

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 SENATE BILL 560

By: Jett

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to turnpikes; prohibiting turnpike
8 projects, routes, and extensions under certain
9 circumstances; requiring certain election be held in
10 certain areas; allowing authorization under certain
11 approval; providing time that certain approval exists
12 for construction purposes; stating how certain
elections shall be conducted relating to certain
13 projects; requiring proof of certain ownership of
14 real property; providing for codification; and
15 providing an effective date.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1705.7 of Title 69, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. No turnpike project or route, nor any extension of an
21 existing turnpike, shall be authorized unless the Legislature shall
22 receive, prior to such authorization, results of a special election
23 from among property owners whose land is situated within a one-mile
24 radius of the proposed turnpike route. Authorization shall be
allowed only if the majority of landowners along the proposed
turnpike route vote in the affirmative.

1 B. The question at the special election shall be whether a
2 majority of such affected landowners are in favor of or against the
3 proposed turnpike route. Such special election is to be organized
4 and conducted by the county election board in each county where the
5 property of each affected landowner is located. Notice of such
6 election shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general
7 circulation in the county or counties in which the proposed route is
8 located once a week for the three (3) consecutive weeks preceding
9 the date of such election, and by posting such notice in three
10 public places in such county or counties for at least twenty (20)
11 days prior to the date of such election. If more than four (4)
12 years elapse from the time that a vote takes place prior to a
13 project's or a route's legislative authorization, the prior vote
14 shall be presumptively considered to have lapsed and a new special
15 election in line with the above criteria must be held prior to any
16 legislative authorization for the construction of any such turnpike
17 or turnpike extension.

18 C. For purposes of counting votes in such special election, in
19 instances where fee simple title of an affected parcel of land is
20 held in co-tenancy or in joint tenancy, any one of the owners may
21 vote, but, in order for such vote to be given effect, it shall be
22 necessary for the representative or representatives of such
23 landowner to present to the county election board proxies or other
24 reliable form of proof as shall be developed by the State Election

1 Board and made available through all county election boards for use
2 by all prospectively eligible voters.

3 D. Acceptable proof shall include recorded deeds and other
4 instruments of conveyance, recorded memoranda of trusts, final
5 probate and divorce decrees, affidavits of surviving joint tenants,
6 and affidavits of heirship. Where fee simple title is held by a
7 married couple, either one of the two persons comprising such
8 married couple shall be empowered to exercise the right to vote
9 relative to the affected parcel of land. A landowner who,
10 subsequent to the first official publication of notice of such vote,
11 creates two or more separate tracts from a single parcel of land and
12 retains ownership of the separate tracts shall only have one vote.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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