

LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO PRIMARY RACES FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSION, 2ND DISTRICT.

		1. Please provide us with a brief biography for publication in this Voter Guide.
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	Ken Adkinson	My wife and I have been married for 45 years. We have two grown daughters and two grand daughters. I started an agricultural business in rural Douglas County just east of Eudora in 1977. My family and I moved from Olathe, Kansas in 1985 to our present home in rural Eudora. In 2000 I was appointed to the Eudora Planning and Zoning Commission. I sold the business in the early 90's but continued to work in the agricultural community unit retirement in 2008.
	Nancy Thellman	Nancy was born and raised in Lawrence. She and her husband, Scott Thellman, MD, are raising their family on a small working farm in northeast Douglas County. Nancy has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Kansas University and a Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt University. She worked in emergency rooms and ICUs before becoming an ordained Presbyterian minister. She has served two congregations locally: First Presbyterian and Plymouth Congregational. Nancy serves on boards of: Douglas County American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, Stepping Out Against Breast Cancer, Parkinson's Disease Support Group, Citizens for Responsible Planning and Kaw Valley Food Future.
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES	David L. Brown	I was born in Douglas County and raised on a farm in the Vinland area... I attended Baldwin Schools, graduating from Baldwin High School,... [and] Garden City Community College, graduat[ing] with an associate's degree in agriculture. I returned from college, started to expand the farming operation [and began] working for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office..., retiring [after 32 years] as a lieutenant in... 2008. I continue to farm... I'm married to Twilla... We have two children, Megan... [and] John.... My family and I are active in the Worden United Methodist Church. I have helped with 4-H programs and the county fair. I am vice-president of the Douglas County Livestock Association...
	Grant Eichhorn	I moved to Douglas County to attend KU in the fall of 1985... I majored in Geography and Environmental studies and graduated in 1989. Married in 1991 to Heather McReynolds, daughter age 13 (now). We both were admitted to the Peace Corps and spent 2.5 years in Czechoslovakia in their environmental management program where I started an Impact Analysis class for the South Czech University. Spent the next 10 years commuting to Shawnee working for an Energy Services Company providing and managing campus wide lighting projects. Started my own maintenance and construction company in 2000. Bought Rueschhoffs ... in 2005. I still build super insulated single family homes and renovation projects.
		2. Why are you running for this office? If elected, what do you hope to accomplish during your term?
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	Ken Adkinson	Having been raised in a politically active family, politics have always interested me. Now that I am retired, I have the time to devote my experience, energy, and persistence to the issues that affect Douglas County. I believe that I will have a positive effect on these issues and that I can make a difference. I want Douglas County to develop and prosper.
	Nancy Thellman	Douglas County citizens and their government are at a critical juncture economically and philosophically. How, where, why, and into what kind of community do we want to grow? While I have some experience with urban/rural planning and infrastructure issues, among the candidates I am uniquely qualified to speak about public health and human service needs, an oft forgotten but vital part of the county's work. I am determined to be a voice for vulnerable citizens, shaping budget priorities that reflect commitment to their needs particularly looking for ways to streamline, coordinate, and proactively plan for our aging population.
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES	David L. Brown	I have worked for Douglas County my entire adult life. I am very passionate about Douglas County and its citizens. I feel I have the abilities to move Douglas County forward during what is becoming a tough economic time. I want to represent the citizens of Douglas County and bring their issues forward. One thing we have to do is try to maintain the budget with less dollars coming in. I want to continue to take care of the services that are provided with in Douglas County and hold the rise of the mill level down as much as possible.
	Grant Eichhorn	I'm running because I feel I can accomplish at a higher level more than the others I'm running against. Or better said. I have the time to serve the community and enjoy doing such. I understand the time constraints and am comfortable providing myself to the community to work on local government matters. I hope to bring both sides of issues to the table and in reasonable fashion come to my best judgment on each item presented. To create more administrative development policy that is easier to understand. My positions are found on the answers to your questions. I'm not promising anything other than my best effort.

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		3. How do you view rural development? Exclusive of the incorporated areas and Urban Growth Area, should Douglas County be considered a residential county or an agricultural one? If Douglas County is a residential county, how would you like to see it develop? If it's an agricultural county, how would you preserve it for that?
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	Ken Adkinson	Douglas County is a place where people come to live, work and raise their families. It is both urban and rural and will not become one or the other for many generations. I want Douglas County to evolve at a natural pace which will allow future generations to enjoy their lives. I would want the rural areas to develop using the land least fitted for crop production first.
	Nancy Thellman	Elected leaders must uphold a comprehensive plan that limits sprawl, a planning mistake not only prohibitively expensive, but wasteful of our best natural resources. Historically flood-prone areas or areas of significant, contiguous prime soils should not be the target of typical urban development (even inside current Urban Growth Areas!) because stormwater mitigation costs and sustainability issues will likely outweigh benefits the traditional development may boast. To help the urban/rural planning process, our county toolbox must expand to include transferable development rights and policies such as those set out in the American Planning Association's new policy guide for regional food systems (2008).
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES	David L. Brown	I view rural development as something that is going to continue based on our location to Topeka and Kansas City. Currently... economics have slowed... development. There is a lot of farm land still in Douglas County and with... good... prices for crops; this is bringing extra dollars into local businesses. For... now... we are still an agriculture county. As... economics improve I see the pendulum swinging and Douglas County becoming more of a residential county. As a county commissioner I don't feel it should be up to me to limit development or label Douglas County as an agricultural county. With time, the citizens of Douglas County will decide this issue.
	Grant Eichhorn	Inconsistent. It is both. The number of 5 acre tracts that are already surveyed means numerous growth is possible regardless of any future legislation. Those numerous homes don't exist yet and the land is being currently farmed. The 5 acre sights should be mapped and more easily known to others. The county missed a large revenue source by not charging for the 5 acre divisions. Riparian corridors should be quantified as off limits and treated with respect- as most are now. Road frontages and future rights of way should be projected. The ordinances and subdivision regulations should be simpler, as they sit now there are numerous caveats that are cumbersome to read.
		4. Where would you locate industrial and business parks? Do you believe that these uses should be located close to existing cities, annexed and provided with urban infrastructure and services? Or allowed elsewhere in the county?
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	Ken Adkinson	Industrial Parks require extensive infrastructure and are normally located near or in urban areas where much of the infrastructure has already been developed. It would take very special circumstances for me to change the norm.
	Nancy Thellman	Industrial parks should be located outside of flood plain or flood-prone land, should not consume significant amounts of our best prime agricultural soils, should have proximity to transportation thoroughfares with minimal mixing of local and industrial traffic, ideally would be located close to existing infrastructure, and must withstand independent, objective financial cost vs. benefit risk analysis before moving forward, especially if public funds will be used. Conversations about industrial placement should extend beyond Lawrence to include surrounding communities. Eudora, for instance, has a significant new industrial/commercial site planned (TIF) which should be part of the county's conversation.
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES	David L. Brown	Location is going to be based on the property owners that are willing to sell land for industrial or business parks uses. There are so many issues in dealing with a decision of this magnitude and again I would want to represent the county residents in this decision. I know that is not a clear answer, but every location and plan would have to be studied to see what is that most feasible.
	Grant Eichhorn	All immediate efforts should be put forward to the I70 K10 and along farmers turnpike corridor. It is where 85% of all requests want to be. All infrastructure should be provided. Farmland will take too long to sort out but should not be forgotten—it is...just as for sale to someone else as it is to the city/county. Certain industrial users should NOT be located near a city—power plants—and others should—distribution centers. Both types of sites should be available so a market share can be captured.... Enforcement of blight policies within... the cities and county would allow... attractive existing sites to be marketed and thus less greenfield development.

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		5. The Douglas County Commission has not yet adopted the Draft <i>Horizon 2020</i> Preservation Plan Element proposed in 2003. What is your reasoning for or against adopting this proposed plan element?
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	Ken Adkinson	I have not read the Draft <i>Horizon 2020</i> but I will do so with an open mind.
	Nancy Thellman	I would adopt the Preservation Plan Element. Communities are enriched when they save their place in history. Douglas County has a great story to tell. Formalizing that story, saving its key elements (both man-made and natural), builds deep community bonds and shapes future planning that is both reflective and intelligent. Furthermore, the promise of economic development that comes with Freedom's Frontier Heritage Area is reason enough to adopt the Preservation Plan Element. Douglas County is a key partner in this 41 county Heritage Area. Our rich history, beautiful historic districts, and historic scenic vistas are an invaluable economic engine—a treasure from the past on which to build our future.
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES	David L. Brown	In its current state I think it needs some revision before adaptation. Having a long range plan is vital for the success of our county.
	Grant Eichhorn	I am not against it. With that said it was written with a bias toward Lawrence and while it suggests that certain rural aspects need to be discussed it will best serve the rural community by creating an administrative feature as opposed to a review procedure. The mapping of features is of significant value to a community but can hinder or help a land/ homeowner equally... Overall the benefits available to our communities through tourism and the Heritage alliance... already formed far outweigh the possibility of losing some sights due to destruction of sights for future gain... It needs tweaking but is a reasonable place to start...
		6. What are your views on the South Lawrence Trafficway?
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	Ken Adkinson	Lawrence needs a by-pass to enhance industrial and commercial business. Individuals also struggle to cross town during peak traffic times. I am currently seeking input from past leaders that have worked on this project, such as, Roger Boyd of Baker University. After obtaining this information I will support a route that does not permanently damaged the wetlands and is the most economical for the tax payers.
	Nancy Thellman	It seems unlikely the SLT will be completed in the near future. T2030 recommends the 32 nd Street alignment to modestly improve traffic flow on 23 rd but points to the need for further study in relation to the developing Gardner intermodal. Add to this mixed signal a slow economy and severely limited infrastructure dollars, and the chance for completion grows dimmer. Another roadblock comes as the national office of the Sierra Club has agreed to add its full weight (financial and otherwise) to a lawsuit on behalf of wetland preservationists, a litigation process which will delay the project 18 to 24 months.
REP. CANDS.	David L. Brown	I believe the county has already taken a stance on the South Lawrence Trafficway's alignment. As most know this is a highly contested. I feel there is a need for the Trafficway to relieve traffic on 23 rd street; especially truck traffic.
	Grant Eichhorn	The T2030 documents created by the MPO should be followed and updated according to current plans. The 32b alignment was chosen using weighed factors and concrete discussion of alternatives The Federal guidelines were followed very closely and costs of each project discussed ad-nauseam. I know this because I was chair of the MPO and went to all 30 meetings. It is the best available route and keeps more traffic off failing 23 rd street and moves commuter traffic away from the cites.

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		7. Would you support a feasibility study for an eastern bypass/toll bridge over the Kansas River between Lawrence and Eudora?
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	Ken Adkinson	An eastern bypass would be a positive addition to Lawrence. I do not think this is the time to visit that issue. KDOT is currently not considering an eastern bypass and it would take years to get such a project on KDOT's schedule. After the Turnpike exit between Tonganoxie and Eudora has been completed there maybe a window of opportunity to consider an eastern bypass.
	Nancy Thellman	The complicated industrial corridor between Johnson County and Douglas County is receiving a lot of planning attention. KDOT's discussion with surrounding cities includes the possibility of a connector between Eudora and the new Tonganoxie I70 interchange which might make the eastern bypass question moot with traffic moving from K-10 to I70 far east of Lawrence. But should the eastern bypass/toll bridge be pursued, I believe an independent, objective financial analysis of risks, benefits and feasibility would be needed for this or any project where public funds used.
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES	David L. Brown	Yes, I would support a study if the cost is not prohibitive. Again just the relief of truck traffic in Lawrence would be beneficial. It possibly would open up more opportunity for industrial and commercial business in the area as well.
	Grant Eichhorn	Only if it didn't cost the county any money. The traffic models were already run by KDOT with oversight provided by the... Federal Highway Administration using exactly this scenario, and it provided less congestion and... traffic relief than the 32b route. The eastern route (which are held in place should more... funds become available) for the bypass will stay available according to the T2030 and Long Range transportation plans. ...[T]hat modeling study included a 19th street interchange to provide access to the University. The toll bridge is a great idea and Kansas Turnpike Authority has already looked at it. KTA is responsible for their own revenue and... can't make the toll numbers work...
		8. Should Douglas County be involved with interregional mass transit development and support? If so, how should it be paid for?
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	Ken Adkinson	Kansas City, Missouri is looking for partners to help develop an interregional mass transit system. If Wyandotte County or Johnson County decides to join in, I think we should at that time consider becoming a part of the system.
	Nancy Thellman	County, City, Chamber, public foundations, private enterprise and every citizen should be increasingly committed to mass transit—both intercity and interregional. This means not only increasing bus ridership, but building passenger rail capabilities and connecting the "Rails to Trails" between cities so that safe bike transportation becomes a viable regional option. With a more energy conscious federal government on the horizon, and with increasing public demand for mass transit, funding proposals at the federal, state, and local levels will follow in time. The key is to elect leaders who have the foresight to plan proactively.
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES	David L. Brown	No, I don't think we should be involved. I feel Douglas County has other issues before the development of mass transit.
	Grant Eichhorn	The City of Lawrence already is providing commuter busses to the KC area in partnership with the Edwards campus of KU. If the county is at best scattered housing, then economies of scale would never exist. Park and ride facilities are outlined in the T2030 document for exactly this reason. The folks in Eudora have been park and ride sharing to KC for decades and now a facility to make that an even more attractive alternative is documented in a transportation plan and approved by KDOT along K10. These ideas are being taken care of by the free market w/out tax dollars and we should allow that to continue.

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		9. Would you support expanding the County Commission to five commissioners?
DEM. CANDS.	Ken Adkinson	Not having served on a three person Commission and knowing that I may get an opportunity to serve on one I would like to reserve my answer. I may have an opportunity to gain knowledge that might change my current thinking.
	Nancy Thellman	Yes. As per state statutes, a petition must be submitted to the commission to place the question on the ballot. I would support expanding the commission as long as the new districts are drawn fairly, offering representation to the outlying communities and townships while safeguarding Lawrence’s standing as the major population center and service provider.
REP. CANDS.	David L. Brown	Yes, I think there would be several advantages that would out weigh keeping the current three commissioner system. For example the second district has a diverse area with three different areas of Lawrence, Baldwin, Eudora and a growing rural community. Having an additional commissioner would better serve the district.
	Grant Eichhorn	Yes. 3 districts and 2 at large seats makes sense. Of course I’d be against it if it slows down process, but it is a good idea. I don’t think the salary budget should be changed- the new 5 commissioner seats should just share the budget of the current 3.
		10. What do you view as the most important issues confronting Douglas County during the next term?
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	Ken Adkinson	The most important issues facing Douglas County are balancing the budget with declining income, reviewing the subdivision regulations and fixing any problems that exist, reducing traffic congestion in Lawrence, and making County Roads currently without shoulders safer.
	Nancy Thellman	Taxation: revenue shortfalls and the impact to county services because of rising personnel and fuel costs will be overarching concerns compounded by a slow economy. Public Health and Human Services: our aging/retirement population will require more services as the economy forces more people to rely on county services who otherwise wouldn’t. Economic Development: redefining City/County/Chamber partnership for development projects. New Industrial Sites: determining the future of the Farmer’s Turnpike, Airport Business Park, Farmland Industries and others. Environmental Stewardship: adopting policies reflecting contemporary environmental issues such as energy sustainability, local/regional food systems, “green” industry. Ethical and transparent government: regaining the public’s trust in the public process.
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES	David L. Brown	Maintaining the budget and trying to keep from raising taxes too much. With that said, Douglas County still needs to find ways to move forward using the money wisely and make solid financial decisions. Growth will be another issue. Although slowed recently, I believe growth will pick-up again during the next term. I’m sure the residents of Douglas County have issues they see as “most important”. As I am getting in the public more, I’m starting to hear issues that are important to them. Their issues will be a guiding factor on what is or becomes important.
	Grant Eichhorn	Putting together a set of available employment sites that are planned and available to users. This would... include zoning areas... Enforcement of existing policy without favoritism and making as many regulations administrative with... advance planning. Thanking the majority of small business owners that currently make up most of our employers and enforcing ordinance against those not following rules that put tax paying companies at an unfair advantage. Creating revenue through contraction, but also charging for services rendered... Eminent domain of water resources scares... me, and this too is a significant issue. North Lawrence UGA should be retracted to reflect... normalcy. Working with incorporated cities to create UGA’s that fit their planning models.

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