

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 HOUSE BILL 2835

By: Burns

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to counties and county officers;  
8 amending 19 O.S. 2021, Section 215.20, which relates  
9 to election of district attorney; directing for  
10 nonpartisan elections of district attorneys; amending  
11 19 O.S. 2021, Section 510, which relates to  
12 qualifications of county sheriff; directing for  
13 nonpartisan elections of county sheriffs; and  
14 providing an effective date.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2021, Section 215.20, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 215.20. A. At the primaries and general elections held  
19 in 1966, and each four (4) years thereafter, there shall be  
20 nominated and elected in each and every district attorney's district  
21 in the State of Oklahoma, a district attorney, who shall hold office  
22 for a term of four (4) years, beginning on the first Monday of  
23 January following ~~his~~ their election, and until ~~his~~ their successor  
24 is elected and qualified.

B. District attorney elections shall be nonpartisan, and all  
candidates shall file as independent candidates. No primary

1 elections shall be held in a nonpartisan election. Each candidate  
2 shall appear on the ballot as an independent candidate without party  
3 or other designation.

4 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 19 O.S. 2021, Section 510, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Section 510. A. Any person, otherwise qualified, who has been  
7 a resident of the State of Oklahoma for two (2) years, ~~has been a~~  
8 ~~registered voter of the party whose nomination he or she seeks, or a~~  
9 ~~registered Independent,~~ within the county from which such person  
10 seeks election for the six (6) months next preceding the first day  
11 of the filing period, is at least twenty-five (25) years of age next  
12 preceding the date of filing for office, possesses at least a high  
13 school education and has served as a duly certified peace officer,  
14 in a full-time capacity, for a period of four (4) years or more  
15 prior to the date of filing for the office of county sheriff, shall  
16 be eligible to hold the office of county sheriff or to file  
17 therefor. Within twelve (12) months of taking office, all newly  
18 elected or appointed sheriffs shall complete a sheriff's  
19 administrative school which has been developed by the Oklahoma  
20 Sheriffs' Association and which has been approved by the Council on  
21 Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET). Failure to complete  
22 the sheriff's administrative school within the specified period  
23 shall preclude the new sheriff from obtaining CLEET certification.  
24 New sheriffs with prior CLEET certification, who fail to attend the

1 sheriff's administrative school, shall have their CLEET  
2 certification revoked. Provided, however, the provisions of this  
3 section relating to qualifications shall not apply to any person  
4 serving as a county sheriff or to any person previously serving as  
5 county sheriff prior to the adoption of this statute.

6 B. County sheriff elections shall be nonpartisan, and all  
7 candidates shall file as independent candidates. No primary  
8 elections shall be held in a nonpartisan election. Each candidate  
9 shall appear on the ballot as an independent candidate without party  
10 or other designation.

11 C. For purposes of this section, "peace officer" shall mean a  
12 full-time duly appointed or elected officer who is paid for working  
13 more than twenty-five (25) hours per week and whose duties are to  
14 preserve the public peace, protect life and property, prevent crime,  
15 serve warrants, and enforce state, federal or military laws and  
16 local ordinances of this state or any political subdivision thereof.

17 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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