

**LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO PRIMARY RACES FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSION, 3RD DISTRICT.**

		<b>1. Please provide us with a brief biography for publication in this Voter Guide.</b>
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	Ken Grotziel	I have a wealth of experience and skills to bring to the table as a Douglas County Commissioner. This tool box of skills includes: providing services to seniors, running a small business, serving in the Kansas Legislature, helping consumers with their insurance problems, and supporting water sustainability and green space. I served as a State Representative from 1983-1994, was the Director of the Consumer Assistance Division at the Kansas Insurance Department from 1998-2002. As the Assistant Director at the Kansas Water Office from 2003-2007, I promoted the use of mediation in resolving water and natural resources disputes.
	Clenece Hills	Clenece Hills, 1938. Newton, Kansas. Married to James A. Hills, retired Haskell professor. Three adult children: Shane A. Hills of Overland Park; Anne Woods and Eve Cummins of Lawrence; Five grandsons and two granddaughters. Bachelor's and Master's degrees from KU. Public school educator. Kansas Supreme Court Approved Mediator. President, Lawrence Sesquicentennial Commission. Website <a href="http://www.clenecehills.net">www.clenecehills.net</a> .
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES	James E. Flory	Personal: Life-long Douglas County resident, Age 59; Spouse: Donna L. (Hewitt) Flory; Children: Louise M. Flory and Lisa E. (Flory) Richardson. Professional/Employment: United States Attorney's Office: 1991-2006 (Retired, January, 2006); Douglas County District Attorney: 1985-1991; Kansas Attorney General's Office: 1979-80; 1981-1985; Douglas County Sheriff's Office: 1966-1968; 1972-1979; United States Air Force: 1968-1972 (Vietnam Service). Education: University of Kansas School of Law, 1975-1979, JD; University of Kansas, 1966-1968; 1972-1975, BGS Political Science & Psychology; Lawrence High School, 1966.
	John Tacha	My wife Deanell and I have lived in Douglas County for 35 years. Two of our children graduated from Lawrence High School and two from Free State High School... I own and operate the Bureau of Lectures and Concert Artists, Inc. I have been the President of the Lawrence School Board, the School Business Partnership, Cottonwood Foundation, Lawrence School Foundation, Vice President of Community Affairs for the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, and active on many other community and church committees. I received the Don Volker Leadership award in 2002, the Lawrence Kiwanis Club Substantial Citizen award in 2003, and the Lawrence Schools Outstanding Citizen award in 1999...
		<b>2. Why are you running for this office? If elected, what do you hope to accomplish during your term?</b>
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	Ken Grotziel	I'm running because I bring a fresh perspective along with the knowledge and experience to help solve some of the perennial problems facing our community. The County Commission should always be focused on working with development and public interest groups to find acceptable solutions that truly serve the public good. My experience as a mediator leads me to believe that people have more in common than not, and I pledge to work to find our common interests and to find solutions that benefit us all.
	Clenece Hills	I am skilled in bringing people together to work toward positive goals. I am an upbeat, optimistic person and I know that I can influence the direction of the new county commission. Economic development is the bottom line for maintaining services while relieving our tax burdens.
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES	James E. Flory	My main reason for entering the County Commission race is to offer the voters a candidate with both a rural background and prior experience in Douglas County government. All residents of the county are affected by the actions of the Commission, but the residents in the rural areas of the county are more frequently and directly impacted by Commission decisions relating to public safety, land use and infrastructure. I want to make sure that they have a voice on the Commission. Maintaining the high level of county services we have enjoyed in the past while holding the line on property taxes is the primary goal I hope to achieve during my term.
	John Tacha	Douglas County has been a good place for Deanell and I to live, work and raise our family. I want to help ensure that quality of life for the next generation. ... I feel it is very important for the county commissioners, the city commission, and the school districts... to look for ways to save tax dollars for our county citizens... Also, I feel it is imperative to... [secure] more job opportunities for our county residents... I feel that one of my strengths is the ability to encourage dialogue and to prioritize. So, what I hope the county can accomplish during the next 4 years is... to reduce taxes and increase employment opportunities.

**LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO PRIMARY RACES FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSION, 3RD DISTRICT.**

		<b>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?</b>
<b>DEM. CANDS.</b>	<b>Ken Grotwiel</b>	While the recent history of Douglas County indicates that it is an urbanizing county, it seems for the foreseeable future that the areas outside of the incorporated areas and Urban Growth Area will be both agricultural and residential. The goal of the County Commission should be to make sure that the infrastructure costs of any residential growth is proportionate to the benefits for the county.
	<b>Clenece Hills</b>	Our location in the state gives us options that other counties envy. We are a residential county and eventually we will probably be an urban county. I can work with all stakeholders to see that this evolution is prudent and manageable. Horizon 2020 is a working document that should guide us.
<b>REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES</b>	<b>James E. Flory</b>	Douglas County has flourished, in part, due to a strong and vital agricultural base. To the extent possible, I support the preservation of prime agricultural land in the areas surrounding Lawrence. While some expansion of the City of Lawrence into rural Douglas County is inevitable, I believe that each proposed expansion deserves careful and thoughtful deliberation for a determination of the benefit to the community as a whole.
	<b>John Tacha</b>	Rural development is something I feel should be revisited. In the short time I have been campaigning for this office I have heard numerous complaints about the vagueness and/or the complexity of rural development. I see no reason why Douglas County should be considered a residential county OR an agricultural one. It is a large county and developing both to their maximum potential should be the goal. I would also suggest the county could also be considered as a “development” county—in other words, we need the proper mix of agriculture, increased residential growth, and new job opportunities.
		<b>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?</b>
<b>DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES</b>	<b>Ken Grotwiel</b>	Industrial and business parks are best suited for areas that are close to highways, rail lines, and other necessary infrastructure, especially water and sewer services. The Farmland site is an example that meets these criteria. My experience as a State Representative working with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment would be an asset as we work through the environmental issues of the property to make it a successful site. Any proposed or expanded sites should be subject to current planning processes and the views of citizens should be fully taken into account. Any negotiated agreements between developers and affected citizens should be enforced in their entirety.
	<b>Clenece Hills</b>	We must attract businesses and industries to Douglas County. While some annexation and zoning changes are inevitable, I would like to see us use all of the spaces that are already available and waiting to be put to good use. Landowners must be part of the discussion. Horizon 2020 addresses this issue and we need to consider the recommendations in that document.
<b>REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES</b>	<b>James E. Flory</b>	In order to enhance our business tax base and provide quality jobs for Douglas County residents, it is essential that we attract industry and new business. My view is that a potential site will be more attractive for these entities if it is relatively close to an existing urban area and have the availability of city infrastructure and services. I do not believe that it is feasible or advisable to have industrial parks scattered throughout the rural areas of the county.
	<b>John Tacha</b>	Industrial and business parks should be located in areas that are as close as possible to highway, rail and airport facilities, while at the same time encroaching in the least damaging way on those homes and agricultural areas around them. That takes negotiation, compromise, and trying to come out with a “win-win” situation for all the players. I could foresee the utilization of some of our former county, city and school leaders to work on this VERY important issue—we don’t take enough advantage of our past leaders and their experience and their judgment. We need jobs, but we need to do it right.

*The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO PRIMARY RACES FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSION, 3RD DISTRICT.

		<b>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?</b>
DEM. CANDS.	Ken Grotziel	Working at the Kansas Water Office taught me the importance of incorporating principles of water sustainability and green space into development projects. I will use this knowledge as I work collaboratively with the City of Lawrence and other cities to make sure that any development just outside of the city limits is done in a sensible way. This reduces the future taxpayer cost of fixing problems after the fact, like flooding from improper handling of water runoff.
	Clenece Hills	I support this element. We should celebrate our designation as a National Heritage Area. Preservation and environmental stewardship are parts of economic development and these values must influence planning. A weak economy limits our options.
REP. CAN.	James E. Flory	I have not established a position either in favor of or opposed to the proposed plan element. The draft is a comprehensive and rather extensive document that I will need to study more thoroughly before reaching a conclusion on whether it should be adopted by the Douglas County Commission.
	John Tacha	I am not sure yet—I haven't talked to enough people on both sides of this issue to have an opinion.
		<b>6. What are your views on the South Lawrence Trafficway?</b>
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	Ken Grotziel	This has been an issue in this community for over 20 years. It needs to be finished. I support finding a way to move traffic around the southern end of Lawrence. Any solution should substantially solve transportation problems, and mitigate negative impact to Haskell University and the Baker Wetlands. Still unknown is how to pay for any agreed-upon solution. I believe that any decision to build a Trafficway must include a strategy for maximizing Federal and State of Kansas highway funds. I pledge to work with all parties, using my dispute resolution experience to find a solution to build a Trafficway that meets our needs today. We must move forward....
	Clenece Hills I	I support the current commission's decision to approve the 32 <sup>nd</sup> Street alignment endorsed by KDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. We need to do everything possible to build this road now. The agreement will build a world class nature center, will increase wetland acreage, and will attract tourists to Douglas County.
REP. CANDS.	James E. Flory	The South Lawrence Trafficway needs to be completed, and the factors of cost and timeliness in completing the project clearly favor the initial 32 <sup>nd</sup> Street proposal. With recently released information regarding the level of tax revenue that will be available to Douglas County to carry on essential services, we simply cannot afford the luxury of delaying this project any further. A convenient transportation route for the shipment of goods is a critical factor in attracting quality business and industry, and we will not score well on that factor until the Trafficway is completed.
	John Tacha	We need the trafficway YESTERDAY!! I am totally in favor of the alignment that the county is now endorsing.

Candidates were asked to limit responses to 100 words. Answers that exceeded 110 words were edited for length only. Editorial changes are indicated by an ellipsis (...) and/or brackets ([ ]). **For information** about upcoming candidate and issue forums, please visit our website (<http://lawrenceleague.com/>). **Election dates.** August 5: Primary election for county, state, and national offices; November 4: General election for county, state, and national offices. Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on election day. You will be able to vote if you arrive at your polling place before 7:00 p.m.



**LWV L-DC VOTER GUIDE TO PRIMARY RACES FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSION, 3RD DISTRICT.**

		<b>7. Would you support a feasibility study for an eastern bypass/toll bridge over the Kansas River between Lawrence and Eudora?</b>
<b>DEM. CANDS.</b>	<b>Ken Grotwiell</b>	Such a study could be a piece of maximizing development potential of the current and proposed industrial sites along K-10. It would seem that having a link to I-70 at this location would provide an efficient outlet for truck traffic. I would consider supporting such a study if it were part of a broader look at our transportation needs in Douglas County, and if other governmental units wanted to participate financially.
	<b>Clenece Hills</b>	No. We need this bridge. We do not need to study it; we need to do it.
<b>REP. CAN.</b>	<b>James E. Flory</b>	There may be a time when investment in an eastern bypass would be appropriate, but today is not that day. Even if a feasibility study should establish the merits of an eastern bypass, it would not be prudent to consider such a massive undertaking until the economic forecast for the area is considerably improved.
	<b>John Tacha</b>	In general, I am leery of “feasibility” studies. We spend a lot of money and waste a lot of time on outside companies coming in, getting up speed on our issues and our demographics, and not telling us anything that some our present and past leaders could tell us if they had studied the issue.
		<b>8. Should Douglas County be involved with interregional mass transit development and support? If so, how should it be paid for?</b>
<b>DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES</b>	<b>Ken Grotwiell</b>	Douglas County should certainly participate in any discussion on this subject. My experience as a board member on the Wichita Metropolitan Transit Authority tells me that the density of the population in the county is not yet sufficient to support traditional mass transit approaches. However, the price of gasoline may change the dynamics of transportation issues sooner than we think and that is why it is important to participate with other cities and counties with an interest in this subject.
	<b>Clenece Hills</b>	Interregional mass transit is a long way from being a reality in our county. We can't even afford the T right now. We need to use networking to enhance carpooling. We could provide travel vouchers for those who cannot provide their own transportation and we can appeal to our generous Douglas County volunteers to help solve this problem. Once again, <i>Horizon 2020</i> should be our guide.
<b>REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES</b>	<b>James E. Flory</b>	With the current energy crisis, the concept of an interregional mass transit system will no doubt have some political appeal. My general philosophy, however, is that if there is sufficient demand for a service, the private sector can more efficiently and more appropriately meet that demand and provide the funding for the service. In my opinion, current economic conditions dictate that government funding should be focused on providing essential governmental services.
	<b>John Tacha</b>	I think this is worth considering. Gas prices are not going to recede and we are going to have to become more innovative in helping those people in our town to commute to other communities if we want to keep them here. We have around 10,000 commuters right now—if gas went to \$6 and most of those commuters left the county, it would be a frightening scenario in terms of lost revenues. Be looking at ways we can SAVE tax dollars, we can in turn look at other places to spend those saved tax dollars.

*The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*



**VOTER GUIDE TO PRIMARY RACES FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSION, 3RD DISTRICT.**

		<b>9. Would you support expanding the County Commission to five commissioners?</b>
DEM. CAN.	Ken Grotwiel	Not at this time.
	Clenece Hills	Not only would I support this, I intend to start the discussion and lead the new commission to action on this issue.
REP. CAN.	James E. Flory	Absent a significant increase in the population of the county, I see no need to expand the County Commission to five commissioners.
	John Tacha	I haven't been on a board with only 3 people, so I will have to see how that works out before I can have a definite opinion.
		<b>10. What do you view as the most important issues confronting Douglas County during the next term?</b>
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES	Ken Grotwiel	The most important responsibility for the Douglas County Commissioners over the next few years will be to show fiscal restraint in our uncertain economic situation. At the same time, we need to upgrade our transportation system and increase the productivity of our departments through technological upgrades and employee training. Having manageable debt and more efficient government services will position Douglas County well to benefit from the next economic upturn.
	Clenece Hills	First, we must keep our residents safe. Second, we must attract business and industry. I am ready to work with the other commissioners and with the officials of Baldwin City, Eudora, Lawrence and Lecompton to do that. I will work for greater awareness of county government. When I am your county commissioner, I will build consensus and I will lead our county to an improved economy.
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES	James E. Flory	The more pertinent question is what the voters of Douglas County view as the most important issues in the next 4 years. I am gaining insight on their views through various meetings and door-to-door contact, and my initial impression is that all residents, urban and rural, are very concerned about the level of their property taxes. The voters expect the County Commission to make every effort to keep their property taxes from increasing while maintaining quality governmental services. Fiscal responsibility (reduced spending) and increasing the tax base (growth) will both be required to meet that challenge.
	John Tacha	JOBS!! In the past several years, the percentage of property tax revenues from residential properties has increased and the revenues from business properties has decreased. I believe strongly that the various leaders in our different elected bodes need to make a top priority out of finding ways to increase employment opportunities for our citizens. This will require an infusion of money for sites, for services, etc., which in turn means we have to simultaneously reduce taxes on other line items now in the budget. So, again, my goals are to vigorously promote new employment opportunities and to find ways through cooperative efforts from ALL of our government entities to save tax dollars.

Candidates were asked to limit responses to 100 words. Answers that exceeded 110 words were edited for length only. Editorial changes are indicated by an ellipsis (...) and/or brackets ([ ]). **For information** about upcoming candidate and issue forums, please visit our website (<http://lawrenceleague.com/>). **Election dates.** August 5: Primary election for county, state, and national offices; November 4: General election for county, state, and national offices. Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on election day. You will be able to vote if you arrive at your polling place before 7:00 p.m.

