

**Office of Governor Brad Henry**  
State of Oklahoma



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**Governor Brad Henry**

Brad Henry is currently serving his second four-year term as governor of Oklahoma. Originally elected in 2002, Governor Henry was re-elected in 2006 by one of the largest margins in state history.

A third generation Oklahoman, Governor Henry was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, where he attended public schools and graduated from Shawnee High School. The governor attended the University of Oklahoma as a President's Leadership Scholar and earned a bachelor's degree in economics in 1985. In 1988, he was awarded his law degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, where he served as managing editor of the Law Review.

Governor Henry returned to Shawnee to practice law with his father, Charles, and start a family. He married the former Kim Blain, a Shawnee school teacher, and they have three lovely daughters, Leah, Laynie and Baylee.

Before his election as governor, Brad Henry served ten years in the Oklahoma State Senate, chairing the Senate Judiciary Committee and serving as vice-chair of the Senate Economic Development Committee.

As a gubernatorial candidate in 2002, his campaign themes focused on strengthening education, providing quality health care, and ensuring greater economic opportunities. His refreshing approach connected with voters, and Brad Henry won the election in November, 2002. He was officially sworn in as Oklahoma's 26th governor on January 13, 2003.

Governor Henry took office in the midst of the worst revenue crisis in state history, but forged a historic bipartisan agreement among legislative leaders that balanced the budget without raising taxes or making massive cuts in education and health care. Under his leadership, Oklahoma experienced an economic revival, with record budget shortfalls becoming record budget surpluses.

To build a better state, Governor Henry pushed for a stronger, more accountable education system, more affordable and accessible health care, better roads and bridges and greater economic opportunities for all citizens, among other things. During his tenure, the governor has enjoyed great success in passing major planks of his legislative agenda and moving the state forward.

Governor Henry has placed his greatest emphasis on the improvement of public education, raising teacher salaries and benefits, putting more resources into the classroom and setting higher academic standards for students. The governor has also expanded Oklahoma's early childhood education programs, which have earned national recognition, and increased funding for college scholarship programs.

Keeping college graduates in Oklahoma requires high-paying jobs, and Governor Henry's efforts to improve education have been complemented by equally ambitious economic development initiatives. Governor Henry's first term saw the genesis of the Economic Development Creating Excellence, or EDGE, program. When fully realized, the \$1 billion EDGE endowment will fund research and capitol investment across the state.

These economic development initiatives were coupled with tax cuts, including the largest personal income tax cut in state history and the elimination of the capital gains tax on Oklahoma-based property, to bolster the state's economy

Governor Henry's healthcare successes include the Insure Oklahoma program, a public-private partnership that helps small businesses provide health coverage for their employees. Governor Henry also initiated programs to increase the number of insured children in the state and funded two new state facilities focusing exclusively on cancer and diabetes research.

Under his leadership, the state created the toughest methamphetamine law in the nation, all striking a devastating blow to meth labs in Oklahoma and becoming a model for the nation. The governor also worked to protect children from online sex offenders, reduce cases of child abuse and clamp down on methamphetamine traffickers.

Despite the demands of office, Brad Henry remains a committed family man. The Henrys have long been active members of the Shawnee community, participating in a number of civic organizations and local causes. They are also members of the First Baptist Church of Shawnee where both have served as Sunday school teachers. The Governor has also served as an ordained deacon at that church.

Everywhere he goes, Governor Henry urges fellow Oklahomans to be more prideful in their state, put aside their differences and work together for the common good. As he often likes to say, "We are not Republicans, Democrats or Independents. We are all Oklahomans - first, last and always."