

STEVEN PONTO - BROOKFIELD CITY MAYOR

Key findings include:

- **Long-Tenured Incumbent:** Steve Ponto has served as Mayor of Brookfield since 2010, after 12 years on the Common Council, totaling more than two decades in city leadership.
- **Republican Political Alignment:** Although the mayoral race is nonpartisan, Ponto has made repeated political contributions to Republican candidates and party-aligned committees, including the Waukesha County Republican Party, WinRed, and the National Republican Senatorial Committee.
- **Corporate Legal Background:** Ponto spent approximately 31 years as a corporate attorney, including senior roles at Foley & Lardner, Quad/Graphics, Prudential Insurance, and Metavante.

Brookfield is a suburban city in Waukesha County in the Milwaukee metro area, generally characterized as a wealthier suburb in regional coverage. Brookfield had a population of 41,464 as of the 2020 census. Demographically, Brookfield is majority white with a notable Asian population share.

Brookfield has been one of the primary municipalities involved in the debate over absentee ballot drop boxes. Brookfield's City Council voted to ban the use of absentee ballot drop boxes in August 2024. A complaint was filed against the City of Brookfield with the Wisconsin Elections Commission in September 2024 alleging that the city refused to accept any absentee ballots at polling places and instead required them to be returned to the clerk's office with enough time for the clerk to bring the ballot to the correct polling place to be counted. The man who brought the complaint alleges that when he arrived at the polling place around 5 p.m. he was told he must bring his ballot to the clerk's office but that no one would be there to receive it because city staff was in a meeting [[Urban Milwaukee](#)]. Further, some Brookfield Republican politicians are election deniers, like Scott Fitzgerald (R), whose political base includes the Brookfield area, was among those who voted against certifying 2020 results for certain states on Jan. 6, 2021 [[Election Deniers](#)].

BACKGROUND

Steve Ponto has served as Mayor of the City of Brookfield since first being elected in April 2010 and was re-elected in 2014, 2018, and 2022. During his tenure, Ponto has emphasized collaborative governance, working closely with the Common Council on major policy decisions, including city budgets that have frequently passed with strong majorities and, at times, unanimous support. Prior to becoming mayor, he served on the Brookfield Common Council from 1998 to 2010, including ten years as a committee chair and two terms as Council President. Professionally, Ponto practiced corporate law for approximately 31 years, including more than a decade at Foley & Lardner, Wisconsin's largest law firm, and held senior legal roles as Corporate Counsel for Quad/Graphics, Associate General Counsel at Prudential Insurance Company of America (mortgage banking operations), and Senior Counsel at Metavante Corporation. He holds a B.A. in Economics from Lawrence University, a Master in Public Affairs from Princeton University, and a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School. A lifelong Wisconsin resident, Ponto has lived in Brookfield since 1990 with his wife, Mary, and their family remains rooted in the area.

Steve Ponto has made multiple political contributions to Republican candidates and party-aligned committees in Wisconsin and nationally. His giving includes donations to the Waukesha County Republican Party, Citizens for Tom Michalski, Schimel for Justice, Friends of Scott Walker, Roth for Wisconsin, Cummings for Assembly, Families for Rose Fernandez, as well as national Republican

fundraising platforms and committees including WinRed and the National Republican Senatorial Committee [[Wisconsin Campaign Finance](#), accessed, 2/6/2026][[FEC](#), accessed, 2/6/2026].

ON THE ISSUES

NO FINDINGS OF NOTE FOR FIRST ROUND VET

VULNERABILITIES & ADVERSE FINDINGS OF NOTE

NO FINDINGS OF NOTE FOR FIRST ROUND VET

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