

## **GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN COUNCIL CANDIDATE BRIAN H. JOHNSON**

Brian H. Johnson, endorsed by the Republican Party, is the current alderman for the 9<sup>th</sup> District for the Green Bay Common Council. Johnson was first elected in 2018, defeating incumbent Guy Zima. Johnson has run three times since, winning reelection most recently in 2024. Johnson leads a non-profit called On Broadway, which “promotes the Broadway District as Green Bay's cultural core for entrepreneurs, creatives, residents, and visitors to engage and succeed in a welcoming environment.” As a candidate for office, Johnson has stressed his hard work and independence. Johnson worked for the local Chamber of Commerce and claimed to be a small business owner for 7-years working as a contractor. Johnson has two children with a previous wife.

Key findings:

**Johnson has been accused of 2020 election denialism though press reports have noted that he has expressed his belief that Biden defeated Trump “on multiple platforms.”** In 2022, the Democratic Party of Brown County accused Johnson of supporting the idea that the 2020 presidential election was stolen. A voter guide released by the party included a “red-flag” for Johnson, suggesting he “demonstrated support of the so-called ‘Big Lie’ of a fraudulent election.” The claims were based on a 2021 vote by the Green Bay City Council on a resolution that “expressed confidence” in how the county conducted the 2020 election. Johnson did not vote against the resolution but was one of five council members that abstained from the vote. Johnson told the Green Bay Press Gazette that he did not believe there was malfeasance at play in 2020. According to the Green Bay Press Gazette, “Johnson said whatever issue he has with elections is isolated to local action and is not a reflection of the federal level. On multiple platforms, he has stated his belief that Biden legitimately won the election, even in front of conservative audiences.”

**Johnson is listed as a defendant for multiple small claims and foreclosure cases.** According to public records searches, Brian H Johnson is listed as a primary and secondary debtor for two properties. The Lexis Nexis database returned a “notice of sheriff’s sale” for 1531 Holly Drive in Manitowoc, Wisconsin on December 12, 2012. Brian H Johnson and Kristin M Johnson are listed as owners who were in default. Kristin M Johnson is also listed as a primary debtor with Brian Johnson listed as a second debtor for a foreclosed property at 3302 Silver Creek Road in Manitowoc, Wisconsin filed on June 20, 2012. Kristin M Johnson filed for chapter 7 bankruptcy on January 16, 2013. Kristin M Johnson and Brian Johnson are divorced. Kristin M Johnson is now remarried as Kristin DeTroye. Additionally Brian H Johnson is listed as a creditor for two small claims cases, one with Sunrise Construction for \$8,707 and another with Shipbuilders Credit Union for \$10,000.

## **Background**

### PROFESSIONAL CAREER

**Johnson led a non-profit in green bay call “On Broadway Inc.”** “BRIAN JOHNSON currently leads On Broadway, Inc. which helps attract and retain small businesses and jobs in the 9th City Council district.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

- **On Broadway “promotes the Broadway District as Green Bay's cultural core for entrepreneurs, creatives, residents, and visitors to engage and succeed in a welcoming environment.”** [On Broadway, accessed [10/30/25](#)]

**Johnson ran his own business.** “BRIAN JOHNSON has led public and private organizations including his own small business.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

- **Johnson worked as contractor, sold business before working for Chamber of Commerce.** “After a stint in contracting, he spent 7 years as a business owner before selling and beginning work for the Green Bay Chamber.” [Facebook, [7/21/25](#)]

**Johnson said he was a small business owner.** “I’ve personally been a small business owner, and currently serve as an executive director of a nonprofit organization. I earned an AAS degree from UW-Green Bay and a BA in Political Science from UW-Madison. I am the father of two young daughters, and I’m invested deeply in the future of our community.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson served as chair of the Finance Committee, chair of the Ad-Hoc Facilities Committee, and a member of the Personnel Committee, Public Arts Commission, and Landmarks Commission.** “I have been elected and served as the Alderman of District 9 for six years. I am currently the vice president of the Common Council, chair of the Finance Committee, chair of the Ad-Hoc Facilities Committee, and a member of the Personnel Committee, Public Arts Commission, and Landmarks Commission. I attend and participate in many of the other committees because I believe participation is a strong indicator of effective representation.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson served on the board of several local associations.** “I serve on the board of the Fort Howard Neighborhood Association, Hope Center Food Pantry, and I co-chair the Greater Green Bay Chamber’s downtown taskforce where a significant part of District 9 resides.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

- **Johnson served on the board for the Fort Howard Neighborhood Association and the Hope Center.** “I am the current alderman for District 9. I am the vice chair of the Improvement & Services Committee, and serve on the Parks Committee, Economic Development Authority and Community Development Block Grant Revolving Loan Committee. In our neighborhood, I serve on the board for the Fort Howard Neighborhood Association and the Hope Center, which includes the St. Patrick's Pantry and Love Life Ministry. Additionally, I am on the Downtown Green Bay and Urban Development Taskforce with the Greater Green Bay Chamber.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, 2/4/20]

## **2024 Election**

**John won 4<sup>th</sup> term in 2024.** Johnson won a fourth term in 2024, defeating Tarl Knight for a second time. Johnson received only 56% of the vote, with Knight earning 43.44% of the vote. [Brown County Wisconsin, election results, [4/2/24](#)]

## 2022 Election

**Johnson reelected in 2022.** Johnson won a third term in 2022, defeating Tarl Knight on April 5, 2022. Johnson had 65% of the vote compared to 34% for Knight. [Brown County Wisconsin, election results, [4/5/22](#)]

**2022: Johnson signed pledge to not accept outside money for his campaign.** “Poradek and Obrecht wrote a pledge against accepting outside money in campaigns, which they read outside City Hall on Tuesday. Seven candidates for City Council - Poradek, Obrecht, Hutchison, Tarl Knight, Bill Galvin, Craig Stevens, Brian Johnson and Mark Steuer - signed the nonpartisan pledge. ‘It’s time for us to keep our elections local, and for alders to commit to serving as nonpartisan public servants,’ Poradek wrote on Facebook. The post concluded by stating that outside PACs ‘do not speak for us.’” [Green Bay Press Gazette, 4/4/22]

## 2020 Election

**Johnson Reelected in 2020.** Johnson defeated Guy Zima a second time with 65% of the vote for the election held April 7, 2020. [Brown County Wisconsin election results, [4/7/20](#)]

**Johnson was critical of 2020 spring election held during pandemic.** “Green Bay City Council members are concerned, too. Alderman Brian Johnson said the problems on Tuesday raise questions about how the city used resources to prepare for the election. He believes the city could have done more to get ready instead of pushing the state to stop it.” [Green Bay Press Gazette, 4/9/20]

- **Johnson: “For us to just sit on our hands and say we’re not going to recruit poll workers because we don’t like the circumstance is a failure of our responsibility.”** ““Unfortunately, this decision came from the state. Our job was to administer it,’ he said. ‘For us to just sit on our hands and say we’re not going to recruit poll workers because we don’t like the circumstance is a failure of our responsibility.’” [Green Bay Press Gazette, 4/9/20]

## 2018 Election

**Johnson Defeated Guy Zima.** Johnson was elected with 53.11% of the vote, his opponent Guy Zima received 46.64%. [Brown County Wisconsin Election Results, [4/3/18](#)]

**Johnson ran on safety and infrastructure improvements.** “A prominent Green Bay community leader will challenge District 9 Alderman Guy Zima in next year’s city council election. Brian Johnson, executive director of On Broadway, Inc., announced Monday that he intends to run against Zima. In a news release about his bid for the seat, Johnson said his campaign would seek to improve streets and public services and also focus on neighborhood safety and police and fire protection.” [Green Bay Press Gazette, 12/12/17]

**Johnson: “I want to serve as an independent representative on the city council that generates new ideas to solve emerging challenges rather than one that disparages our neighbors and harms our**

**community's ability to be a leader.**” “‘Green Bay is at a critical crossroad,’ Johnson said. ‘We have feuding leadership, deteriorating infrastructure and low tolerance for delivering services in our community where they are needed most. I want to serve as an independent representative on the city council that generates new ideas to solve emerging challenges rather than one that disparages our neighbors and harms our community’s ability to be a leader.’” [Green Bay Press Gazette, 12/12/17]

## PHILOSOPHY

**Johnson said he was “Green Bay's most fiercely independent representative.”** [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson claimed he “restored civility to city council.”** “Restored Civility to city council; we are now working for you.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson said he had a “deep understanding of local policy.”** “I resolve hundreds of constituent inquiries every year. This has allowed me to develop a deep understanding of local policy to achieve the best results for our district. This is a responsibility not to be taken lightly, and it’s a significant time commitment if one is to achieve the same level of results that I have for our neighborhoods.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson: “I am often commended for my careful listening skills and ability to craft solutions that bring together differing opinions.”** “Every resident of our community deserves fair and equitable treatment. District 9 is incredibly diverse from the qualifying census tracts on the near west side that are some of Green Bay’s most ethnically diverse neighborhoods, to the downtown commercial districts, from portions of the Astor Park Neighborhood to the residential and industrial areas that extend west to the Lambeau Field corridor. I am often commended for my careful listening skills and ability to craft solutions that bring together differing opinions. Good policy is inclusive and reflects the perspectives of those we represent.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson: “80% of success is showing up and I regularly attend neighborhood meetings, meet with business owners, canvas the residential neighborhoods, host listening sessions, and volunteer my time.”** “80% of success is showing up and I regularly attend neighborhood meetings, meet with business owners, canvas the residential neighborhoods, host listening sessions, and volunteer my time to help our residents and nonprofits make their neighborhoods a little bit better while simultaneously listening to their concerns and learning about opportunities.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson: “More than ever, we need well-balanced decision makers in local government.”** “More than ever, we need well-balanced decision makers in local government. I am routinely commended by my colleagues on the Council for my financial acumen and strong understanding and wisdom of local policy. This insight comes directly from the people I serve, the conversations I have, and the feedback that is shared when crafting solutions to the City’s most pressing challenges.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson said he ran because he has a love for city and district.** “Why are you running? I love my neighborhood and I love this City. I have been elected as the alder of District 9 for six years. I am currently the vice president of the Common Council, chair of the Finance Committee, chair of the Ad-Hoc Facilities Committee, and a member of the Personnel Committee, Public Arts Commission, and Landmarks Commission. I resolve hundreds of constituent inquiries every year. This has allowed me to

develop a deep understanding of local policy to achieve the best results for our district.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, [3/18/24](#)]

**Johnson: “Every resident of our community deserves to be heard and to receive fair and equitable treatment.”** “Johnson: It starts with listening. Every resident of our community deserves to be heard and to receive fair and equitable treatment. I attend neighborhood meetings, meet with business owners, canvas residential neighborhoods, host listening sessions, and volunteer my time to help our residents and nonprofits make their neighborhoods a little bit better while simultaneously listening to their concerns and learning about opportunities. This is what informs good policy recommendations.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, [3/18/24](#)]

**Johnson: “I have been one of council’s most fiercely independent voices, beholden to no singular ideology.”** “I have been one of council’s most fiercely independent voices, beholden to no singular ideology. This allows me to critically think about challenges and deliver independent solutions. We are elected to solve problems and that’s what I do. Good policy is inclusive and reflects the perspectives of those we represent.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, [3/18/24](#)]

**Johnson: “I love Green Bay, and I know you do too. Radical and divisive leadership has not worked for us, and I've brought sensible solutions and responsible leadership to the table that has uplifted our community and neighborhoods.”** “I am seeking re-election because the neighbors of our district have asked me to run. They want more of the positive change that has occurred over the past two years and they recognize I have the ability and vision to improve the quality of life for our residents. I love Green Bay, and I know you do too. Radical and divisive leadership has not worked for us, and I've brought sensible solutions and responsible leadership to the table that has uplifted our community and neighborhoods.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, 2/4/20]

**Johnson: “I don't take your trust for granted, and I'm here to work for you.”** “I made promises to our residents because people wanted change, and I've kept them. People wanted better streets, so we secured more funding to improve our roadways. Residents were upset when we lost the Green Bay Bullfrogs, so I worked with other alders to pass the Shipyard development. The entire city wanted civility restored to local politics, and we're now providing clean, honest and accountable government for the people. Excessive neighborhood speeding was a top concern, so we doubled the number of dedicated traffic officers. I don't take your trust for granted, and I'm here to work for you.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, 2/4/20]

**Johnson said he restored “civility and decorum to local government.”** “When I first ran for office, I had a strong desire to restore civility and decorum to local government and achieve better results for my district. Working together, we've accomplished just that. I immediately went to work on advancing an initiative to relocate the coal piles, which just received a \$15 million grant from the State. City Council authorized \$10 million to invest in the Shipyard, and an additional \$1 million in the residential neighborhoods. We have made progress on the Ashland Avenue viaduct and abandoned railyard. But most importantly, our district is now receiving the most significant portion of the city's capital improvement plan for streets and flood mitigation.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, 3/11/22]

**Johnson: “I demonstrate a strong willingness to compromise on policy to advance the greater good without compromising my core values of respect, honesty, integrity, accountability and ethical behavior.”** “What makes you the better candidate in this race? Johnson: Leadership and experience matter when advancing complex projects that will have the most dramatic impact on our district and city. I’m achieving great results for our neighborhoods because of my unique ability to work with people

of all backgrounds and ideologies. My colleagues on the council frequently seek me out for my knowledge, expertise and studied approach to issues. I demonstrate a strong willingness to compromise on policy to advance the greater good without compromising my core values of respect, honesty, integrity, accountability and ethical behavior. I have worked very hard to earn the trust of the residents in our district and I don't take that for granted." [Green Bay Post Gazette, 3/11/22]

**Johnson: "Local government is a nonpartisan position; unfortunately, Madison and Washington politics have started to influence our policies."** "This is a nonpartisan race. How will you ensure that you are prioritizing the concerns of your constituents, even if they don't align with your personal values? Johnson: Local government is a nonpartisan position; unfortunately, Madison and Washington politics have started to influence our policies. We have basic responsibilities including infrastructure, police, fire, parks and economic development. Most people do not care if a Democrat or Republican is calling City Hall to find out why their garbage wasn't picked up, how they can secure a variance on their building permit, or getting a pothole filled. These are the types of calls that consume 90% of an alder's constituent service responsibilities and all residents, regardless of party affiliation, deserve this support from their local government." [Green Bay Post Gazette, 3/11/22]

**Johnson: Every resident of our community deserves fair and equitable treatment."** "Johnson: Every resident of our community deserves fair and equitable treatment. District 9 is incredibly diverse, from the qualifying census tract on the near west side that is one of Green Bay's most ethnically diverse to the downtown commercial districts, from portions of the Astor Park Neighborhood to the residential and industrial areas that extend west to the Lambeau Field corridor. I am often commended for my careful listening skills and ability to craft solutions that bring together differing opinions. Good policy is inclusive and reflects the perspectives of those we represent and I consistently create outlets through neighborhood meetings to ensure everyone's needs are heard and represented." [Green Bay Post Gazette, 3/11/22]

## Ideology

**Johnson: "I have been one of the Council's most fiercely independent voices, beholden to no singular ideology."** "I have been one of the Council's most fiercely independent voices, beholden to no singular ideology. This allows me to critically think about challenges and deliver solutions free from the echo chamber that often comes from partisan politics. We are elected to solve problems and that's what I do." [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson critical of issues in 2023 Green Bay mayoral election.** "It's been a very odd election cycle," said Brian Johnson, Green Bay's city council vice president. "Obviously a lot of issues that really aren't relevant to the mayor's race and it's stirring up a lot of these politicized feelings on both sides of the aisle." [Fox 11, [3/24/23](#)]

**Johnson was endorsed by Green Bay Republicans.** "Local Republicans endorsed City Council candidates Jennifer Grant, Andy Nicholson, Bill Galvin, Robert Maccaux, Adrian Liddicoat, Chris Wery, Brian Johnson, Jeff Osborne, Melinda Eck and Bobby Lindsey." [Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/29/24]

**Johnson was supported by Wisconsin Conservation Voters Independent Expenditure Committee.** "The Wisconsin Conservation Voters Independent Expenditure Committee spent \$49,800 during the filing period on mailers and online advertising that backed or endorsed Prestley, Proffitt, Johnson, Ridderbush, Delie, Hinkfuss and Hutchison." [Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/29/24]

- **Johnson received \$4,416.90.** [Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/29/24]

## Crime

**Johnson touted drop in crime while in office.** “Leading out front to address the rise in violent crime by creating a task force, hosting community listening sessions and allocating funding. Crime is now down 13% from 2022.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson wanted state funds for public safety.** “A Green Bay alderman is requesting the state provide more money to the city for investments in public safety. City leaders are trying to figure out ways how to invest in a new police headquarters and a new fire station — two, very big public safety projects. Now, Alderman Brian Johnson is asking the state for some help. ‘For the state to step in, restore shared revenue amounts at what they used to be 15 years ago would go a long way in terms of making sure that we have the resources to pay for police, fire, roads in our local community,’ Johnson said. Johnson requested funding reform for the city during Tuesday’s Finance Committee meeting. ‘All I’m looking for is for the City of Green Bay to kind of go on record to say, ‘hey, we’re here,’” Johnson said during the meeting.” [NBC 26, [6/10/23](#)]

**Johnson wanted city to move on from liquor license moratorium.** “The City Council is now reviewing a proposal to lift a decades-old liquor license moratorium, which has already passed the Protection and Policy Committee. ‘It’s time to move on,’ OnBroadway executive director and District 9, Brian Johnson, said. ‘It’s an old relic of the past and we’re ready to address the future.’ Johnson is one of two alderpersons making the push to end it. Randy Scannell, District 7 alder, is the other.” [NBC 26, [2/6/24](#)]

## Environment

**Johnson worked to remove coal piles from city.** “Working with local and state representatives to relocate the coal piles out of our neighborhood.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson: “I’ve been the lead advocate, working hard with local and state representatives to secure funding to relocate the coal piles out of our neighborhood.”** “We’ll continue to make progress on streets, speeding and the Shipyard. I’ve been the lead advocate, working hard with local and state representatives to secure funding to relocate the coal piles out of our neighborhood. We’re installing two new high capacity lift stations and an additional pump to eliminate the flooding that has harmed our residents for decades.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, 2/4/20]

## Housing

**Johnson claimed himself to be “one of the City’s most creative thinkers on economic development and housing solutions.** “One of the City’s most creative thinkers on economic development and housing solutions with hundreds of residential units under construction.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson: “We have a serious shortage of housing just like every other municipality across the country. We need to be more innovative in how we bring these projects to market considering rising interest rates and construction costs.”** “Housing. We have a serious shortage of housing just

like every other municipality across the country. We need to be more innovative in how we bring these projects to market considering rising interest rates and construction costs. For example, I chair the committee that is working to construct a new fire station in our district that could include a hybrid development with housing and commercial space, bringing costs down for both the Fire Department and housing developer. Sites like the former WPS headquarters, Adams Street parking lot, Ashland Avenue railyard, Shipyard, and coal piles are all great candidates to help us close the required 3,000 units we need over the next 10 years.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson: “I helped recruit \$100 million of taxpaying investment currently under construction or contract in the Broadway District, including 565 housing units for all income levels.”** “The Broadway District comprises 0.3 percent of the city’s land area but holds 7 percent of the total assessed property value. Urban density pays taxes that support services across the city. We should nourish it. I helped recruit \$100 million of taxpaying investment currently under construction or contract in the Broadway District, including 565 housing units for all income levels. I’ve been the advocate to secure funding to relocate the coal piles out of our neighborhood. I creatively worked to pass the Shipyard, which will transform our riverfront by offering residents additional recreational value without existing property tax burden.” [The Press Times, [4/30/20](#)]

**Johnson touted his work revitalizing neighborhoods in 9<sup>th</sup> district.** “Our neighbors have felt neglected with little investment in their areas, so I secured more than \$4 million for affordable housing and neighborhood improvements. Rat complaints are down, and we continue to conduct proactive inspections to inform residents about how to control their population.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, 2/4/20]

## Infrastructure

**Johnson touted increase in infrastructure projects.** “Supported more funding for better streets. We are doing 40% more resurfacing projects over the 10-year average.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson “advocated for flood control efforts.”** “Advocated for flood control efforts and secured funding for two lift stations and stormwater retention ponds. West side flooding has been mitigated.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson wanted to develop road infrastructure if elected to new term.** “What developments would you like to see the city make over the upcoming term? Roads. We need to focus on accelerating resurfacing programs. We are doing 40% more than the 10-year average and District 9 is seeing the most support in the City’s capital improvement plan, but we need to do more. We are evaluating new alternatives to the way we perform construction work, and assessing financial models to create a more equitable way with how we approach funding road reconstruction which could include the elimination of the wheel tax.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson said roads and economic development were the top issues to be addressed in city.** “What two issues most need to be addressed in Green Bay: Roads and economic development — the former explained on the question about the transportation utility. The best way to grow the tax base and pay for services is to foster new development. I supported projects like the \$500 million Green Bay Packaging expansion, \$500 million Georgia Pacific addition, and the \$55 million Carnivore Meat Company plant in our new and expanding industrial park. Facilities like this create good jobs and a substantial tax base that stabilizes rates for all taxpayers.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, [3/18/24](#)]

**Johnson supported hiring consultants to fix transportation issues in city.** “Johnson: Let’s start with a universal understanding that our roads are not in acceptable condition and the tools available to local government are insufficient to address the magnitude of the problem. I support studying a transportation utility, and council unanimously authorized hiring a consultant. We are resurfacing 40% more than the 10-year average, but we need to do more. The wheel tax generates \$2 million per year, half of which covers the elimination of residential assessments. That leaves an additional \$1 million per year on a \$100+ million problem. The only way to cover the difference is unsustainable debt. We’re evaluating how we engineer and replace our roads which can create marginal improvements, but a more equitable way to fund roads that eliminates the wheel tax must be a priority.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, [3/18/24](#)]

**Johnson: “We need more innovation in public/private partnerships to combat rising interest rates and construction costs.”** “Council ordered a housing study that reported we need 3,000 housing units in the next 10 years just to keep pace, and we need units at every income level. I was the first to propose extending TIDs for the creation of an affordable housing fund. I requested \$1 million in ARPA funds to secure sites ripe for development that create new property tax increment. We need more innovation in public/private partnerships to combat rising interest rates and construction costs. I chair a committee that is working to construct a new fire station that could include a hybrid development with housing, lowering costs for the Fire Department and developer. Sites like the WPS headquarters, Adams St. parking lot, Ashland Ave. railyard, Shipyard, and coal piles are all great candidates for housing development.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, [3/18/24](#)]

**Johnson: “It’s easy to say we need to cut, but when the rubber meets the road, few cuts pass our budget cycle because they have limited to no effect on the tax rate.”** “Johnson: Fiscal intelligence eats fiscal responsibility for breakfast. It’s easy to say we need to cut, but when the rubber meets the road, few cuts pass our budget cycle because they have limited to no effect on the tax rate. As chair of the city’s Finance Committee, we passed our 2024 budget, the bulk of ARPA fund allocation, and the largest-ever bond request — unanimously. This cooperation comes from communication and understanding.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, [3/18/24](#)]

**Johnson: “We funded elections, increased investments in public infrastructure, and supported our police and fire departments.”** “We funded elections, increased investments in public infrastructure, and supported our police and fire departments. We did this with one of the lowest increases of all taxing jurisdictions. Municipal finance is complicated, and I am one of the most well-versed members of Council on the topic. Green Bay is fiscally responsible because we are fiscally intelligent.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, [3/18/24](#)]

**Johnson said residents told him roads were the most important issue in 2022.** “What are residents telling you are their most important issues, and how are you addressing them? Johnson: Roads. We are doing 40% more reconstruction and resurfacing projects over the 10-year average (2010-19) and we created a comprehensive five-year capital improvement plan so we can better manage long-term borrowing needs.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, 3/11/22]

## Schools

**Johnson touted his work on schools on campaign website.** “BRIAN JOHNSON managed programming to improve our schools and develop young leaders in our community.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

## Taxes

**Johnson “Opposed unnecessary tax and spending increases.”** [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson: “The best way to stabilize the tax base is to foster development in our community.”**

“Economic Development. The best way to stabilize the tax base is to foster development in our community. I supported developments like the \$500 million Green Bay Packaging expansion, Georgia Pacific is currently constructing a \$500 million expansion, Carnivore Meat Company is constructing a \$55 million facility in our new and expanding industrial park which I advocated for so we can attract new and modern manufacturing facilities. Large facilities like this create good paying jobs and a substantial tax base which helps us stabilize rates for all taxpayers including residential homeowners.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson “opposed unnecessary tax and spending increases.”** “What should Green Bay do to support taxpayers while ensuring the city addresses its fiscal challenges? Johnson: We are currently at 50% of the debt allowed by state law. That’s too high, and it’s hurting our credit rating. We are also the highest taxed municipality in Brown County which is why I’ve opposed unnecessary tax and spending increases. I’ve advanced a 5-year capital improvement plan, the first in 20 years, to better manage our budget and ensure we’re careful stewards of your tax dollars. Our revenue is not the problem; we need an audit of accountability on the expense and priority side of our budget to be sure we’re meeting the basic needs of our community first.” [Green Bay Post Gazette, 2/4/20]

## Traffic

**Johnson wanted more traffic officers in city.** “Increased emphasis on neighborhood speeding and approved funding for dedicated traffic officers.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

## ELECTION AND VOTER ISSUES

**Johnson supported motion to file report on modems and City of Green Bay election tabulators.**

“City Council Vice President Brian Johnson supported the motion, but said he wants to make it clear ‘and I’ve said this multiple times, I do not believe there’s anything nefarious going on here in the City of Green Bay. ‘As I’ve said all along the way, I think that the thing that we’re losing is the public relations battle,’ Johnson said. ‘And I think referring this will provide that level of clarity that I think some folks are seeking that hopefully will help put this particular issue to rest. Holy cow, these (voting machines) are not even owned by the City of Green Bay. So I think this notion that modems are somehow contributing to an election conspiracy just doesn’t make any sense to me, but if getting the report in writing helps us control the PR message, I’m all for it.’ The motion to refer passed 11-1.” [Green Bay Press Gazette, [5/9/22](#)]

**Democratic Party of Brown County accused Johnson of supporting idea that 2020 election was stolen.**

“The Democratic Party of Brown County is claiming two Green Bay City Council members seeking reelection support the idea that the 2020 presidential election was stolen, a theory peddled by former President Donald Trump and some of his supporters. The Democrats’ local voters guide, unveiled Wednesday, includes two red-flag images next to the names of council members Brian Johnson and Mark Steuer, with one flag indicating they have ‘known affiliations with the Republican Party’ and the two flags suggesting they have demonstrated support of the so-called ‘Big Lie’ of a fraudulent election.”

[Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/20/22]

**Johnson said claim had no basis in reality.** “Both incumbents have openly stated they believe in the legitimacy of the 2020 presidential elections and consider themselves politically moderate. Johnson and Steuer, who represent Districts 9 and 10 respectively, say the accusations have no basis in reality.”

[Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/20/22]

**Johnson: “People are trying to simplify the very complex discussions we’ve had at City Council about some of our election challenges.”** ““People are trying to simplify the very complex discussions we’ve had at City Council about some of our election challenges,” Johnson said. ‘By their very nature, partisan politics like to put people in buckets - either you’re left or you’re right, and, at the local level, there’s just so much more nuance to issues than that.’” [Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/20/22]

**Democratic mailer cited Johnson abstention from city council vote on 2020 election confidence.**

“The county Democrats based their claims on the outcome of a City Council resolution last May expressing confidence in how Green Bay ran its 2020 elections. Five City Council members, including Johnson, abstained from the vote. Steuer voted against the resolution but said he did so more because of how Green Bay conducted its elections in April 2020 than the following November.” [Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/20/22]

**Brown County Democrats said Johnson lack of vote on the resolution “sow doubt in election results and leave room for lies about the election administration to spread.”** “Renée Gasch, chair of the Democratic Party of Brown County, said Johnson and Steuer’s decisions not to support a vote of confidence in the 2020 elections demonstrated ‘actions (that) sow doubt in election results and leave room for lies about the election administration to spread.’ The Democratic Party assigned double red flags to candidates in three of the nine elections in the greater Green Bay area, for Green Bay City Council, De Pere City Council and Brown County Board.” [Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/20/22]

**Green Bay Press-Gazette: “Both Johnson and Steuer believe that Joe Biden beat Donald Trump by nearly 21,000 votes in Wisconsin’s presidential election.”** “Both Johnson and Steuer believe that Joe Biden beat Donald Trump by nearly 21,000 votes in Wisconsin’s presidential election. Recounts and court rulings confirmed Biden’s win. A legislative audit and a study by a conservative group found no evidence of significant fraud in Green Bay or anywhere.” [Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/20/22]

**Green Bay Press-Gazette: “Johnson said whatever issue he has with elections is isolated to local action, and is not a reflection of the federal level.”** “Johnson said whatever issue he has with elections is isolated to local action, and is not a reflection of the federal level. On multiple platforms, he has stated his belief that Biden legitimately won the election, even in front of conservative audiences.” [Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/20/22]

**Johnson said in 2020 that he didn’t believe malfeasance was at play in the 2020 elections.** “Johnson, at the time of his vote, said that he didn’t believe malfeasance was at play in the 2020 elections. He told the City Council at the time that he abstained because he didn’t want to perpetuate the ‘false comparisons’ of the resolution, which he said turned council member votes either for or against the city of Green Bay, depending on how they voted.” [Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/20/22]

**Johnson in 2021: “We have open complaints yet with the Wisconsin Elections Commission that have not been properly adjudicated. By passing this today, we’re basically saying that their complaints don’t matter.”** ““We have open complaints yet with the Wisconsin Elections Commission

that have not been properly adjudicated,' Johnson told his colleagues at City Council on May 4, 2021. 'By passing this today, we're basically saying that their complaints don't matter.'" [Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/20/22]

**Johnson: "Passing a resolution doesn't pacify the people in our community who have those concerned feelings. They're never going to see that resolution. What pacifies those feelings is action."** "For Johnson, the resolution was ineffective in quelling the worries some residents of Green Bay held over what happened with the 2020 elections. 'Passing a resolution doesn't pacify the people in our community who have those concerned feelings. They're never going to see that resolution. What pacifies those feelings is action,' Johnson said." [Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/20/22]

**Johnson on 2020 election resolution: "This is a public relations campaign disguised as a resolution that reads like an affidavit, and the affidavit intending to say, 'We are innocent.'" "The five council members who abstained from Tuesday's vote contended the council should not make judgments about the election until outside investigations have concluded. Council member Mark Steuer voted against the measure. 'This is a public relations campaign disguised as a resolution that reads like an affidavit, and the affidavit intending to say, 'We are innocent,' said council member Brian Johnson, who abstained. 'It's a public relations campaign, and we are losing.' [Green Bay Press Gazette, 5/7/21]**

**Johnson on proposed election ordinance in 2022: "At the end of the day, I really hope we can strip down our partisan beliefs on this and really come at this with an open mind, recognizing that ... mistakes were made."** "Researching parameters for accepting outside money, including grant money, for elections, and to possibly create an ordinance. Identifying the processes that can be used to ensure that the public is well-informed regarding the election process. 'At the end of the day, I really hope we can strip down our partisan beliefs on this and really come at this with an open mind, recognizing that ... mistakes were made,' council member Brian Johnson said. 'That's OK to acknowledge. It's how we respond to those mistakes and work on corrections. That's ultimately why we're all here.'" [Green Bay Press Gazette, 3/3/22]

## PERSONAL LIFE

### Personal

**Johnson said he was "born into a working-class family."** "I was born into a working-class family and grew up in my family's bait shop cleaning fish. I've worked as a farm laborer, hospitality worker, construction, and for a chamber of commerce helping small business owners." [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, Issues, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson said he was "raised in a working class family with limited means."** "BRIAN JOHNSON was raised in a working class family with limited means. He had to work at a young age to make ends meet. He knows the value of a dollar." [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson said he "worked as a farmhand, laborer, construction worker, and various jobs in the restaurant industry."** "BRIAN JOHNSON worked as a farmhand, laborer, construction worker, and various jobs in the restaurant industry. He has a strong work ethic." [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

**Johnson said he was a first generation college graduate.** “BRIAN JOHNSON was the first in his family to make it to college. He studied hard and worked his way through school.” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

- **Johnson had degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin.** “Highest level of education: Bachelor's degree in political science from UW-Madison” [Green Bay Post Gazette, [3/18/24](#)]

**Johnson had two teenage daughters.** “BRIAN JOHNSON is the proud father of daughters Abigail (17) and Sophia (14).” [Brian Johnson for Green Bay, accessed [10/29/25](#)]

## **VULNERABILITIES AND ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE**

### FINANCIAL AND TAX

Lexis Nexis database returned a “notice of sheriff’s sale” for 1531 Holly Drive in Manitowoc, Wisconsin on December 12, 2012. Brian H Johnson and Kristin M Johnson are listed as owners who were in default. Kristin M Johnson is also listed as a primary debtor with Brian Johnson listed as a second debtor for a foreclosed property at 3302 Silver Creek Road in Manitowoc, Wisconsin filed on June 20, 2012. Kristin M Johnson filed for chapter 7 bankruptcy on January 16, 2013.

*Note: Kristin M Johnson and Brian Johnson are divorced. Kristin M Johnson is now remarried as Kristin DeTroye.*

### LEGAL

**Johnson listed as defendant in small claims case for \$8,707.32.** Brian H. Johnson is listed as defendant for a small claims case in the Wisconsin Circuit Court database. According to the database Johnson was listed as the debtor for an amount of \$8,707.32 to Sunrise Construction LLC. [Brown County Case Number 2015SC004055 Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Brian H Johnson Case summary, [7/21/15](#)]

**Johnson listed as defendant in civil judgement case for \$10,000.** Brian H Johnson is listed as a debtor to Shipbuilders Credit Union for a judgement amount of \$10,000. [Brown County Case Number 2013TJ000027 Shipbuilders Credit Union vs. Brian H Johnson, [3/20/13](#)]

*Note: An additional eight cases were found for “Brian Johnson” in Brown County. None of those cases matched known addresses for “Brian H Johnson” and were not included in this summary.*

### SEX OFFENDER STATUS

**No adverse findings of note.** [Department of Justice, “Brian Johnson”, National Sex Offender Registry Search, accessed 10/31/25]

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Brian has a semi-public Facebook page [HERE](#). Brian additionally maintained an Instagram page [HERE](#) and a personal Twitter page [HERE](#).

## LGBTQ+ DISCRIMINATION

**Johnson voted against proposal for city to limit use of pride flag.** “After debating for roughly an hour and a half, the Council voted in a tie on the proposal, 6-6. The alders who voted against ending the proposal were Wery, Campbell, Eck, Jennifer Grant, William Morgan, and Jesse Brunette. The alders who voted in favor of getting rid of the proposal were Galvin, Scannell, Hutchison, Craig Stevens, Mark Steuer, and Brian Johnson. Genrich broke the tie by voting to dispose of the idea.” [NBC 26, [2/14/23](#)]