



****PRESS RELEASE****

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Emily Berge, Eau Claire City Council Vice President, announces bid for Eau Claire City Council President.

Eau Claire, WI — Emily Berge announced today that she will be running for Eau Claire City Council President. Berge was elected as the District 1 Representative to the Eau Claire City Council in 2018 and was re-elected in 2021. She was chosen by her council peers as Council Vice President in 2022.

Berge stated: “I am proud of the work our council has done over the 5 years. We have made strides in affordable and accessible housing, continued to take steps toward our sustainability goals, and helped put Eau Claire on the map where people want to live, work, and visit. Plus for the last few years we have managed a worldwide pandemic at the local level.”

“Over the last five years, my love for Eau Claire has continued to grow, as well as my passion for civic policy and engagement. I am a problem solver. I listen to understand what is going on and then work with people to find solutions. As City Council President, I will continue to lead with dedication and cooperation,” she added.

In addition to her council work, Berge works as a Licensed Professional Counselor in Eau Claire. She has her master’s degree in mental health counseling from UW-Stout and has worked as a mental health provider in Eau Claire for the last 17 years.

“My background in mental health care has provided me with a unique perspective on city policy. I know that when we encourage community connection and engagement, create beautiful and accessible public spaces especially in nature, and strive to make sure all feel welcome and safe in our city, we increase mental health wellbeing. As City Council President I will continue to build on this integration of mental health and city work to make us strong and resilient as a community”, Berge said.

In 2020, Berge was appointed to the League of Wisconsin Municipalities’ Board of Directors. The League is a statewide organization that provides resources and advocacy for Wisconsin cities. In 2022, she was elected Vice President of the League by its members and is slated to be President in 2023. Berge works with policy experts and leaders across the state to build solutions to problems affecting Wisconsin cities.

Berge has lived in Eau Claire for over 20 years and resides on the Northside with her husband and their two high school age children.

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