

DENNIS PFIEIFFER-FLINT CITY COUNCIL WARD 8 (NP)

Key findings include:

- **Current Role & Tenure:** Elected in 2021; began serving 2022. Term runs through 2026 under Flint’s four-year charter cycle. Represents the city’s largest ward, covering Flint’s southwest industrial area near Bishop Airport.
- **Professional Background:** Lifelong Flint resident; works as a project development director in manufacturing. First-time officeholder prior to council service.
- **Political Alignment:** Nonpartisan seat but has contributed to Winred, MAGA, and Actblue. Critical of Mayor Sheldon Neeley and identifies as a populist watchdog.
- **Leadership & Governance Style:** Highly vocal and combative council presence—frames himself as a “check and balance” against City Hall.
- **Public Conduct:** Repeatedly censured and targeted for recall over meeting behavior and online posts. Documented incidents include profanity during sessions, insults toward colleagues, and a 2023 racial slur (“monkey in the room”) directed at a Black councilmember.
- **Recall & Censure Activity:** Multiple recall petitions (2023-24) citing “conduct unbecoming,” “unprofessional behavior,” and “homophobic content.” The Council formally censured him (Mar. 25 2024, 5-2 vote). No recall election has yet occurred.
- **Social-Media Controversies:** Accused of anti-LGBTQ/transgender comments online and inflammatory posts toward local officials; content deleted after community backlash.

Flint is the largest city and county seat of Genesee County (66 miles NW of Detroit). Population is 79.7k and the city is majority Black/African American, with relatively high poverty and low median household income compared with state benchmarks; 56% Black, 34% White (non-Hispanic), with small Latino and other communities (ACS) [[Census Reporter](#), accessed, 10/28/2025].

Using the Genesee County official canvasses, Flint voted overwhelmingly Democratic in both cycles 80% Democratic in 2020 (citywide result implied by summing all “City of Flint” precincts in the county’s 11/17/2020 canvass) and 77% Democratic in 2024 (from the 11/19/2024 canvass listing “City of Flint, Precinct 1–29”). In short: Flint remained a deep-blue anchor across both elections [[Genesee County](#), 11/17/2020][[Genesee County](#), 11/19/2024].

BACKGROUND

Dennis Pfeiffer is a lifelong Flint resident. Professionally, he works as a project development director for a manufacturing company Pfeiffer had not held public office prior to his council tenure. He ran for the 8th Ward City Council seat in 2021 as a first-time candidate and unseated the incumbent Allan Griggs, winning about 54% of the vote in the November 2021 general election. He began his first term in 2022. (Under Flint’s new city charter, that term will run through 2026, when the next council elections take place.)

Politically, Flint’s council races are nonpartisan. He has been critical of Mayor Sheldon Neeley (a Democrat) and other colleagues he views as too aligned with the mayor. For example, during one meeting Pfeiffer derided a colleague as a “fake...Republican” and the “biggest piece of [expletive]”, suggesting he does not identify with Republican politics [[WNEM](#), 11/7/2024]. (All Flint council

members are nominally nonpartisan, but the city leans heavily Democratic.) Pfeiffer has not made headlines for any statements about the 2020 presidential election or election denial – his focus has remained on local Flint issues. He describes himself as a watchdog on behalf of his ward, running initially out of “disappointment with [its] current representation” and a desire to fight for more resources for the 8th Ward. Pfeiffer emphasizes holding the city administration accountable as a top duty: “as a co-equal branch of government, we have to be the checks and balances,” he said, criticizing city departments (like the blight department) for lack of results [[Flint Beat](#), 7/19/2021][[East Village Magazine](#), 11/3/2021].

Pfeiffer has contributed to Winred, MAGA, and Actblue [[Fec](#), accessed, 10/28/2025].

ON THE ISSUES

NO FINDINGS OF NOTE FOR FIRST ROUND VET

VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

Recall Efforts

July 2023: A Flint Resident Filed Recall Petition Against Pfeiffer For Skipping A Special Meeting On American Rescue Plan Funds. “Meanwhile, recall language was recently submitted against 8th Ward City Councilman Dennis Pfeiffer, on July 6. A Flint resident submitted the recall language against Pfeiffer, citing Pfeiffer was among the council members who did not attend a special meeting on May 20. The meeting’s purpose was to address Flint’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.” [[The Flint Courier News](#), 7/10/2023]

April 2024: A Recalled Petition Was Filed Against Pfeiffer And Censured For “Unprofessional Behavior In Council, Bullying, Posting Inappropriate And Homophobic Content Online.” “The Genesee County Election Commission approved a recall language filed against 8th Ward Flint City Councilman Dennis Pfeiffer on Thursday, April 18, 2024. Genesee County Clerk/Register Domonique Clemons told Flint Beat that the petition circulator must collect 883 required signatures to start the recall process after the language is approved. Help us empower, impact, and inform our community. Support us today and help us go further, faster. The recall language seeks to recall Pfeiffer because he was censured on March 25, 2024, for conduct unbecoming of a council member. Another recall petition, which sought to remove Pfeiffer for “unprofessional behavior in council, bullying, posting inappropriate and homophobic content online, impeding City Council business, and failing to represent 8th Ward residents in a professional and effective manner,” was withdrawn.” [[Flint Beat](#), 4/18/2024]

Conduct and Incivility

September 2023: During A Heated Meeting Pfeiffer Referred To Councilwoman Ladel Lewis As The “Monkey In The Room.” “A meeting was held today after a councilman called a councilwoman an alleged racially insensitive remark at Monday’s Flint City Council meeting. On Monday, September 18 during the Flint City Council meeting, 8th Ward Councilman Dennis Pfeiffer made remarks directed at Councilwoman Ladel Lewis. At the meeting, Pfeiffer made statements aimed at removing Lewis from her role as the Chair of the meeting, and referred to the councilwoman as the ‘monkey in the room.’” [[Mid Michigan Now](#), 9/23/2023]

- **Pastor Chris Martin Said Pfeiffer’s Comment Was “Racially Insensitive” And Demanded That He Apologized.** “On Monday, September 18 during the Flint City Council meeting, 8th

Ward Councilman Dennis Pfeiffer made remarks directed at Councilwoman Ladel Lewis. At the meeting, Pfeiffer made statements aimed at removing Lewis from her role as the Chair of the meeting, and referred to the councilwoman as the ‘monkey in the room’. ‘Calling a black woman a ‘monkey’ in 2023 is unacceptable,’ Pastor Chris Martin said in an emailed statement. ‘Such racially insensitive language is utterly unacceptable in our community.’ In response, a meeting was held at the Haskell Community Center on Thursday morning to ‘rebuke the 8th ward councilman and demand an apology to councilperson Lewis’. According to Pastor Martin, the American Civil Liberties Union is being contacted to investigate the matter.” [[Mid Michigan Now](#), 9/23/2023]

- **Pastor Chris Martin Said That American Civil Liberties Union Was Contacted To Investigate The Issue.** “On Monday, September 18 during the Flint City Council meeting, 8th Ward Councilman Dennis Pfeiffer made remarks directed at Councilwoman Ladel Lewis. At the meeting, Pfeiffer made statements aimed at removing Lewis from her role as the Chair of the meeting, and referred to the councilwoman as the ‘monkey in the room’. ‘Calling a black woman a ‘monkey’ in 2023 is unacceptable,’ Pastor Chris Martin said in an emailed statement. ‘Such racially insensitive language is utterly unacceptable in our community.’ In response, a meeting was held at the Haskell Community Center on Thursday morning to ‘rebuke the 8th ward councilman and demand an apology to councilperson Lewis’. According to Pastor Martin, the American Civil Liberties Union is being contacted to investigate the matter.” [[Mid Michigan Now](#), 9/23/2023]

Pfeiffer Called A Council Member A “Fake [Expletive] Republican” And “Biggest Piece Of [Expletive].” “Recall petition language against Flint’s 8th Ward councilman was denied Thursday morning. However, following the meeting adjournment new recall language was submitted. The Genesee County Election Commission held a meeting at the Circuit Court in downtown Flint Thursday morning, Nov. 7 where they denied recall petition language against Dennis Pfeiffer. The commission said it denied the petition due to a lack of clarity. Related: Recall petition language submitted for 8th Ward Flint City Councilman Recall petition language was submitted alleging Pfeiffer stated another council member was a “fake [expletive] Republican” and “biggest piece of [expletive]” and told other colleagues to “shut up.” Genesee County Clerk Dominique Clemons said following the meeting’s adjournment, new recall petition language was filed against Pfeiffer by Lisa Pasbjerg, a Flint resident. “It was denied just because of some language clarity issues. So, I am going to go refile right away and take their suggestions for making the language more clear,” she said. Pasbjerg’s new petition language states, “On 3/25/24, Mr. Pfeiffer was censured for conduct unbecoming a city councilmember, resolution number 240112.” [[WNEM](#), 11/7/2024]

June 2025: Pfeiffer Said “I Gotta Thank Sheldon Neeley He Brought All Of Us Together To F* Hate Him” Referring To The Mayor.** “Chaos erupted during Monday night’s meeting of the Flint City Council, where a councilmember called for police to intervene. A large number of residents came to attend what was supposed to be a special meeting to approve the city budget on June 2, but it became explosive because of a reported police incident that happened on Sunday. At least a dozen squad cars responded to the situation inside city hall. What was already a tense environment escalated after Councilwoman Judy Priestley and Councilwoman Candace Mushatt asked people to sit down. The vast majority of the large crowd were expressing their disapproval of the police department and Mayor Sheldon Neeley. Councilmembers Dennis Pfeiffer and Jerri Winfrey-Carter agreed. ‘I got to thank Sheldon Neeley. He is a unifier. He brought all of us together to f----- hate him,’ Pfeiffer said. “And Terrence Green, you scumbag piece of crap.’ Residents sounded off over a viral video that allegedly shows Flint Police pulling an elderly man out of his car and to the ground during a protest over the weekend.” [[WNEM](#), 6/3/2025]

June 2025: Pfeiffer Called Police Chief Terence Green A “Scumbag Piece Of Crap.” Chaos erupted during Monday night’s meeting of the Flint City Council, where a councilmember called for police to intervene. A large number of residents came to attend what was supposed to be a special meeting to approve the city budget on June 2, but it became explosive because of a reported police incident that happened on Sunday. At least a dozen squad cars responded to the situation inside city hall. What was already a tense environment escalated after Councilwoman Judy Priestley and Councilwoman Candace Mushatt asked people to sit down. The vast majority of the large crowd were expressing their disapproval of the police department and Mayor Sheldon Neeley. Councilmembers Dennis Pfeiffer and Jerri Winfrey-Carter agreed. ‘I got to thank Sheldon Neeley. He is a unifier. He brought all of us together to f----- hate him,’ Pfeiffer said. “And Terrence Green, you scumbag piece of crap.’ Residents sounded off over a viral video that allegedly shows Flint Police pulling an elderly man out of his car and to the ground during a protest over the weekend.” [[WNEM](#), 6/3/2025]

This incendiary rant contributed to chaos in the chamber – police had to intervene to restore order – and underscored the ongoing dysfunction in Flint’s council meetings. Critics cite these episodes as evidence of Pfeiffer’s **lack of professionalism** and temperament issues in office.

Anti-LGBTQ and Online Posts

March 2024: A Recall Petition Was Filed Against Pfeiffer For “Homophobic Content Online.” “The recall language seeks to recall Pfeiffer because he was censured on March 25, 2024, for conduct unbecoming of a council member. Another recall petition, which sought to remove Pfeiffer for ‘unprofessional behavior in council, bullying, posting inappropriate and homophobic content online, impeding City Council business, and failing to represent 8th Ward residents in a professional and effective manner,’ was withdrawn.” [[Flint Beat](#), 4/18/2024]

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