

BATTLE CREEK COMMISSIONER AT-LARGE SHERRY SOFIA (R)

<u>POTENTIAL HITS FROM THE LEFT</u>	<u>POTENTIAL HITS FROM THE RIGHT</u>
● <u>WORKS FOR A MEMBER OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE WITH A HISTORY OF CONTROVERSIAL LEGISLATION AND OF QUESTIONING THE RESULTS OF THE 2020 ELECTION</u> ● <u>VOTED AGAINST ALLOWING FOR THE DIRECT ELECTION OF THE MAYOR</u>	●

Key Findings Include:

- **Legislative Director For A Conservative State Representative Who Has Introduced And Support Extreme Pieces Of Legislation.** Since 2019, Sherry Sofia has worked as legislative director for state representative Phil Green. Green has introduced and supported several pieces of legislation that were out of step with the general public. In 2025, Green cosponsored legislation to repeal the state’s red flag law and to require proof of citizenship to register to vote. In 2021, Green introduced legislation to prohibit electronic poll books at polling locations. In 2019, Green cosponsored legislation to require a test for a fetal heartbeat before an abortion. As of April 2026, Sofia has remained as Green’s legislative director.
- **Legislative Director For A State Representative Who Signed A Letter Questioning The 2020 Election.** In 2020, Green signed onto a letter calling for a “complete forensic assessment” of the 2020. Green’s letter claimed there were “numerous irregularities” with the election. In a 2021 Facebook post, Green posted, “I support a full forensic audit of the election including, but not limited to, the actual vote tabulating machines!”
- **Voted Against Allowing The Public To Directly Elect The Mayor.** In 2019, Sofia voted twice against having the mayor being directly elected, which she called a “bad idea.”

Jurisdiction Summary

Battle Creek is located in southwest Michigan. The City Commission is a nonpartisan body. In 2024, Trump won Calhoun County with 57.11% of the vote to Harris’s 48.89%, a difference of 9,618 votes but Harris won Battle Creek 54%-46%. Battle Creek has a population of 52,731.

Commissioners serve a two year term with elections held during midterm elections.

BACKGROUND

PERSONAL LIFE

Sherry Sofia (née Schele) is a 61-year-old Republican candidate for the 2026 election for one of the at-large seats on the Battle Creek Commission in Michigan. Sofia has served on the Battle Creek City Commission since 2018.

Sofia Was Married To Doug Sofia. [Facebook, Sherry Sofia, [5/22/24](#)]

PROFESSIONAL, CIVIC, & PUBLIC SECTOR BACKGROUND

2018: Sofia Began Serving On The Battle Creek Commission On One Of The At-Large Seats. [Legistorm, accessed [8/26/26](#)]

2018: The Battle Creek Commission Selected Sofia To Be Vice Mayor. “At-Large Commissioner Sherry Sofia was elected vice mayor by the commission. She gained that title this year after former Vice Mayor Dave Walters resigned in July. Sofia, 53, has been on the commission for five nonconsecutive years.” [Battle Creek Enquirer, [11/13/18](#)]

As Of 2018, Sofia Had Already Been On The Commission For Five Nonconsecutive Years. “At-Large Commissioner Sherry Sofia was elected vice mayor by the commission. She gained that title this year after former Vice Mayor Dave Walters resigned in July. Sofia, 53, has been on the commission for five nonconsecutive years.” [Battle Creek Enquirer, [11/13/18](#)]

- **2013: Sofia Lost Her Seat As Battle Creek Ward 3 Commissioner.** “Two incumbents lost their bid for re-election in Battle Creek. The Battle Creek Enquirer reports on Mary Lou Ramon losing in Ward 1 and Sherry Sofia being defeated in Ward 3.” [WMUK, [11/6/13](#)]

2019: Sofia Began Working As Legislative Director For State Representative Phil Green. [Legistorm, accessed [8/26/26](#)]

- **As Of April 2026, Sofia Still Worked As Legislative Director For Green.** “Sherry Sofia (right), who serves as Rep. Green’s legislative director, and members of the Lapeer County CAC joined Green for the award presentation.” [Michigan House Republicans, press release, [4/23/26](#)]
- **Green Was A Republican.** [Michigan State Legislature, accessed [8/26/26](#)]

2015-2018: Sofia Worked For State Representative David Maturen, Ending Her Tenure As Legislative Director. [Legistorm, accessed [8/26/26](#)]

- **Maturen Was A Republican.** [Library of Michigan, accessed [8/26/26](#)]

2011-2014: Sofia Worked For State Representative Amanda Price, Ending Her Tenure As Legislative Director.. [LinkedIn, accessed [8/26/26](#)]

- **Price Was A Republican.** [Library of Michigan, accessed [8/26/26](#)]

2003-2010: Sofia Worked For State Senator Tom George, Ending Her Tenure As His Chief Of Staff.. [LinkedIn, accessed [8/26/26](#)]

- **George Was A Republican.** [Michigan State Legislature, [8/26/26](#)]

2010: Sofia And Her Husband Co-Owned Sofia’s Watch Works In Battle Creek.

“Professional Experience: Sofia has been co-owner of Sofia's Watch Works in Battle Creek since 2010. She has been a state worker since 1989.” [Battle Creek Enquirer, [10/13/17](#)]

INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

No findings of note.

CAMPAIGN BACKGROUND

2024 Battle Creek Commissioner At-Large General Election Results (3 Seats)	
Candidate	Vote Total
Carla C. Reynolds	9,824
Sherry L. Sofia	8,151
Paige Katsarsky-Smith	7,334
Boonikka M. Herring	5,787

[Calhoun County, [11/5/24](#)]

2022 Battle Creek Commissioner At-Large General Election Results (3 Seats)	
Candidate	Vote Total
Carla Reynolds	6,920
Sherry L. Sofia	6,408
Jake W. Smith	5,403
Cayley Winters	5,283
Tommy Moton	3,107

[Calhoun County, [11/8/22](#)]

2020 Battle Creek Commissioner At-Large General Election Results (3 Seats)	
Candidate	Vote Total
Carla C. Reynolds	9,413
Kaytee Faris	7,944
Sherry Sofia	7,903
Derrick A. Freeman	7,216
Write-in Beverli Carpenter-Hunter	25

[Calhoun County, [11/3/20](#)]

2017 Battle Creek Commissioner At-Large General Election Results (4 Seats)	
Candidate	Vote Total
Susan Baldwin	2,037
Mark A. Behnke	1,852
Kaytee Faris	1,775
Sherry Sofia	1,616
Lester Earl Johnson	1,217
Adriane Pike MacCreery	1,102
Johnny Cash	970

[Calhoun County, accessed [8/26/26](#)]

IDEOLOGY & POLITICS

2018: Sofia Was Elected As A Republican Precinct Delegate. [Calhoun County, [8/7/18](#)]

AFFILIATION WITH POLITICAL FIGURES/ORGANIZATIONS:

Sofia Worked As Legislative Director For Republican State Representatives Phil Green, David Maturen, And Amanda Price And As Chief Of Staff For Republican State Senator Tom George. [LinkedIn, accessed [8/26/26](#)]

- 2018: Sofia Endorsed Her Boss Representative Maturen.** “I am posting to support David Maturen for re-election as 63rd District State Representative. First a disclaimer—I work for Dave in his legislative office. That said I have worked in the legislature for many years and have seen many legislators come and go. [...] I hope you will join me in supporting Dave in his bid for re-election as State Representative in the 63rd District.” [Facebook, Sherry Sofia, [8/6/18](#)]

PARTISAN POSTS

No findings of note.

CAMPAIGN INFRASTRUCTURE

No findings of note.

ENDORSEMENTS

No findings of note.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

No findings of note.

PERSONAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

According to the Michigan Secretary of State, Smith has given \$3,533.50 to state-level political candidates.

Smith Political Giving History - State			
Contributor name	Recipient	Receipt date	Amount
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD RD BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000	GREEN THUMB LEADERSHIP 519271-Independent	12/24/19	\$25.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVENUE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 LEGISLATIVE STAFF.	COMMITTEE TO ELECT DAVID MATUREN FOR STATE REP 516540-Candidate	7/24/18	\$250.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000	CALHOUN COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE 001208-County Political Party	4/15/17	\$20.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE. BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 LEGISLATIVE STAFF	HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 000436-Caucus	6/15/16	\$250.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000	CALHOUN COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE 001208-County Political Party	10/27/15	\$60.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE. BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 LEGISLATIVE STAFF	HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 000436-Caucus	10/22/15	\$250.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000	CALHOUN COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE 001208-County Political Party	3/14/15	\$12.50
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVENUE	COMMITTEE TO ELECT DAVID MATUREN FOR STATE REP	9/16/14	\$75.00

BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000	516540-Candidate		
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE. BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 LEGISLATIVE STAFF	HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 000436-Caucus	6/26/14	\$125.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVENUE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000	COMMITTEE TO ELECT JOHN BIZON FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE 516518-Candidate	3/15/14	\$50.00
SOFIA, SHERRY L. 249 GARFIELD AVENUE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000	MCCREADY FOR MICHIGAN LEADERSHIP FUND 516644-Independent	2/5/14	\$1.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE. BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 LEGISLATIVE STAFF	HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 000436-Caucus	5/31/13	\$250.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000	CALHOUN COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE 001208-County Political Party	5/30/12	\$25.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE. BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 LEGISLATIVE STAFF	HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 000436-Caucus	6/10/11	\$250.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000	CALHOUN COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE 001208-County Political Party	5/24/11	\$30.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 CHIEF OF STAFF SR TOM GEORGE	TOM GEORGE FOR GOVERNOR 514299-Candidate	4/8/10	\$100.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000	TOM GEORGE FOR GOVERNOR 514299-Candidate	12/30/09	\$100.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000	SENATE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 002399-Caucus	2/20/09	\$20.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 AIDE	SENATE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 002399-Caucus	9/25/08	\$300.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000	SHELLY EDGERTON 4 REP COMM 513605-Candidate	3/27/08	\$40.00
SOFIA, SHERRY	SENATE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN	7/27/07	\$150.00

249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 AIDE	COMMITTEE 002399-Caucus		
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 AIDE	SENATE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 002399-Caucus	3/29/07	\$150.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000	TOM GEORGE FOR STATE SENATE 510432-Candidate	9/5/06	\$100.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 AIDE	SENATE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 002399-Caucus	8/24/06	\$200.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 AIDE	SENATE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 002399-Caucus	7/18/06	\$175.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 AIDE	SENATE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 002399-Caucus	3/15/06	\$125.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 AIDE	SENATE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 002399-Caucus	4/1/05	\$200.00
SOFIA, SHERRY 249 GARFIELD AVE BATTLE CREEK, MI 490170000 AIDE	SENATE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 002399-Caucus	3/25/04	\$200.00
Total:			\$3,533.50

[Michigan Secretary of State, accessed [8/27/26](#)]

- February 2022: Bizon Pled Guilty To A Misdemeanor Assault And Battery Charge For Assaulting A Nurse.** “State Sen. John Bizon (R-Battle Creek), facing a misdemeanor assault and battery charge stemming from a medical visit in August, entered a guilty plea Thursday in Calhoun County. [...] On Aug. 14, Bizon was ill with COVID-19 and visited the Oaklawn Medical Group to seek treatment. He and a female nurse practitioner were discussing medications when Bizon allegedly “‘intentionally grabbed her with his right arm/hand, by her waist, pulled her into his body, squeezed her hip with his right hand, and told her he is an otolaryngologist,’” according to the police report. Afterward, Bizon grew ‘visibly angry’ when the nurse declined to order a specific medication for him. The medication he sought was reportedly not meant to treat his

diagnosis. Bizon also allegedly grabbed a medical assistant's arm and told her, 'my blood pressure is up' because she was in the room." [Michigan Advance, [2/18/22](#)]

According to an FEC individual contribution search, Sofia has given \$100.00 to federal political candidates.

Smith Political Giving History - Federal				
Contributor name	Recipient	Employer	Receipt date	Amount
SOFIA, SHERRY	SCHWARZ FOR CONGRESS		03/23/04	\$100.00
Total:				\$100

[FEC, individual contribution search, accessed [8/26/26](#)]

ISSUES

Taxes / Controversial Budget Cuts

No findings of note.

Good Government/Ethics

No findings of note.

Public Safety

No findings of note.

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

2019: Sofia Twice Voted Against Allowing For The Direction Election Of The Mayor.

“During a special meeting Tuesday night, city commissioners approved the resolution for a charter amendment ballot proposal that, if approved, would allow voters in Battle Creek to elect their mayor. Commissioners voted 7-2 in favor of the resolution, which needed six votes to pass. Vice Mayor Sherry Sofia and Ward 5 Commissioner Jim Lance were the two commissioners who voted against the change. Last month, the same resolution failed in a 5-4 vote, with Ward 1 Commissioner John Griffin, Ward 2 Commissioner Lynn Ward Gray, Lance and Sofia voting against it.” [Battle Creek Enquirer, [11/6/19](#)]

- **Sofia Called The Move “A Bad Idea.”** Sofia voted against the resolution in October and voted ‘No’ again during Tuesday’s meeting. ‘I thought it was a bad idea on Oct. 15... and I still think it is,’ she said. ‘One of the first tests of a mayor is whether or not they can get four other people to agree that they should be mayor, without that sort of getting it all started, what sort of coalition-- how are they going to lead if they don’t have anybody behind them?’” [Battle Creek Enquirer, [11/6/19](#)]

2018: Sofia Voted Against A Resolution To Support The Voters, Not Politicians Initiative.

“A Resolution of support and endorsement for the Voters Not Politicians initiative. Motion to Approve Moved By: KATE FLORES Supported By: LYNN GRAY Comm. Gray expressed being extremely impressed with the work of this organization and strongly believes the City of Battle Creek should take the lead, saying fair elections and the drawing of our lines is important. Comm. Gray further stated a lot of work had been done educating our residents on the election process. Comm. Gray believes this is something our residents can get behind and asked fellow Commissioners to support resolution 221. [...] Nays: BALDWIN, LANCE, SIMMONS, SOFIA” [Battle Creek, Vote #221, [9/4/18](#)]

- **Voters, Not Politicians' Initiative Successfully Created An Independent Redistricting Commission.** “The author, Nancy Wang, is Executive Director of the nonprofit Voters Not Politicians, CLC’s client in the fight to save Michigan’s successful ballot initiative campaign to create the state’s first Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.” [Campaign Legal Center, [10/16/19](#)]
- **Sofia Said That The Commission Did Not Traditionally Weigh In On State Issues.** “Comm. Flores thanked Mr. Wiley and Dr. Schwarz for sharing information and speaking in support of resolution 221. Comm. Flores stated this issue has an impact on all the citizens of Battle Creek, acknowledging the Commission hesitation to weigh ballot

proposals, clarifying this is a non-partisan issue which she supports. Vice Mayor Sofia stated although she does not disagree with Comm. Flores, this is an important individual issue and the Commission does not traditionally weigh in on State issues. Vice Mayor Sofia will not be supporting this measure.” [Battle Creek, Vote #221, [9/4/18](#)]

Affordability / Cost of Living

No findings of note.

Ideology, Rhetoric & Extremism Signals

No findings of note.

Legislative Director For State Representative With A History Of Controversial Legislation And Questioning The 2020 Election

January 2019: Sofia Began Working As Legislative Director For State Representative Phil Green. [LinkedIn, accessed [8/26/26](#)]

- **As Of April 2016, Sofia Still Worked As Legislative Director For Green.** “Sherry Sofia (right), who serves as Rep. Green’s legislative director, and members of the Lapeer County CAC joined Green for the award presentation.” [Michigan House Republicans, press release, [4/23/26](#)]

2020: Green Signed Onto A Letter Calling For A “Complete Forensic Assessment” Of The 2020 Election. “Twenty-three GOP House members also released a letter Wednesday rehashing unproven allegations about the election and asking for a ‘complete forensic assessment to the satisfaction of the adverse party,’ conducted by a nonpartisan third party in the “most contested counties.” It also demands that no election materials are destroyed. The lawmakers who signed onto the letter are: [...] Phil Green (R-Millington) [...]” [Michigan Advance, [12/10/20](#)]

- **The Letter Claimed There Were “Numerous Irregularities” With The 2020 Election.** [Michigan House of Representatives via Facebook, Doug Wozniak for State Senate, [12/9/20](#)]
- **May 2021: Green Posted That He Stood By The Letter And Supported “A Full Forensic Audit Of The Election.”** “I still stand by my statement and letter from December 8, 2020. I support a full forensic audit of the election including, but not limited to, the actual vote tabulating machines!” [Facebook, Philip A. Green, [5/18/21](#)]

2025: Green Cosponsored Legislation To Repeal The State's Red Flag Law. “A bill to repeal 2023 PA 38, entitled ‘Extreme risk protection order act,’” [Michigan House of Representatives, HB 4140, introduced, [2/26/25](#)]

2025: Green Cosponsored Legislation To Amend The State Constitution To Require Proof Of Citizenship To Register To Vote. “A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution of 1963, by amending sections 1 and 4 of article II, to require the verification of an elector's United States citizenship and to modify voter identification requirements.” [Michigan House of Representatives, HJR B, introduced [1/29/25](#)]

- **The Legislation Failed To Pass The State House.** [Michigan Votes, HJR B, [5/1/25](#)]

2021: Green Introduced Legislation Tied To Election Integrity To Prohibit Electronic Poll Books. “Introduced by Rep. Phil Green (R-84) To prohibit the electronic poll book at each election precinct from being connected to the internet on election day until its votes have been tabulated. It would also prohibit connecting an electronic voting system to the internet until after the votes are counted, and then only to upload the results to the appropriate clerk.” [Michigan Votes, HB 4838, introduced [5/13/21](#)]

- **Governor Gretchen Whitmer Vetoes The Legislation.** [Michigan Votes, HB 4838, vetoed [10/3/21](#)]

2019: Green Cosponsored Legislation To Require Testing For A Fetal Heartbeat Prior To An Abortion. “A bill to require testing for a fetal heartbeat before the performance of an abortion; to place certain requirements and restrictions on the performance of an abortion if a fetal heartbeat is detected; to provide for the powers and duties of certain state and local governmental officers and entities; and to prescribe penalties and provide remedies.” [Michigan House of Representatives, HB 4664, introduced [5/23/19](#)]

Social Media Links:

include links to social media profiles, but be sure to include any relevant information found in the profiles in other sections.

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

PUBLIC RECORDS

As Of August 2026, Sofia Is Not Associated With Any Criminal Or Traffic Violations.
[Criminal Records Search, accessed 8/26/26]

As Of August 2026, Sofia Is Not Associated With Any Bankruptcy, Judgments, Or Liens.
[Bankruptcy, Judgments, & Liens Search, accessed 8/16/26]