

DEAN LEMKE - WAUKESHA CITY COUNCIL 13TH DISTRICT (R)

Key findings include:

- **Alder Since At Least 2020:** Lemke was elected as far back as 2020, but potentially earlier. He also ran unsuccessfully for the seat in 2014.
- **Republican-Aligned:** While not very politically active online, he is a Republican, having donated to Win Red on Election Day in 2020 and sharing he volunteered for Republican candidates in 2010. He also voted against a new fee for solid waste removal, signalling fiscal conservatism and further potential alignment with Republicans.

Waukesha is the county seat of Waukesha County in the Milwaukee metro. The city's 2024–2025 population is ~70–71k, with median household income around \$82k (ACS 2023). Demographically, the city is ~78–79% White, ~12–14% Hispanic/Latino, ~3–4% Black, ~3–4% Asian.

Waukesha County is a Republican stronghold, with Trump winning 59-40 in 2024 and Schimel winning 58-42 in 2025 State Supreme Court race. For that reason, there is a high level of election denier events and organizing in the county. Some examples of the election denier activity and far right organizing happening in the county:

1. **Election Denier Organizing & Rulings:** High-profile election-denier figures and national groups actively use Waukesha venues. In March 2025, Wisconsin Supreme Court candidate (and Waukesha County judge) Brad Schimel told canvassers in Waukesha he'd be a "support network" for Trump and rehashed 2020 conspiracy complaints at a Turning Point USA canvasser meeting [[Wisconsin Examiner](#), 11/5/2025]. In Oct. 2025, Michael Flynn headlined a Republican Women of Waukesha County [event](#) in Oconomowoc. Local judges have also [ruled in favor of election deniers](#) in the past.
2. **Culture Wars & School Board Fights:** Waukesha hosts an active [Moms for Liberty chapter](#); local culture-war fights (e.g., the 2023 "Rainbowland" song controversy and firing of teacher Melissa Tempel) mobilized the same networks that overlap with far-right organizing. (Tempel's case is still generating coverage and [court filings](#) in 2025.)
3. **White-Supremacist Opportunism:** After the 2021 Christmas parade tragedy, outside white-supremacist groups (Patriot Front/National Justice Party) [targeted](#) Waukesha with rallies and propaganda—evidence the area is on the radar for the extreme right even beyond elections.

Trump won this district 53-47 in 2024 and won the city 53-47. However, While election results were not posted online for the 2023 Waukesha City Council elections, it appears as though Lemke ran unopposed in 2023 as his election is not listed under the election results posted on the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#).

BACKGROUND

Lemke is listed as the Vice President of Sales Development for Vector Marketing. He received his Bachelors degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1992. While not entirely clear, it appears as though Lemke was elected in April 2020, if not earlier, as he is mentioned in an [article](#) relating to a 2021 vote on COVID restrictions.

ON THE ISSUES

RECEIVED COVID VACCINE

Lemke changed his [profile picture](#) on Facebook in September 2021 to show that he got his COVID vaccine. Comments were supportive.

VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

REPUBLICAN ACTIVIST & DONOR

Lemke contributed \$20 to Win Red in on November 3, 2020 [[FEC](#), 11/4/2025]. Lemke also posted in 2010 about volunteering to get out the vote with the county Republican party in 2010 on [Facebook](#).

NO VOTE ON SOLID WASTE FEE

Lemke was one of five no-votes on a measure that passed, requiring citizens to pay a \$160 annual fee for solid waste removal services. The move was blasted by the County GOP for imposing additional fees and taxes on Waukesha citizens [The Freeman, October 25, 2025]. Lemke's siding with the no-votes and the County GOP's reaction could indicate not only fiscal conservatism but also further alignment with Republicans.

COVID RESTRICTIONS ROLLBACK

Lemke was among alderpersons who backed rolling back local COVID restrictions in May 2020—a contentious step at the time (consistent with county-level skepticism toward extended mandates)

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

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