



# SAC AND FOX NATION VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

Each candidate who was on the ballot for the Oklahoma statewide runoff primary elections on August 28, 2018 and the general elections on November 6, 2018 was sent a questionnaire by the Business Committee of the Sac and Fox Nation and given an opportunity to respond. The Business Committee is happy to share the responses they received with the readers of the Sac and Fox News. It is emphasized that the Business Committee has not endorsed any candidates.

The following is meant to be helpful information for tribal members as they prepare to vote. The Oklahoma election cycle does not typically focus on issues in Indian Country. Therefore, the Business Committee is working to bring these issues to the attention of statewide candidates for office.

The following candidates submitted answers to the questionnaire and will appear on the November 6th statewide General Election ballot: Governor: Drew Edmondson (D); Attorney General: Mark Myles (D); Commissioner of Labor: Leslie Osborn (R); and, Corporation Commissioner: Bob Anthony (R). Each response was limited to approximately 150 words. Again, the Business Committee does not endorse candidates; these questions and responses are for informational purposes only. If you need additional information or have questions about voting, please contact the Oklahoma State Election Board at (405) 521-2391.

## Candidate Information

Name: Drew Edmondson

Party: Democrat

Occupation: Attorney, former Oklahoma Attorney General

Education and Experience: Northeastern State University, Tulsa University Law School, Navy Veteran, Teacher, District Attorney, Oklahoma Attorney General

## Questions

### **1. Do you have experience working with tribes?**

Yes. As District Attorney in Muskogee County from 1982-1992, I worked with the Cherokees and the Creeks on cross-deputizing agreements. As Attorney General, from 1995 to 2011, I stayed in contact with tribes on issues of mutual importance, including gaming and tobacco. I also participated in a number of sovereignty symposiums as either a panel member or moderator.

### **2. If elected, how will you and your staff interact with tribes?**

As Governor I will work with the tribes in recognition of the sovereign nations that they are. Our relationship will be a partnership, because together the state and tribal authorities can accomplish much more than working alone or against each other. My door will always be open to tribal leaders.

### **3. If elected, how will you work to protect and preserve Oklahoma's natural resources?**

I have a long history of protecting Oklahoma's great natural resources, and I have every intention of continuing to do so in the Governor's office. Clean water is essential for our health, but is also an economic driver for the tourism industry. Our soil supports an agricultural industry that is important to our identity. We are also blessed with abundant energy resources that make us a key player in a booming economy. I intend to do everything possible to protect these resources and ensure they benefit the people of Oklahoma.

### **4. If elected, how will you work to ensure the safety of people living near the "Pipeline Crossroads of the World" in Cushing?**

Any economic development project has to be weighed against the environmental costs. Environmental catastrophes can have impacts that last longer than any economic benefits. It is necessary to do all we can to ensure that pipelines are constructed and maintained in the safest way possible to protect our other natural resources from pollution. As Governor, I would not forget tribal sovereignty in new pipeline projects.

### **5. If elected, how will you and your staff approach compact negotiations?**

Tribes have been valuable economic forces for the state and people of Oklahoma, and as Governor I would do nothing to damage that situation. In compact negotiations I intend to work together with tribes to reach mutually beneficial agreements.

### **6. In 2011, the State of Oklahoma dissolved the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission. There is now a Secretary of Native American Affairs appointed by the Governor. Do you think this was a positive change or not?**

State government often makes empty gestures in the name of efficiency or reform. In my administration tribal concerns will be a top priority, irrespective of whether they are better served through a commission or a cabinet position. It is my belief that an Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission could be re-established without losing cabinet secretary status.

### **7. Do you have a plan to increase tribal representation on state boards and commissions? If so, please explain.**

State boards and commissions should reflect the diversity of Oklahoma. I will always make diversity a priority when making appointments.

### **8. What is your position on tribal sovereignty?**

Tribal Sovereignty is not subject to the whims of a state; it is embedded and protected in the U.S. Constitution and the treaties that have been entered into between the federal government and tribal leaders over the centuries. I recognize tribal sovereignty and have no intention of violating it. My relationship with any tribe will be a partnership on a level playing field.

### **9. How will you ensure Oklahoma participates in meaningful government-to-government consultations with tribes?**

I plan on having constant and open communication with the tribes of Oklahoma. The State of Oklahoma and tribal authorities will always benefit from working together. I will do all that I can to encourage the State Legislature to work as closely with the tribes as I plan to.

### **10. Provide an example of when you have been an advocate for Native Americans in your personal or professional life. What was the result?**

I worked closely with the Cherokee Nation on protecting the Illinois river, I worked with several tribes on cross-deputization efforts, and I have been a long-time participant in sovereignty symposiums.

## Candidate Information

Name: Mark Myles

Party: Democrat

Occupation: Counselor & Attorney at Law, M. Mark Myles, P.C.

Education and Experience: Bachelor of Arts, Economics, Oklahoma State University, Juris Doctor, University of Oklahoma College of Law, Ten years as private attorney, contract OIDS public defender, or Assistant District Attorney

## Questions

### **1. Do you have experience working with tribes?**

I have worked with the Comanche, Kiowa, Apache, Wichita, and Wichita Affiliated tribes in support of getting treatment options for tribal members accused of drug offenses in Caddo County. As the member Assistant District Attorney of the Logan County Coordinated Community Response Team I worked with the Iowa Nation to help battle domestic and sexual abuse in Logan County in the Native American and non-native communities.

### **2. If elected, how will you and your staff interact with tribes?**

The Attorney General is integrally involved in negotiations with the tribal nations and as the Attorney General I will fully respect tribal sovereignty. My belief is the tribal

nations enjoy sovereignty which is not a grant or option, but a right fully vested in the US Constitution. Those rights are to be fully respected in my office, if I am elected. If elected, I would enjoy the opportunity to negotiate with the tribes on all of the issues that will naturally arise as a consequence of twin sovereignties, including but not limited to water rights, gaming compacts including potentially sports betting in light of the recent Supreme Court decision and whatever else might arise.

### **3. Provide an example of when you have been an advocate for Native Americans in your personal or professional life. What was the result?**

Professionally, I was an advocate for a tribal member who was charged in Oklahoma District Court where I successfully argued for the dismissal of charges for an alleged offense committed on tribal lands by a tribal member for the reason of no jurisdiction. Her charges were dismissed. Personally, I gave the eulogy for one of my lifelong friends, Ron Evans, a member of the Comanche Nation who died tragically before his time.

### **4. If elected, how can your office collaborate with sovereign nations to encourage positive government-to-government communication?**

If elected, I will establish a point person charged with the responsibility of working with their counterpart in the sovereign nations to communicate issues. Further, I will establish personal relationships with the heads of each sovereign nation to ensure that any and all significant issues are positively communicated at the highest levels. If working groups need to be established to work through any issues that need to be resolved, I will ensure that the proper resources are dedicated to the job to further encourage positive government-to-government communication.

## Candidate Information

Name: Bob Anthony

Party: Republican

Occupation: Corporation Commissioner

Education and Experience: Bob Anthony holds a B.S. degree from the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania, an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics, an M.A. from Yale University, and an M.P.A. from Harvard University. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve to the rank of captain. Anthony was president of the C. R. Anthony Company when it was the largest privately-owned company headquartered in Oklahoma. During his seven years as president, annual sales, payroll, and profits for the retail chain reached all-time record levels. Anthony has served five terms on the Corporation Commission and six times as its chairman. For his work fighting corruption, the F.B.I. honored Anthony with its highest award given to a citizen who "at great personal sacrifice, has unselfishly served his community and the nation." He is one of only five state regulators on the National Petroleum Council, having been appointed by five U.S. Secretaries of Energy across three administrations.

## Questions

### **1. Do you have experience working with tribes?**

In his life, Bob Anthony has worked with tribal members and tribal governments in a variety of capacities. Examples: When he was 14 years old, working in the C.R. Anthony store in The Village in north Oklahoma City, Bob's boss, the store manager, was a member of the Muscogee Nation. Later, as president of the company with more than 300 stores in 21 western states, Anthonys counted thousands of tribal members among its employees and customers, including Sac and Fox Second Chief Merle Boyd who managed the C.R. Anthony Co. distribution center. At the Corporation Commission, Bob Anthony worked with Gena Timberman and the Native American Cultural and Education Authority to plug dozens of abandoned wells on the site of the planned American Indian Cultural Center so construction of the new museum could begin.

### **2. If elected, how will you and your staff interact with tribes?**

Commissioner Anthony's longtime executive assistant is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and interactions between Commissioner Anthony's office and the tribes have always been cordial and respectful. As a corporation commissioner, it is Bob Anthony's duty to represent the interests of all Oklahomans, including the tribes. But because the Corporation Commission has little jurisdiction over tribal lands, his work with the tribes on official OCC matters has, necessarily, been limited. That said, some tribal libraries and tribal health care facilities have received funds from the OCC-administered Oklahoma Universal Service Fund which assures affordable Internet access in order to facilitate distance learning and telemedicine, among other modern technology services. Also, when Commissioner Anthony was president of the Mid-America Regulatory Conference and Oklahoma City hosted the MARC Annual Meeting in 2008, he invited members of the Choctaw Nation to offer a prayer in their native language to open the proceedings.

### **3. If elected, how will you work to protect and preserve Oklahoma's natural resources?**

Very early in his career, Bob Anthony worked as staff economist for the U.S. House Interior Committee (now the Natural Resources Committee). Thus, his involvement protecting natural resources is lengthy. Currently, at the OCC, he has oversight responsibilities for numerous issues with direct environmental impact. The OCC's Petroleum Storage Tank Division assures the integrity of fuel storage tanks at service stations to prevent leaks. The OCC's Oil and Gas Conservation Division enforces environmental safety regulations at oil and natural gas drilling sites. It also sometimes works with the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management to enforce environmental protections on tribal lands when tribes lack the financial resources to fund their own enforcement activities. Commissioner Anthony believes protecting and preserving Oklahoma's natural resources is a duty of his office. He has supported the commission's focus on compliance with laws and rules, and when necessary, he has actively engaged in enforcement efforts that have resulted in fines or the cancellation of permits to operate.

### **4. If elected, how will you work to ensure the safety of people living near the "Pipeline Crossroads of the World" in Cushing?**

Bob Anthony's family has a long history in Cushing – the first C.R. Anthony store opened there in 1922. As a corporation commissioner, he believes in "safety always" and fully supports the efforts of the agency's Pipeline Safety Department as it enforces construction and operational safety standards for pipelines statewide. More broadly he has served on a pipeline safety committee of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and in July 2018, he personally met with several senior officials of the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Commissioner Anthony also serves on a committee of the Gas Technology Institute that advances pipeline integrity and safety. Regarding the threat of earthquakes, the Commission's actions curtailing or shutting down disposal wells near certain earthquake epicenters are producing the desired results. In recent years the number of earthquakes in Oklahoma has declined steadily from roughly five a day, to three a day, then one a day, with 2018's data indicating still further declines.

### **5. Provide an example of when you have been an advocate for Native Americans in your personal or professional life. What was the result?**

As a member of the Board of Church and Society of the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church and a lay delegate to the UMC's worldwide General Conferences in 2008 and 2012, Bob Anthony supported and participated in the "Act of Repentance Toward Healing Relationships With Indigenous People," a worship service coordinated by leaders of the Oklahoma and Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conferences alongside Native Methodists from across the country at which Methodists from around the world repented for the church's cooperation with and complicity in injustices perpetrated upon indigenous peoples. (More Voter Guide on Page 19)