

**Common Cause Oklahoma and
November 8, 2016, Election Issues**

Common Cause Oklahoma supports the following ballot measures:

State Question 780, a Citizen Initiated State Statute, which reclassifies certain property offenses and simple drug possession as misdemeanor crimes.

State Question 781, a Citizen Initiated State Statute, which uses money saved by reclassifying certain property and drug crimes as misdemeanors outlined in State Question 780 to fund rehabilitative programs.

The above two issues will help to relieve the overcrowding in Oklahoma prisons and make the punishment for minor crimes less punitive.

State Question 787, a Citizen Initiated State Statute, which reforms the initiative and referendum petition process by lengthening the time period to collect signatures from 90 days to one year.

Common Cause Oklahoma opposes the following ballot measures:

State Question 777, a Legislatively Referred Constitutional Amendment, the “Right to Farm” amendment, which prohibits the legislature from passing laws abridging the right of farmers and ranchers to employ technologies and practices without compelling state interest.

This “Right to Farm” amendment to the Oklahoma constitution will make regulatory measures such as clean water legislation and other environmental legislation pass the strict “compelling state interest” test before they can be enacted.

State Question 790, a Legislatively Referred Constitutional Amendment, the “Ten Commandments” amendment, which repeals Section 5 of Article 2 of the Oklahoma Constitution, which prohibits public money from being spent for religious purposes.

This “Ten Commandments” amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution will permit the return of the Ten Commandments monument to the state Capitol grounds, but more consequentially, will allow the state to spend public money for religious purposes such as religious schools.

Common Cause remains neutral on all other ballot measures at this time.