

HENRY PEREZ-RACINE CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 12 (R)

Key findings include:

- **Tenure & Political Alignment:** Henry Perez has served as Racine City Council alderman for District 12 since 2013. While municipal races are nonpartisan, Perez has aligned with conservative interests and received the Racine County Republican Party's endorsement during his 2023 mayoral campaign.
- **Dual Candidacies:** In 2026, Perez is seeking reelection to the Racine City Council while also running for Racine County sheriff, a race opened by the announced retirement of the current sheriff.
- **Public Safety Background:** Perez previously worked as a police officer and supervisor in Florida and has cited this experience as a central qualification in multiple campaigns.
- **2023 Mayoral Campaign:** In the April 2023 mayoral election, Perez was labeled as the "conservative" alternative to Democratic incumbent Mayor Cory Mason. Perez lost the general election by approximately 2,220 votes.
- **Law-and-Order Messaging:** Perez has repeatedly identified violent and property crime as Racine's most significant challenge, making law enforcement and public safety the priority of his political messaging while serving on the City Council.
- **Fiscal & Tax Positions:** Perez has warned that reducing taxes to make Wisconsin more affordable would reduce funding for city services that "residents rely on," including police, fire, and public works, placing him at times in tension with broader conservative tax-cut messaging.
- **Governance & Transparency Rhetoric:** Perez has called for increased transparency and forensic audits of city finances.
- **Democracy & Election Issues:** Perez has shared posts on his personal Facebook account supporting Trump-aligned Republicans, including Rep. Bryan Steil.

Racine is a midsized Lake Michigan city (~77k residents, median household income ~\$55.7k; ~21–22% Black and ~22–25% Hispanic/Latino depending on dataset years), with a long industrial and union history. Politically, the city leans Democratic with Harris winning 65-35. Trump did not win more than 41% in any of the Racine City Council districts.

BACKGROUND

Henry Perez Was Born In Cuba And Immigrated To The United States As A Child. "Henry Perez was born in Cuba and fled Communism as a child arriving in Miami, Florida, where he grew up in the inner city called 'Little Havana'." [[City of Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

City Of Racine: Perez "Fled Communism."



Meet Henry Perez: A powerful example of resilience and service. Henry has dedicated his life to education and community growth, becoming the first Hispanic elected to the City Council of Racine. His leadership is a reminder that anyone, regardless of their background, can serve with dignity and make a lasting impact. Driven by a deep sense of gratitude, Henry is committed to giving back to the community that once supported him and his family in their time of need. Discover more about his remarkable journey and achievements below.



[Facebook, City of Racine, 10/14/2024]

Perez Grew Up In Little Havana, Miami Before Relocating To Wisconsin. “Henry Perez was born in Cuba and fled Communism as a child arriving in Miami, Florida, where he grew up in the inner city called ‘Little Havana.’” [[City of Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Perez Earned A Bachelor’s Degree In Religious Education. “Henry has a Bachelor’s of Religious Education specializing in Education and Theology and holds minors in New Testament Greek and Communications. He has his Master’s in Theology and Divinity.” [[City of Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Perez Earned A Master’s Degree In Theology And Divinity. “Henry has a Bachelor’s of Religious Education specializing in Education and Theology and holds minors in New Testament Greek and Communications. He has his Master’s in Theology and Divinity.” [[City of Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Perez Was A Police Officer In Miami-Dade County. “Perez was Miami Dade Bailiff, court interpreter, court clerk. He then attended the police academy and was a Miami Dade Police Officer, School Resource Officer, and Community Resource Officer, he was selected as an acting supervisor. Perez has received over 100 commendations for the Department, the community, and the school police. Perez was also the recipient of the coveted “Key to Miami Dade County” given by the mayor.” [[Henry Perez Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Perez Was A State Attorney Investigator And Police Sargent In Pinecrest Florida. “Perez was a State Attorney Investigator II, where he developed Miami’s Truancy Intervention Program, handled juvenile warrants, transported prisoners across the United States and found witnesses for court. He received several unit commendations and awards. Perez was a police officer and sergeant in the Pinecrest Police Department where he supervised officers, clerks, dispatch, and completed budgets and payroll. He also dispatched, did background investigations, conducted internal affairs investigations, conducted training, and handled the vehicle fleet.” [[Henry Perez Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Political Career

2013: Perez Was Elected To Racine City Council District. “Perez has served you as the Alderman of the 12th district since 2013.” [[Perez for Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Perez Has Served As Racine City Alderman Since 2013. “Perez has served you as the Alderman of the 12th district since 2013.” [[Perez for Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

2023: Perez Ran For Racine Mayor And Challenged Incumbent Cory Mason. “Racine Mayor Cory Mason is facing off against Alderman Henry Perez in the April 4 election. Perez is a conservative and has received the endorsement of the Racine County Republican Party. Mason, the incumbent, is a Democrat and former member of the Wisconsin State Assembly.” [[WPR](#), 3/20/2023]

Perez Received 30% Of The Votes In The Primary Election. “Mason received 42 percent of the votes during the primary election. Perez earned 30 percent of the total votes cast.” [[WPR](#), 3/20/2023]

April 2023: Cory Mason Won Re-Election With 8,596 Votes, While Perez Received 6,376 Votes. “Cory Mason has won re-election as mayor of the City of Racine, TMJ4 News projects. Mason won 8,596 votes, compared to Henry Perez's 6,376 percent, according to TMJ4 News election results.” [[tmj4](#), 4/3/2023]

December 2025: Racine County Eye Said Perez Announced His Candidacy For Racine Sheriff. “Racine Alderman Henry Perez has announced his candidacy for Racine County Sheriff, bringing decades of law enforcement, public service, and community outreach experience to the race. Perez, who currently serves as the 12th District alderman on the Racine Common Council, previously ran for mayor in 2023. While he did not win that race, Perez says his desire to continue serving the community—particularly in the area of public safety—motivated him to run for sheriff.” [[Racine County Eye](#), 11/25/2025]

January 2026: Perez File Nominations Papers To Seek Reelection To The Racine City Council In District 12. [[Racine County Eye](#), 1/7/2026]

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS & ALIGNMENTS

Perez Said He “Isn’t A Career Politician Or A Partisan Council Member.” “Henry isn’t a career politician or a partisan council member.” [[Perez for Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Perez Said He Isn’t A Party Politician With No Corporate Donor Influence Or Party Control. “Unlike candidates who are former party politicians, no political party or corporate donor influences Henry or tells him what to say, think, or do. He’s truly a man of the people.” [[Perez for Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Perez Said “No Political Party Or Corporate Donor Influences” Him. “Unlike candidates who are former party politicians, no political party or corporate donor influences Henry or tells him what to say, think, or do. He’s truly a man of the people.” [[Perez for Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

March 2023: The Racine County Republican Party Endorsed Perez During His Mayoral Campaign. “Racine Mayor Cory Mason is facing off against Alderman Henry Perez in the April 4 election. Perez is a conservative and has received the endorsement of the Racine County Republican

Party. Mason, the incumbent, is a Democrat and former member of the Wisconsin State Assembly.” [[WPR](#), 3/20/2023]

Wisconsin Public Radio Described Perez A Conservative Who Challenged Democratic Incumbent Mayor Cory Mason. “Racine Mayor Cory Mason is facing off against Alderman Henry Perez in the April 4 election. Perez is a conservative and has received the endorsement of the Racine County Republican Party. Mason, the incumbent, is a Democrat and former member of the Wisconsin State Assembly.” [[WPR](#), 3/20/2023]

ON THE ISSUES

Public Safety & Crime

Perez Said Racine’s Biggest Challenge Is Violent And Property Crime. “One of the biggest and most fundamental challenges facing the city of Racine today is violent and property crime. Racine is Wisconsin’s 14th most dangerous city (out of 806).” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Perez Said He’s An Expert On Public Safety. “Henry is an expert on public safety and will use his 40 years of experience to improve safety for Racine residents, reduce crime, and hold offenders accountable.” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Perez Said He Would “Improve Safety For Racine Residents, Reduce Crime, And Hold Offenders Accountable.” “Henry is an expert on public safety and will use his 40 years of experience to improve safety for Racine residents, reduce crime, and hold offenders accountable.” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Perez Said Supporting Police Officers And Expanding The Department Is His Top Priority. “Supporting those who wear the badge and adding officers to respond to citizens’ complaints is Henry’s top priority. Henry believes that the government’s first duty and highest obligation is to public safety. Racine residents have a right to feel safe in their homes and their city. The skyrocketing crime rate has left many residents, especially the most vulnerable, feeling unsafe in their homes and city. This must end.” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Government Transparency & Fiscal Accountability

Perez Said He Would “Make Sure Government Business Is Done In An Open, Accountable, And Transparent Way.” “A government for the people, by the people, is the foundation of our American system. Henry will make sure that government business is done in an open, accountable, and transparent way.” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

2023: Perez Supported A Forensic Audit Of City Finances To Understand Tax Spending. “When elected Mayor, Perez hopes to bring to the table a forensic audit so we can see how our taxes have really been used. We are tired of being nickel and dimed to death and tired of the lack of transparency in the decisions that are being made at the top level. We need to know how our taxes are really being spent and prioritize where our money goes.” [[Henry Perez Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

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Perez Described Small Businesses As The “Lifeblood Of The Economy.” “Small businesses are the lifeblood of the economy, but many have vanished due to the pandemic and government shutdowns, high costs of doing business, and too many government regulations. Henry will streamline the process for setting up small businesses, explore additional funding options to assist small business start-ups and work with local colleges and community organizations to ensure that everyone who wants to start a business has a fair chance to do so. In addition, Henry will evaluate zoning laws to support small business development better, explore an adaptive reuse program to help small businesses turn vacant historic buildings into new businesses, give preference to local businesses in city contracting when legal, and implement real economic development incentive programs to favor small businesses. However, that doesn’t mean large businesses don’t play a role in creating a great city. Henry will work with businesses of all sizes to create good-paying jobs for residents through incentive programs and the development of a strong workforce in the city.” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

- **Perez Said He Would “Explore Additional Funding” To Support Small Businesses.** “Small businesses are the lifeblood of the economy, but many have vanished due to the pandemic and government shutdowns, high costs of doing business, and too many government regulations. Henry will streamline the process for setting up small businesses, explore additional funding options to assist small business start-ups and work with local colleges and community organizations to ensure that everyone who wants to start a business has a fair chance to do so. In addition, Henry will evaluate zoning laws to support small business development better, explore an adaptive reuse program to help small businesses turn vacant historic buildings into new businesses, give preference to local businesses in city contracting when legal, and implement real economic development incentive programs to favor small businesses. However, that doesn’t mean large businesses don’t play a role in creating a great city. Henry will work with businesses of all sizes to create good-paying jobs for residents through incentive programs and the development of a strong workforce in the city.” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]
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- **Perez Said He Would Support A Re-Use Program That Would All Small Businesses To Occupy Vacant And Historic Buildings.** “Small businesses are the lifeblood of the economy, but many have vanished due to the pandemic and government shutdowns, high costs of doing business, and too many government regulations. Henry will streamline the process for setting up small businesses, explore additional funding options to assist small business start-ups and work with local colleges and community organizations to ensure that everyone who wants to start a business has a fair chance to do so. In addition, Henry will evaluate zoning laws to support small business development better, explore an adaptive reuse program to help small businesses turn vacant historic buildings into new businesses, give preference to local businesses in city contracting when legal, and implement real economic development incentive programs to favor small businesses. However, that doesn’t mean large businesses don’t play a role in creating a great city. Henry will work with businesses of all sizes to create good-paying jobs for residents through incentive programs and the development of a strong workforce in the city.” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]
- **Perez Said Large Businesses Also Play A Role In “Creating A Great City.”**“Small businesses are the lifeblood of the economy, but many have vanished due to the pandemic and government shutdowns, high costs of doing business, and too many government regulations. Henry will streamline the process for setting up small businesses, explore additional funding options to assist small business start-ups and work with local colleges and community organizations to ensure that everyone who wants to start a business has a fair chance to do so. In addition, Henry will evaluate zoning laws to support small business development better, explore an adaptive reuse program to help small businesses turn vacant historic buildings into new businesses, give preference to local businesses in city contracting when legal, and implement real economic development incentive programs to favor small businesses. However, that doesn’t mean large businesses don’t play a role in creating a great city. Henry will work with businesses of all sizes to create good-paying jobs for residents through incentive programs and the development of a strong workforce in the city.” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]
- **Perez Said He Would Work With “Businesses Of All Sizes” To Create Good-Paying Jobs Through Workforce Development And Incentive Programs.** “Small businesses are the lifeblood of the economy, but many have vanished due to the pandemic and government shutdowns, high costs of doing business, and too many government regulations. Henry will streamline the process for setting up small businesses, explore additional funding options to assist small business start-ups and work with local colleges and community organizations to ensure that everyone who wants to start a business has a fair chance to do so. In addition, Henry will evaluate zoning laws to support small business development better, explore an adaptive reuse program to help small businesses turn vacant historic buildings into new businesses, give preference to local businesses in city contracting when legal, and implement real economic development incentive programs to favor small businesses. However, that doesn’t mean large businesses don’t play a role in creating a great city. Henry will work with businesses of all sizes to create good-paying jobs for residents through incentive programs and the development of a strong workforce in the city.” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Perez Supported Changing “Antiquated Zoning Law” To Promote Economic Development And Address Food Deserts. “Perez also had concerns with our antiquated zoning laws and will demand a complete audit and overhaul of the existing rules. This will encourage more economic development in our community, as well as address our food desert.” [[Henry Perez Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Housing & Cost of Living

Perez Supported Making Racine More Affordable. “Wisconsin has one of the highest property taxes in the nation, with a median property tax rate of a little over \$3,000. Racine’s median rate is about \$3,300. Doing so won’t simply be accomplished by moving fees to another area or turning a tax into a fee, which is simply a hidden tax. It’s also not as simple as reducing taxes because then city services that residents rely upon aren’t funded, including vital services like police, fire, and public works. Henry will ‘right size’ government, streamline operations, and increase efficiencies in city government operations. In addition, affordable housing is critical. The reasons for high housing costs are complex and multifaceted, but Henry will address those issues that the city can control, including streamlining the planning and permitting to reduce costs to builders, explore housing options outside of traditional single-family homes, and work with developers to bring more affordable and safe housing to Racine.” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

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- **Perez Said Reducing Taxes To Make Wisconsin More Affordable Would Also Reduce Funding For City Services That “Residents Rely On,” Including Police, Fire, And Public Works.** “Wisconsin has one of the highest property taxes in the nation, with a median property tax rate of a little over \$3,000. Racine’s median rate is about \$3,300. Doing so won’t simply be accomplished by moving fees to another area or turning a tax into a fee, which is simply a hidden tax. It’s also not as simple as reducing taxes because then city services that residents rely upon aren’t funded, including vital services like police, fire, and public works. Henry will ‘right size’ government, streamline operations, and increase efficiencies in city government operations. In addition, affordable housing is critical. The reasons for high housing costs are complex and multifaceted, but Henry will address those issues that the city can control, including streamlining the planning and permitting to reduce costs to builders, explore housing options outside of traditional single-family homes, and work with developers to bring more affordable and safe housing to Racine.” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]
- **Perez Said He Would “Address The Issues The City Can Control,” Including Strategizing With Planning And Permitting To Reduce The Cost To Builders.** “Wisconsin has one of the highest property taxes in the nation, with a median property tax rate of a little over \$3,000. Racine’s median rate is about \$3,300. Doing so won’t simply be accomplished by moving fees to

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- **Perez Said He Would “Work With Developers To Bring More Affordable And Safe Housing To Racine.”** “Wisconsin has one of the highest property taxes in the nation, with a median property tax rate of a little over \$3,000. Racine’s median rate is about \$3,300. Doing so won’t simply be accomplished by moving fees to another area or turning a tax into a fee, which is simply a hidden tax. It’s also not as simple as reducing taxes because then city services that residents rely upon aren’t funded, including vital services like police, fire, and public works. Henry will ‘right size’ government, streamline operations, and increase efficiencies in city government operations. In addition, affordable housing is critical. The reasons for high housing costs are complex and multifaceted, but Henry will address those issues that the city can control, including streamlining the planning and permitting to reduce costs to builders, explore housing options outside of traditional single-family homes, and work with developers to bring more affordable and safe housing to Racine.” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), accessed, 1/30/2026]

Perez Said High Property Taxes And Housing Costs Price People Out Of Their Homes. “Make Racine An Affordable Place to Live: High property taxes and housing costs price people out of homes and cause others to move out of the city. Henry will implement a variety of strategies to reduce housing costs and make Racine an affordable place to live.” [[Perez 4 Racine](#), assessed, 1/30/2026]

Community Engagement

Perez Proposed Community Liaisons For Minorities To Ensure Government Responsiveness. “Racine was known as the “Invention City,” but it’s a shadow of what it once was; however, it doesn’t have to stay that way. Henry will work to help small businesses start and grow, lure larger companies to our city, and help create a strong workforce from which these businesses can hire. All residents and communities within the city deserve a voice. Henry will appoint community liaisons to various constituency groups to hear and consider their perspectives and create a city government that is responsive to the needs of all residents.”

Social Media Posts Supporting Election Deniers

October 2024: Perez Said He Was Present With Rep. Bryan Steil “Saving Our Country.”



[Facebook, Henry Perez, 10/5/2024]

October 2024: Perez Publicly Described Rep. Bryan Steil As A Friend And Supported Him.



[Facebook, Henry Perez, 10/5/2024]

VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

Conservative Alignment

Although Racine City Council races are formally nonpartisan, Perez received the Racine County Republican Party’s endorsement during his 2023 mayoral campaign in a Democratic-leaning city.

Law-and-Order–Centered Profile

Perez’s candidacies have consistently emphasized policing and crime reduction, drawing heavily on his law-enforcement background.

Election-Denial–Related Social Media Activity

Perez has used his personal Facebook account to share posts supporting Trump-aligned Republican, Rep. Bryan Steil.

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[Campaign Site](#)

[Facebook](#)