

ANOKA COUNTY COMMISSION CANDIDATE DISTRICT 4 JERRY KOCH (R)

<u>POTENTIAL HITS FROM THE LEFT</u>	<u>POTENTIAL HITS FROM THE RIGHT</u>
• <u>DISMISSED THE PUBLIC’S CONCERNS ABOUT ICE AND SAID AS MAYOR OF COON RAPIDS, SAID “WE COOPERATE” WITH ICE</u>	• <u>CAMPAIGNS SAYING HE WILL “HOLD THE LINE ON PROPERTY TAX INCREASES” BUT HAS REPEATEDLY VOTED TO INCREASE PROPERTY TAXES INCLUDING VOTING LAST YEAR FOR A NEARLY 8% INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES</u>

Key Findings Include:

- **As Mayor Of Coon Rapids, Dismissed The Public’s Concern About ICE And Supported Cooperating With ICE.** During a January 2026 meeting, the New York Times reported that Coon Rapids Mayor Koch “grew more and more frustrated” as members of the public expressed concerns about ICE activity. Koch later said in an interview with the New York Times that “we’re not Minneapolis or St Paul; we’re not a sanctuary city; we cooperate.” Koch complained to the New York Times about emails he had received from the public about ICE and said, “it’s like, ‘oh, come on, get off whatever tracking site you’re on and put the whistles away.” Koch later said he regretted talking with the New York Times and said he accidentally had answered the reporter’s phone call.
- **Said He Will “Hold The Line On Property Tax Increases” But Has Repeatedly Voted For Property Tax Increases Including A Nearly 8% Tax Increase Last Year.** On his campaign website, Koch says he will “hold the line on property tax increases.” However, in September 2025, Koch voted for the preliminary 2026 tax levy which was a 7.62% increase in property taxes over the previous year. Koch voted for the final passage of that tax increase in December 2025. In December 2024, Koch voted for a 7.85% increase in the tax levy.
- **Charged With A DUI In 1994.** In 1994, Koch was charged with a DUI. The charge was later dismissed.

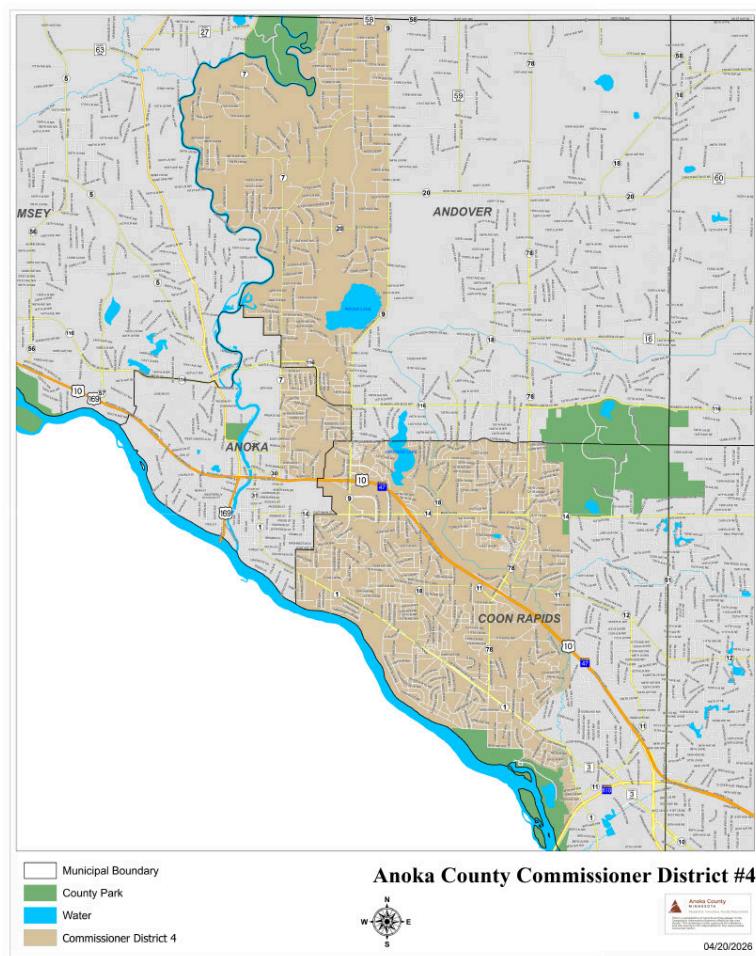
Jurisdiction Summary

Anoka County is located in the central-east part of Minnesota. It is north of Minneapolis and contains the northern parts of the Minneapolis–Saint Paul metropolitan area. Anoka County has a population of 381,605.

In 2024, Trump won the county with 51% of the vote to Harris’s 47%, a 9,307 vote difference.

While the Board of Commissioners, the county’s legislative body, is a nonpartisan body, the board has a Republican majority with six of the board’s seven members being conservative. County commissioners serve a four year term.

District 4 is located in the southwest part of the county. The 2026 election for District 4 is for an open seat. The current District 4 commissioner is conservative.



BACKGROUND

PERSONAL LIFE

Gerald “Jerry” Edward Koch is a 69-year-old Republican candidate for the 2026 election for the Anoka County Commission District 4 in Minnesota.

Koch Was Married To Sue Koch And Has Five Children. “Jerry and Sue Koch are proud Coon Rapids residents whose family, faith, and community service define who they are. With five adult children, four in-laws, and ten grandchildren, the Kochs are deeply invested in the

future of Anoka County — not as politicians, but as neighbors, parents, and grandparents who want the best for the next generation.” [Jerry Koch for Anoka County Commissioner, accessed [9/3/26](#)]

PROFESSIONAL, CIVIC, & PUBLIC SECTOR BACKGROUND

A Self-Described “Lifelong Anoka County Resident,” Koch Has Served For 15 Years On The Coon Rapids City Council With 12 Of Those Years As Mayor. “A lifelong Anoka County resident, 15-years on the city council, 12-years of which as mayor of Coon Rapids, and dedicated community servant committed to bringing experienced leadership to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners.” [Jerry Koch for Anoka County Commissioner, accessed [9/3/26](#)]

- **In 2011, Koch Was Appointed To The City Council And Was Elected Mayor In 2014.** “Koch was first elected mayor in 2014 after serving as Ward 4 council member since late 2011 when he was appointed to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of then-Council Member Joe Sidoti, who moved out of state. Koch was elected Ward 4 council member in 2012.” [MinneapolisMedia, [1/17/23](#)]

Since 1997, Koch Has Been A Realtor With WHY USA Anthony Realty, Inc. [LinkedIn, accessed [9/2/26](#)]

- **Koch Began Working As A Realtor In 1988 With Century 21 Borden Realty And Then Worked For Career Realty.** [LinkedIn, accessed [9/2/26](#)]

Koch Worked In Railroad Construction Before Becoming A Realtor. “Koch worked in railroad construction before becoming a real estate agent.” [Minnesota Star Tribune, [10/22/14](#)]

Koch Was Board President Of The Anoka Ramsey Community College Foundation. “Board president of the Anoka Ramsey Community College Foundation, championing higher education access and workforce development for Anoka County residents.” [Jerry Koch for Anoka County Commissioner, accessed [9/3/26](#)]

INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

No findings of note.

CAMPAIGN BACKGROUND

Koch First Joined The Coon Rapids City Council In 2011. [LinkedIn, accessed [9/2/26](#)]

2026 Anoka County Board of Commissioners District 4 Primary Election Results

Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Jerry Koch	3,413	44.34%
Jennifer (Jenny) Geisler	3,134	40.71%
Michael Nordstrom	1,151	14.95%

[Minnesota Secretary of State, updated [8/19/26](#)]

2022 Coon Rapids Mayoral General Election Results		
Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Jerry Koch	14,179	63.25%
Sharon Compton	8,107	36.16%
WRITE-IN	133	0.59%

[Minnesota Secretary of State, updated [12/16/22](#)]

2022 Coon Rapids Mayoral Primary Election Results		
Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Jerry Koch	3,575	67.43%
Sharon Compton	1,164	21.95%
Todd Jones	563	10.62%

[Minnesota Secretary of State, updated [8/18/22](#)]

2018 Coon Rapids Mayoral General Election Results		
Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Jerry Koch	20,371	97.58%
WRITE-IN**	506	2.42%

[Minnesota Secretary of State, updated [11/21/18](#)]

2014 Coon Rapids Mayoral General Election Results		
Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Jerry Koch	9,170	51.12%
Ron Manning	8,648	48.21%
Write-In**	121	0.67%

[Minnesota Secretary of State, updated [1/28/15](#)]

2014 Coon Rapids Mayoral Primary Election Results		
Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Jerry Koch	1,309	33.91%
Ron Manning	896	23.21%
Ted Schmolke	654	16.94%
Phil Rosar	361	9.35%

Ronald R. Bradley	288	7.46%
Eric Sykes	212	5.49%
Jerry Pierce	140	3.63%

[Minnesota Secretary of State, updated [8/26/14](#)]

IDEOLOGY & POLITICS

As Of September 2026, Koch Did Not Use Terms “Conservative” Or “Republican” On His Campaign Website. [Jerry Koch for Anoka County Commissioner, accessed [9/8/26](#)]

AFFILIATION WITH POLITICAL FIGURES/ORGANIZATIONS:

No findings of note.

PARTISAN POSTS

Koch Called The Democratic Trifecta Of The Minnesota State Government “The Dark Ages.”



Jerry Koch
March 27, 2025 · 🌐

...

And yes, she is who she says she is: <https://missouriindependent.com/.../former-caseworker.../>
Now, if we can get Minnesota to return from the dark ages of their trifecta.

[Facebook, Jerry Koch, [3/27/25](#)]

Koch Posted How He Respected Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.



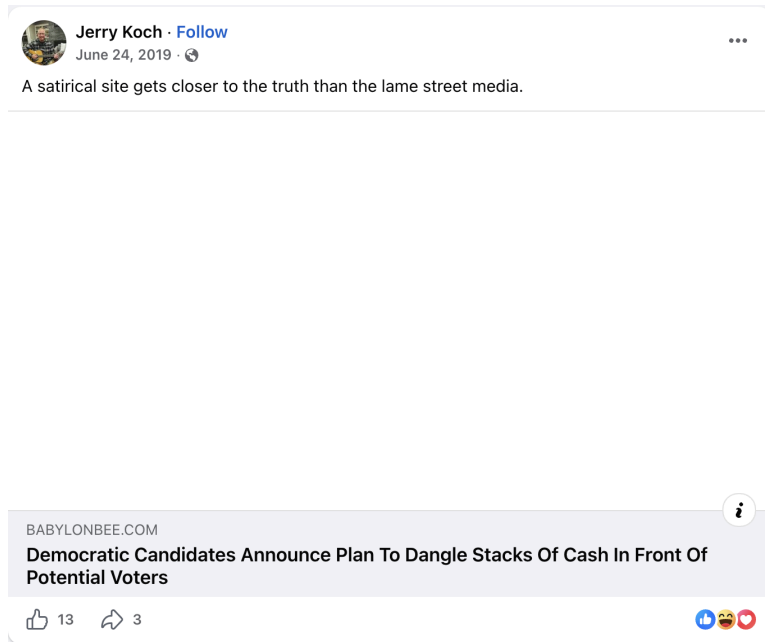
Jerry Koch
March 14, 2021 · 🌐

...

Have I mentioned my respect for Governor DeSantis? Feels really nice to be in a bar with no masks, no social distancing, and no capacity rules beyond fire code. Wow, real life!

[Facebook, Jerry Koch, [3/14/21](#)]

Koch Posted That A Satirical Post Was “Closer To The Truth Than The Lame Street Media” Because It Claimed Democrats “Dangle Stacks Of Cash In Front Of Potential Voters.”



[Facebook, Jerry Koch, [6/24/19](#)]

CAMPAIGN INFRASTRUCTURE

No findings of note.

ENDORSEMENTS

Koch Endorsed Pat Carlson To Succeed Him As Mayor Of Coon Rapids. “As I move on to other challenges (more on that soon), it is important to see that Coon Rapids continues to have strong leadership. With that, it is my honor to heartily endorse Pat Carlson to be the next Mayor of the GREAT city of Coon Rapids. Pat’s tireless advocacy and distinguished record as Councilmember at Large make him the most qualified candidate to serve our community as our next mayor. He has consistently proven his commitment to our city’s local businesses and residents, in addition to being a strong advocate for preserving our city’s history. Take the time to read about Pat below, and then please support Pat Carlson in his bid to be the next mayor of Coon Rapids.” [Facebook, Jerry Koch, [5/8/26](#)]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

No findings of note.

PERSONAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

According to the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, Koch has given \$25.00 to state-level political candidates and committees.

Koch Political Giving History - State			
Contributor name	Recipient	Receipt date	Amount
Koch, Gerald E	MN Realtors Political Action Committee	12/20/11	\$50.00

Koch, Gerald E	MN Realtors Political Action Committee	3/25/11	\$100.00
Koch, Gerald E	MN Realtors Political Action Committee	11/5/09	\$100.00
Koch, Gerald E	MN Realtors Political Action Committee	1/23/09	\$100.00
Total:			\$350.00

[Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, accessed [9/3/26](#)]

As Of September 2026, Koch Has Not Contributed To Any Federal Political Candidates.
[FEC, accessed [9/3/26](#)]

ISSUES

Taxes / Controversial Budget Cuts

Koch Said He Would “Hold The Line On Property Tax Increases.” “Jerry has balanced budgets and managed public resources throughout his 15 years on the Coon Rapids City Council and 12 years as mayor. He will bring that same discipline to the county — scrutinizing every expenditure, resisting unnecessary tax increases, and ensuring Anoka County remains an affordable place to live and do business. Hold the line on property tax increases” [Jerry Koch for Anoka County Commissioner, accessed [9/3/26](#)]

Jerry has balanced budgets and managed public resources throughout his 15 years on the Coon Rapids City Council and 12 years as mayor. He will bring that same discipline to the county — scrutinizing every expenditure, resisting unnecessary tax increases, and ensuring Anoka County remains an affordable place to live and do business.

- Hold the line on property tax increases
- Prioritize core services: roads, safety, and infrastructure
- Transparent, accountable budgeting
- Oppose wasteful spending and government overreach

September 2025: Koch Voted For Preliminary 2026 Tax Levy. “ROLL CALL Members Present: Mayor Jerry Koch [...] 14. CONSIDER RESOLUTION 25-90 ESTABLISHING THE PRELIMINARY 2026 TAX LEVY The Staff report was shared with Council. Councilmember Carlson pointed out that setting the levy is a difficult task. He thanked Staff for their work. Councilmember Geisler noted the levy is thoroughly discussed by Staff and Council. Residents won’t know the final impact on their personal households until the County finalizes its numbers. MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CARLSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ARMSTRONG, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-90 ESTABLISHING THE PRELIMINARY 2026 TAX LEVY FOR THE CITY OF COON RAPIDS. Councilmember Greskowiak reiterated that the Council discusses the budget and levy thoroughly. They strive to listen to community members. The City requires a large payroll to run basic functions such as emergency responders. Councilmember Greskowiak detailed the budget meeting timeline. Mr. Stemwedel stated the Truth in Taxation hearing will be on December 2, 2025. Mr. Stemwedel added that the largest change in local taxes is based on property values. Councilmember Butler thanked Staff for their

work and support throughout the process. He encouraged his constituents to reach out with any questions. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.” [Coon Rapids, Resolution 25-90, [9/2/25](#)]

- **The Preliminary 2026 Tax Levy Was A 7.62% Increase Over The 2025 Levy.** “The Coon Rapids City Council has approved a preliminary 2026 property tax levy of \$41,295,381, marking a 7.62% increase over the 2025 levy. The vote occurred on September 2, 2025, as part of the annual Truth-in-Taxation process. City officials indicated that the increased levy aims to support rising operating costs, public safety investments, and capital projects, including the planned purchase of a fire ladder truck.” [MinneapolisMedia, [9/9/25](#)]
- **Koch Voted For Final Passage Of The 2026 Tax Levy.** “Members Present: Mayor Jerry Koch [...] MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER NOVACK, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BUTLER, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-126 ADOPTING THE 2026 TAX LEVY AND ADOPT RESOLUTION 25-127 ADOPTING THE 2026 BUDGET. Councilmember Butler thanked Staff and fellow Councilmembers for their work on the budget. The budget is tolerable. It is not forward-looking as it relates to the staff requests that were not funded. They did not fulfill requests for more firefighters and police officers. He hopes the Council can smooth out increases in the future. Councilmember Greskowiak stated the proposed budget is responsible. Staff put a lot of work into the budget. He thanked community members for their input. The Council made prudent adjustments to keep the increases in the single digits. The debt going forward is also somewhat concerning. Mayor Koch agreed that the Staff spent a lot of time on the budget. It reflects the priorities of Coon Rapids. Community surveys always show the high value placed on public safety. [...] The Council agrees that they want to take a look at decreased future levies. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY” [Coon Rapids, Resolution 25-126, [12/2/25](#)]

December 2024: Koch Voted For Increasing The Tax Levy. “Members Present: Mayor Jerry Koch [...] 12. HOLD TRUTH-IN-TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS 24-105 AND 24-106 ADOPTING 2025 BUDGET AND TAX LEVY The Staff report was shared with Council. Mayor Koch opened the public hearing at 7:47 p.m. No one wished to address the Council. Mayor Koch opened the public hearing at 7:48 p.m. MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CARLSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ARMSTRONG, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-105 ADOPTING THE 2025 TAX LEVY. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CARLSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER ARMSTRONG, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-106 ADOPTING THE 2025 BUDGET. Councilmember Carlson pointed out the Council discussed the budget thoroughly. He was concerned about the levy, but Staff provided fair reasoning for the increase.

They worked hard to keep the levy as low as possible. Councilmember Greskowiak thanked Finance Director Ashley Hansen for her clear explanation. The City has larger capital projects in recent months, but they are doing the right thing to promote public infrastructure. He pointed out the budget is discussed consistently throughout the year, and the Council aims to be prudent with tax dollars. Councilmember Greskowiak added Staff and Council aim to spread out heavy costs over multiple years. **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** [Coon Rapids, Resolutions 24-105 and 24-106, [12/3/24](#)]

- **The Tax Levy For 2025 Increased By 7.85% Over The Previous Year.** “The tax levy for 2025 is approximately \$38.4 million, which is an increase of 7.85% over 2024. This secures our infrastructure, invests in forward-thinking technology and software, and brings needed updates to our robust parks and recreation system.” [Coon Rapids via WayBack Machine, [1/2/25](#)]

Good Government/Ethics

No findings of note.

Public Safety

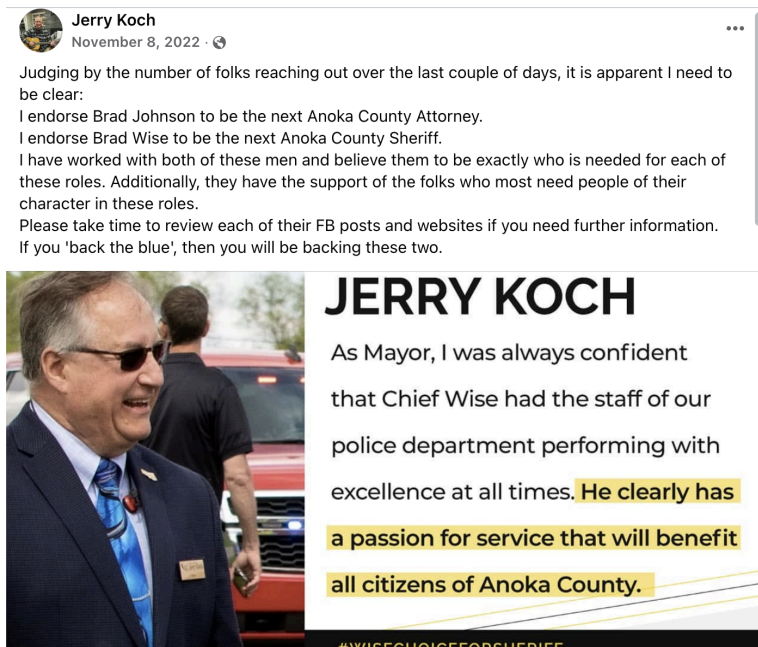
February 2026: In Response To Citizens’ Concerns Over ICE, Mayor Koch Reportedly Grew Frustrated And Later Said In An Interview “We’re Not A Sanctuary City; We Cooperate.” “On Jan. 20, about two dozen residents went before Coon Rapids’ mayor, Jerry Koch, and the City Council, worried about immigration agents roaming the streets where their children play. As they spoke, Mayor Koch grew more and more frustrated. ‘We’re not Minneapolis or St Paul; we’re not a sanctuary city; we cooperate,’ he said later in an interview.” [New York Times, [2/13/26](#)]

- **In Regards To Public Concerns About ICE’s Activities, Koch Said, “It’s Like, ‘Oh, Come On, Get Off Whatever Tracking Site You’re On And Put The Whistles Away.’”** “He also made clear he was frustrated with the reaction of some of his constituents to the growing presence of federal agents. ‘I get emails that say, ‘ICE has been spotted three times in town today, here at this house, at this house, that house,’” he said. ‘It’s like, ‘Oh, come on, get off whatever tracking site you’re on and put the whistles away.’” [New York Times, [2/13/26](#)]
- **Koch Later Claimed He Accidentally Answered The Reporter’s Phone Call.** “In a written statement issued after the article was published, Koch said he regretted participating in the interview. ‘I was literally one day past the most impactful six weeks of my life and I accidentally picked up the phone to find a reporter on the other end,’ he said. ‘Apparently, I wasn’t in the correct frame of mind when I picked up the phone and absolutely should not have answered.’ ‘I have been mayor for 11 years and I know better

than to pull our city into the news for something controversial. If I had even a moment to consider the situation, things would have gone differently; I would have let her go to voicemail and never would have returned her call.” [ABC Newspapers via Hometown Source, [2/13/26](#)]

Koch Opposed Any Effort To “Undermine Police.” “Safe neighborhoods are the foundation of a thriving community. Jerry is an unwavering supporter of law enforcement, firefighters, and first responders. As mayor, he worked hand-in-hand with the Coon Rapids Police and Fire Departments to ensure they had the resources and support they needed. He will carry that commitment to the county level. Continued full funding for law enforcement and first responders Unwavering opposition to any effort to defund or undermine police” [Jerry Koch for Anoka County Commissioner, accessed [9/3/26](#)]

2022: Koch Used The Phrase “Back The Blue” In Endorsing Candidates For Anoka County Attorney And County Sheriff.



[Facebook, Jerry Koch, [11/8/22](#)]

Healthcare

No findings of note.

Economic development

No findings of note.

Housing & Development (affordable housing, zoning, data centers)

No findings of note.

Environment / Land Management

No findings of note.

Infrastructure (roads, parks, water and utilities, bike paths)

No findings of note.

Education

No findings of note.

Elections/Voting Access

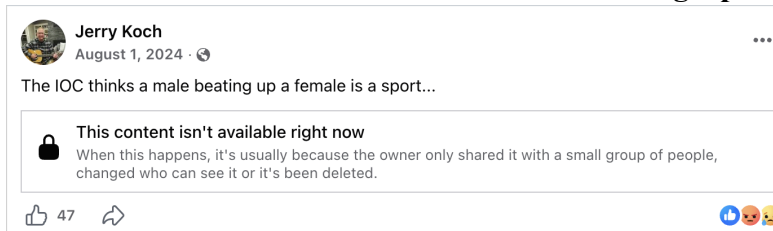
No findings of note.

Affordability / Cost of Living

No findings of note.

Ideology, Rhetoric & Extremism Signals

Koch Accused Trans Women Athletes Of “Beating Up” Cisgender Women Athletes.



[Facebook, [8/1/24](#)]

Variable

No findings of note.

Social Media Links:

1. [Campaign Website](#)
2. [LinkedIn](#)
3. [Personal Facebook](#)

PUBLIC RECORDS

As of September 2026, Koch is associated with the following criminal or traffic violations:

Koch's Criminal Or Traffic Violations						
Filing Date	Case #	State	Court Level/Degree	Charges	Disposition	Sentence
06/27/07	02CR075313	Minnesota	Petty Misdemeanor	Traffic - Speeding - Exceed Limit	Convicted	
06/27/07	02CR075313	Minnesota	Misdemeanor	Traffic Regulation - Driver Must Carry Proof Of Insurance When Operating Ve	Dismissed	
04/27/94	27CR94034330	Minnesota	Misdemeanor	Careless Driving-Misd	Convicted	
04/27/94	27CR94034330	Minnesota	Misdemeanor	Driving_unde r_the_influen ce	Dismissed	
06/10/85	02K085008257	Minnesota	Misdemeanor	Reckless Driving	Convicted	

[Criminal Records Search, accessed 9/3/26]

As of September 2026, Koch is associated with the following bankruptcy, judgments, or liens:

Koch's Bankruptcy, Judgements, or Liens						
Filing Date	Case #	Debtor	Creditor/ Secured Party	Type	Jurisdiction	Amount
01/06/14	02CV136705	Koch, Gerald E	Capital One Bank USA NA	Civil Judgment	Minnesota	\$6,495.00
09/14/98	9845933	Koch, Gerald Edward Koch, Susan Patricia		Chapter 7	Minnesota - Minneapolis	

[Bankruptcy, Judgments, & Liens Search, accessed 9/3/26]