



A group of concerned residents have formed the Credit River Residents for Change (CRRC), an independent political committee allowed by state law. The Credit River mayor's seat and two city council member seats are up for election this November. The CRRC supports the election of current City Council Member Bill Markert for mayor, and current City Council Member Abe Zanto and Bruce Wise for the two council seats. The CRRC opposes the re-election of Chris Kostik for mayor, the campaign of Brad Aho for city council, and any other candidates for mayor or city council. The CRRC's citywide campaign is being conducted to elect Bill Markert as Credit River mayor and Abe Zanto and Bruce Wise as city council members who will listen to residents, be transparent, be fiscally conservative, collaborate with Scott County to search for solutions on aging septic systems and wells without constructing city sewer and water lines, and maintain Credit River's rural character.

Key Reasons for the CRRC's Opposition of Chris Kostik

1. Failure to Listen to Residents

- **Dismissive of Resident Committee:** At the September 2025 council workshop, Kostik dismissed a resident committee's recommendations to expand/remodel city hall and not purchase land for a new city hall building.
- **Unauthorized Secrecy:** Rather than pursue the resident committee's recommendations to expand and remodel the Credit River City Hall building, Kostik exceeded the scope of his legal authority as mayor and in May 2025 secretly pursued a five-year lease agreement with a local company for city office and road machinery storage space. Kostik's secret pursuit of this lease occurred while the resident committee was still conducting meetings.
- **Disrespectful:** Kostik has been disrespectful to one or more council members and has disregarded citizen requests that all members of the city council, especially Kostik, act respectfully. The disrespect continued even after the city spent **\$6,000** on a facilitator to educate the council about good governance principles.
- **Ignored Citizen Survey:** Kostik did not acknowledge nor value the work of the Credit River Rural Alliance, which conducted an important survey of more than 800 residents in October of 2023.
- **Blocked Resident Posts:** Kostik blocked some residents from posting on his re-election political Facebook page.

2. Lack of Transparency

- **Secrecy:** Kostik's secret pursuit of the lease and not disclosing the lease until three days before he pushed for a vote to approve the lease at the August 18, 2025 council meeting is a complete lack of transparency.
- **Stop Workshop Live Stream:** At the January 5, 2026 council meeting, Kostik proposed discontinuing the live streaming of council workshops, which provide residents with information about council deliberations. Other council members objected and defeated Kostik's proposal to stop the live streaming of workshops.

3. Flawed Fiscal Conservativeness

- **\$21 Million+:** On May 6, 2024, three firms presented a proposal to the city council for a new city hall and public works buildings with estimated construction costs of more than \$21 million, not including land costs.
- **\$47,979:** In 2024, Credit River paid \$47,979 to the architect, construction firm, and other companies for services related to the work leading up to the presentation on May 6, 2024 for a new city hall and public works building.
- **\$343,974+:** The secretly pursued lease for office/storage space would have cost the city \$343,974 in rent over five years **plus** tenant improvement costs and the city's share of property taxes, insurance, and maintenance costs.
- **More Millions:** Kostik still supports buying land and building a new city hall costing millions rather than remodel the current city hall with the city's \$600,000+ in federal COVID relief funds earmarked for city facilities.
- **>15% Proposed Hike in Tax Levy:** Kostik advocated for increasing the preliminary 2026 property tax levy by more than 15% over the 2025 tax levy while other council members limited the final 2026 levy increase to 3.9%.
- **Water and Sewer Costs Could Dramatically Increase Property Taxes:** Kostik's position to extend city sewer and water lines from Savage to northern Credit River to resolve a very small number of failing or non-compliant septic systems and wells is extremely costly and could cause property taxes for all residents to rise dramatically.



Credit River Residents for Change Needs Your Support and Your Votes!

Campaign Aspirations

The citywide campaign to elect Bill Markert as the new Credit River Mayor, and Abe Zanto and Bruce Wise as city council members, will be ambitious, but it's also a campaign whose time has come. This is the year to elect new leadership to the Credit River City Council.

Lawn Sign Request

To support the CRRC's citywide campaign, you can request a lawn sign by sending an email to www.CRRC2026.org with your address and the number of the sign you request listed below:

Sign No. 1: "Elect Bill Markert Mayor—Replace Chris Kostik" on one side and "Elect Responsible Leaders: Bill Markert, Abe Zanto and Bruce Wise" on the other side (4' x 6').

Sign No. 2: "Bill Markert—Mayor" (2' x 3').

Sign No. 3: "Abe Zanto—Council" (2' x 3').

Sign No. 4: "Bruce Wise—Council" (2' x 3').

Sign No. 5: "Kostik Failed Credit River" (2' x 3').

Sample Ballots

Save the enclosed Sample Ballots as a reminder to vote for Bill Markert for mayor, and Abe Zanto and Bruce Wise for city council.

Updates: Visit www.CRRC2026.org and the CRRC Facebook Page at "Credit River Residents for Change" for regular updates.

Contribution Request

To carry out this significant citywide campaign, your financial support is important. Minnesota law allows an individual or a corporation to make a financial contribution of any dollar amount to an independent expenditure political committee. A contribution to the CRRC is not tax deductible by individuals or corporations.

To make a contribution by personal or company check, mail a check payable to "Credit River Residents for Change" to Credit River Residents for Change, P.O. Box 106, Prior Lake, MN 55372.

To contribute online, visit the CRRC website's "Contribute" page at www.CRRC2026.org.

The CRRC is required by state law to obtain the following information from contributors:

Contributions Up to \$200: Name of contributor and address.

Contributions of More than \$200: Name of contributor, address, and employer.

Thank you for supporting the CRRC's mission to change Credit River City Council leadership!

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.