

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 HOUSE BILL 1917

By: Fugate

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to elections; amending 26 O.S. 2021,
8 Section 6-102, which relates to unopposed candidates;
9 providing for retention ballots for certain
10 legislative candidates; providing for special
11 election; and providing an effective date.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2021, Section 6-102, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 6-102. A. Any candidate who is unopposed in any
16 election shall be deemed to have been nominated or elected, as the
17 case may be, and his or her name will not appear on the ballot at
18 any election in which he or she is so unopposed.

19 B. If an incumbent candidate for legislative office remains
20 unopposed at the succeeding General Election, the candidate's name
21 shall be placed on a retention ballot. Ballots for retention of
22 legislators shall be printed in the same manner as other ballots for
23 the General Election, except as hereinafter provided. Near the top
24 of the ballot shall be printed the following words: "NOTICE TO

1 VOTER: Vote separately on each legislator; they are not running
2 against each other." Below said words shall appear the legislative
3 district number, as reflected by the numbers of the districts from
4 which said legislators were elected, and this question: "Shall
5 (Here insert name of legislator) be retained in Office?" Said
6 question shall be followed by the words "YES" and "NO", one above
7 the other. If the candidate receives a fifty-one percent (51%)
8 majority of votes in the affirmative, he or she shall retain the
9 legislative office. If the candidate fails to receive a fifty-one
10 percent (51%) majority of votes in the affirmative, a Special
11 Election shall be called pursuant to Section 12-106 of this title to
12 fill the vacancy. The incumbent candidate shall continue to serve
13 until a successor has been elected.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective January 1, 2025.

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16 59-1-5499 LRB 12/28/22

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