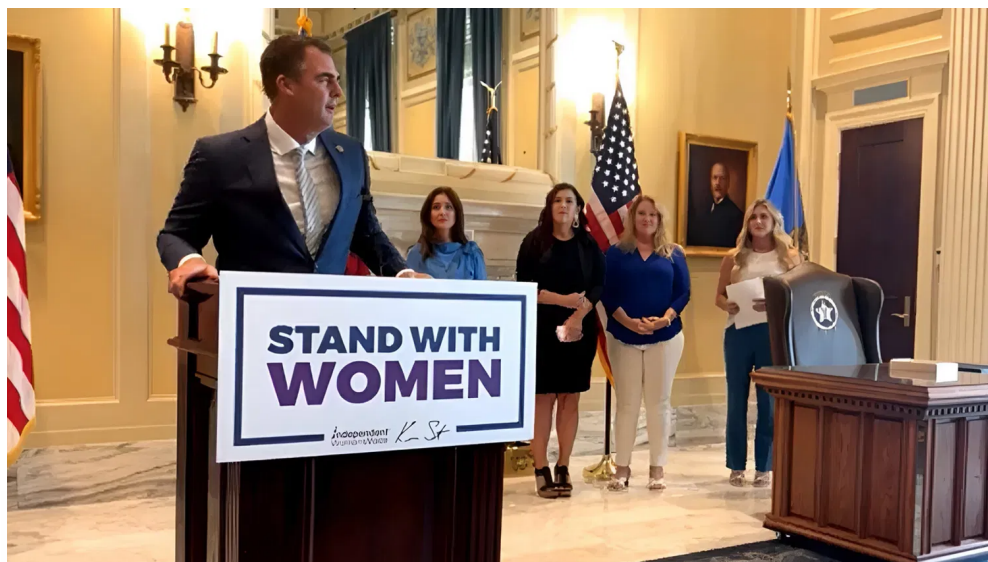




Transgender rights targeted in executive order signed by Oklahoma governor

by SEAN MURPHY Associated Press
Tue, August 1st 2023, 1:12 PM PDT



Screenshot from the Stand with Women ceremonial signing. Aug. 1, 2023. Courtesy: Independent Women's Voice

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt on Tuesday directed state agencies to use narrow definitions of “female” and “male,” in the latest attack on transgender rights in a state that already has laws targeting bathroom use, health care and sports teams for transgender people.

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Stitt signed the executive order flanked by women from the anti-trans group Independent Women's Voice, including Riley Gaines, a former University of Kentucky swimmer known for criticizing an NCAA decision allowing transgender swimmer Lia Thomas to compete against her in a women's championship race.

“Today we're taking a stand against this out-of-control gender

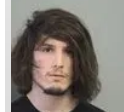
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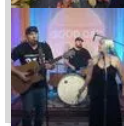
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and turn it into some kind of ambiguous definition that harms real women.”

In addition to requiring state agencies and boards to define the words “female” and “male” to correspond with the person's sex assigned at birth, the executive order also includes definitions for the words “man,” “boy,” “woman,” “girl,” “father” and “mother.” The order specifically defines a female as a “person whose biological reproductive system is designed to produce ova” and a male as a “person whose biological reproductive system is designed to fertilize the ova of a female.”

It also directs schools and other state agencies to use these definitions when collecting vital statistics.

Stitt's order, dubbed “The Women's Bill of Rights” by its supporters, is the latest Oklahoma policy to attack the rights of transgender people and is part of a growing trend in conservative states. Stitt signed a bill earlier this year that made it a crime for health care workers to provide gender-affirming medical care for minors, and has previously signed measures to prohibit transgender girls and women from playing on female sports teams and prevent transgender children from using school bathrooms that correspond to their gender identity.

“This executive order is neither about rights, nor is it about protecting women,” said Nicole McAfee, executive director of Freedom Oklahoma, which supports the rights of trans people. She called it a “thinly veiled attack” that codifies discrimination against transgender women.

Stitt's action comes during legal battles in neighboring Kansas over the meaning of a state law that Republican legislators also christened “The Women's Bill of Rights,” which rolled back transgender rights. It was based on language from several anti-trans groups, including Independent Women's Voice.



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Oklahoma already is among only a few states that don't allow transgender people to change their driver's licenses, along with Kansas, Montana and Tennessee. Stitt also previously signed an executive order prohibiting any changes to person's gender on birth certificates.

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Trandgenderism isnt targeted properly its a mental illness, there are only 2 genders and they ARE NOT INTERCHANGABLE!

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If this wasn't vile, it'd be a joke. "Women's Rights"... ha! What about some "body autonomy"... that's the women's right you should be supporting.

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trans is mental illness....they dont have anymore or any less rights than me....stupid nonsense...

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Claremore residents frustrated, uneasy after power outages

by John Hayes, KTUL staff
Wed, August 2nd 2023, 8:26 PM PDT



Claremore residents frustrated, uneasy after power outages. (KTUL)

TULSA, Okla. (KTUL) — The City of Claremore has been facing a series of major power outages over the last few days, leaving

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residents feeling uneasy and frustrated in triple-digit heat.



While the city has assured that there are no more "anticipated" major power outages for now, some residents are expressing their concerns and calling for more decisive action to address the issue.

Two residents, who chose to remain anonymous out of fear of retaliation, opened up to NewsChannel 8 about their experiences.

"Right now it's just the tipping point," one resident said. "We're not heard we're silenced."

That resident told NewsChannel 8 problems with outages have persisted for years with no end seemingly in sight. She said her concerns have been met by unanswered and unreturned phone calls from the city, but worried that after speaking with NewsChannel 8 things would get worse if she identified herself.

"I have medication that needs to be refrigerated," said that resident who had been out of power since Sunday and had only recently had it restored. "That medication is in excess of 2,000 dollars."

The City of Claremore, however, declined a request for an interview Wednesday, with a spokesperson stating that the city manager was busy the same afternoon. NewsChannel 8 asked if any other city officials might be available for comment, but that inquiry was never returned. The city has instead opted to be active on social media, sharing updates about the situation. [According to their latest post](#), the power company, Claremore Electric, implemented planned outages Wednesday due to heat-related stress on a substation that started Sunday. The city said that while the efforts to address the issue were successful, there remains the possibility of future outages during high peak demand until the substation is fully repaired.

Residents are frustrated with what they perceive to be persistent power issues.

"I can't get them to fix what needs to be fixed in order for us to have electricity at all times," said another resident. "What's frustrating is you know, losing power. You've had people whose appliances they've broke because of all of the shortages in and out of electricity. I know our dryer we've had to replace because of all of the shortages that kept happening in and out. It's just, it's costing way too much."

Adding to the residents' worries, they tell NewsChannel 8 they are facing unexpectedly high electric bills, even as they have strived to

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conserve electricity over the warmer months. The city's budget has also come under scrutiny after a [special audit by State Auditor Cindy Byrd in March](#). The audit identified some irregularities in the city's budget, including a reliance on utility revenue to maintain city operations. Despite these findings, nothing improper or illegal was reported in the process.

The residents noted that they want clear answers from the city regarding the use of funds and a resolution to the power outage problems. They encourage community members to attend the upcoming Claremore City Council meeting next Monday at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. in solidarity.

You can read the city's entire Facebook post from Wednesday below. Comments have been disabled on multiple recent posts but were available on others.

 **JOIN THE CONVERSATION (0)**

**City of Claremore Government**
7 hours ago

On Sunday, the West side of Claremore experienced an outage due to heat-related stress on the system causing a mechanical failure that impacted electrical substation 2. Since then, Claremore Electric crews have implemented measures to balance the load, which included intermittent planned outages today. While those efforts were successful, there is still potential for future outages during high peak demand until the substation can be fully repaired. Residents can assist these efforts by minimizing load capacity during the hottest portions of the day.

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