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## First Senate District 2 candidate goes public

Former legislative director to  
Sen. Boren wants to represent  
Rogers, Mayes counties

Sean Burrage, former legislative director for then-U.S. Senator David L. Boren, announced today he is running for the Oklahoma State Senate in Rogers and Mayes Counties.

Sean, age 37, a Democrat, is a Claremore-based attorney who has been married to his wife, Carole Burrage, for 12 years. The Burrages have two sons: Truman, age 9, and Carter, age 1.

"Sean Burrage is uniquely qualified to serve in the State Senate," said Boren, now the president of Oklahoma University. "I've never known anyone who worked harder, was more responsible, and cared more about doing the right thing. Sean's someone you can count on, no matter what."

Stratton Taylor currently holds Senate District 2, which is comprised of Rogers and Mayes Counties. Senator Taylor cannot run for re-election because of term limits.

"I'm running for the State Senate to give middle-class families a voice in our state government," Burrage said. "We have to make sure that our schools prosper, that we find solutions to health care problems, and that we promote a climate of economic opportunity. I think if you work hard and are accountable for your actions, you should have the chance to succeed. I'll also work to pro-



**BURRAGE**

tect fundamental rights. I'm pro-life and, as a gun owner myself, I will be a strong proponent of gun owners' rights."

EDUCATION

Burrage said he wants to advance educational opportunities at every level. He wants to work to improve local schools, increase opportunities for kids to attend college, and expand programs at Northeast Technology Center.

"Education means opportunity," Burrage said. "Quality schools are our kids' best chance for a bright future. As the son of two teenaged parents who attended college while working multiple jobs, I saw first hand just how important that educational opportunity was: The fact that my mom and dad were able to get an education meant they had a chance to succeed. My dad went on to practice law and became a federal judge, while

Mom taught elementary school and is now a principal. She's a lifelong educator.

One of Burrage's goals is to expand college scholarship opportunities for the children of middle class families.

"My parents' experience made a big impression," Burrage said. "There are lots of kids of hard-working, middle-class families for whom a college education is still beyond reach. I'm determined that no student with the grades and desire for further education will be turned away from a college or university because of a lack of funds."

In the 1990s, Burrage was legislative director for then United States Senator Boren. When Boren became president of the University of Oklahoma, Burrage became special assistant to the president and director of State and Federal Relations.

"Every day we were fighting for educational opportunities for Oklahomans," Burrage said. "Working with and learning from President Boren was a tremendous experience for me."

COMMUNITY & FAMILY

Today Burrage serves as the volunteer president of Share the Spirit, a local charity that provides food baskets for families in need and sends kids to summer camp. He is a member of the OU-Tulsa President's Cabinet. In 2001 Sean was named Tri-County CASA Attorney of the Year for his pro-bono representation of minor children in the juvenile court system. Both Burrage and his wife Carole graduated from the University of Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma School of Law. Carole served on the faculty of Rogers State University until last semester when she resigned to stay home with their children. The Burrages are members of First United Methodist Church of Claremore.

Burrage coaches his son Truman's basketball and soccer teams, and says that coaching reminds him of how much he wants local children to succeed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"When I'm coaching and I see those kids out there, I think about how much I want them to have the chance to make it," Burrage said. "That requires more than just a good education - they need to have economic opportunities. I want my boys to be able to make good livings close to home; I don't want them to feel they have to move out of state to find the kind of jobs that will enable them to support their families. Every parent I know feels the same way. That's why creating a positive climate for economic development in Oklahoma is one of my main goals."

"For example," Burrage said, "why not make Oklahoma a leading center for energy research?"

HEALTH CARE & SENIORS

Burrage said that the looming health care crisis is another one of his key concerns. Currently he is a member of the Board of the University Hospitals Authority and Trust, which oversees the hospitals at the OU Health Sciences Center. Additionally, his younger son, Carter, was recently diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

"For the last 18 months my family has been on a very long journey through our health care system," Burrage said. "So far we've been fortunate - we're still making it. But many middle class families are one illness away from bankruptcy. Something has to change."

Burrage wants to increase funding for Senior Citizen Centers in the District's communities. He also wants to expand the Veterans Center.

"We've got new vets with needs from the Gulf Wars," Burrage said. "We've got to make sure no one gets turned away."

Burrage said Rogers and Mayes counties are "great places" and that "there's a lot I want to focus on to help local communities."

TRANSPORTATION & TECHNOLOGY

In Claremore Burrage wants to promote tourist attractions and bring an overpass to the area to decrease traffic congestion.

He said keeping key transportation upgrades on the state's project list is critical for the future economic development of both Rogers and Mayes County.

Burrage noted Verdigris is "growing by leaps and bounds and needs access to DSL for Internet services. Also, Verdigris is bumping up against transportation challenges with its fast-growing high school being located adjacent to a busy highway; safe access is paramount."

"And we need to expand Pelivan Transit throughout the district, especially into rural communities. It's particularly

important for the elderly who are shut in."

PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY

When asked about guiding philosophies, Burrage said his Christian faith and a belief in hard work and personal accountability are at the heart of his personal values.

"I guess the bottom line for me is personal responsibility," Burrage explained. "And that affects how I see what's going on around us. There needs to be discipline and structure in the classroom. There needs to be accountability in the health insurance system. We need to set an example of personal responsibility for all our children."

"The truth is," Burrage said, "this is a great place to be. There's no place I'd rather raise my family. I'm convinced that with the right leadership and an investment in our future, our best days are still ahead of us."

"And that's why I'm running for the State Senate - I want to help bring more jobs to this region; improve our schools, provide better services for our elderly and veterans, and make healthcare more accessible for middle class families."

"In other words," Sean said, "I'm running to help this great area become even greater."

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