

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 3099

By: Osburn of the House

3 and

4 Pugh of the Senate  
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7 An Act relating to elections; providing for  
8 procedures in case of death of candidates for certain  
9 offices; prohibiting removal of name from ballot  
10 without certain certification; authorizing  
11 promulgation of rules; providing for codification;  
12 and providing an effective date.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-121 of Title 26, unless there  
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. Except as otherwise provided by law, the procedures  
18 prescribed by this section shall be observed in the event of the  
19 death of a candidate for a municipal office, school board,  
20 technology center board, fire protection district board, or office  
21 of any other local entity authorized to call an election conducted  
22 by a county election board.

23 B. If a candidate who has qualified for the ballot dies before  
24 the ballot printing process has begun for the election, the name of

1 the deceased candidate shall not be printed on the ballot and shall  
2 be deemed to have withdrawn from the election.

3 C. If the ballot printing process has begun, the candidate's  
4 name shall be printed on the ballot and the election shall be  
5 conducted in the manner provided by law.

6 D. 1. In the event a deceased candidate's name appears on the  
7 ballot and is certified by the county election board as qualifying  
8 to advance to the next election in a multistep election cycle, the  
9 name of the deceased candidate shall not be printed on the ballot  
10 and shall be deemed to have withdrawn from that next election.

11 2. In the event a deceased candidate's name appears on the  
12 ballot and is certified by the appropriate county election board as  
13 being elected to an office, a vacancy in the office shall occur upon  
14 the date the candidate would have taken the oath of office and the  
15 vacancy shall be filled in the manner prescribed by law.

16 3. In the event of the death of a candidate who was unopposed  
17 for election, a vacancy in the office shall occur upon the date the  
18 candidate would have taken office and the vacancy shall be filled in  
19 the manner prescribed by law.

20 E. No candidate shall be removed from the ballot pursuant to  
21 this section unless the candidate's death is certified to the  
22 secretary of the appropriate county election board prior to the  
23 beginning of the ballot printing process by:

24 1. The candidate's next of kin;

2. A candidate's relative in the first degree;

3. The director of the funeral home providing services for the deceased; or

4. The entity that called the election.

F. The Secretary of the State Election Board is authorized to promulgate administrative rules and procedures to enforce the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.

Passed the House of Representatives the 3rd day of March, 2020.

Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate