

2024 Town Hall

Politics, Primaries, and Polarization: What about the Oklahoma People?



In an era marked by significant political transformations and challenges, it has become increasingly important for us to come together as a state to understand and navigate the complexities of our political landscape. With this objective in mind, The Oklahoma Academy, a committed advocate for public policy education and civic engagement, believes it is now of the utmost importance to host our upcoming Town Hall conference titled “Politics, Primaries, and Polarization: What about the Oklahoma People?”

This year’s Town Hall conference, to be held October 27-30 at River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa, aims to provide a platform for open and respectful dialogue among Oklahoma residents about the current political climate, with a special focus on how we conduct our primaries and the issue of polarization within our communities and beyond. We believe that through informed discussion and shared insights, you can create a more understanding and cohesive state that works for the people.

Key Topics of Discussion:

- **The State of Politics in Oklahoma:** An overview of the tribalism in the political sense in our state and its implications for local governance and policy-making.
- **Primaries and Voter Engagement:** Understanding the importance of primaries in shaping our political future and strategies to enhance voter engagement and informed decision-making.
- **Addressing Polarization:** Exploring the roots of political polarization, its impact on our state and communities, and ways we can work together to bridge divides and promote unity.
- **The Role of the Oklahoma People to Initiate Statewide Legislation:** A discussion on should Oklahoma citizens have the right to initiate statewide legislation via ballot measures, or State Questions, as either statutory or constitutional amendments.

The success of any Oklahoma Academy Town Hall conference depends upon having a diverse group of participants. We follow a nomination process to secure those who are interested in participating. From the nominee pool, we select people to participate who are statistically reflective of Oklahoma’s diverse population, as well as those who recognize the importance of the topic. Once we have received all nominees, invitations to participate are sent to those selected from the nomination pool thereby allowing us to have a participation group that as much as possible socio-demographically represents Oklahoma’s population. The Town Hall conference requires full-time attendance from Sunday evening through Wednesday noon; it is not a “come and go” conference.

If you are interested in being considered as a participant, please complete the attached Nomination Application and email it back to the Oklahoma Academy by the final deadline of August 15, 2024. If you know others who would be interested, please feel free to duplicate the form and topic explanation sheet and share with them or complete it for them, letting them know you have done so. Invitations to participate are mailed by late August.

Your participation is crucial to the success of this Town Hall and to the strength of our democratic process. We encourage you to join us in this important conversation, as we strive to understand the challenges Oklahoma faces and create solutions for positive change for a stronger Oklahoma.

Should you have any questions, please call the Oklahoma Academy office at 405-307-0986. Together, let us take a step forward in building a more informed, engaged, and successful state.

2024 Town Hall Specifics

- **Date:** Sunday, October 27th through Wednesday, October 30th, 2024
- **Location:** River Spirit Casino, Hotel and Conference Center Tulsa, OK
- **Conference Registration Cost:** \$575 for Academy Members, \$625 for Non-Academy Members
- **Hotel Rate:** \$139 per night plus resort taxes and fees