

FORREST BENNETT

Minority Caucus Whip
State Representative, HD92



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Oklahoma House of Representatives

November 12, 2025

The Honorable J. Kevin Stitt
Governor, State of Oklahoma
Oklahoma State Capitol, Room 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Governor Stitt:

Well, this has been fun. I was first elected to the State House in 2016—just two years before you were elected governor. For a long time, I thought my service to state government would outlast yours. But plans change.

On Friday, November 7th 2025, I was elected to lead the Oklahoma AFL-CIO, an incredible organization that works to advance the causes of its union affiliates, organized labor, and working families across the state. It's an immense honor and a big responsibility to represent our membership as its President. It also requires me to directly lobby policymakers. As such, it would be unethical to take on this new role while continuing to serve as a legislator, so I have decided to step down from a job that I have loved doing for nearly a decade.

Being the state representative for the hardworking, incredibly decent people of District 92 has been the honor of a lifetime. I am proud of the work I've done on their behalf. I have enjoyed finding ways to work with my colleagues, whose views and principles vary in many ways from my own, but whose commitment to their constituents and to a better Oklahoma have brought us together at crucial moments.

I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the occasional interactions I've had with you—whether it was our unfortunately heated exchange in the Capitol rotunda a few years ago, or our pleasant conversation about gardening and chicken-keeping during one of your visits to the House chamber. The best interaction we ever had, though, was during your ceremonial signing of the Hope Shaffer Act, legislation I sponsored on behalf of a couple in my district who tragically lost their daughter in a car accident. As long as we can look past partisanship in moments like that, I sincerely believe there is plenty of hope for government's capacity to do good. Thank you for your signature, and your kindness toward my constituents, on that day.

But enough with the sentimental stuff! In an effort to ensure that the people of District 92 have new representation in place as soon as possible, and pursuant to 26 O.S. 12-119, I hereby irrevocably tender my resignation for the elected position of State Representative for District 92 in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, effective Dec. 1st, 2025. It is my hope that you will not delay in setting a date for a special election so that the next Representative of District 92 may get to work quickly.

Signing off, for the final time as a state legislator, with all my best—

Forrest Bennett
Oklahoma State Representative
House District 92

cc: Kyle Hilbert, Speaker, Oklahoma House of Representatives
Jason Sutton, Chief of Operations & Administration, Oklahoma House of Representatives
Emily Giles, Chief Clerk, Oklahoma House of Representatives