



Continuing The Gann Standard: Tom Gann Announces Re-Election for House District 8

Rep. Tom Gann renews his vow to serve according to The Gann Standard: without lobbyist money, without compromise, and without fear.



To the people of the 8th House District.

I am in the ninth year of a twelve-year journey in service to you, in which I plan to finish strong. When I began, I purposed to serve with a code of conduct old as civilization itself—a code based upon truth, understanding our conduct—our personal code of honor—shapes not only our own lives but the destiny of our communities and our country.

Too many in public office today have forgotten the timeless values of honor, integrity, and duty. Too many trade these values for short-term gain, for personal political ambition, or for the favor of lobbyists who seek to bend government to their own interests.

In years past, I, like many of you, have placed my trust in politicians who claimed to represent the values of limited government, individual responsibility, and

freedom. And time and again, that trust has been betrayed. We've watched as those elected under the banner of conservatism abandoned their principles the moment they were elected being swayed by the money and influence of the powerful few.

In the last 9 years I have seen first-hand when politicians take thousands from a lobbyist and become loyal to that lobbyist, they betray their conservative principles; they betray those who voted for them. This is why so often called the “uni-party” Republicans and Democrats united together as tools for the special interest and lobbyist—because their first loyalty is not to you, the people, but to those who profit from big government.

That is why, as your representative, I purposed to raise a standard by making a simple but unshakable pledge: I pledged to refuse all campaign contributions and gifts from lobbyists and the special interests who employ them. As a result, I owe nothing to them—nothing at all. My loyalty remains with you—the people I've met on your doorsteps, in your churches, in your schools, and in your small businesses.

I believe with all my heart that without a commitment to honesty, compassion, and responsibility, civilization itself cannot stand. It descends—as it has in too many places—into disunity, chaos, and lawlessness. When we cease to respect the property of others, when we cease to tell the truth, or when information is withheld, when we fail to stand up to the bully or protect the weak, our state and our nation suffers—because a nation is nothing more than the reflection of the character of its people.

I want to leave you with this thought: A person of honor does what is right not because of fear of punishment, but because of duty. The same is true in government. We must never betray the people's trust—not for money, not for power, not for personal ambition. If we allow that to happen, our political system—like any community—crumbles from within.

That is the path I walked for the last nine years, and with your blessing, it is the path I plan to finish with.

Thank you. God bless you and may God bless this great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Tom Gann in black ink.

The Difference Maker

Tom Gann: One of Just Three To Refuse the Lobbyist Gift Culture

State Representative Tom Gann has joined a very short list of lawmakers who've done what many at the Capitol consider unthinkable: he's refused to take gifts from lobbyists—completely.

In 2025, while most legislators waded through the annual flood of catered meals, fancy outings, and surprise “deliveries,” Gann was one of just three who steered clear of it all.

“When I took office, I made a promise to represent the people—not the monied special interests,” Gann said. “That means drawing a clear line. So to prove that I'm not playing the Capitol game, I'm just rejecting it all.”

And draw the line he has: Gann has placed a clear, unmistakable sign outside his office door: “No Gifts from Lobbyists.” It's a simple message, but in a building where free food and corporate favors flow freely, it's the difference-maker.

Gann says the culture of gift-giving is more pervasive than most Oklahomans realize.

“It's not just a meal here or a trinket there,” he said. “It's a system designed to create loyalty to those who need government to be big in order to milk the system.”

See NO GIFTS FOR GANN.

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A sign posted outside Representative Tom Gann's office puts Capitol lobbyists on notice—no gifts accepted. The message draws a clear line and reinforces Gann's commitment to serving the people, not the special interests.

VINDICATED BY HISTORY:

Tom Gann proves to the rest of the Legislature that—even in times of great pressure—one can never go wrong by standing firmly on the time-honored values of our Founding Fathers.

The Oklahoma State Capital

Introducing the Most Influential Member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives

He might be in Oklahoma City, but the state has its very own "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

If you've watched the news recently, you've likely seen whistleblowers exposing the state's latest corporate welfare debacle: Canoo.

They've described the complete farce of that operation; it's a farce that the free market and reality have now revealed to the world.

For the past few years, the purported electric car manufacturer Canoo has been the cause du jour of Oklahoma politicians.

The company, which once spent \$20,000 at one of the Speaker's Balls for the Speaker of the House, hired a high-profile lobbyist and managed to dupe numerous Oklahoma politicians into their "emperor with no clothes" moment.

Somehow, the politicians managed to have Canoo's bizarre electric vehicle—a glorified golf cart with a square steering wheel—sole-sourced by the state, a flagrant abuse of the purchasing system.

One can only imagine the dread and horror felt by state employees at the prospect of commuting in such a vehicle.

The state actually appeared to issue a contract for 1,000 of them. And to the employees' likely delight and great relief, a few days ago, the house of cards finally collapsed.

Despite relentless promotion by Oklahoma politicians, the company declared bankruptcy.

There are likely numerous not-so-great reasons why a company that was clearly never viable managed to wield such political pull.

But now, circulating online, are images of politicians standing next to various prototypes, all experiencing their "emperor with no clothes" moment.

There's one person, though, who you won't find near any of those vehicles: Tom Gann.

Had the politicians listened to Gann, a free-market purist, they could have avoided this embarrassment.

Way back in March of 2022, just as the state appeared to have locked in 15 million in funding to Canoo, Gann authored an op-ed cleverly ti-

tled, *Is Oklahoma Being Sold Down the River for Canoo?* In it, he outlined the folly of government using taxpayers' money to interfere in the free market and enact corporate welfare.

Gann saw the truth: Canoo was a joke, obvious even to a casual observer. Wall Street knew it too, as reflected in the company's quarterly reports and tanking stock price.

Gann didn't possess magical insight—he simply read the reports, monitored the stock, and recognized what in his opinion was incestuous business structure that would enrich a select few while preventing the company from ever becoming viable.

But, as is often the case, politicians pushed forward. As Calvin Coolidge once said, *"Nothing is easier than spending the public's money. It does not appear to belong to anybody."*

In Coolidge's day, such obliviousness might have gone unnoticed.

But in the age of social media, those photos of politicians posing with ridiculous vehicles will remain a lasting symbol of why everyone loses when politicians meddle in the free market—whether by creating a car company or anything else.

The Canoo scandal is just the tip of the iceberg.

Time and again, Gann and a small handful of legislators have kept the light of truth burning in a dark House of Representatives dominated by those without core principles or even a basic understanding of the dynamics of the free market.

In this era of "green-energy corporate welfare on steroids"—a house of cards currently collapsing over Oklahoma politicians' heads—Gann has stood firm.

While others capriciously chased after woke, DEI-touting multinational corporations, promising hundreds of millions in taxpayer funds, with the focus and attention span of a teenager scrolling TikTok, Gann has consistently op-

posed these schemes.

Flash forward a few years, and this lonely duty has afforded Gann a prophetic aura.

In years past, he would have had plenty of company in opposing corporate welfare giveaways. But after the 2018 purge of free market conservative House members, Gann has stood almost alone in the House, with the support of two or three other courageous members, steadfast in his principles and courage.

Yet, ironically, it may be Gann who emerges as the most influential legislator.

Reports suggest that House leadership is currently interrogating members: *"Are you going to vote with Tom?"*

This question alone illustrates the respect they have for Gann. There are 101 positions in the House.

When a member is asked, *"Are you voting with Tom?"* it should strike them that something very strange is happening.

Why does leadership so care about this one, lone person?

They clearly recognize the truth he represents, uncompromised by special interests or lobbyist money, which he refuses to accept, offers a powerful example, a template for legislators who truly wish to serve the people.

Gann's path is not easy—it requires courage. But it is the path to true influence, one that rejects the soul-crushing compromises that betray voters' trust, and most importantly, inspires others to be brave, and do the same.

In today's House of Representatives, the most influential figure isn't the Speaker or a member of leadership.

It's the legislator who is actually reading the bills, voting sans the influence of the lobbyists and their employers, having rejected their money, and thus, truly serving the people fearlessly: Oklahoma's very own Mr. Smith—Tom Gann.

Over the course of the last decade, as the Legislature has lurched toward a new era of state-managed economics, legalized corruption, and corporate welfare on steroids, Tom Gann—and a small number of like-minded legislators—have held firm to the principles handed down by our nation's Founding Fathers.

Today, those lonely moments of principled opposition to the machine have proven to be well-founded.

Two examples: Gann was a leader in the fight to expose the Canoo electric car scam and to stop the special giveaway for the woke, international, DEI-touting Japanese corporation Panasonic. Today, Canoo is bankrupt, and the Panasonic scheme, defeated in Oklahoma and now being implemented in Kansas is still projected to drain hundreds of millions from Kansas taxpayers but is already faltering. It was a massive bullet dodged by local taxpayers who, through a dangerous TIF district giveaway, were nearly left on the hook for its failure.

Now, bolstered by the vindication of history, Gann seeks re-election to continue defending the time-honored values of free-market capitalism—and to stand against the monied special interests who are buying politicians and plundering the taxpayers.

This article has been abridged and reprinted with permission from *The Oklahoma State Capital*. In this opinion piece, former Government Modernization Chairman Jason Murphey recognizes Tom Gann's stand on principle and his ability to offer prescient counsel to his fellow legislators.

THE OKLAHOMAN

Canoo, the electric vehicle startup that was promised \$100 million in incentives, files for bankruptcy

Steve Lackmeyer and M. Scott Carter
The Oklahoman

Jan. 17, 2025 | Updated Jan. 18, 2025, 1:56 p.m. CT

LAWRENCE TIMES
Panasonic to delay production at Kansas battery plant as electric car sales decline, policies shift

msn Sign in
Panasonic hits pause on Kansas battery plant as EV future wavers

KANSAS
Panasonic is scaling back production at its De Soto factory but can still get all taxpayer incentives from Kansas

cjonline THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL
From 'great news' to 'boondoggle,' Roger Marshall erases early view on Panasonic

FOX WE'VE GOT 25 YOUR BACK 97° WATCH
Canoo Inc. files for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, ceases operations

IS OKLAHOMA BEING SOLD DOWN THE RIVER FOR CANOO?

A reprint of a March 2022 published in local media by Tom Gann. Following Canoo's bankruptcy, Gann's warnings have proven prescient.

Is Oklahoma being sold down the river for CANOO?

It would appear so. Leadership at the Capitol in Oklahoma City are scheming to compete for a "Mystery" company everyone says is a lithium battery manufacturer that would supply CANOO, an electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer coming to Oklahoma. CANOO is an EV startup company which had to use a shell corporation to get listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange.

The use of the shell corporation allows companies to avoid certain transparency requirements. Recent financial reports by CANOO show the company lost 138 million in the last quarter of 2021 but found resources to fund political activities in Oklahoma City.

In another reporting document, the State of Oklahoma through the Governor's "closing fund" gave CANOO 15 million dollars and ordered 1000 of their electric vehicles.

Scheme #2 is a proposal cloaked in "secrecy" using non-disclosure agreements, creating a barrier to hide behind when the questions get tough, with the local (Mayes County) add on tax incentive called a Tax Incremental Financing District (TIF).

Chouteau Schools is being asked to bare the weight of this TIF which diverts local ad-valorem tax dollars

away from its traditional use for local schools and county government for up to 25 years and channeling those taxes to the Mid America Industrial Park and "mystery company."

Recently the legislature of the State of Kansas passed SB347, a 1.3 billion dollar plus tax giveaway to have this same "mystery" company locate in Kansas.

The company would bring 4,000 new jobs at \$50,000 per year.

That comes out to about \$325,000 in tax giveaways for every \$50,000 job. This might look good politically, but economically it is insanity as Kansas could end up with a short fall in their budget

In a breathless race to the bottom, Kansas and Oklahoma are being leveraged against each other for this large multi-national corporation by taking your tax dollars and using them as giveaways.

This is economic fascism when government and business partner to gain competitive advantage, using tax dollars to stimulate growth artificially. This is likely to be remembered as Oklahoma Wind Credits on Wheels or another Obama-era Solyndra scandal.

Leadership in Oklahoma says we must gamble your tax dollars to compete, but in doing so, this leads to higher taxes and underfunded lo-

cal governments.

Oklahoma's proposal is yet to be totally revealed but whatever it is, the money give away is never a factor in the decision for a large business to locate in an area.

Research by the Mercatus Center of George Mason University entitled, "With Amazon HG2, the Losers Are the Winners: Why Economic Development Subsidies Hurt More than They Help," by Michael Farren and Anne Philpot. Here is a sample, "Despite arguments from economic development officials justifying such subsidies, both economic theory and experience suggest that cities and states are throwing their money away when they court Amazon's favor through subsidies.

Even subsidies worth billions of dollars are unlikely to sway Amazon's decision. Worse these kinds of targeted economic development incentives fail to produce economic growth." You can substitute Amazon for any "mystery" company.

The other costs associated with this tax scheme can be described by a Kansas Senator's statement in the Kansas Pratt Tribune, which says, "Sen. Caryn Tyson, a Parker Republican, said a small business owner who contacted her suggested the name of the bill be changed to 'crony capitalism kicks existing

Kansas businesses in the face.'"

The legacy businesses that exists in the Mid-American Industrial Park are already suffering for a lack of labor and stand to suffer even more when they are forced to compete with this proposal.

There are over 500 jobs that are unfilled now due to a lack of labor. The businesses I spoke with say that the supply of labor is reduced further due to Oklahoma's marijuana fiasco.

Finally, history repeats itself. Back in early 2000's another tax giveaway scheme called "refundable credits" of 30 million dollars was passed by the Oklahoma legislature that took nearly 10 years of litigation to settle, generated a United States Office of the Inspector General investigation revealing violations of Federal Aviation Administration rules, once it finally folded. Great Plains Airlines was a startup airline that sold Oklahoma on having a coast-to-coast nonstop air transportation service.

Great Plains Airlines had gone to Kansas and made their proposal but the politicians in the Sunflower State wisely said no.

Oklahoma cleared the runway for Great Plains Airlines to land at Tulsa International Airport with two airplanes.

It appeared for a while all was going to be fine. The problem was no one ever asked if the planes that landed had the capability of flying nonstop coast to coast.

They did not.

GANN WARNS AGAINST CORPORATE WELFARE ON STEROIDS FOLLOWING CANOO BANKRUPTCY

A reprint of a 2025 press release from The Oklahoma House of Representatives.

Rep. Tom Gann, R-Inola, an opponent of corporate welfare, issued a stark warning regarding the ongoing misuse of public funds.

"Corporate welfare is when the government takes the public's money to manipulate the economy, choosing winners and losers in the free market," Gann said. "In recent years, this practice has intensified, creating an era of corporate welfare on steroids, as Oklahoma government has pushed massive green-energy giveaways that align more with a liberal agenda than Oklahoma's conservative values."

Gann pointed to last week's bankruptcy of the high-profile, green-energy, electric vehicle startup, CANOO, as a prime example of why government must stop interfering in the free market. Canoo's manufacturing plant in Pryor is in Gann's House district.

"The bankruptcy of CANOO is yet another indicator that government must stop trying to pick winners and losers—they are terrible at it," Gann said.

In March 2022, Gann authored an opinion article titled Is Oklahoma

Being Sold Down the River for CANOO?, in which he raised concerns about the company's questionable financial statements and attempted to warn the public about the perils of government subsidies for privileged businesses such as CANOO.

According to Gann, the last few years have seen an unprecedented acceleration of corporate welfare, with Oklahoma's government pursuing one green-energy scheme after another in a reckless bid to hand out public funds.

Gann further criticized the methods by which these corporate welfare deals have been carried out, citing several alarming trends, including:

The signing of Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs), effectively preventing public discussion on multimillion-dollar deals;

Rushing multimillion-dollar corporate giveaways through the legislative process with minimal public transparency;

Awarding public funds to multinational, Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI)-touting corporations that do not align with Oklahomans'



House District 8 State Representative Tom Gann speaks at a capitol event.

"Despite my warnings, my advice was not heeded. Instead, numerous public benefits were lavished on CANOO. Now, three years later, CANOO has declared bankruptcy, once again proving the folly of these corporate giveaways"

- TOM GANN

values; and

Once, the House even cut off debate and denied Gann the opportunity to ask further questions about a specific multi-million-dollar corporate handout.

"This era of corporate welfare on steroids has led to abuses previously unimaginable," Gann said. "The CANOO bankruptcy is just the latest proof that these policies do not work. Instead of attempting to micromanage the economy, we need to step back and allow the free market to operate without government interference."

Gann concluded by calling for a reversal of course, prioritizing fiscal responsibility and respect for the free market.

"The government must stop wasting its time and the public's resources on these misguided efforts," he said.

HEADLINES

Oklahoma lawmaker challenges PSO rate hike, citing allegations against Corporation Commissioner

KOSU | By Graycen Wheeler

Published February 17, 2025 at 4:59 AM CST



Legislator wins delay in ONG case resulting in setback for Attorney General

November 21, 2024

An administrative law judge with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission delivered a victory Thursday to State Rep. Tom Gann, one of three legislators who sued to prohibit Commissioner Todd Hiett from participating in a rate case for Oklahoma Natural Gas.

In winning the case to be heard as a customer of ONG, Gann also delivered a blistering attack on the Attorney General for fighting his opposition to allowing Hiett to vote on the case involving half a billion dollars in fuel costs to be borne by customer.

THE OKLAHOMAN

NEWS

Three lawmakers file appeal to overturn OG&E's \$127 million rate increase



Lawmakers ask Oklahoma Supreme Court to bar Hiett from voting on cases

Public Radio Tulsa | By Barbara Hoberock, Oklahoma Voice

Published September 17, 2024 at 7:13 AM CDT

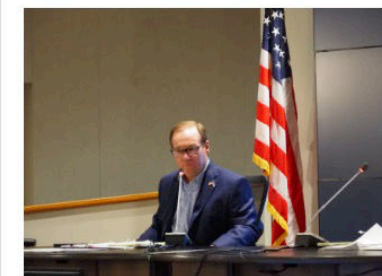


Photo By Kennedy Thomason / Oklahoma Voice

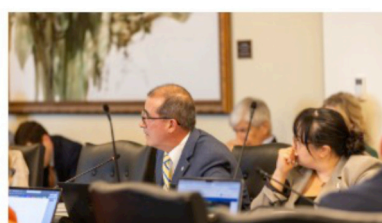
Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Todd Hiett during an OCC meeting July 23.



Rep. Gann expands transparency call from Corporation Commission to legislature

January 7, 2025

Gann's Appeal of Utility Case to Proceed Despite Ethics Decision



Protecting the Taxpayers: Gann Files Supreme Court Challenge

Local voters already know State Representative Tom Gann as a consistent defender of our God-given liberties, a fighter for smaller government, and one of the strongest voices against the special interest giveaways that have come to define life under the Capitol dome.

Because Gann doesn't take lobbyist money, he's not susceptible to being co-opted by the process. But there's a consequence to standing firm. When you're one of the few not taking the money, not playing the game, and not worried about lobbyist retaliation, you also end up being one of the only ones who can speak out when it matters most.

That's exactly what happened last year when a troubling situation emerged involving one of Oklahoma's Corporation Commissioners. The commissioner in question reportedly

returns to the Legislature.

"Billions of dollars in ever-increasing fees are at stake, and the Commission must never be allowed to act in secret," Gann said. "This is vital because utility customers are captive. They can't just cancel service when it becomes unaffordable."

As the misconduct allegations surfaced and most lawmakers stayed silent—quite the feat for Oklahoma's typically grand-standing political class—Gann took action. Alongside Representatives Rick West and Kevin West, he filed a petition with the Oklahoma Supreme Court, asking the justices to review the conflict of interest and intervene if necessary.

In doing so, they stood up to some of the most powerful utility interests in the state.

That legal action may have had real impact. At the time, Public Service Company of Oklahoma

"When you don't take their money, you don't owe them anything—and that's the only way to stay truly free to speak up. The Corporation Commission holds massive power over every utility customer in this state, and that power has to come with transparency and accountability. I'm going to keep fighting for the ratepayer, no matter how quietly the system tries to bury the truth."

- TOM GANN

became intoxicated at an out-of-state event and allegedly engaged in inappropriate physical behavior—behavior reportedly witnessed by an individual affiliated with a company regulated by the Corporation Commission.

That reported lapse in judgment created a serious problem: a potential conflict of interest. When a regulator behaves inappropriately in front of those they oversee, it opens the door for influence, pressure, or retaliation. If that company seeks a utility rate increase, how can the public trust the decision-maker to act independently?

Gann believes this is just the latest chapter in a troubling saga at the state's Corporation Commission. He points to a pattern of deeply concerning actions—including the Commission's approval of a special bond fee that will haunt utility bills for years to come. Even more alarming, the Commission has pushed for an exemption from Oklahoma's Open Meetings Act—a move that would allow it to operate in secret. Gann opposed the exemption then, and he's ready to fight it again when it inevitably

(PSO) was seeking to raise residential rates by an average of \$12 a month. The outcome of the Supreme Court challenge could bring transparency and accountability to that process—and perhaps slow or stop future rate hikes that would've sailed through unchecked.

Gann believes there's more to uncover; but, at the very least, this case has injected much-needed sunlight and due process into a system that far too often operates in the shadows.

Aside from the excellent reporting at *OKEnergyToday.com*, the issue has received almost no attention from major media outlets. And yet, with billions of dollars on the line, this ongoing effort may be one of the most important—if underreported—policy battles in Oklahoma today.

Gann's not finished. He's continuing to fight—quietly, steadily—on behalf of taxpayers and ratepayers alike. Most Oklahomans will never know the full story. But thanks to the work of just a few determined leaders, the Capitol monolith isn't going unchallenged.



Scan the Code to Follow Tom on Facebook

VOTING THE RIGHT WAY: GANN SCORES 100% ON OKLAHOMA'S LEADING CONSERVATIVE SCORE CARD

Back in 1979, the publishers of *The Oklahoma Constitution* newspaper had enough. Too many politicians were pulling a bait-and-switch—campaigning as conservatives, then turning around and voting like liberals once they got to the Capitol.

So they did something about it.

They created *The Conservative Index*—a no-nonsense, nonpartisan scorecard that cuts through the spin and tells the truth about how our legislators really vote. Not what they say on the campaign trail. What they actually do when it counts.

For more than 40 years, the index has been the watchdog tool for everyday Oklahomans—calling out the politicians who say one thing back home, then sell out our values when in Oklahoma City. Year after year, it's earned its reputation as the gold standard for tracking who's really standing up for conservative values—and who's just playing politics.

This year? The index gave Representative Tom Gann a perfect score. 100%.

"I'm once again happy to receive a 100% rating on the Conservative Index. It reflects my commitment to conservative principles—holding government accountable and respecting taxpayers every day," said Gann.

Gann has regularly scored 100% on the Index during his legislative tenure.

No Gifts for Gann

Continued from Page 1

That's one of the reasons government just keeps getting bigger."

Lobbyists routinely drop items off at unattended front desks, sponsor lavish group dinners, and plan entertainment-filled evenings where face time buys influence.

"These events are carefully crafted to build relationships that constituents simply don't have the money or access to compete with," Gann explained.

And that, he says, is the real danger.

"Once a lawmaker starts building those kinds of relationships, their priorities shift. Even if they don't realize it, the pull of those friendships and favors starts to override the voice of the people back home."

Though still a rare breed, Gann is part of a growing group of legislators who believe it's time to shut down the Capitol gift culture—for good.

"Serving in the Legislature is a public trust," he said. "And trust isn't built with steaks, sports tickets, or catered shrimp. It's built by standing firm for the people who sent you here."