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Oklahoma Coalition of Independents (OKIES) Forms

Independents and third party members across Oklahoma recently formed to recruit Independent candidates and advocate open ballot access for third parties. The Oklahoma Coalition of Independents (OKIES) is made up of those who want their voice heard in state and local government, but do not fit into the two establishment parties. Members have many different views on specific policies, but agree that a government accountable to the people is essential.

Oklahoma voters will have only one choice in 38 Oklahoma House elections this November. In those districts, independents and voters not in the party of the candidate and will have no say in electing their representatives. OKIES hopes to recruit candidates in potentially open districts so voters will have a choice.

Oklahoma was also the only state in 2004 allowing just two choices for president. Half of the states had at least six candidates on the ballot. This is because Oklahoma has the most restrictive ballot access laws in the nation, forcing third party candidates to run as Independents or to be kept off the ballot.

Over 200,000 Oklahomans are registered as Independents, about 11 percent of registered voters. Through our growing network, OKIES seeks to give these Oklahomans a stronger voice in their government.

www.OKIES.info