

ERIC PAYNE - WAUKESHA CITY COUNCIL 2ND DISTRICT (NP)

Key findings include:

- **Long-Time Alder:** Payne has served on the Waukesha City Council for more than a decade. His son also served on the council but was ousted by a seemingly left-wing candidate in 2025.
- **Veteran:** Payne was a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1973-1977.
- **Fiscal Conservative:** Payne voted against a \$160 annual fee for solid waste removal for Waukesha residents. No votes were praised by the County Republican party, aligning Payne with the party and fiscal conservatism.
- **Republican & Online Agitator:** Payne appears to be a Republican; he attended a Trump rally in October 2020 and he shares posts from conservative meme accounts, commentators, and politicians and public figures. Examples of his posts include an attack on a left-wing alder for an anti-ICE post, sharing posts from a conservative Wisconsin figure who downplayed the insurrection and defended Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election.
- **2023 Phone Bank Survey Questions:** Payne responded to a 2023 phone bank survey, saying he strongly agrees voter fraud is a widespread problem, Trump won the 2020 election, and the federal government is being weaponized against Trump. It should be noted that, given data constraints, we cannot be 100% certain this was the correct Eric Payne.

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.

Further, 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.

Harris won this district by an extremely narrow 50.13-49.87 in 2024 while Trump won the city 53-47. Payne won in 2023 by a relatively narrow margin of 55-44 (106 votes) [[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), 11/4/2025].

BACKGROUND

Payne has been a fixture on the City Council for more than a decade; coverage from 2013–14 shows him among returning aldermen and in 2014 he was selected as Common Council president. Payne chairs Building & Grounds and sits on the Transit Commission and Board of Public Works [Waukesha City, 11/4/2025].

According to Facebook, Payne attended Waukesha South High School, indicating he is a longtime resident of the city. He was a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps from 1973 to 1977 [[Facebook](#), 11/4/2025].

Payne's son, Cory Payne, served on the council for a period of time. He also was accused of stalking his ex-girlfriend [[Fox 6 Now](#), 11/4/2025]. Cory Payne lost reelection in 2025.

ON THE ISSUES

Nothing of note for first found vet

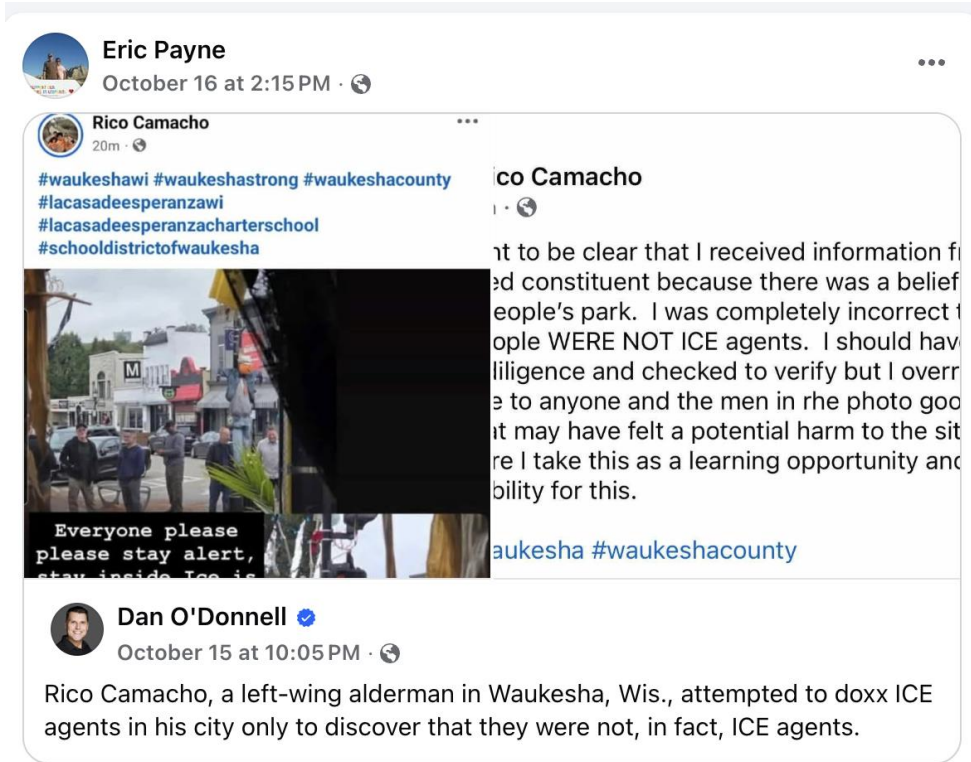
VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

NO VOTE ON SOLID WASTE FEE

Payne 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]. Payne's siding with the no-votes and the County GOP's reaction could indicate not only fiscal conservatism but also further alignment with Republicans.

ATTACK ON LEFT-WING ALDER

Payne shared a post from Wisconsin conservative commentator, [Dan O'Connell](#), who shared posts around the 2020 election and January 6 that undermined the validity of election results and defended January 6 protestor and Trump's actions. Rico Camacho, the Alder O'Connell is attacking, defeated Payne's son in his 2025 reelection bid.



TRUMP SUPPORTER

Payne shared in a Facebook post on October 24, 2022 he attended a Trump rally.

POSTS & LIKES FROM CONSERVATIVE MEME ACCOUNTS

Payne is relatively politically active on his personal Facebook and will occasionally share posts and memes from conservative meme accounts, many that seem controversial:

1. Payne shared a video of Rand Paul decrying \$600 COVID relief checks in December 2020 from an account, [Here's the Deal](#), whose tagline states "Exposing Democrat hypocrisy, busting up leftist lies, & smacking down liberal rhetoric."
2. Payne likes the account, [The Shooters Hangout](#), branded as a "Focal point for all the latest and breaking news on firearms, new gun laws, firearms training, self defense, home defense, gun rights, and a little humor."
3. Posted an [anti-clean energy post](#) that was flagged for misinformation.
4. Reposted a [meme](#) mocking gender and racial inclusivity

2023 PHONE BANK SURVEY QUESTIONS

Payne was flagged for his responses to a 2023 phone bank survey where he responded to the following questions. It should be noted that, given data constraints, we cannot be 100% certain this was the correct Eric Payne.

Question	Voter fraud is a widespread problem. We need public officials to prioritize new laws and procedures to stop bad actors from stealing elections.	If all legal votes were counted accurately, Donald Trump would have won the 2020 presidential election.	The federal government was weaponized to punish Donald Trump. Mar-a-lago was raided over classified documents, but nothing has happened to Joe Biden for
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			having classified documents in multiple, unsecure locations.
Answer	Strongly agree	Strongly agree	Strongly agree

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[Personal Facebook](#)