

HOLLY KANGAS - KENOSHA CITY COMMON COUNCIL 4TH DISTRICT

Key findings include:

- **Tenure & Role:** Served as Alderperson for Kenosha’s 4th District from 2018 until her resignation in September 2025. Sat on the Finance Committee and chaired the Community Development Block Grant Committee during her tenure. Officially nonpartisan but recommended by Democratic-aligned guides in 2024, suggesting a center-left alignment.
- **Election History:** Re-elected multiple times; in April 2024 she defeated challenger Cali Buchino 61% to 39% (+22-point margin) with 1,009 total ballots cast.
- **Health & Resignation:** Publicly announced in September 2025 that she had been diagnosed with corticobasal degeneration, a terminal Parkinsonian neurological disorder. She resigned immediately. Symptoms began about eight months earlier, with a diagnosis confirmed three weeks before her resignation.

Kenosha is a mid-sized city on Lake Michigan with 98,000–100,000 residents, a median age near 38, and 42,000 households. The population is diversifying: 62.8% White (non-Hispanic), 10.3% Black (non-Hispanic), and 19.7% Hispanic/Latino, with smaller Asian and multiracial shares [[Census](#), 9/26/2025]. The city maintains an industrial base and increasingly functions as a commuter hub between Milwaukee and Chicago.

Politically, the City of Kenosha leans Democratic, while Kenosha County has trended more competitive/right. The county, long Democratic at the presidential level, shifted right in the Trump era and remains a battleground. At the local level, a GOP-backed majority captured the officially nonpartisan County Board in 2022 and subsequently repealed weapons restrictions in county buildings and adopted a “Second Amendment sanctuary” stance [[Kenosha County](#), 9/26/2025] [[Wisconsin Examiner](#), 4/2/2024]. The political climate has also featured election-denial rhetoric: in May 2022 a county supervisor hosted an “election integrity” event in Kenosha that local media described as promoting debunked 2020 claims; around the same period, then-Mayor John Antaramian was subpoenaed in Michael Gableman’s election investigation, which he criticized as a waste of public resources [[Wis Politics](#), 9/26/2025].

Federal context—2020 and 2024. In 2024, Donald Trump carried Kenosha County (official county results show Trump 52% to Biden 46% in the county), even as Joe Biden narrowly won Wisconsin statewide, underscoring the county’s rightward tilt relative to the state. In 2024, U.S. Rep. Bryan Steil won re-election in WI-01, which includes Kenosha, reflecting continued GOP strength in the district; statewide, Sen. Tammy Baldwin won re-election, demonstrating ongoing split-ticket dynamics [[WPR](#), 11/5/2024]. Kenosha County’s official 2024 results are posted by the clerk (including the Nov. 5 general), and the Wisconsin Elections Commission certified statewide 2024 results at the end of November [[Kenosha County](#), 9/26/2025].

BACKGROUND

Kangas, a lifelong Kenosha resident and Mary D. Bradford High School graduate, was first elected the District 4 alderperson in 2018 and won re-election thereafter (most recently in April 2024) with 61% to 39% over Cali Buchino—an approximately +22-point margin. In the 2024–26 term she was listed on the Finance Committee for the council and previously served on/chaired the city’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) committee [[Kenosha City](#), 9.29/2025]. At the Sept. 15, 2025 council

meeting, Kangas announced on the record that she'd been diagnosed with a terminal neurological condition and resigned her District 4 seat. Speaking from the dais, she said she wanted to “tell [her] own story,” then shared that symptoms began ~eight months earlier (memory lapses, dizziness, stiffness/shaking) and testing three weeks prior confirmed corticobasal syndrome/degeneration (CBS/CBD)—a rare, progressive Parkinsonian disorder with no known cure or proven disease-modifying treatment. Her remarks emphasized shifting focus to family and “living in the moment” [[WGTD](#), 9/15/2025].

Media coverage in 2019 noted Kangas' long experience in real-estate/title work (reported as 34 years as a licensed title insurance agent) and side work rehabbing houses with her spouse [[Fox 6 News](#), 2/6/2025].

City council races are officially nonpartisan. A progressive voter guide listed Kangas as “Nonpartisan (Incumbent)” and recommended by Democratic-aligned groups in 2024, suggesting a center-left profile within local politics [[Blue Voter Guide](#), 9/29/2025].

A February 2019 FOX6 investigation reported that properties flipped by Kangas and her husband appeared to lack corresponding city permits for some of the work. Kangas characterized the couple as “a bit naive”; the story quoted a former alder saying she “should know better” given her official role and real-estate background. (No follow-up disciplinary action is cited in the piece.) This is a credible, on-the-record local TV report and is the clearest adverse coverage located thus far [[Fox 6 News](#), 2/6/2019].

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