LAWRENCE MYLC
MAYOR'S YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

STUDENT APPLICATION | 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Application Deadline: Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.

Submit completed applications to: mylc@cityoflawrence.org

Late applications will not be considered.

About the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council

The Mayor's Youth Leadership Council (MYLC) is a nonpartisan program that gives Lawrence high school students an opportunity to learn how local government works, develop leadership skills, serve their community, and share youth perspectives with the Mayor's Office.

The MYLC will begin with an orientation in December 2026, followed by monthly meetings from January through May. The program will conclude with a presentation to the Lawrence Common Council at its first meeting in June 2027. Students will participate in a youth-driven *Live Longer in Lawrence* project, meet City of Lawrence officials and other community leaders, explore local government, and have opportunities for community service.

Who May Apply

Membership is open to high school juniors and seniors who attend a high school located within the City of Lawrence or Lawrence Township, or who reside within the City of Lawrence or Lawrence Township. Homeschooled students who reside within the City of Lawrence or Lawrence Township are also eligible.

No prior government or leadership experience is required. We are looking for curiosity, reliability, a willingness to participate, and a genuine interest in learning and serving the community.

Program Mission

The Mayor's Youth Leadership Council (MYLC) empowers and prepares the next generation of Lawrence leaders through civic engagement, leadership development, and community service while fostering pride in the Lawrence community. Rooted in the vision behind Mayor Whitfield's *Live Longer in Lawrence* initiative, the MYLC equips students to lead with purpose, serve with integrity, and make a lasting, positive impact on the City of Lawrence.

1. STUDENT INFORMATION

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Preferred Name (if different): _____

Grade: ☐ **Junior** ☐ **Senior**

Student Email: _____

Student Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

City, State, ZIP Code: _____

School Name (if homeschooled, write "Homeschool"): _____

2. TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

There are no "right" answers. We want to hear your own voice and learn what matters to you. Please answer each question thoughtfully but briefly. If you need additional space, you may attach a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why are you interested in joining the MYLC?

What do you hope to learn, experience, or contribute during the MYLC year?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. What is one issue, opportunity, or idea you think matters to young people in Lawrence?

Why does it matter to you, and what would you want City leaders to understand about a young person's perspective?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. Tell us about a time you showed initiative, reliability, teamwork, or leadership.

This can come from school, work, family responsibilities, sports, a club, volunteering, faith/community activities, or another part of your life. You do not need to hold a formal leadership title.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

4. What interests, activities, jobs, responsibilities, or community involvement would you like us to know about?

Include anything that helps us understand how you spend your time or what is important to you. It is okay if you are not involved in formal extracurricular activities.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

5. What part of local government or community leadership are you most interested in learning about?

For example, you might be interested in public safety, parks, roads and transportation, neighborhood development, community health and well-being, budgeting, law, communications, or another area. Tell us why.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. MYLC COMMITMENT

Participation Expectations

The MYLC is an active program, and members are expected to attend orientation on Saturday, December 12, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Lawrence Government Center (lunch will be provided). Members are also expected to attend monthly meetings from January through May on the second Thursday of each month from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

In addition to attending meetings, members are expected to participate in MYLC activities, including a *Live Longer in Lawrence* project, communicate any scheduling conflicts, and participate in the culminating presentation to the Lawrence Common Council in June 2027.

Students and their parents or guardians are responsible for arranging transportation to and from all MYLC meetings and activities.

Please check each box below to acknowledge your understanding of and agreement to the following:

☐ I understand the time and participation expectations described above.

☐ I agree to participate respectfully with students and adults who may have different experiences, backgrounds, or viewpoints.

☐ I understand that the MYLC is a nonpartisan program and that participation does not involve political advocacy or endorsement of any political party or candidate.

Adult Reference

Please provide one adult reference who knows you well and is not a family member. A teacher, coach, counselor, employer, mentor, or other adult may serve as your reference. A separate recommendation letter is not required. Your reference may be contacted as part of the MYLC selection process.

Reference Name: _____

Relationship / Role: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

4. STUDENT & PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

By signing below, the student and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read and understand the MYLC mission and participation expectations. They understand that membership is an active commitment and that regular attendance, meaningful participation, and involvement in MYLC meetings, activities, community events, and other program functions are important components of the experience.

The student and parent/guardian agree to support the student's commitment to the MYLC and to communicate with program staff when circumstances may affect attendance or participation. They also understand that the MYLC is a nonpartisan educational and civic leadership program and does not involve political advocacy or endorsement of any political party or candidate.

The student and parent/guardian further understand that, if selected, additional documentation or authorizations may be required as a condition of participation in the MYLC or certain MYLC activities.

Student Acknowledgment

I have read and understand the mission and expectations of the MYLC. I agree to actively participate in the program and fulfill my responsibilities as an MYLC member if selected.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

I have read and understand the mission and expectations of the MYLC. I understand the importance of the student's attendance and active participation and agree to support their involvement in the program if selected.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Thank you for your interest in the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council!

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APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Application Deadline: Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.
Submit completed applications to: mylc@cityoflawrence.org

Before submitting your application, please make sure you have completed all of the following sections:

- ☐ Student Information
- ☐ All Five Student Response Questions
- ☐ MYLC Commitment Acknowledgments
- ☐ Adult Reference Information
- ☐ Student & Parent/Guardian Agreement

What Happens Next?

Applicants will be notified of their selection status by Friday, November 20, 2026. Orientation will take place on Saturday, December 12, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Lawrence Government Center (lunch will be provided).

Selected students will receive additional information regarding orientation, subsequent monthly meetings (held on the second Thursday of each month from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.), and any additional documentation required for participation, including, as applicable, emergency contact information, medical authorization forms, media releases, and activity-specific permission forms.