



THE STATE CHAMBER OF OKLAHOMA
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES FOR BUSINESS

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Mary Mélon Named Chairman Of The Oklahoma Prosperity Project
Journal Record publisher to lead nonpartisan election education program

OKLAHOMA CITY – State Chamber Chairman Don Cain announced today the appointment of Mary Mélon as 2007-2008 Chairman of The State Chamber’s *Oklahoma Prosperity Project*. Mélon is the publisher of The Journal Record.

“Mary’s vast knowledge of Oklahoma business and government, her expertise in publishing and her passion for Oklahoma make her the natural choice for this post,” said Cain, president of AT&T Oklahoma. “It’s vitally important to our success and growth as a state that more businesses and their employees take an interest in next year’s elections.”

More than 1,000 leading companies and organizations (representing 416,000 employees) participated during the 2006 election cycle in the Prosperity Project – a free, nonpartisan election education program that shows voters where their candidates for state Legislature stand on issues affecting Oklahoma jobs and our economy.

“The Prosperity Project helps Oklahoma employers, their employees and other interested voters go to the polls informed,” State Chamber President Dick Rush said. “We had over 475,000 hits on our Web site during the 2006 election cycle. Under Mary’s leadership, that number will grow exponentially.”

Mélon said the campaign is a project she believes in deeply.

“Voting is one of the most fundamental rights we have as Americans and being educated about the candidates we elect is critical,” Mélon said. “Electing representatives who support pro-business policy is important to Oklahoma’s economic future.”

The goal for the 2007-2008 Prosperity Project is to reach 600,000 employees, Rush said. This cycle, Congressional districts will be added. The first edition in 2004 reached 123,000 employees. Devon Energy Chairman and CEO Larry Nichols and Equity Commercial Realty President and CEO Judy Hatfield have previously served as chairmen.

The State Chamber of Oklahoma represents more than 2,000 businesses with 400,000 employees statewide. They are the legislative advocates for business with the stated goal of making Oklahoma the state of choice for business.

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