



Highlights from the 59th Oklahoma Legislature Legislative Effectiveness Scores

Craig Volden and Alan E. Wiseman, Co-Directors, Center for Effective Lawmaking

Paige Higginson-Rollins, Program Director for State Legislatures, Center for Effective Lawmaking

Caroline Clements, Program Specialist for State Legislatures, Center for Effective Lawmaking

4/15/2026

Executive Summary

The Center for Effective Lawmaking (CEL) is pleased to announce the release of the State Legislative Effectiveness Scores (SLES) for the recently completed 59th Oklahoma Legislature legislative session. This report offers highlights from our initial analyses of these scores, including:

- We identify the top-10 most effective legislators in the majority party in both chambers, the top-10 most effective minority-party lawmakers in the House of Representatives, and the top-3 most effective minority-party lawmakers in the Senate. Many legislators continued their patterns of highly effective lawmaking from the previous legislative session.
- We identify those lawmakers with the longest streaks of being in our prestigious “Above Expectations” category, as well as first-term legislators in this category.
- We find that, consistent with our published research findings, there is an overall lawmaking benefit from being in the majority party. This is not a new phenomenon in Oklahoma. Across the 2023–2024 legislative term, majority-party Republicans maintained distinct control over both chambers and consistently outperformed minority-party Democrats in State Legislative Effectiveness Scores (SLES) and bill outcomes. Though Democrats were not entirely shut out of the lawmaking process, Republicans were responsible for 823 of the 855 laws produced during the 2023-2024 legislative session. These differences highlight the institutional advantages of majority-party association.
- Serving as a committee chair is related to greater lawmaking effectiveness. Many of the most effective lawmakers in the majority party across both chambers were committee chairs during the 59th Oklahoma Legislature legislative session.
- In addition, our findings indicate that effective lawmakers in one legislative session are likely to remain effective lawmakers across sessions, as several legislators appear among the top-10 and top-3 most effective lawmakers lists in both the 2023-2024 and 2021-2022 legislative sessions.

Introduction and Methodology

The State Legislative Effectiveness Scores discussed here are based on the combination of fifteen metrics capturing the bills that each member of each state legislature sponsors, how far their bills move through the lawmaking process, and how substantial their policy proposals are. The scores are normalized to an average value of 1.0 in both the House of Representatives and the State Senate in each legislative session. More on our [methodology](#) and [scores](#) can be found at our website.

For each member of the House of Representatives and State Senate, we also identify a Benchmark Score, based on the average lawmaking effectiveness of legislators who share that legislator’s majority- or minority-party status, level of seniority, and chair position on a committee. Controlling for these considerations is important in order to describe legislators on a more level playing field. For example, in the 59th Oklahoma House of Representatives, minority-party lawmakers had an average SLES of 0.42 compared to 1.14 for majority-party members, while committee chairs had an average SLES of 1.45. In the State Senate, those averages were 0.29 in the minority party, 1.14 in the majority party, and 1.80 among committee chairs.

We then label each lawmaker as “Above Expectations” for those outperforming their benchmark scores by 50% or more, “Below Expectations” for those below 50% of their benchmark, and “Meeting Expectations” for all other legislators.

Finally, within each party, we rank each member according to their SLES. This ranking is used to generate the lists of top performers highlighted in the tables below. Given the substantial lawmaking benefit that follows from being in the majority party, ranking the entire Oklahoma Legislature together would be inappropriate, but these comparisons within each party are quite informative.

Highly Effective Republican Lawmakers in the 59th Oklahoma House of Representatives

The following table identifies the ten highest-scoring Republicans in the 59th Oklahoma House of Representatives. Five of the top ten were committee chairs.

Top Ten List—House Republicans (2023-2024 Legislative Session)

	<u>Name</u>	<u>LES</u>	<u>Committee Chair</u>
1.	Kevin Wallace (District 32)	10.55	Chair
2.	Charles McCall (District 22)	5.75	None
3.	Gerrid Kendrix (District 52)	3.58	Chair
4.	Jon Echols (District 90)	2.33	None
5.	Brian Hill (District 47)	2.13	None
6.	Anthony Moore (District 57)	1.84	Chair
7.	Marcus McEntire (District 50)	1.68	None
8.	Jeff Boatman (District 67)	1.57	Chair
9.	Cynthia Roe (District 42)	1.51	Chair

10.	Toni Hasenbeck (District 65)	1.50	None
------------	-------------------------------------	------	------

At the top of the list is Representative Kevin Wallace from District 32 (Lincoln and Logan counties) with a score of 10.55. In the 2023-2024 legislative session, he was the Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations and Budget, from where he introduced 166 bills, 104 received action beyond committee, 101 passed the House, and 79 became law.

Rep. Wallace joined the House in 2015 and served until 2024. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Central Oklahoma. Rep. Wallace founded American Cellular Service and Dynatek Development Services and sold the company in 2000. He later founded SWT Construction, which he continues to operate actively. In addition, he owns an equipment rental company and a small investment firm and co-owns a hunting reserve and a cattle breeding operation. In the community, he is an active member of the First Baptist Church of Wellston.

Other high-scorers among Republican Representatives include Representative Charles McCall (District 22), who was the Speaker of the House in the 23-24 legislative session, and Representative Jon Echols (District 90), who as the Majority Floor leader during this session.

Six Republican Representatives on our current list were also among the top-10 highest scorers in the 2021-2022 legislative session: Rep. Kevin Wallace (District 32), Rep. Charles McCall (District 22), Rep. Jon Echols (District 90), Rep. Brian Hill (District 47), Rep. Marcus McEntire (District 50), and Rep. Jeff Boatman (District 67).

Highly Effective Democratic Lawmakers in the 59th Oklahoma House of Representatives

The following table identifies the top-ten highest scorers in the 59th Oklahoma House of Representatives among minority-party Democrats.

Top Ten List—House Democrats (2023-2024 Legislative Session)

	<u>Name</u>	<u>LES</u>	<u>Seniority</u>
1.	Melissa Provenzano (District 79)	1.01	3
2.	Suzanne Schreiber (District 70)	0.99	1
3.	Ellyn Hefner (District 87)	0.72	1
4.	Ajay Pittman (District 99)	0.62	3
5.	Forrest Bennett (District 92)	0.53	4
6.	Meloyde Blancett (District 78)	0.47	4
7.	Andy Fugate (District 94)	0.43	3
8.	Mickey Dollens (District 93)	0.39	4
9.	Arturo Alonso-Sandoval (District 89)	0.38	1
10.	Cyndi Munson (District 85)	0.37	5

Topping our list is Representative Melissa Provenzano of District 79 (Tulsa County) with a State Legislative Effectiveness Score of 1.01. She introduced 27 bills in the 2023-2024 legislative session, 12 received action beyond committee, 9 passed the House of Representatives, and 6 became law.

Rep. Provenzano assumed office in 2018. She received a B.S. in organismic biology from Northeastern State University and a master’s degree in educational leadership and policy from the University of Oklahoma. Rep. Provenzano is a former public-school teacher and principal. She has been recognized for her leadership through various accolades, including being named the 2025 Madam President Award recipient by the League of Women Voters, and as the 2022 Legislator of the Year by the Oklahoma Education Association. In the House, she serves as Assistant Minority Leader and Leader-Elect of the House Democrats.

Five Democratic Representatives on our current list were also among the top-10 highest scorers in the 2021-2022 legislative session: Rep. Melissa Provenzano (District 79), Rep. Ajay Pittman (District 99), Rep. Andy Fugate (District 94), Rep. Mickey Dollens (District 93), and Rep. Cyndi Munson (District 85).

Highly Effective Republican Lawmakers in the 59th Oklahoma State Senate

The following table identifies the ten highest scoring Republicans in the 59th Oklahoma State Senate. Nine of the top ten were committee chairs.

Top Ten List—Senate Republicans (2023-2024 Legislative Session)

	<u>Name</u>	<u>LES</u>	<u>Committee Chair</u>
1.	Roger Thompson (District 8)	3.94	Chair
2.	Chuck Hall (District 20)	3.23	Chair
3.	Julie Daniels (District 29)	2.51	Chair
4.	Dave Rader (District 39)	2.26	Chair
5.	Brent Howard (District 38)	2.26	Chair
6.	Jessica Garvin (District 43)	2.20	Chair
7.	Adam Pugh (District 41)	2.11	Chair
8.	John Montgomery (District 32)	1.85	None
9.	Micheal Bergstrom (District 1)	1.66	Chair
10.	Bill Coleman (District 10)	1.65	Chair

Among Republicans in the Senate, Senator Roger Thompson, District 8 (Creek, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, and Okmulgee counties), ranked first with a SLES score of 3.94. In the 2023-2024 session he was the Chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and Budget (until

June 2024); and from this position he introduced 111 bills, 81 received action beyond committee, 71 passed the Senate, and 45 became law.

Sen. Thompson assumed office in 2014 and resigned from the Senate in November 2024. He holds a Doctorate in Theology from Southwestern Bible College and Seminary. He is the former president of News Leader Company Inc., which owns the Okemah News Leader. In 2024, he accepted the role of CEO and Executive Director of the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association (OOA).

Five legislators on the list were among the top-10 highest-scoring Republicans in the 2021-2022 legislative session: Sen. Roger Thompson (District 8), Sen. Julie Daniels (District 29), Sen. Dave Rader (District 39), Sen. Adam Pugh (District 41), and Sen. Michael Bergstrom (District 1).

Highly Effective Democratic Lawmakers in the 59th Oklahoma State Senate

The following table identifies the top three highest scorers in the 59th Oklahoma State Senate among minority-party Democrats.

Top Three List—Senate Democrats (2023-2024 Legislative Session)

	<u>Name</u>	<u>LES</u>	<u>Seniority</u>
1.	Kay Floyd (District 46)	0.62	5
2.	Carri Hicks (District 40)	0.42	3
3.	Julia Kirt (District 30)	0.32	3

Senator Kay Floyd from District 46 (Oklahoma County) had the highest SLES for Senate Democrats in the 2023-2024 legislative session, with a score of 0.62. During the 2023-2024 legislative session, she introduced 22 bills, 12 received action beyond committee, 11 passed the Senate, and 7 became law.

Sen. Floyd joined the Senate in 2014 and was the minority leader from 2018-2024. Previously, she represented the 88th district in the Oklahoma State House from 2012-2014. She holds a B.S. in psychology from Oklahoma State University and a J.D. from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. She is a former Assistant Attorney General, State Administrative Law Judge, and Special Municipal Court Judge in Oklahoma City.

Two Democratic State Senators appear on both the top-3 list for the 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 legislative sessions: Sen. Kay Floyd (District 46) and Sen. Carri Hicks (District 40).

Lawmakers with Long-Standing Patterns of “Above Expectations”

Those whose SLES significantly exceed their benchmark score, which is calculated based on their seniority and status as a majority party member and/or committee chairperson, are identified as being in our “Above Expectations” category. The lists below identify the Representatives with the longest active streaks of exceeding expectations in consecutive sessions continuing through (and including) the 2023-2024 legislative session.

**State Representatives with Longest Streak of “Above Expectations”
(through the 2023-2024 Legislative Session)**

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Streak</u>	<u>SLES (2023-2024)</u>	<u>Seniority</u>
1.	Kevin Wallace (R-32)	4 Legislative Sessions	10.55	5 Legislative Sessions
2.	Charles McCall (R-22)	4 Legislative Sessions	5.75	6 Legislative Sessions
3.	Jon Echols (R-90)	4 Legislative Sessions	2.33	6 Legislative Sessions
4.	Marcus McEntire (R-50)	3 Legislative Sessions	1.68	4 Legislative Sessions
5.	Melissa Provenzano (D-79)	3 Legislative Sessions	1.01	3 Legislative Sessions

Representative Kevin Wallace (R) of District 32 (Lincoln and Logan counties) had the longest streak of "Above Expectations" with 4 legislative sessions and a SLES score of 10.55 in the 2023-2024 legislative session. Rep. Wallace has held the top spot as the most effective Republican lawmaker in the House since 2019.

**State Senators with Longest Streak of “Above Expectations”
(through the 2023-2024 Legislative Session)**

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Streak</u>	<u>SLES (2023-2024)</u>	<u>Seniority</u>
1.	Kay Floyd (D-46)	5 Legislative Sessions	0.62	5 Legislative Sessions
2.	Roger Thompson (R-8)	4 Legislative Sessions	3.94	5 Legislative Sessions

Senator Kay Floyd (D) of District 46 (Oklahoma County) had the longest streak of "Above Expectations" with 5 legislative sessions and a SLES score of 0.62 in the 2023-2024 legislative session. Sen. Floyd has held the top spot as the most effective Democratic lawmaker in the Senate since 2019.

High-Performing Freshmen

One way to identify future legislative leaders is to identify freshmen Representatives and Senators who earned an “Above Expectations” rating in their first term. Freshman legislators’ initial scores are compared to benchmarks for newcomers—so when a freshman outperforms their cohort, it can reveal strong political acumen, the ability to navigate legislative procedures quickly, and skill in coalition-building or policy entrepreneurship. These traits often correlate with future leadership roles. Our research on the U.S. Congress suggests that legislators who perform well early on are more likely to be selected for committee chairs or leadership positions, and to influence major

legislation in subsequent terms. Hence, identifying high-performing freshmen can offer early signals of who might rise through the ranks.

Freshmen Representatives “Above Expectations” (2023-2024 Legislative Session)

	<u>Name</u>	<u>SLES (2023-2024)</u>
1.	Suzanne Schreiber (D-70)	0.99
2.	Ellyn Hefner (D-87)	0.72

The State Representative with the highest "Above Expectations" score during her freshman term was Democratic Representative Suzanne Schreiber (Tulsa County) with a score of 0.99. During the 2023-2024 legislative session, she proposed 18 bills, 11 of which received action beyond committee, 9 of which passed the House, and 6 of which became law. She also emerged as the second highest-scoring Democratic Representative during the 2023-2024 legislative session.

Rep. Schreiber holds a B.S. in political science and law and a J.D. from the University of Tulsa. Before joining the House, she practiced law and clerked in the federal courts. She began her public service journey when she was elected to the Tulsa Public School Board in 2014. She was re-elected in 2018 and, during her tenure, served as the School Board's President and Vice President. She has been recognized as the 2016 Tulsa Woman of the Year. Outside of public service, she is involved in a local program that focuses on creating equal opportunity for Tulsa youths.

Freshmen Senator “Above Expectations” (2023-2024 Legislative Session)

	<u>Name</u>	<u>SLES (2023-2024)</u>
1.	Ally Seifried (R-2)	1.09

The State Senator with the highest "Above Expectations" score during her freshman term was Republican Representative Ally Seifried (Rogers and Tulsa counties) with a score of 1.09. During the 2023-2024 legislative session, she proposed 33 bills, 21 of which received action beyond committee, 16 of which passed the Senate, and 10 of which became law.

Sen. Seifried is a ninth-generation Oklahoman. She received an athletic scholarship from Rogers State University and graduated with a degree in political science. Sen. Seifried previously worked in branding and marketing, and with Safenet Services, which is a domestic abuse and sexual assault prevention agency. Now she works as a project manager in her family’s small business.

Other Findings

In terms of broader patterns, Republicans maintained strong control of the Oklahoma legislature in 2023-2024, with Democrats holding only 20 of the 101 seats in the House and 8 of the 48 in the

Senate. Lacking natural coalition partners on many of their proposals, Democrats in the Oklahoma legislature had a difficult time advancing their legislation, much more so than minority-party members across the country. Nationwide, minority-party lawmakers scored an average SLES of around 0.6, compared to 0.4 in the Oklahoma House and 0.3 in the Oklahoma Senate.

This does not mean that Democrats were completely shut out of the lawmaking process, however. Twenty-one bills proposed by Democrats in the House and 11 from Democratic Senators became law. But the sheer number of Republicans and the success of their proposals meant that 823 of the 855 laws produced in Oklahoma in 2023-2024 were sponsored by Republicans.

Conclusion

The 59th Oklahoma Legislature legislative session demonstrated consistent patterns in legislative effectiveness, with experienced legislators, committee chairs, and majority-party members continuing to hold a distinct advantage in advancing their policy agendas. Across both chambers, many of the most effective lawmakers continued their high performance from previous sessions, indicating a durable capacity for lawmaking among key figures. These findings underscore the importance of institutional positions and experiences in shaping legislative outcomes in Oklahoma.