

## **KENOSHA, WISCONSIN ALDERMAN DOMINIC RUFFALO**

Dominic Ruffalo is the incumbent alderman for the 16<sup>th</sup> District of the City of Kenosha. Ruffalo was first elected in 2018 when he defeated Jesse Downing with 53% of the vote. Ruffalo ran unopposed in 2020 and 2022, winning in 2024 with 68% of the vote. An interview with the Kenosha History Center detailed Ruffalo's 41-year employment as a member of the United Steelworkers union.

### *Key findings:*

**Ruffalo has called early voting “a great way to vote.”** No adverse statements on election policy were found for Dominic Ruffalo. Ruffalo posted in 2020 that early voting was a “great way to vote.” No statements on ballot boxes, accessibility, voter ID's, or the 2020 election were found. In 2022, Ruffalo voted to expand the number of polling locations in the city, which had decreased in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Ruffalo has expressed online support for Donald Trump and opposed mask mandates during the COVID pandemic.** Ruffalo, who is 74-years-old, did not have a major internet presence. He maintained a Facebook page which contained mostly posts about friends and family. On his Facebook page Ruffalo posted a photo of North Korea's Kim Jong Un wearing a “Make America Great Again” hat. Ruffalo is listed in the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access results as filing for divorce in November 1994. Ruffalo is also listed as a respondent in a child support case dated August 28, 2025. State Of Wisconsin Child Support Agency – Racine is listed as the petitioner with Ruffalo and Jerry Freeman listed as respondents.

## **BACKGROUND**

**Ruffalo was 74 years old.** [Kenosha News, 3/30/24]

**Ruffalo was married with children.** [Kenosha News: Web Edition Articles (Wisconsin), 10/1/24]

- **Ruffalo’s wife died in 2024.** “Karla Ruffalo, age 70, walked through Heaven’s door to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on September 22, 2024, surrounded by her loved ones. She was born September 2, 1954 in Racine, WI to the late Herluf and Arlene (Bakken) Nielsen. She graduated from William Horlick High School in 1972. She married the love of her life, Dominic Ruffalo, on September 20, 1997 in Kenosha.” [Kenosha News: Web Edition Articles (Wisconsin), 10/1/24]

**April 2024: Ruffalo named chair of Board of Water Commissioners.** [Kenosha News: Web Edition Articles (Wisconsin), 4/17/24]

## **PROFESSIONAL CAREER**

**Ruffalo worked at WE Energies for 41 years.** [Kenosha News, 3/30/24]

- **Ruffalo began working for gas company in 1972 as a 21-year-old.** [YouTube, "Kenosha Voices," Dominic Ruffalo/WE Energies, [2/4/22](#)]
- **Ruffalo was a union steward.** In interview about his work with WE Energies Ruffalo said, “You know you meet locally then when you meet with a regional manager and then then the CEO it would be the uh the third step of your of your grievance but yeah there was a lot of a lot of grievances and you look back at them and because I was a steward you know because I got involved in everybody’s grievances.” [YouTube, "Kenosha Voices," Dominic Ruffalo/WE Energies, [2/4/22](#)]
- **Ruffalo was a member of the United Steelworkers union for the entirety of his time at WE Energies.** “But I was still on union so the whole the whole 41 years I was uh I was a union uh united steel workers.” [YouTube, "Kenosha Voices," Dominic Ruffalo/WE Energies, [2/4/22](#)]

**Ruffalo was interviewed by the Kenosha History Center as part of the “Kenosha Voices” series highlighting “stories from Kenoshans who have lived and worked in the community.”** [YouTube, "Kenosha Voices," Dominic Ruffalo/WE Energies, [2/4/22](#)]

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**Ruffalo ran in 2018 on “new ideas new vision.”** [Facebook, [1/27/18](#)]

**Ruffalo said he was “not a 1%-er.”** “New ideas New Vision vote for me for aldermen in the 16th I am not a 1% ER or own any other property other than my house in the city of Kenosha I will work for you and not myself I will help bring Kenosha into the Future.” [Facebook, [3/28/18](#)]

**Ruffalo said as alderman he had “alot of common sense.”** In a Facebook post Ruffalo wrote, “I’m your Alderman vote for me again I have alot [sic] of common sense.” [Facebook, [3/10/24](#)]

**Ruffalo posted “Trump 2020.”** Sharing a photo of road closures for a Trump event in Wisconsin, Ruffalo wrote on Facebook, “trump 2020.” [Facebook, [11/1/20](#)]

**Ruffalo said he ran for council to “make the city safer and a better place to live for all.”** “I’m running for alderperson to make a difference in the City of Kenosha. I have a lot of common sense. Also make the city safer and a better place to live for all.” [Kenosha News, 3/29/24]

**Ruffalo said casino development was the most pressing issue in his district.** “The most pressing issues in my district are with the casino property. Also, a new public safety building west of the interstate.” [Kenosha News, 3/29/24]

**Ruffalo described as “steady voice in opposition to a couple of industrial operations” at several locations in city.** “A Kenosha Alderman seemed fed up with a Kenosha City Department Tuesday night at the City Council meeting tonight. Alderman Dominick Ruffalo points out what he thinks is selective enforcement in the City’s Inspection Department. Ruffalo, since elected in 2016, has been a steady voice in opposition to a couple of industrial operations in the 8200 block of 75th St.” [Kenosha County Eye, [3/6/24](#)]

**2024: Ruffalo claimed he only missed one council meeting since 2018.** “I serve on the water commission, public works commission and am chairman of the storm water committee. I am married and a lifelong resident of the city of Kenosha and raising a granddaughter. I also help bring millions of tax dollars into the city and in my 16th district – a lot of jobs also. I have only missed one meeting since 2018.” [Kenosha County Eye, [1/3/24](#)]

**Ruffalo posted a picture of Kim Jong Un wearing a “make America great again” hat.** Ruffalo posted the photo on his Facebook with the caption, “Happy Friday.” [Facebook, [3/9/18](#)]

## Mask Mandates

**Ruffalo opposed mask mandates during COVID.** “Dominic Ruffalo, an alderman who is recovering from COVID-19, said he is against the ordinance, as his district is in an area that borders Pleasant Prairie, Somers, Bristol and Paris. He said because those areas do not have mask ordinances, it gives the businesses there an unfair advantage. ‘I’m all for wearing masks, but this doesn’t put anybody on an even playing field,’ said Ruffalo, whose district includes the Brat Stop and Mars Cheese Castle, two major tourist attractions.” [The Journal Times (Racine, WI), 11/17/20]

## Police

**Ruffalo was worried about lack of police during possible unrest of summer 2021.** “With the arrival of spring, some city elected officials said they dread the possibility of violence escalating in the next few months and the city not having enough officers. According to Ald. Dominic Ruffalo, Police Chief Daniel Miskinis is also expected to issue a report to council members that will detail, among other things, what Ruffalo called a ‘double digit’ drop in the number of law enforcement patrolling the city. The number of police officers on the street ‘is down dramatically’, Ruffalo said during comments at the end of Monday night’s City Council meeting. ‘It’s amazing the amount of less police we have on the streets. And I’m worried,’ he said. ‘I’m worried about a long, hot summer ... we have to get a handle on violence in the City of Kenosha. Otherwise, we’re in for some big trouble.’” [The Journal Times (Racine, WI), 3/21/21]

## ELECTIONS AND VOTER ISSUES

**2022: Council unanimously approved increase in polling locations.** “The City Council unanimously approved additional polling locations for 2022 elections Monday night. Seventeen polling locations throughout the city were approved, along with one early voting site and four alternate sites in case of disaster or complications associated with COVID-19...Pre-pandemic the city had 22 locations. In 2020, the city had only 10 voting sites. The alternate locations may not be deployed but must be approved in case they are needed.” [Kenosha News, [1/5/22](#)]

- **Ruffalo was present at meeting.** [Kenosha Common Council, Meeting Minutes, [1/3/25](#)]

### Early Voting

**Ruffalo said early voting looked like a “great way to vote.”** In a Facebook post Ruffalo wrote, “Early voting hours looking like a great way to vote.” [Facebook, [3/16/20](#)]

**Ruffalo shared photo that detailed early voting in Kenosha.** [Facebook, [3/11/18](#)]

### Electoral History

**2024: Ruffalo elected with 68% of the vote.** Ruffalo defeated Steven Guionin the 2024 election for Alderperson City of Kenosha District 16. Ruffalo received 68.81% of the vote. [Kenosha County Election Results, [4/2/24](#)]

**2022: Ruffalo ran unopposed.** Ruffalo ran unopposed in his election for Alderperson City of Kenosha District 16. [Kenosha County Election Results, [4/5/22](#)]

**2020: Ruffalo ran unopposed.** Ruffalo ran unopposed in his election for Alderperson City of Kenosha District 16. [Kenosha County Election Results, [4/7/20](#)]

**2018: Ruffalo elected with 53% of the vote.** Ruffalo defeated Jesse Downing in the 2018 election for Alderperson City of Kenosha District 16. Ruffalo received 52.97% of the vote. [Kenosha County Election Results, [4/3/18](#)]

## **VULNERABILITIES AND ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE**

### FINANCIAL AND TAX

Searches were performed in the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access and LexisNexis SmartLinx Person Report for financial and tax filings for “Dominic Ruffalo” of Kenosha County, Wisconsin. There were other no adverse findings of note.

### LEGAL

Ruffalo is listed in the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access results as filing for divorce in November 1994. Ruffalo is also listed as a respondent in a child support case dated August 28, 2025. State Of Wisconsin Child Support Agency – Racine is listed as the petitioner with Ruffalo and Jerry Freeman listed as respondents.

### SEX OFFENDER STATUS

**No adverse findings of note.** [Department of Justice, Dominic Ruffalo, National Sex Offender Registry Search, accessed 10/23/25]

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Ruffalo maintained a [Facebook](#) page. No other social media was identified.

### LGBTQ+ DISCRIMINATION

*No statements on LGBTQ+ were found.*