

## **SHERRY L. SOFIA - BATTLE CREEK CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE (NP)**

Key findings include:

- **Long-Time City Councilor:** Sofia has served on the Battle Creek City Council since 2013.
- **Republican:** Sofia is a Republican, working for Republican Michigan State-Rep Phil Green. Green is an election denier; he called for a forensic audit of the 2020 election in December 2020.
- **Opposition to Pride Flag:** Sofia voted against a resolution to fly a Pride flag at Battle Creek City Hall in 2025. She did not express distaste for the LGBTQ+ community but rather the flag policy of the city.
- **Civil Liberties Lawsuit:** Sofia 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**

Sofia is a long-tenured Battle Creek official. She served previously as a Ward 3 commissioner (incumbent in 2013), later winning an at-large seat in 2017 and being selected vice mayor multiple times (2018–19, 2019–20, and again 2024–26). She has served on the Ethics and Meeting Rules Review Committee, which annually reviews the commission’s ethics policy and rules—an institutional role relevant to “good government”/process debates [[Battle Creek](#), 10/27/2025].

Professionally, Sofia works in state politics as Legislative Director to State Rep. Phil Green (R-MI), indicating clear GOP ties [[LinkedIn](#), 10/27/2025]. Green is listed as an election denier on a [report](#) from the Republican Accountability Project. Green called for a full forensic audit of the 2020 election in a December 8, 2020 [Facebook](#) post. Sofia has not made any contributions to any state or local Republican or Republican organizations since 2019 [MI BOE, 10/27/2025]. There is no record of any federal contributions from Sofia since 2004 [FEC, 10/27/2025].

Sofia likes NPR on her [personal Facebook](#).

### **ON THE ISSUES**

*Nothing found for first round vet*

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

#### **OPPOSITION TO PRIDE FLAG**

Sofia was one of only 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. “Vice Mayor Sofia noted she is not opposed to any flag or organization who

has requested their flag be raised at City Hall. Vice Mayor Sofia stated she is opposed to the Flag Policy, and has not supported any requests” [[Battle Creek](#), 10/27/2025].

#### 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, 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.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS**

[LinkedIn](#)

[Personal Facebook](#)