



SPRING ISSUE: APRIL 2026

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61st Annual Board Meeting May 21

Okmulgee County Rural Water District 2 will hold their 61st Annual Meeting May 21st at the Preston High School Cafeteria, located at the corner of Pringey and Phillips Str. in Preston, OK across from the gymnasium.

A Board of Director's election will be held for seat 5, with two candidates having filed during the registration period. Incumbent Robert Osborn is being challenged by Gary McCollum.

According to District 2 bylaws, only participating members shall have the right to

vote. Each participating member is entitled to a single vote, regardless of the number of benefit units to which they have subscribed. Participating members will be verified by proper ID and account number and given one ballot for voting.

Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. for voters. The meeting will be called to order at 7:00 p.m. following the completion of the voting period. Votes will then be counted and the position filled at that time. The regular business agenda items will follow.

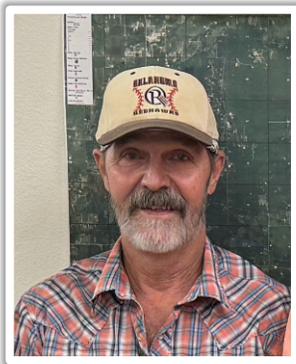
*Candidates have provided their bios below.

Meet the 2026 Candidates for Open Board Seat 5

Robert Osborn Incumbent

Robert Osborn is the incumbent candidate for the Okmulgee County Rural Water District No. 2 and lives in the Twin Hills area. He has expressed interest in continuing efforts related to system maintenance and upgrades.

Mr. Osborn retired from Public Works for the City of Tulsa with 40 years in local government construction and maintaining infrastructure including water, sewer, drainage, streets, and administrative responsibilities. He began his career in Water Works in Grand Prairie, TX as an operator in the Street Dept. He joined the Public Works Dept. in Richland Texas as a Field Operator for 10 years until he became the Director of Public Works for 4 years before moving to Oklahoma and finished his career at the City of Tulsa in the Engineering Dept. as Public Works Construction and Inspector.



Candidate Gary McCollum Jr.

Gary McCollum Jr., My wife, Shannon, and I have been married for 16 years and have lived in the Preston community for the past 9 years. During that time, we have continued building our small farm, where we raise chickens, goats, and guineas.

We have three adult children and two grandchildren. Shannon and I have attended Life Church in Jenks for nearly six years, where she serves in the nursery. In our free time, we enjoy camping, kayaking,

riding our motorcycle, and, more recently, cycling with our daughter and son-in-law. I also enjoy hiking, hunting, and fishing whenever I can.

I currently work as an Investigator for the Okmulgee and McIntosh County District Attorney's Office and have served in that role for 19 years. Before that, I served with the Okmulgee County Sheriff's Office for 13 years. Some of you may also recognize me as the Security Officer at ...

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Preston High School basketball home games, a position I have held since 2009. In addition, I have proudly volunteered with the Preston Fire Department since 2008 and have served on the Board of the Oklahoma International Association for Identification since 2025. In 2007, I graduated from Bacone College with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

For the past five years, I have also written and maintained federal grant funding for the District 25 Drug and Violent Crime Task Force. These responsibilities have helped me develop experience in securing resources, managing federally funded programs, and maintaining accountability within a professional organization.

Throughout my career, I have worked to conduct myself with integrity, sound judgment, attention to detail, and the ability to evaluate complex information before making decisions. These experiences have strengthened my analytical thinking, accountability, and commitment to public service.

Many people have asked why I want to serve on the Preston Water Board. My answer is simple. I care about

this community and want to do my part to help it continue to grow and improve.

Serving others has always been important to me, and this is another way I can give back to the community my family calls home.

While my perspective comes from outside the daily operations of a water department, I believe good decisions come from listening, asking questions, and working with people who have the right knowledge and experience. Clean, reliable water is essential for every home and every family in our community. I understand there are several important infrastructure projects already underway, and I would like to help continue that progress and support the work being done to strengthen our water system for the future.

I would appreciate your vote and the opportunity to serve the Okmulgee County Rural Water District No. 2 community.

For more information:
visit www.garymccollumjr.com



New Preston Intersection Work Started

On March 2, the contractors began work on the state highway project to rebuild the Preston intersection on and off ramps and overpass. Preston is reshaping quickly as trees have been cleared and dirt is being excavated in the area. Work should be completed by the first of next year providing safer travel through Preston, OK.

Okmulgee RWD#2 is also nearing the completion of their new inlet and 8" upgrade from the City of Okmulgee providing increased reliability, improved water pressure, and greater volume capacity to more efficiently fill our water towers. This will better serve our customer's needs with the less likelihood of water outages due to supply and demand issues.



Preston Water customers, have you checked your auto-pay expiration date lately? We have noticed some customers have upcoming expiration dates as well as customers who have missed payments due to their payment date expiring.

Expired payment information can cause your water bill to become late without you realizing it. To avoid any interruption or late charges, please visit the Bill Pay button on the Preston Water website and do a quick account checkup. A simple review today can help keep your service running smoothly.

Sign up for News and Alerts in your area concerning Okmulgee RWD #2 on our website by Clicking the Red ["Sign Up for Alerts"](#) button at www.prestonwater.com