

WI-01 District Primer

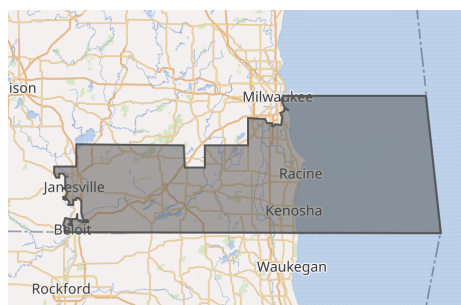
In 2024, Republican Bryan Steil won this seat by 40,113 votes—just seven votes per precinct. If we can persuade just eight voters per precinct, we can win this year. With your help, we’re going to **FLIP** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates
Filing Deadline: June 1
Primary: August 11
Midterms: November 3

Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Trump: 207,763 (52%) Harris: 189,560 (47%)	Bryan Steil (R): 212,515 (54%) Peter Barca (D): 172,402 (44%) Chester Todd, Jr. (G): 8,191 (2%)	Bryan Steil (R): 162,610 (54%) Ann Roe (D): 135,825 (45%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Kenosha, pop. 99,578
- Racine, 78,057
- Janesville, 66,428

Geography

Located in southeast Wisconsin, WI-01 borders Illinois and Lake Michigan. It includes Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties and parts of Waukesha, Rock, and Milwaukee counties.

The city of Milwaukee is not in the district.

Citizenry

Residents of WI-01 are predominantly white (73%), with smaller Hispanic (14%), Black (6%), and Asian (2%) populations. Foreign-born residents make up 6.1% of the population. 11.4% of people speak a language other than English at home. Most residents (68%) are homeowners, 31.6% have a college degree, and 5.9% are veterans. In 2024, 13% of households—almost 40,000 residents—relied on SNAP for food, and more than 159,000 relied on Medicaid (aka Badgercare) or CHIP for healthcare.

The Local Vibe

Key local concerns include economic fallout from Trump's tariffs (manufacturing is the major industry in WI-01) and federal funding cuts affecting schools and services.

The March No Kings event drew 2,500 protesters in Racine, 2,500 in Kenosha and 1,000 in Janesville. Incumbent Bryan Steil faced a hostile and noisy crowd of about 200 at his first town hall in Kenosha after voting for the Big Ugly Bill in 2025. He also met boos in Elkhorn over his support for Trump policies.

Key Issues

Sign up for another event: mobilize.us/swingleft

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- **Threats to essential services:** Steil's vote for Trump's budget will cause thousands of his constituents to lose food and healthcare assistance and increase costs to the state by a quarter-billion dollars.
 - **An absentee rep:** Keil said in August 2025 he would keep holding in-person "listening sessions" but recently has held only telephone town halls.
 - **Tariffs:** Machine manufacturing dominates the district's economy and has taken a big hit from Trump's tariffs due to increased costs for imported materials and reduced access to export markets.
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About the Candidates

Bryan Steil | GOP Incumbent

Born and raised in Janesville, Bryan Steil has a BA from Georgetown and a law degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He has worked in the manufacturing industry, served on the UW Board of Regents, and was a legislative assistant for former House Speaker Paul Ryan, a longtime family friend who represented the district from 1999-2019. Steil was first elected to represent WI-01 in 2018 after Ryan retired and has been re-elected ever since.

Steil chairs the Joint Committee on the Library and the Committee on House Administration and is a member of the Committee on Financial Services.

His campaign is well funded by MAGA PACs. He is endorsed by Trump and votes with Trump more than 97% of the time. The AFL-CIO gives him a 0% score on his voting record for working people. Steil opposes reproductive freedom ("I am proudly pro-life") and votes against gun safety reforms.

Based on his 2025 town halls, Steil's constituents seem to be starting to see through his attempts to portray himself as a fiscal conservative working for the residents of WI-01. Close association with Trump is becoming a liability as voters experience the negative results of his votes.

Democratic Challenger(s)

Peter Burgelis, a Milwaukee alderman and the first openly LGBTQ Milwaukee County Board Supervisor, says his background in local government and housing work has shaped his focus on cost-of-living concerns and he has called out the lack of accountability in Washington. He lives in South Milwaukee—near but not in WI-01.

Mitchell Berman, a longtime union member and registered nurse at the VA, is a fierce defender of federal programs like the VA and Medicaid. He is focused on lowering costs for working families, protecting healthcare and food support programs, and ending federal tax and other giveaways to corporations and billionaires.

Randy Bryce, a former iron worker known as "Iron Stache," ran against Steil in 2018 and performed better than other Democrats had in this district. The only candidate with a national reputation, Bryce focuses on preserving Social Security and other safety net programs and resisting Trump's steep tariffs and attacks on immigrants.

The contrast: Bryan Steil's support for Trump's agenda of tariffs, tax cuts for the wealthy, and benefit cuts for everyone else puts him in direct opposition to his constituents' wellbeing. While he avoids facing them, his Democratic challengers are greeting voters with plans to preserve food and healthcare lifelines, reduce costs, and fight Washington corruption.