

LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO CANDIDATES FOR LAWRENCE CITY COMMISSION.

CANDIDATE	1. Candidate Profiles
Sven Erik Alstrom	<p>Name: Sven Erik Alstrom. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: 842 West 21st Street, Lawrence, KS 66046; ecologicalarch@aol.com; www.ecologicalarch.com; 785-749-1018. How long have you lived in Lawrence? Attended KU June 1970 to August 1975, moved back to Lawrence August 2002 through current. Education and/or occupation: Washington High School, KCK 1969 graduate; University of Kansas student in Architecture School + LAS, Bachelor of General Studies 1975; Paralegal Certificate University of Denver 1983; University of Denver College of Law 1984-1986 completed 66 of 130 hrs. Kansas Architect since 1982, registration in California, Colorado, Missouri, North Carolina, New Mexico; Member American Institute of Architects since 1982, AIA Kansas. Ecological Architecture was founded in 1990 in Aspen/Woody Creek, Colorado, and the name changed Ecological Architecture in 1999 then became a Kansas based Corporation in 2002. Community involvement and other relevant experience: Lawrence Preservation Alliance Board Member 2003–2004; Lawrence Preservation Alliance Lifetime member 2007; City of Lawrence Historic Preservation Committee Member 2004–2007; First Presbyterian Church, Lawrence Trustee 2006–2008; First Presbyterian Church, Eco-Team founding member 2008; Centennial Neighborhood Association member since 2002, steering committee member since 2008.</p>
Hugh Carter	<p>Name: Hugh Carter. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: Carter for Commission, PO Box 1795, Lawrence, KS 66044; hugh@carterforcommission.com; www.CaterForCommission.com; (785) 764-3362. How long have you lived in Lawrence? I've lived in Lawrence for a total of 26 years. Education and/or occupation: Financial Advisor. Community involvement: Lawrence/Douglas County Planning Commissioner, 2007-2010; Director, Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, 2007-Current; Leadership Lawrence graduate, 2007; Advisory Board Member, Leadership Lawrence, 2007-Current. Other relevant experience: 15 year career in the hospitality industry. Experienced in opening and managing restaurants of all types as well as hotels. Opened properties in many different states.</p>
Mike Dever	<p>Name: Michael Dever. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: PO Box 365 Lawrence, Kansas 66044; www.mdever.com; info@mdever.com; 785 550 4909. How long have you lived in Lawrence? 22 years. Education and/or occupation: B.A. Environmental Studies and Geography, University of Kansas. Environmental Consultant and Owner of GuideWire Consulting, Lawrence Kansas. Lawrence City Commissioner 2007-2011. Mayor of Lawrence from 4/2008-4/2009. Treasurer of the Lawrence Douglas County Bioscience Authority Board. Member of Lawrence Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization. Member of the Board of Destination Management Inc.,. Other relevant experience: I was actively involved in creating a climate protection plan through our cities climate protection task force and was directly involved in solidifying the future of our local public transportation system. The community is now poised to reap the benefits of a stronger commitment to the environment and a more efficient public transportation system that is coordinated with the University of Kansas bus system.</p>

LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO CANDIDATES FOR LAWRENCE CITY COMMISSION.

CANDIDATE	1. Candidate Profiles (continued)
Mike Machell	<p>Name: Mike Machell. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: P.O. Box 442549, Lawrence, KS 66044-2549; e-mail may be sent via the website, www.MMforCommission.com. How long have you lived in Lawrence? 12 years. Education and/or occupation: Georgetown University, BSFS; University of Michigan, MBA; Georgia State University, JD; Human Resources Director for health care provider. Community involvement: Lawrence Public Library Board (2007-present), currently Board Chair; Lawrence Public Library Foundation Board; co-founder Community Career Connections (community job fair). Other relevant experience: Human Resource Management positions in various industries since 1987.</p>
Bob Shumm	<p>Name: Bob Schumm. Campaign address, email address, web address, telephone: 1720 Saint Andrews Dr; schummfoods@gmail.com; www.bobschumm.com; 766-0888. How long have you lived in Lawrence? Almost 50 years. Education and/or occupation: Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from the University of Kansas; Business Owner/Buffalo Bob's and Dynamite Saloon. Community Involvement: • Member and former board member, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce; • Member and former president and board member, Downtown Lawrence Association; • Member, Sister City Advisory Committee; • Member, Lawrence Convention and Business Bureau. Other Relevant Experience: • City Commissioner, 1978-1984 and 1987-1993; • Mayor, 1989-1991.</p>

Candidates were asked to limit responses to 100 words. Answers that exceeded 120 words were edited for length only. Editorial changes are indicated by an ellipsis in brackets ([...]). **For information** on voting and upcoming candidate and issue forums, please visit the website of the League (<http://lawrenceleague.com/>) or contact the Douglas Co Clerk (785-832-5267; http://www.douglas-county.com/depts/cl/cl_home.aspx). **Advance voting begins** March 16. **Last day to register** for this election is March 21. **General election** for city commission and school board April 5. Polling places are open from 7 am–7 pm on election day. You will be able to vote if you arrive at your polling place before 7 pm.



LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO CANDIDATES FOR LAWRENCE CITY COMMISSION.

CANDIDATE	2. Why are you running for this office? If elected, what do you hope to accomplish during your term?
Sven Erik Alstrom	I hope to make a difference in the way we listen to each neighborhood while working toward better employment opportunities, housing, and while controlling the City budget. • I supported the recent Library Improvement but do not support expansion of the project without voter approval of the major changes to the project. • I oppose privatization of our Municipal Trash pickup and support collective bargaining for all municipal employees. • I oppose further Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIF) in Lawrence and I am opposed to any further additional sales tax districts. • I hope to have a new Community Shelter that will provide both shelter and training, perhaps in separate locations for parents with homeless children which is disturbingly in great need.
Hugh Carter	I enjoyed my experience on the planning commission. I enjoy a challenge and like to stay busy. After three years as a planning commissioner, I decided that I would prefer to be a part of the final vote, rather than a recommending body. I believe that my professional experience and willingness to listen could be an asset to the community. [1] Play a role in creating a business-friendly environment so that local businesses can increase jobs and income for our residents, as well as diversifying and strengthening our tax base by attracting additional employers. [2] Implement a 10-15 year plan to make Lawrence a more senior-friendly community and to attract retiree's. [3] Maintain our high standards of essential services without unnecessarily burdening taxpayers.
Mike Dever	Using the skills acquired during the last four years serving on the city commission and various boards, I want to continue the progress that has been made in Lawrence and capitalize on the many partnerships I have developed with a wide variety of citizens, local leaders and agencies.
Mike Machell	Service to the community is very important to me. [...] If elected, I will seek to lower property taxes by capturing more sales tax revenue locally. By lowering taxes, employers will have more money available to invest in their businesses and to promote job growth. I will also continue efforts to make Lawrence attractive to industries and employers: • Emphasize workforce training for jobs in bio-science, manufacturing and health care by partnering with KU, community colleges and technical schools. • Hold City government more accountable by surveying citizens and local businesses to improve processes and services [...]. • Plan durable infrastructure improvements for streets, sewers, water and other basic services. • Market what is unique about Lawrence, including our leadership in the arts, education, music and health care.
Bob Shumm	I am running for the city commission, because as the owner of a successful local business, former mayor and member of the city commission, I understand the issues the city grapples with. I have many ideas to hold down costs and balance the budget while maintaining the quality of life we have come to enjoy as residents. My priorities include: 1. Promoting the creation of quality, sustainable jobs. 2. Employing balanced community-planning principles. 3. Preserving downtown as a unique destination. 4. Building a stronger relationship with KU. 5. Seeking out emerging trends and new technologies.



LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO CANDIDATES FOR LAWRENCE CITY COMMISSION.	
CANDIDATE	3. What role should the city play in housing Lawrence's homeless population?
Sven Erik Alstrom	The current City Commission has recently paid \$1.3 million for twenty private aircraft hangers at the airport, new bus buildings, and many street improvement projects. The City of Lawrence should find a way to help build or remodel a structure for a Community Shelter in a cooperative manner with our large number of social service agencies that could also assist with shelter needs. Currently homeless children and their parents are an emergency need. We must build a shelter for these families and an adult shelter which includes job training.
Hugh Carter	[...] I believe that we need to decide where we want to focus what little resources we have available in this time of sluggish revenues. Given limited resources, I would like to see the City fund social services on an outcome basis. [...] Services that help citizens find work, keep their current job, find housing, etc. may be the best use of those funds. The homeless shelter has not had a terribly good record of outcomes in its current location, but that could change dramatically at a new site. [...] There are many agencies that could supplement the efforts of the shelter, but they do not have the space or appropriate conditions at the current site. To sum this up, [...] I support the community shelter.
Mike Dever	I believe the city needs to be actively involved in assisting private and/or faith based entities in finding a suitable location for the proper housing, counseling and assistance of those members of our community who are homeless. The City should continue to lend financial and planning assistance to those agencies that have taken ownership of the issue and help facilitate the transition of those in the emergency shelter to more permanent housing.
Mike Machell	Homelessness in our community is a reality that we cannot ignore. The city's role is approving a special use permit enabling the shelter to operate as well as providing oversight to the shelter. It is important that the city commission, planning department, community and shelter officials cooperate to determine a long-term location for the shelter. It will require careful consideration and open dialogue that balances the concerns of neighbors with the needs of the homeless population. In the meantime, extending the special use permit at the current location is a reasonable short-term approach until a more suitable location is found.
Bob Shumm	The Lawrence Community Shelter provides critical services to some of the most vulnerable individuals in our city. I support their efforts to relocate the shelter from its current location downtown to a new facility, and I am disappointed that the issue has not yet been resolved. If elected to the city commission, I will take a leadership role in helping to find a suitable location that is supported by the community.

Candidates were asked to limit responses to 100 words. Answers that exceeded 120 words were edited for length only. Editorial changes are indicated by an ellipsis in brackets (...). **For information** on voting and upcoming candidate and issue forums, please visit the website of the League (<http://lawrenceleague.com/>) or contact the Douglas Co Clerk (785-832-5267; http://www.douglas-county.com/depts/cl/cl_home.aspx). **Advance voting begins** March 16. **Last day to register** for this election is March 21. **General election** for city commission and school board April 5. Polling places are open from 7 am–7 pm on election day. You will be able to vote if you arrive at your polling place before 7 pm.

LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO CANDIDATES FOR LAWRENCE CITY COMMISSION.

CANDIDATE	4. What actions should the city take to increase employment rates in Lawrence?
Sven Erik Alstrom	We are in a global marketplace. The current economic climate makes understanding globalization and the new needs or energy independence and renewable power generation urgent for our leadership. We can increase employment by co-operatively working with the national & regional business community to embrace the understanding of the domestic marketplace for northeast Kansas. We need to take better advantage of our location between state government in Topeka and the metropolitan economy of Kansas City. In light of the national economic situation and budget cuts in Topeka, we must advertise Lawrence’s role as the ‘Oasis of Kansas’. Education and research are our predominant activities so we should step up and lead the economic recovery in eastern Kansas.
Hugh Carter	[...] While there has been a change of tone at City hall recently, I believe that we need to take things a step further to indicate that Lawrence is open for business. With [...] economic recovery in process [...], I believe Lawrence can emerge stronger than ever if we take actions now to capture our share of jobs in the coming years. I would like to look at some infill re-development projects that neighbors can agree on and pre-plan, approve, and shop these projects to the development community. [...]his is an action that is proactive and shows a real effort on the part of the City to attract jobs. [...] I believe it could go a long way towards changing the business unfriendly perception that is out there.
Mike Dever	The city should continue to identify suitable locations for new businesses, offer financial incentives and work with the Chamber of Commerce and other regional development councils to attract new businesses to our community. We should also continue to nurture existing businesses and provide adequate technical and planning assistance to those businesses seeking to expand in our area. We should also continue to properly zone and annex land that is deemed desirable to potential new and existing business enterprises. Finally, we should continue to remediate the existing Farmland site and utilize the resources available on that property to house new business opportunities.
Mike Machell	The city must focus on expanding the availability of well-paying jobs in the community. We need to actively recruit new companies and facilitate growth of existing businesses in Lawrence. Providing multiple sites zoned for development, appropriate use of tax abatements and other incentives including training, preparing our workforce with relevant technical skills and marketing what is unique about Lawrence are options that the city should pursue. Some actions, such as the creation of a business incubator at KU’s west campus and the purchase of the Farmland property, have been initiated by the current city commission. These are the types of efforts I would like to continue on the city commission.
Bob Shumm	The city has a responsibility to the public to promote the creation of quality, sustainable jobs. This includes supporting existing businesses in the community as well as recruiting new businesses to the area. One subject on which I feel particularly passionate is the idea of creating more homegrown, high profile jobs, which I believed can be accomplished through business incubator projects.

LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO CANDIDATES FOR LAWRENCE CITY COMMISSION.

CANDIDATE	5. Do you believe that our neighborhoods function well, or could they initially be better planned? If you believe that they can be better planned, what would you recommend that the city encourage?
Sven Erik Alstrom	New neighborhoods in Lawrence may need some pocket parks or playgrounds and better connections, including bicycle & walking paths to schools or shopping. Older neighborhoods need sidewalk repairs and commonly street improvements due to age, and sometimes to achieve quality storm water drainage. 'Walkability' is a trademark of Lawrence and we should continue to build upon our 'accessible city'. Land use and zoning changes which abruptly alter established development patterns are becoming an increasing concern to our community. Ending sprawl and focusing on more central development with appropriate infill is necessary as we witness the upward acceleration of food, energy, and transportation costs.
Hugh Carter	We have many great neighborhoods in Lawrence. I loved growing up in Indian Hills! Of course, some neighborhoods function better than others and we can always improve our planning process. I would like encourage more walkable neighborhoods and more senior-oriented neighborhoods. A neighborhood of affordable patio homes with walking paths and nearby amenities is attractive to retiree's and is not currently available in Lawrence.
Mike Dever	I believe that the changes in the development codes have sought to create better neighborhoods and residential development. By implementing and enforcing the codes we will continue to create highly functioning neighborhoods and create a better community. Open space, recreational centers and well designed streets and thoroughfares need to be encouraged. The continued development and enforcement of comprehensive and sector plans will allow the existing neighborhoods to thrive and new development to positively impact the future of our city. I believe a continued focus on infill development and neighborhood revitalization will help improve and maintain our core and older neighborhoods.
Mike Machell	I think that most people feel that their neighborhoods function well. Lawrence is a diverse community; people have different tastes and lifestyle choices. Our comprehensive plans and city codes are generally flexible and allow for a wide range and types of neighborhoods. This includes a mixture of housing styles that balance differing economic requirements while preserving a neighborhood feel. However, one area where Lawrence could do a better job is providing more affordable housing choices.
Bob Shumm	Lawrence is home to some of the most vibrant neighborhoods in the Midwest, but there is always room for improvement. If elected, I would encourage the city to employ balanced community planning principles in order to achieve a more robust and efficient city that appropriately blends residential, recreational, and retail space. For example, one thing I consistently hear from people is a desire for more bike trails and walking paths.



LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO CANDIDATES FOR LAWRENCE CITY COMMISSION.

CANDIDATE	6. Do you believe that urban development should be permitted in floodplains? If so, what type of development should be permitted?
Sven Erik Alstrom	A great deal of commercial, warehouse, and retail occurs in flood plains in nearby Kansas City. Building in floodplains should be minimized for many reasons and most importantly the high cost and high probability of damage from flooding. Pumping costs are expensive and have huge ongoing maintenance efforts. Any toxins or stored fuels are a huge hazard in a flood zone. Due to these concerns I also believe that the Baker Wetlands should be avoided and that the SLT should be built south of the river to avoid long term maintenance issues, allowing the historic wildlife habitat & wetlands to remain undivided.
Hugh Carter	I agree with our current development guidelines, which state that urban development is not allowed in the flood plain. The code does leave the door open to certain other types of development and I would say that we need to look at those on a case-by-case basis
Mike Dever	I believe that any development in floodplains should be governed by the federal, state and local regulations that are currently in place. Lawrence is fortunate to have ample buildable lots that are not currently encumbered by flood zone restrictions. We should only allow development in floodplains that will not have a negative effect on the nearby streams and tributaries and will not cause on undue burden on the infrastructure of our community.
Mike Machell	I do not generally support urban development in floodplains, but there may be other land uses that may not require intensive construction or building. Chapter 12 of the city code provides a comprehensive set of regulations and prerequisites for development in a floodplain. They provide some flexibility to build on the floodplain as long as prescribed mitigation efforts are followed. I see no reason to deviate from these standards.
Bob Shumm	Common sense zoning ordinances should be adopted and enforced to minimize the risk of loss from flooding while simultaneously allowing appropriate development within a floodplain. Because urban development in floodplains can lead to more frequent and more severe flooding, I would encourage the city to utilize the area for recreational use. For development that already exists within a floodplain, the city should work to alleviate existing flooding problems and minimizing future damage.

Candidates were asked to limit responses to 100 words. Answers that exceeded 120 words were edited for length only. Editorial changes are indicated by an ellipsis in brackets (...). **For information** on voting and upcoming candidate and issue forums, please visit the website of the League (<http://lawrenceleague.com/>) or contact the Douglas Co Clerk (785-832-5267; http://www.douglas-county.com/depts/cl/cl_home.aspx). **Advance voting begins** March 16. **Last day to register** for this election is March 21. **General election** for city commission and school board April 5. Polling places are open from 7 am–7 pm on election day. You will be able to vote if you arrive at your polling place before 7 pm.



LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO CANDIDATES FOR LAWRENCE CITY COMMISSION.

CANDIDATE	7. Should the city provide more sidewalks in neighborhoods that lack them? Should the city provide more repairs to sidewalks?
Sven Erik Alstrom	Sidewalks are part of our transportation system and a masterplan for sidewalk repair and maintenance should be part of our long term planning and budgeting. We probably need a sidewalk survey to really nail down what needs to be done across Lawrence. One of my best talents is in thinking creatively, having a clear vision of long term goals, and making choices which favor the mutual benefits afforded by business and well-planned economic growth, and to enhance our environment and social services.
Hugh Carter	We do need sidewalks in many neighborhoods that lack them, though not necessarily all neighborhoods. I definitely believe that gaps in sidewalks should be filled for better connectivity and walkability. The city needs to take care of the sidewalks that are in the right of way and any others that are the responsibility of the city. I also think we can do more to help keep costs down for land/homeowners that have to maintain their own sidewalks. The City could act on behalf of a neighborhood or a group of landowners who need repairs, getting contractors to give a significant discount versus landowners seeking repairs on their own.
Mike Dever	Sidewalk connectivity is crucial for the development and sustenance of walkable neighborhoods. The city has focused on [...] limiting sidewalk gaps in our community [...]. We have recently focused on improving the gaps and I believe a continued emphasis needs to be placed on this effort. The responsibility for sidewalk repair is placed on the abutting homeowner in our community, and the city has [...] has attempted to enforce the proper care and maintenance of the sidewalks. [...]. The city does not currently have the resources to take responsibility for and ownership of the many miles of sidewalks in our community. I believe we need to develop a plan for [...] installation and maintenance of the sidewalks in an effort to provide a more walkable and sustainable community.
Mike Machell	The city should support filling in sidewalk gaps in neighborhoods where sidewalks already exist. Unfortunately, it would be prohibitively expensive to provide sidewalks to self-contained neighborhoods where sidewalks have not existed previously. Moreover, it creates an equity issue when determining which of these neighborhoods should receive sidewalks. The city does not currently repair sidewalks; sidewalks are currently the responsibility of the property owner. I would support city-neighborhood cooperative partnerships that use the city's purchasing power to negotiate a price with a contractor to repair an area where sidewalks require investment. I also support use of community block grants to finance repairs.
Bob Shumm	Sidewalks are an important part of the livability of our community. I support increasing access to sidewalks, bike lines, and public transportation because I believe it will improve the ease of which Lawrence residents move around the city. Improvements should be undertaken to enhance the safety, accessibility, and convenience of existing sidewalks.