



WIKIPEDIA
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Navigation

[Main page](#)
[Contents](#)
[Featured content](#)
[Current events](#)
[Random article](#)
[Donate to Wikipedia](#)

Interaction

[Help](#)
[About Wikipedia](#)
[Community portal](#)
[Recent changes](#)
[Contact Wikipedia](#)

Toolbox

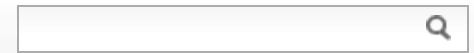
[What links here](#)
[Related changes](#)
[Upload file](#)
[Special pages](#)
[Permanent link](#)
[Cite this page](#)

Print/export

[Create a book](#)
[Download as PDF](#)
[Printable version](#)

Article [Discussion](#)

Read [Edit](#) [View](#) 



Please read:

[A personal appeal from](#)

[Wikipedia programmer Brandon Harris](#)

[Read now](#)



Sandy Garrett

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Sandy Garrett is a retired [American Democratic politician](#) from the [US state of Oklahoma](#). Garrett is the former [Oklahoma Superintendent of Public Instruction](#).

She was first elected to this office in 1990, and again in 1994, 1998, 2002, and 2006. Garrett is the only woman to hold the office of Superintendent and is the only woman to hold a statewide office for five consecutive terms. In 2010, after the campaign announcement by Janet Barresi, later Garrett announced that she would not seek a sixth term in office.

Contents [[hide](#)]

- [1 Biography](#)
- [2 Awards](#)
- [3 Election history](#)
- [4 External links](#)

Biography

[[edit](#)]

Sandy Garrett was born in [Muskogee, Oklahoma](#), and later graduated from Stilwell High School. She received her [bachelor's degree](#) and [master's degrees](#) from [Northeastern State University](#). Garrett briefly pursued but did not complete her postgraduate education at the [University of Oklahoma](#) and the [John F. Kennedy School of Government](#) at [Harvard University](#). She later returned to Muskogee where she spent 15 years as a teacher and a gifted programs coordinator in [Muskogee County](#) schools. After her years as a teacher, Garrett joined the Oklahoma State Department of Education as the Gifted and Talented Programs Coordinator. She would later become Executive Director of Education Programs, which included rural education, technology, satellite instruction, media applications, and library resources.

Throughout her career in Oklahoma Department of Education, Garrett was an outspoken advocate for children and active participant in education reform. She played a pivotal role in implementing the state's Learning by Satellite program and in establishing a two-way interactive fiber-optic instruction system in the Panhandle region drew national

Sandy Garrett

Oklahoma Superintendent of Public Instruction

In office

1991–2011

Succeeded by Janet Barresi

Oklahoma Secretary of Education

In office

1988–1995

Governor [Henry Bellmon](#)
[David Walters](#)

Succeeded by [Floyd Coppedge](#)

Personal details

Born [Muskogee, Oklahoma](#)

Political party [Democratic](#)

Residence [Oklahoma City, Oklahoma](#)

Website [Official website](#) 

Oklahoma



This article is part of the series:
[Politics and government of Oklahoma](#)
[Oklahoma](#)

Constitution

Executive

Legislature

Judiciary

attention to Oklahoma in the 1980s. In 1988, she was named **Cabinet Secretary of Education** by **Republican Governor of Oklahoma Henry Bellmon**. Following the election of **Democrat David Walters** as Governor, Garrett remained in that position.

In 1990, Garrett was the first woman elected to serve as the **Oklahoma State Superintendent of Public Instruction**. As the **Chief Executive Officer** of the State Department of Education, Superintendent Garrett has led the timely implementation of the mandates of Oklahoma 's landmark

Education Reform Act of 1990. Additionally, since taking office in 1991, she has downsized the Department, saving taxpayers a cumulative \$52.7 million. A hallmark of her administration, Superintendent Garrett's administration has been key to the development of Oklahoma's Pre-Kindergarten programs throughout the state. Garret has raised standards to the extent that Oklahoma is recognized as a national model by the National Institute for Early Education Research. Increasing academic standards, improving reading skills, bringing technology to the classroom and making schools safer are also priorities Superintendent Garrett continues to pursue.

Elections
Divisions
Federal Relations
<p>Other countries · Atlas</p> <p>Politics portal</p> <p>view · talk · edit</p>

Awards

[\[edit\]](#)

- The **Silver Beaver Award** from the Boy Scouts of America in 2001
- Named one of the “Fifty Making a Difference” in Oklahoma by The Journal Record.
- She was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame in March 2001
- Inducted into the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame in August 2000
- Member of the Northeastern State University Alumni Association Hall of Fame.
- She received the First Lady's Leadership in Literacy Award in November 2000.
- On April 28, 2009, the Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education awarded Superintendent Garrett the “2009 James M. Goodman Friend of Geography Award.” Earlier in the same month, she received the “Vision Award” from the Oklahoma State Teachers of the Year Association. In November 2008, Superintendent Garrett was presented the “Equal Opportunity Award” from the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City in honor of her “leadership and contributions to improving urban education.”
- She received the Kate Barnard Award for lifetime leadership; presented in February 2010 by the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women

Election history


[\[edit\]](#)

Election results								
Year	Office	Election	Votes for Garrett	%	Opponent	Party	Votes	%
1994	Oklahoma Superintendent of Public Instruction	General		51%	Linda Murphy	Republican		49%
1998	Superintendent of Public Instruction	General	520,270	61%	Linda Murphy	Republican	343,291	39%
2002	Superintendent of Public Instruction	General	609,851	60%	Lloyd Roettger	Republican	411,814	40%
2006	Superintendent of Public Instruction	General	576,304	63%	Bill Crozier	Republican	343,900	37%

External links

[\[edit\]](#)

- **Official website**

- [Audio interview](#)  with her and her 2006 challenger, [Bill Crozier](#) .

v · d · e		Current elected statewide political officials of Oklahoma	
U.S. Senators	Jim Inhofe · Tom Coburn		
State government	Mary Fallin, Governor · Todd Lamb, Lieutenant Governor · Glenn Coffee, Secretary of State · Gary Jones, State Auditor and Inspector · Scott Pruitt, Attorney General · Ken A. Miller, State Treasurer · Janet Barresi, State School Superintendent · Mark Costello, Labor Commissioner · John D. Doak, Insurance Commissioner · Bob Anthony, Corporation Commissioner · Jeff Cloud, Corporation Commissioner · Dana Murphy, Corporation Commissioner		
	Senate	Brian Bingman, President pro tempore · Mike Schulz, Majority Leader · Andrew Rice, Minority Leader	
	House	Kris Steele, Speaker · Jeffrey W. Hickman, Speaker pro tempore · Scott Inman, Minority Leader	
	Supreme Court	Steven W. Taylor, Chief Justice · Tom Colbert, Vice Chief Justice · Yvonne Kauger · Joseph M. Watt · James R. Winchester · John F. Reif · James E. Edmondson · Doug Combs · Noma Gurich	
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