

With early voting now underway, Lawrence voters have until November 7 to cast their ballot in the upcoming municipal general election. The last day to request a main-in ballot in Douglas County is October 31. Voters can check their registration at ksvotes.org and learn more about voting hours on [Douglas County's website](#).

In general, voters can vote in advance of election day between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Douglas County Elections office. Additional Saturday hours are offered at a variety of locations on November 4.

On the Lawrence ballot, voters will decide which candidates will fill three seats on the Lawrence City Commission, as well as four seats on the Lawrence School Board, and an additional school board election to pick the candidate who will serve the remaining two years of a previously-elected term where the incumbent left the board.

Below, we've included a brief bio about each candidate in the election. The bio's are made using candidate's campaign websites and public comments made during a variety of forums.

The City Commission candidates

Justine Burton - Burton, a long-time Lawrence resident, is running in the November general election, after advancing out of a field of candidates in the August primary election. In public statements Burton has made, she's said a focus of hers on the commission would be economic development in East Lawrence and North Lawrence. However, she's also talked about how the prevalence of unhoused individuals around town is an issue the commission should combat by 'taking care of the homeless' and 'providing housing for families'.

Amber Sellers - Sellers is one of three incumbents running for reelection this cycle. On her [campaign website](#), Sellers lists three priorities for the city commission if she's elected. They are: transforming Lawrence's infrastructure, providing comprehensive access to housing and innovating economic development across the city.

Courtney Shipley - Shipley is also running for reelection, after serving on the Lawrence City Commission since 2019. If reelected, [Shipley hopes to focus on](#) sustainable economic development, social well-being and environmental conditions. Additionally, she wants to prioritize neighborhood health, community engagement and her past experience serving on community boards and the commission.

Brad Finkeldei - Finkeldei is also running for reelection to the commission. Serving as a lawyer in Lawrence, Finkeldei has served on the board for the past four years. In public statements at

forums, Finkeldei has focused on expanding the city's housing stock, providing resources to reduce homelessness and continue to develop the Lawrence economy.

Mike Dever - Dever has previously served on the Lawrence City Commission between 2007 and 2015. On his [campaign website](#), Dever says his priorities if he's sent back to the city commission will be to engage with the community, deal with rising property tax bills, incentive the building of new housing at all price points and work to create a plan for providing services to unhoused individuals in Lawrence.

Dustin Stumblingbear - Stumblingbear is a longtime Lawrence resident and Army National Guard veteran. In the past, he's served on a number of Lawrence advisory boards. Stumblingbear highlighted financial and environmental sustainability, affordable housing, providing services to unhoused Lawrence residents and improving the city's infrastructure as his priorities if he's elected to the board.

The Lawrence School Board Candidates

Shannon Kimball - Kimball, the incumbent candidate in her race, is running against Ariel Miner to fill a two-year term. Kimball has focused on her past experience on the board and her leadership dealing with budget constraints in the past as her main selling point to voters.

Ariel Miner - Miner, a Lawrence resident with four kids in the Lawrence Public Schools, is running against Kimball to fill the sole two-year term up for election this cycle. Miner has highlighted the districts need for more financial transparency, lack of public input in the board's decisions and low wages as the main issues she hopes to tackle if she's elected.

Carole Cadue-Blackwood - Carole Cadue-Blackwood is an incumbent on the Lawrence School Board running for a four-year term. In candidate questionnaires, Cadue-Blackwood has said her priorities if re-elected continue to be advocating for vulnerable students, supporting mental health initiatives and engaging the community.

Kevin Coronado - While Coronado's name will still appear on voters' ballots, [he dropped out of the race and suspended his campaign following an arrest for driving under the influence](#) that was reported by local media outlets at the time.

Anne Costello - Costello, a Lawrence resident with children in the Lawrence School District, is running for a four-year term in the November election. Her focuses, if elected, would be teacher and staff recruitment and retention, finding more money in the budget for salary increases and rising costs, and focusing on student achievement, according to her [campaign website](#).

Yolanda Franklin - Franklin, a non-profit leader, is running for a four-year term as part of the *Kansans United For Public Schools* coalition that includes her, Carole Cadue-Blackwood and Ariel Miner. Franklin has talked about the need for the district to do more and reduce class sizes, while also supporting teachers more and focusing on the Head Start program.

Edward Gonzales - Gonzales, a longtime Lawrence resident, is running to fill a four-year term. Gonzales said his focuses, if elected, would be raises for teachers using money currently going towards salaries for administrators, and giving the community a chance to engage with the board's work in a more substantial way.

GR Gordon-Ross - Gordon-Ross is an incumbent running for re-election to a four-year term. In his reelection campaign, he's focused on supporting staff recruitment and retention efforts, as well as finding innovative solutions to the problems facing the board.

Jody Meyer - Meyer, a Lawrence attorney with three children who've graduated from the Lawrence school district, is running for a four-year term. In public statements, she's said her main priority, if elected, is to continue to make the Lawrence School District more attractive to prospective families. Declining enrollment for the district, she's said, is the biggest issue facing the school district.

Brandon Moore - Moore, a parent to one child in the Lawrence schools and another who recently graduated, is running for a four-year term. In public statements, he's said the district's lack of recruitment and retention of staff is the biggest issue facing the school district. Additionally, he's talked at length about the need for a better budgeting process for the district.

Rachel Stumblingbear - Stumblingbear, a longtime Lawrence resident, is running for a four-year term. If elected, she's said her main focus will be to engage the community and inform them about the positive things the school district is accomplishing, while also taking public input into account with her decision-making on the board.