

OKLAHOMA

Tom Bates

Interim Commissioner of Health

Oklahoma State Department of Health



Tom Bates was named Interim Commissioner of Health on April 2, 2018. In this role he is responsible for leading the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Before his appointment to the Health Department, he served as Special Adviser to Governor Fallin for Child Welfare and Pinnacle Plan Implementation. In that role he worked to improve Oklahoma's foster care and child welfare system. Prior to that, he served as First Assistant Attorney General to Attorney General Scott Pruitt, overseeing more than 90 civil and criminal attorneys and 40 agents employed by the Attorney General's office.



A native Oklahoman, he graduated from U.S. Grant High School in Oklahoma City and received a B.A. and J.D. from Oklahoma City University. Tom joined the Attorney General's office in 1999. During his 15 and one-half years with the office he litigated and prosecuted a number of high profile cases. He served the office as Don't Call Registry Administrator, Lead Assistant Attorney General for Consumer Protection Litigation, Chief of the Multicounty Grand Jury Unit, Chief of the Public Protection Unit, and as First Assistant.

He is an active member of Putnam City Methodist Church and has served the congregation in a variety of leadership roles. He is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma Class 28, Leadership Bethany, and Salt and Light Leadership Training Class 10. Tom and his wife Kellye, have been married 28 years.