

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 HOUSE BILL 3574

By: Wolfley

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to elections; permitting a registered  
8 candidate to bring proper action for the enforcement  
9 of election laws; requiring written demand; providing  
10 a time frame for written demand; providing a time  
11 frame within which a civil suit must be filed;  
12 directing for thirty percent of meritorious claims to  
13 be awarded; directing for certain fees be recoverable  
14 by the registered candidate; defining registered  
15 candidate; providing for codification; and providing  
16 an effective date.

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

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified

19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 16-127 of Title 26, unless there  
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. A registered candidate, as defined by subsection D of this  
22 section, upon the refusal, failure, or neglect of a proper officer  
23 of the state, county, city, district, or political subdivision  
24 thereof to institute or diligently prosecute proper proceedings for  
the enforcement of state election laws, may in the name of the State  
of Oklahoma as plaintiff, after serving a written demand as

1 described in subsection B of this section to the proper officer,  
2 institute and maintain any proper action that the proper officer  
3 might institute and maintain for the enforcement of civil fines or  
4 punishments or other declaratory, equitable, or injunctive relief.

5       B. Civil actions filed by a registered candidate for  
6 enforcement of state election laws can only be brought if the  
7 written demand upon a proper officer is made by the registered  
8 candidate within one (1) year of the discovery of evidence that a  
9 violation of state election laws has been committed, and the civil  
10 suit is filed within six (6) months following the refusal, failure,  
11 or neglect of the proper officer to act upon the written demand.

12       C. If a court of competent jurisdiction determines the claims  
13 to be meritorious, any fines or other compensation awarded shall be  
14 paid to the State of Oklahoma with thirty percent (30%) of any such  
15 award paid in compensation to the registered candidate instituting  
16 the action. Upon entry of a judgment in favor of the plaintiff, the  
17 registered candidate shall be entitled to recover reasonable  
18 attorney fees and court costs incurred in the prosecution of the  
19 action, so long as the combined amount of attorney fees, court  
20 costs, and compensation awarded does not exceed the amount of  
21 revenue the state receives in fines.

22       D. The term "registered candidate" shall mean a registered  
23 candidate of the State of Oklahoma or such county, city, district,  
24

1 or political subdivision thereof who is affected by a violation of  
2 state election laws.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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