The 2026 election is about key issues that require a new responsible majority to lead Credit River in the coming years. These issues include sewer and water, development, and property taxes. The candidates with the experience and best viewpoints on key issues, who will listen to residents, be transparent and fiscally responsible are the following:

Bill Markert for Mayor ★ Abe Zanto for City Council ★ Bruce Wise for City Council

Issue #1: Sewer and Water	Issue #2: Development	Issue #3: Property Taxes
• Extending sewer & water into Credit River will lead to more development. • Markert, Zanto and Wise support researching options and listening to residents before any decision is made on sewer and water due to the high cost and the very small number of current failing residential septic systems. State law caps the amount a resident pays for new sewer and water lines with the excess cost then borne by all residents, whether they benefit from sewer and water or not.	• Limiting residential and commercial development. • Markert, Zanto and Wise all support protecting Credit River's rural character by carefully planning growth. All three candidates have stated their support to preserve open spaces so that Credit River remains a "rural city." Bringing in sewer and water lines will likely set the stage for higher density housing development.	• Limiting property tax increases and being fiscally conservative. • Markert, Zanto, and Wise believe that there needs to be fiscal responsibility with property taxes. The issue of taxes is not about the tax rate, but the **tax levy**, which is the total dollar amount of property taxes collected. From 2017 to 2026 when Chris Kostik has led Credit River, the total tax levy increased an excessive **103%**, which is essentially over taxation.

Kostik's Claims and Kostik's Record

In a recent campaign postcard, mayoral candidate Chris Kostik makes claims that are not supported by his record.

Claim: "Protect taxpayers with one of the lowest city tax rates in Minnesota."	**Record:** The total **tax levy** has increased an excessive **103%** from 2017 to 2026 when Kostik has led the city.
Claim: "Keep local government transparent, accessible, and community driven."	**Record:** Secretly pursued a lease for a new city hall; rejected committee's plans to remodel current city hall.
Claim: "Plan infrastructure [i.e., sewer and water lines] and public services fairly, with growth paying its way."	**Record:** Supports bringing in sewer and water which will result in large property tax increases for all residents.

Reason Not to Elect John Mesenbrink

Lawsuit Against Credit River: Mayoral candidate John Mesenbrink is suing Credit River for $10 million dollars because the city council denied his applications to develop 139 acres of land for commercial/industrial use. The Scott County Court has upheld the city council's final application denials. ***Residents are urged not to vote for Mesenbrink because he is suing the very city to which he seeks to be elected mayor.***

Reasons Not to Elect Brad Aho

Lack of Rural Experience: Aho was a council member in Eden Prairie, a large suburb with 63,000 residents. His experience is substantially different from the familiarity and understanding that is needed to maintain the rural character of a small community like Credit River.

Lack of Involvement: Since moving to Credit River in 2021, Aho has not been seen at city council meetings until this summer when he decided to be a candidate.

Official 2026 Credit River Residents for Change Sample Ballot

VOTE FOR	CANDIDATE	OFFICE
⬬	Bill Markert	Mayor
⬬	Abe Zanto	City Council
⬬	Bruce Wise	City Council

- **Elect Responsible Leaders**
- **Change Council Leadership**
- **Elect Candidates Who Listen**

This is an independent expenditure prepared and paid for by Credit River Residents for Change, www.CRRC2026.org.
It is not coordinated with or approved by any candidate nor is any candidate responsible for it.