

## **VYLIUS V. LESKYS- WAUSAU CITY COMMON COUNCIL DISTRICT 4**

Key findings include:

- **Candidate:** Vylius “V” Leskys is a retired U.S. Army Colonel and attorney running for Wausau City Council District 4 in the 2026 spring election.
- **Prior Run:** Leskys previously filed to run for the same seat in 2024 but withdrew after ballots were finalized, leaving his name on the ballot due to election deadlines.
- **Campaign Focus:** His campaign centers on fiscal issues, particularly opposition to rising property taxes, concern about growing city debt, and criticism of the city’s use of Tax Increment Financing.
- **Limited Issue Positions:** Outside of fiscal policy, Leskys has not publicly detailed positions on housing, land use, environmental issues, or social policy.
- **Civic Appointment:** In 2024, Leskys was appointed to the Wausau Police and Fire Commission following City Council approval.
- **Election Denial Context:** During review of that appointment, a City Council member raised concerns about election-denial-related comments made by Leskys’s wife; Leskys did not publicly respond.

Wausau is the core city of Marathon County in north-central Wisconsin. The city itself is competitive and somewhat more diverse roughly 40,000 people, with a notable Hmong/Asian community, but it sits inside a county that went solidly Republican for president in both 2020 and 2024 (Trump 58%–40% range, +18 R), so city officials operate in a red county but a swingy city environment. At the municipal level, races are officially nonpartisan, but 2024 showed they’re not nonpolitical, Republicans backed Doug Diny to oust Mayor Katie Rosenberg, and the council has been part of the same set of fights over drop boxes and city-hall process [[Data USA](#), accessed, 11/5/2025] [[Marathon County](#), accessed, 11/5/2025] [[WSAW](#), accessed, 11/5/2025].

### **BACKGROUND**

Vylius “V” Leskys is a Wausau resident, retired U.S. Army officer, and attorney who is running for Wausau City Council District 4 in the 2026 spring election. He previously filed to run for the same seat in 2024 but withdrew prior to the election, although his name remained on the ballot due to filing deadlines. Leskys previously filed to run for Wausau City Council District 4 in 2024 but withdrew prior to the election, though his name remained on the ballot due to filing deadlines [[Ballotpedia – Vylius V. Leskys](#), accessed, 2/10/2026][[The Wausonian](#), 1/1/2026]. He is again seeking the District 4 seat in the 2026 spring election, framing his candidacy around fiscal management, opposition to rising property taxes, and concerns about the city’s debt and use of Tax Increment Financing [[Wausau Pilot & Review](#), 1/7/2026].

#### *Military Service*

**Leskys Was A Retired U.S Army Colonel Who Served 32 Years In The Military.** “I am a retired Army Green Beret Colonel, an attorney working pro bono for disabled veterans, a Commissioner on the Wausau Police and Fire Commission, and most important, a family man who loves Wausau. I have lived

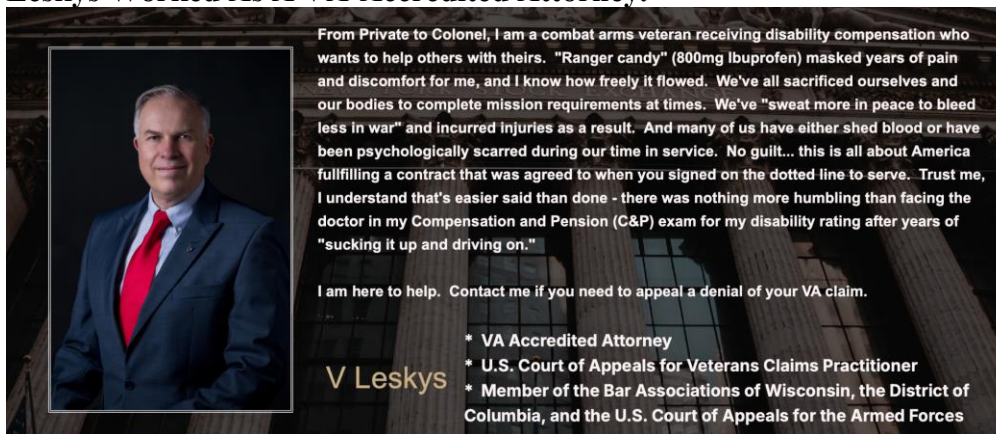
all over America and the world while serving our great nation for 32 years, and our family is truly blessed to have settled down in this incredible community.” [[Wausau Pilot Review](#), 1/29/2026]

### *Immigrant Family Background*

**Leskys Said He Was “Born To Lithuanian Immigrants Who Escaped Soviet Oppression.”** “Born to Lithuanian immigrants who escaped Soviet oppression, I served in the Army for 32+ years, mostly as a Special Forces officer, and retired about 2 years ago. My career in uniform provided me with both a chance to serve our great nation and pay her back for allowing my parents to leave their refugee camps in Germany with nothing to come to this land of opportunity.” [Facebook, [Vylius "V" Leskys for Wausau District 4 Alder](#), 1/8/2026]

### **Legal Career**

#### **Leskys Worked As A VA-Accredited Attorney.**



From Private to Colonel, I am a combat arms veteran receiving disability compensation who wants to help others with theirs. "Ranger candy" (800mg Ibuprofen) masked years of pain and discomfort for me, and I know how freely it flowed. We've all sacrificed ourselves and our bodies to complete mission requirements at times. We've "sweat more in peace to bleed less in war" and incurred injuries as a result. And many of us have either shed blood or have been psychologically scarred during our time in service. No guilt... this is all about America fulfilling a contract that was agreed to when you signed on the dotted line to serve. Trust me, I understand that's easier said than done - there was nothing more humbling than facing the doctor in my Compensation and Pension (C&P) exam for my disability rating after years of "sucking it up and driving on."

I am here to help. Contact me if you need to appeal a denial of your VA claim.

**V Leskys**


- \* VA Accredited Attorney
- \* U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Practitioner
- \* Member of the Bar Associations of Wisconsin, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces

[[Attorney Vylius Leskys](#), accessed, 2/10/2026]

**Leskys Received His Juris Doctor From Western Michigan Cooley Law School.** “BA from California State University, Northridge, Juris Doctor from Western Michigan Cooley Law School, Master of Military Studies (Distinguished Graduate) from the Marine Corps University, Master of Strategic Studies (Distinguished Graduate) from the Army War College.” [[Attorney Vylius Leskys](#), accessed, 2/10/2026]

**Leskys Said He Provided Pro Bono Legal Assistance To Disabled Veterans.** “In addition to pro bono legal cases assisting disabled veterans.” [Facebook, [Vylius "V" Leskys for Wausau District 4 Alder](#), 1/8/2026]

## Leskys is Authorized To Practice Before The U.S Court Of Appeals For Veterans Claims.



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[[Attorney Vylius Leskys](#), accessed, 2/10/2026]

## Leskys Was Admitted To Wisconsin, Washington, DC., And The U.S Court Of Appeal For The Armed Forces.



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[[Attorney Vylius Leskys](#), accessed, 2/10/2026]

## *Police and Fire Commission Appointment*

**2024: Wausau Mayor Doug Diny Nominated Leskys To Serve On The Wausau Police And Fire Commission.** "By a unanimous vote, the Wausau City Council approved Mayor Doug Diny's nominee, Vylius Leskys, a retired U.S. Army Special Forces Colonel with over 30 years of military service. The vote was 9-0 among the council's 11 members, with two alders absent." [[Wausau Pilot And Review](#), 11/13/2024]

**November 2024: Wausau City Council Voted 9-0 To Approve Mayor Diny's Nomination For Leskys To Serve On The Wausau Police And Fire Commission.** "By a unanimous vote, the Wausau City Council approved Mayor Doug Diny's nominee, Vylius Leskys, a retired U.S. Army Special Forces Colonel with over 30 years of military service. The vote was 9-0 among the council's 11 members, with two alders absent." [[Wausau Pilot And Review](#), 11/13/2024]

## **Campaign Finance Records**

**2024: Leskys Made A \$30 Contribution To The Republican Party Of Marathon County.** [[Wisconsin Campaign Finance](#) , accessed, 2/9/2026].

**2025: Leskys Made A \$30 Contribution To The Republican Party Of Marathon County.**[\[Wisconsin Campaign Finance\]](#), accessed, 2/9/2026].

## **ON THE ISSUES**

### *Fiscal Policy and Taxes*

**Leskys Said He's Running For Wausau City Council District 4 Because "Our Property Taxes Are Outrageously High."** "The reason I am running for City Council (District 4) is very basic. Our property taxes are outrageously high (twice the national average), and the taxes will continue to rise in perpetuity unless we fix our city's budget." [\[Wausau Pilot Review\]](#), 1/29/2026]

**Leskys Said He Would "Work To Fix Our Budget and Lower Taxes."** "I have managed large mission-focused staffs and multi-million dollar budgets over the course of my military service. I will work to fix our budget, lower our taxes, and make this an affordable community for all." [\[Wausau Pilot Review\]](#), 1/29/2026]

**Leskys Attributed Wausau's "High Property Taxes" To "Poor Decisions In Our City's Spending" And "Flawed Logic In Tax Incremental Financing."** "The reason I am running for City Council (District 4) is very basic. Our property taxes are outrageously high (twice the national average), and the taxes will continue to rise in perpetuity unless we fix our city's budget. Much of this can be attributed to poor decisions in our city's spending: flawed logic in Tax Incremental Financing, purchases of properties without specific end-state goals in mind (e.g. MBX in September 2025), or the resale of city-owned properties at a substantial taxpayer loss (e.g. the embarrassment of the approved sale to a 17-year-old in May 2025)."

**Leskys Argued That Rising Debt Directly Impacts Tax Payers "Property Taxes Are Virtually The Sole Source Of City Revenue To Address A Deficit."** "Our rising debt impacts the price we all pay, as property taxes are virtually the sole source of city revenue to address a deficit. In this past year, the city allocated more money from the budget to pay down our debt service than what we pay for our fire department. In 2026, debt service payment is anticipated to surpass the police budget. Are we satisfied knowing that roughly 25 percent of our budget this year is going toward debt payments? These are not the financial lessons we try to teach our children."

**Leskys Said The City Allocated More Money From The Budget To Pay Down Our Debt Service Than What We Pay For Our Fire Department.** "Our rising debt impacts the price we all pay, as property taxes are virtually the sole source of city revenue to address a deficit. In this past year, the city allocated more money from the budget to pay down our debt service than what we pay for our fire department. In 2026, debt service payment is anticipated to surpass the police budget. Are we satisfied knowing that roughly 25 percent of our budget this year is going toward debt payments? These are not the financial lessons we try to teach our children."

**Leskys Said "Our City's Debt Level And Spending Patterns Are Unsustainable."** "Our city's debt level and spending patterns are unsustainable. The budget needs to be fixed quickly, but unless we have council members myopically focused on fixing the root cause of our tax problem, it will continue to fester, and we will all continue to pay the price with higher and higher property taxes. I want to make life more economically viable for everybody in Wausau, and the best way the city can do this is to aggressively tackle our budget and taxes."

**Leskys Said Wausau City Should “Aggressively Tackle Our Budget And Taxes.”** “Our city’s debt level and spending patterns are unsustainable. The budget needs to be fixed quickly, but unless we have council members myopically focused on fixing the root cause of our tax problem, it will continue to fester, and we will all continue to pay the price with higher and higher property taxes. I want to make life more economically viable for everybody in Wausau, and the best way the city can do this is to aggressively tackle our budget and taxes.”

**Leskys Cited His Background “I Have Managed Multi-Million Dollar Budgets Over The Course Of My Military Service.”** I have managed large mission-focused staffs and multi-million dollar budgets over the course of my military service. I will work to fix our budget, lower our taxes, and make this an affordable community for all.”

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

### *Election Denial Claims Raised in Connection With Civic Appointment*

**2024: Wausau Mayor Doug Diny Nominated Leskys To Serve On The Wausau Police And Fire Commission.** “By a unanimous vote, the Wausau City Council approved Mayor Doug Diny’s nominee, Vylius Leskys, a retired U.S. Army Special Forces Colonel with over 30 years of military service. The vote was 9-0 among the council’s 11 members, with two alders absent.” [[Wausau Pilot And Review](#), 11/13/2024]

**October 2024: In A Wausau City Council Meeting, Leskys’s Wife Said She Had “Had Witnessed Multiple Loads Of Ballots Being Stuffed Into Ballot Boxes In Colorado.”** “She pointed to an Oct. 8 council meeting in which Lesky’s wife publicly stated she had witnessed “multiple loads of ballots being stuffed into ballot boxes in Colorado.” The comments were made in reference to Diny’s controversial decision to move Wausau’s absentee ballot box to his office, an act that resulted in an ongoing criminal investigation. Mr. Lesky did not make such statements himself.” [[Wausau Pilot and Review](#), 10/23/2024]

**2024: Wausau City District 1 Alde Carol Lukens Said Because Of Leskys’s Wife Comment, She Could Not “With Integrity” Support Lesky’s Appointment.** “Prior to Tuesday’s meeting, Lukens emailed the mayor and copied all council members outlining her concerns about Lesky’s appointment. She pointed to an Oct. 8 council meeting in which Lesky’s wife publicly stated she had witnessed “multiple loads of ballots being stuffed into ballot boxes in Colorado.” The comments were made in reference to Diny’s controversial decision to move Wausau’s absentee ballot box to his office, an act that resulted in an ongoing criminal investigation. Mr. Lesky did not make such statements himself. But those comments prompted significant concern for Lukens, who said in her email that she could not, with integrity, vote in favor of appointing Mr. Leskys to the Police and Fire Commission.” [[Wausau Pilot and Review](#), 10/23/2024]

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