; and government is instituted for their \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and to promote their general \_\_\_\_\_; and they have the \_\_\_\_\_ to alter or reform the same whenever the public good may require it: Provided, such change be not repugnant to the Constitution of the United States."
4. Oklahoma's \_\_\_\_\_ branch consists of the following state officials: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ governor, \_\_\_\_\_ of state, state \_\_\_\_\_ and inspector, \_\_\_\_\_ general, state \_\_\_\_\_, superintendent of public instruction, commissioner of labor, commissioner of insurance, and any others provided by law.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of each official is outlined in the Oklahoma constitution.
6. Persons who are \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ years of age or older and who have been \_\_\_\_\_ citizens in Oklahoma for at least ten years are eligible to hold office in the \_\_\_\_\_ branch.
7. Elected officials assume office the second Monday of \_\_\_\_\_ following the \_\_\_\_\_ election.
8. Elected officials in the executive branch may \_\_\_\_\_ themselves in office; however, no person can be elected \_\_\_\_\_ for more than \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive terms.

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9. Oklahoma's \_\_\_\_\_ serves as the chief \_\_\_\_\_ of the state.
10. At the beginning of each \_\_\_\_\_ session, the governor presents the \_\_\_\_\_ recommendations and reports on the overall condition of the state.
11. (A \_\_\_\_\_ is a plan for receiving and spending money.)
12. The governor is also part of the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ process.
13. Every \_\_\_\_\_ passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ during the regular session and prior to adjournment must be presented to the governor before it \_\_\_\_\_ law.
14. The governor can either \_\_\_\_\_ the bill into law or \_\_\_\_\_ it (not approve or sign into law).
15. The position of \_\_\_\_\_ in Oklahoma is similar to that of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States, serving in place of the governor when the chief executive leaves the state, becomes incapacitated, or resigns.
16. Unlike the \_\_\_\_\_ and vice president of the United States, the \_\_\_\_\_ and lieutenant governor are elected on separate \_\_\_\_\_ and conduct individual campaigns.
17. This means that the governor and the lieutenant governor may be members of \_\_\_\_\_ parties.
18. The Oklahoma state \_\_\_\_\_ ensures that all the public's money is properly accounted for once it has been collected or distributed.
19. The **state** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ reviews Oklahoma government activities to ensure they are operated effectively, efficiently, and legally.
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ **commissioner** directs the Oklahoma Insurance Department, which is responsible for providing Oklahomans with service, protection, education, and oversight in insurance and related industries.
21. The \_\_\_\_\_ represents the legal interest of the state and is the state's chief legal officer.

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22. The **superintendent of** \_\_\_\_\_ oversees the Oklahoma Department of Education, whose mission is “to improve student success through: service to schools, parents and students; leadership for education reform; and regulation/deregulation of state and federal laws to provide accountability while removing any barriers to student success.”
23. The **commissioner of** \_\_\_\_\_ is responsible for the enforcement of those labor laws that promote fairness and equity in the workforce, including state wage laws, worker’s compensation, state OSHA laws for public employees, asbestos compliance, and child labor laws.
24. The Oklahoma constitution gives the state’s \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ power to the state \_\_\_\_\_.
25. The Legislature is bicameral and has a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
26. Currently there are \_\_\_\_\_ members of the house and \_\_\_\_\_ members of the senate.
27. Members of the house of representatives must be \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ years of age, and senators must be \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ years of age before taking office.
28. The Legislature meets \_\_\_\_\_ starting at noon on the first Monday in \_\_\_\_\_.
29. Each house of the Legislature is \_\_\_\_\_ independently.
30. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the senate is elected by members of the \_\_\_\_\_ party and sets the agenda for the senate.
31. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the house is elected by the members of the \_\_\_\_\_ party and sets the agenda for the house of representatives.
32. Both the senate and the house consider \_\_\_\_\_ types of legislation: \_\_\_\_\_ (proposed laws) that can become law if passed by both houses and signed by the governor; \_\_\_\_\_ *resolutions*, which have the force and effect of law when they are passed by both houses, but which may not become part of the \_\_\_\_\_ (laws); \_\_\_\_\_ *resolutions*, which indicate the will of both houses; and \_\_\_\_\_ *resolutions* that show the will of the house of origin.

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33. Only \_\_\_\_\_ of the house or senate can \_\_\_\_\_ legislation during the legislative session.
34. If the bill is approved by \_\_\_\_\_ houses, it is sent to the governor to sign into \_\_\_\_\_.
35. Much of the work of the Legislature is completed by the various \_\_\_\_\_.
36. Many of the committees – called \_\_\_\_\_ – are permanent, lasting from one session to the next.
37. Other committees are established for \_\_\_\_\_ tasks and last only as long as they are needed.
38. These include the \_\_\_\_\_ **committee**, which is appointed when the house and senate pass different versions of the same bill.
39. A \_\_\_\_\_ **committee** is made up of members from both houses who \_\_\_\_\_ cooperatively on an assigned topic or issue.
40. The \_\_\_\_\_ system of every state revolves around its \_\_\_\_\_ system.
41. In Oklahoma, this system is made up of the \_\_\_\_\_ court, the court of \_\_\_\_\_ appeals, the court of \_\_\_\_\_ appeals and the \_\_\_\_\_ court.
42. Unlike most states, Oklahoma has \_\_\_\_\_ courts that make the final determination in cases, meaning they are the courts of \_\_\_\_\_.
43. \_\_\_\_\_ **law** cases involve investigating \_\_\_\_\_, prosecuting defendants, and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions.
44. Common criminal law issues include driving under the \_\_\_\_\_, robberies at \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and rape.
45. \_\_\_\_\_ law cases generally involve situations where people have been harmed and some kind of \_\_\_\_\_ award can help resolve the problem.
46. Examples of civil law cases include \_\_\_\_\_, disputes over \_\_\_\_\_ ownership, and disagreements over the terms of contracts.

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47. The Oklahoma \_\_\_\_\_ Court interprets both the state and federal constitutions when making a decision on civil matters.
48. In criminal cases, the court of \_\_\_\_\_ appeals makes the final determination.
49. When there is a question about the jurisdiction of the two courts, the state supreme court \_\_\_\_\_ which court will hear the case.
50. Its decision is final and cannot be \_\_\_\_\_.
51. (To \_\_\_\_\_ means to take a case to a higher court for rehearing.)
52. In addition, the Oklahoma Supreme Court oversees the state's entire \_\_\_\_\_ system.
53. One of the most \_\_\_\_\_ tasks of the Oklahoma Supreme Court is working with the federal judicial system to answer questions raised in federal court cases for which there is \_\_\_\_\_ Oklahoma law.
54. The court of \_\_\_\_\_ appeals hears the majority of civil cases in Oklahoma.
55. The first contact most Oklahomans have with the state's judicial branch is through the \_\_\_\_\_ courts.

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#### Chapter 19: Oklahoma Government

##### Section 2 Local Government

**Directions:** Use the information from pages 506 - 509 to complete the following.

1. Local government in Oklahoma is divided into \_\_\_\_\_ categories:  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Oklahoma has seventy-seven \_\_\_\_\_ specifically named in the Oklahoma constitution, along with the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ for each.
3. (A \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ is the city or town where the county government is located.)
4. One \_\_\_\_\_ *commissioner* is elected from each of the three districts within the county.
5. County commissioners serve on the board of county commissioners and act as the principal \_\_\_\_\_ of the county.
6. The *county* \_\_\_\_\_ is the principal record keeper for the county.
7. The *county* \_\_\_\_\_ serves as the chief financial officer for the county and administers all county monies.
8. The county treasurer receives deposits and maintains records for all county \_\_\_\_\_, keeps records of all payments made by the county, and collects all county \_\_\_\_\_.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ are those taxes that are based on the value of the item being taxed.
10. The *county* \_\_\_\_\_ determines the current value of all taxable real and personal property for ad valorem taxation.
11. The primary responsibilities of the \_\_\_\_\_ are to record, file, and maintain district court proceedings.
12. The *county* \_\_\_\_\_ is the chief law officer responsible for preserving the peace and protecting life and property in the county.

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13. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the chief prosecutor within each of the twenty-seven districts in Oklahoma.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ government in Oklahoma is an outgrowth of the unusual manner in which the state was settled.
15. Local governments are supported by a variety of \_\_\_\_\_ sources, including direct revenue for operational \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for major expenditures or capital improvements.
16. For counties, the ad valorem taxes on real and personal \_\_\_\_\_ are the principal sources of \_\_\_\_\_.
17. On the local level, city \_\_\_\_\_ and use \_\_\_\_\_ are the primary sources of revenue for most municipalities.