

MARK ANDERSON

Brown County, Wisconsin, anchored by the city of Green Bay, has a population of about 268,740 residents according to the 2020 Census. The county is majority white 78.6%, with only 2.4% Black, 4.2% Asian, and 10.8% Hispanic, and a demographic mix of older residents, families, and working-class households [[Census](#), 9/17/2025].

Politically, Brown County sits at the center of northeastern Wisconsin's swing-state dynamics. Green Bay leans Democratic, while the surrounding suburbs and rural townships trend Republican, making the county highly competitive but slightly Republican-leaning overall. In presidential elections, Brown County has tilted narrowly Republican in recent cycles [[U.S News](#), 10/1/2024]. According to the Brown County Clerk and the Wisconsin Elections Commission, Donald Trump carried the county in 2020 with 52.7 percent of the vote to Joe Biden's 45.5 percent [[Brown County Clerk](#), 2/22/2024]. Four years later, in 2024, Trump again carried the county with 53.0 percent to Kamala Harris's 45.5 percent. Turnout rose modestly from about 145,000 ballots cast in 2020 to roughly 150,000 in 2024 [[Brown County Clerk](#), 2/22/2024]. These results underscore Brown County's role as a bellwether in Wisconsin politics, closely divided but consistently leaning Republican at the presidential level.

Beyond presidential contests, Brown County reflects broader democracy trends in Wisconsin. Local organizations such as *Project VOTE of Brown County* run turnout competitions among municipalities, with villages like Allouez and Wrightstown recording over 90 percent turnout in the November 2024 general election, and Glenmore and Allouez leading turnout in the April 2025 spring election [[Fox News 11](#), 11/14/2024]. Turnout is highly variable depending on the type of election—around 60 percent in spring contests and as low as 17 percent in the June 2025 primary [[The Aberdeen Insider](#), 6/4/2024].

The county has also been at the center of election integrity debates. In April 2025, a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit by two Brown County women challenging the security of Wisconsin's MyVote online voter portal, ruling they lacked standing [[WBAY](#), 4/11/2025]. Additionally, the reinstatement of absentee ballot drop boxes by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 2024 drew criticism from the Brown County Republican Party, which has emphasized election integrity measures, poll worker recruitment, and ballot security [[WPR](#), 4/5/2024].

Key findings include:

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BACKGROUND

Mark R. Anderson is a longtime Green Bay resident who has intermittently engaged in local politics over the years. Notably, Anderson **ran for Mayor of Green Bay in 2003**, at a relatively young age, finishing third in the primary with about 11.5% of the vote. This early mayoral bid (in which Jim Schmitt ultimately prevailed) put Anderson on the local political radar two decades ago. Although he did not hold public office following that run, it demonstrated his interest in civic leadership. Since 2003, Anderson has not been a fixture in elected positions or city commissions as far as available records show – suggesting he returned to private life and career, while maintaining a layperson's voice in community

affairs. (Public sources do not detail his occupation, education or resume; his campaign filings list only his residence and campaign committee, without biographical blurbs.)

Politically, Mark Anderson is running in an officially **nonpartisan capacity** for City Council, but his leanings appear to be left-of-center (more on that in the next section). He is **not an incumbent** and has never held a Green Bay alderperson seat before. However, he attempted to join the council in mid-2025 by applying for the **District 8 vacancy**. When Ald. Chris Wery resigned in May 2025, the city invited applicants to fill the seat until the next election. Anderson was one of three citizens who stepped forward, alongside Megan Borchardt (a Brown County Board supervisor) and Jim Ridderbush. All three candidates made presentations to the Common Council at a June 2025 meeting, where they outlined their qualifications and views on local issues (infrastructure needs, economic development, public safety, parks, etc.) and answered council members' questions. Anderson, like the others, pledged that if appointed he would run for election in 2026 to continue serving. In the council's vote, conducted by ranked-choice ballot, Anderson narrowly **lost the appointment to Ridderbush**. Ridderbush received six first-place votes (a majority of the 11 council members) and was sworn in as the interim District 8 alder. The City's press release graciously thanked Anderson for his willingness to serve. The **close 6–5 split** in favor of Ridderbush indicates Anderson had significant support among council members as an alternate choice. This near-miss effectively set the stage for Anderson to run against Ridderbush in the regular 2026 election – which he is now doing.

As of early 2026, Mark Anderson has an active campaign registered with the City Clerk (his committee is officially named "Mark Anderson for Green Bay City Council"). He has met the filing requirements (nomination papers, declaration of candidacy, etc.) to appear on the April 2026 ballot. In terms of campaign presence, Anderson does not appear to have a standalone website or a formal endorsement list published. This contrasts with his opponent Ridderbush, who as an incumbent and union activist likely has organized backing (Ridderbush was openly supported by labor groups and local Democrats in prior runs). Anderson's campaign seems to rely on more grassroots and personal outreach. He is reasonably active on **social media** (particularly on platforms like Threads/Instagram), which suggests he is leveraging online engagement to get his message out (see the Social Media section below for details).

No information was readily found about Anderson's professional life or community involvement outside politics. He may well have a career in the private sector or be retired; without concrete sources, we cannot confirm his occupation or any civic roles (such as neighborhood association leadership, etc.). It's clear, however, that he has maintained an interest in local government and national issues over the years. His decision to step up for the vacant seat in 2025 and now run in 2026 indicates a genuine desire to serve the community and affect city policy. Politically, observers characterize Anderson as **independent-minded but generally aligned with pro-democracy, anti-extremist values**. He is **not known to be affiliated with far-right factions** or any anti-government movements – quite the opposite, as his commentary shows alignment against such extremism. If anything, one question mark is how Anderson situates himself relative to the traditional party structure: given that the Democratic Party of Brown County will presumably support Ridderbush (their labor-aligned incumbent), Anderson is somewhat in an **unusual position**. He is plainly *not* a conservative or MAGA-style candidate, yet he's challenging a candidate who has the local progressive establishment's support. This dynamic could make the race less about left vs. right and more about personal qualifications and voter preferences in the district.

ON THE ISSUES

NO FINDINGS OF NOTE FOR FIRST ROUND VET

Pro-Democracy and Anti-Extremism: Anderson positions himself firmly as a supporter of democratic norms and a critic of the far-right turn in politics. He has been *openly critical of former President Donald Trump and the MAGA movement*. For instance, on his Threads account (Threads being a social platform linked to Instagram), Anderson derided a Trump supporter who had gotten into legal trouble as a “Typical MAGA cult member,” adding that “*Trump will probably pardon him and put him on his staff*”. This remark (in September 2025) encapsulates Anderson’s disdain for what he sees as a cult-like devotion to Trump and suggests he views Trump’s allies as corrupt or lawless. Such rhetoric implies Anderson has zero tolerance for **election denialism** or the **January 6th** mentality – he clearly sides with those defending the integrity of elections and the rule of law. In another post, he argued that an official who betrayed their oath to the Constitution “*should be jailed for life*”, underscoring his belief in accountability for anti-democratic actions. These strong pro-democracy sentiments align with the values of organizations seeking to oppose anti-democratic actors.

Party Alignment and National Politics: Though running in a nonpartisan race, Anderson’s viewpoints often mirror **Democratic/progressive positions** on national issues. He has expressed admiration for Democratic figures – for example, he posted “**I love Hillary**” in reference to Hillary Clinton – and enthusiasm for President Joe Biden. In mid-2024, as the presidential race geared up, Anderson signaled his support for Biden’s re-election, writing “*Not looking back! Joe all the way!*” (implying a forward-looking attitude and backing “Joe,” i.e., Biden). He frequently lambastes Republican leaders: he blasted Elon Musk’s stewardship of Twitter (calling the platform “Shitter” after Musk’s takeover) and even announced that his final act on Twitter was telling Musk “**he’s a dche bag**”*** before quitting the “cesspool” of that site. Such comments, while colorful, reinforce that Anderson identifies with the anti-Trump, anti-MAGA wing of American politics – essentially aligning with mainstream Democrats on the national stage. It’s fair to say he is *not* courting Republican support; he appears to pride himself on taking a stand against what he views as misinformation and right-wing extremism.

Local Governance and Issues: On purely local topics, Anderson’s specific platform has not been extensively documented in media, but we can glean some priorities from the council appointment process and his general orientation. During the June 2025 interview before the City Council, Anderson (as well as the other applicants) discussed issues like **infrastructure funding, economic growth, public safety, and parks**. While we do not have direct quotes of his answers, these areas are typical focal points for a city alderperson. It’s likely that Anderson emphasized maintaining and improving city infrastructure (streets, perhaps stormwater systems given west side flooding concerns), supporting responsible development to spur economic growth on the west side, ensuring public safety resources (police/fire coverage) are robust, and keeping neighborhood parks well-maintained. He also committed to avoiding conflicts of interest and being a transparent representative. None of these stances would be controversial – they’re standard good-government positions.

VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

INEXPERIENCE & YOUTH

At just 25, Ellis would be a very young mayor, and he has no experience in elected office or managing large organizations. This raises inevitable questions about his readiness to handle Lansing’s \$150+ million city budget and lead a workforce of hundreds. As a first-time candidate with minimal name recognition citywide, Ellis starts at a disadvantage. He does not have an established base of support or a track record that voters can evaluate.

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS