

CRAIG STEVENS - GREEN BAY CITY COMMON COUNCIL 5TH DISTRICT

Key findings include:

- **Incumbent alderperson & tenure:** Craig Stevens is Democratic-aligned (endorsed by the Brown County Democratic Party in 2024) and has served as Green Bay City Council alderperson for District 5 since April 2020, winning reelection in 2022 and 2024 (two-year terms; current term 2024–2026).
- **2020 election confidence vote:** During a 2021 City Council vote on a resolution expressing confidence in Green Bay’s administration of the 2020 election, Stevens abstained, citing unresolved questions and ongoing external investigations.
- **LGBTQ+-related votes:** Stevens voted against efforts to restrict Pride flag displays and initially did not support a City Council resolution opposing conversion therapy.
- **Housing and social services:** Stevens voted against zoning approval for a tiny-homes development for homeless veterans.

Brown County, Wisconsin, anchored by the city of Green Bay, has a population of about 268,740 residents according to the 2020 Census. The county is majority white 78.6%, with only 2.4% Black, 4.2% Asian, and 10.8% Hispanic, and a demographic mix of older residents, families, and working-class households [[Census](#), 9/17/2025].

Politically, Brown County sits at the center of northeastern Wisconsin’s swing-state dynamics. Green Bay leans Democratic, while the surrounding suburbs and rural townships trend Republican, making the county highly competitive but slightly Republican-leaning overall. In presidential elections, Brown County has tilted narrowly Republican in recent cycles [[U.S News](#), 10/1/2024]. According to the Brown County Clerk and the Wisconsin Elections Commission, Donald Trump carried the county in 2020 with 52.7 percent of the vote to Joe Biden’s 45.5 percent [[Brown County Clerk](#), 2/22/2024]. Four years later, in 2024, Trump again carried the county with 53.0 percent to Kamala Harris’s 45.5 percent. Turnout rose modestly from about 145,000 ballots cast in 2020 to roughly 150,000 in 2024 [[Brown County Clerk](#), 2/22/2024]. These results underscore Brown County’s role as a bellwether in Wisconsin politics, closely divided but consistently leaning Republican at the presidential level.

Beyond presidential contests, Brown County reflects broader democracy trends in Wisconsin. Local organizations such as *Project VOTE of Brown County* run turnout competitions among municipalities, with villages like Allouez and Wrightstown recording over 90 percent turnout in the November 2024 general election, and Glenmore and Allouez leading turnout in the April 2025 spring election [[Fox News 11](#), 11/14/2024]. Turnout is highly variable depending on the type of election—around 60 percent in spring contests and as low as 17 percent in the June 2025 primary [[The Aberdeen Insider](#), 6/4/2024].

The county has also been at the center of election integrity debates. In April 2025, a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit by two Brown County women challenging the security of Wisconsin’s MyVote online voter portal, ruling they lacked standing [[WBAY](#), 4/11/2025]. Additionally, the reinstatement of absentee ballot drop boxes by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 2024 drew criticism from the Brown County Republican Party, which has emphasized election integrity measures, poll worker recruitment, and ballot security [[WPR](#), 4/5/2024].

Stevens gave small-dollar contributions routed through ActBlue and to Democratic-aligned committees. [[Wisconsin Campaign Finance](#), 9/19/2025]

BACKGROUND

Craig L. Stevens, 49, is a long-time Green Bay resident and currently serves as the alderperson (city council member) for District 5. He works in real estate management. His highest education credential is an Associate's degree in Business Management [[Green Bay Press Gazette](#), 3/19/2024]. Stevens was first elected to the Green Bay Common Council in April 2018, narrowly unseating then-incumbent David Nennig by a razor-thin 3-vote margin (340–337)[[WTAQ](#), 4/4/2018]. The race went to a recount, which confirmed Stevens' victory. Since then, he has been re-elected three times (2020, 2022, and 2024) to two-year terms. Notably, he ran unopposed in 2020, and in 2022 he defeated challenger Robert Maccaux Jr. to secure a third term. In April 2024, Stevens won a fourth term with 53.3% of the vote (556 votes to Maccaux's 484), in what was essentially a rematch of 2022. His continued electoral success in this east-side district suggests a stable base of support, though turnout is typically low (just over 1,000 votes cast in 2024's District 5 race) [[Brown County](#), 4/2/2024]. Stevens' and his opponent both kept campaign spending under \$2,500 in 2024 (qualifying as "exempt" from formal finance filings)[[Green Bay Gazette](#), 3/28/2024]. He has run as a nonpartisan, but in 2024 the Brown County Democratic Party formally endorsed him [[Green Bay Gazette](#), 3/28/2024] (By contrast, local Republicans endorsed his challenger).

ON THE ISSUES

Supported Pride Efforts

2023: Stevens Opposed A Proposal That Would Restrict Pride Flags From Flying At City Hall And Would Only Limit To The American, State, City, And POW/MIA Flags Flying At City Hall.

"Last year, the Pride flag flew outside City Hall for the first time. The mayor has the power to decide which flags fly outside City Hall. Before the proposal was discussed, Genrich told the Council he wanted it gone, and that if the Council adopted the policy, he would veto it. 'This represents really a retrograde, backward-looking view of our community,' Genrich said. "And I just don't have any time or tolerance for it." Council members then opened the floor for residents to give their side of the issue. Seven people spoke, some of whom are part of the LGBTQ+ community. They were all against the proposal. 'This is fundamentally inhumane and immoral,' resident Natalie Hoffman said. 'We need our flag to fly as an indication that we are safe and valued members of this community,' resident Gloria Eastman said... 'The fact that people got up and had courage knowing that they may be picked upon in our society, gives me the courage to vote to end this,' District 2 alderman Jim Hutchison said." [[NBC 26](#), 2/14/2023]

2021 Green Bay City Council Vote on 2020 Election Confidence

2021: Republican State Lawmakers Alleged That Green Bay City Officials Improperly Allowed Outside Groups To Influence Elections. "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. 'I'm incredibly offended that legislators from both inside and outside this community are spending their time pointing fingers around a conspiracy theory that is rooted in bias, far-right wing ideology,' said Natalie Hoffman of Green Bay. Two residents spoke in favor of more investigation into a \$1.6 million grant the city received to administer the election and conditions that they say came with the

money. ‘We all want fair elections,’ said Sandy Duckett of Green Bay. ‘We don’t want outsiders to come into our elections and run them for us. That is what we have staff for.’ In response to allegations of wrong doing, Green Bay City Attorney Vanessa Chavez released a 19-page report two weeks ago, detailing how the city conducted the election. ‘This report is just another step in dispensing with all of these false allegations, insinuations and innuendos about things that never even occurred,’ said Barb Dorff, Green Bay City Council Vice President.” [\[WIXX, 5/5/2021\]](#)

- **WIXX: “City Officials Strongly Denied These Allegations.”** “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. ‘I’m incredibly offended that legislators from both inside and outside this community are spending their time pointing fingers around a conspiracy theory that is rooted in bias, far-right wing ideology,’ said Natalie Hoffman of Green Bay. Two residents spoke in favor of more investigation into a \$1.6 million grant the city received to administer the election and conditions that they say came with the money. ‘We all want fair elections,’ said Sandy Duckett of Green Bay. ‘We don’t want outsiders to come into our elections and run them for us. That is what we have staff for.’ In response to allegations of wrong doing, Green Bay City Attorney Vanessa Chavez released a 19-page report two weeks ago, detailing how the city conducted the election. ‘This report is just another step in dispensing with all of these false allegations, insinuations and innuendos about things that never even occurred,’ said Barb Dorff, Green Bay City Council Vice President.” [\[WIXX, 5/5/2021\]](#)

Green Bay City Attorney Released A 19 Page Report Detailing Election Administration, “This Report Is Just Another Step In Dispensing With All Of These False Allegations, Insinuations, And Innuendos About Things That Never Even Occured.” “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. ‘I’m incredibly offended that legislators from both inside and outside this community are spending their time pointing fingers around a conspiracy theory that is rooted in bias, far-right wing ideology,’ said Natalie Hoffman of Green Bay. Two residents spoke in favor of more investigation into a \$1.6 million grant the city received to administer the election and conditions that they say came with the money. ‘We all want fair elections,’ said Sandy Duckett of Green Bay. ‘We don’t want outsiders to come into our elections and run them for us. That is what we have staff for.’ In response to allegations of wrong doing, Green Bay City Attorney Vanessa Chavez released a 19-page report two weeks ago, detailing how the city conducted the election. ‘This report is just another step in dispensing with all of these false allegations, insinuations and innuendos about things that never even occurred,’ said Barb Dorff, Green Bay City Council Vice President.” [\[WIXX, 5/5/2021\]](#)

May 2021: Half Of The Green Bay City Council Supported A Resolution Expressing Confidence In Green Bay’s 2020 Elections. “About half of the Green Bay City Council voted in favor of a

resolution expressing confidence in the way the city handled the 2020 elections. Five alders abstained from the vote including: Jesses Brunette, Chris Wery, Brian Johnson, John Vanderleast, and Craig Stevens. How the city conducted the elections has been a point of controversy since Wisconsin Spotlight, a conservative backed website, released a report in March alleging misconduct over how the city ran the election.” [[WBAY](#), 5/5/2021]

- **May 2021: Stevens Abstained From Voting In Support Of The Resolution.** “About half of the Green Bay City Council voted in favor of a resolution expressing confidence in the way the city handled the 2020 elections. Five alders abstained from the vote including: Jesses Brunette, Chris Wery, Brian Johnson, John Vanderleast, and Craig Stevens. How the city conducted the elections has been a point of controversy since Wisconsin Spotlight, a conservative backed website, released a report in March alleging misconduct over how the city ran the election.” [[WBAY](#), 5/5/2021]

In Response To Election Transparency In Green Bay, Stevens Called For Hiring A Communications Officer To Handle Election Day Inquiries.

When discussing reforms, Stevens has implied that Green Bay’s elections were fundamentally sound but that transparency and communication needed improvement. He called for hiring a communications officer to handle Election Day inquiries, saying “*We need a communications director who will deal with day-of election media [inquiries]... We can’t rely on [ad hoc solutions],*” highlighting lessons learned from 2020. [[Green Bay Gazette Press](#), 2/23/2022]

Opposed Affordable Initiative For Homeless Veterans

Fox 11 News: “Green Bay’s City Council Approved The Zoning For A Tiny Home Village To Be Built For Homeless Veterans.” “Green Bay’s city council approved the zoning for a tiny home village to be built for homeless veterans on the city’s far east side on an 8 to 4 vote. It will be built on 3.46 acres of county-donated land on St. Anthony Drive, near the VA clinic on University Avenue. Veterans 1st of Northeast Wisconsin is the nonprofit behind the effort. Twenty-one tiny homes will be built in phases. Seventeen of the homes will be 400 square feet and the other four will be 600 square feet.” [[Fox 11 News](#), 6/12/2024]

- **The Project Proposed Building 21 Small Homes On Donated Land To Serve Homeless Vets.** “Green Bay’s city council approved the zoning for a tiny home village to be built for homeless veterans on the city’s far east side on an 8 to 4 vote. It will be built on 3.46 acres of county-donated land on St. Anthony Drive, near the VA clinic on University Avenue. Veterans 1st of Northeast Wisconsin is the nonprofit behind the effort. Twenty-one tiny homes will be built in phases. Seventeen of the homes will be 400 square feet and the other four will be 600 square feet.” [[Fox 11 News](#), 6/12/2024]
- **Stevens Voted Against A Zoning Approval For A “Tiny Home” Village For Homeless Veterans.** “Green Bay’s city council approved the zoning for a tiny home village to be built for homeless veterans on the city’s far east side on an 8 to 4 vote. It will be built on 3.46 acres of county-donated land on St. Anthony Drive, near the VA clinic on University Avenue. Veterans 1st of Northeast Wisconsin is the nonprofit behind the effort. Twenty-one tiny homes will be built in phases. Seventeen of the homes will be 400 square feet and the other four will be 600 square feet [...] Alders Jen Grant, Bill Morgan, Craig Stevens, and Melinda Eck voted against the zoning request.” [[Fox 11 News](#), 6/12/2024]

Fiscal Stance and Cannabis Regulation

2023: Stevens Voted In Favor Of Mayor Genrich’s Proposed Budget After Amendments And Spending Reductions. “The city of Green Bay has a budget for 2023 after Mayor Eric Genrich broke a 6-6 tie Tuesday night. ‘I think it's pretty darn important to fund all of our critical services in the city,’ Genrich said following the vote. ‘It's a core responsibility that I have, and it's a core responsibility of our council as well. So, I vote in favor.’” Council Vice President Brian Johnson, Jim Hutchison, Bill Galvin, Craig Stevens, Randy Scannell and Mark Steuer voted in favor of the budget [...] Genrich's original budget proposal was more than \$124 million in total expenditures. Wery said in a Facebook post that the final budget includes more than \$1.8 million in cuts.” [[NBC 26](#), 11/17/2022]

- **Genrich’s Original Budget Proposal Was More Than \$124 Million And The Final Budget Included \$1.8 Million Cut.** “The city of Green Bay has a budget for 2023 after Mayor Eric Genrich broke a 6-6 tie Tuesday night. ‘I think it's pretty darn important to fund all of our critical services in the city,’ Genrich said following the vote. ‘It's a core responsibility that I have, and it's a core responsibility of our council as well. So, I vote in favor.’” Council Vice President Brian Johnson, Jim Hutchison, Bill Galvin, Craig Stevens, Randy Scannell and Mark Steuer voted in favor of the budget [...] Genrich's original budget proposal was more than \$124 million in total expenditures. Wery said in a Facebook post that the final budget includes more than \$1.8 million in cuts.” [[NBC 26](#), 11/17/2022]

2022: Green Bay Alderman Randy Scannell Introduced A Measure To Ask Voters Whether Wisconsin Should Legalize And Regulate Cannabis. “A Green Bay alderman wants a referendum on marijuana legalization, although the power to make such a change rests with the state Legislature, not the city. Ald. Randy Scannell is proposing a referendum for the Nov. 8 ballot reading “Should marijuana be legalized for adult-use, taxed and regulated like alcohol?,” according to an agenda published Friday. As support for the notion, Scannell describes what has happened in Michigan: “We've seen that our neighbors are benefiting by legalizing cannabis. Michigan legalized adult recreational marijuana in 2018 and now, what was previously illegal, is monitored and regulated. Not only is this giving adults more freedom to make their own personal choices, but it's ensuring safer and more predictable options while generating significant economic activity and public revenue. In March, Michigan sent more than \$42.2 million to 163 municipalities and counties as a part of the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act,” Scannell wrote.” [[Fox 11 News](#), 6/17/2022]

June 2022: Stevens Voted Against The Marijuana Referendum. “Though District 5 Alderperson Craig Stevens said he isn’t against the referendum, he couldn’t support the cost. “I understand the marijuana situation, but when it comes down to \$15,000, unfortunately, I’m going to have to say no to this,” he said. “We can spend \$15,000 to fill potholes in the city that need to get done.” A motion to approve the request from Scannell failed without a second.” [[Press Times](#), 6/24/2022]

June 2022: Steven Stevens Said, “I Understand The Marijuana Situation, But When It Comes Down To \$15,000 Unfortunately I’m Going To Have To Say No.” “Though District 5 Alderperson Craig Stevens said he isn’t against the referendum, he couldn’t support the cost. “I understand the marijuana situation, but when it comes down to \$15,000, unfortunately, I’m going to have to say no to this,” he said. “We can spend \$15,000 to fill potholes in the city that need to get done.” A motion to approve the request from Scannell failed without a second.” [[Press Times](#), 6/24/2022]

Stevens Said “I Am Not In Favor Of Wholesale Cuts In City Services Just To Reduce Taxes.” “I am not in favor of wholesale cuts in city services just to reduce taxes,” he has said, advocating instead

for economic development to broaden the tax base and lobbying the state for better local government aid.” [[Green Bay Gazette Press](#), 3/19/2024].

Short Term Rental Regulation

Context: During the lead up to the 2025 NFL Draft build (hosted in Green Bay), local reporting and data firms described a sharp event-driven surge in the short term rental (STR) market. FOX6, citing AirDNA, reported that by April 10, 2025, the Green Bay market had 1,030 nights booked for Draft weekend (Thu–Sat) versus 409 nights booked by the same point for the comparable 2024 weekend, along with major price increases [[Fox 6](#)].

Green Bay already had an enforcement-and-permitting framework in place heading into the 2025 NFL Draft (April 24–26, 2025): the city requires a Short-Term Rental Permit for renting a residence for fewer than 28 consecutive days (with “homeshare” carved out), plus an annual Brown County health inspection, and the city notes there is no minimum number of rental days in its current rules [[Green Bay](#)].

In the run-up to the Draft, the city mailed warning letters to people advertising Draft-week rentals without proper permits; a city compliance inspector told WBAY in late February 2025 that hosts needed two permits (city permit + county inspection), that there were roughly ~450 properly registered STR properties at the time, and that advertising without a permit could trigger daily fines [[WBAY](#)].

Proposed City Regulations Sent Back to Committee: By fall 2025, Green Bay officials were debating whether to tighten STR rules more broadly. FOX11 reported the number of STRs in the city had increased from about 120 (2022) to over 430 (2025) [[Fox 11](#)]. In that same period, proposed changes (originating through the city’s Equal Rights Commission process and moving toward the Plan Commission / Council pipeline) included items such as a minimum-stay requirement, a cap on days rented, a “three-strikes” enforcement approach for repeated violations, and higher permit fees (as described in local coverage) [[Fox 11](#)]. At a Nov. 17, 2025 public meeting on proposed rules, WBAY reported debate over a 180-day cap (structured July 1–June 30) and a three-strikes concept, and also reported that the body struck the 180-day cap late that night [[WBAY](#)].

The issue has become somewhat controversial in Green Bay, leading to the founding of the Green Bay Short Term Rental Alliance [[Citizen Portal](#)]. Proponents of the regulations have argued the new rules are needed to preserve affordable housing, as properties are taken off the market for investment opportunities [[WBAY](#)]. Dissenting opinions to the regulations have argued city government should not be involved in market-based issues like that. Others advocated for a compromise approach: implementing reasonable fees or taxes on short-term rental properties to fund affordable housing initiatives, and enforcing nuisance ordinances to handle any bad actors [[Citizen Portal](#)].

At the December 2, 2025 Common Council meeting, FOX 11 reports the Council ultimately sent the issue back to staff to develop policy/ordinance recommendations with input from alders, STR operators, the Equal Rights Commission, and community members [[Fox 11](#)]. FOX 11 also notes that by that point the proposal had changed—excluding the minimum/maximum stay limits and fee increases—before the Council voted.

City Council Requested Legislature Action on STRs: In the same December 2025 Green Bay City Council meeting, alders voted unanimously to request action by the Wisconsin State Legislature on the issue of short term rentals [[Green Bay](#)].

Stevens Opposed Proposed Regulations: Stevens was one of the 10 council members who voted to send the proposal back to the Equal Rights Commission in December 2025, indicating he is against the proposed regulations [[Green Bay Press Gazette](#)]. He has not taken a clearer stance on the short term rental issue.

VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

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Opposition to the anti-conversion-therapy resolution

Stevens Voted Against An Anti-Conversion Therapy Resolution. “Green Bay has put any legal ban on conversion therapy on hold because of ongoing litigation between the city of La Crosse and the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty over that city's law banning conversion therapy. ‘That litigation may continue for decades,’ District 7 alder Alyssa Proffitt said. That's why she along with alderpeople Joey Prestley and Ben Delie are asking the city to make a resolution, which is basically just a policy statement, opposing the practice in the city. A resolution is not a law, so it would not be enforceable. At the protection and policy committee meeting Monday, alders Bill Morgan and Craig Stevens voted against recommending the resolution, while alders Alyssa Proffitt and Jim Hutchinson were for it.” [[NBC26](#), 6/25/2025]

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

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