October 26, 2017

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mary Boren, Candidate

Norman Oklahoma

405.760.7322; marybrownboren@gmail.com Follow campaign at www.maryboren.com

Twitter @MaryBoren2018

NORMAN -Mary Boren, launches her campaign as a Democrat, for State Senate District 16 October 27<sup>th</sup>.

"Oklahomans are hard-working and caring people who deserve lawmakers committed to putting forth Oklahoma solutions. I'm ready to put forward the ideas and values of the people of Lexington, Noble, Norman and Slaughterville to strengthen schools, health care, jobs and roads," Boren said. She is an attorney and former school counselor who lives in Norman.

In 1992, Boren graduated law school with Distinction from OU, and began her education policy career as a Carl Albert Executive Fellow with the State Regents for High Education and also worked for the State Department of Education. Governor Walters and Governor Henry enlisted Boren to serve as an interim legal analyst during the last weeks of the legislative sessions in 1993,1994, and 2003. Boren credits her participation in the Institute for Child Advocacy's Kids Count Leaders training, and American Bar Association's Children and Law Committee, as motivation to represent foster parents, grandparents, and parents undergoing family crisis. She has volunteered for the Oklahoma Lawyers for Children since 1997, and in 2007 she also worked with other attorneys to start Trinity Legal aid Clinic.

Mary Boren is married to Nathan Boren, M.D. In 2003, He completed his rural commitment through the Oklahoma Physicians Manpower Training Commission and they moved back to Norman. Since then, Boren's family has been a member of the Alameda Church of Christ, and all three of their children were educated within the Norman Public School system. "Balancing work and life is a challenge, but like most Oklahoma parents we know the importance of staying involved in PTA, school and church activities." Boren said. She is currently a member of Latina's Women In Norman to support the Mosiacos after-school program for English language learners at Truman Elementary, and served as coordinator for the Alameda Church of Christ's tutoring program. After the 2013 storms, Boren worked for the Center for Children and Families to connect storm survivors with mental health resources working closely with the Native American mental health network, the Red Cross, Catholic Charities, The Salvation Army, and Society of St. Vincent DePaul.

"My most challenging and inspiring work was serving others as a school counselor from 2009-2015. I served many students in need of weekend food, housing, clothing, academic support and even out-patient mental health care. I worked closely with parents to help them acquire the skills needed to access extra help for their children," Boren said.

In 2013, Boren was elected to represented nearly 3000 teachers on the district's bargaining team. "The extra scrutiny I experienced for participating as a member of bargaining team prepared me to understand the stress teachers experience under the high-stakes, and under-funded climate in Oklahoma's public schools," Boren said. "The stories and experiences of Oklahoma teachers that I witnessed haunt me but also inspire me to fight against detractors who compromise the trust and value of public schools and teachers."

"As State Senator I will serve to build trust in our public services by those who've become dismayed by current political climate. I'll continue to work hard with Oklahomans of every kind, location, and experience, to improve the well-being of our family, friends and neighbors."