

NEWS

Democrats again will allow Independents to vote in its primaries

Every odd-numbered year, recognized political parties in Oklahoma are required to notify the Secretary of the State Election Board whether or not the party will allow registered Independents to vote in its primary elections.

State Election Board Secretary Paul Ziriak announced that he has been notified by the Oklahoma Democratic Party that it will allow Independents to vote in its primaries in 2022 and 2023.

The Oklahoma Libertarian Party notified Secretary Ziriak that it will close its primaries to Independent voters. The Oklahoma Republican Party did not send a notification to the Secretary, which by law means that Independents cannot vote in Republican primaries.

"This means, there is no change for unaffiliated voters in 2022. As was the case in 2020 and 2021, Independent voters may vote in Democratic Party primaries, but not in Republican or Libertarian primaries," Ziriak said.

Oklahoma is a closed primary state, meaning only registered voters affiliated with a recognized political party may

vote in that party's primary elections. However, state law gives recognized parties the option to open its primaries to registered Independents by notifying the Secretary of the State Election Board between Nov. 1 and Nov. 30 of odd-numbered years.

Under state law, because the Oklahoma Democratic Party decided to allow Independents to vote in its primaries, the deadline has been extended to Dec. 15 for Libertarians and Republicans to make a final decision about allowing Independents to vote in their primaries.

Independent voters are not required to vote a Democratic primary ballot. Independent voters who would like to vote a Democratic primary ballot must request one when voting in person or when applying for an absentee ballot.

Voters who have already requested absentee ballots for the 2022 election year can update their absentee ballot request online using the OK Voter Portal.

For more information on elections and voter registration in Oklahoma, visit the state election board website at: oklahoma.gov/elections.



Childhood cancer survivors Miley Attocknie and Jaelee Munson rode in Quapaw's Christmas parade Saturday.

QUAPAW PARADE KEEPS THE PARTY GOING

Moir K. McGhee
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Quapaw shut down a short stretch of Route 66 for about 30 minutes for its annual Christmas parade. The highway doubles as the town's Main Street and it was lined with kids and adults of all ages who were ready for the next holiday event scheduled last Saturday.

As the second parade of the day, the Route 66 Express store on the town's main drag was invaded by parade attendees looking for a bathroom and/or a quick bite to eat or cool drink before the festivities began.

As the line grew then shrunk then grew again, everyone remained in good spirits and talked about their Christmas shopping and what they'd seen so far that day.

The cashier was quick and efficient, never losing her cool as the line ran the length of the store and began to circle around. When asked if this was the store's busiest day of the year, she just smiled and said, "Oh yeah." As the food cabinet began to empty, she simply smiled and said, "Don't worry, we'll refill." And nearby patrons laughed.

Sandwiches flew out the door as fast as they could make them but soon, everyone was waited upon and out the door to gather along the street to snack and wait.

Marching bands could be heard warming up and floats got into place. At high noon, three police officers on motorcycles started the line moving. The officers rode in intricate circles to the delight of the crowd and the Grinch was seen prowling around. Childhood cancer survivors Miley Attocknie and Jaelee Munson threw candy to the kids as the crowd cheered for them to show the community's continued love and support for both girls.

Quapaw's marching band and cheer squad promoted school spirit along with all three Miss Merry Christmases. Riding in the parade were Miss Merry Christmas elementary school Hayzlee Evelyn Mouse and her escort Jeremiah Ten Bears Attocknie, middle school Charlie Rendel and her escort Landon Millard and high school Taylor Welch, who was missing her escort Kolton Harris.

Overall, parade attendees were impressed with the number of entrants at this year's parade and thoroughly enjoyed the show.

Annual Christmas parade at Peoria is back

The event, which was postponed last year due to COVID-19, will be 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11.

There will be a free bean feed at the fire department

following the parade. Donations will be greatly appreciated.

The fire department also will be holding a pie auction.

For more information on

the parade, call John Stasel at 918-533-4959.

For more information on the bean feed and pie auction, call Tammy Hayes at 918-541-5832 or Henry Hayes at 918-533-0995.

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