

# Research Tips, Finding & Using Data



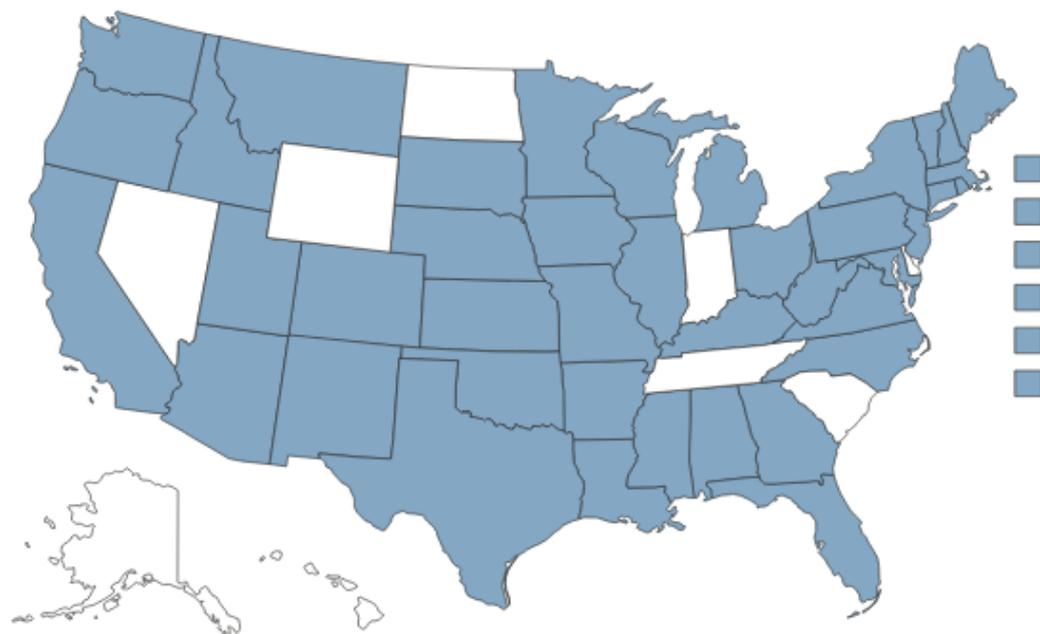
AKA, How do we do what we do?

“OK Policy believes that Oklahoma can be a great state, one that ensures prosperity for all our citizens through good schools, good jobs, good health and strong communities. To make the best policy decisions that lead us to this better future, policymakers and citizens need good, factual information. We provide the facts and advocate for fair and responsible public policies.”

“The ideas of economists and political philosophers, both when they are right and when they are wrong, are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed, the world is ruled by little else. Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influences, are usually slaves of some defunct economist.”

— John Maynard Keynes

Click on the map to visit the State Priorities partners' websites.



Tweets from State Priorities Partners

 **OK Policy** @OKPolicy 26s  
Happy Birthday, Medicare and Medicaid! These programs improve the health & financial security of 1 in 3 Americans. [bit.ly/1gq6ncl](http://bit.ly/1gq6ncl)

 **Jared Bernstein** @econjared 2m  
Instead of asking if #Medicare & #Medicaid are sustainable, we should be asking what we need to do to sustain them: [nyti.ms/1DSeGmt](http://nyti.ms/1DSeGmt)  
Retweeted by Center on Budget  
Expand

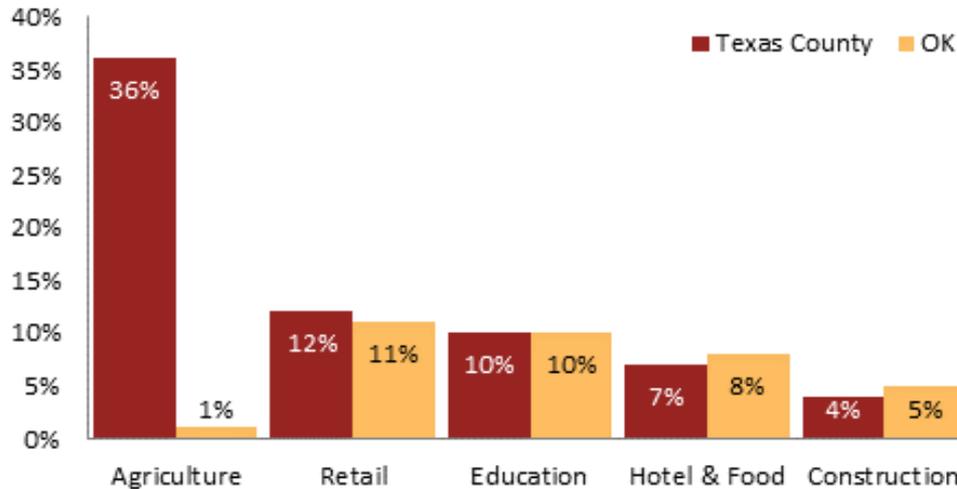
 **Shannon Spillane** @ShannonCBPP 2m  
#Medicaidat50 key fact: Medicaid provides significant financial support to low-income beneficiaries [bit.ly/1lspfh9](http://bit.ly/1lspfh9)

 **MN Budget Project** @MNBudgetProject 6m  
Children who get h/care through Medicaid are more likely to succeed in school #medicaidat50 [bit.ly/1H6q2mU](http://bit.ly/1H6q2mU)

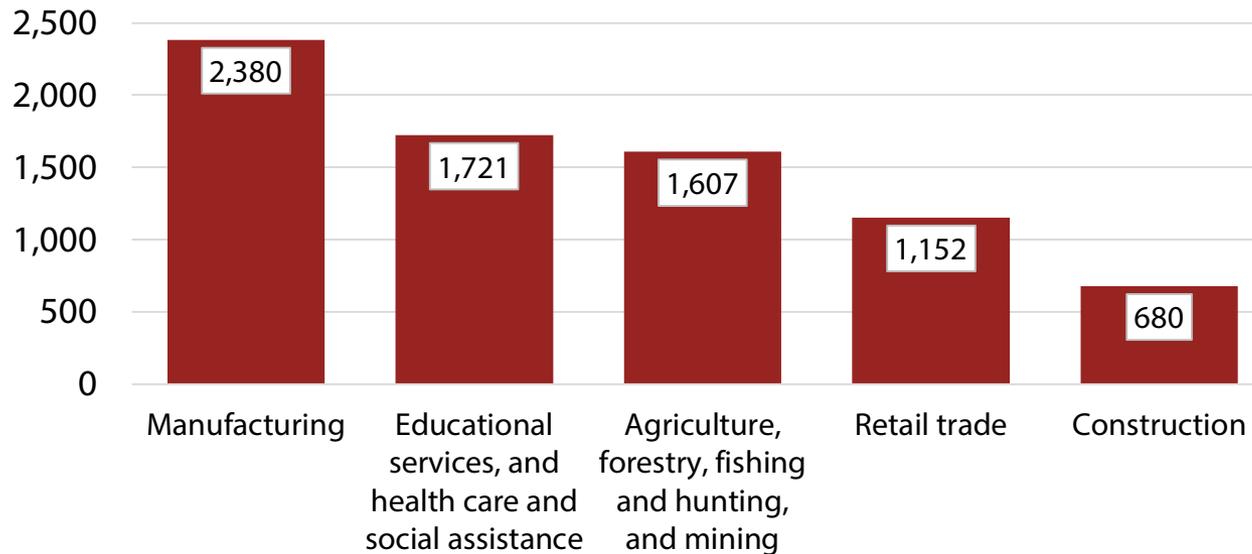
**Data is made by humans.**



# Top 5 Employment Sectors in Texas County



Source: U.S. Census Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics survey, 2013

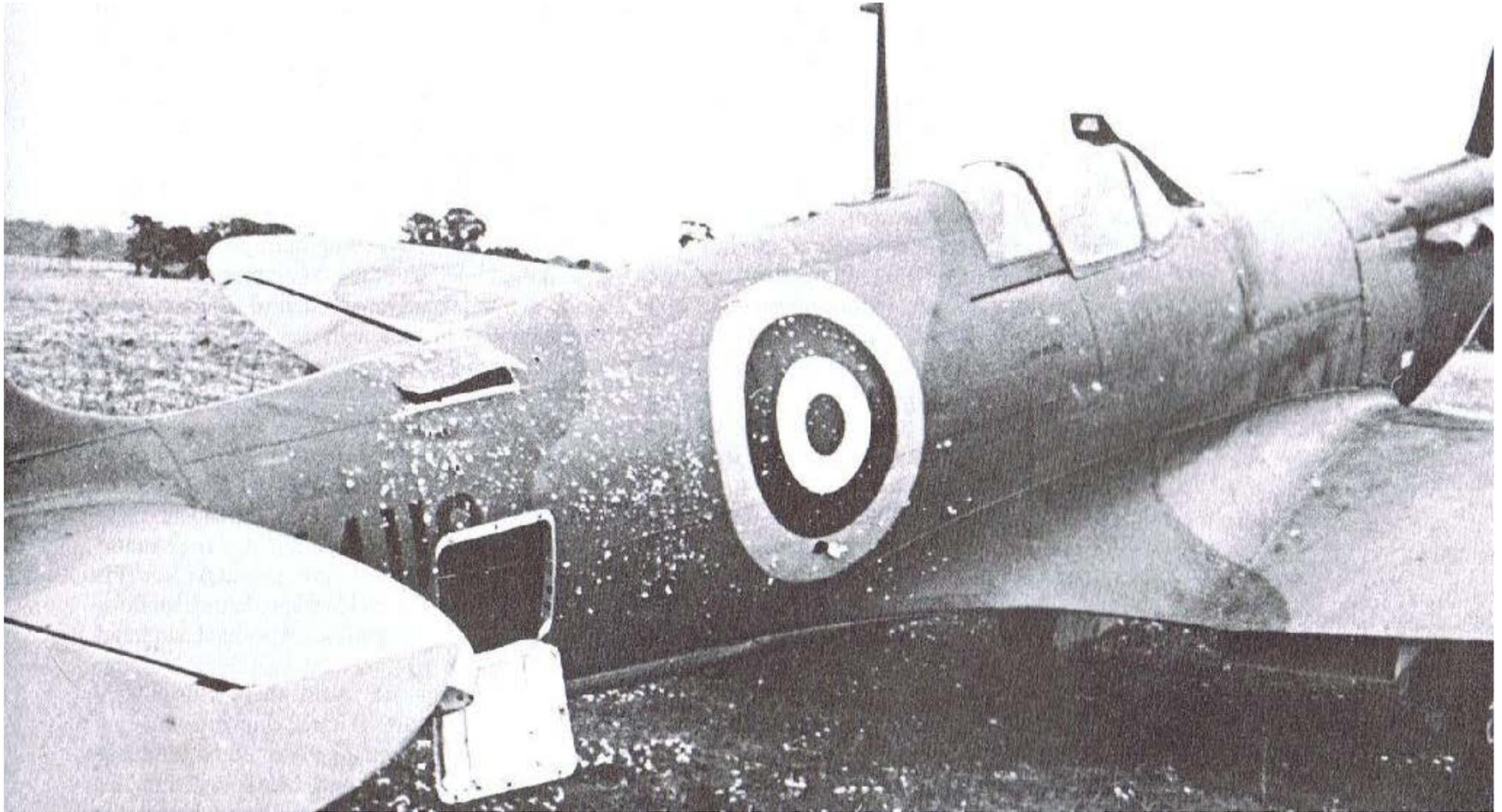


Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5-year estimates

**Data is part of a story.**



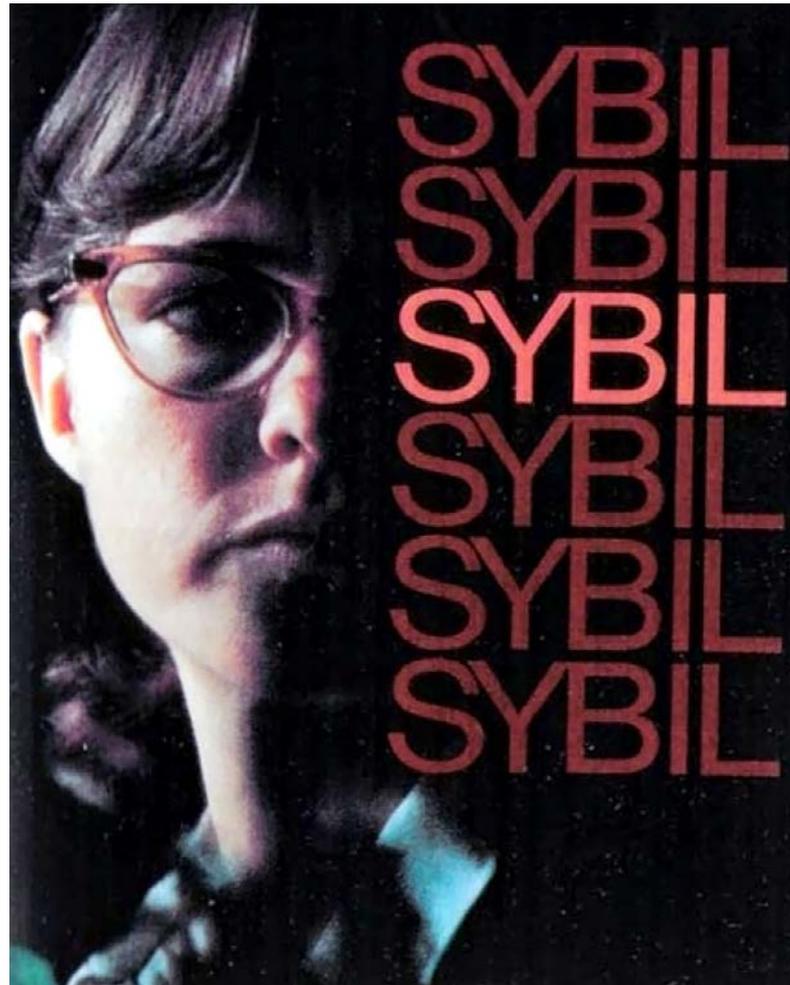
Example from "How Not To Be Wrong:  
The Power of Mathematical Thinking"  
by Jordan Ellenberg



# Bullet holes per square foot

Engine	1.11
Fuselage	1.73
Fuel system	1.55
Rest of plane	1.8

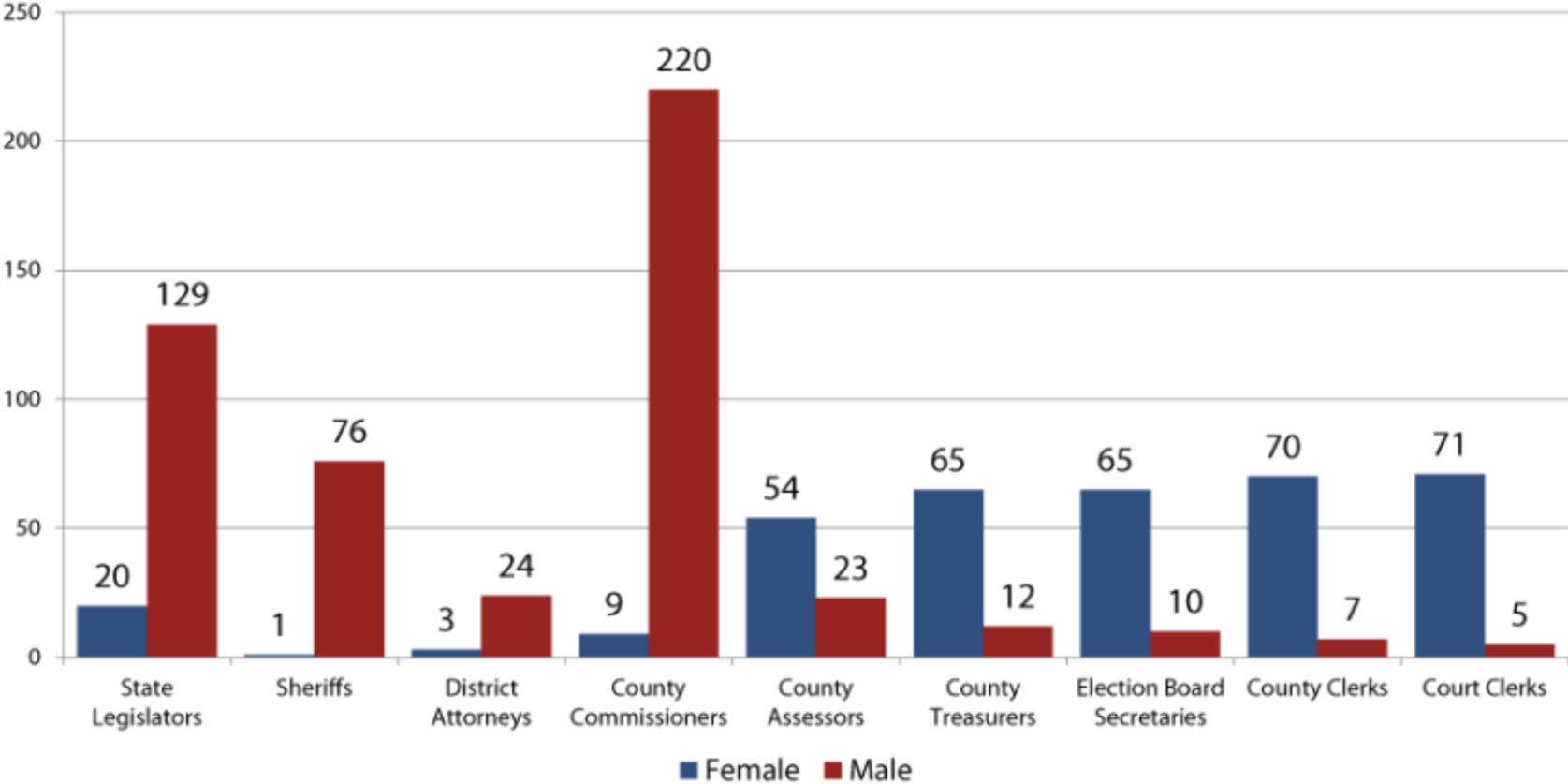
**The same data tells more  
than one story.**



“Oklahoma, which ranks first in female elected representation, ranks last in communities of color elected representation.”

-Health of State Democracies Report, Center for American Progress Action Fund

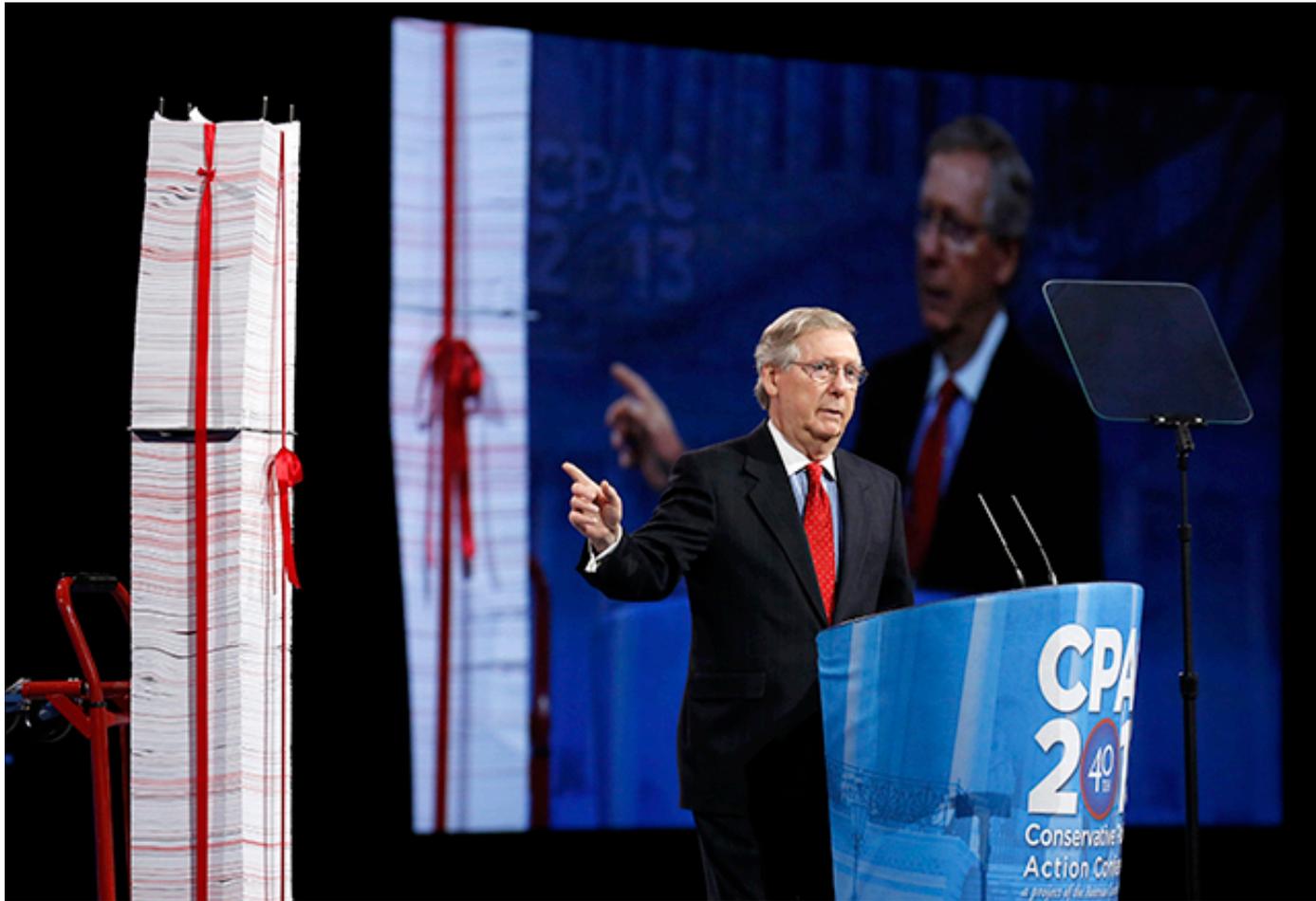
# Oklahoma State and County Officeholders, 2014 - 2015



Data Source: wholeads.us; some data was corrected by OK Policy

[www.okpolicy.org](http://www.okpolicy.org)

# Read the bills.



Income tax; providing exemption for certain income earned by certain licensed teachers. Effective date.

[History](#) [Amendments](#) [Bill Summaries](#) [Versions](#) [Votes](#) [Co Authors](#)

### History For SB 93

Action	Journal Page	Date	Chamber
First Reading	93	02/02/2015	S
Authored by Senator Mazzei	93	02/02/2015	S
Second Reading referred to Finance	245	02/03/2015	S
Reported Do Pass as amended Finance committee; CR filed	329	02/17/2015	S
Title stricken		02/17/2015	S
coauthored by Brinkley	332	02/17/2015	S
General Order, Amended	581	03/09/2015	S
Measure passed: Ayes: 45 Nays: 0	582	03/09/2015	S
Referred for engrossment	582	03/09/2015	S
coauthored by Henke (principal House author)	599	03/09/2015	S
Engrossed to House	601	03/10/2015	S
First Reading	606	03/10/2015	H
Second Reading referred to Appropriations and Budget	656	03/11/2015	H
Referred to Appropriations and Budget Revenue and Taxation Subcommittee		03/11/2015	H

# Advanced Googling for Fun and Profit

- **Search for a specific phrase with quotes** - “wind blows sweeping down the plain”
- **Search for one thing or another** - sanction OR enforcement
- **Search for results that don’t include a specific word with the hyphen/subtraction sign** - “Chocolate cake” -butter
- **Search by site** - site:okpolicy.org “budget”
- **Find similar sites** - related:okpolicy.org
- **Search by filetype (ppt, xls, mdb, pdf, etc.)** - filetype:xls
- **Combine them!** - site:ok.gov/doc filetype:xls
- **Designate where search terms appear (in the url, title, body of the page and in links to the page)**
  - allinurl: oklahoma data
  - allintitle: oklahoma data
  - allintext: oklahoma data
  - allinanchor: oklahoma data
- **Search by image** -  
<http://www.google.com/insidesearch/features/images/searchbyimage.html>  
(But seriously, don’t type out this link. Do a Google search for “Google search by image.”)
- **Google News Archive Search** - [http://news.google.com/archivesearch/advanced\\_search](http://news.google.com/archivesearch/advanced_search)

# Read the Bills, Laws, Rules, Etc.

- Browse legislation by subject: <http://www.oklegislature.gov/SubjectIndex.aspx>
- Search legislation: <http://www.oklegislature.gov/AdvancedSearchForm.aspx>
- Look up current Oklahoma laws: <http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/index.asp?ftdb=STOKST&level=1>
- Look up Oklahoma agency rules: <http://okrules.elaws.us/oac>
- See key bills identified by OK Policy: <http://okpolicy.org/billtracker/>

- **Oklahoma Legislative Primer:**  
<http://okpolicy.org/resources/2015-oklahoma-legislative-primer>
- **What's That? Glossary:**  
<http://okpolicy.org/category/whats-that>

# Where is the data?

## Oklahoma-Specific

OK Policy County-Level Data App - <http://okpolicy.org/resources/county-level-data>

Oklahoma Digital Prairie - <http://www.digitalprairie.ok.gov> (State Agency Annual Reports and other primary documents)

State of Oklahoma public data - <https://data.ok.gov/>

## Demographic

US Census Current Population Survey -

<http://www.census.gov/cps/data/cpstablecreator.html>

US Census American Fact Finder -

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

Census Reporter (tool created for the Knight News Challenge that is an easier way to explore and chart Census data) - <http://censusreporter.org/>

## Economic

US Bureau of Labor Statistics – <http://www.bls.gov/>

Federal Reserve Economic Data - <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/>

IRS Tax Statistics - <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Stats-2>

National Association of State Budget Officers - <http://www.nasbo.org/publications-data>

# Where is the data?

## Education

National Center for Educational Statistics (NAEP scores) -

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>

IPEDS Data Center (higher education) -

<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/Default.aspx>

## Criminal Justice

Bureau of Justice Statistics - <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm>

## Health

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (State Health Facts) – <http://kff.org/statedata/>

## Think Tanks

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities - <http://www.cbpp.org/>

State Priorities Partnership - <http://statepriorities.org/>

Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy - <http://www.itepnet.org/>

Economic Policy Institute – <http://www.epi.org/>

Brookings Institute - <http://www.brookings.edu/>

Urban Institute - <http://www.urban.org/>

Pew Center on the States - <http://www.pewstates.org/>

Tax Foundation - <http://taxfoundation.org/>

# Where is the data?

## Even More

Google Public Data Explorer - <http://www.google.com/publicdata/directory>

Journalist's Resource - <http://journalistsresource.org/>

Hechinger Report (education policy news) - <http://hechingerreport.org/>

Marshall Project (criminal justice policy news) - <https://www.themarshallproject.org/>

Kaiser Health News (health policy news) - <http://khn.org/>

Governing Magazine (state and local policy news) - <http://www.governing.com/>