

Alderman Nik Kovac Biography

Nik Kovac was born and raised on Milwaukee's East Side. He proudly attended Milwaukee Public Schools—from McDowell Montessori School to Golda Meir Elementary School, and Jackie Robinson Middle School through Riverside High School. While at Riverside, he earned more than 20 college credits from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

Attending Harvard University and graduating cum laude with a degree in mathematics, Alderman Kovac worked to become a beat reporter and then a newspaper editor in New York City. He returned to Milwaukee to work for the Shepherd Express and Riverwest Currents.

Since April 2008, he has been the Alderman for Milwaukee's 3rd District, which includes the East Side, Riverwest and North Downtown neighborhoods.

Alderman Kovac's work extends outside City Hall and throughout his district as Chair of the East Side Architectural Review Board and as a member of the Milwaukee Arts Board, the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees, the Milwaukee County Federated Library Board, the Park East Advisory Committee, the Lakefront Development Advisory Commission and the Riverside University High School Foundation Board of Directors. As a proud stockholder for the Green Bay Packers football club and a resident of Riverwest, Alderman Kovac hosts a weekly radio show, Packerverse, on Riverwest's Community Radio Station.

His tenure with the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees began in 2008. During that time, as member of the Common Council's Finance Committee, Alderman Kovac was able to successfully sponsor budget amendments that increased library hours in the 2009, 2012, and 2015 budgets. As a member of the Library Board's Building and Development Committee, he participated in community processes that resulted in new, mixed-use library developments at the Villard, East, Mitchell, and Good Hope branches, and will soon happen at the King Drive branch. In each case, that included negotiating contracts with the developer and selecting architects for the library space design. He was also a member of the Innovations and Strategies Committee which oversaw the Library's recent strategic plan, and the Financial Sustainability Task Force that crafted the recent Public Policy Forum Report entitled "Balancing the Books."