

CHRISTOPHER SIMMONS - BATTLE CREEK CITY COUNCIL 4TH DISTRICT

Key findings include:

- **Long-Time City Councilor:** Simmons has had multiple stints on the Battle Creek City Council over the past 20 years. Most recently he was elected in 2022 and reelected in 2024.
- **Republican & Fiscal Conservative:** Simmons appears to be a Republican, contributing to Republican figures over the years, and voting in a fiscally conservative way in the past.
- **Against COVID Measures:** Simmons spoke out against and attended events to protest COVID safety measures taken by Governor Whitmer.
- **Welfare Fraud:** Simmons was fired from his role in state government in 2011 for committing welfare fraud for failing to report income for himself and his wife. It did not appear as though this event gained significant traction.

Battle Creek (“Cereal City”) is a mid-sized city in Calhoun County anchored by manufacturing and food processing (WK Kellogg Co/Kellanova) with a population around 52,000. Battle Creek is a working class city, with median household income of \$51.7k, and roughly 18% of residents below poverty, with a racially diverse population (approx. 63% White, 16% Black, 8–9% Hispanic) [[Data USA](#), 10/27/2025].

Politically, Battle Creek leans Democrat in conservative Calhoun County; Harris won Battle Creek in 2024 54-46. There is not significant documented election denier activity in Battle Creek. Although the Battle Creek City Council is official non-partisan, Republican-aligned incumbents hold a majority.

Trump won this district by just six votes in 2024 (2833-2827).

BACKGROUND

Simmons was elected to his position on the City Council in 2022, winning a three-way race by 167 votes. He ran unopposed for reelection in 2024 [[Calhoun County](#), 10/28/2025]. He also served 2009–2011, 2017–2020, including a stint as Vice Mayor during his earlier service.

While he did not have many recent partisan indicators, he did make two contributions to Republican Tim Walberg in 2010 and may have contributed \$1 to Tulsi Gabbard’s 2020 campaign for President [[FEC](#), 10/28/2025]. He also contributed to two Michigan Republicans in 2008 [[MI BOE](#), 10/28/2025]. Further indication of his right leanings are his June 2019 vote against a City millage increase (to address pension obligations) placed him with a fiscally conservative minority on that question [[WWMT](#), 10/28/2025]. Lastly, Simmons partook in events relating to and spoke out against Governor Whitmer’s steps taken to fight COVID-19, particularly against measures taken for schools and children.

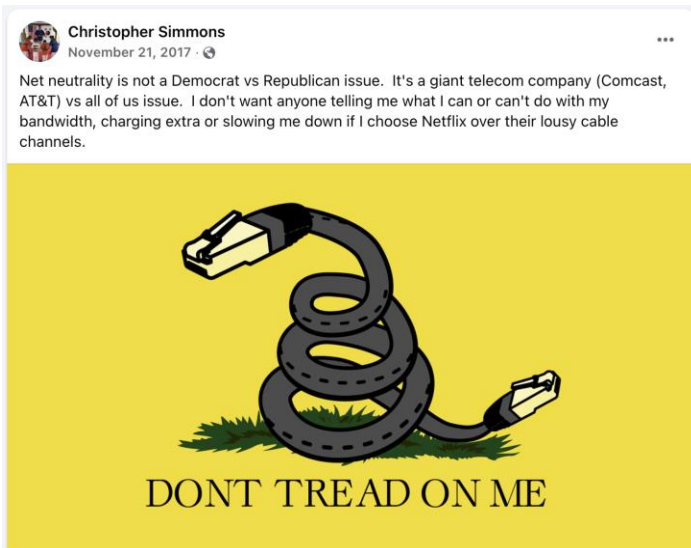
ON THE ISSUES

2025 PRIDE FLAG VOTE

Simmons voted in favor of flying the Pride flag for the month of July [[Battle Creek](#), 10/27/2025].

NET NEUTRALITY

Simmons posted in support of net neutrality in November 2017.



VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

AGAINST COVID MEASURES

Simmons attended a protest in January 2021 in Lansing, MI and shared posts in opposition to Whitmer's measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. Simmons's posts and the rally were mostly related to kids and school reopenings. The rally was put on by "[LET THEM BE](#)," a group dedicated to "advocating for and protecting parental rights in the upbringing of their children. Our mission is to give a voice to parents across the state and to empower them with information, resources, and strategies to ensure their children are raised in a society that respects their values and beliefs." Some of the posts from the organization are related to gender and trans youth, relating to culture war issues.



WELFARE FRAUD

While serving as Vice Mayor in 2011, Simmons was fired from his job with the Michigan Department of Human Services, following a state welfare-fraud probe. It does not appear as though he was criminally charged but his wife, Benita Rosa Simmons, faced fraud charges. The probe found that Simmons did not report his income as Battle Creek city commissioner and his wife did not report her earnings as an accountant during tax season. An excerpt from the state report said that, regarding Simmons' income as a commissioner, he "indicated that he simply 'assumed' his wife knew and reported this [[MLive](#), 10/28/2025]. It does not appear as though this even had significant impact as Simmons was later reelected to the City Council.

CIVIL LIBERTIES LAWSUIT

Autumn Smith filed a lawsuit against the Battle Creek City Council alleging they violated her First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendments. Smith's request to fly a Tea Party flag and an "Appeal to Heaven" flag (revolutionary war flag used with extremists today) [*Smith v. City of Battle Creek*, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 238704]. The case appears to be open but does not seem to have gained much traction. Further, Smith tagged Battle Creek City Councilors in a post lambasting city hall for denying a FOIA request. Smith's [Facebook](#) is full of extremist content, including her being a self-proclaimed patriot.

ARPA FUNDING CONTROVERSY

One of Battle Creek's prominent African American religious leaders in early 2022 called out Morris's age and what he called her "lack of experience" during a March 6 Facebook event. He, along with the host of the Facebook event, also questioned the fairness and transparency of the process used by city

commissioners to allocate about \$8 million in ARPA to fund projects submitted by organizations in the community. Commissioners—including Morris—publicly defended the process; Morris is quoted calling it “very fair and unbiased” [[Second Wave Media](#), 10/28/2025]. It does not appear the criticism from community leaders gained much traction as Morris has been elected twice resignedly since then.

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[Personal Facebook](#)

[Personal X](#)

[Campaign Facebook](#)