

## **PAIGE KATSARSKY-SMITH - BATTLE CREEK CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE (NP)**

Key findings include:

- **First-Term City Councilor:** Katsarsky-Smith is a first-term At-Large Battle Creek City Councilor. Her campaign emphasized crime and family values.
- **Republican:** Katsarsky-Smith is a Republican; her Facebook profile memorializes Charlie Kirk, some of her friends are Trump Republicans, she likes a Republican Calhoun County Commissioner, and she attended the 2024 MI GOP convention to nominate Trump for President. She also potentially donated to election denier and Republican Garret Soldano's 2022 gubernatorial campaign.
- **Opposition to Pride Flag:** Katsarsky-Smith voted against a resolution to fly a Pride flag at Battle Creek City Hall in 2025. She did not make any public comment relating to her no-vote.
- **Civil Liberties Lawsuit:** Katsarsky-Smith has been tagged by a far right activist on Facebook relating to FOIA and an ongoing civil rights case against Battle Creek. However, Sofia has not been called out specifically and it does not appear it is gaining traction locally.

Battle Creek ("Cereal City") is a mid-sized city in Calhoun County anchored by manufacturing and food processing (WK Kellogg Co/Kellanova) with a population around 52,000. Battle Creek is a working class city, with median household income of \$51.7k, and roughly 18% of residents below poverty, with a racially diverse population (approx. 63% White, 16% Black, 8–9% Hispanic) [[Data USA](#), 10/27/2025].

Politically, Battle Creek leans Democrat in conservative Calhoun County; Harris won Battle Creek in 2024 54-46. There is not significant documented election denier activity in Battle Creek. Although the Battle Creek City Council is official non-partisan, Republican-aligned incumbents hold a majority.

### **BACKGROUND**

Public-facing materials emphasize local roots and parenting: a Community Matters interview ahead of the 2024 election noted she "grew up in Battle Creek," is "the mother of young children," and wants to attract more families to live in the city. Earlier reporting by WWMT identified her as a "Battle Creek mother of four." Her campaign presence consisted primarily of a Facebook page using the tagline "Just a mom trying to raise her family in a healthy, safe environment with a strong sense of community"

Katsarsky-Smith is a Republican. The friends on her Facebook include [Lance Griffin](#), a Michigan Trump Republican who has been tagged with many election denier oriented posts. She also likes [Dominic Oo's county commissioner campaign page](#). Oo shared he voted for Trump in 2024 and is tagged in many posts from individuals that appear to espouse far right leanings. Katsarsky-Smith also potentially made contributions to Garret Soldano's 2022 unsuccessful run for the GOP nomination for Governor, although individual was not able to be verified. Soldano is an election denier [[Election Deniers](#), 10/27/2025].

### **ON THE ISSUES**

*Nothing found for first round vet*

## **VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE**

### **CHARLIE KIRK FACEBOOK POST**

Katsarsky-Smith posted on her [Facebook](#) memorializing Charlie Kirk, claiming she was “fortunate enough to briefly meet him, and listen to him speak in person... just a very respectful and powerful voice.”

### **TRUMP DELEGATE IN 2024**

Katsarsky-Smith served as a delegate at the 2024 MI GOP Convention to nominate Trump [[Facebook](#), 10/27/2025].

### **OPPOSITION TO PRIDE FLAG**

Katsarsky-Smith was one of two Battle Creek City Councilors to vote against a resolution to fly a Pride flag during the month of July in Battle Creek. The resolution passed 7-2. Sofia did not state she was against the LGBTQ+ community. Katsarsky-Smith did not make a statement relating to her opposition to the resolution [[Battle Creek](#), 10/27/2025]. Katsarsky-Smith’s opposition to the Pride flag resolution, her rhetoric surrounding family values, and her support for Trump, Republicans, and Charlie Kirk, could be indicators for more extremist beliefs.

### **ARPA FUNDING CONTROVERSY**

One of Battle Creek’s prominent African American religious leaders, along with the host of a Facebook event, questioned the fairness and transparency of the process used by city commissioners to allocate about \$8 million in ARPA to fund projects submitted by organizations in the community. Commissioners publicly defended the process [[Second Wave Media](#), 10/28/2025]. It does not appear the criticism from community leaders gained much traction.

### **CIVIL LIBERTIES LAWSUIT**

Autumn Smith filed a lawsuit against the Battle Creek City Council alleging they violated her First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendments. Smith’s request to fly a Tea Party flag and an “Appeal to Heaven” flag (revolutionary war flag used with extremists today) were denied by the Council [Smith v. City of Battle Creek, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 238704]. The case appears to be open but does not seem to have gained much traction. Further, Smith tagged Battle Creek City Councilors in a post lambasting city hall for denying a FOIA request. Smith’s [Facebook](#) is full of extremist content, including her being a self-proclaimed patriot.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS**

[Campaign Facebook](#)

[Personal Facebook](#)

[Personal Instagram](#) (private)

[Other personal Instagram](#) (private)