

**INFORMAL OPINION IO-1995-001
ISSUED FEBRUARY 1, 1995**

On January 29, 1995, you telephoned this agency and advised that you are an employee of the State of Oklahoma and that you wish to be a candidate in a local election. You said you had made inquiry as to whether the law permits you to be such a candidate in view of your state employment. Based on your inquiries, you had determined you could participate in this non-partisan election. You have requested written confirmation of this from the Ethics Commission.

The applicable law reads, in pertinent part:

Classified employees--Prohibited acts

A. No classified employee shall:

* * *

3. Become a candidate for an elective public office in a partisan election;

Title 74 OS. 1991, Section 4242¹

The applicable constitutional rule reads, in pertinent part:

Classified employees' political activity

(a) **Classified employees.** No classified employee shall:

* * *

(3) become a candidate for an elective state office in a partisan election;

Section 257:10-1-4(a)(3) of the Rules of the Ethics Commission, 74 O.S. Supp.1994, Ch. 62, App.

CONCLUSION

Both the statute and the constitutional rules specify that a classified state employee may not become a candidate for an elective public office in a partisan election. Since municipal and school board elections are non-partisan, there is no restriction placed on a state employee filing for or serving in those offices.

Please be aware that informal opinions are not official pronouncements of the Commission. Hence, this letter carries no greater weight than the views of any other citizen. The Commission is available to issue interpretations on matters arising from the Ethics Commission Act and the Constitutional Ethics Rules. These are known as Ethics Interpretations. They are official and bind the future action of the Commission.

¹Repealed 1995. See 74:Ch.62:App:257:10-1-4.