

Instructions: Grand Jury Petition, Tulsa County, Oklahoma

Citizen Grand Jury Petition Kit · v4 · September 27, 2026

Already collecting on an earlier version? Every sheet in one petition must carry the same text, so finish on the version you started with. Before you file, read your county's entry in the change log for anything you need to do.

The number

1. **5,000 valid signatures:** 16 percent of the county's votes for governor at the last general election, with a minimum of 500 and a maximum of 5,000 (Article II, Section 18 of the Oklahoma Constitution; Board of County Commissioners of Muskogee County v. King, 2024 OK 10).
2. The base is Tulsa County's 2022 vote for governor, far above the 31,250 votes at which 16 percent reaches 5,000. The county's certified 2026 vote for governor becomes the base after the November 3, 2026 election; the number stays 5,000 unless that vote falls below 31,250.
3. In a calendar year in which a grand jury is convened in Tulsa County on a citizen petition, every later petition filed that year needs double: 10,000 valid signatures. The constitution does not require that grand jury to have been convened before the later petition is filed. Check the Court Clerk's records before the petition is filed and during the drive. If a grand jury has been convened in Tulsa County on a citizen petition this year, or an earlier citizen petition is still pending and could produce one this year, collect toward 10,000.
4. How many more to collect is the petitioner's call. People generally treat 10 to 20 percent over the number as best practice: 5,500 to 6,000, or 11,000 to 12,000 toward 10,000. The Election Board counts only signers who are registered voters of the county, and a signer may withdraw until the Board certifies the count. 38 O.S. secs. 105 and 106.

To do, by stage

Before the first signature

1. This kit has two documents: the petition, with its signature sheet, and these instructions. Only the petition and its signature sheets are filed.
2. The filer may be "any person, group of persons or organization," and more than one person may be named as filer. 38 O.S. sec. 101. Only signers must be registered voters of Tulsa County.
3. The filer writes their name in the filing block on the petition's first page. The mailing address for court notices goes only on the copy filed for the judge's review, which becomes part of the public court file; a post office box works as that address. The filer signs and dates the signature block at the end of that copy. Each co-filer fills in a copy of the filing block and signs a copy of the signature block, with the date.
4. Write the filer's name, and nothing else, on the "Person filing" line of every signature sheet; with co-filers, one co-filer's name. A filer who also signs on a signature line gives a residence address there.
5. Before any signature is gathered, file a copy of the petition as printed, with its signature sheet, with the Tulsa County Court Clerk, Room 200, Tulsa County Courthouse, 500 South Denver Avenue, Tulsa, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. 38 O.S. sec. 101. Print every copy from the PDF at actual size, with no fit-to-page or shrink setting, so the WARNING stays in ten-point type and the signature sheet prints whole on one page. Keep a file-stamped copy. Section VII asks the presiding district judge to approve the signature sheet in the same order that rules on the petition.
6. Within 4 days, not counting weekends and holidays, the judge rules on whether "the face of the petition contains a reasonably specific identification of areas to be inquired into and sufficient general allegations to warrant a finding that such inquiry may lead to information which, if true, would warrant a true bill of indictment." 38 O.S. sec. 102. The judge does not decide whether the allegations are true. No statute in 38 O.S. secs. 101 through 108 requires a hearing on the petition.
7. An order quashing, or rejecting, the petition lists each deficiency in writing. An amended petition that fixes those deficiencies is due within 2 days, and the judge rules within 2 more; the weekend and holiday

exclusion covers the 4 days only. An order quashing the amended petition can be appealed when entered; an approval order cannot be appealed. 38 O.S. sec. 102.

8. Signatures gathered before the judge signs the approval order do not count. 38 O.S. sec. 103.
9. After the order is signed, print each packet from the approved text, with the signature sheets stapled behind the full petition; more than one sheet may go behind one copy. The petition is never retyped or summarized. No type is shrunk, including the ten-point WARNING of 22 O.S. sec. 311.1. Fill in the case number and the order's date on every sheet. A Rogers County petition was dismissed in 2013 because its signatures were on a one-page summary instead of the approved petition. *Steidley v. Singer*, 2026 OK CIV APP 1.

While collecting

1. **Say this before anyone signs:** This petition asks the Tulsa County grand jury to inquire whether Social Security records of county residents were shared or copied outside the agency's approved systems, and whether anyone who did so broke Oklahoma computer-crime law.
2. **If they want more:** The government told a federal court that DOGE staff shared agency data through a third-party server the agency had not approved, and that the agency "has not been able to determine exactly what data were shared." The agency's own chief data officer also disclosed that a copy of the master Social Security file was placed in a cloud environment lacking independent security controls. The petition asks a grand jury of this county to find out whether residents' records were in that data and whether anyone broke this state's law. It names no defendant.
3. **What if officials say no data was shared?** On February 10, 2026, the Social Security commissioner wrote to the Senate Finance Committee that "there is no evidence that data was shared with the referenced outside organization." That statement covers only the political advocacy group in the government's court filing and rests on the agency's own review. It says nothing about the unapproved server or the copy of the master file. A grand jury can subpoena records and question witnesses under oath.
4. **What if officials say the copy of the master file was secure?** The agency's statement printed by TIME on August 26, 2025 reads: "The data referenced in the complaint is stored in a long-standing environment used by SSA and walled off from the internet." That is the agency's own account. The chief data officer's disclosure describes a copy of the master file in a cloud environment lacking independent security controls. A grand jury can subpoena the records of that environment and question witnesses under oath.
5. Every signer is a registered voter of Tulsa County; ask before they sign. The city of Tulsa extends past the county line, so voter registration, not the mailing address, decides whether a signature counts.
6. Each signer signs once, in their own name, and writes a printed name, residence address, city and date on the same line, in the circulator's presence. Any signer may read the full petition first.
7. Nothing of value is offered to get a signature or the removal of a name, and no false statement is made to get either. 38 O.S. sec. 104.
8. The circulator who witnessed every signature on a sheet signs the circulator verification at its foot. No names are added to a sheet after the circulator signs. No statute requires the verification or a notary.
9. Packets stay stapled; no sheet leaves its petition while signatures are gathered.
10. Everything said at the table or handed out says only what the petition says, and names no person as having committed a crime. The protection of 38 O.S. sec. 108 covers the approved petition, not a summary handed out or posted in its place. *Steidley v. Singer*, 2026 OK CIV APP 1.

Filing day

1. Before filing, confirm that the count, with duplicate signers removed, clears 5,000, or 10,000 under the doubling rule, and check the Court Clerk's records once more.
2. Every line has a signature, printed name, residence address, city and date. Every sheet has the case number, the order's date, the filer's name and a signed circulator verification, and is still stapled behind its copy of the petition. Number the sheets on their "Sheet _____ of _____" lines.
3. Photocopy every page.

4. File all packets together, stapled as circulated, with the Tulsa County Court Clerk within 45 days of the approval order. The last day is not the target.
5. Obtain a file-stamped copy or a dated receipt, with the case number.

After filing

1. The Court Clerk delivers the original packets to the Tulsa County Election Board the next business day, and within 7 business days the Election Board certifies to the Court Clerk how many signers are registered voters of the county. 38 O.S. sec. 106. A signer may have their name removed by filing a request with the Court Clerk before certification; a later request is void. 38 O.S. sec. 105.
2. If fewer than 5,000 signatures are valid, or fewer than 10,000 under the doubling rule, the petition is void, and a new petition may be filed. 38 O.S. sec. 103.

Grand jury

1. On a sufficient certification, the presiding district judge "shall order the impaneling of a grand jury" to convene within 30 days of the date the Court Clerk receives the certification. 38 O.S. sec. 107. The election period in Time limits, item 2, can delay that date.
2. The grand jury is twelve Tulsa County residents, and nine votes return an indictment, also called a true bill. Article II, Section 18. The grand jury can subpoena witnesses and records. It may ask the advice of the court or of the Tulsa County District Attorney. 22 O.S. sec. 340(A). It may also return no true bill. It may make a formal written report on the condition and operation of a public office or public institution it investigated. 22 O.S. sec. 346.

Time limits

1. Signatures are gathered, and every signed packet filed, within 45 days of the approval order or of a successful appeal. A petition short of the number when the 45 days end is void, and no signature can be added afterward. 38 O.S. secs. 103 and 106.
2. No grand jury may be convened or remain in session from 30 days before through 10 days after any "Primary, Runoff Primary, or General Election, for state or county offices," and a grand jury in session when that period begins is discharged. 22 O.S. sec. 345. For the November 3, 2026 general election the period is October 4 through November 13, 2026.
3. Prosecution for each of the four offenses the petition cites "must be commenced within three (3) years after its commission," because 22 O.S. sec. 152 sets no special period for computer crimes. 22 O.S. sec. 152(H). For the earliest act alleged, on March 7, 2025, the period ends March 7, 2028, subject to item 4.
4. If a defendant was out of Oklahoma when the offense was committed, the period begins when the defendant comes into the state, and no time during which a defendant is not an inhabitant of or usually resident within Oklahoma counts toward the period. 22 O.S. sec. 153.

Objections you may hear

1. **Isn't this federal?** The agency's computers are federal, but Oklahoma and the United States are separate sovereigns, each enforcing its own criminal law. *Gamble v. United States*, 587 U.S. 678 (2019). The petition asks whether this state's computer-crime law also applies to the handling of Tulsa County residents' records. That question is for a grand jury and, later, a court. The petition alleges no federal offense.
2. **Aren't federal employees immune?** A federal officer who is charged may claim immunity under the Supremacy Clause, the part of the United States Constitution that makes federal law supreme, for an act that federal law authorized, if the officer did no more than was necessary and proper. *In re Neagle*, 135 U.S. 1 (1890). A federal officer who is subpoenaed or charged may ask a federal court to take that part of the case. 28 U.S.C. sec. 1442(a) and (d)(1). Federal defenses come later, when a subpoena is issued or a charge is filed, and they do not stop the grand jury from sitting.
3. **Why Tulsa County?** Under 22 O.S. sec. 124, when the acts or effects of an offense occur in two or more counties, either county has jurisdiction. The petition alleges, on information and belief, that residents'

records were among the agency data shared or copied, and that the effects occur in Tulsa County, where those residents live. Section V of the petition cites *Bozarth v. State*, 1934 OK CR 130, which upheld venue under the same language, and *Strassheim v. Daily*, 221 U.S. 280, 285 (1911), on acts done outside a state that are intended to produce, and produce, detrimental effects in the state.

4. **Is there a provable harm?** No dollar loss is an element of the four offenses the petition cites. Under 21 O.S. sec. 1953(A)(1) and (A)(3), the offense is willfully gaining access to data and copying or disclosing it without authorization, or beyond the limits of authorization. The petition alleges, on information and belief, that Tulsa County residents' records were among the data shared or copied, and finding out whether that happened is the grand jury's work.

A prosecutor's decision not to bring a case does not stop a citizen petition. The court decides whether to convene the grand jury. 38 O.S. secs. 102 and 107.

What the filer does after filing

1. If anyone files a motion against the petition, or asks the Oklahoma Supreme Court for a writ to stop it, as in *Board of County Commissioners of Muskogee County v. King*, 2024 OK 10, the filer responds in writing.
2. No statute requires the filer to testify. The filer may be subpoenaed like any other witness.
3. The filer does not prosecute the case or question witnesses.
4. Grand jury proceedings are secret. The filer makes no public statement about any testimony.

Can I stop?

Yes. Nothing in 38 O.S. secs. 101 through 108 penalizes a filer who stops, before or after filing, and no notice is required. The statute has no step for withdrawing signed packets once they are filed; it assigns the count to the Election Board and the order impaneling a grand jury to the presiding judge. 38 O.S. secs. 106 and 107. If you stop before filing, keep the signed sheets private; they show signers' names and addresses.

About this kit

The Existentialist Republic publishes this petition as a template, with the allegations drafted and cited, and these instructions. The petitioner decides whether to file and when. This kit is activist material. Nothing in it is legal advice, and The Existentialist Republic does not act as legal counsel for anyone who uses the kit. A lawyer is not required under Article II, Section 18 of the Oklahoma Constitution or 38 O.S. secs. 101 through 108, and petitioners commonly go through this process without one.