

MEQUON COMMON COUNCIL ALDERMANIC ELECTIONS

Rematch underway in District 5 as Bach hopes to unseat Gierl this time

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MEQUON — Three years after just three votes gave incumbent District 5 Alderman Mark Gierl the edge of challenger Gregg Bach, the two will be matched up again on the April 4 ballot.

Gierl won 431-428 in the 2020 election. A recount yielded the same outcome.

The News Graphic talked to Bach and Gierl about their qualifications and the issues most pressing in their district.

1. Why are you the best candidate to represent District 5?

Gregg Bach: An elected alderman should serve with honesty, transparency, dedication and kindness. I will bring those traits to Mequon city government. I am a planner, skilled at managing multiple ideas to solve problems correctly and ethically by building consensus. My ability to listen brings everyone into the conversation, finding common ground so we can work together. I look forward to advancing relationships with neighbors in the 5th District and the entire city community to strengthen and sustain Mequon.

Mark Gierl: As a non-politician, I have no political aspirations other than being my constituents' voice at city hall. I am free to impartially judge each item coming before the council on its merits and impacts. My success as an entrepreneur, businessman and financial professional in a very competitive field has required excellent customer service that delivers an excellent product at a fair price. Like choosing a company to do business with, Mequon residents choose a representative. For



Gregg Bach

Age: 61

Address: 12641 North River Forest Circle

Occupation: Retired teacher and school administrator 37 years of experience

Education: Marquette University (BS) University of Illinois Chicago (MS)

Elected and appointed experience: Mequon Planning Commission alternate and Policy Subcommittee member; Board member REDgen, Wisconsin Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Independent Schools of The Central States and YMCA Family Camp Nawakwa

the last nine years I have represented our residents' rights by protecting their property values through careful land use, protecting our natural environment and keeping taxes low. With this background, I will continue to provide the "customer service" residents deserve and expect.

2. What issues are unique to your district?

Bach: Four years ago, I volunteered to be a member of the Mequon Policy Subcommittee responsible for the recently-approved Ulaos Creek Neighborhood plan between Interstate 43, Ulaos Creek, Highland Road and Pioneer Road in Mequon's 5th District. One-hundred-and-fifty residents attended a community workshop to voice their opinions. The



Mark Gierl (i)

Age: 68

Address: 14108 N. Birchwood Lane

Occupation: Retired Comprehensive Marketing, MBA Finance, Certified Investment Management Analyst-Wharton School of Business

Elected and appointed experience: Alderman District 5 Mequon-9 years

subcommittee then met 18 times in meetings open to all interested residents. It was an excellent example of an active community conversation and engagement. Despite this being a critical zoning planning process for the 5th District, my opponent was absent during the entire process. This will continue to be a key issue for Mequon and District 5. I will continue to show up and be present to hear from residents.

Gierl: A good portion of my district is rural with a fragile lakefront and water table that needs protection. Careful land use planning has decided that 5 acre zoning best protects the water table and allows for sound septic management. Developers often attempt to have rural land rezoned to as little as 1 1/2 acres, creating more profit but at the same time destroying the rural character and risking existing residents' source of water. My district encompasses CUW, the largest

Lutheran University in the U.S. This creates challenges balancing institutional vs residents' rights and needs. Over the past nine years, I have worked with residents and CUW to mediate any issues. I have remained an independent representative balancing residents', institutional, and development's needs.

3. Final Town Center improvements are nearing, as well as other design improvements for Mequon's east side corridor. What other developments/improvements would you like to see implemented during your term?

Bach: In addition to the Ulaos Creek Neighborhood plan, Foxtown Station will be opening soon. Residents have made it clear that they support Mequon's rural character. I agree. Mequon needs to develop carefully and responsibly. City capital improvements will be important. Planning and improving its roads and buildings will be key. I am a big proponent of quality-of-life issues. I support collaboration with organizations to improve park amenities, recreational partnerships, the pool, safe road cycling, and enhanced Lake Michigan access. We build relationships in our parks and on our fields. I will continue to advocate for these resources in Mequon.

Gierl: Residents tell me we need to enhance the Pavilion and eliminate empty storefronts. They would also like to see more dining establishments and high quality businesses. The Common Council just reviewed the south Port Washington/Donges Bay Road corner proposed enhancements. We concluded that planning must continue for the entire East Side Corridor.