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**Berrong announces for State Senate,
vows to be an independent voice for Western Oklahoma.**

WEATHERFORD, OK, March 23, 2018 — Western Oklahoma businessman Jeff Berrong of Weatherford announces his candidacy for the Oklahoma State Senate.

“My philosophy on government is simple and it is that people should get from government only the services they want, and that they pay no more for those services than is necessary,” Berrong said. “Not only do I believe we have a duty to properly fund education, rural infrastructure, and rural healthcare services, but I want to get as near as possible to one hundred cents of value for every tax dollar spent.”

Berrong is running for the District 38 Senate seat representing the Clinton and Weatherford precincts of Custer County and all of Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, and Washita counties. It will be an open-seat election as current State Senator Mike Schulz has reached his term limit. Berrong compliments Senator Schulz for the integrity he has displayed during his twelve and a half years of public service.

A conservative Democrat, Berrong said he will proudly represent southwestern Oklahoma’s independent mindset. “I’m a Western Oklahoman first. Whether it’s a Republican or a Democratic proposal, we’ve got to work together in a bipartisan way to solve our state’s problems.”

“I am as disappointed with the House Democrats for voting against the Step Up Oklahoma plan as I am with Governor Fallin and the Republicans’ failure to address the critical fiscal issues that leave our state in crisis and many teachers near the poverty line,” he said.

A fourth-generation Oklahoman, he is a graduate of Weatherford High School and the University of Oklahoma. He is a third-generation owner in his family’s business, Ed Berrong Insurance Agency. Berrong believes it is the private sector that creates jobs and drives economic growth and that business and government must work together to craft solutions to move Oklahoma forward. Before returning home to western Oklahoma, Berrong previously served as a field representative for former Oklahoma Congressman Dan Boren, another conservative Democrat.

Berrong has been an active member of the Weatherford Rotary Club; and has served on the board of directors of the Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce, the Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation, and the Great Plains Family YMCA. He also sings in the chancel choir at the First United Methodist Church of Weatherford.

Berrong's family has a long history of service to country and deep roots in both Custer and Jackson counties. His paternal grandfather, the late Senator Ed Berrong Sr., was a staunch fiscal conservative while serving in the Oklahoma State Senate for twenty-two years; and his maternal grandfather, the late Gail S. Miller, was a Colonel in the U. S. Air Force Reserves and retired from civil service at Altus Air Force Base in 1989.

"Western Oklahomans deserve better than political pandering and empty partisan talking points. We need to stop the special interest domination of government and rid our legislature of embarrassing scandals," said Berrong. "My commitment is that I will work hard and I will work honestly for the people of southwestern Oklahoma."

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