



# THE JENKINS JOURNAL

OKLAHOMA STATE REPRESENTATIVE MOLLY JENKINS' SPECIAL REPORT TO HER EMPLOYERS

VOLUME 1 EDITION 2 | MOLLYJENKINS@REAGAN.COM | JENKINSFORHOUSE.COM | OFFICE: (405) 557-7304 | CELL: (405) 326-3196



## Rep. Molly Jenkins Kicks Off Post-Session Door-to-Door Tour

*The House District 33 representative continues her in-person outreach post-election, aiming to show her work and report back directly to voters.*

State Representative Molly Jenkins is taking a nontraditional approach to constituent engagement in House District 33. Rather than relying on paid consultants conducting polls, then designing poll-tested large-scale campaign mailings and campaign commercials, Jenkins is focusing on keeping it simple with in-person outreach at the place that matters most: the doorstep of the voter.

Throughout the summer and fall, Jenkins is visiting constituents door to door across the district. She is delivering a printed legislative report that outlines her activities during the session. The report includes summaries of bills, voting records, and specific details of her work in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

Jenkins, a former public school teacher, views the report as an opportunity to “show her work” in the same way she once expected from her students.

"I was elected to this position because I met voters at their doorstep. For many, it was the first time a candidate had ever visited their home. But that’s only one part of the process. Now that I’m elected, it’s my responsibility to return and report on how I’ve followed through on the issues we discussed during the campaign."

Jenkins conducted thousands of door-to-door visits during the 2024 campaign season and intends to continue that outreach even after the election. She noted that, for many voters, her 2024 visit was the first time a candidate had come to their home and personally asked for their vote. She believes it will also be the first time many have been visited by a sitting officeholder—not to ask for a vote, but simply to make herself available to the voter, whom she views as her employer.

Dear Employer,

The following publication contains my report to you—my employer.

Last year, I asked for your trust. Specifically, I asked you to replace your current employee with someone new—someone who would represent your values in government.

I observed that the previous officeholder had compromised your interests by accepting hundreds of dollars in gifts and thousands in campaign contributions from lobbyists and their employers.

That money best explains why so many so-called “Republican” lawmakers vote in ways that conflict with the values of their constituents. Those who take this money are putting themselves into a conflict of interest between the demands of those who benefit from big government and the voters (their employers) who want a small government that treats everyone equally, without awarding special benefits to the politically connected.

I came to your doorstep to make my case in person. I showed you the incumbent’s voting record and pledged that, if you trusted me with your vote, I would do two things:

1. Vote in line with our shared values.
2. Never accept gifts or contributions from lobbyists—demonstrating that my loyalty lies with you, and no one else.

I work for you. Not them.

That is the purpose of this publication and the reason for my visit to you today.

This report contains a brief synopsis of my work on your behalf during my first legislative session.

I hope that after reading this report, you’ll conclude that I’ve fulfilled my commitment to you: representing your values—and actually making a real difference while doing it.

I’ve thrived in this role. Representing your values has been a privilege. You’ve been an easy employer to work for. From Cushing in the east to Guthrie in the west, the values of House District 33 are pure Americana. I hold these values at the core of my being and consider it an honor to carry them into the often dark and difficult environment that is the Oklahoma State Capitol.

For that reason, I believe I’m well-suited to continue serving in this role—but I’m also deeply grateful for your feedback and input.

Never hesitate to call or email with your thoughts. And if you’re able, please join me at the upcoming Perkins town hall this fall.

Sincerely,

Your Employee,

*Molly g. Jenkins*

Molly Jenkins

In addition to the printed report, Jenkins is organizing a town hall meeting where she will be joined by Senator Randy Grellner and Representative Jim Shaw, who also represent portions of Payne and Logan counties. The event is intended to provide residents with an opportunity to ask questions, offer feedback, and engage directly with their elected officials.

She has also launched a regular

email newsletter and is inviting local constituents to join the distribution list as a way to stay informed about legislative activity and maintain ongoing communication.

“This process is about returning to the people who sent me to the Capitol and making sure they have the information they need,” Jenkins said. “I work for them and I want to report to them directly.”



## Jenkins, Grellner and Shaw to Host 2025 Town Hall

*Jenkins to use her position to facilitate local residents access to all levels of government.*

State Representative Molly Jenkins will host a town hall meeting on Thursday, October 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Vassar Community Center, located at 750 N. Main Street in Perkins.

Jenkins will be joined by Senator Randy Grellner and Representative Jim Shaw, who also represent Payne and Logan counties.

The purpose of the event is to provide the latest updates on issues ranging from DHS reform to the expansion of wind energy development in local counties. The meeting will also give attendees the opportunity to ask questions directly to their elected officials sans the usual political pandering and pointless self-serving dialogue that accompanies many legislative forums.

Jenkins hopes this will be the first in a series of similar forums held throughout the district.

As part of future planning, Jenkins is asking residents to submit the names of individuals from local, state, or federal government—from elected officials to agency heads—whom they would like to hear from at upcoming events. She plans to use her position to help bring those officials into the district for direct conversations with the public.

The town hall is one part of Jenkins’ outreach effort, which also includes a door-to-door district tour and a regular email newsletter. Residents can join the newsletter by scanning the QR code at the bottom of this page.

“In a time when so much of our legislative and governmental communication happens through screens and soundbites, there’s real value in showing up—in looking someone in the eye, listening to their concerns, and being accountable face to face,” Jenkins said. “That’s how community is built, and that’s the kind of state representative I intend to be.”



Jenkins makes a point during a community forum.



### Scan the Code: Stay Informed

If you find this report helpful, stay informed by joining Rep. Jenkins’ email newsletter. She wants to keep District 33 as the most informed constituency in all of Oklahoma. Scan the code to sign up.



## The Woke Regulation That Didn't Get Past Molly Jenkins

*By staying studious and refusing to live the “wine and dine” lifestyle, Jenkins shows how one hard-working lawmaker can make a real difference in the lives of Oklahoma professionals.*

Though State Representative Molly Jenkins has only been in office a few months, she has already shown why it matters to elect lawmakers who genuinely believe in the conservative principles of small government—and, just as importantly, who aren't living the “wine and dine” lifestyle common at the Capitol; instead, keeping their head down, reading the bills and doing the work they are supposed to be doing.

That distinction became especially clear when Jenkins assumed her role as Vice Chair of the Oklahoma House Administrative Rules Committee—a body responsible for reviewing agency regulations proposed by the state's executive agencies, boards, and commissions.

Few Oklahomans may realize how impactful this committee is. Through administrative rules, state agencies can effectively create policy with little general public attention or legislative scrutiny. Many of these rules are written by bureaucrats and their legal teams, often under pressure from the federal government or other special interests.

As a first-time observer of the process up close, Jenkins was struck by how little attention many committee members gave to the rules they were tasked with reviewing. She noted that many lawmakers—closely tied to, and often out wining and dining with, lobbyists and special interests—showed little interest in taking the time to comb through the hundreds of pages of dense, technical material submitted by agencies. “The taxpayers would be absolutely horrified to realize how little oversight there actually is,” Jenkins observed. “Many of these bureaucrats have a worldview



**Jenkins at work in committee. In her first year as a legislator, she has taken on the role of Vice Chair of the important Administrative Rules Committee—the panel responsible for reviewing state agency regulations, which Jenkins asserts is one of the legislature's most important responsibilities.**

rooted in big government, and they're advancing that worldview with almost no resistance from uncaring lawmakers.”

Unlike so many others, Jenkins was not tied to the “night on the town on the lobbyist dime” culture of the Capitol. Free from lobbyist commitments, she had the time to read and evaluate the agency submissions carefully.

She made numerous findings, but as a best case in point, her diligence led her to one rule in particular—proposed by the Oklahoma Real Estate Appraisal Board—that would have required Oklahoma's real estate appraisers in the state to complete a new course on “diversity in appraising” as part of their continuing education.

Jenkins immediately recognized this as an example of a broader ideological agenda. “This was about inserting woke social ideology into a profession that should be neutral and objective,”

she said. “Government shouldn't be pressuring professionals to factor race into property valuation. That is dangerous discrimination and undermines both the free market and equal treatment under the law.”

When she raised objections, agency representatives responded by pointing to federal pressure, claiming that Oklahoma could lose its appraiser accreditation powers if the rule wasn't adopted. This is a common tactic in state government: present the legislature with a binary choice—either comply with federal directives or risk undermining an entire profession in Oklahoma.

Many lawmakers, Jenkins observed, are quick to accept that reasoning. But she stood firm, personally taking the issue to Governor Kevin Stitt. After weeks of holding her ground, the agency backed down—their bluff called—and ultimately withdrew the

proposed rule. Because Jenkins did the work—reading the rules, asking questions, and refusing to back down—Oklahoma's real estate appraisers are no longer facing a mandatory training requirement she viewed as ideologically driven and unnecessary. Instead, those professionals can stay focused on their core work without interference from federal or state policy directives rooted in social ideology.

Reflecting on the experience, Jenkins said the episode underscored the importance of electing lawmakers who are both independent and engaged.

“More than ever, I see how important it is to elect people who aren't spending their time wining and dining with lobbyists—but are instead doing the hard work and standing firm,” Jenkins said. “And, you can bet, that, if a lawmaker is voting for bigger government when the public is watching, you can be certain they're not standing up to it when no one's looking.”

She added that the path of least

*Government shouldn't be pressuring professionals to factor race into property valuation.*

– Molly Jenkins

resistance would have been to let the rule proceed without pushback, as many do. But she believed the issue was worth the fight.

“I came here to do a job, not to blend in with the corrupt status quo,” she said. “And in this case, doing the job meant standing strong when it would've been easier to stay silent.”

Jenkins will return to her role as Vice Chair of the Administrative Rules Committee during the 2026 session, where she plans to remain on the front lines of preventing bad rules from being imposed on the residents of House District 33 and the people of Oklahoma.

## On The Hunt For Bad Laws: Jenkins Revives Effort to Repeal Outdated Laws

*Rep. Molly Jenkins has revived a dormant House effort to identify and repeal outdated, unnecessary, and overreaching laws.*

Each year, Oklahoma lawmakers pass hundreds of pages of new legislation—creating new regulations, mandates, and legal obligations that affect nearly every aspect of daily life. But while there are many well-organized efforts to add new laws, there is little infrastructure or political will aimed at removing old or outdated ones.

As a result, Oklahoma's law books continue to grow—expanding government's reach and creating new liabilities for citizens with each passing session.

When Representative Molly Jenkins took office, she became aware of a previously abandoned effort by House Republicans to address this problem through what

had once been called a “repealer initiative”—a structured process to identify and remove outdated or unnecessary laws. That effort had largely disappeared in recent years, replaced by a legislative culture more focused on creating new policy than eliminating outdated rules.

Jenkins took it upon herself to revive the project.

In addition to her regular legislative work, she filed a series of repealer bills aimed at cleaning up the state statutes. That meant hours of additional research, meetings, and committee work—all focused on identifying laws that no longer served a clear public purpose.

Adding to the challenge was a

recent structural change in House committee procedure. Not only is there no longer a committee specifically dedicated to repealing laws, as there had been in the past, but recent leadership also reorganized the process into a two-tiered system—requiring bills to pass through both policy and oversight committees. While well-funded interest groups and state agencies pushing new laws can navigate this structure with ease, repeal efforts—often lacking institutional backing—now face twice the hurdles.

Still, Jenkins remained committed. She viewed the added steps as an opportunity to educate fellow lawmakers—many of whom are accustomed to writing laws, not repealing them—on the importance of regulatory cleanup.

That effort paid off. Several of



*We are officially on the hunt for old and bad laws that need to be tracked down and eliminated. And we need your help.*

– Molly Jenkins

Jenkins' repealer proposals advanced through committee, and a couple of them made it all the way to the governor's desk, where they were signed into law by

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**Hunt For Bad Laws**  
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Governor Kevin Stitt. This included the elimination of a statute that had created a government task force whose mission had long expired, as well as a 1957 law that placed a state mandate on every fire department in Oklahoma. “These are just the first small steps in this effort,” Jenkins said. “But they represent an important symbol: we’re going to work—to shrink the statute books.” Others remain in committee and may be taken up in the next session—including a key proposal by Jenkins to remove the state’s controversial authorization of weather modification programs.

*This is a tough fight, but the people want smaller government—that’s how I got this job.*  
– Molly Jenkins

Jenkins said some legislators quickly understood the importance of the effort, while others were more skeptical. Still, she believes the initiative has now been “officially revived” thanks to her work in the House, and she remains committed to building on that progress—working to restore a culture where repealing laws is once again part of the regular business of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, just as it was in

the past. Jenkins is also inviting input from the people of House District 33. “If you know of a law that needs to be repealed, send it to me,” she said. “We are officially on the hunt for old and bad laws that need to be tracked down and eliminated. And we need your help. Your personal stories and experiences will add the human element to this effort—and that will be powerful in getting past the legislative gatekeepers who don’t yet understand why this matters.” Looking ahead, Jenkins plans to encourage House leadership to specifically assign the task of repealing outdated laws to the Administrative Rules Committee, where she serves as Vice Chair. Because this committee is not subject to the new two-tiered structure, empowering it with this mission would provide a more streamlined path for removing unnecessary laws. Her plan isn’t without precedent. In past years, this same committee was assigned the responsibility of leading the repealer effort. “This is a tough fight, but the people want smaller government—that’s how I got this job. So we have to stop them from passing bad laws, but that’s not enough. We also need to start repealing the ones that never should have been passed in the first place. That’s real work, and it takes a culture shift at the Capitol. I’m here to help lead that shift.”

**Making a Real Difference Right From the Start**

It was unprecedented—but a defining example of how even a freshman lawmaker can make a difference. As the House commenced with its session, on the very first bill before the House, freshman Molly Jenkins introduced an amendment to the House Rules package that aimed to right one of the darkest and most shameful moments in the recent history of the Oklahoma House. This is much easier said than done; that’s because House rules are sacred to those in charge. They are the tool by which leadership has consolidated power—removing nearly all ability for lawmakers to participate in the House independently. And, they keep a tight control on this document. As the House took up the bill, various reform efforts were easily swatted away by leadership, often tabled with little explanation—an approach clearly rooted in the assumption that voters would never understand the dastardly nuance of their actions. But there was one amendment they even power crazed House leaders couldn’t bring themselves

to table. And it came from a freshman legislator, casting her very first vote on a House bill: our very own Molly Jenkins. Her amendment clarified that the women’s restroom in the House should be reserved exclusively for biological females. The issue dates back to 2017, when the State Capitol, as it often is, became the target of radical activism: an LGBT event. One House employee, concerned that biological males would use the same restrooms as high-school-aged female pages, for whom she was responsible, attempted to protect those pages, by getting them access to a restroom set aside for house employees. Here the male activists would be less likely to intrude. Instead of receiving support, the House Speaker subjected the employee to a "counseling" process. With this amendment, Jenkins helped correct that injustice. “We proved that woke is not the right side of history. It will never be out of style to defend the innocence of youth.” Her success sent another message: power in the Legislature is not reserved only for those with seniority or power. Even in a top-down, tightly controlled environment, it is possible to legislate for what is good and right—even as a new representative.

**Inside the Darkness: Jenkins Shares Very Candid Observations From the House Floor**

*It’s a system driven by money and pressure, but Molly Jenkins is holding her own, keeping her word, and showing others how to do the same.*

Molly Jenkins went into her first legislative session with eyes wide open. What she saw opened them even wider—not just as a legislator, but as a taxpayer and an American. Now, she is reporting back to her employers with the following honest and candid reflections on her experience at the Oklahoma State Capitol—an environment she describes as far less deliberative and much more performative than many citizens might expect. According to Jenkins, most of the bills filed and approved during the session don’t appear to come from constituents or grassroots engagement. Instead, they originate from lobbyists, bureaucratic agencies, and special interest groups. Few are truly necessary or requested by the people. “Unless a lobbyist or state agency is backing a bill, it’s probably not going to get very far,” Jenkins said. “The tail is wagging the dog.” She observed that many lawmakers do not closely review the legislation they vote on. Evenings are often spent socializing with lobbyists at receptions or private dinners—even on nights before major votes. By the time legislators return to the floor, Jenkins says, most simply “hit the green button,” approving bills with little scrutiny. A few, she noted, have even shown

signs of intoxication during floor proceedings. “There’s less due process than people realize,” Jenkins said. “Transparency is routinely suspended, and lawmakers are often given only a few hours to review complex legislation—sometimes massive bills hundreds of pages long not that it really matters to them because the number of legislators who actually try to read all of the bills, it is minimal. Believe it or not, less than 20 proposals failed on the house floor, out of hundreds that house leaders allowed to come up for a vote.” In one instance, Jenkins watched a more than \$250 million taxpayer-funded incentive package for a company from the United Arab Emirates get filed over the weekend—then passed by the House the following Tuesday. “This is just legalized corruption,” Jenkins said. “That’s all it’s really become.” Jenkins also noted the presence of a “scorekeeping culture” among lawmakers, where members track who does and doesn’t support their bills. This can lead to personal retaliation, political pressure, and long memories. “Certain of the lawmakers take it personally when others vote against their bills,” she said. Despite these challenges, Jenkins

sees reason for hope. “The grassroots are engaging full-on now,” she said. “Regular citizens are getting involved, and that’s creating real pressure on a system that’s used to operating in the dark.” While some lawmakers appear overwhelmed by that pressure, Jenkins has developed a strategy to stay grounded. She avoids the Capitol’s nightlife entirely and doesn’t take it personally when colleagues vote against her bills. “I don’t keep score. I can’t afford to do that. I want to be effective for the people I represent, so I try to use strategic empathy—to understand and forgive, even the most vituperative of colleagues.” “Of course, I’m voting no on half of the bills, something that’s almost unprecedented in the history of the House, so I have to be consistent, and always ready to explain why I’m voting against someone’s bill.” Jenkins says she votes according to a personal checklist that’s calibrated to her campaign platform. That platform, she explains, is her contract with the voters—and she intends to keep it. “I didn’t come here to be important,” Jenkins said. “I came here to keep my word, keep my head down, and do the job I’ve been asked to do: keep government in check.” Jenkins believes she is setting an example for other legislators to fol-

low. She says a growing number of them are beginning to adopt what she calls the “abstinence model”—refusing lobbyist perks, taking time to read the bills, and voting against proposals they view as bad or unnecessary, even when those proposals are backed by powerful interest groups. “We are making a difference. Every legislator who is following the abstinence model is worth their weight in gold—and it’s a growing group,” she said. As she looks ahead to future sessions, Jenkins remains committed

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to staying grounded, voting in line with conservative, small-government principles, and being an encouraging example to the other legislators of how they can do the same. In a world where opacity and monied influence are the norm for most office holders, Jenkins still believes that transparency and a strong example still have the power to make a difference—one vote, and one lawmaker, at a time. She’s deeply grateful to the voters of House District 33 who have given her this chance to make a real difference, not just for the district, but for all of Oklahoma.



# Jenkins Takes a Stand

Jenkins’ legislative portfolio takes on wind energy lobbyists, protects rural property owners, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, closes the blue-state illegal alien driver’s license loophole and more.

Representative Molly Jenkins has introduced a proposal to give Oklahoma property owners the right to refuse eminent domain claims by privately owned, subsidized green energy companies. The legislation was prompted by concerns over the Cimarron Link project—a major transmission line that threatens the rights of rural landowners in Logan and Payne counties.

Jenkins, who does not accept campaign donations from wind or utility industry lobbyists, said she is committed to pushing the reform forward despite opposition from powerful interests at the Capitol.

“This is about protecting rural Oklahoma from forced compliance with an environmentalist agenda,” Jenkins said. “Landowners deserve the right to say no. And I am asking anyone who is under threat of eminent domain to call my office.”

In her effort to push back against the radical environmentalist left, and stopping those who are grifting and making money on their policies, Jenkins has found a strong ally in neighboring legislator Jim Shaw, who also represents parts of Logan and Payne counties. The two have joined forces on a range of rural-focused issues.

In addition to her property rights proposal, Jenkins is the author of several pending legislative initiatives, including: cracking down on ballot harvesting involving absentee mail-in voting; ending the state’s dangerous and unaccountable weather modification program; closing a loophole that allows illegal aliens to drive on Oklahoma roads using driver’s licenses from liberal blue states; and protecting expectant mothers and unborn children from coerced abortions and the dangers of abortion pills.

## Conservative Votes by Jenkins

In 2024, Molly Jenkins campaigned for the House by educating voters on the liberal voting record of her predecessor. She published a “case-in-point” list of 10 liberal votes that clearly did not reflect the values of a conservative district.

As she carried out this voter education effort, she resolved that if elected, she would return to those same voters and provide a new “case-in-point” list—this time, of conservative votes.

Keeping that promise, Jenkins is reporting back to the people who sent her to the Capitol. As an example of why it matters when a true conservative is elected, here are 10 conservative votes cast by Representative Molly Jenkins:

HRC1002: Keeping the House in session after midnight while the public slept – voted no.



PICTURED: Jenkins on the floor of the House with House District 32 Representative Jim Shaw. The two have allied on a series of issues aimed at protecting rural Oklahoma and rural property owners from the spread of subsidized environmentalist policies that threaten to take land or destroy the value of rural properties.

Jenkins also co-authored what was likely the most important Second Amendment legislation of the year—a bill to protect landowners who are forced to use a firearm in defense of their property.

In her role as Vice Chair of the Administrative Rules Committee, one of the most important committees in the House, she co-authored a vital reform to limit the authority of bureaucrats to impose aggressive and costly regulations on Oklahoma businesses through rulemaking.

She is also the House author of Payne County State Senator Randy Grellner’s proposal requiring informed consent before children can be vaccinated.

Though many of these efforts face tough odds in a Legislature often aligned with powerful special interests, Jenkins says she is committed to continuing the fight—no matter how long it takes.

“I have a secret superpower. Not taking money from the lobbyists allows me to work on these issues—and more—for as long as it takes. I am immune from their influence.”

“I didn’t take this job to protect lobbyists,” she said. “I took it for the people.”

SB224: Compromising data of Oklahoma students in the name of workforce development – voted no.

HB1571: Extends the program that included the wasteful cow food vending machine fund – voted no.

HB2781: A \$255 million handout to a company from UAE – voted no.

HB2147: Allows cities to foreclose on private property – voted no.

HB1664: Exempts county commissioners from parts of the Open Meeting Act – voted no.

HB2764: Phases out state income tax – voted yes.

SJR22-FA1: Allows public schools to report on how many illegal aliens are using the system which steals rural school funding for urban areas – sponsored.

SB898: Removes oath taking requirement on those bidding for public construction contracts – voted no.

HB1190: Requires police officers to be American citizens – voted yes.

# In The Next Issue of The Jenkins Journal: Molly Jenkins’s 2026 Plan

In the next issue of *The Jenkins Journal*, Jenkins will lay out her proposals for the 2026 legislative session. To be notified when the next publication is released, email [MollyJenkins@Reagan.com](mailto:MollyJenkins@Reagan.com).

## From 49% to 100%: Jenkins Flips the Script in House District 33

Since 1979, *The Oklahoma Constitution* newspaper has published an annual *Conservative Index*—a nonpartisan scorecard designed to evaluate how closely Oklahoma legislators align with conservative principles through their votes. The index was created after the 1978 election, when Democratic candidates won seats by campaigning as moderates or conservative, only to return to the Capitol and vote consistently liberal.

The publisher of *The Oklahoma Constitution* needed a tool to hold them accountable. That tool? *The Conservative Index*.

For over four decades, the index has served as a watchdog tool to hold lawmakers accountable and expose the gap between what they say at home and how they vote in Oklahoma City. Its consistent publication has earned it the reputation of being the gold standard for tracking ideological consistency at the state capitol.

This year, the index graded State Representative Molly Jenkins at 100% conservative.

By contrast, Jenkins’ predecessor in House District 33 held a lifetime average of just 49% on the same index—scoring more often as a liberal than a conservative, despite campaigning as a Republican.

“In the past, House District 33 was represented by one of the most liberal Republicans in the Legislature,” Jenkins said. “That didn’t reflect the values of the people here, which are overwhelmingly conservative. When I asked for the vote, I did so on a promise: to finally give this district the kind of honest, consistent representation it deserves—and to end the abuse where incumbents campaign like conservatives, but govern like liberals.”

## Jenkins Among Few to Navigate Lobbyist Gift Gauntlet Unscathed



Pictured: A sign posted outside Representative Molly Jenkins’ office asks lobbyists to refrain from leaving unsolicited gifts. The sign has helped establish clear boundaries, putting Capitol special interests on notice of Jenkins’ principled stand. While many incumbent lawmakers routinely accept hundreds of dollars in gifts and thousands in contributions, Jenkins is turning it all down.

Molly Jenkins has earned a rare distinction at the Capitol: she is one of the few lawmakers who have completely avoided the lobbyist gift-giving gauntlet.

“When I asked for the trust of the voters, I committed to avoiding conflicts of interest,” Jenkins said. “And when a lobbyist gives something of value to a decision-maker, that creates a conflict of interest.”

Jenkins says avoiding the lobbyist gift culture is much harder than most people realize.

“Lobbyist giving is so thoroughly integrated into the day-to-day life of a legislator that it’s almost impossible to avoid,” she said.

According to Jenkins, lobbyists are known to leave items at unattended front desks, frequently sponsor group meals, and court legislators with expensive nights out on the town.

“These events allow lobbyists to bond with legislators in a way that constituents back home simply can’t afford to match,” Jenkins explained.

“Human nature being what it is, it’s manipulated by proximity and favors. That means, more often than not, the motives of lawmakers are compromised.”

Though still very few in number, Jenkins is one of a growing number of legislators who are refusing the gifts.