

PATRICK O'DONNELL - BATTLE CREEK CITY COUNCIL 3RD DISTRICT

Key findings include:

- **Second-Term City Councilor:** O'Donnell was elected to the Battle Creek City Council in 2022 (53-47) and reelected in 2024 (57-43).
- **Republican:** O'Donnell is as Republican, having attended the MI GOP convention in 2024 with the District 4 Republican Delegation, casting votes for Trump to be the presidential nominee. O'Donnell also appears to be a part of the Calhoun County Executive Committee, although it is unclear in what role.
- **Defending Insurrection & Extremism:** O'Donnell in January 2021 repeatedly defended and downplayed the insurrection and election denier efforts. Commenters on his posts and individuals sharing posts to his timeline also appear to be far-right conspiratory extremists.

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.

Harris won this district 59-41 in 2024.

BACKGROUND

O'Donnell works in telecom/network operations (MetroNet). He is a lifelong Battle Creek resident, graduated Lakeview High School (1990), earned an AAS from Kellogg Community College (1993) and a BS in electronics from Siena Heights University (1994). He has served on local civic bodies, including the Kellogg Community College Board of Trustees (appointed in 2015) and the AccessVision (community media) Board of Directors [[Kellogg Community College](#), 10/28/2025].

O'Donnell previously unsuccessfully ran for the Battle Creek City Council in 2017. O'Donnell was elected to his current position in 2022, winning 53-47, and winning reelection in 2024 by margin of 57-43 [Calhoun County, 10/28/2025].

O'Donnell is a Republican; O'Donnell ran as a Republican for Calhoun County Board of Commissioners against Democrat Carla Reynolds in 2014. O'Donnell was tagged in a picture in January 2023 indicating they are members of the Calhoun County Republican Party Executive Committee [[Facebook](#), 10/28/2025]. O'Donnell attended Michigan's 2024 GOP convention in March 2020. He was part of the 4th District Congressional delegation that awarded their delegates to Trump.

O'Donnell shared a post on May 8, 2020, advocating for mask-wearing and social distancing measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 [[Facebook](#), 10/28/2025].

ON THE ISSUES

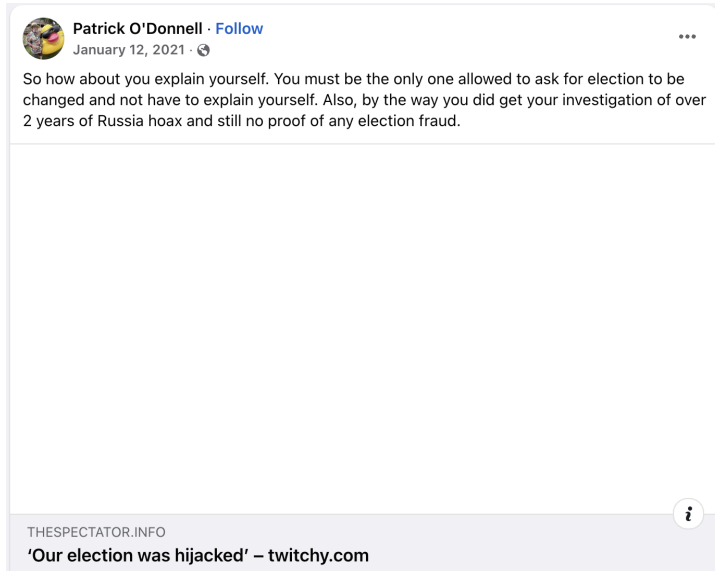
2025 PRIDE FLAG VOTE

O'Donnell voted in favor of flying the Pride flag for the month of July [[Battle Creek](#), 10/27/2025].

VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

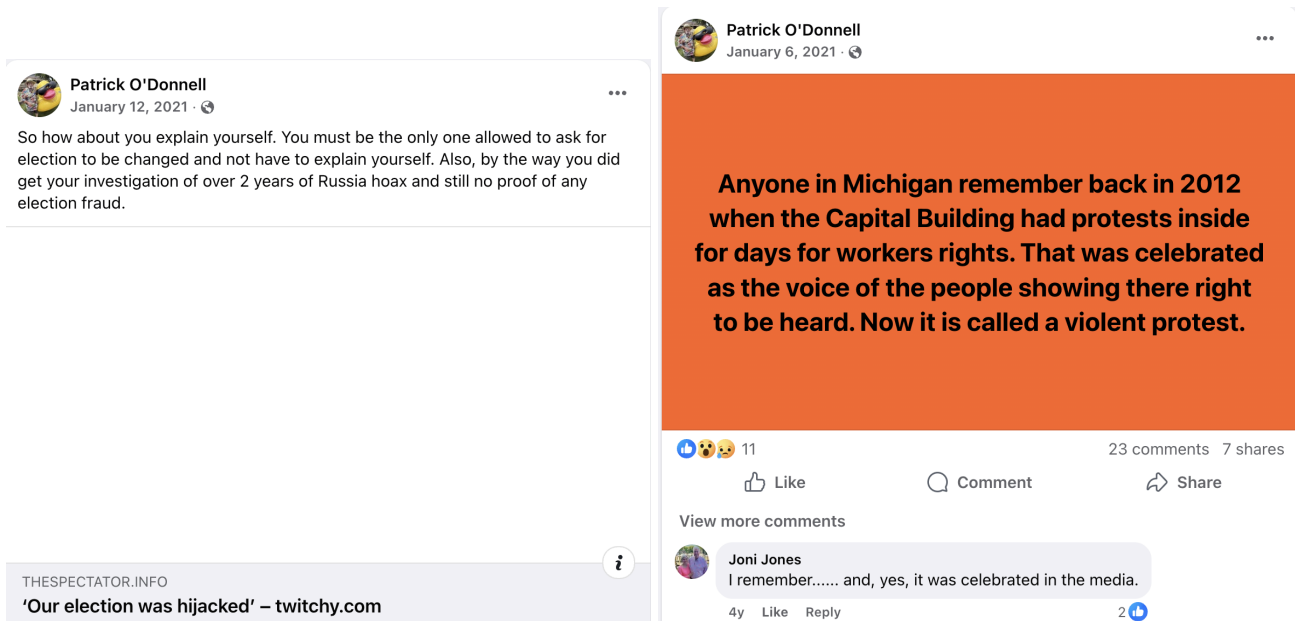
HOUSE GENDER RULES

O'Donnell shared a NY Post article in January 2021 that over dramaticises GOP Representative outrage over Pelosi's rules on gender [Facebook, 10/28/2025].



DOWNPLAYING INSURRECTION & ELECTION DENIER EFFORTS

O'Donnell shared posts in January 2021 downplaying the significance of the insurrection, comparing it to other protests (e.g. unions/labor, BLM). He also came after Nancy Pelosi, asking why she can ask for elections to be changed following the 2016 election and investigation into Russian interference compared with Trump's election denial. Lastly, he defended the insurrection, saying "We are witnessing a historic change in our country" and adding in response to a commenter: "Though we are the same thing happened in our capital Michigan in 2012 that was celebrated as the voice of people to be heard. The protesters stayed in the captial building for days. There was no coup. This is no coup. this is the voices being heard" [Facebook, 10/28/2025].



Patrick O'Donnell
January 6, 2021 · 🌐

**We are witnessing an historic change
in our country.**

16 🍌👍 54 comments

Like Comment Share

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Will VanderMel
No we aren't. We are witnessing an attempted coup. This is fucking disgusting!

4y Like Reply 14 🍌👍

Will VanderMel
No we aren't. We are witnessing an attempted coup. This is fucking disgusting!

4y Like Reply 14 🍌👍

Tom Lowe replied · 28 Replies

Patrick O'Donnell
Will VanderMel Though we are the same thing happened in our capital Michigan in 2012 that was celebrated as the voice of people to be heard. The protesters stayed in the captial building for days. There was no coup. This is no coup. this is the voices being heard.

Further, a post from January 14, 2021 shared to his timeline has comments from Trump supporters and election deniers, although the purpose of the post's language is not entirely clear.

Adam Heikkila is with **Michael Farage** and **56 others**.
January 14, 2021 · 🌐

Does anyone know what this is?

"If any citizen of the United States shall accept, claim, receive, or retain any title of nobility or honour, or shall without the consent of Congress, accept and retain any present, pension, office, or emolument of any kind whatever, from any emperor, king, prince, or foreign power, such person shall cease to be a citizen of the United States, and shall be incapable of holding any office of trust or profit under them, or either of them."

30 🍌👍 33 comments 5 shares

Like Comment Share

View more comments

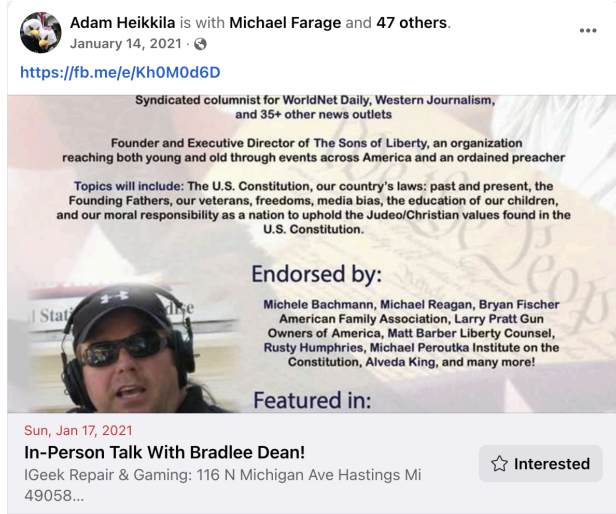
Londa Gatt
Yes

4y Like Reply 3 🍌👍

Write a comment... 🗨️ 😊 📷 📺 🗑️

EVANGELICAL MINISTER

O'Donnell was tagged in a post by [Adam Heikkila](#) whose Facebook has a lot of conspiratory, pro-Trump, and election denier content. The post is advertising an event for Bradlee Dean, an Evangelical pastor whose organization, You Can Run But you Cannot Hide International, has been designated as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center [[Wikipedia](#), 10/28/2025]. O'Donnell does not appear to have interacted with the post, but being tagged by this person is suspect.



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) [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.

ARPA FUNDING CONTROVERSY

One of Battle Creek's prominent African American religious leaders in early 2022 called out Morris's age and what he called her "lack of experience" during a March 6 Facebook event. He, along with the host of the Facebook event, also 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—including Morris—publicly defended the process; Morris is quoted calling it "very fair and unbiased" [[Second Wave Media](#), 10/28/2025]. It does not appear the criticism from community leaders gained much traction as Morris has been elected twice resignedly since then.

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[Personal Facebook](#)

[Campaign Facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)