

DAN CARPENTER -DE PERE CITY COMMON COUNCIL-ALDERMAN DISTRICT 4

Key findings include:

- **Current role & tenure / latest result:** Incumbent Alderperson, District 4 since April 2016; listed by the city with a current term through 2026. Re-elected April 2, 2024 (unopposed): 844 votes (99.53%) to 4 write-ins.
- **Potential vulnerabilities (on-record votes):** Abstained on De Pere’s 2025 advisory resolution urging an amendment to overturn *Citizens United* (“money in politics” item). Voted against the city’s 2020 face-mask ordinance. (passed 5–3). Sole “no” on 2019 city-run beer-garden nights at Voyageur Park.
- **Low public/campaign online footprint:** No dedicated campaign website or active personal FB/X found; public presence is primarily the city staff page and occasional mentions on the City of De Pere Facebook.

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]

De Pere (Brown County) is a city of 25,410 (2020) in the Green Bay metro. The city has 8 alderpersons (two from each of four districts) and a nonpartisan mayor/council structure with staggered terms, positioning local races as officially nonpartisan even as county/state dynamics remain competitive.

Major local issues include downtown revitalization (façade grants, small-business recruitment) and the South Bridge Connector now under construction; the Mulva Cultural Center opened downtown in Dec. 2023 and is a high-visibility cultural/economic anchor.

BACKGROUND

Carpenter has served as Alderperson, District 4 since April 2016; his current term runs through 2026. He serves on the Common Council, License Committee, and Board of Public Works. Carpenter was re-elected on April 2, 2024, apparently unopposed, with 844 votes (99.53%). [[Brown County](#), 4/2/2024]

His voting record (below) shows some positions that often align with more conservative viewpoints (e.g., opposing the 2020 mask mandate; abstaining on an anti-big money resolution).

Democratic campaign contributions attributed to a Dan Carpenter from Wisconsin were actually made by Dan Carpenter, a Fitchburg city council member, not Carpenter from De Pere [[Wisconsin Campaign Finance](#), 9/25/2025]. Trump won this district 54-46 in 2024.

ON THE ISSUES

Nothing found for first round vet

VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

Alcohol/beer gardens (2019)

2019: Carpenter Casted The Sole “No” Vote On Allowing City-Run Beer Garden Nights. “Beer gardens could be coming to De Pere this summer. The city's common council voted to approve a parks department- run ‘beer garden night.’ The motion passed with just one opposing. Events would take place at Voyageur Park up to three times this year. City leaders say they want to test out the event to see if it can run responsibly. But one alderman isn't convinced, citing the state's reputation with alcohol. ‘Yes it's Wisconsin if you want to put it that way that beer has to be involved with everything in order to raise money,’ said a reluctant Alderperson Daniel Carpenter. ‘I'm voting no only for the reason I don't think the city of De Pere should be running this.’ All proceeds of the beer garden would go to funding for Park projects.” [[Press Times](#), 3/21/2019]

COVID masking (2020)

2020: Carpenter Voted Against De Pere’s Face-Covering Ordinance. “The De Pere City Council votes in favor of a face mask mandate in public spaces throughout the city, which was proposed by De Pere Mayor James Boyd. Mayor Boyd proposed the ordinance which lead to a special city council meeting to help encourage mask wearing as a way to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The ordinance passed on a 5-3 vote, with alders Dean Raasch, Kelly Rue, and Daniel Carpenter against. The ordinance looks similar to the one passed in the City of Green Bay, which took effect on Monday.” [[WBAY](#), 7/29/2020]

“Money in politics” resolution (2025)

2025: Carpenter Abstained From The Vote On A Resolution Calling For A Constitutional Amendment To Overturn The Supreme Court’s Citizen United Decision. “In a 7-0 vote, the De Pere Common Council became the 179th unit of government in the state of Wisconsin to support a

constitutional amendment overturning Citizens United. That's the 2010 Supreme Court ruling that undid campaign finance laws and gave the wealthy and corporations carte blanche to give unlimited money to politicians as long as it goes through a third-party organization like a political action committee (PAC). It says corporations are people and money is speech whose First Amendment rights can't be limited. De Pere's Resolution No. 25-26 states that De Pere stands with communities around the country in proclaiming that human beings — 'not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities' — are people and endowed with constitutional rights. It also says money is not speech, and 'therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech.' 'Includ(ing) corporations in the term 'persons' has long denied We the People's exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with constitutional protections intended by the framers for only We the People,' the resolution says. It's part of an effort that's been going on for over a decade to get an amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed that would undo the Supreme Court's ruling. The first communities in the state to pass the resolution were Madison in 2011 and West Allis in 2012. Since then, 178 other municipalities in the state and 840 in the country have done likewise, with 22 states calling for a constitutional amendment. Some used ballot referendums while others like De Pere took a board vote. The City of Green Bay signed on in 2014 via referendum with 77% approval. Also putting the measure to referendum in 2014 were Appleton (74% approval), Neenah (79% approval), Menasha (80% approval), Ripon (79% approval) and Wausau (77% approval). 'There is overwhelming non-partisan support for this resolution,' De Pere resident Janet Vraney said. 'Prior to the shared revenue bill that was passed in 2023, most of the communities voted on the resolution with a ballot referendum.' The average yes votes of all of the communities in Wisconsin where citizens voted via ballot referendum was 81% approval, she said. Alderperson Dan Carpenter asked what took De Pere so long and why now, given the effort began 15 years ago. He asked if it was political. Mayor James Boyd said he reached out to several mayors in the state and didn't get the impression it was based in partisan politics. 'I understand how it could be perceived as such,' he said. He said during his time as mayor, this was the first time the measure had been put before the Common Council. It takes a two-thirds vote in both houses of Congress to amend the constitution, or two-thirds of state legislatures, after which the states can ask Congress to convene a convention. Two alders, Carpenter and Devin Perock, abstained from voting." [[Press Times](#), 2/21/2025]

- **This Resolution Would Advocate For Stricter Campaign Finance Laws, Allowing Congress To Limit The Amount Of Money Corporations, Unions, And Other Organizations Could Spend To Influence Elections.** "In a 7-0 vote, the De Pere Common Council became the 179th unit of government in the state of Wisconsin to support a constitutional amendment overturning Citizens United. That's the 2010 Supreme Court ruling that undid campaign finance laws and gave the wealthy and corporations carte blanche to give unlimited money to politicians as long as it goes through a third-party organization like a political action committee (PAC). It says corporations are people and money is speech whose First Amendment rights can't be limited. De Pere's Resolution No. 25-26 states that De Pere stands with communities around the country in proclaiming that human beings — 'not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities' — are people and endowed with constitutional rights. It also says money is not speech, and 'therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech.' 'Includ(ing) corporations in the term 'persons' has long denied We the People's exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with constitutional protections intended by the framers for only We the People,' the resolution says. It's part of an effort that's been going on for over a decade to get an amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed that would undo the Supreme Court's ruling. The first communities in the state to pass the resolution were Madison in 2011 and West Allis in 2012. Since then, 178 other municipalities in the state and 840 in the country have done likewise, with 22 states calling for a constitutional amendment. Some used ballot

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SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS