

RACINE, WISCONSIN ALDERWOMAN SANDY WEIDNER

Sandra “Sandy” Weidner is a member of the Racine City Council. In April 2024, Weidner won election and was sworn in to represent District 6 on the Racine City Council after running unopposed. Weidner previously served for 20 years on the Racine City Council before deciding not to seek re-election in 2020. Weidner ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Racine in 2017 and 2019. Outside of government, Weidner worked in human resources at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In 2012, Weidner was fired from her job as a paralegal at Cross Law Firm for allegedly stealing company time. From 1999 to 2012, Weidner worked at the office of Employees International Union and at AFSCME in the late 1980s. Weidner, a lifelong resident of Racine, graduated from Horlick High School and earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin.

Key findings:

Weidner filed complaints after the 2020 election in Racine, claiming election administration grants were “bribes;” she has also supported efforts to ban ballot drop boxes. In January 2022, Weidner filed a complaint with the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC), alleging grants made to Racine and other Wisconsin cities constituted bribery in the 2020 election. Weidner challenged grants from the Centers for Tech and Civil Life (CTCL), a nonprofit founded by Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan, alleging the funding provided a “two-tier voting system” that aided Democratic-leaning cities during the election. Weidner filed a complaint with the WEC against the mayor of Racine, alleging he “illegally took over \$900,000” from the CTCL to facilitate in-person and absentee voting. Weidner said the mayor took private money for “get out the vote” efforts and to “pay for clearly illegal drop boxes and using it to target only certain individuals within the city.” A Dane County judge called arguments that CTCL grants were bribes “ridiculous,” raising multiple questions about a lawyer’s assertion that officials broke any laws. In May 2022, The Thomas More Society filed suit on behalf of Weidner and others from five Wisconsin municipalities to permanently bar drop boxes. In March 2022, Weidner issued a complaint with the WEC that a van used by Racine to conduct early voting and voter registrations was not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. After the WEC ruled in September 2022 that the van was not in compliance, Weidner criticized WEC for waiting six months to make a ruling.

Weidner was involved with a prolonged lawsuit against the city of Racine and found in contempt of court for what a judge called “the most egregious conduct I have seen against the courts of this country.” In 2017, during her campaign for mayor, Weidner sued the City of Racine to release a PowerPoint presentation made by the city attorney to the City Council during a closed meeting. City Attorney Scott Letteney shared a presentation including Weidner’s emails, which contained communications to constituents. Weidner said the meeting was meant to embarrass her, damage her mayoral campaign, and scare other aldermen into communicating less with constituents. Letteney asserted communications between his office and public officials were considered “attorney-client privilege,” but that was challenged by Weidner, who was not allowed to receive a copy of the presentation. The entire case was sealed by the judge, but Weidner brought the case public in a 2018 interview with the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, after she “got tired of what she calls growing secrecy and concentrated power in her local government.” Weidner claimed Letteney “wanted to publicly humiliate me. Said he’s tried everything in his power to ‘monitor my behavior.’” Due to the interview and the violation of the seal order, Weidner was held in contempt by Judge Eugene Gasiorkiewicz. Gasiorkiewicz called Weidner’s disclosure of the sealed proceedings the “most egregious” conduct toward the courts that he had ever seen, claiming it was “pure anarchy if people don’t comply with court orders.” During the contempt hearing, Weidner “evoked her constitutional right against self-incrimination about whether she shared the sealed order and declined to answer questions” from Racine’s attorney. Weidner was found

guilty of contempt of civil contempt of court as she tried to unseal the case. In 2019, Weidner was awarded a “Whistleblower Award” by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council for her lawsuit against the City of Racine. In 2020, a Court of Appeals ruled Weidner’s case should not have been sealed, nor should it have been dismissed, and sent it back to Kenosha Circuit Court under a new judge. In a 2022 appeal, Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Weidner, ruling the PowerPoint presentation was not subject to attorney-client privilege and must be turned over. In August 2022, Weidner rejected an offer from Racine to drop the lawsuit, writing “Fuck you” to the city administration. It was reported in December 2022 that Racine paid over \$200,000 in fees to an outside law firm to prevent PowerPoint presentations from being made public after Weidner’s challenge. In July 2023, Racine was ordered to pay \$34,417.78 to Weidner for reasonable fees and costs relating to her public records requests.

Weidner made posts on Facebook in support of January 6th defendants. In March 2023, Weidner posted a link to a video on X depicting the January 6 insurrection as a peaceful event. In September 2021, Weidner posted a link to “American Gulag,” a website built to raise money and support those arrested in connection to the January 6th Insurrection. “American Gulag” claimed that it was a project to “provide sunshine and publicity to the scores of political prisoners wrongfully imprisoned as a result of the protest on January 6th.”

Weidner was an outspoken opponent of COVID-19 restrictions. In September 2021, Weidner made several posts about the COVID-19 pandemic on Facebook. Weidner reposted a photo that called adults asking others to mask to “save lives” a “joke and an embarrassment.” Weidner posted a photo comparing COVID-19 restrictions to the Holocaust that read, “If you’ve ever wondered whether you would have complied during 1930’s Germany, now you know.” Weidner reposted a post from right-wing influencer Candace Owens, who stated that Biden was “mandating vaccines into the arms of people who don’t want them via unconstitutional mandates on small businesses.” Weidner reposted a photo that cited “V for Vendetta” that claimed the movie was about a “totalitarian dictatorship that gains its power by creating a society of fear due to an alleged virus spreading throughout the world.”

Weidner has pushed back on efforts to curb gun violence. In May 2025, Weidner called Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers’ plan to establish an Office of Violence Prevention “nothing more than a Democrat patronage scam.” Weidner criticized John Tate, who led Racine’s Department of Community Safety, partially funded by Evers’ office, claiming Tate posted “many [rap] videos out in social media that some consider pornographic.” Weidner said that Evers’ Office of Violence Prevention’s “sole purpose is to dole out money to communities like mine to continue these programs that, in all actuality, are plain political patronage.”

Weidner defended Council President John Engel after a racist remark, claiming he was a man “pure of heart.” In 2004, after Racine Council President John Engel made a remark regarding his “black-faced watch” to signal an activist was out of time at a hearing, Weidner defended Engel, claiming he was a man “pure of heart.” Weidner continued, “it may have been thoughtless, but his intent was never, ever to hurt anybody’s feelings.” According to the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, the NAACP announced that it “intended to investigate the comment.” According to the article, “‘The NAACP will be looking into the matter and trying to find out what exactly was stated, and why it was stated,’ Racine branch President Beverly Hicks said.”

BACKGROUND

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

State and Local Government

April 2024: Weidner won election and was sworn in to represent District 6 on the Racine City Council. “Seven newly elected and reelected alders were sworn in to their Racine Common Council seats Tuesday. District 4 Alder David Maack and District 6 Alder Sandy Weidner were elected in April. Former incumbents Amanda Paffrath and Jeffrey Peterson did not seek reelection. Maack has 34 years of experience working in local government and received an endorsement from Paffrath when he announced his candidacy, according to earlier Journal Times reporting. He previously served as alder for District 5 from 2001-11.” [The Journal Times, 4/19/24]

- **Weidner ran unopposed for district 6 of Racine City Council.** “Sandy Weidner is running unopposed in District 6. Weidner previously served as an alder for 20 years, but did not seek reelection in 2020. She also ran for mayor twice, according to previous reporting from The Journal Times.” [The Journal Times, 1/14/24]

2000 – 2020: Weidner served for 20 years on the Racine City Council before deciding not to seek re-election in 2020. “Weidner is another former alder returning to the council this term. She previously served for 20 years, but did not seek reelection in 2020. ‘I’d like to thank all those folks in the sixth district there were so warm and welcoming when I ... walked the district and knocked on doors and met new people,’ Weidner said at the meeting Tuesday. ‘It’s very humbling to know people remember me and my passion that I had for serving the district, and I’m happy for the opportunity to do that again.’” [The Journal Times, 4/19/24]

- **December 2019: Weidner announced that she had decided not to run for re-election to Racine City Council after serving since 2000.** “After 20 years on the City Council, Alderman Sandy Weidner of the 6th District is not running for her seat in the spring 2020 election. ‘It was a tough decision,’ Weidner said in a phone conversation on Monday. ‘It was a decision that was made between my family and I.’ At committee or City Council meetings, Weidner often asks tough questions, even about initiatives that she supports, and isn’t shy about voicing opposition. ‘That’s what makes it so difficult for me to leave because I know that I do fill that role,’ she said.” [The Journal Times, 12/30/19]

2017 & 2019: Weidner ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Racine. “Sandy Weidner is running unopposed in District 6. Weidner previously served as an alder for 20 years, but did not seek reelection in 2020. She also ran for mayor twice, according to previous reporting from The Journal Times.” [The Journal Times, 1/14/24]

- **2017: Weidner was defeated by Cory Mason by just over 5% in the Racine Mayoral special election.** “In September 2017, according to unofficial results, Mason won the special election by gathering 38.32% of the vote, with Sandy Weidner not far behind at 33.03% of the vote, a difference of 5.29%. After receiving results at a watch party Tuesday night at The Branch at 1501, 1501 Washington Ave., Mason said he had a deep feeling of gratitude. ‘It has been an extraordinary four years, and I am so deeply honored to have won the trust and confidence of the

citizens of Racine to serve as your mayor for another four years,' Mason said." [The Journal Times, 4/5/23]

- **2019: Weidner was defeated by Mason by nearly 4,000 votes after Weidner ran as a write-in candidate.** "Mason has been twice elected mayor, both times defeating Sandy Weidner. He defeated Weidner by less than 1,000 votes in an October 2017 special election after the previous mayor, John Dickert, resigned, and then won by nearly 4,000 votes in April 2019 when Weidner ran as a write-in." [The Journal Times, 11/11/22]

Career Outside of Government

Weidner worked in human resources at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. "For now, Weidner doesn't have an answer for what's next. She loves her job in human resources at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and will continue in that position. And she doesn't see herself disappearing from public life. 'I am proud of my service on the council because I kept my promise. Every time I ran, I ran on the same premise, 'I am your voice on the City Council,'" she said. 'I have championed some causes that I did not agree with but that's what my constituents wanted. So I took my role very seriously to represent them.'" [The Journal Times, 12/30/19]

2012: Weidner was fired from her job as a paralegal at Cross Law Firm for allegedly stealing company time. "Sandy Weidner, a Racine alderman, testified that after she had consulted with Cross on a legal matter in 2010, Cross said she'd like to hire her at the firm. Weidner said she wouldn't be interested until after she retired from a 21-year career with Racine County. As she neared retirement in late 2011, she contacted the Cross Law Firm and was hired, with the understanding she would do varied office support jobs and eventually work as a paralegal. She started in May 2012. Weidner worked from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and normally didn't take lunch, choosing to eat at her desk. But one day in September, everything changed. Ben Cross testified that he became aware Sept. 5 that there was no coffee and that Weidner was not at her work station. He said he realized only then that Weidner had been getting paid for eight hours when she was taking short breaks away from her desk for lunch some days. Cross said that, in turn, prompted him to check all of Weidner's time sheets. He presented three instances in which he said Weidner also 'stole time' - emails in which she requested early departures, by either 15 or 30 minutes, to attend a Racine matter, go to National Night Out, and see her new grandson, yet claimed to work until 4 p.m. those days. Weidner said that in at least one instance, she did stay to 4 p.m. because of work demands, and that in one case she listed 3:50 p.m. because that's what the wall clock said. Cross suggested Weidner left five minutes earlier." [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, 11/23/12]

- **Cross asked Weidner to resign, but when she refused, fired her and refused to pay her unemployment compensation claim.** "On Sept. 6, Cross said, he offered to let Weidner resign, because he thought it wouldn't look good for her as an elected alderman to be accused of dishonesty. Weidner said she had done nothing wrong and refused. She testified that Cross then cut her hours to 30 per week and her pay from \$22 to \$15 per hour and he said the firm would not fire her because it had no intention of paying unemployment. But when Weidner returned to work the next Monday, she received a termination letter. Cross Law Firm denied her unemployment compensation claim, and an adjudicator sided with the firm. Weidner said she wanted to hear how Cross would try to prove she was a bad employee in front of a judge." [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, 11/23/12]
- **An administrative law judge ruled that Cross had not shown evidence that Weidner engaged in misconduct and that Weidner was entitled to her unemployment claims.** "In a

decision issued Nov. 16, administrative law judge Jennifer Ortiz ruled that Cross had not shown by clear, convincing and satisfactory evidence that Weidner had engaged in any misconduct and that Weidner was entitled to unemployment. Cross did not reply to an email seeking comment on the decision. Weidner said she's still baffled about why Cross suddenly decided to fire her. She appealed the unemployment decision on principle and for her reputation, not the \$150 per week she can now collect. 'I've worked since I was 14. I never stole a thing from anyone,' she said. 'I was appalled.'" [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, 11/23/12]

1991 – 2012: Weidner worked at the office of Employees International Union. "In the late 1980s, she worked for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 40. Then from 1991 to 2012, she was at the office of Employees International Union. She has served in her current aldermanic position since 2000, council president in 2006 and on the Board of Cemetery Commissioners from 2000 to 2017." [Racine County Eye, [8/30/17](#)]

Late 1980s: Weidner worked for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 40. "In the late 1980s, she worked for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 40. Then from 1991 to 2012, she was at the office of Employees International Union." [Racine County Eye, [8/30/17](#)]

PERSONAL LIFE AND EDUCATION

Weidner graduated from Horlick High School and earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin. "Sandy Weidner is the current alderperson for Racine's 6th district. A graduate of Horlick High School, she has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin." [Racine County Eye, [8/30/17](#)]

Weidner is a "lifelong resident of Racine;" has three children and four grandchildren. "Weidner is a lifelong resident of Racine. She has three children and four grandchildren. And when she's not working, she's putzing in her garden." [Racine County Eye, [8/30/17](#)]

VULNERABILITIES AND ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

FINANCIAL AND TAX

Public records indicated that Sandy Weidner and American Family Mutual Insurance Company were listed as debtors and Kallie R. Braun listed as the creditor in a 2002 civil filing, but no records in the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access database were found. [SmartLinx Comprehensive Person Report, accessed 12/4/25; Wisconsin Circuit Court Access, accessed 12/4/25]

LEGAL

Open Records Lawsuit

2017: Weidner sued the city of Racine for the public release of a PowerPoint presentation from the city attorney to the City Council during a closed meeting. "Weidner was the plaintiff in a lawsuit filed in 2017 against the city in connection to a presentation from the city attorney to City Council during a closed meeting, which was sealed under attorney-client privilege, according to previous reporting from The Journal Times. A Kenosha County Circuit Court judge ruled in November 2022 that

the presentation must be made public. Weidner did not respond to request for comment about her candidacy.” [The Journal Times, 1/14/24]

- **While Weidner was running for mayor, City Attorney Scott Letteney called a meeting with the full Racine City Council to present a 72-slide PowerPoint, which Weidner asserted contained emails she sent under her city account.** “In August 2017, while Weidner was running for mayor, City Attorney Scott Letteney called all 15 members of the City Council to a closed session meeting of the Executive Committee and gave a 72-slide PowerPoint presentation. Weidner says most of the content was emails she sent under her city account, which Letteney suggested inappropriately shared confidential city information and should be reviewed by the city’s board of ethics.” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [7/7/22](#)]
- **Weidner said the meeting was meant to embarrass her, damage her mayoral campaign, and scare other aldermen into communicating less with constituents.** “Weidner felt the meeting was meant to embarrass her, damage her campaign and scare other aldermen into communicating less with constituents. She said she did not believe the emails were improper.” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [7/7/22](#)]
- **Weidner was denied a copy of the presentation and sued the city under Wisconsin’s open records law and the city convinced Judge Eugene Gasiorkiewicz to seal the proceedings.** “When she was later denied a copy of the PowerPoint, she sued under Wisconsin’s open records law. The city convinced Racine County Circuit Judge Eugene Gasiorkiewicz to seal the entire matter, so it did not appear on the state’s online court records index, before he dismissed Weidner’s petition and refused to accept her amended petition a few months later.” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [7/7/22](#)]
- **City Attorney Letteney asserted communications between his office and public officials were considered “attorney-client privilege,” but that was challenged by Weidner, who was not allowed to receive a copy the presentation.** “The case began after Letteney asserted that all communications between his office and public officials no matter how mundane should be considered ‘attorney-client privilege.’ By city ordinance, that privilege can only be waived by the City Council. This policy was challenged by Sandy Weidner, who was an alderman for 20 years before not seeking reelection in 2020; she also ran for mayor twice. The original PowerPoint was created before an Aug. 22, 2017, closed-door meeting of aldermen; Weidner was at the meeting in person and saw the presentation, but was later not allowed to receive a copy of the presentation when she asked for it later.” [The Journal Times, 12/27/22]
- **Weidner sued in December 2017 after Letteney denied requests to release to her the slides from the presentation.** “After the committee agreed to refer the matter to the Ethics Board, Weidner asked for copies of the presentation. Letteney denied providing them because the Executive Committee had met in closed session. Then she got a lawyer to ask Letteney and the Ethics Board for the slides. When those requests were also denied or ignored, Weidner sued in December under Wisconsin’s public records law. Three days later, Letteney provided 16 emails — with the names of senders redacted — to all the aldermen, as part of the package sent to the Ethics Board.” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [9/19/18](#)]

September 2018: Weidner’s case, sealed by the judge, came to light after Weidner made the case public because she “got tired of what she calls growing secrecy and concentrated power in her local government.” “A Racine County judge said he’s only sealed one case in his career. The case he

chose to hide from taxpayers and Racine city residents? A petition for access to public records. The unusual case, now on appeal but also absent from the Court of Appeals web-based index, has only come to light because a maverick Racine Common Council member got tired of what she calls growing secrecy and concentrated power in her local government. ‘To me, it’s a huge issue,’ said Sandy Weidner. ‘I’m willing to defy the judge’s order that it’s sealed.’ Sandra Weidner Advocates for open government are astounded and have never heard of a public records suit being sealed, or any kind of case without some record of who the parties are and why it was under seal.” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [9/19/18](#)]

- **Weidner told Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel that Letteney “wanted to publicly humiliate me. Said he’s tried everything in his power to ‘monitor my behavior.’”** “Letteney implied that the emails contained confidential information and was seeking the committee’s vote to seek an advisory opinion from the city’s Ethics Board on whether the aldermen’s actions violated the city’s ethics ordinance. ‘He wanted to publicly humiliate me. Said he’s tried everything in his power to ‘monitor my behavior,’ ‘ she said. The problem, she said, is that nothing she sent to constituents, in her experience, was confidential. ‘To him, anything that comes into or out of the city attorney’s office is covered by the attorney-client privilege,’ she said, a far more expansive interpretation than the law allows.” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [9/19/18](#)]

October 2018: After Weidner spoke to the press about her lawsuit against Racine, she was held in contempt by Judge Gasiorkiewicz for violating his sealing order. “A Racine Common Council member was held in contempt by a judge Wednesday for violating his secrecy order in an unusual records case that has been entirely shielded from public view. Racine County Circuit Judge Eugene Gasiorkiewicz found that Sandy Weidner violated his sealing order by sharing court records with others. After the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported a story with details from the court records, the Racine city attorney asked the judge to have her found in contempt. Gasiorkiewicz issued no fine against Weidner but said she would face \$1,000 a day in fines if she violates his order again. An attorney representing the City of Racine unsuccessfully sought to fine Weidner \$15,000 for the disclosure.” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [10/3/18](#)]

- **Judge Gasiorkiewicz called Weidner’s disclosure of the sealed proceedings the “most egregious” conduct toward the courts that he had ever seen, claiming it was “pure anarchy if people don’t comply with court orders.”** “Gasiorkiewicz called Weidner’s disclosure of a sealed order the ‘most egregious’ of conduct toward courts he has seen. ‘It is pure anarchy if people don’t comply with court orders,’ he said. The case goes back to a session called last year by City Attorney Scott Letteney as Weidner was in the midst of running for mayor. Weidner told the Journal Sentinel that Letteney gave a presentation of about 30 emails, most of which were hers, calling them an improper sharing of confidential information.” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [10/3/18](#)]
- **During the contempt hearing, Weidner “evoked her constitutional right against self-incrimination about whether she shared the sealed order and declined to answer questions” from Racine’s attorney.** “During Wednesday’s hearing, Weidner evoked her constitutional right against self-incrimination about whether she shared the sealed order and declined to answer questions from Michael Cohen, a Milwaukee attorney hired by the City of Racine. Cohen contended that Weidner was dissatisfied with the judge’s ruling and then took ‘matters into her own hands.’ At the end of Wednesday’s hearing, Gasiorkiewicz asked Weidner if she would comply with his order. She said she would.” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [10/3/18](#)]

- **Weidner was found guilty of contempt of civil contempt of court as she tried to unseal the case.** “The decision to seal the case was considered controversial. After Weidner spoke with the news media in August 2018 about the case, she was found guilty of civil contempt of court. Weidner’s attorneys filed a challenge to unseal the case, as well as to the contempt of court conviction, with the Court of Appeals. In January 2019, the ‘majority’ of the documents in Weidner’s open-records case were made public — with redactions.” [The Journal Times, 4/23/20]
- **Weidner stated that she got a “tongue-lashing” after being found guilty of contempt and called her sanctions “far” as it was “serious to defy a judge’s order.”** “A judge has held a Racine Common Council member in contempt of court for speaking to news outlets about his decision to seal her open records lawsuit. Records of the proceeding are inaccessible, but Ald. Sandy Weidner told The Associated Press on Thursday that Racine County Circuit Judge Eugene Gasiorkiewicz found her in contempt during a hearing Wednesday. The judge warned her that he would fine her \$1,000 a day for every day she talks about the case going forward. ‘I got a tongue-lashing, that’s for sure,’ Weidner said in a telephone interview. ‘I knew I would be considered in contempt. I think the sanctions are fair. It is serious to defy a judge’s order.’” [Associated Press, 10/5/18]

March 2019: Weidner was awarded a “Whistleblower Award” by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council for her lawsuit against the City of Racine. “Alderman Sandy Weidner has been awarded a Whistleblower Award for speaking to the media about her then-sealed open-records case against the city. The award was announced in a Tuesday press release from the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council naming its 2019 Openness awards. ‘Not only did this Racine alderperson file suit over her city’s efforts to claim that some of her own email exchanges with constituents could not be made public because they dealt with advice from the city attorney’s office, she was actually cited for contempt of court for disclosing information about her case, which a Racine County judge decided to conduct in secret,’ the release stated.” [The Journal Times, 3/6/19]

October 2019: City of Racine argued that Weidner was the subject of an Ethics Board investigation into her “rogue acts” and Weidner held a “misplaced belief” that she had a right to participate in that process. “The brief stated that Weidner’s request for the materials presented at the Executive Committee meeting was, ‘in the context of Weidner’s misplaced belief that she had a right to participate in the advisory opinion process and could only meaningfully ‘participate’ if she could review the materials beforehand.’ ‘Thus, while Weidner attempts to repackage this case as a public records case with important consequences for the public’s access to governmental information, it is not,’ the brief continues. ‘This appeal is the continuation of Weidner’s baseless attempts to overcome the City’s legitimate investigation into her rogue acts and to undermine its decision to seek guidance from the Ethics Board on those acts.’” [The Journal Times, 10/10/19]

2020: Court of Appeals ruled Weidner’s case should not have been sealed, nor should it have been dismissed, and sent it back to Kenosha Circuit Court. “In 2020, the Court of Appeals ruled the case should not have been completely erased from the public record, nor should it have been dismissed, and sent it back earlier this year. It wound up with Kenosha Circuit Judge Chad Kerkman, who dismissed it without a written order, denied attorney fees to Weidner, and allowed some new pleadings to be filed under seal. In Thursday’s ruling, the Court of Appeals said attorney-client privilege should always be construed narrowly, and even more so when government relationships are involved.” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [7/7/22](#)]

2020: A new judge, Chad Kerkman, ended up with Weidner's case after it was sent back down and ruled new legal pleadings were to stay hidden and deny Weidner's request to force the city to pay her attorney fees, which Weidner vowed to appeal again. "A new judge on a once-secret court case over open records in Racine — that a higher court ordered unsealed — has ruled for the city and that new legal pleadings also stay partially hidden from the public. Retired Racine Ald. Sandy Weidner, who sued for the records three years ago, said she'll appeal again. 'I'm not done fighting on this,' she said. The latest decision thwarts Weidner's efforts to make the city pay her attorney fees, which open records advocates say she deserves because her lawsuit — though dismissed — did lead to the disclosure of many records the city first tried to hide." [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [10/26/20](#)]

July 2022: The Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Weidner, ruling the PowerPoint presentation was not subject to attorney-client privilege and must be turned over. "One of Wisconsin's strangest and longest running open-records lawsuits lurched a bit closer to resolution Wednesday. The Court of Appeals ruled a PowerPoint presentation about former Racine alderperson Sandy Weidner prepared by the city attorney was not subject to attorney-client privilege, and must be turned over. Weidner sued to obtain the record in 2017, a lawsuit city officials and a judge kept secret until the Journal Sentinel reported it in 2018. She was found in contempt, before later being named Whistleblower of the Year by an open government group." [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [7/7/22](#)]

- **Weidner stated that she never would have paid fines associated with her contempt conviction, claiming she "should never have been gagged."** "I would never have paid. I'd have sat in jail first,' she said. 'The only way I was in contempt was because of the gag, and I should never have been gagged.' She also concern about getting her attorney's fees covered. Weidner says she's spent about \$40,000 on the case, and thinks the city has spent about five times that amount. A Supreme Court decision the same day about when requesters of public records can recoup attorney fees could come to bear on Weidner's case. Technically, her public records case has been dismissed, but the Court of Appeals ruled the PowerPoint be produced, which would tend to meet the high court's new narrower limits on when attorney's fees are valid." [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, [7/7/22](#)]

August 2022: Weidner rejected an offer from Racine to drop the lawsuit, writing "Fuck you" to the city administration. "The City of Racine Attorney's Office is trying to bring an end to its five-year battle with former alderman/mayoral candidate Sandy Weidner over a PowerPoint. The city made an offer to Weidner that would have the lawsuit dropped. But Weidner said she isn't planning on letting the case go that easily. When she rejected the city's offer, via an email to her attorney, Weidner said she wrote 'F--- you' to the city administration. A Wisconsin Court of Appeals decision last month found that the city was wrong to deny showing the PowerPoint to Weidner in the first place. This latest offer from the city, Weidner said in a text message to a reporter, is a sign the 'city still believes itself to be above the law regardless of the Second District (Appeals) Court's decision.'" [Chippewa Herald, 8/17/22]

- **Weidner recorded a video of the offer and uploaded it to social media, prompting Racine attorney Cohen to say it was "highly inappropriate for Ms. Weidner to disclose it to the public and to further publicly discuss issues in the case that are the subject of seal orders by the court."** "The city did not intend for its offer, presented to Weidner's attorney Aug. 12, to be made public. But Weidner recorded a video in which she details what she says is in the offer and uploaded it to social media. She declined to share the document that details the offer itself, saying in a text message to a reporter that she needed 'clearance from my attorney.' Asked for comment on the case, the lead attorney representing the city, Michael Cohen, said in an email: 'The City submitted a confidential and privileged settlement proposal to Ms. Weidner

under state statutes. It was highly inappropriate for Ms. Weidner to disclose it to the public and to further publicly discuss issues in the case that are the subject of seal orders by the court.” [Chippewa Herald, 8/17/22]

2022: It was revealed that the City of Racine paid over \$200,000 in fees to an outside law firm to prevent PowerPoint presentations from being made public after Weidner’s challenge. “The City of Racine has paid \$208,676.83 in fees to an outside law firm to prevent two nearly identical PowerPoint presentations from being made public; the attempt was unsuccessful, with Kenosha County Circuit Court Judge David P. Wilk ruling against the city last month and ordering the presentations be made public. The Journal Times has now received both PowerPoints from the city for free via open records request. You can see the PowerPoints by going to bit.ly/3BWqgUN and bit.ly/3YB6Rm9. The PowerPoints themselves do not contain particularly riveting or proprietary information. Rather, they include seemingly mundane communications between the City Attorney’s Office and members of the City Council that certain now-former aldermen shared with members of the public.” [The Journal Times, 12/27/22]

July 2023: The city of Racine was ordered to pay \$34,417.78 to Weidner for reasonable fees and costs relating to her public records requests. According to Wisconsin Circuit Court Access, Racine County Case No. 2017CV001644, a judgment in favor of Weidner and against the City of Racine was entered for the amount of \$34,417.78 for “Weidner’s reasonable fees and costs relating to her public records request.” [Wisconsin Circuit Court Access, Case No. 2017CV001644, accessed [12/4/25](#)]

SEX OFFENDER STATUS

No Adverse Findings Of Note. [Department of Justice, Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Registry Search, accessed [12/4/25](#)]

SOCIAL MEDIA

Sandy Weidner has a personal Facebook page. Findings of note are detailed within this document. [Facebook, Sandy Weidner, accessed [12/4/25](#)]

Weidner had a campaign Instagram page for her mayoral campaign with no findings of note. [Instagram, Weidner for Mayor, accessed [12/4/25](#)]

Weidner had a LinkedIn page with no findings of note. [LinkedIn, Sandra Weidner, accessed [12/4/25](#)]

ELECTIONS

January 2022: Weidner filed a complaint with the Wisconsin Elections Commission, alleging grants made to Racine and other Wisconsin cities constituted bribery in the 2020 election. “A former Racine alderman and mayoral candidate, along with one of the women who helped organize the failed 2020 recall of Gov. Tony Evers, have filed a complaint with the Wisconsin Elections Commission, alleging that the grants the City of Racine and other Wisconsin cities received prior to the 2020 presidential election constituted bribery. Courts, including the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, have continually found that localities accepting donations to conduct elections is legal. But, complaints and allegations of wrongdoing have continued. The new complaint, from former alderman Sandy Weidner and Kim Morrison, is dated Thursday, Jan. 27. Weidner served on the City Council from 2000-2020 and

ran for mayor in 2017 and as a write-in in 2019. The complaint focuses on how the city, along with Wisconsin's four other biggest cities, collectively received millions to fund get-out-the-vote efforts amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The money came from the Centers for Tech and Civil Life, a Chicago-based nonprofit largely funded by Priscilla Chan and her husband, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg." [The Journal Times, 1/31/22]

Weidner challenged grants from the Centers for Tech and Civil Life (CTCL), a nonprofit founded by Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan, alleging the funding provided a "two-tier voting system" during the 2020 election. "Hundreds of municipalities in Wisconsin, both in Republican and Democratic strongholds, received money from CTCL. But the protests have been focused on how the CTCL money was funneled primarily to Democratic-leaning cities: Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Kenosha and Racine. For example, among those five cities, CTCL provided between \$8.30 per 2016 voter (for Madison) to \$53.41 per 2016 voter (for Racine). In traditionally conservative Waukesha, CTCL provided \$1.18 per 2016 voter. 'It is fully our intention to take this before the circuit court,' Weidner said in a social media video posted Thursday. 'We cannot have a two-tier voting system.' Morrison and Weidner asserted in their complaint that this constitutes an 'election bribery scheme.' In a brief phone interview Friday, Weidner said this is because CTCL provided money to Racine in order 'to apply for their own grant. That just does not happen.'" [The Journal Times, 1/31/22]

February 2022: Weidner filed a complaint with the Wisconsin Election Commission against the Mayor of Racine, alleging he "illegally took over \$900,000" from the CTCL to facilitate in-person and absentee voting. "Two Racine residents, Sandy Weidner and Kim Morrison, filed a complaint with the Wisconsin Election Commission on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022 against the Mayor of Racine alleging he illegally took over \$900,000 from an outside private group, the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL), to facilitate in-person and absentee voting." [Governance, Risk & Compliance Monitor Worldwide, 2/24/22]

- **Weidner said the Mayor took private money for "get out the vote" efforts and to "pay for clearly illegal drop boxes and using it to target only certain individuals within the city rather than every city resident to vote violates the election bribery prohibition of Wisconsin Statutes."** "The complaint alleges that taking the private money and using it for get out the vote (GOTV) efforts which campaigns normally pay for, using it to pay for clearly illegal drop boxes and using it to target only certain individuals within the city rather than every city resident to vote violates the election bribery prohibition of Wisconsin Statutes ss 12.11." [Governance, Risk & Compliance Monitor Worldwide, 2/24/22]

May 2022: A Dane County judge called arguments that CTCL grants were bribes "ridiculous," raising multiple questions about a lawyer's assertion that officials broke any laws. "A Dane County judge pushed back Tuesday against what he called 'ridiculous' claims by a conservative lawyer who has sued the state Elections Commission and Wisconsin's five largest cities alleging that the acceptance of private grants to administer the 2020 election constituted bribery. Circuit Judge Stephen Ehlke said he plans to rule by mid-June on the suit brought against the City of Madison by Erick Kaardal, of the conservative Thomas More Society, on behalf of five Madison residents. But during oral arguments, he raised multiple questions about Kaardal's assertion that officials in Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Kenosha and Racine broke state election laws by accepting election grants from the Chicago-based nonprofit Center for Tech and Civic Life, or CTCL, funded by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. 'It's very obvious that I don't think much of that argument,' Ehlke said of Kaardal's allegation that grant funding influenced the actions of Madison election officials. 'I, quite frankly, think it's ridiculous.' Sandy Weidner, a former Racine alderman and mayoral candidate, was one of those who

brought a complaint alleging bribery in the City of Racine, with Kaardal signing the complaint.” [The Journal Times, 5/18/22]

May 2022: The Thomas More Society filed suit on behalf of Weidner and others from five Wisconsin municipalities to permanently bar drop boxes. “A conservative Chicago law firm that has been working with the Republican-appointed special counsel probing Wisconsin’s 2020 election has filed another spate of lawsuits challenging another aspect of that election ballot drop boxes that has long raised the ire of Republicans, especially since their candidate for president lost. The Thomas More Society, however, isn’t suing all the approximately 245 Wisconsin municipalities that used the absentee ballot drop boxes in November 2020, just the five largest and most Democratic-leaning: Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Kenosha and Racine. The firm, on behalf of a total of six residents in the five municipalities, notes that state law is silent on the use of drop boxes and asks a judge to declare them ‘legally unauthorized’ and permanently barred. The complaint filed against the City of Racine came from Sandy Weidner, who served on the City Council from 2000-2020 and ran for mayor in 2017 and as a write-in in 2019.” [The Journal Times, 5/26/22]

- **Weidner’s complaint stated, “The City of Racine used unmanned absentee ballot drop boxes in the November 2020 election and did use or may use them in subsequent elections. The City of Racine has no published policy discontinuing the City’s use of unmanned absentee ballot drop boxes.”** “Weidner’s complaint states that ‘The City of Racine used unmanned absentee ballot drop boxes in the November 2020 election and did use or may use them in subsequent elections. The City of Racine has no published policy discontinuing the City’s use of unmanned absentee ballot drop boxes,’ although they are no longer being used.” [The Journal Times, 5/26/22]
- **The dropbox challenge was the second formal complaint Weidner made about the 2020 election, after earlier alleging that CTCL grants constituted bribery.** “This is at least the second formal complaint Weidner has filed regarding the 2020 election. In January, she and another woman alleged that the grants the City of Racine and other Wisconsin cities received prior to the 2020 presidential election constituted bribery; a Dane County judge earlier this month characterized as ‘ridiculous’ the claims that accepting grants to help fund elections constituted bribery. There is nothing in state law barring private funding to help administer elections.” [The Journal Times, 5/26/22]

March 2022: Weidner issued complaint with WEC that a van used by the City of Racine to conduct early voting and voter registrations was not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. “The Wisconsin Elections Commission ruled last month that the van the City of Racine was using to conduct early voting was not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. So, the city stopped using that van and got a new one, this time with a wheelchair lift. Republicans are planning to challenge the new van. ‘We’re doing everything we can to put an end to this,’ Ken Brown, chairman of the Republican Party of Racine County, said Wednesday. Brown said he plans to file a complaint with WEC alleging the new vehicle still fails to comply with ADA regulations. Advocates for Wisconsinites who have disabilities, however, think the van is a good thing. [...] The challenge that idled the original mobile unit was filed March 9 by Racine resident Sandra Morris and former city alderman/mayoral candidate Sandy Weidner. But because the state’s decision was not issued until late last month, the vehicle was used to conduct the first three elections of 2022 before being declared illegal. It also was used for voter registrations in 2021.” [The Journal Times, 10/28/22]

- **After the WEC ruled in September 2022 that the van was not in compliance, Weidner criticized WEC for waiting six months to make a ruling.** “WEC’s decision, signed by Administrator Meagan Wolfe Sept. 30, came after a complaint was filed March 9 by Racine resident Sandra Morris and former city alderman/mayoral candidate Sandy Weidner. ‘Of course I was happy when they ruled in my favor. I was wondering why it took them six months to do it,’ Weidner said in a phone interview Tuesday. ‘The WEC should have made a decision back in March ... There have been two elections since then when (Racine Mayor) Cory (Mason) was able to use a polling place that was not ADA compliant.’” [The Journal Times, 10/5/22]

GUN VIOLENCE

May 2025: Weidner called Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers’ plan to establish an Office of Violence Prevention “nothing more than a Democrat patronage scam.” “Second Amendment advocates might be alarmed by Gov. Evers’ plan to establish an Office of Violence Prevention, but one Racine alder says it’s nothing more than a Democrat patronage scam. The program would cost \$13 million, and its main function would be to hand out grants to local communities and nonprofits to help ‘reduce crime, prevent gun violence, support crime victims and support efforts to increase community safety.’ Sandy Weidner is the alder for District 6 in Racine. She says Racine’s Department of Community Safety is counting on that funding. Otherwise, the city plans to close it at the end of the year. Weidner says the city needs to close it down.” [MacIver Institute, 5/13/25]

Weidner criticized John Tate, who led Racine’s Department of Community Safety, which was partially funded by Evers’ office, claiming Tate posted “many [rap] videos out in social media that some consider pornographic.” “Racine created the department three years ago with a grant from the Wisconsin Medical College. John Tate is the Executive Director of the Department. Tate is a well-connected Wisconsin Democrat with a troubled track record. He was the chairman of the state’s Parole Commission until Evers was forced to ask for his resignation after a controversial decision. Tate initially faced felony corruption charges for negotiating his way into the position while still serving as a Racine alder, which were later dropped. Tate hired Isaiah Lambert to be an ‘intensive outreach specialist.’ Lambert is also known by his rap name, ‘Lul Icey.’ Weidner says it was a controversial hiring decision, because he’s posted ‘many [rap] videos out in social media that some consider pornographic.’ Weidner says Evers’ proposed Office of Violence Prevention’s ‘sole purpose is to dole out money to communities like mine to continue these programs that, in all actuality, are plain political patronage.’” [MacIver Institute, 5/13/25]

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JANUARY 6 INSURRECTION

March 2023: Weidner posted a link to a video on X depicting the January 6 insurrection as a peaceful event. [Facebook, Sandy Weidner, [3/8/23](#)]

September 2021: Weidner posted a link to “American Gulag,” a website built to raise money and support those arrested in connection to the January 6th Insurrection. [Facebook, Sandy Weidner, [9/18/21](#)]

- **American Gulag claimed that it was a project to “provide sunshine and publicity to the scores of political prisoners wrongfully imprisoned as a result of the protest on January 6th.”** “AmericanGulag.org is a project of Jim Hoft for the benefit of the public and to provide sunshine and publicity to the scores of political prisoners wrongfully imprisoned as a result of the protest on January 6th. There were a handful of bad actors, but the overwhelming majority of the prisoners are husbands and fathers and sons, wives and mothers and daughters — good Americans whose only crime was being invited into a public building. To suit the political purposes of the Democratic Party, these Americans have been abused, assaulted, locked in solitary confinement, and denied medical treatment.” [American Gulag, accessed [12/4/25](#)]

COVID-19 CONSPIRACY THEORIES

September 2021: Weidner reposted a photo that called adults asking others to mask to “save lives” a “joke and an embarrassment.” “For a country who killed an entire generation in the womb but tells adults to wear masks to ‘save lives’, Your words are a joke and an embarrassment.” [Facebook, Sandy Weidner, [9/29/21](#)]

September 2021: Weidner reposted a photo comparing COVID-19 restrictions to the holocaust in a photo that read, “If you’ve ever wondered whether you would have complied during 1930’s Germany, now you know.” [Facebook, Sandy Weidner, [9/22/21](#)]

September 2021: Weidner reposted right-wing influencer Candace Owens, who stated that Biden was “mandating vaccines into the arms of people who don’t want them via unconstitutional mandates on small businesses.” “Trump was a dictator, but Biden is mandating vaccines into the arms of people who don’t want them via unconstitutional mandates on small businesses. Trump was a dictator, but Biden has banned drones from flying over the border to capture the images of the tens of thousands of migrants currently flooding our borders. Trump was a dictator, but Biden is fighting parents that do not want their children masked all day in school by overstepping into state rights, and threatening federal funding. Trump was a dictator, but Biden wants to empower the IRS with billions more to monitor every single transaction you make (Venmo, paypal, bank etc). Trump was an evil dictator, but Biden abandoned Americans on Afghanistan soil and lied straight to your face about it. Oh, but hey—At least Biden doesn’t send mean tweets, right? Let me know when Democrats are ready to acknowledge that they accidentally voted in a REAL totalitarian regime, because they were BRAINWASHED into believing ‘orange man bad’.” [Facebook, Sandy Weidner, [9/22/21](#)]

September 2021: Weidner reposted a photo that cited “V for Vendetta” that claimed it was about a “totalitarian dictatorship that gains its power by creating a society of fear due to an alleged virus spreading throughout the world.” “Did you know? A 2005 film titled, ‘V for Vendetta’ is about a totalitarian dictatorship that gains its power by creating a society of fear due to an alleged virus spreading throughout the world. In the film the media pushes fear-based propaganda on the television screen of every household and on the city streets. The authoritarian dictator promises security but not freedom. The constant theme of ‘this is for your safety’ is repeated throughout the film.” [Facebook, Sandy Weidner, [9/15/21](#)]

DEFENSE OF RACIST STATEMENTS

2004: After Racine Council President John Engel made a remark regarding his “black-faced watch” to signal an activist was out of time at a hearing, Weidner defended Engel, claiming he was a man “pure of heart.” “A community activist on Thursday called on the president of the Common Council either to apologize to the minority community for a remark he made this week or resign. Alphonso Gardner, a longtime Racine activist, asked John M. Engel, president of the council, to apologize for making a remark concerning his ‘black-faced watch’ to signal to Gardner that his three-minute speaking time during a public hearing on the city’s budget proposal had ended. [...] Engel’s comment provoked the ire of some community organizations and a few of the city’s alderman. The NAACP said Thursday that it intended to investigate the comment. ‘The NAACP will be looking into the matter and trying to find out what exactly was stated, and why it was stated,’ Racine branch President Beverly Hicks said Thursday. ‘We are going to be meeting with Mr. Al Gardner as well as Mr. Engel.’ [...] Ald. Sandy Weidner defended Engel and called him a man ‘pure of heart.’ ‘It may have been thoughtless, but his intent was never, ever to hurt anybody’s feelings,’ Weidner said.” [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, 11/5/04]