

GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE MELINDA ECK

Melissa Eck, an outspoken conservative and Donald Trump supporter, currently serves the 11th District on the Green Bay County Council. In 2026, Eck is expected to seek a third term. Eck was first elected in 2022, defeating Michael Poradek in an open-seat race. She defeated Poradek in a rematch two years later.

Key findings:

While the City Council race is nonpartisan, Eck is an outspoken conservative and supporter of Donald Trump. Ahead of the 2024 election, the Green Bay Post-Gazette identified Eck among a “who’s-who of local conservatives. Eck attended a campaign rally alongside surrogates from the Trump campaign, and has spoken publicly about the importance of religion in her life and defended the practice of performing religious invocations before public meetings. Eck has also taking anti-LGBTQ positions, including trying to prevent Gay Pride flags from being flown at City Hall, and refusing to condemn the practice of conversion therapy on LGBTQ youth.

Eck organized a Stop the Steal rally on Jan. 6, 2021, and left open the possibility of supporting political violence in response to Joe Biden’s inauguration. Eck was an outspoken election denier following Donald Trump’s defeat in 2020. She organized a rally at Green Bay City Hall on Jan. 6, 2021, which coincided with the Trump-led demonstrations in Washington, D.C., that ended with rioters ransacking the Capitol. Speaking with a local radio station that morning, Eck acknowledged the possibility of political violence, and she stopped short of condemning it. “They haven’t been so far, but I will tell you that there’s a bunch of patriots out there and they are going to fight for their freedom. So if they have to, I believe they will. Do I support that? Not necessarily,” Eck told WTAQ radio on Jan. 6, 2021.

Eck deleted conspiratorial and anti-Biden social media posts before her 2022 campaign. According to the Green Bay Press Gazette, “Social media posts to Eck’s account have been deleted since her announcement she would be running for the nonpartisan city office. Those deleted posts had featured photos of the ‘Stop the Steal’ rally and promoted the sale of posters displaying the slogan ‘Let’s Go Brandon,’ a coded anti-Biden slur popular with the far right.”

Prior to entering politics, Eck was involved with a self-help nonprofit called Life Skills Wisconsin, an affiliate of Life Skills International. Life Skills Wisconsin is the trade name of Freedom Life Skills, Inc., a Green Bay-based 501(c)(3). According to her campaign website and tax filings, Eck worked with Freedom Life Skills beginning in 2009, becoming the organization’s secretary in 2016 and its executive director in 2017. The group brought in nearly \$1 million in revenue at its peak in 2011, but it suffered sharp losses in the years before Eck took on an executive role. In 2016, Freedom Life Skills raised around \$198,000 and it brought in around \$120,000 the following year. In 2017, Freedom Life Skills said “hundreds of individuals received life skills training through participation in classes and seminars at five locations in Wisconsin.” Since then, the group has raised fewer than \$50,000 per year, and it is not required to release detailed financial records. The group is an affiliate of Life Skills International, a Texas-based nonprofit that created the ‘Learning to Live, Learning to Love’ curriculum, developed by Dr. Paul Hegstrom. Eck produced a video for Life Skills Wisconsin in 2020. According to the group’s most recent tax records, filed in 2024, Eck was the principal officer.

BACKGROUND

Melinda Eck is an Alderperson on Green Bay Common Council representing District 11. [Green Bay Common Council, accessed [11/04/25](#)]

Eck first ran for office in 2016; she was a “Stop the Steal” activist following the 2020 presidential election. “Eck first made a name for herself in the political arena when she ran against and lost to Vander Leest in 2016. Her more recent political activism included organizing a ‘Stop the Steal’ rally contesting the presidential election results in front of Green Bay City Hall on Jan. 6, 2021. Such efforts put her front and center when, a year later, she scrubbed her social media in her bid for District 11.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 3/12/22]

Personal/Work History

1985: Eck graduated from Green Bay Preble High School. [LinkedIn, Melinda Eck, accessed [11/04/25](#)]

1985-1987: Eck attended Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and studied Accounting. It is unclear if she received a degree. [LinkedIn, Melinda Eck, accessed [11/04/25](#)]

2007-2009: Eck received an Associate’s Degree in Early Childhood Education and Teaching from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. [LinkedIn, Melinda Eck, accessed [11/04/25](#)]

2014-Present: Eck was President of the John Muir Park Neighborhood Association, a volunteer position. [LinkedIn, Melinda Eck, accessed [11/04/25](#)]

2014-Present: Eck was a volunteer member of Green Bay Neighborhoods. [LinkedIn, Melinda Eck, accessed [11/04/25](#)]

2016-Present: Eck was executive director of Freedom Life Skills, Inc. (d/b/a/ Life Skills of Wisconsin), a nonprofit organization. [Freedom Life Skills Inc. IRS 990s, accessed 11/05/25]

2022-Present: Eck has represented District 11 on Green Bay City Council. [LinkedIn, Melinda Eck, accessed [11/04/25](#)]

2023-2024: Eck was Activities Director at Cottonwood Manor Assisted Living. This is the only other job listed on her LinkedIn profile. [LinkedIn, Melinda Eck, accessed [11/04/25](#)]

2024: Eck said she was the executive director of a local nonprofit. “Melinda Eck Address: 1634 Birchwood Drive Age: 56 Occupation: Activities director, assisted living center Highest education level attained: associates degrees in early childhood education and accounting from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Relevant experience: I am the president of the John Muir Park Neighborhood Association and a member of the Green Bay Neighborhoods. I have also had training through NeighborWorks America. I have been the executive director of a local nonprofit, which includes overseeing all operations, marketing, fundraising, accounting, and teaching classes that teach conflict resolution and effective communication skills.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 2/1/24]

Green Bay Press-Gazette: Eck was an early childhood activities director. “Eck, an early childhood education activities director, defeated Poradek in 2022, one of five new City Council members to join

the board two years ago. Poradek, who works in nonprofit administration and serves on the city's Planning Commission, emerged from a three-way primary in February to challenge Eck again." [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 3/19/24]

Family

June 1987: Melinda Margaret Belanger married William Michael Eck in Green Bay. [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 7/8/87]

2005: Eck and her family were profiled in the Green Bay Press-Gazette as part of her participation in a program to encourage children to clean their rooms, run by Bayside Christian Fellowship Church, where she worked. "When Loosey Goosey came knocking on front doors a couple years ago, parents were delighted and kids ran for cover. Make that covers -- bed covers. Word spread among young people at Bayside Christian Fellowship Church that a costumed visitor was dropping in to inspect bedrooms. Worse yet, she was packing a camcorder and gathering evidence. Melinda Eck of Green Bay also known as Loosey Goosey, is home on family leave from her job at the church, but she carries with her the startled looks on kids' faces when she showed up at their homes. Her character was part of a program called 'Your Living Space.' Some young people were ashamed because their rooms were a disgrace. Others 'thought it was cool' because their rooms passed muster, Eck said." [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 7/15/05]

- **GBPG: "Her husband, Bill, sets the tone when the older of their five children ask to go to a friend's house: 'I don't know, let me see your room,' he says."** "Eck's own home isn't exempt from kids with messy spaces, she admitted. 'Our son, Jonathan, 17, keeps his room absolutely spotless,' she said. Then there's Brittany, her 14-year-old, who reasons, 'Why don't I just close the door? It's my room.' 'That really doesn't fly with us,' said Eck, echoing what other parents tell their kids. 'It's our house.' Her husband, Bill, sets the tone when the older of their five children ask to go to a friend's house: 'I don't know, let me see your room,' he says. Still, Brittany isn't sold on the clean-room concept. 'It's nice after you're done (cleaning), but it's a pain in the butt to do,' Brittany said. 'I really don't like putting the effort into it sometimes.' Still, Mom and Dad hold the trump cards. 'If I want to hang out with friends at the mall, watch TV or listen to music, I have to have my room clean,' she said. 'It can be a struggle sometimes ... I still don't get the problem. It's my room, and I can do what I want with it, if I want it messy or if I want it clean.'" [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 7/15/05]

Eck has five children, Jonathan, Brittany, Sarah, Maria and Ashley. [Facebook, Melinda Eck for Green Bay City Council, District 11, [4/3/16](#)]

Bill Eck appears to be an Academic Advisor & Course Counsellor for Warrior Restoration Ranch, a nonprofit that provides a "haven for Veterans and First Responders seeking healing." "Warrior Restoration Ranch in Northern WI is a haven for Veterans and First Responders seeking healing. Our ranch offers a unique blend of spiritual revitalization and outdoor camaraderie, aiming to reintegrate our heroes into society. Nestled in Green Bay, WI, we provide a safe space where individuals can find solace in nature and forge lasting connections." [Warrior Restoration Ranch, Members & Staff, accessed [11/05/25](#)]

Endorsements

March 2025: Eck endorsed Green Bay School Board candidates Elliot Christenson and Katie Gentry, both of whom were endorsed by Brown County Republicans. “Incumbents James Lyerly and Rick Crosson are facing challengers Elliot Christenson, Katie Gentry, Jeanette Knill and Alex Mineau. They’re competing for three at-large positions on the Green Bay school board where, if elected, they’ll serve three-year terms. Here’s what to know before you vote.... Elliot Christenson ... Endorsements: Brown County Republicans, District 11 Ald. Melinda Eck, former Green Bay school board member Rhonda Sitnikau, former Green Bay school board candidates Noah Becker and Darin Kane, Astor East River Neighborhood Association President Eric Drzewieck and Wilder Park Neighborhood Association President Jason Holterman. ... Katie Gentry ... Endorsements: Brown County Republicans, District 11 Ald. Melinda Eck and Brown County District 23 Supervisor Dixon Wolfe...” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 3/21/25]

Previous Elections

2016: Eck unsuccessfully sought the District 11 seat, losing her first election to John S. Vander Leest by a tally of 1,468 votes to 1,149. “In District 11, small business owner John S. Vander Leest came out ahead of Melinda Eck, the executive director of Freedom Life Skills Executive. Incumbent Brian Danzinger did not seek re-election.... District 11 Melinda Eck: 1,149 votes John S. Vander Leest: 1,468 votes.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 4/6/16]

2022: Eck ran against Michael Poradek for Green Bay Council District 11, a seat that opened when incumbent John Vander Leest decided not to seek re-election. “Voters in District 11 will have an opportunity on April 5 to select their new City Council member in a race that pits Melinda Eck against Michael Poradek. The position, currently served by council member John Vander Leest, is one of three districts where the incumbent has opted not to run for a new term. Both candidates have worked with the organization Green Bay Neighborhoods, with each serving as presidents of different District 11 neighborhood associations.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 3/11/22]

April 2022: Eck defeated Poradek 673 votes to 564. [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 4/7/22]

2024: Eck faced a re-match against Poradek and won re-election by 807 votes to 714. [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 4/4/24]

ON THE ISSUES

Political Violence

Jan. 6, 2021 “Stop the Steal” Rally

Eck organized a ‘Stop the Steal’ rally outside Green Bay City Hall on Jan. 6, 2021, before she was elected to City Council. “The same day rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol to overturn the results of the 2020 election, protesters gathered outside Green Bay City Hall for a ‘Stop the Steal’ rally. The protest was organized by now-Ald. Melinda Eck, who was elected to the city council in 2022. Eck did not return repeated requests for an interview, but at the protest, she told WTAQ-FM that Trump supporters wouldn’t back down, saying, ‘There’s a bunch of patriots out there and they are going to fight for their freedom.’” [Wisconsin Watch, 10/16/24]

Green Bay Press-Gazette: Eck was an administrator for a ‘Stop the Steal’ Facebook group. “Eck had also been an administrator for a local Facebook group that shared ‘Stop the Steal’ messaging about the November 2020 presidential election.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 4/8/22]

Green Bay Press-Gazette: Eck “encouraged fellow Trump supporters to picket ‘at the mayor’s house’ on Jan. 6, 2021.” “In one post on a Facebook page she administers, Eck encouraged fellow Trump supporters to picket ‘at the mayor’s house’ on Jan. 6, 2021, to show Genrich ‘we know he was up to no good in regards to our presidential election. ... Please make signs like - ‘Stop the Steal’, ‘Our mayor’s corrupt’, ‘Avoid the Appearance of Evil’, ‘We Stand with Trump’, etc...’” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 2/13/22]

GBPG: Eck’s “campaign messages do not publicize her belief that the 2020 election was stolen from Trump.” ‘Her campaign messages do not publicize her belief that the 2020 election was stolen from Trump. But in a radio news report, Eck was interviewed on Jan. 6, 2021, after she led a ‘Stop the Steal’ rally outside Green Bay City Hall. ‘There’s a lot of people that are supporting our president (Trump), and we don’t want to back down from this because we may lose our Republic if we do,’ Eck told the news outlet that day.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 2/13/22]

GBPG: “Social media posts to Eck’s account have been deleted ... had featured photos of the ‘Stop the Steal’ rally and promoted the sale of posters displaying the slogan ‘Let’s Go Brandon,’ a coded anti-Biden slur popular with the far right.” “Social media posts to Eck’s account have been deleted since her announcement she would be running for the nonpartisan city office. Those deleted posts had featured photos of the ‘Stop the Steal’ rally and promoted the sale of posters displaying the slogan ‘Let’s Go Brandon,’ a coded anti-Biden slur popular with the far right. In one message that was still on Eck’s campaign/personal Facebook page, but has since been deleted, a woman asked Eck if she thinks a fair election can still be held, given all ‘the election fraud.’ Eck’s response: ‘I can only hope and pray! It doesn’t help that I have led protests against the mayor regarding election fraud and his tyrannical mandates!’” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 2/13/22]

2022: Politico: Eck was “one of four candidates running in the Green Bay area who have questioned the legitimacy of the 2020 election.” ‘The Democratic Party of Wisconsin is also up with a digital ad calling Melinda Eck, a city council candidate, ‘a threat to our democracy and our freedom to vote.’ Eck is one of four candidates running in the Green Bay area who have questioned the legitimacy of the 2020 election.’ [Politico, [4/5/22](#)]

January 2021: WTAQ: “People who couldn’t quite make it to the rally in Washington gathered in Green Bay.” ‘As Washington D.C. descended into chaos on Wednesday, a Stop the Steal rally outside of Green Bay City Hall was fairly tame. People who couldn’t quite make it to the rally in Washington gathered in Green Bay, where speakers and organizers continued to fight for a closer look into the results of the presidential election.’ [WTAQ, [1/6/21](#)]

Eck: “There’s a lot of people that are supporting our president, and we don’t want to back down from this because we may lose our Republic if we do.” “‘There’s a lot of people that are supporting our president, and we don’t want to back down from this because we may lose our Republic if we do,’ said Organizer Melinda Eck.” [WTAQ, [1/6/21](#)]

Eck: “There aren’t any cities being burned down or rioting and looting right now, because the other side thinks they won. But we believe that when it gets overturned and goes in our favor, that is when things could look bad.” “‘There aren’t any cities being burned down or rioting and looting

right now, because the other side thinks they won. But we believe that when it gets overturned and goes in our favor, that is when things could look bad,' Eck said.” [WTAQ, [1/6/21](#)]

Eck: “I haven’t really thought about’ how to respond if Biden were sworn in. ‘What I want to do is I want to go to DC for the inauguration for Donald J. Trump.” “We asked what plans would be if Biden is officially certified and confirmed to take over as the 46th President of the United States.... ‘I haven’t really thought about that. What I want to do is I want to go to DC for the inauguration for Donald J. Trump,’ Eck said.” [WTAQ, [1/6/21](#)]

WTAQ: Eck “agree[d] ... that something more violent or intense could happen.” “But Eck does agree with Debra-Lynn that something more violent or intense could happen.” [WTAQ, [1/6/21](#)]

Eck: “Do I support that? Not necessarily.” “They haven’t been so far, but I will tell you that there’s a bunch of patriots out there and they are going to fight for their freedom. So if they have to, I believe they will. Do I support that? Not necessarily,’ Eck said.’ [WTAQ, [1/6/21](#)]

WTAQ: Eck accused Green Bay Mayor Eric Grenrich of not playing fair “when it came to the central count and absentee balloting.” ‘The rally could have been held anywhere, but organizers chose Green Bay City Hall for a specific reason. Eck argues that Mayor Eric Genrich and his office didn’t play fair when it came to the central count and absentee balloting. She believes that Genrich’s community liaison, Amaad Rivera, has a questionable track record and should not have been put in charge of the central count process.’ [WTAQ, [1/6/21](#)]

Eck: “There were a lot of things that ... our mayor was involved in.... He’s very leftist ... and he was overseeing at least 31,000 absentee ballots being fed through the machines. That doesn’t seem right.” “There were a lot of things that went on in our election in Green Bay that our mayor was involved in,’ Eck claimed. ‘He’s very leftist, he’s held anti-Trump rallies, and he was overseeing at least 31,000 absentee ballots being fed through the machines. That doesn’t seem right.’ [WTAQ, [1/6/21](#)]

2025 Wanted Posters

October 2025: Eck and another City Council member were targets of ‘Wanted’ posted displayed in the city. ‘Flyers posted in Green Bay this past week targeted City Council members Melinda Eck and Jennifer Grant, who said they felt unsafe and on their guard afterward. Both said the ‘Wanted’ posters went beyond the exercise of free speech. Since at least Oct. 18, black-and-white pamphlets were posted on utility poles along Abrams Street. Their template was the same. They read, ‘Wanted’ and then had the names and faces of Eck and Grant. The headers had variants on ‘Criminal’ and what appeared to be the Green Bay Packers logo. The footers called Eck and Grant ‘unjust and inequitable.’ Phone numbers that appear to lead to the politician were to the side, as well as a list of negatively characterized claims - many unsupported - of the politician’s policies and past actions. The flyers were removed from Abrams Street as of Oct. 22.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/25]

- **Eck: “I strongly condemn this method of protest.”** “I strongly condemn this method of protest,’ Eck said during an Oct. 22 news conference on the CityDeck with Grant and U.S. Rep. Tony Wied, R-De Pere. ‘It is not only reckless and inflammatory, but it undermines the kind of open, respectful dialogue that is much needed in today’s world.’ Eck said she was first notified of the flyers by the Green Bay Police Chief Chris Davis, who she said described the posters as ‘those old-fashioned wanted posters in the Wild West.’ She said such posters falsely portrayed

the council members as criminals and had an underlying historical connotation of bringing targets to authorities ‘dead or alive.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/24/25]

Right-wing influencer Libs of TikTok condemned the wanted posters. “Radical trans activists in Green Bay, WI posted threatening ‘Wanted’ posters targeting two Republican-endorsed city councilwomen. Will Democrats condemn these left-wing threats of political violence?” [X, @libsoftiktok, [10/20/25](#)]

City Management

Mayor’s pay raise

October 2025: Eck was one of three Council members who opposed a 37% increase in the mayor’s salary, preferring a smaller 25% pay bump. ‘Green Bay’s next mayor is in line to get the position’s largest salary bump in recent memory, following the Oct. 7 approval by the City Council. The council voted 9-3 to start off the next mayor with a \$140,000 salary - a 37% increase from the current \$102,298.55. The next mayoral term will start in April 2027. Supporters, like council members Alyssa Proffitt, Kathy Hinkfuss, Brian Johnson and Bill Galvin, emphasized the elevated pay rates for leaders of other cities and doubled down on a previous argument that the workload of the mayor merited the increase. The three dissenting council members - Jennifer Grant, Melinda Eck and William Morgan - had concerns that such a bump would reward private interests in the public office and cited some residents’ tax worries. The three preferred a previously unanimous consensus made at the recommendation of city staff to raise the next mayor’s salary to \$128,547, or about a 25% increase to the current salary.... Eck pointed to some residents’ concerns that the increase would amount to an undue tax burden on residents.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/09/25]

ARPA Funding

2024: When running for re-election, Eck touted her work to secure \$1 million in ARPA funds for new fire stations. ‘Why are you running? I am running for reelection so that I can continue to work hard to represent my constituents at city hall and fight for their needs. I worked with Alder Grant to create 2 ordinances to address sex trafficking in our city. We also were able to secure \$1 million in ARPA funds toward the building of Fire Stations 1 and 3. We also helped create the Green Bay Metro Fire Foundation by securing the \$10,000 that was needed to start it. I have been able to accomplish many things but there’s a lot more work to do. I am honored to work for my constituents and always try to be available to listen to their concerns and address their needs. I would love the opportunity to continue to represent my district.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 3/19/24]

Green Bay Nursery Redevelopment

September 2025: Eck supported Highland Crest Baptist Church building a new church at the former Green Bay Nursery site in her district. ‘Highland Crest Baptist Church has applied to rezone the former Green Bay Nursery site on South Military Avenue, a key step toward its plan to build a new church on the vacant site.... Highland Crest has added on to its original, more than 60-year old sanctuary several times in past decades, and Hertler said the church was looking at doing so again. But plans to add on stalled when Green Bay City Council Member Melinda Eck suggested the Green Bay Nursery site as an alternative. Eck, whose district includes the former nursery property, said she wants to hear what neighbors think of the proposal, but so far supports the church project. ‘It would be a great addition to the neighborhood,’ Eck said after the Sept. 18 meeting.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/22/25]

Homelessness

October 2025: Eck said villages outside Green Bay had a responsibility to take on some of the region's homelessness burden. ‘To the surprise of some and at the skepticism of others, an ordinance that would have banned camping on all public property in Ashwaubenon failed muster at the Village Board’s Oct. 28 meeting.... Board member Gary Paul... was the most staunch and vocal proponent of the law.... He said the village wouldn’t want to ‘close our parks down like Green Bay has,’ a comment that Green Bay City Council member Melinda Eck in the audience said she winced at. The city has not closed any parks. Eck, who was listening for what would be said about homelessness, was pleased at the village’s ultimate direction. She said the Green Bay City Council has previously lamented feeling that the city was solely taking on the region’s homelessness population. ‘So I’d like to say, ‘How about if you start with taking some of that burden on?’’ she said, adding that ‘the reality is that it’s a regional problem and they’re part of the region.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/30/25]

2024: Eck said homelessness was one of the two more important issues to address in Green Bay. ‘What two issues most need to be addressed in Green Bay: ... Homelessness has been a growing problem within our city and it has been detrimental to our downtown businesses. It has been spreading to all areas of our city including Colburn Park and in the woods behind MacArthur School. During my tenure on City Council, I have voted to add positions that will be dedicated to helping to address homelessness in our community. As we see these positions being established and working with all of the various agencies and resources I believe we will see an improvement in addressing homelessness.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 3/19/24]

Illicit Massage Parlors

August 2023: Eck supported new rules requiring massage parlors to have a license to operate to crack down on alleged sex-trafficking. ‘Massage therapy businesses will have to get a license to operate in Green Bay under regulations backers say will help the city crack down on illicit businesses. The Green Bay City Council on Tuesday approved new rules massage establishments must follow to operate in the city. The measure passed 11-1. Advocates on the council have worked on the package of rules and potential penalties since 2015 as they sought a way to punish or shut down illicit spas and massage parlors where workers exchange sex for money.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette 8/24/23]

Eck: “There are illegitimate spas popping up across our city ... a very real blight on our city.” ‘‘There are illegitimate spas popping up across our city,’ Alderperson Melinda Eck said. ‘They’re a very real blight on our city.’ Eck noted the rules and regulations had been vetted by city and outside attorneys and public safety leaders, aligned with recommendations provided by the American Massage Therapy Association, and modified to address concerns massage therapists raised as the proposal moved toward approval. Several council members said they’d received complaints about several Military Avenue businesses rumored to be places where prostitution occurs. Others believe human trafficking has occurred in the city.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette 8/24/23]

Infrastructure

2024: Eck was road construction was one of her top priorities. ‘Road conditions are a big issue throughout our city. Being on the Improvement and Services Committee, I’ve had the opportunity to work with the Department of Public Works to re-prioritize our city streets to address the need for repairs and reconstruction. With a newer technology that would allow for more roads to be re-surfaced instead

of full re-construction it will allow for many more roads to be re-done because of the lower costs involved. This way we can catch up with the aging roads in a much more expedient manner while doing full re-constructs on the roads that need other infrastructure improvements.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 3/19/24]

Short Term Rental Regulation

Context: During the lead up to the 2025 NFL Draft build (hosted in Green Bay), local reporting and data firms described a sharp event-driven surge in the short term rental (STR) market. FOX6, citing AirDNA, reported that by April 10, 2025, the Green Bay market had 1,030 nights booked for Draft weekend (Thu–Sat) versus 409 nights booked by the same point for the comparable 2024 weekend, along with major price increases [[Fox 6](#)].

Green Bay already had an enforcement-and-permitting framework in place heading into the 2025 NFL Draft (April 24–26, 2025): the city requires a Short-Term Rental Permit for renting a residence for fewer than 28 consecutive days (with “homeshare” carved out), plus an annual Brown County health inspection, and the city notes there is no minimum number of rental days in its current rules [[Green Bay](#)].

In the run-up to the Draft, the city mailed warning letters to people advertising Draft-week rentals without proper permits; a city compliance inspector told WBAY in late February 2025 that hosts needed two permits (city permit + county inspection), that there were roughly ~450 properly registered STR properties at the time, and that advertising without a permit could trigger daily fines [[WBAY](#)].

Proposed City Regulations Sent Back to Committee: By fall 2025, Green Bay officials were debating whether to tighten STR rules more broadly. FOX11 reported the number of STRs in the city had increased from about 120 (2022) to over 430 (2025) [[Fox 11](#)]. In that same period, proposed changes (originating through the city’s Equal Rights Commission process and moving toward the Plan Commission / Council pipeline) included items such as a minimum-stay requirement, a cap on days rented, a “three-strikes” enforcement approach for repeated violations, and higher permit fees (as described in local coverage) [[Fox 11](#)]. At a Nov. 17, 2025 public meeting on proposed rules, WBAY reported debate over a 180-day cap (structured July 1–June 30) and a three-strikes concept, and also reported that the body struck the 180-day cap late that night [[WBAY](#)].

The issue has become somewhat controversial in Green Bay, leading to the founding of the Green bay Short Term Rental Alliance [[Citizen Portal](#)]. Proponents of the regulations have argued the new rules are needed to preserve affordable housing, as properties are taken off the market for investment opportunities [[WBAY](#)]. Dissenting opinions to the regulations have argued city government should not be involved in market-based issues like that. Others advocated for a compromise approach: implementing reasonable fees or taxes on short-term rental properties to fund affordable housing initiatives, and enforcing nuisance ordinances to handle any bad actors [[Citizen Portal](#)].

At the December 2, 2025 Common Council meeting, FOX 11 reports the Council ultimately sent the issue back to staff to develop policy/ordinance recommendations with input from alders, STR operators, the Equal Rights Commission, and community members [[Fox 11](#)]. FOX 11 also notes that by that point the proposal had changed—excluding the minimum/maximum stay limits and fee increases—before the Council voted.

City Council Requested Legislature Action on STRs: In the same December 2025 Green Bay City Council meeting, alders voted unanimously to request action by the Wisconsin State Legislature on the issue of short term rentals [[Green Bay](#)].

Eck Opposed Proposed Regulations: Eck was one of the 10 council members who voted to send the proposal back to the Equal Rights Commission in December 2025, indicating she is against the proposed regulations [[Green Bay](#)]. While it does not appear as though Eck has not taken a clearer policy stance on the short term rental issue, the Green Bay Short Term Rental Alliance posted about her reelection announcement, thanking her for engaging with their group and ultimately voting against the proposed regulations from the City Council.



LGBTQ+

July 2025: Eck was the lone vote against a City Council resolution expressing support for a state ban on conversion therapy. ‘The Green Bay City Council threw its support behind a Wisconsin State Senate bill that would ban certain mental health providers in the state from performing conversion therapy on minors. In a 9-1 vote on July 15, the council will send a resolution drafted by council members Ben Delie, Joey Prestley, and Alyssa Proffitt to the state Legislature encouraging the passage of the Senate bill on grounds that conversion therapy by medical professionals to change someone’s sexual orientation or gender identity has been widely discredited and has resulted in significant harm to minors.... City Council member Melinda Eck cast the sole vote against the resolution.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 7/18/25]

- **Green Bay Press-Gazette: Eck ‘said she didn’t understand why the council was spending time addressing the issue at the local level when it was already being litigated on a state and federal level.’** ‘She said she didn’t understand why the council was spending time addressing the issue at the local level when it was already being litigated on a state and federal level. She motioned to hold the resolution until the U.S. Supreme Court made a judgment on a conversion therapy case from Colorado. No one seconded her motion. Council members William Morgan and Jennifer Grant were absent.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 7/18/25]

June 2025: Eck attended a meeting of the Protection and Policy Committee, of which she is not a member, to discuss a proposed resolution opposing conversion therapy. ‘Protection and Policy Committee members could not agree on whether a resolution opposing conversion therapy within Green Bay’s boundaries should be written, sending the matter to the City Council to decide on June 24 without guidance following the committee’s deadlocked 2-2 vote on June 16.... Council members Craig Stevens and William Morgan who sit on the committee voted against recommending the proposed resolution. Council member Melinda Eck, who does not sit on the committee but was present over Zoom, concurred. They preferred to wait for the litigation to be settled before considering any further action, they said. In any case, Morgan said, he had not heard from his constituents on the matter in all his time as a council member.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 6/19/25]

- **Eck: “I don’t see this as something that is necessary to do as a resolution.”** “I don’t see this as something that is necessary to do as a resolution,’ Eck added. Conversion therapy attempts to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of queer individuals often through talk counseling and prayer, or in more extreme cases: exorcisms, ‘corrective’ rape, electrocution and withholding food. Its foundation was first laid in the 1800s by early psychoanalysts like Sigmund Freud, who believed being queer was a mental disorder or a disease.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 6/19/25]

February 2023: Eck voted for Green Bay to cease displaying a gay pride flag outside City Hall. “Supporters of flying the gay pride flag lobbied Tuesday for support from City Council to continue flying the rainbow-colored banner on the flagpole outside City Hall as a message that Green Bay citizens welcome various groups of people. A flagpole policy proposal would have limited the flags flown at City Hall to the U.S., state and city flags. Mayor Eric Genrich broke a 6-6 tie vote to receive the policy proposal and place it on file, instead of approving the proposed policy, ending the flagpole debate and leaving the decision to the discretion of the mayor. Voting to receive and place the proposal on file were City Council members William Galvin, Jim Hutchison, Brian Johnson, Randy Scannell, Mark Steuer and Craig Stevens. Voting against it were Jesse Brunette, Steven Campbell, Melinda Eck, Jennifer Grant, William Morgan and Chris Wery.”

RELIGION

October 2024: Green Bay Press-Gazette: Eck, ‘for whom religion is an important part of her life,’ testified on behalf of continued religious invocations at public meetings. ‘Council member Melinda Eck, for whom religion is an important part of her life, testified from the audience at the Oct. 7 meeting that she saw no issue with the way invocations have been done in Green Bay aside from the rare instances they’ve turned political. ‘I would hope that people would use common sense when doing their invocation,’ Eck said. ‘I just think it’s a real slippery slope when we start to put any regulations on it.’ [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 10/17/24]

TRUMP

September 2024: GBPG: Eck was one of a “who’s-who of local conservatives” attending a rally as part of the “Team Trump Bus Tour” of GOP surrogates barnstorming Wisconsin ahead of the election. “Jon Helf and Al Paall just met in the corner of Trump Force 47 headquarters in Green Bay Plaza. They both wore red - a Champion hoodie for Helf, a T-shirt for Paall - much like a third of the standing-room-only crowd gathered Tuesday morning that was a who’s-who of local conservatives: John Macco, 88th Assembly representative; Melinda Eck, Green Bay City Council member; Doug Reich, Brown County Republican Party chair; Jessica Henderson, Republican candidate for the 90th

Assembly District. State Sen. Eric Wimberger, R-Green Bay, opened the second day of the Team Trump Bus Tour with a plea to the audience to be ‘an army of advocates for Donald Trump and (U.S. Senate candidate) Eric Hovde.’” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 9/26/24]

FINANCIAL & TAX

2024: Eck reported raising \$6,262.36 and spending \$5,498.20 on her most recent re-election.

[Campaign Finance Report, Melinda Eck Committee, [7/15/24](#)]

March 2022: An independent expenditure group, Wisconsinites for Liberty Fund, distributed fliers supporting Eck’s campaign that included inaccurate claims about crime in Green Bay. “A Pewaukee group’s mass mailing that tells Green Bay voters their City Council representatives presided over a 600% increase in ‘the homicide rate’ and eliminated 10 police officers is riddled with inaccuracies, officials say.... The mailer, paid for by a political activist group that lists a Waukesha County post office box as its address, claims Green Bay City Council member Barbara Dorff ‘defunded police while crime soared.’ It also claims homicides increased seven-fold in Green Bay since she was elected, which was in 2016.... The mailer ... identifies its source as the Wisconsinites for Liberty Fund.... The political group said its mailings are in support of three candidates: Melinda Eck, who is running for Green Bay City Council in District 11 on the west side....” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 3/27/22]

April 2022: Restoration PAC spent \$4,301 on brochures supporting Eck’s campaign. “According to Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, independent expenditures from outside Wisconsin have been made in support of these candidates: ... Melinda Eck, Green Bay City Council District 11, \$4,301 on brochures from Restoration PAC.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 4/4/22]

Life Skills Wisconsin

2009 – 2023: According to her campaign website, Eck was Executive Director & Facilitator, Freedom Life Skills, Inc. [Friends of Melinda Eck, About Melinda, accessed [11/04/25](#)]

2022: Eck was executive director of the local nonprofit Life Skills of Wisconsin. “Relevant experience: I am the president of the board for the John Muir Park Neighborhood Association and a member of the Green Bay Neighborhoods, which has sparked me to be more community-minded and helps get a pulse on what is happening in Green Bay. I have also had training through NeighborWorks America to learn how to become an effective leader in the community. I am the executive director of a local nonprofit, Life Skills of Wisconsin, which includes overseeing all operations, marketing, fundraising, accounting and teaching classes for teens and adults on conflict resolution and effective communication skills. All of these skills and experiences have helped cultivate leadership skills that will help me to be an effective public servant.” [Green Bay Press-Gazette, 3/11/22]

2016: Eck was Secretary of Freedom Life Skills, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, based in Green Bay, Wisc., with a salary of \$18,228. [Freedom Life Skills Inc. 2016 IRS 990, accessed [11/05/25](#)]

2016: Freedom Life Skills, Inc.’s revenue totaled \$198,164, comprising \$109,364 in contributions, gifts and grants, and \$86,981 in program service revenue. [Freedom Life Skills Inc. 2016 IRS 990, accessed [11/05/25](#)]

October 2016: Eck posted a video to YouTube entitled “Intro to Life Skills,” in which provided an overview of the program. [YouTube, Melinda Eck, [10/19/16](#)]

2017: Melinda Eck earned \$15,120 as Secretary of Freedom Life Skills Inc. [Freedom Life Skills Inc. 2017 IRS 990, accessed [11/05/25](#)]

2017: William Eck, who appears to be her husband, was paid \$10,934 as a Director of Freedom Life Skills, Inc. [Freedom Life Skills Inc. 2017 IRS 990, accessed [11/05/25](#)]

2017: Freedom Life Skills, Inc.’s revenue fell to \$120,302, comprising \$4,280 in contributions, gifts and grants, and \$116,010 in program service revenue.

2017: Freedom Life Skills, Inc., said it conducted classes for hundreds of participants to teach skills on improving lives and relationships. “THE CORPORATION PROVIDES TOOLS TO HELP INDIVIDUALS LEARN HOW TO REBUILD AND IMPROVE THEIR LIVES AND INCREASE THEIR CAPACITY TO FUNCTION IN HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND OFFER HOPE OF RECONCILIATION DURING 2017, HUNDREDS OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED LIFE SKILLS TRAINING THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN CLASSES AND SEMINARS AT FIVE LOCATIONS IN WISCONSIN” [Freedom Life Skills, Inc., 2017 IRS 990, accessed [11/05/25](#)]

2018-2024: Freedom Life Skills, Inc., has filed 990-N “e-Postcard” tax returns, indicating the organization raised less than \$50,000 per year. [IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search, accessed 11/05/25]

2018-2024: Melinda Eck has been listed as the principal officer of Freedom Life Skills, Inc. [IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search, accessed 11/05/25]

May 2020: Melinda Eck posted a video offering “Ten Tips to Help With Stress” during the pandemic to a YouTube Page for Life Skills of Wisconsin; it is the only video associated with the profile. [YouTube, Life Skills of Wisconsin, [5/29/20](#)]

Freedom Life Skills’ tax returns listed its website as www.freedomlifeskills.org, but the site is no longer active. [Freedom Life Skills Inc. 2017 IRS 990, accessed [11/05/25](#)]

Freedom Life Skills’ Inc.’s revenue peaked in 2011 at nearly \$1 million, but the organization experienced sharp decline in the years before Eck took over as executive director. [Freedom Life Skills Inc. IRS 990s, via ProPublica, accessed [11/05/25](#)]

| Freedom Life Skills Inc. Key Financial Information | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Year | Revenue | Expenses | Net Income | Net Assets |
| 2011 | \$974,264 | \$692,469 | \$281,795 | \$261,363 |
| 2012 | \$753,909 | \$878,302 | (\$124,393) | \$113,424 |
| 2013 | \$716,858 | \$827,972 | (\$111,114) | (\$26,288) |
| 2014 | \$221,429 | \$248,832 | (\$27,403) | (\$53,691) |

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 2015 | \$105,577 | \$116,014 | (\$10,437) | (\$64,128) |
| 2016 | \$198,164 | \$82,886 | \$115,278 | \$51,150 |
| 2017 | \$120,302 | \$80,002 | \$40,300 | \$91,450 |
| 2018-24 | <\$50K/yr | ? | ? | ? |

According to archived captures of the site, Freedom Life Skills Inc. did business as Life Skills of Wisconsin and was an affiliate of Life Skills International. “Life Skills International’s Corporate ministry located in Lubbock, Texas. LSI is a team of over 100 affiliated centers across the United States and the world. The centers are staffed by trained facilitators who teach the ‘Learning to Live, Learning to Love’ curriculum for over 30 years. Life Skills of Wisconsin’s Professional Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin under Freedom Life Skills Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization since 2007.” [About Life Skills, via the Internet Archive, captured [6/19/24](#)]

Life Skills International is a self-help organization that provides curriculum for classes geared at helping people improve their relationships. “Since 1985, Life Skills International has worked with some of the most difficult and almost impossible situations in people’s lives, bringing wholeness, healing, and maturity; making the impossible, possible. What is the ‘Learning to Live, Learning to Love’ curriculum? In the 1980’s, our curriculum was created to support and aid people involved in abusive relationships. In the following decades, the Life Skills Program has proven to fine-tune and bring enrichment to any relationship, whether abuse is present or not. We have discovered that past hurts shared within the group setting have often have common root issues. Most adults have personal experience with abuse or rejection at some point in their lives. The common issues can be one or a combination of physical, verbal, psychological, emotional, economic, and even silent abuse, along with stalking, rejection, and other forms of manipulation and control. Proving itself very effective, the ‘Learning to Live, Learning to Love’ curriculum, developed by Dr. Paul Hegstrom is also currently being taught in small group settings in many states in the U.S. Also, the Life Skills ‘Five Day Intensive Program’ is available for individuals who cannot attend weekly classes because of scheduling reasons or if they don’t live near one of our Affiliate Centers. Life Skills International reaches out to people who find themselves in situations from ‘just a few speed bumps’ in their relationships to some of the most difficult issues in life, that almost require an ‘emergency room’ to begin the healing process.” [Life Skills International, Who We Are, accessed [11/05/25](#)]

LEGAL

None found.

SEX OFFENDER STATUS

None found.

SOCIAL MEDIA

[Personal LinkedIn](#)

[Campaign Facebook](#) (Last updated October 30, 2024)

Campaign website