

# THE GRIDER LEDGER

Exposing the game and ending the game: Because public service shouldn't be for sale

STATE HOUSE  
**KARMIN  
GRIDER**  
REPUBLICAN



## INSIDE

See the Map:  
Massive, New, High Voltage  
Transmission Line to Rip  
Through Logan County

See Page 5

## Must Read

### Karmin's Plan to End the Property Tax Game

As Karmin Grider has gone door-to-door throughout House District 31, she has heard the same concern time and again—ever-increasing property taxes.

In Oklahoma, property taxes are calculated through an incredibly complex formula that few understand. Numerous government entities stack their own millages on each piece of legislation—running them through a tangled formula—resulting in more and more increases, year after year.

Homeowners feel like helpless renters.

They know something is wrong, yet the existence and complexity of the property tax system makes them feel there's nothing they can do about it.

This entitlement paid to the government has turned the state into a merciless landlord.

Tax levels keep climbing, and the people are being forced to pay an ever-growing, confiscatory tax bill or risk losing the very property they worked and saved a lifetime to earn.

Many are realizing too late that even though they have paid off their mortgage, they don't truly own their homes—they're just renting them from the government.

And the local governments' coffers are bulging based on an avalanche of new revenues from the tax.

In just Logan County alone, total property valuations have soared from \$344 million dollars in 2016 to today's absolutely mind-boggling total of \$654 million dollars.

Worse still, the sitting state representative doesn't seem to realize how badly people are suffering. He hasn't sponsored a single initiative to fix the ever-consuming property tax problem—at least

## The Lobbyists Have Had Their Turn—Now It's Ours

Karmin Grider's plan to end the game, the big grift by which our legislator takes lobbyist money and then keeps betraying our values.

For too long, politics at the State Capitol has been a rigged game—one where powerful lobbyists call the shots and everyday Oklahomans are told that their state representatives are "conservatives" working for the people, but they are really working for their financiers. Karmin Grider is running for House District 31 to end this game, not play it.

In her first campaign in 2022, Karmin refused lobbyist money and stood solely on principle. Despite being massively outspent and targeted by dark money groups supporting her opponent, Collin Duel, she came within just 206 votes of victory. Since then, time has proven her right. Duel has continued taking thousands from special interests while regularly betraying the conservative values he claimed to represent.

Meanwhile, Grider has kept working for transparency. Through her work on the Oklahoma Campaigns Transparency Project, she helped expose how out-of-district—and even out-of-state—money floods into legislative races. She's seen firsthand how "*convenient conservatives*" say what voters want to hear at home, then return to Oklahoma City to play the game—siding with lobbyists and big donors over the people who elected them.

Karmin Grider is different. She has signed a No Lobbyist Money Pledge and is calling on other candidates to do the same. Her message is simple: public office is a public trust, not a career path for those who betray the people.

As Collin Duel spends more time with lobbyists in Oklahoma City, Karmin has been walking neighborhoods, talking to voters, and showing first hand how she will be rebuilding the connection between District 31 and its representative. She's heard the frustration—about stalled road projects, broken promises, and the feeling that Guthrie and surrounding communities have been forgotten. Many local residents don't even

know the name of their state representative, and multiple residents have told Karmin that they are being ignored, their calls unreturned. It's clear that House District 31 residents simply don't have a voice at the Capitol.

Karmin Grider believes it's time to change that. She's running to restore that voice. She will return to the days when the state representative held regular town hall meetings, will renew regular direct, email communication with constituents, will actually return



File Photo, June 2014 — Waterloo Road Baptist Church: A packed house at the District 31 town hall meeting. Karmin Grider says it's time to return to days like this—when residents knew what was happening, when roads would be paved, and when their representative showed up to listen.

calls, and will refocus government on its core purposes—well-maintained roads, property tax reform that drives down punitive property tax bills (paid for with an aggressive DOGE project), and a return to conservative voting on bills and proposals.

On June 16, 2026, voters will have the opportunity to reclaim the future and send a message to the Capitol: the game is over. It's time for real representation.

Karmin Grider is running to end the corrupt game—once and for all.

See **KARMIN'S END THE TAX PLAN**, Page 4



A sign posted outside Representative Tom Gann's office puts Capitol lobbyists on notice—no gifts accepted. The message draws a clear line and Karmin will use a similar approach as our State Representative.



# Mission: Pave the Roads and Free the Pikes

Ending OTA's Grip & Double-Dip, Restoring Integrity and Dignity

## The Oklahoma State Capital

### Karmin Grider is Set to Return Conservative Values to Our House District

*Karmin Grider is set to defeat the dark-money system that has corrupted Oklahoma politics and betrayed the conservative voters of House District 31.*

Four years ago, Karmin Grider—having become aware that the local state representative's votes and values were far to the left of the voters of this House district—courageously stepped up to hold him to account. She joined a small but growing group of Oklahoma candidates who know that the system is broken and are tired of being betrayed by the many “Republican” politicians who talk like conservatives but vote like liberals.

Their solution? Run for office on a platform of not taking money from lobbyists. It's that money that is the number one factor in why politicians have become so very dastardly. The premise? Until we stop electing those who take this money, nothing is going to change. The classic definition of insanity is here apropos: doing the same thing but expecting a different result.

**“It may not matter how much the dark-money forces spend—even if it's a million dollars. The truth, combined with Karmin Grider's determination and hard work, will win the day.”**

**- JASON MURPHEY**

Grider's platform of small-government conservatism focused heavily on real, policy solutions and, most importantly, included the promise that she wouldn't change after election day, as so many elected officials do—because she wouldn't be influenced by the monied special interests who fund politicians' campaigns.

As Grider's challenge brought pressure on that incumbent and threatened to expose his many values-betraying votes to the electorate, he perhaps saw the writing on the wall—because he soon announced that he wasn't going to run again.

Instead, a new candidate stepped forward who calls himself Collin Duel and he hired the state's best political consultants, and was backed by powerful politicians and dark money.

Those of us who have been around long enough knew immediately that this new candidate



Many thousands of dollars' worth of direct mail flooded House District 31 mailboxes throughout the 2022 campaign season. Many dark-money pieces attempted to persuade voters to support their candidate, Collin Duel. They are expected to once again flood mailboxes during this campaign season as they attempt to convince voters to keep their candidate in office and try to deceive the public into overlooking Duel's many bad votes that betrayed our values.

would be forever beholden to the same special interests who spent thousands of dollars to get him elected.

And since that time, it's become clear we were right. His votes reflect that loyalty to the special interests and politicians. Time and again, he has voted against the values of openness, transparency, and small government that are deeply held by the local electorate.

They are conservatives, not liberals and they deserve to be represented by someone who holds and stands by their values.

This year, The Oklahoma State Capital published the first-ever People's Audit—a measurement of the 93 worst votes taken during the 2025 legislative session.

These are the “What were they thinking?” votes—where the House voted to grow the government, approve high fees on the people, thwart transparency, sign off on unthinkably wasteful spending, and indulge in corporate welfare giveaways.

Out of those 93 graded votes, the incumbent voted the right way just 10 times. Readers can review this audit—and the actual bills—at: [oklahomastatecapital.com/sl/pa2025](http://oklahomastatecapital.com/sl/pa2025).

Now, once again, Karmin Grider is stepping forward to make the sacrifice of giving voters a choice. She is set to restore to

House District 31 what we deserve: a state representative who truly believes in small-government values and who will prove her commitment by refusing to touch that dirty money.

Four years ago, despite being outspent by tens of thousands of dollars, Grider nearly won the election.

And she hasn't let the most heinous, despicable dark-money attacks in the modern history of our district hold her back. Instead, she has waited—let history prove her right, and let the incumbent expose himself by casting his many values-betraying votes.

Once again, the dark forces who are cashing in on the corrupt system at the Capitol will likely pull out all the stops to keep their candidate in office.

But this time, the people of House District 31 have the proof before them: the incumbent's own record of values-betraying votes.

It may not matter how much the dark-money forces spend—even if it's a million dollars. The truth, combined with Karmin Grider's determination and hard work, will win the day.

And for the first time since 2018, the conservative voters of House District 31 will finally be represented by what they deserve: an actual conservative who will vote according to conservative values.

It doesn't take much effort to catch politicians complaining about “declining gas taxes.”

All you have to do is turn your ear toward the Capitol and tune it to the right frequency of entitlement.

The truth is, those taxes you pay at the pump that they claim “aren't enough” actually aren't enough because of what they spend them on. And few examples make that clearer than Oklahoma's turnpikes, the perfect example of the “political game”—insiders win, taxpayers lose.

**The Great Turnpike Myth**

For decades, Oklahomans have been told the state's turnpikes are funded solely through toll revenue and bond sales—not tax dollars—and that once those roads are paid off, they'll become free to use. Setting intentions aside, 79 years later we can now see that was a lie.

Tolls are collected on each turnpike—yet not a single one has become free. As for “sole revenue funding,” in 2024, over \$61.9 million in motor-fuel taxes were handed to the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA). The year before that, the number was \$55.4 million. That's gas-tax money collected from every Oklahoma driver—whether they use the turnpikes or not—quietly funneled to an unelected agency with the power to use eminent domain, issue billions in debt, and raise tolls at will.

**A Promise Broken Since 1947**

The Turner Turnpike, Oklahoma's first toll road, was authorized in 1947 with the promise it would become free once its bonds were paid off. But by 1954, OTA—on its own, without a ballot initiative or legislative approval—switched to cross-pledging of toll revenues, and the promise vanished.

Here's how it worked: in-

This article has been reprinted with permission from *The Oklahoma State Capital*. In this opinion piece, former Government Modernization Chairman Jason Murphey, who represented House District 31 from 2006-2018 recognizes Karmin Grider's stand on principle and her ability to return conservative representation to our house district.



# BETRAYED BY OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Exposing the Game in Action: Collin Duel shows how the Capitol really works.

As part of her 2025 campaign, Karmin Grider knows she must show her work: expose the game by showing the people of House District 31 how it’s being played—how our state representative campaigns as a conservative but regularly votes to betray our values.

This list is the first step in Karmin’s effort to educate the voter, inform them of what is really going on in Oklahoma City, and allow them to fix the situation with their vote on June 16th.

Stay tuned to Karmin’s campaign as she continues to expose these votes and remains courageous and unafraid to bring the truth into public view.

**Assault on Transparency: Duel Was the Deciding Vote to Approve Midnight Voting (HRC 1002-25)**

In an abdication of long-standing tradition, Duel voted to suspend the rules and allow the House to meet and vote after midnight. It is believed to be the first time this has occurred in at least 20 years—and the first time Republican representatives have suspended this important rule.

The measure passed by just one vote. Because of Duel’s vote, the House conducted business while we the people slept, taking important votes that affect all of us until nearly 2 a.m. As the saying goes, nothing good happens after midnight.

**Out-of-Control Spending: Duel Voted to Extend the Cow-Food Vending-Machine Fund (HB 1571-25)**

With his vote, Duel gave eternal life to a government program that has access to an “off-the-top” funding account—money that bypasses the

normal legislative appropriation process.

This program has been used to fund wasteful items like a cow-food vending machine, a bridge to nowhere that can’t even carry vehicle traffic, and resort signage placed on privately owned property—all at taxpayer expense.

The program appears to be wasting about six million of our dollars every single year, and this waste will continue for years into the future because of this vote.

**The \$255 Million Mega-Giveaway to a Corporation From the United Arab Emirates (HB 2781-25)**

Duel signed off on a special \$255 million giveaway to benefit an international corporate interest from the United Arab Emirates. While regular Oklahomans struggle to stay above inflation and pay their taxes, Duel is giving special benefits to foreign corporations that do not have a vested interest in maintaining our American, Judeo-Christian culture—and who, with the benefit of our taxes, will move to Oklahoma and forever impact our values and culture, a culture that is already struggling to survive. And, worse, Duel voted for the plan, even though it had only been made public three days earlier, on a weekend, when the public wasn’t likely to be paying attention.

**Duel Voted to Allow Cities to Take Private Property (HB 2147-25)**

Duel voted to allow city governments to foreclose on private property. While the new law doesn’t yet apply to “owner-occupied” homes, it sets a dangerous precedent—incentivizing greedy

local governments to fine and assess properties with the ultimate goal of taking them. This marks a sharp departure from long-standing Oklahoma jurisprudence, which allowed cities to place liens but not to seize property through foreclosure. With Duel’s vote, that protection is gone—and the door is now open for government to take what doesn’t belong to it.

**Duel Voted to Let Aliens Arrest Americans (HB 1190-25)**

Duel had a choice: stand with American citizens or side with the globalist agenda. He chose the latter. He voted against a simple, common-sense reform that would’ve ensured only American citizens have the power to become police officers and arrest, detain, or even use deadly force under color of law.

According to Duel, non-citizens can wear the badge and wield the authority of the state over you and your family. This is one of the latest woke trends in liberal states like California, New Mexico, and Illinois. It shouldn’t be in Oklahoma. The reform failed in the House by just a few votes—and Duel was part of the reason why.

**How Duel Sided With the Illegal Invasion and Hid Its Impact on Our Schools (SJR 22-25 – To Table Amendment)**

When the Department of Education attempted to find out how many illegal aliens are skewing the results of Oklahoma’s education system—driving down test scores and potentially distorting the funding formula by pulling funds away from our local districts and sending them to those overrun by the illegal-alien invasion—Duel stood in the way.

He voted to table their request, ensuring that Oklahomans can’t find out just how many hundreds of millions of dollars this crisis is costing our education system each year.

One estimate puts the impact at \$400 million a year.

# WHEN LIFE AND JUSTICE WERE ON THE LINE, COLLIN DUEL VOTED NO

Collin Duel wouldn’t let the people of Oklahoma vote on one of the most important reforms: He stood with the liberal lawyers bar, not the people.

During the 2024 legislative session, right-to-life advocates pleaded with legislators—including our state representative, Collin Duel—to simply let the people of Oklahoma vote on one vital reform: removing the authority of the liberal Bar Association to pick the nominees to be our state’s judges.

The Bar isn’t elected by the people. Its members are overwhelmingly liberal. Public records show that since the year 2000, nearly 70 percent of the Bar’s “judge pickers” have donated to Democrats—including Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

This is an outrage to the principles of representative government. It has created a red-state, blue-judiciary dynamic that forces conservative Oklahomans to plead their cases before radical, leftist ideologues in black robes. This isn’t justice. Justice demands that we the people be judged by a representative sample of our peers. Oklahoma’s judiciary is not representative of its conservative populace.

Over the past few years, these activist judges have twisted the law to fit their ideology: striking down voter-ID protections, removing the Ten Commandments from the Capitol, reversing a key income-tax cut, and gutting nearly every pro-life law passed to protect the unborn. In 2020, they even struck down verification for mail-in absentee ballots—opening up our election system to fraud on a magnitude that is hard

to comprehend. That’s why pro-life Oklahomans begged legislators to let the people vote to end the power of this unelected, private, liberal organization. They proposed a common-sense reform—SJR 34 (2024), letting the people of Oklahoma decide to allow the governor to pick the nominees and the Senate to confirm them, just as our Founding Fathers designed for our national government. In this way, the values of the people would be represented—not the liberal, leftist lawyers. But Collin Duel, an attorney himself, turned a deaf ear to the repeated pleas of the right-to-life advocates. Instead, he sided with the liberal lawyers and the Democrats in the House—his own professional class—who celebrated when the reform was killed. When Duel cast that vote, he made it clear: he’s not standing with the people of District 31. He’s standing with the attorneys and the political and judicial elites living in their Oklahoma City high-society bubble.

And liberal lawyers have made sure Duel has been well taken care of—pouring thousands into his campaign coffers. One liberal lawyer PAC, which frequently supports the most left-wing Democrat legislators, has given thousands to Duel. Why is a liberal lawyers’ association giving so much to a “Republican” legislator—one whose mail pieces tout his “conservatism”? Karmin Grider believes this is all a big game—a grift. At least when the

### The Oklahoma State Capital

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#### Duel, Talley and Liberal Republican Legislators Join Democrats to Defeat Pro-Life Judicial Reform

Pro-life advocates defeated as Democrats celebrated after local representatives Collin Duel, John Talley and a group of left-leaning Republicans joined the Democrats to defeat a key pro-life proposal.

By OSC Staff | Information Date of Relevance (IDR) Time: April 17th, 2024 at 03:42 PM



PHOTO OF THE DAY



GUTHRIE, Okla. (October 6, 2023) — The harvest moon rises over Guthrie Lake on a warm fall night.

EXCLUSIVELY FROM THE CAPITAL

House Candidate Raises Alarm Over Guthrie Library Display



After Defeat, Charlie Meadows Reemerges With Renewed Push for TIC Platform



Pictured: The Oklahoma State Capital reports on House District 31’s Collin Duel’s betrayal of the pro-life cause.

liberals finance the liberal Democrats, there’s truth in advertising. But in our case, we have a state representative who campaigns as a conservative, funded by liberal trial

**“But Collin Duel, an attorney himself, turned a deaf ear to the repeated pleas of the right-to-life advocates. Instead, he sided with the liberal lawyers and the Democrats in the House—his own professional class—who celebrated when the reform was killed.”**

lawyer money, and then betrays us on some of the most important votes.

Duel wouldn’t even let the people of Oklahoma vote on the reform. But there’s good news: on June 16th, we will get to vote on Duel.

Will the people return him to office—rewarding the liberal lawyers’

organization and maintaining their ability to sway judicial appointments?

Or will “we the people” serve justice and replace him with someone who will never have any loyalty to the liberal lawyer class—or any special-interest group for that matter—because she won’t take a dime from the lobbyist-represented special interests?

A vote for Karmin Grider is a vote to take power back from the political elite who are terrified of giving conservative Oklahomans a voice. She will always stand with the people—not the lobbyists, not the lawyers, and not the special interest—and she’ll fight to restore power to the everyday citizens who make our state great, starting with the “blue” court system.

And as for Duel, he’ll be just fine. He’ll return to the world of attorneys and lawyers, having toed their line and defended the liberal lawyer status quo.

But the people will have sent a strong message: we only elect those who represent our values—not the special interests.



# Karmin Grider’s 2026 Mission: End the Game and Restore the People’s Voice

Karmin Grider’s 2026 mission takes aim at protecting the peoples’ pockets, property, and their legacies. From property taxes to utility rates, government spending is spiraling out of control due to overreach, mismanagement, and legalized corruption.

She wants to end this game of enriching special interests and return the focus of government to the basics: protecting our rights, funding roads, and keeping the public safety system strong, as well as implement the Make Oklahoma Great Again and Make Oklahoma Healthy Again agendas—which mean pushing back on the green-energy invasions of our lands, supporting State Representative Jim Shaw’s Save Our State Plan, and restoring transparent, open government—beginning right here in House District 31.

And she’s completely unafraid to propose real DOGE (Downsize Oklahoma Government and Expenditures), cutting millions in spending with a special focus on the massive, indefensible waste and pork that enrich state government and special interests at the expense of hard-working Oklahomans. From government advertising and travel to the many millions in corporate-welfare handouts, Karmin wants to significantly reduce the size of Oklahoma’s massive state budget.

Our constitutional rights will find no greater ally than Karmin. From defending the right to life and the Second Amendment, to holding strong against the ongoing assault on freedom of speech, to shielding the innocence of our children against the destruction of “woke,” and to safeguarding the dignity of our elders, Karmin will be there.

Over the past months, she has knocked on hundreds of doors—visiting with the people and listening to their voices. Her mission incorporates the concerns and suggestions of the people.

This is what representative government should look like: where the elected representative isn’t carrying bills for government agencies and special interests, but is instead working on ideas from regular hard-working people who live their lives and try to make things better for the next generation.

The politicians and lobbyists who comprise the Capitol Club are the polar opposite—the anathema to the regular person and to traditional American values. Yes, they purport to represent those values in their endless mailers and commercials, and they may cast a good vote

## Karmin Grider’s “End the Property Tax” Plan

Continued from Page 1

not as of the date of this publication.

Out of the approximately seventy bills he has sponsored or co-sponsored, the only ad valorem—titled proposal he appears to have carried was one that reinforced the ability to take property from its owners (HB 2147-25). How could this be so? Put simply, he’s playing the political game with lobbyists down at the Capitol—taking their money and spending nights out on the town with them. For example, as of May 20th, 2025, Duel has had approximately 176 meals with lobbyists. Yet how many local town halls has he conducted? Have you heard of any?

Karmin Grider, however, is different. She has been on the ground in the district, going door-to-door and talking to residents with much at stake—not the lobbyists—and she knows the pain people are feeling. She has and will continue to say no to special-interest and lobbyist money. She won’t be living their high lifestyle after she defeats Duel. Instead, she will work hard, introduce a plan for real reform—based on the Florida plan being advanced in that state by their governor—and she will keep fighting for it for as long as she is our state representative.

Her plan takes a multi-faceted approach to significantly reducing the impact of this tax, restoring fairness, and protecting homeownership in Oklahoma. Property tax reform is an increasingly complicated subject. There are many barriers to true reform, but Karmin is introducing a meaningful, doable, realistic plan for first stopping the pain and then systematically attacking the issue until outright elimination of the tax becomes a feasible goal.

### 1. Index the Homestead Exemption to Inflation and Lower the Base Rate

Karmin’s plan will tie the homestead exemption to inflation so that the baseline exemption increases along with the cost of living. Right now, the government is running a scam: valuations rise with or faster than inflation, but the base homestead exemption stays frozen. Karmin’s plan will fix that imbalance once and for all. Additionally, Karmin will lower the base rate from an 11% floor to a more reasonable amount. As the saying goes, even God only asks for 10%—why should the government get more than that?

### 2. Copy the Florida Plan and Fund a De-Stacking Phase-Out with an Aggressive DOGE Program

Karmin will launch an aggressive DOGE (Downsize Oklahoma Government and Expenditures) initiative to cut millions in wasteful government spending and redirect those dollars to the Ad Val-

orem Reimbursement Fund. Over the past few years, state spending has far outpaced both inflation and population growth. Karmin’s plan will trim this excess spending and use those savings to fund the property tax phase-out. The subsequent fund will be used to cap and then de-stack the mills, starting with the four mills for the Health Department. There’s no reason for local property owners to subsidize state government health departments through their property taxes. That should go away first—followed by other components of the stack. This systematic elimination of the property tax is based on the plan being put forward in Florida as they seek to unwind their property tax system there.

### 3. No More Confiscation of “Forever Homes.”

Karmin believes that the government must allow senior-citizen-owned, owner-occupied homes to defer payment on all non-sinking fund assessments until the sale of that home, if the owner prefers. This will prevent the government from taking the home and defer any tax liabilities until that home is sold—thus allowing seniors to keep their “forever” home that they have worked a lifetime to earn. That deferment will be carried by the Ad Valorem Reimbursement Fund, funded by savings from the DOGE program.

### 4. End the Expansion of Corporate Welfare Giveaway Districts

Karmin will work to end the explosion of corporate giveaway districts across the state. These districts create a moral hazard by enticing developers to create new tax-exempt zones—even for projects that would have occurred without the special exemption—putting holes in the property tax base to the benefit of the few and risking the transfer of the burden onto everyone else. They do this through a variety of complicated, opaque shifting mechanisms that are an insult to transparency and breed what amounts to legalized corruption.

### 5. Bring Real Transparency to the Property Tax System

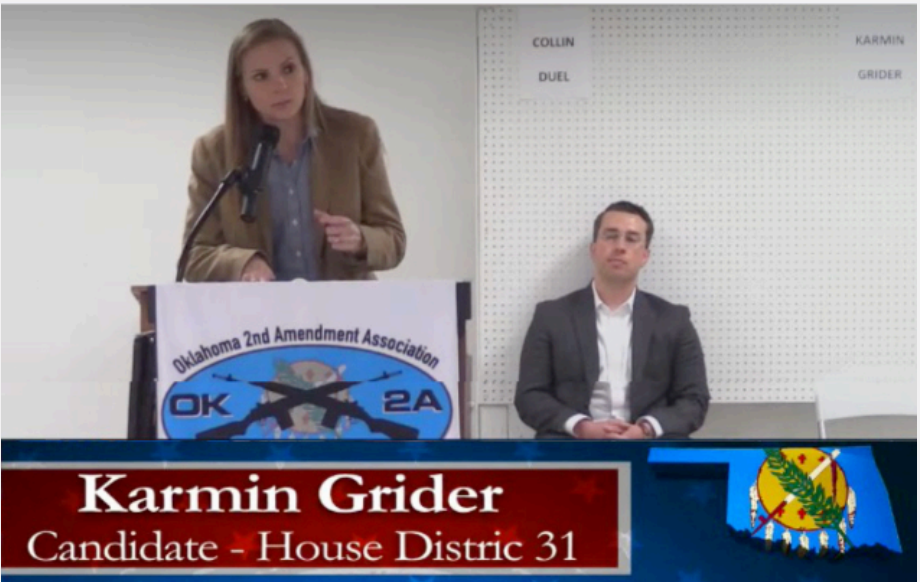
Karmin will propose regular public reports from county assessors showing how much property value is exempted due to privileges, exemptions, or special status. In too many areas, large classes of property owners—including certain entities with special tribal exemptions—escape taxation entirely, forcing everyone else to carry the weight. The public has a

See END THE PROPERTY TAX PLAN, Page 8

**“The politicians and lobbyists who compose the Capitol Club are the polar opposite—the anathema to the regular person and to traditional American values.”**

every so often, but time and again—as evidenced by the small sample of bad votes out of dozens and dozens more cast by the sitting representative, Collin Duel, as described in this publication—they undercut those values, making government bigger, increasing taxes and fees, while letting “woke” ideology take hold inside state government, from the education system to DHS.

When you vote for Karmin Grider on June 16th, you’ll be



Pictured: Karmin Grider makes a point during the House District 31 debate. Grider has made it a priority to provide specific policy ideas, rejecting the traditional means of “getting elected by money and meaningless soundbite.”

voting to end the game—and to return true representation by the people to state government. You’ll be sending a message to all of Oklahoma: here in House District 31, our state representative doesn’t take

lobbyist money. We are one of the few districts with a representative who truly represents us—the people—and not the monied special interests.



# HIGH VOLTAGE LINE PLAN SET FOR 2026, WILL RESHAPE LOGAN COUNTY

Sudden emergence of the massive transmission project illustrates complete failure of leadership

For many residents of South Logan County, the first indication that massive, 110-foot-tall high-voltage transmission lines could soon cut across their property is coming not from a public hearing or a formal notice, but through word of mouth, shortly before the project gobbles up their land.

The project in question is a proposed 38-mile high-voltage transmission line, designed to carry 345-kilovolt electricity across the county on steel towers (or potentially lattice steel.) If approved, it would require a 130-foot-wide easement carved through mostly private property to accommodate power poles rising more than 110 feet, altering landscapes that for generations have been used for homes, farming, and ranching.

The route has not yet been finalized. That designation is expected in 2026, leaving landowners with little clarity about whether their property lies directly in the project’s path.

For Karmin Grider, the quiet emergence of the proposal is itself the problem.

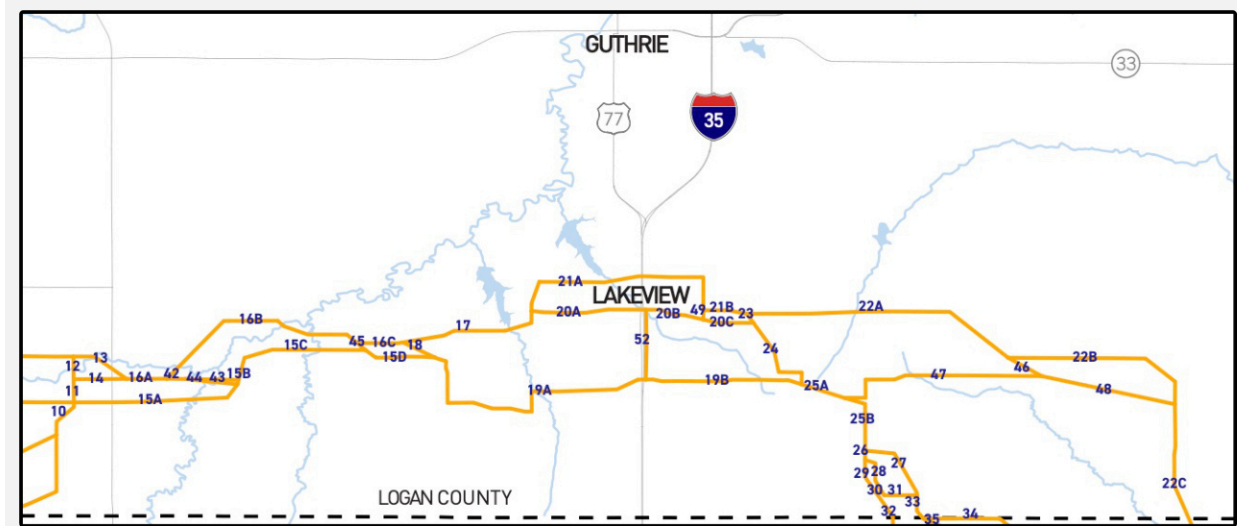
“For most people, this is the first time they’re hearing about it,” Grider said. “That doesn’t happen by accident. It happens when leadership fails to inform the people they represent.”

Transmission projects of this scale typically move through a complex web of federal and state approvals, including oversight from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission through the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) which is not elected by the people. Once routes are locked in and permits issued, options for local citizens can narrow quickly.

Grider argues that the current moment—before final routing decisions are made, and properties are parsed up—is the only realistic remaining opportunity to slow the process.

“The only way to buy time is for landowners and local leaders to actively oppose it now, but we have very little time to understand the implications on personal health, agriculture, and property values.”

The project surfaced publicly only in recent days, as a private company commissioned by the SPP, acting under federal authority, moves to finalize its plan. But the proposal itself dates back to 2023, when it appeared in the organization’s Integrated Transmission Planning (ITP) assessment, which



**PICTURED:** Lines on a map rip up Logan County, each number segment is a proposed leg of the utility consortium known as “Transsource” which plans to install 110 foot high voltage lines on steel towers and will settle on an exact path in 2026. See detailed map by visiting [VoteKarminGrider.com](#).

### The Grider Plan

Karmin Grider states that defeating this and future green energy projects will require hard work and legislative leadership which isn't taking money from the green-energy lobbyists.

Grider said she would sponsor legislation preventing privately owned companies from using eminent domain to take land for projects that serve speculative, government-subsidized energy development. Eminent domain, she said, should remain a power of government—not out-of-state private conglomerates with no long-term stake in local land ownership.

"Why are out-of-state conglomerates allowed to use eminent domain to take our land?"

Grider also intends to support an existing proposal requiring voter approval for new government-subsidized energy projects.

“Right now, the government is propping up wind power projects that aren’t likely to survive once subsidies run out,” Grider said.

“Then we’re told we need massive transmission lines to move ‘renewable’ (see “Snake Oil” on Page 6) power from western Oklahoma to the east side of the metro. The question no one answers is: 'what happens when the subsidies disappear?'"

Even if this particular transmission line is ultimately approved, Grider warns that it may represent only the beginning.

"We are fighting an uphill battle on this project, and due to the lack of concern from local leaders, they might get their way this time. But at the least, we must contend for our property rights now. When local leadership is weak—or worse, silent—counties like ours become easy marks."

## Karmin Grider’s “End the Turnpikes” Plan

Continued from Page 2

stead of each turnpike standing on its own financial legs, OTA began pledging the toll revenue from one turnpike to secure new bonds for another. Turner Turnpike tolls backed the Will Rogers Turnpike. Later, revenue from both roads backed new bonds for more projects, and so on. Each new road was chained to the old ones through shared debt.

Even when a turnpike technically paid off its original construction bonds, its tolls couldn’t be removed—because they were now “cross-pledged” to support other outstanding bonds. The money never stopped flowing; it was simply re-leveraged. OTA engineered a revolving door of

debt where every toll dollar became collateral for the next round of borrowing. It’s the equivalent of paying off your house only to be told your payments are now going toward your neighbor’s house, and later their neighbor’s house as well.

Nearly eighty years later, the cycle still hasn’t stopped. The Turner Turnpike’s original bonds have long been paid for, but the tolls continue because the system was built to make “temporary” funding permanent.

**Ever Increasing—Tolls, Taxes, and Miles**

Today, Oklahoma’s twelve turnpikes stretch roughly 630 miles. Under the OTA’s new

“Access Oklahoma” expansion plan, the Authority intends to add and widen routes across multiple counties—an estimated 80 to 100 new miles of tolled roadway. Originally pitched as a \$3 billion plan, the cost has already ballooned to \$5 billion before a single new mile has been completed.

This would push Oklahoma’s turnpike footprint beyond 700 miles—one of the largest in the nation, despite having one of the smallest populations to support it. And as the toll tentacles grow, so do the fees.

On January 1, 2025, OTA hiked toll fees by an average of 15 percent—some routes as high as 20 percent—and they are set to rise another 6 percent every other year going forward. So Oklahomans pay fuel taxes to build the system,

then pay again to use it, and will pay even more every year. Yet the roads never become free. OTA simply issues new bonds, launches new projects, and resets the debt clock—ensuring tolls never disappear.

This isn’t bureaucracy run amok—it’s bureaucracy functioning exactly as designed: a self-protecting enterprise disguised as public service.

**The Entity That Answers to No One**

How did it get this bad? Because the Legislature not only created the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority—it took it off the leash.

OTA was created as a “self-supporting” public trust meant to build toll roads, retire its debt, and hand the roads back

**CONTINUED: Next Page**



# Karmin Grider’s “End the Turnpikes” Plan

Continued from Page 5

to the public. But instead of keeping it under the people’s control, lawmakers ceded oversight entirely to the agency. Although OTA claims it is separate from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in reality the two are fused. The law requires the Secretary of Transportation to serve simultaneously as Director of ODOT and Executive Director of OTA—one person, three titles, two agencies, billions in transportation money. That means the same official who signs off on highway spending also approves toll projects—coordinating the two in ways that expand OTA’s reach and double-dip into drivers’ tax dollars. When one person is both referee and player, the game is rigged. Meanwhile, OTA has powers ODOT doesn’t: it can issue bonds without a public vote, raise tolls without approval, and seize private land using eminent domain—while claiming it “doesn’t use tax dollars.” Its unelected seven-member board is appointed by the governor, but once seated, it answers to no one. And when citizens challenge OTA, the Oklahoma Supreme

Court has repeatedly sided with the agency—even when Justice James Winchester authored key opinions despite his wife working for a lobbying group supportive of OTA projects. Motions for his recusal were denied. The phrase “public good” has become a justification for political gain. Homes condemned. Farms divided. Neighborhoods bulldozed. Not for public roads—but for toll roads that profit an unaccountable empire. **Where Your Money Really Goes** The OTA’s behavior isn’t the exception—it’s the blueprint. When politicians treat taxpayer money as political currency, the result is corporate welfare, opaque spending, and self-congratulation. The next time a politician laments “declining fuel tax revenue,” ask why nearly \$62 million of it was sent to a tolling agency already collecting hundreds of millions in tolls. Ask why lawmakers claim Oklahoma “can’t afford” to maintain its roads while simultaneously passing House Bill 2781, which handed \$275 million in rebates and \$735 million in tax exemptions to a foreign-owned alu-

minum company from the UAE. And remember: this isn’t the first time. Oklahoma gave roughly \$400 million to Canoo—a California-based electric-vehicle company lawmakers swore would bring 2,000 jobs. Instead, the company’s stock collapsed, the plant sits idle, the jobs moved elsewhere, and Oklahoma taxpayers were left holding the bill. It was another photo-op masquerading as “economic development,” another chapter in the state’s long history of corporate welfare disasters. **Day to Day Roads** And what does the average Oklahoman get? Crumbling roads and rising tolls. While the Capitol Club congratulates itself on billion-dollar deals and a growing toll empire to attract more political players, everyday Oklahomans pay twice—once at the pump and once at the toll booth. Drive down Sooner, Waterloo, SH-33, or any county offshoot and you’ll feel every misappropriated dollar in your suspension. Billions have been budgeted, bonded, and borrowed—but the pavement never seems to reach the people. **Ending the Game** This is where Karmin Grider’s plan begins—by restoring truth

and trust to public services. She will end the game politicians play with transportation funding and ensure taxpayer dollars go where they’re needed. She will introduce legislation to prevent government revenues from outpacing inflation and population growth, and she will require surpluses to be used to redirect motor-vehicle tax revenues back to transportation—where they belong: To free the turnpikes and return them to the public domain. To repair and maintain the roads Oklahomans actually drive. Because she refuses lobbyist and special-interest money, Karmin will be immune to political manipulation—and will never vote for the pork projects and corporate giveaways like Canoo and the foreign-owned aluminum smelter her opponent supported. **Restoring Ownership** Oklahomans have paid for every road once already. They shouldn’t be charged a second time just to drive on something they already funded. It’s time to stop the double-dip, break OTA’s grip on the endless toll cycle, and finally make Oklahoma’s roads free and fair—just as they were promised to be. panding empire. The phrase “public good” has become a shield for private gain.

## VOTE KARMIN GRIDER, JUNE 16th 2026

### THE SUSTAINABILITY SNAKE OIL — GREEN ENERGY

Karmin Grider Explains the Green Energy Scam and How She Will Attack It

Oklahomans have been told for years that we must accept certain things—wind farms, CO2 pipelines, and even human waste on farmland—because the “experts” and “elites” insist these are the enlightened paths to a greener future. They dress their agendas in sustainability slogans, wrap their schemes in emotional blackmail about saving the planet, and pretend their decisions are for our own good. But peel back the marketing layer and you find a different truth: Oklahoma has become a dumping ground for projects the coastal ruling class would never impose on their own wealthy enclaves. Policies crafted in boardrooms and federal agencies are carried out on land that isn’t theirs, with consequences they never face. And our own state leaders—tasked with defending our property, our health, and our dignity—have too often played along, enabling these schemes instead of ending them. This article is about telling the truth. Not the curated version delivered through grant-funded studies or taxpayer-subsidized press releases, but the truth Oklahomans have lived: that green energy has

become a weapon against rural America, deployed not for environmental stewardship but for political convenience and corporate gain. If we want to end the political game and restore integrity to our constitutional republic, we must start by exposing the green trifecta harming our state: industrial wind, carbon capture pipelines, and the land application of human waste. **Wind Turbines: Engines of Exploitation** Wind energy was marketed to Oklahoma as clean, renewable, and low-impact, but the reality exposes one of the most costly and exploitative schemes ever pushed onto rural America. Since 2013, Oklahomans have paid more than \$1.25 billion in subsidies for wind development—public money transferred to multinational corporations while rural communities received little in return. At the height of the Zero Emission Tax Credit, the program drained nearly \$60 million in a single year, and early projections warned it could have ballooned to \$100 million annually had it not been capped. Wind developers heavily market

themselves as partners to landowners, but in reality they rely on farmers and ranchers not knowing the long-term costs buried in the fine print. Many of these companies post only token decommissioning guarantees—sometimes as low as \$25,000–\$30,000 per turbine—despite independent engineering studies showing that full removal, blade disposal, foundation extraction, and land restoration routinely cost \$150,000 to \$500,000 per turbine, and in some cases exceed \$1 million. When these companies fold, restructure, or sell their assets—as many do—the cleanup obligations fall directly onto the landowner. A farmer unable to pay the enormous bill may be pressured into selling, lose long-term use of their property, or face negotiations stacked in favor of large corporations that buy distressed rural land. In practice, the imbalance of power functions like a slow-motion condemnation: the landowner carries the liability, and the corporation carries the leverage. The environmental toll is equally severe, and it strikes both the land and the wildlife that depend on it. Turbine blades are made of fiberglass and epoxy resins that continuously shed microscopic and mid-sized fibers as they age—especially in Oklahoma’s high-wind corridor. These fibers drift into pastures, contaminate soil and water, and are consumed by grazing livestock, with farmers across multiple states reporting illness and unexplained herd issues near

turbine fields. While large-scale studies have not yet caught up to these reports, the blade-shedding problem is a documented engineering failure, and its environmental fallout is permanent. The destruction extends beyond the soil. Wind turbines wreak havoc on essential wildlife, particularly bats. Research shows that the pressure changes around spinning blades cause catastrophic internal injuries—barotrauma—that make a turbine field lethal even for bats that never touch a blade. This is not a fringe impact; it is widespread and severe. In Oklahoma, a single bat can consume thousands of insects per night, significantly reducing pests and pesticide dependence. Their decline means more bugs, more crop damage, and more chemical use, tying the soil contamination and wildlife destruction into one compounded environmental crisis. Turbines don’t just damage the land beneath them; they dismantle the natural systems that protect that land. Adding to this environmental catastrophe is the waste crisis that follows. Turbine blades cannot be recycled at scale because of their composite materials. When they reach the end of their lifespan, they are typically cut into sections and buried in enormous pits, where they remain indefinitely. Entire landfills across the country now exist solely to store old turbine blades—mountains of fiber-



# Snake Oil

Continued from Page 6

glass sealed underground, never decomposing.

The turbines themselves rely on rare earth minerals such as neodymium and dysprosium—materials mined and refined primarily in China, often in regions plagued by toxic waste ponds and ground-water contamination. The environmental destruction is simply outsourced so U.S. corporations and politicians can maintain the illusion of “clean” energy.

Even after installation, turbines depend heavily on fossil fuels. Blades must be de-iced using diesel-powered equipment, natural-gas heating systems, or helicopters spraying chemical de-icers. Turbines require constant lubrication delivered by diesel trucks, and during cold snaps, many turbines draw power from gas plants just to start spinning, making them net energy consumers. None of this resembles “zero emission.”

Between the financial exploitation of taxpayers, the manipulation of landowners, the contamination of soil and livestock, the destruction of wildlife, the burial of non-recyclable industrial waste, the hidden overseas pollution, and the heavy fossil-fuel dependence, wind energy in Oklahoma is neither renewable nor responsible. It is a short-lived tax-credit harvesting industry that leaves long-term scars on the land and long-term liabilities on rural families.

**Carbon Capture: The “Saving Grace” of the Future**

Carbon capture—sold to the public as a climate miracle—is the next green industry being shoved under rural America, and Oklahoma is right at the center of the target. The pitch sounds scientific and noble: capture CO2 from industrial sites, move it through pipelines, bury it underground, and “solve” climate change. Yet it presents quite a suffocating reality.

Satartia, Mississippi, 2020: a CO2 pipeline ruptured, releasing a dense, invisible cloud of carbon dioxide that rolled across the landscape. Being heavier than air, the carbon dioxide cascaded downhill and displaced oxygen everywhere it flowed. Combustion engines died in an instant. People collapsed on the spot because they couldn’t breathe. Emergency vehicles stalled as soon as they entered the CO2 cloud. Forty-five people were hospitalized, many with neurological injury. Imagine that happening here in Oklahoma.

Yet the massive entities behind this industry continue shoving these pipelines straight into states like ours for one simple reason: they can get away with it. To the elite, Oklahoma is “flyover country,” a place where simple-minded people and cows live. They believe our way of life is unsophisticated, even referring to us as “deplorables,” and while the political class pretends that moment is in the past, their actions tell a different story. CO2 pipelines are heavily routed through rural, lower-income, politically weaker regions, avoiding wealthy urban centers

where resistance would be immediate and overwhelming. Places least able to fight back are prime targets.

This smugness is the real fuel behind the carbon capture scheme. And rather than protect Oklahomans, our state legislators have become propagators of this attitude. In their eagerness to be relevant and accepted by progressive elites, our own Legislature enabled the very people who despise us. Until lawmakers passed SB 269, Oklahoma had no Class VI CO2 injection wells—these underground storage facilities legally could not exist in our state, but now that they’ve passed legislation permitting them, we can and will have such sites, all while the Capitol club celebrates our compliance.

Here is exactly how the CO2-credit scheme works:

Corporations “capture” CO2 from industrial processes, often burning massive fuel to do so. What matters is not efficiency or environmental benefit—the federal 45Q tax credit pays them simply for showing that they captured it.

They sell carbon credits to large polluters—often headquartered in coastal states—to purchase credits from rural capture projects, thereby using them as offsets while shifting the environmental risk to landowners in places like Oklahoma. This allows polluters to “offset” emissions on paper while continuing business as usual. It is carbon laundering, nothing more.

Pipeline companies then run private CO2 pipelines across rural land, seeking forced easements through eminent domain in many states. This is not for public benefit. It is for corporate profit.

Injection companies bury CO2 underground, leaving long-term liability unclear. If there is a leak decades from now, a groundwater issue, or subsurface pressure event, it will be the landowner—not the corporation—facing the consequences.

Every entity collects money. The capturers get 45Q tax credits. The pipeline companies charge transport fees. The injection operators get paid for sequestration. Many projects also generate credits for the voluntary carbon market, which is largely unregulated and allows offsets to be traded multiple times. This means the same CO2 can effectively be counted twice. And who foots the brunt of the health risks, property risks, and environmental risks? The people the elite think are expendable—rural Oklahomans.

This is not environmental stewardship. Environmental stewardship would simply be planting trees. Rather, it is a federally subsidized financial carousel built on the assumption that the heartland is too politically weak to defend itself.

The same people who call Oklahoma “flyover country” are perfectly comfortable burying high-pressure CO2 pipelines and underground Class VI storage facilities beneath the homes, farms, and schools of people they believe won’t fight back and don’t deserve a healthy environment. Carbon

capture is not innovation. It is an industrial cancer that can turn malignant in an instant, masked by green “sustainable” rhetoric, backed by enormous federal payouts, and targeted at states the elite consider disposable. Oklahoma is not disposable. And it’s not a dumping ground for entitled corporate experimentation.

**Humanure: Unsanitary Insanity**

They call it “biosolids,” “recycled nutrients,” and “environmental innovation.” But let’s call it what it really is: human waste made into fertilizer, dumped on farmland in the name of “sustainable green progress.” And in Oklahoma, the scale, cost-savings, and regulatory shortcuts of this practice expose it as less an environmental service and more a sick social experiment carried out on rural landowners.

Every year, more than 50,000 dry tons of biosolids are applied on Oklahoma land. Our state’s regulatory framework—borrowed from the decades-old federal 40 CFR Part 503 rule—focuses heavily on nutrient content, basic pathogens, and a handful of metals. Yet those same rules do not require testing for PFAS chemicals, pharmaceuticals, hormones, industrial residues, microplastics, viruses, or the dozens of emerging contaminants now documented in municipal sewage. “Compliant” simply does not mean “safe.”

The real-life effects show this gap quite clearly. In Lincoln County, a rural resident described biosolid application on a neighboring property as so overpowering that “it goes through my oxygen machine and straight up my nose.” Shortly after the application, flies swarmed her home so aggressively she could not sit outside. She did not ask for this. She did not consent to it. But this is what happens when human waste—tens of thousands of households’ flushed toilets, shower drains, and industrial runoff—is spread on rural land under labels of “sustainability” and “beneficial reuse.”

And here is a glaring contradiction the progressive green-energy establishment refuses to acknowledge: the same elites who forced masks on healthy babies, toddlers, preschoolers—goodness, everyone—during COVID, and demanded six-foot distancing, isolated the elderly and the dying, and caused nationwide shutdowns, are perfectly comfortable spreading human waste on crop-producing farmland even though COVID-19 viral RNA is shed in feces. During that time of induced nationwide panic, public-health agencies relied on wastewater testing to monitor transmission precisely because infected individuals excreted viral material. It was concerning enough to surveil cities nationwide, yet apparently not concerning enough to ban land application of that same waste next to rural homes, livestock, on crops, and adjacent to water sources.

When infection risk touched urban elites, the response usurped the moral high ground, forced lockdowns, and coerced individuals into taking injections of a substance that had no time for long-term studies. Now the risk lands on rural Oklahomans and the re-

sponse from those same elites is, “We are being innovative and saving taxpayers money.”

Now, what exactly is being applied to our land?

- Human excrement and wastewater sludge from thousands of households.
- Heavy metals including lead, mercury, and cadmium.
- Microplastics that do not break down in soil or water.
- Pharmaceuticals, hormones, and industrial chemicals from hospitals and households.
- PFAS “forever chemicals,” which Oklahoma regulators do not test for before application.
- Pathogens reduced—but not eliminated—under Class B standards.

As for green government handouts, while no clear state-subsidy program has been identified awarding large tax credits to human-waste application firms in Oklahoma, municipalities themselves promote land application of “biosolids” (a term meant to create distance from what it actually is so that it will be more acceptable) as the cheapest disposal option. That cost-effectiveness argument effectively acts like a subsidy: it lowers disposal costs for cities by shifting the burden—and the risk—to rural land and farming communities. Municipalities cut their expenses while rural families absorb the liability for whatever contaminants remain in the sludge.

Biosolid disposal is not driven by environmental stewardship. It is driven by economics. Eliminating land application would require tens of millions of dollars in new infrastructure and over a decade to implement—or so they say—which are costs cities do not want to bear. So instead, the waste is dumped on rural Oklahoma fields because it’s cheap, the people have little political protection, and the consequences are out of sight for the officials who authorize the practice.

If this were truly about stewardship of both the environment and human civilization, biosolids (human waste) would require complete contaminant profiling, full transparency, strict buffer zones around homes and schools, compensation for affected landowners, and a halt to applications until the long-term health effects are actually known. Instead, this practice is being justified with green marketing language and spread on communities who receive all of the risks.

Humanure is not sustainability. It is not innovation. It is a cost-cutting measure dressed in green sustainability rhetoric, pushed on the very people elites think won’t fight back. Oklahomans deserve better treatment than as a dumping ground for other people’s waste.

**Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due**

Oklahoma’s politicians now proclaim they are addressing wind energy abuses and humanure. They craft bills, hold hearings, and insist they are “protecting rural Oklahomans.” But honest citizens



# Karmin Grider’s “End the Property Tax” Plan

Continued from Page 4

right to know who’s paying—and who isn’t.

## 6. Let All the People Have a Voice

Finally, Karmin will require that all sinking-fund proposals (bond issues) be placed on the general election ballot—and that ballot alone. Currently, most—if not nearly all—of these tax hikes are decided in low-turnout special elections where very few people vote, most likely because they don’t even know about the election or what’s at stake. If a tax is going to apply to every voter, then the proposal should appear when most of those voters are available to vote.

## Snake Oil

Continued from Page 7

know the truth: our Legislature helped create these disasters long before it tried to contain them.

They subsidized wind and unleashed the turbine invasion of rural lands. They have endorsed carbon capture, most recently writing into statute that CO2 was a “valuable commodity,” granting permission for dangerous storage facilities, with our HD 31 representative even rubber-stamping his approval with a yes vote. And while state legislators never explicitly promoted humanure on the floor, they have allowed it by delegating all authority to a bureaucratic agency without imposing any meaningful state-level safeguards—making rural fields the laboratory for such gross experimentation.

Now that the damage is becoming overtly obvious, the Legislature wants credit and applause for “responding.” But reactionism is not leadership, nor is it representation. It is approval-seeking—political cover. True leadership tells the truth, defies pressure, and prevents harm; true representation does not wait for harm before acting, it is vigilant and proactively solicits the concerns of the people and pushes back the forces that wish to take advantage of them.

This is evidence that for years, lawmakers have acted not as guardians of the people and their property, but as political pawns in the game of special interests, federal programs, and elite agendas.

So if voters choose Karmin Grider on June 16, what comes next? How does she intend to confront the green-energy abuses, protect property rights, and stop the political gamesmanship that has plagued rural Oklahoma? In addition to supporting the reforms contained in the Save Our State plan, Karmin is joining the call for three immediate actions that put people—not corporations—back in charge:

**1. Give local voters the authority to approve or reject all major green-energy developments.**

This reform will also save thousands of dollars currently spent on low-turnout elections.

Karmin Grider is committed to fighting for these reforms every year she serves in the Legislature. She believes homeownership should actually mean ownership—not renting, and certainly not losing your property.

It’s time Oklahoma taxpayers finally get a system that works for them, not against them.

She’s been encouraged by the ongoing effort in Florida to greatly reduce that state’s dependence on property taxation, and she believes that if Floridians can get this done, then so can Oklahomans. We deserve no less.

Industrial wind installations, high-voltage transmission lines, solar fields, battery farms, and water-hungry data centers reshape entire communities. They bring eminent-domain battles, environmental hazards, and higher electric bills. These projects should never be imposed on rural Oklahoma by politicians chasing grant money and tax revenues from the green energy machine. Karmin believes landowners deserve the final word through a direct, binding vote; it's their land, it should be their vote.

**2. Prohibit the use of eminent domain for the benefit of private corporations.**

The power to take someone’s land is a grave, sovereign authority—not a privilege to be outsourced to private developers. Karmin will fight to ensure that no private corporation, no matter how well-connected, can ever again seize Oklahoma property for its own gain.

**3. Overturn the rule that forces utility customers to subsidize speculative private utility construction projects.**

A recent vote at the Capitol allowed energy companies to pass their building costs straight onto utility bills. For rural families already stretched thin, that means automatic rate increases to finance corporate expansion. Karmin will work to reverse this decision so Oklahomans aren’t treated like investors in someone else’s energy venture.

Why has all of this been allowed to happen to rural Oklahoma in the first place? Because too many politicians are entangled with the very special interests that profit from these schemes. It’s legalized corruption disguised as “economic development,” and ordinary families are the ones left paying for it.

Karmin Grider will stand apart. She will refuse the lobbyist money, reject the corporate influence, and is committed to restoring the people’s control over their own land, their own communities, and their own future.

# The Homeownership Conundrum: When Capitalism Hinges on Individual Ownership but Property Taxes Guarantee Government Ownership

We tend to think of socialism and capitalism as opposites on the economic spectrum—one built on collective ownership, the other on individual ownership. Yet in taking a closer look at how property taxes work here in Oklahoma and comparing them to socialist-market hybrids such as China’s, we begin to see where American “capitalism” looks less capitalistic and more... socialistic.

Both systems, though framed differently, tie homeownership to recurring obligations owed to the government—which, in actuality, demonstrates that even here in the land of the free, we are shackled to the state.

**Land of the Fee**

In Oklahoma, you as a homeowner can hold a fee-simple title, the strongest form of private property ownership—but still not full ownership. The government collects “rent” in the form of annual property taxes and can still take your land—with just compensation, of course—in the name of the “public good” through eminent domain.

Fail to pay, and the county can auction off the very land you “own.” That conditionality mirrors socialist-market systems where citizens can only lease land-use rights for a fixed term, renewing them under government authority. Different words, same principle: the state retains a permanent claim over the property you’ve already bought.

**Freedom with an Invoice**

This dependency deepens the more you invest in what you own. Under our system, the more we improve our home, the more we owe. Adding a barn, detached garage, or converting an attic into a room raises the county’s assessed value—and our tax bill along with it. Instead of rewarding care and stewardship, the system penalizes it. Ownership, rather than an act of independence, becomes a cycle of payment.

**Pay to Stay**

That same dynamic exists elsewhere—just with different paperwork. In socialist-market hybrids, governments raise money by selling long-term land-use rights to developers and citizens.

Here, the process is continuous: property taxes are collected forever, year after year after year. Both systems turn land into a revenue stream for the government. Whether through

one-time lease sales or perpetual taxation, citizens pay the government for the right to occupy land that, at least in Oklahoma, is supposedly already theirs.

**A Leased Legacy and an Auction Block Risk**

Consider one such scenario: a couple bought twenty acres in Oklahoma nearly seventy years ago. They built their own house, raised three children, and watched their grandchildren play beneath the same oak trees they planted as newlyweds. The land was paid for long ago, as well as every addition—each post, every board, and all the bricks and iron.

Now retired and on a fixed income, they face a heartbreaking reality.

One of them has late-stage Alzheimer’s and needs more extensive care than the other can provide. If they didn’t have to keep paying thousands each year to the government for property they’ve already bought and built, they could afford in-home care—remaining in the familiar surroundings that still spark fading memories.

Instead, they must choose between selling and downsizing, or falling behind on taxes for the property they already own and risk their children’s inheritance as well as their own legacy. It’s a cold and quiet injustice—that in the land of the free and under a supposedly capitalist society, even the most faithful and devoted stewards must continually buy back what they’ve already paid for or have it auctioned off by the government.

**The State of Entitlement**

Both the socialist-market model as in China and Oklahoma’s property tax system reflect a state that functions on entitlement—the bureaucracy ultimately holds a right to citizens’ “private” property. It may not hold the keys, but it does hold a lien.

**Possession Really Is Only Nine-Tenths**

The American homeowner in Oklahoma and the apartment holder in a socialist-market hybrid system share an uncomfortable truth: ownership is conditional, not absolute. One pays a lease to the state; the other pays a tax to the local government. Both must keep paying to remain on land they’ve already earned. And until things change, even here in America—the freest of nations—homeownership will remain subject to government.