

News Stories (09/05/2025) For September 5, 2025

Author: Shawn Ashley

Date: 09/05/2025

Walters: California, Oregon teachers must take PragerU test

(QC) Teachers from Washington and Oregon will now be required to take the qualification test it developed for State Superintendent of Instruction Ryan Walters by PragerU.

Walters announced Thursday on the social media site X that teachers seeking employment in Oklahoma from Washington would be required to take the task, which asks questions about gender, civics and history. The test cannot be failed because it offers its takers up to four chances, the number of multiple choice answers, to correctly answer the question to move forward to the next question, a review by Quorum Call shows.

"We will now be requiring teachers from Washington State to take our America First @prageru exam. This woke nonsense will not be tolerated in Oklahoma," Walters posted.

The post includes a post from the conservative Libs of Tik Tok that states, "OMG. Washington State is teaching kindergarteners that they can be transgender or nonbinary."

That post includes a video of a Fox News report that cites what it says is the state's "gender jamboree lesson." The objective of the lesson, according to the report is "kids can identify their own gender and name at least three gender identities. It states the key message is "some people are boys, some people are girls, some people are both, and some people are neither."

The report cites the US Department of Health and Human Services' administration for children and families. The administration demanded August 26 that 40 states, including Washington, Oregon, as well as Oklahoma, remove all references to gender ideology in their federally funded Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) educational materials within 60 days.

"Accountability is coming," said Acting Assistant Secretary Andrew Gradison. "Federal funds will not be used to poison the minds of the next generation or advance dangerous ideological agendas. The Trump Administration will ensure that PREP reflects the intent of Congress, not the priorities of the left."

PragerU President and CEO Marissa Streit suggested Thursday on X without explanation that Walters consider requiring teachers from Oregon to take the test. Walters responded Oregon would be added.

Walters cannot require any teachers to take the test. It has not been approved by either the State Board Education or the Legislature. It is not part of the statutorily required teacher certification process.

[Editor's Note: See related story, PragerU collects test taker data, solicits donations, subscriptions]

Tracked Bills Related To Story: None

Author: Shawn Ashley

Date: 09/05/2025

Shaw pledges \$100,000 to 'Save Oklahoma Plan'

(QC) Rep. Jim Shaw has launched the Save Oklahoma Plan, which he describes as a grassroots driven campaign to hold every Republican in the 2026 legislative session and the primary elections accountable to the people, and pledged \$100,000 to support it.

"For too long, the political class has been allowed to dodge, deflect, and sell out the people who put them in office," Shaw, R-Chandler, said in a press release. "The Save Oklahoma Plan sends a clear message: The days of Republicans sneaking by on empty promises are over. If you want to run as a Republican in Oklahoma, you'd better be ready to fight for Oklahoma values, not bow to Oklahoma City insiders, special interests, or foreign adversaries."

Under the Save Oklahoma Plan, Shaw explained, funds will be distributed to conservative grassroots organizations that are committed to contacting voters about the plan's issues through text campaigns, petition drives, door-to-door canvassing and digital marketing. The organizations also must pledge they will not support or endorse any candidate who refuses to stand strong on all seven issues outlined in the plan, even if that candidate happens to disagree with just one of them.

"These are the easiest issues to show those who stand with the voters from those who serve Oklahoma City insiders," said Shaw. "This is a line in the sand - Republicans can either stand with the people of Oklahoma, or they can stand with the swamp. But they can't do both - and if they try, they'll be exposed."

The seven issues and their description include:

- Fighting the green energy agenda - "The so-called 'green energy' scam is nothing more than taxpayer-funded corporate welfare that destroys rural communities. Oklahomans - not unelected bureaucrats - should decide if or where massive wind and solar projects go, and setbacks must protect homes, schools and property values."
- Prohibiting agricultural use of biosolid waste - "Oklahoma families deserve safe food and clean water - not toxic sludge and human waste spread across our farmland."
- Criminalizing "hostile" foreign ownership of land - "America's enemies should never own a single acre of Oklahoma soil. This is about sovereignty, security and protecting our future."
- Mandatory E-Verify for all businesses - "Protect Oklahoma jobs and wages. Businesses that follow the law should not be undercut by those hiring illegal labor."
- End perpetual toll roads and expose the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority - "The people have paid for these roads over and over again. It's time to end the never ending tolls and shine a light on the turnpike bureaucracy."
- Stop discrimination based on vaccination status - "No government, employer or school has the right to punish Oklahomans for their personal medical choices. Freedom means freedom."
- End taxpayer funded lobbying - "Taxpayer money should never be used to pay lobbyists who turn around and work against the very people footing the bill."

Shaw said he has committed \$100,000 to the effort and called on conservatives to make any donations possible to organizations supporting the Save Oklahoma Plan to collectively match or exceed his contribution.

"The days of weak promises and backroom deals are over," said Shaw. "If you're a Republican in Oklahoma, you will deliver on the voters' issues - or you will be called out and left behind. No more liberal Republicans. Stand with the people - or get out of the way."

Shaw listed 21 "grassroots partners" he said are leading the Save Oklahoma Plan:

News Stories (09/05/2025)**For September 5, 2025**

- Awake Oklahoma;
- Eagle Forum Oklahoma;
- Freedom Brigade;
- Garfield County Conservative Coalition;
- Ladies for Liberty;
- Liberty.Oklahoma;
- Make Oklahoma Healthy Again;
- Moms for Liberty, Tulsa County;
- Movement 32;
- Oil and Gas Workers Association (OGWA);
- OK2A (Oklahoma Second Amendment Association);
- OKC Republican Women;
- OKGOP Grassroots Youth;
- Oklahoma D.O.G.E. [A public organization, not the division within the Office of Management and Enterprise Services];
- PikeOffOTA;
- Republican Women's Club of South Tulsa;
- Restore Liberty;
- ROPE Report;
- Save Oklahoma Farms and Ranches (SoFar Oklahoma);
- The Cavalry Group; and
- Oklahoma Grassroots.

Tracked Bills Related To Story: None

Author: Shawn Ashley

Date: 09/05/2025

PragerU collects test taker data, solicits donations, subscriptions

(QC) PragerU is using data it collects from individuals who take the teacher qualification test it developed for State Superintendent of Instruction Ryan Walters to encourage participants to subscribe to its products and to solicit donations.

"In just a few days over a holiday weekend, despite the best efforts of the teachers' unions and the left wing media, our PragerU America First test has had over 16,000 people take the test and pass it. We have generated more interest in teaching in Oklahoma than any other state," Walters said on in a video posted on the social media site X.

To take the test, an individual must provide their name, address, email address, phone number and identify whether they are a teacher, parent/guardian, student or a member of another group.

Test takers can, but are not required to, view PragerU's privacy policy and its terms of service. PragerU's system, according to the privacy policy, automatically collects the individual's IP address and mobile device IDs, browser details, tracks page views, and installs cookies and web beacons to track the individual's activity on the site. The terms of service state use of the site implies consent to PragerU's data collection and usage as outlined in its privacy policy. The terms of service also provide any content a user submits may be used by PragerU without compensation or approval.

The terms of service note PragerU "...does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information, text, graphics, links or other items contained within these materials."

The privacy policy states the information collected will be used to provide services and respond to inquiries, to send updates, promotions, fundraising appeals, and educational content, for analytics, advertising, and website improvements, and to comply with legal obligations and ensure security.

When a Quorum Call staff member took the test Monday, PragerU sent an email that reads: "Welcome to PragerU! Our mission is to promote American values through free videos and educational resources for people of all ages. We're thrilled that you have chosen to join us.

"America is now winning on many fronts, but our nation continues to face challenges like media bias and cultural decline. Alarmingly, many young Americans haven't been exposed to clear, conservative perspectives. PragerU fills that void by offering fact-based content that simplifies complex issues and champions foundational values like freedom and personal responsibility."

It adds, "We Aren't Just Changing Minds, We Are Changing the Conversation" (sic)

The remainder of the email touts PragerU and its offerings. It also gives recipients an opportunity to manage their email preferences, but it does not give them a chance to opt out of receiving them.

Each day thereafter, PragerU has sent an email to the address used to register for the test. Tuesday's subject line was "Explore our digital library," but the email content was substantially the same as Monday's initial email.

"Dear Patriot," Wednesday's email signed by PragerU President and CEO Marissa Streit begins. "I want to take a moment to welcome you to the PragerU family. We are a family, not through blood, but through values - the values that have made America the greatest civilization of all time," it continues.

"America isn't perfect, but it is a country to be proud of. We should all be grateful to live here and work hard to protect it. By joining us, you have taken a step closer to doing just that," the email adds.

The email touts the organization's offerings and ends with a donation request.

Thursday's email was like Monday and Tuesday's.

News Stories (09/05/2025)**For September 5, 2025**

An email early Friday morning touted PragerU's victory in a lawsuit against California Gov. Gavin Newsome and a law approved in 2024 that criminalized parodies of politicians.

"But victories like this come at a cost," the email states. "For one thing, we have to take breaks from telling jokes to go out and defend our right to tell them. That's not fun. For another, it isn't easy or inexpensive to be fighting in court all the time. Sure, we have some help from non-profits, like our friends at Alliance Defending Freedom, but not every case is funded from the outside."

The email goes on to solicit subscriptions to the Babylon Bee, a conservative satirical news site, and a premium subscription to the PragerU site.

The privacy policy indicates the information provided to and collected by PragerU will be shared with third-party providers, such as payment processors and email services; with event co-sponsors if the individual opts-in and with affiliates or partners, unless the individual opts-out; for interest based advertising via cookies and pixels; and as required by law, or during business transitions, such as mergers or sales.

The policy provides the information will not be sold for money but may be shared for marketing or even purposes.

The privacy policy indicates PragerU does not knowingly collect personal info from children under 13, and for known children, verifiable parental consent is required. Those signing up to take the test were not required to provide their age.

Tracked Bills Related To Story: None

News Stories (09/05/2025)

For September 5, 2025

Author: Tyler Talley

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Artist selected for DEQ public spaces project tied to long-gestating parking garage

(QC) The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) formally announced that Oklahoma artist Matt Goad was selected to create an art installation to accompany the agency's long-gestating parking garage construction project in Oklahoma City.

"I am very excited to have been the selected artist for DEQ's new parking garage facade. The high-profile location downtown near the Oklahoma City Memorial, as well as DEQ's mission which aligns with my own is what drew me to the project," Goad said via a press release announcing his selection Wednesday. "I am looking forward to creating a piece with meaning that adds even more beauty to Oklahoma City's already vibrant downtown."

Goad was selected by the Oklahoma Art in Public Places Oversight Committee, comprised of directors or designees from specified state agencies and appointed artists, architects, engineers and museum directors or curators.

Per a DEQ release, the artwork will represent "the history and values of the people of Oklahoma" and be located at the garage's entrance facing 6th Street in at the agency's headquarters in downtown Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma Art in Public Places program was created to administer the Oklahoma Art in Public Places Act enacted in 2004, which requires 1.5 percent of eligible state capital improvement budgets to be invested in public art.

Demolition of DEQ's much-maligned parking garage finally began earlier this year and is scheduled for completion in early 2027.

The crumbling state of the agency's parking garage and the need for repairs had been a recurring issue for several years as former DEQ Executive Director Scott Thompson outlined for lawmakers at a budget hearing in 2023.

When asked what the cost differences were from when the agency first sought dollars for repairs versus now, Thompson estimated the first study on the cost for repairs date back to 2007 being about \$7 million at that time to repair or construct a new parking garage. At the time, Thompson was requesting a \$16 million one-time appropriation from the Legislature to replace it.

Current DEQ Executive Director Robert Singletary provided an update on the DEQ's years-long process to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Regulatory Services this January just before demolition was set to begin.

"The Legislature provided \$16 million for the demolition and construction of a new garage," he related. "We're finally in that demolition stage just this week. We were able to vacate the garage. We put up barriers. The power's off. The deconstruction activities are commencing. It's not just going to be knocked down in one big swoop, it's going to be taken apart piece-by-piece."

Tracked Bills Related To Story: None