

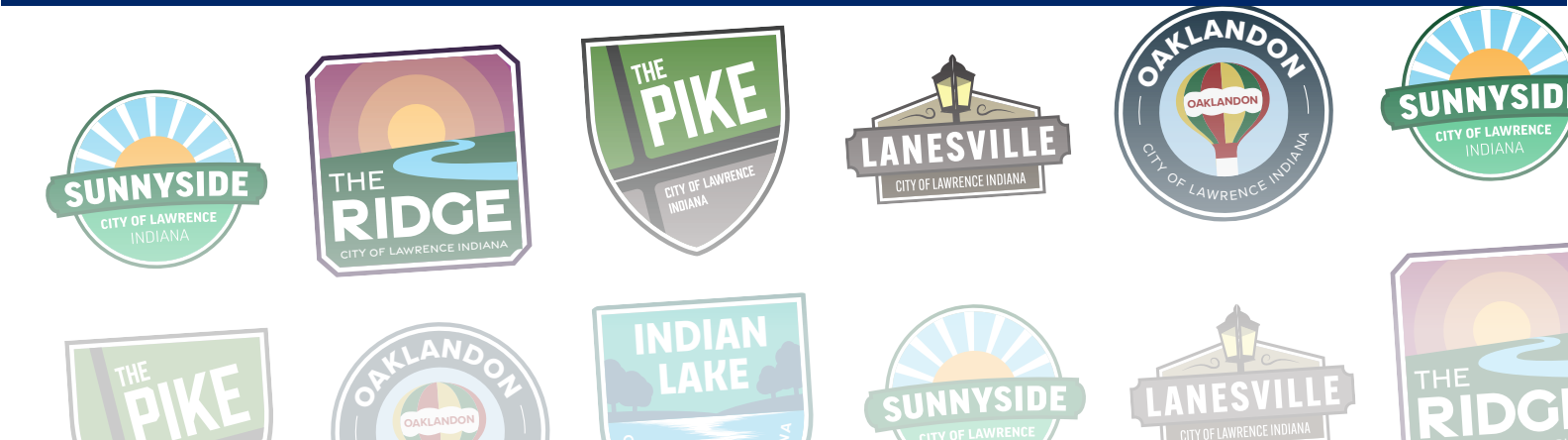


State *of the* City

Lawrence
2025

Live Longer In Lawrence

Mayor Deborah Whitfield
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024



Welcome



Since I took office, my goal has been to make Lawrence a destination where people want to live, work, and put down roots. We've created new events, expanded community partnerships, and worked hard to strengthen our city's foundation. But a great city is more than just infrastructure and entertainment—it's about the people who call it home.

Good health is the foundation of a strong and vibrant community. This is why I am excited to launch Live Longer in Lawrence, a new initiative dedicated to improving the health and wellness for all who call the great city of Lawrence home. Health is the cornerstone of opportunity. Whether improving access to fresh and nutritious food, creating indoor and outdoor recreational spaces, enhancing our city's infrastructure, and bringing competitive, paying jobs to your city, Live Longer in Lawrence ensures every resident can lead a full and healthy life.

I am proud to introduce Dr. John Kunzer, a dedicated physician and community leader, who will serve as our Chief Medical Officer. Under his guidance, Live Longer in Lawrence will bring together healthcare professionals, community organizations, and city leaders to create lasting change.

Lawrence is a city of opportunity, and we will continue to thrive together. I invite you to join us as we Live Longer in Lawrence and create a city of well-being for generations to come. The future is now.

Deb Whitfield
Mayor, City of Lawrence

Meet the Team



Greg Goodnight
Chief of Staff



LeAndre Level
Deputy Chief of Staff



Curtis Bigsbee
Police Chief



Robert Wallace
Fire Chief



Humphrey Nagila
Controller



Paul Wanner
*Superintendent of
Lawrence Utilities*





Chris Wilburn
*Director of
Public Works*



Renea Rafala
*Director of
Operations*



Amber Finley
Corporation Counsel



Jim Heneghan
Director of Streets



Eric Martin
Director of Parks



Janette Jackson
*Director of
Human Resources*



Daniel Beyer
*Director of
Communications
& Marketing*



Jim Perron
*Director of
Communications for
Fund Development*



Jami Weirich
*Director of
City Events*



Jared Hooton
*Manager of
Communications
& Marketing*



Niki Simmons
*Executive Assistant
to the Mayor*



Laura Rupp
*Administrative &
Legal Assistant*

City Clerk and Common Council



Leatrice Adkisson
City Clerk



Zach Cramer
*President
District 5*



Betty Robinson
*Vice President
At-Large*



Tyrrell Giles
District 1



Rick Wells
District 2



Sherron Freeman
District 3



Carlos Jennings
District 4



Kristie Krone
District 6



Lisa Chavis
At-Large



Liz Mazur
At-Large

Live Longer in Lawrence

A Health & Wellness Initiative



Mission

Expand opportunities for residents to achieve their full potential for a healthy life at every stage and to improve health outcomes across the city.

Vision

Address the economic, physical, and social environments where people live, learn, work, and play, driven by evidence-based interventions and policies. By fostering partnerships and implementing community-focused strategies, the City aims to create a healthier, more resilient Lawrence.

New Chief Medical Officer - Dr. John Kunzer

Health isn't just about doctor visits. It's about food access, housing, jobs, and the support we receive. This is why I am honored to lead Live Longer in Lawrence, a citywide effort to improve health outcomes for all residents.

Through this initiative, we will tackle key challenges, from preventing chronic diseases to expanding access to mental health care. We're working to integrate health into all aspects of city life—because transportation, housing, and community event affect our well-being.

Our approach is simple: empower residents with the knowledge, resources, and opportunities they

need to take charge of their health. Whether through free health screenings, fitness programs, or mental health support, we are committed to making wellness accessible for everyone in Lawrence. I invite you to join us. Attend a health fair, take advantage of our new resources, and participate in a movement transforming Lawrence into a model for community well-being. Together, we can create a healthier, more substantial city for all.

Dr. John Kunzer
Chief Medical Officer,
City of Lawrence

Areas of Focus

Neighborhood Health

Reduce the burden of chronic disease by emphasizing early detection, healthy behaviors, and proactive care.



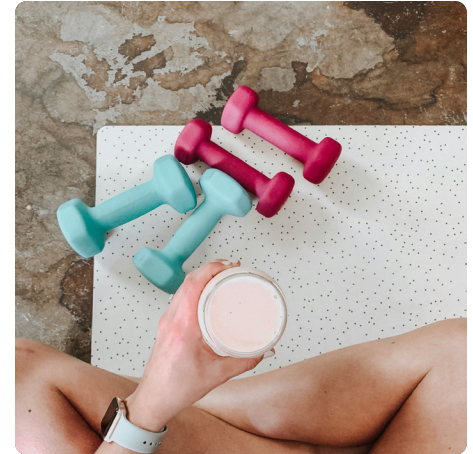
Mental Health

Improve access to mental health resources, reduce stigma, and create a supportive environment for emotional well-being.



Physical Health

Increase physical activity, and promote an active lifestyle for long-term health benefits.



Live longer
in
Lawrence

A large red heart outline is positioned behind the text, with the word "in" sitting inside the top curve of the heart.

City Achievements in 2024



Fire Department

- CBA Agreement: 5% pay increase for firefighters and merit police officers.
- Placed Fire Engine 39 into service.



- Added two new Fire Investigators to enhance fire response capabilities.
- Provided free cancer screenings for all Fire Department personnel.
- Offered free CPR classes to the public.
- Partnered with Ivy Tech to precept new EMT/Paramedic students.
- Run Breakdown (Total: 9,905):
 - » Fire/Hazmat/Service Runs: 3,069
 - » EMS Runs: 6,836

Police Department

- 2025 Citizen Academy successfully held, improving public understanding of policing, including ride-alongs.
- Continued Neighborhood Crime Watch programs to foster stronger community engagement.
- Developed and completed the department's first-ever 5-year Strategic Plan to prepare for future city growth.
- Swore in five new officers, bringing the total to 20 new hires since the mayor took office. The department is actively hiring to reach its authorized strength of 68 officers (currently at 65).



- Established the Lawrence Community-Led Critical Response Team to enhance transparency during critical incidents, with representation from all eight designated city neighborhoods.
- Hired the department's first-ever Civilian Crime Analyst to improve crime data analysis.

Streets

- Used 4,827 tons of asphalt for continued pothole repairs.
- Continued sidewalk repairs and ADA ramp installations for improved accessibility.
- Upgraded salt truck brine tanks to improve ice and snow removal during winter storms.
- Repaved major roads, including Franklin Rd, Richardt Ave, Elmhurst Dr, and 46th, 49th, and 51st Streets.



- Secured a \$3 million matching CCMG (Community Crossings Matching Grant) for road improvement projects.

Lawrence Utilities

- Installed 15,000 feet of new water mains, including hydrants, valves, water services, and pavement restoration.
- Completed the Shadeland Ave water main relocation to



- enhance service reliability.
- Began design of two new water production wells in the Fort Harrison Well Field to ensure long-term water supply.
- Continued sanitary sewer line replacements throughout the city.
- Continued rehabilitation of sewer lift stations to improve wastewater management.

Parks Department

- Installed a new playground at Community Park for children ages 2-5.
- Partnered with local skaters to refresh the Lawrence Skate Park with new artwork.



- Opened the \$1.7 million Lee Road Trail, expanding the city's greenway network.
- Secured \$5 million in funding for the Fall Creek Greenway Connection Trail project.
- Completed Community Center improvements to enhance amenities for residents.

City Achievements in 2024 Continued

City Events

- Successfully hosted major annual events, including: 4th Fest, Fort Ben Farmers Market, Community Safety Day, Lagers in Lawrence, Winterfest
- Organized the 2024 Solar Eclipse Event, attracting thousands of visitors.



- Hosted the first-ever Back to School Cookout, providing over 300 children with backpacks full of supplies.
- Took over management of the BBQ & Blues Festival in 2024.
- Launched the Forever Young Club, a senior-focused group promoting health, wellness, and social engagement.



Communications & Marketing

- Enhanced public meeting live stream quality to ensure accessibility and compliance with Indiana's transparency law.
- Promoted city events through professional video production, photography, and social media campaigns.



- Expanded the City's Social Media Presence in 2024:
 - +2,700 Facebook followers (total: 13,600), 1.1M reach (+423K), 1.5M video views
- Launched the City of Lawrence's Nextdoor account to improve neighborhood engagement.
- Organized professional portrait sessions for all Fire Department personnel.

Development

- Foamcraft Headquarters will be built at Fort Ben, bringing a mix of restaurants and retail to enhance the downtown area.



- Keystone Group is advancing construction on The Benjamin, a mixed-use development at Fort Ben, set to open in 2026.
- \$20 million MSD of Lawrence Township administrative building is set to open in spring 2025 on the Fort Ben campus.
- The Towns at Fort Harrison by Davis Homes will offer 18 three-story town homes, expected to open in 2025.

Financial

- The City of Lawrence finished 2024 9% under budget, with \$6.2 million in unspent funds.
- Passed a balanced budget of \$28 million for the 2025 fiscal year.
- Maintains a 20% Operating Reserve (OR) for financial stability.
- Issued a \$7 million General Obligation Bond to consolidate public safety equipment leases, relieving pressure on the City's General Fund.
- Strengthened internal financial controls following the Indiana State Board of Accounts Audit for 2023, ensuring compliance and transparency.



Schools

- MSDLT is Indiana's 5th-largest and fastest-growing school district, serving nearly 17,000 students.
- Achieved a 95% graduation rate, ensuring student success.
- \$230 million referendum-funded renovations transformed both high schools and multiple elementary schools, enhancing: Learning spaces, Security upgrades, and Infrastructure improvements.



2025 Projects

Connecting Residents & Visitors to Lawrence

Visit Lawrence

In January the city launched the redesigned VisitLawrenceIndiana.com – the one-stop destination for everything Lawrence!

- Explore local restaurants
- Experience local attractions
- Discover outdoor adventures at Fort Harrison State Park
- Dive into the stories of 8 unique neighborhoods, each with its own charm

Whether you're a resident or just stopping by, there's something for everyone. Start exploring today and see why Lawrence is the perfect place to live, work,

LAWRENCE

— INDIANA —

VisitLawrenceIndiana.com

Things To Do



Events



Stay



Live



State
of
the
City
Lawrence
2025

Neighborhoods

To better identify the uniqueness of Lawrence, the administration created eight distinct neighborhoods recognized by the Lawrence Common Council under a 2024 resolution.

These neighborhoods—Oaklandon, Fort Ben, Indian Lake, Lanesville, The Pike, Sunnyside, Geist's Edge, and The Ridge—each have their own unique identity and story.

The newly launched Neighborhood Hub provides tools for neighbors to form their own associations. This registry fosters stronger community ties, promotes civic engagement, and enhances pride, belonging, and inclusivity among residents.

The City of Lawrence encourages neighborhoods to take an active role in beautification, safety, engagement, and cultural connection through community-led initiatives. Ideas include clean-up days, community gardens, crime watch programs, sidewalk improvements, and social events.





CityofLawrence.org
VisitLawrenceIndiana.com

