



SYLAS MAY/Journal-World Photo
The East Lawrence Recreation Center.

Signups start soon for rec center memberships

What to know about the process when fees kick in

By SYLAS MAY
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Lawrence residents can start purchasing recreation center memberships in less than two weeks, and the City of Lawrence will be holding information sessions later this month to answer questions about the new fees and help people sign up.

The city won't start requiring membership fees for rec center access until Jan. 5, 2026, but monthly and yearly memberships will be available for purchase starting Monday, Nov. 17, either online or in person at

the rec centers. If you sign up early, your membership will begin in January, at the same time as the new requirements go into effect.

The city announced Wednesday that it will hold information sessions from Nov. 17 through 20 at the city's rec centers to help people understand and sign up for the new memberships. The times and locations are as follows:

- Monday, Nov. 17, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Sports Pavilion Lawrence, 100 Rock Chalk Lane.

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Fees & documents

Here are the new rates for Lawrence's rec centers for Lawrence residents and those who live outside of Lawrence. Youth under 17 who live in Douglas County get in free, but they still have to be registered and provide proof of residency.

	Month	Year
Adult resident	\$12	\$120
Adult nonresident	\$15	\$150
Senior (60+) resident	\$8	\$80
Senior (60+) nonresident	\$10	\$100
Household residents	\$20	\$200
Household nonresidents	\$24	\$240

To get the resident rate, you have to provide proof of residency upon your first visit to the rec center. The following documents will be accepted as proof of residency:

- Driver's license or state ID
- Vehicle registration
- Deed or mortgage document
- Homeowners insurance policy
- Property tax statement
- Lease or dorm agreement



KIM CALLAHAN/Journal-World Photo

Defendant Miquel Brown, left, leaves the courtroom after a jury found him guilty of rape and aggravated criminal sodomy on Wednesday in Douglas County District Court.

Jury finds man guilty of rape, criminal sodomy

By KIM CALLAHAN
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Douglas County jurors on Wednesday found a 33-year-old Lawrence man guilty of rape and aggravated criminal sodomy — in a case where they had to determine whether the woman's silent conduct amounted to consent and whether she had been overcome by fear.

A jury took about four hours to determine that Miquel Brown was guilty of the two felonies stemming from an Oct. 27, 2024, incident involving an 18-year-old. The teen said he assaulted her on his living room couch, where she was spending the night after an evening out with the man and his girlfriend.

Brown displayed little discernible reaction as Judge Sally Pokorny read the verdicts. The victim, holding hands with her supporters, looked on quietly from the gallery.

Defense attorney Gary West asked for the jurors to be polled, prompting seven men and five women to each separately stand and affirm that their vote was for "guilty."

All testimony in the trial agreed that the 2024 encounter began with the man sitting beside the teen on the couch and massaging her legs — the teen said it began with her feet at an earlier hearing, but at trial she said it started suddenly at her thigh. The touching then progressed to the man undressing her and touching her genital area with his fingers and mouth.

The woman said intercourse occurred. Brown said it had not.

See GUILTY, A5

Courtney and Polian won races in every corner of Lawrence

Plus, other news and notes from Tuesday's elections



TOWN
TALK

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Some news and notes from Tuesday's local elections in Lawrence and Douglas County:



A big takeaway in the

Lawrence City Commission race is that voters were of one mind about two people.

You used to hear of how Lawrence had an east-west divide on local, political matters. There were no signs of that this year. Newcomer candidates Mike Courtney and Kristine Polian were the big winners, finishing No. 1 and No. 2 on

Tuesday. A look at voting results broken down by precinct shows they were big winners in every corner of the community.

Every precinct in Lawrence — except one — was won either by Courtney or Polian. In other words, there were no signs of a scenario where the other two candidates — incumbent Bart Littlejohn and former

commissioner Bob Schumm — did really well in eastern Lawrence but got overwhelmed by the more populous western Lawrence.

Of the 53 Lawrence precincts, Courtney won 31, Polian won 21 and Schumm won a single precinct. (If you are scoring at home, the one precinct that didn't go for

either Courtney or Polian was Precinct No. 2, which includes parts of Old West Lawrence and includes the area just west of downtown between Sixth and Eighth streets.)

In sum, it was a pretty broad-based geographic victory for the two winners. While the east/west divide has been a real thing in some Lawrence elections, it wasn't this time.

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