

GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE BILL GALVIN

Bill Galvin has served on the Green Bay City Council from District 4 since his election in 2016. Galvin is a retired Green Bay police captain, serving in the force from 1979 to 2014. In the 2024 election, Galvin received endorsements from both the Democratic and Republican Parties of Brown County. The 2024 Green Bay City Council District 4 election was the only race in which the Democratic Party endorsed two candidates, while he was the sole recipient of the Republican Party endorsement. Galvin stated in 2022 that he has never belonged to a political party. Galvin said expanding housing development, improving interactions between city departments and the public, and updating city infrastructure were the most important priorities for council. As a supervisor with the Green Bay Police Department, Galvin represented the police department at committee and council meetings. Galvin is 66 years old and lives in Green Bay. He has a wife and four daughters. Galvin received an associate's degree in criminal justice from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

Key findings:

Galvin has supported mail-in and absentee voting. In April 2020, Galvin encouraged people to vote early and request an absentee ballot. In July 2020, Galvin posted a photo of himself dropping his ballot and his wife's ballot in a drop box, telling followers "There is still time to order your absentee ballot if you don't want to vote in person." Galvin claimed he was a poll worker and called it a "rewarding experience." In October 2020, Galvin posted a link to a YouTube video encouraging people to register to vote and to vote early in the 2020 election and for candidates "that will bring us together with kindness and honesty."

Galvin went on record to claim the 2020 election was conducted safely and legally. In May 2021, Galvin voted for a resolution that expressed confidence in how the city conducted the 2020 general election; conservative members of the council sat out the vote. According to WLUK, "Six council members (Barb Dorff, Bill Galvin, Veronica Corpus-Dax, Kathy Lefebvre, Randy Scannell, and Lynn Gerlach) supported the election resolution, most saying they're proud of how the city carried out the election in the middle of the pandemic."

Galvin appeared to oppose the January 6th insurrection and celebrate the inauguration of Joe Biden. On January 6, 2021, Galvin posted a photo to his campaign Facebook page that depicted the Statue of Liberty with its hands over its eyes, prompting comments about the January 6th Insurrection. On January 20, 2021, the day of Joe Biden's inauguration, Galvin posted a photo of the Statue of Liberty standing regularly with a sunset in the background.

Galvin was an outspoken advocate of COVID-19 mitigation strategies. In March 2020, Galvin urged the public to "all have to behave as if we are infected and stay home so we do not infect anyone." During an August 2021 council meeting where one member did not wear a mask, Galvin said that people who did not wear masks were "selfish" and "irresponsible," citing statistics that 98% of people in hospitals were unvaccinated. Galvin stated, "Unfortunately, politics is moving a lot of behaviors in this pandemic. It should be about your health." Galvin compared negative reactions to mask mandates to people choosing not to get vaccinated for smallpox in the 1930s, claiming they were on the "wrong side of history." During an August 2021 council meeting, Galvin urged the public not to attend council meetings until every council member agreed to wear a mask and get vaccinated. Galvin said that if people planned to attend meetings, "they should know that there are individuals in City Council who don't believe in vaccination and masking" and "could potentially be putting attendees at risk." On

Facebook, Galvin posted a photo of himself with text stating, “Disinformation is deadly; Vaccines Save Lives.”

Galvin tried to lower punishments for drug offenses. In 2021, Galvin proposed legislation that would decrease maximum fines on marijuana possession. Galvin stated, “What I don’t like to see are fines that punish the common man so much that they’re in jeopardy of losing a job or their apartment or their car.”

Galvin criticized the homeless population in Green Bay for alcohol use. In July 2008, Galvin claimed that many homeless individuals in Green Bay “have steady income but choose to spend it on booze.” Galvin claimed that he did not know whether the number of homeless was growing, but police issued more tickets for drinking in parks, trespassing, and related violations. Galvin claimed that homeless individuals had “consistently” turned down services and were “happy with the way they’re living.”

Galvin supported the LGBTQ+ Community. In June 2020, Galvin celebrated Gay Pride month, stating, “People who are gay are not looking for a cure or special rights, but acceptance and equal rights. Promote love and acceptance. Stop the hate!!!” Later in June 2020, Galvin promoted Green Bay LGBTQ+ pride merchandise and said, “Take a look at the items you can buy to show you are proud to call Green Bay your home.” In March 2022, Galvin claimed that his family was made up of many races, sexual orientations, genders, religions, and creeds and claimed, “everyone has a right to be who they are and to be respected for that.”

BACKGROUND

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

State and Local Government

2016: Bill Galvin was first elected to the Green Bay City Council in a 1,300 – 904 votes more than opponent Rhonda Sitnikau. “Two newcomers were elected to the City Council. Retired Green Bay Police Captain Bill Galvin defeated self-employed production stylist Rhonda Sitnikau in District 4. Incumbent Tim De Wane did not make it through a primary election. ‘I was running against a very competent person, so it feels good to come out on top,’ Galvin said. ‘There’s 900 people in my district who voted against me that I’m going to have to work hard to convince I’m going to be a good aldermen for everybody.’” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, [4/5/16](#)]

2018: Galvin won re-election to the Green Bay City Council in a 873-246 vote over Lee Olson. “Voters on Tuesday ousted two long-time aldermen from the Green Bay City Council, while a third was behind by a razor thin margin, according to unofficial election results. In a change that could dramatically reshape city politics, Guy Zima and Tom De Wane each lost re-election bids to challengers in Tuesday’s spring election. Incumbent David Nennig trailed challenger Craig Stevens by 3 votes, with 647 votes cast. Nennig would be able to request a recount if the race remains as close after results are finalized. [...] District 4 Lee Olson: 246 Bill Galvin (I): 873.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, [4/3/18](#)]

2020: Galvin won re-election to the Green Bay City Council in an unopposed election. “Shortly after 4 p.m. Monday, Clerk Kris Teske and other staff members began to print out tabulations of ballots cast on April 7 to compare with computer results. A video of the effort was live streamed as staffers shuffled boxes of ballots, voting machine printouts and related materials in and out of the City Hall hallway where ballot machines were set up. Two hours into the tally, boxes of ballots started to pile up in front of the camera. Council members Barb Dorff, Bill Galvin, Craig Stevens and Jesse Brunette ran unopposed. All officials will be sworn in during the council’s April 21 meeting.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, [4/13/20](#)]

2022: Galvin won re-election to the Green Bay City Council in a 590-437 victory over challenger Natalie Hoffman. “Two incumbents lost their seats on the Green Bay City Council in an election season that featured a series of gaffes in the February primary, a push by council members to tighten conduct around city elections, a last-minute shortage of poll workers and over \$200,000 in out-of-state money flowing into campaign ads. [...] DISTRICT 4 Bill Galvin (i): 590* Natalie Hoffman: 437” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, [4/6/22](#)]

2024: Galvin won re-election to the Green Bay City Council in a 681-638 victory over challenger Jon Shelton. “Eleven of the 12 seats on the City Council were contested in a nonpartisan election season that saw candidates raise more than \$66,000 and spend more than \$47,000, while also facing heavy spending and attack ads from outside interest groups and political parties. Here’s a look at the unofficial results, according to the Brown County Clerk’s office. District 4 Bill Galvin (i): 681 Jon Shelton: 638.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, [4/2/24](#)]

2024: Galvin received endorsements from Brown County Democratic and Republican Parties. “Bill Galvin received endorsements from both parties. Both sides agree partisan involvement in nonpartisan races more prevalent than ever. ‘I think we need to give everyone the benefit of the doubt

and I really hope, I think our last council did very well communicating, asking questions, having very good healthy discussions and I really hope that is something we can do going forward,' said Grant.” [WTAQ, [4/5/24](#)]

- **Green Bay local Democrats endorsed Bill Galvin in 2024 election.** “For Green Bay City Council, the local Democrats endorsed Barbara Dorff, Jim Hutchison, Jon Shelton, Bill Galvin, Craig Stevens, Joey Prestley, Alyssa Proffitt, Jim Ridderbush, Ben Delie, Michael Poradek and Kathy Hinkfuss. Of note: Galvin and Shelton face each other in District 4 but both got endorsements while the Democrats made no endorsement in the District 9 race between Brian Johnson and Tarl Knight.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 3/29/24]
- **2024: The Democratic Party of Brown County endorsed Jon Shelton (preferred candidate) and Bill Galvin for District 4 Green Bay Alder, the only race where they endorsed two candidates.** According to the Democratic Party of Brown County Voter Guide Spring 2024, the Democratic Party of Brown County, Wisconsin endorsed both Jon Shelton and Bill Galvin for Green Bay Alder – District 4 in the April 2, 2024 election. No other race listed two candidates for endorsement. Shelton was listed as the “preferred candidate” in the race. [Democratic Party of Brown County, [03/2024](#)]
- **2024: The Republican Party of Brown County endorsed Bill Galvin for Green Bay City Council District 4.** “Preferred Candidates are not necessarily members of the Republican Party. Information was compiled using publicly available information. While the candidates we prefer may not be affiliated with our party, we believe they have qualifications and values that are more aligned with ours compared to their opponent. [...] Green Bay City Council District 4 Bill Galvin” [Brown County Republican Party, accessed [11/12/25](#)]

2024: Galvin stated that expanding housing development, improving interactions between city departments and the public, and updating city infrastructure were the most important priorities for council. “What three issues do you want to prioritize if elected to the City Council? Galvin: (1) Expand development of housing, commercial and industrial development. (2) Improve the interaction and processes between different city departments and the public make it easier and faster for developers, entrepreneurs, business owners to help our city grow to meet our needs. (3) Develop a plan to replace or update city infrastructure that is in disrepair or need of replacement that integrates the city tax dollars along with other public or private monies that are available for us to use.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 2/5/24]

Career Outside of Government

Galvin is a retired Green Bay Police Captain. “Retired Green Bay Police Captain Bill Galvin defeated self-employed production stylist Rhonda Sitnikau in District 4. Incumbent Tim De Wane did not make it through a primary election. ‘I was running against a very competent person, so it feels good to come out on top,’ Galvin said. ‘There’s 900 people in my district who voted against me that I’m going to have to work hard to convince I’m going to be a good aldermen for everybody.’” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, [4/5/16](#)]

1979 – 2024: Bill Galvin was a police captain for the city of Green Bay. According to his LinkedIn and WBAY, Bill Galvin was a police captain for the City of Green Bay from 1979 to 2014, including serving as District Captain from 2012 to 2014. According to WBAY, “It’s been 10 years since former captain Bill Galvin put on a uniform for the Green Bay Police Department. A lot has changed, but what

hasn't is the building on South Adams Street that houses the police headquarters." [LinkedIn, William Galvin, accessed [11/12/25](#); WBAY, [8/21/24](#)]

Galvin spent a total of 34 years in the Green Bay Police Department. "Relevant experience: 34 years' Green Bay Police Department. 8 years, Green Bay City Council. Current member of the city's Ethics Committee, Green Bay Stadium District Board, Personnel Committee, Finance committee and Facilities Committee. Past member of the Protection and Policy Committee." [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 2/5/24]

As a supervisor with the Green Bay Police Department, Galvin represented the police department at committee and council meetings. "Why are you running? As a supervisor for the Green Bay Police Department, I was assigned to represent the department at committee and council meetings. I witnessed the behavior of some council members to each other, city staff and members of our community that was inappropriate. I also witnessed things in our community as an officer, where I felt change was needed. When I retired, I ran for office and was elected. I want to continue to help with the positives changes council has been making happen in our community." [Green Bay Press-Gazette, [3/12/24](#)]

Galvin served as the public information officer for the Green Bay Police Department in the early 2000s. "Lt. Bill Galvin knows all about the challenges of training for a spring marathon. Galvin, public information officer for the Green Bay Police Department, ran into an especially unique situation during the first weekend of April. He traveled to Marquette, Mich., to coach his 13-year-old daughter's soccer team in an indoor tournament. He also was in the midst of preparing for Sunday's Cellcom Green Bay Marathon." [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 5/12/03]

PERSONAL LIFE AND EDUCATION

Galvin received an associate's degree in criminal justice from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. "Bill Galvin Age: 64 Occupation: Alderman District 4 Green Bay Highest level of education: Associate's degree in criminal justice from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College" [Green Bay Press-Gazette, [3/12/24](#)]

Galvin was 64 years old in 2024 and lived in District 4 on Emilie Street in Green Bay. "Bill Galvin (i) Address: 1244 Emilie St. Age: 64 Occupation: Retired Green Bay Police captain Highest education level attained: Associate's degree from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Relevant experience: 34 years' Green Bay Police Department. 8 years, Green Bay City Council. Current member of the city's Ethics Committee, Green Bay Stadium District Board, Personnel Committee, Finance committee and Facilities Committee. Past member of the Protection and Policy Committee." [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 2/5/24]

Galvin volunteered with religious education for 15 years; as a soccer coach for 12 years; as a founding member of the Brown County Dog Park Association, and in leadership for the Green Bay curriculum Committee. "Galvin: Following are the organizations I have volunteered with: • 15 years teaching religious education at St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Parish, Green Bay • 12 years coaching SAY and club soccer • Founding member of the Brown County Dog Park Association • Leadership Green Bay curriculum Committee" [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 2/5/24]

2022: Galvin claimed that he had never belonged to a political party and ran because "I wanted to help people." "Galvin: I never ran for the alder position because I thought I had all the answers. I ran because I wanted to help people. It was never about partisanship, and I have never belonged to a

political party. My views cover both spectrums of our political world. City government is supposed to be nonpartisan. It's about police, fire, parks, streets and garbage, and how to get the best of those for my constituents while keeping the cost to the tax payers as low as possible. When there is an issue, I look to see how many are for or against the issue, and I try to explain the issue as I see it, pointing out things they may not be aware of. I listen to see if they have solutions to offer or to work together to find common ground. At the end of the day, it is the will of my constituents that dictates my vote on issues." [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 3/24/22]

Galvin has four daughters with wife, Ann. "Ann and I are so very proud of all 4 of our daughters and what they have accomplished. We want to share that daughter #3, Brittany has been honored by the Green Bay Area Public School District as one of their inaugural inductees into their graduate Hall of Fame." [Facebook, William Galvin, [10/9/25](#)]

VULNERABILITIES AND ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

FINANCIAL AND TAX

Searches were performed in the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access and LexisNexis SmartLinx Person Report for financial and tax filings for "William Galvin" or "Bill Galvin" of Brown County, Wisconsin. There were no adverse findings of note.

LEGAL

Searches were performed in the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access and LexisNexis SmartLinx Person Report for criminal and civil filings for "William Galvin" or "Bill Galvin" of Brown County, Wisconsin. There were no adverse findings of note.

SEX OFFENDER STATUS

No Adverse Findings Of Note. [Department of Justice, Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Registry Search, accessed [11/12/25](#)]

SOCIAL MEDIA

Bill Galvin had a campaign Facebook page titled, "Alderman Bill Galvin." Findings of note are detailed within this document. [Facebook, Alderman Bill Galvin, accessed [11/12/25](#)]

Bill Galvin had a personal Facebook page under "William Galvin." Findings of note are detailed within this document. [Facebook, William Galvin, accessed [11/12/25](#)]

Bill Galvin had a LinkedIn account. Findings of note are detailed within this document. [LinkedIn, William Galvin, accessed [11/12/25](#)]

ELECTIONS

April 2020: Galvin encouraged people to vote early and request an absentee ballot. "Voting in Green Bay part 2 These are trying times and a situation we have not faced in over 100 years. In the past when faced with strife and uncertainty We have always come together and figured out solutions to these problems. Your local politicians and city staff are doing everything possible for you to be able to

exercise one of our most sacred rights in this country to vote for our future leaders. Please, please exercise that right to have your voice heard. With the Federal Judges decision yesterday (April 2nd) there have been some changes for voting in Green Bay. 1. Vote early. You have until 5 pm today, April 3rd to vote at the Metro Bus Terminal at 901 University Ave. Enter the main lobby on the west side of the building. Only 4 voters at a time. Bring photo ID and black Pen 2. Request an absentee ballot at www.myvote.wi.gov. Have a photo ID ready as part of the process. The time to allow that has been extended until 5pm today. Absentee ballots received by the Clerk's office up to April 13th at 4pm will be counted. The absentee ballot asks for the signature of a witness. Due to the shelter in place order, if you do not have a witness, include a letter with your ballot explaining that. Once you have the ballot, mail it back, or if you want to make sure it arrives in time to be counted, drop it off at City Hall in the marked box just outside the east side entrance. I have included photos show where." [Facebook, Alderman Bill Galvin, [4/3/20](#)]

July 2020: Galvin posted a photo of himself dropping his ballot and his wife's ballot in a drop box, telling followers "There is still time to order your absentee ballot if you don't want to vote in person." "Dropped my wife's and my ballot off at city hall at the drop box on Monday. There is still time to order your absentee ballot if you don't want to vote in person. Please vote." [Facebook, Alderman Bill Galvin, [7/1/20](#)]

2020: Galvin stated that he was a poll worker. "I am a poll worker, it is a rewarding experience to see and help those that want a voice in how our community moves forward by voting." [Facebook, Alderman Bill Galvin, [9/2/20](#)]

2020: Galvin posted a link to a YouTube video encouraging people to register to vote and to vote early in the 2020 election and for candidates "that will bring us together with kindness and honesty." "My sister sent this to me. Puts a good humorous spin on getting out to vote here in Wisconsin. If you need any information about voting in Green Bay google 'election information Green Bay wi' Please if you haven't voted yet make plans to vote." [Facebook, Alderman Bill Galvin, [10/28/20](#)]

May 2021: Galvin voted for a resolution that expressed confidence in how the city conducted the 2020 general election, as conservative members of the council sat out the vote. "Green Bay's city council passed a resolution Tuesday night expressing confidence in how the city conducted the November election. However, almost half the council sat out the vote. Conservatives, including Republican state lawmakers, have alleged Mayor Eric Genrich's office illegally let outside groups take over decision making from the city clerk for the election. City officials have strongly denied the accusations. At the virtual meeting, seven Green Bay area residents told city council members it's time to put allegations of wrong doing with the November election to bed. [...] Six council members (Barb Dorff, Bill Galvin, Veronica Corpus-Dax, Kathy Lefebvre, Randy Scannell, and Lynn Gerlach) supported the election resolution, most saying they're proud of how the city carried out the election in the middle of the pandemic." [WLUK, [5/4/21](#)]

JANUARY 6 INSURRECTION

January 6, 2021: Galvin posted a photo of the Statue of Liberty with its hands in front of its eyes.



[Alderman Bill Galvin, [1/6/21](#)]

January 20, 2021: On the day of Joe Biden’s inauguration, Galvin posted a photo of the Statue of Liberty.



[Alderman Bill Galvin, [1/20/21](#)]

DIVERSITY AND LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

June 2020: Galvin celebrated Gay Pride month, stating, “People who are gay are not looking for a cure or special rights, but acceptance and equal rights. Promote love and acceptance. Stop the hate!!!” “June is Gay Pride month ❤️👉 put this as your status if you know or love someone who is gay. My wish is that people understand that being gay is not a disease and is not a choice! People who are gay are not looking for a cure or special rights, but acceptance and equal rights. Promote love and acceptance. Stop the hate!!!! 😊😏👉👉👉 I proudly reposted! Love Is Love I proudly repost this because of some very special people in my life. ❤️” [Facebook, Alderman Bill Galvin, [6/14/20](#)]

June 2020: Galvin promoted Green Bay LGBTQ+ pride merchandise. “Do you have Green Bay pride. Take a look at the items you can buy to show you are proud to call Green Bay your home” [Facebook, Alderman Bill Galvin, [6/16/20](#)]

March 2022: Galvin claimed that his family was made up of many races, sexual orientations, genders, religions, and creeds and claimed, “everyone has a right to be who they are and to be respected for that.” “When it comes to representation, what will you do to guarantee that all of your constituents, regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender, religion and creed, are listened to and given fair, equitable treatment? Galvin: My family is made up of many of the groups you have listed above. My personal family experiences and the many situations I found myself involved in during my time with the police department has taught me that everyone has a right to be who they are and to be respected for that. I give my personal guarantee that, no matter, all my constituents will be treated fairly by me. If any of my constituents feel they have not been treated fairly by any member of our city staff, I will advocate for them until their complaint is resolved.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 3/24/22]

GUN VIOLENCE

2007: As part of a recruiting activity, Galvin taught teenagers “how to sit comfortably and confidently as they fired a .40-caliber semiautomatic rifle at a target 25 yards away.” “Thursday’s activities were hands on. Green Bay police Capt. Bill Galvin taught the teens how to sit comfortably and confidently as they fired a .40-caliber semiautomatic rifle at a target 25 yards away. ‘When talking to them on a personal level, you see that they are not just any kid, they really want to do something productive,’ Galvin said. Galvin has been involved with the program for six years and said it’s more than just a recruiting tactic, it’s about building relationships. The Teen Police Academy is geared for high school students who are interested in law enforcement. According to Galvin, the program aims to get students aware of the work that police do, how they train and the obstacles they overcome.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 6/16/07]

2022: Galvin claimed the level of gun violence in the present would have been unheard of when he was an officer in Green Bay, stating, “Now they get a gun and a couple of magazines and let loose 30 rounds randomly.” “The city is debating whether to spend \$655,000 in federal money for sensors that alert police about gunfire, with some questioning if the technology would be worth the ongoing costs as Green Bay experiences a decline in violent crimes. [...] Galvin, who in addition to serving on the City Council is a retired Green Bay police officer, recalled the first time he ever got a gunfire call. It was during a night shift, the summer of 1980, and Galvin described himself then as a ‘pumped young kid, all piss and vinegar.’ It turned out a few men were shooting rabbits over on Broadway. Those kinds of shenanigans happened from time to time. But since Galvin retired seven years ago, he said the level of gun violence today would have been unheard of during his time as an officer in the Green Bay area. ‘The set of people 20 years ago, what they would have been doing is driving by and throwing rocks through windows, spray painting someone’s house or damaging someone’s car,’ Galvin said. ‘Now they

get a gun and a couple of magazines and let loose 30 rounds randomly.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 2/8/22]

February 2022: Galvin claimed that he was open to being persuaded on the issue of spending \$655,000 in federal money on sensors alerting police about gunfire, claiming it may be better to have officers in schools. “Galvin thinks that there are better options than waiting for the next gunman to shoot, but he’s also open to being persuaded by the various technology companies’ proposals with the city. ‘I think if we were to put \$600,000 and then follow up \$150,000 a year after that into having more officers or the resources to look into how do we interdict these individuals, I think we’d get more bang for our buck,’ Galvin said.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 2/8/22]

AUDIO RECORDING DEVICES IN CITY HALL

March 2023: Galvin was one of two council members to vote against a bill to remove audio recording equipment in city hall, citing employees who have received threats. “The Green Bay City Council voted on Tuesday to remove the audio recording equipment in City Hall. The council voted 10-2, with Bill Galvin and Randy Scannell voting ‘no,’ to remove the devices and 9-3 to allow previously made recordings, already in city employees’ possession, destroyed. Jim Hutchison joined Galvin and Scannell in voting ‘no.’ The policy prohibits ‘the use of audio recording equipment within City Hall,’ with some exceptions such as police officer-worn body cameras. [...] There was little discussion of the safety of City Hall employees until late in the discussion, when Council Member Galvin read letters from two employees, both of whom wrote that situations in their City Hall jobs had left them fearful. ‘There have been incidents in this building where people have been threatened with physical harm,’ one employee wrote. ‘There was an incident where a gunman was being evicted’ which left the employee in fear. Both workers, Galvin said, had asked him not to reveal their names. ‘Employees in this building are afraid to put their names on a piece of paper because of threats they’ve experienced,’ said Galvin, who worked 34 years for city police. He added that officers were called to the building to deal with the man with the gun.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 3/8/23]

DRUG LAWS

2021: Galvin proposed legislation that would decrease maximum fines on marijuana possession. “When council member Bill Galvin was Green Bay Police Officer Galvin, over 10 years ago, he wrote up some costly tickets for cannabis possession and other minor offenses such as loitering and disorderly conduct. With age, he said, he’d like to think he’s grown more compassionate. Today, three of Wisconsin’s four bordering states have either fully legalized or decriminalized marijuana, and fairness looks different to cannabis users and some law enforcement officers. As it stands, the default fine for marijuana possession is \$350 (about \$500, including court costs) with a maximum of \$500 (nearly \$700 with court costs). ‘I think about people who make \$15 an hour,’ Galvin told the Green Bay Press-Gazette. ‘For someone like that who makes a mistake, and maybe has to give up paying the rent or a medical bill or a car payment, I don’t think that’s justice.’ For the second time this year, Galvin proposed to the Protection and Policy Committee on Monday evening to lower the maximum penalty for possession of cannabis and other minor offenses such as littering, loitering, prowling, animal trespassing, trespassing and disorderly conduct to a \$250 fine, totaling \$376 in fine and court costs.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/21]

- **Galvin: “What I don’t like to see are fines that punish the common man so much that they’re in jeopardy of losing a job or their apartment or their car.”** “While Galvin said he doesn’t condone the use of recreational cannabis, he sees a clear equity issue in ticketing for

marijuana. ‘In terms of personal usage, that horse has gotten out of the barn and I don’t think we’re gonna get that door closed,’ Galvin told the Press-Gazette. ‘But what I don’t like to see are fines that punish the common man so much that they’re in jeopardy of losing a job or their apartment or their car.’” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 12/15/21]

COVID-19

March 2020: Galvin urged the public to “all have to behave as if we are infected and stay home so we do not infect anyone.” “Good information for all of us. We are still weeks from the peak of the virus infection rate. We all have to behave as if we are infected and stay home so we do not infect anyone.” [Facebook, Alderman Bill Galvin, [3/25/20](#)]

August 2021: Galvin called those that did not wear masks “selfish” and “irresponsible,” citing statistics that 98% of people in hospitals were unvaccinated. “One council member in attendance and without a mask was John VanderLeest. He said that, for his part, he saw the Brown County Public Health guidelines as exactly that: guidelines. ‘It’s more of a personal decision. Some people don’t want to mask down and that’s a personal decision,’ VanderLeest said. ‘The government likes to issue recommendations and the health department does, too. But they’re just recommendations.’ But council member Bill Galvin disagrees. ‘They’re being selfish and they’re being irresponsible. At one point in the state, 98% of people in hospitals were unvaccinated,’ Galvin said. ‘Unfortunately, politics is moving a lot of behaviors in this pandemic. It should be about your health.’” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 8/6/21]

- **Galvin: “Unfortunately, politics is moving a lot of behaviors in this pandemic. It should be about your health.”** “‘It’s more of a personal decision. Some people don’t want to mask down and that’s a personal decision,’ VanderLeest said. ‘The government likes to issue recommendations and the health department does, too. But they’re just recommendations.’ But council member Bill Galvin disagrees. ‘They’re being selfish and they’re being irresponsible. At one point in the state, 98% of people in hospitals were unvaccinated,’ Galvin said. ‘Unfortunately, politics is moving a lot of behaviors in this pandemic. It should be about your health.’” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 8/6/21]

August 2021: Galvin compared negative reactions to mask mandates to people choosing not to get vaccinated for small pox in the 1930s, claiming they were on the “wrong side of history.” “Don’t be on the ‘wrong side of history,’ other alderman says Galvin compared the negative reactions to mask mandates and choosing not to get vaccinated to that of smallpox vaccinations in the 1930s. He said people against the smallpox vaccine were on the ‘wrong side of history.’ VanderLeest said people have been bombarded with information from scientists as well as from politicians across the political spectrum. He said that if people aren’t sure whether to wear a mask, they need only ask their health care professionals for the real information.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 8/6/21]

August 2021: During a council meeting, Galvin urged the public not to attend council meetings until every council member agreed to wear a mask and get vaccinated. “During Tuesday’s meeting, two older women watched from the audience in masks. While they conducted themselves safely and maintained 6 feet of distance, Galvin emphasized that, until all council members can agree to wear masks and get vaccinated, the public should not attend meetings for their own safety. ‘If they do plan to attend, they should know that there are individuals in City Council who don’t believe in vaccination and masking,’ Galvin said. Council members ‘could potentially be putting attendees at risk. With that in mind, I recommend people should not attend even if they’ve been vaccinated.’ Galvin hopes to see people tuning in to council meetings via Zoom until Brown County returns to only a moderate level of

risk, from its current status of substantial. But whether that satisfies questions of transparency for local government depends on the individual's access to Wi-Fi." [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 8/6/21]

- **Galvin: If people planned to attend meetings, "they should know that there are individuals in City Council who don't believe in vaccination and masking" and "could potentially be putting attendees at risk."** "If they do plan to attend, they should know that there are individuals in City Council who don't believe in vaccination and masking," Galvin said. Council members 'could potentially be putting attendees at risk. With that in mind, I recommend people should not attend even if they've been vaccinated.' Galvin hopes to see people tuning in to council meetings via Zoom until Brown County returns to only a moderate level of risk, from its current status of substantial. But whether that satisfies questions of transparency for local government depends on the individual's access to Wi-Fi." [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 8/6/21]

August 2021: Galvin posted a photo of himself with text stating, "Disinformation is deadly; Vaccines Save Lives." [Facebook, Alderman Bill Galvin, [8/6/21](#)]

EXCESSIVE FORCE IN POLICING

April 2014: As police captain, Galvin vowed to look at "everything that took place before, during and after" viral incident in which a Green Bay police officer was violent during an arrest. "A video in which a Green Bay police officer subdues a man aggressively, throwing him against a car and punching him after wrestling him to the ground, has sparked an internal investigation after it was posted online, the police department said. No formal complaint has been filed but police said they're investigating because of numerous emails and Facebook comments from people concerned about the actions, Press-Gazette Media reported 'We're going to be looking at everything that took place before, during, and after that incident,' Police Capt. Bill Galvin said Tuesday." [Associated Press, 4/23/14]

- **Galvin pledged a "thorough and transparent investigation."** "Galvin said officers dealing with someone who's resisting arrest can 'go one level up' to subdue the person. If the person wrestles with an officer, the officer may be justified in throwing a punch, striking with his elbow or using his baton, Galvin said. All officers involved in the incident are still on the job. Galvin said the incident could take several days or more to investigate. He said investigators would review squad-car video and video submitted by witnesses, and then create a list of possible witnesses to interview. 'We'll be doing a thorough and transparent investigation,' he pledged." [Associated Press, 4/23/14]
- **Galvin: "In an incident like this we didn't wait for someone to come forward and file a complaint, we felt something like this is something that should be looked at."** "Galvin said the early investigation indicates the beginnings of the incident started around an individual who left one of the bars with an open intoxicant. Police ticketed a 24-year-old Green Bay man on that charge. At least several days of work lie ahead in the investigation, but its duration can vary depending on information that comes forward, Galvin said. 'What we look at is, did officers follow policies and procedures?' Galvin said. 'If they didn't, what happened, and why did it happen? We put that all together into report form and forward it to the chief.' He said officers dealing with a person who is resisting arrest can 'go one level up' to subdue that person. If the person is wrestling with an officer, the officer could be justified in throwing a punch, striking with his elbow or using his baton, Galvin said. 'Every complaint against an officer is investigated as fully as possible,' Galvin said. 'In an incident like this we didn't wait for

someone to come forward and file a complaint, we felt something like this is something that should be looked at.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 4/23/14]

Galvin stated that the Green Bay police asked the Wisconsin Department of Justice to review the department’s investigation into potential officer misconduct in punching a suspect. “Green Bay police have asked the state to review the department’s investigation into the April 19 incident in which an officer shoved a man he was arresting against a parked car, then punched him while the man was on the ground. City police are close to completing their probe into the arrest of 29-year-old Joshua D. Wenzel of Caledonia but likely won’t release their findings until after a review overseen by the state Department of Justice, Capt. Bill Galvin said Wednesday. The arrest was captured on video and posted to YouTube, where it has spawned calls for Wicklund’s firing from some watchers, and messages of support from others. Galvin said Green Bay could have asked for a review from criminal justice program officials at a local college, but felt that some members of the public might conclude that oversight from Northeast Wisconsin or Fox Valley technical colleges - with which the department works closely - was not impartial enough.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 5/8/14]

- **Galvin: “We’ve never had this reaction in this community to a use-of-force case before [...] We want to be sure we have all our I’s dotted and our T’s crossed.”** “‘We’ve never had this reaction in this community to a use-of-force case before,’ Galvin said. ‘We want to be sure we have all our I’s dotted and our T’s crossed.’ The video shows Officer Derek Wicklund arresting Wenzel on charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest outside a Washington Street tavern shortly after 2 a.m. on April 19. The video shows Wicklund push Wenzel against a parked patrol car, take him to the ground him and strike him with his right hand.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 5/8/14]

HOMELESS ISSUES

July 2008: Galvin claimed that many homeless individuals in Green Bay “have steady income but choose to spend it on booze.” “As far south as Allouez, police have found signs of homeless camps. An officer recently found a homeless man sleeping in shrubbery near Marine Street just off the Fox River Trail. Police also received a report of a campsite established behind St. Francis Park. ‘They’re going to go where they’re not getting a hassle,’ Galvin said. ‘If police aren’t bothering them, that’s where they’re going to settle.’ Many of these people could qualify to stay at the New Community Shelter, 301 Mather St., but that operation won’t accept anyone who has been drinking. ‘A lot of these individuals have steady income but choose to spend it on booze,’ Galvin said. ‘It doesn’t bother them to lie on that old, moldy mattress if they have to, if it leaves them the money to buy booze.’” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 7/15/08]

- **Galvin claimed that he did not know whether the number of homeless was growing, but police issued more tickets for drinking in parks, trespassing, and related violations.** “Galvin said he doesn’t know whether the number of homeless is growing, but police are issuing more tickets to people for drinking in the parks, trespassing and related violations. The increase in tickets likely is because of more aggressive action by police, rather than more homeless, he said. People studying the problem of homelessness in Green Bay don’t all agree on the population of the chronically homeless here, said Terri Refsguard, director of the New Community Shelter and a member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Homelessness.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 7/15/08]
- **Galvin claimed that homes had “consistently” turned down services and were “happy with the way they’re living.”** “A little more than two months after the seasonal close of St. John’s

Homeless Shelter, police have been chasing vagrants from makeshift camp sites around the area. 'Now, suddenly, we have panhandling, people sneaking into hotels, public urination and defecation that's all on the increase,' Green Bay police Capt. Bill Galvin said. 'They've been at St. John's during the winter, but once it got warm, some have qualified for other treatment facilities, but others have just refused,' he said. 'They have services offered to them, and they have consistently turned it down. They're happy with the way they're living.'" [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 7/15/08]