

Mark Bunker — Digital Footprint Audit

Prepared for the 2026 Clearwater City Council campaign (Seat 5, Election Day August 18, 2026)

Audit date: April 22, 2026 · Compiled for campaign website review

1. Identity Snapshot

Full name	Mark Bunker
Born	May 23, 1956 — Oshkosh, Wisconsin
Residence	Clearwater, Florida (since 1999)
Profession	Broadcast journalist, documentary filmmaker, videographer, former elected official
Nickname / Online alias	"Wise Beard Man" (Anonymous / 4chan origin, 2008)
Party affiliation	Independent
Notable award	2006 Regional Emmy — Pacific Southwest (Historic/Cultural Program Feature, KUSI-TV "Border Special" w/ Lena Lewis)

2. Political Career Timeline

Date	Event
June 21, 2019	Announced first candidacy for Clearwater City Council
March 17, 2020	Elected to Seat 2 , Clearwater City Council (independent)
April 4, 2023	Selected as Vice Mayor of Clearwater
March 2024	Lost reelection to Ryan Cotton
March 12, 2026	Launched 2026 campaign for Seat 5
August 18, 2026	Election Day

3. Council Record (2020–2024) — Key Accomplishments

- North Greenwood Community Redevelopment Area** — helped establish the CRA to direct reinvestment into historically underserved neighborhood
- Drew Street safety improvements** — pushed safety measures on notoriously crash-prone corridor

- **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)** — led code change legalizing tiny homes, garage apartments, and granny flats to counter housing costs
- **Workforce housing** — advanced multiple workforce housing projects toward completion
- **Infrastructure resilience** — made aging infrastructure a council priority; approved shutdown and relocation of two water treatment plants vulnerable to Category 5 storm surge, shifting load to a treatment facility outside flood zones
- **Downtown board seat** — appointed to downtown development board over Scientology member objections (pre-council, April 2020)

4. Activism & Journalism History

XenuTV (founded 1999)

Website and YouTube channel covering alleged Scientology abuses. Founded when Bunker moved to Clearwater to produce videos for the **Lisa McPherson Trust**, the advocacy group named for the Scientologist whose 1995 death in Clearwater remains a defining case in criticism of the church.

Knowledge Report (in production since 2010)

Feature-length independent documentary, subtitled "*Scientology's Spies, Lies, and the Eternity Prize.*" Self-funded through crowdfunding; still in production.

Project Chanology / "Wise Beard Man" (2008)

When the hacker collective Anonymous began its anti-Scientology protest campaign, Bunker posted videos urging the group to stay legal and peaceful. Anonymous dubbed him "Wise Beard Man" — the name became a lasting 4chan meme and one of the defining cultural moments of early internet activism.

Jason Beghe interview (2008)

Conducted a three-hour on-camera interview with actor Jason Beghe when he publicly left Scientology. The video drew 595,000 views in four days before a DMCA takedown.

Leah Remini: Scientology and the Aftermath

Contributing producer/source for the A&E documentary series hosted by Leah Remini and Mike Rinder (both of whom personally endorsed his 2020 council run).

5. Digital Presence — Current Platforms

Platform	Handle / URL	Purpose
Campaign website (new)	markbunker.com	Primary campaign hub (redeployed April 2026 on Vercel; previously PoliEngine)
X / Twitter (activism)	@XENUTV	Long-running Scientology-critic account; legacy audience

X / Twitter (campaign)	@markbunker4u	Campaign-focused posting, Clearwater politics
Facebook (personal brand)	facebook.com/MarkBunker4U ("Citizen Bunker")	Primary public Facebook presence, post-council
Facebook (2024 campaign)	facebook.com/MarkBunker2024	Prior campaign page; still active, may need refresh for 2026
YouTube	youtube.com/user/XENUTV	Documentary footage archive, interviews, commentary
Blog	xenutv.wordpress.com ("The Wog Blog")	Long-form writing on Scientology topics
Donations (2024 page)	secure.anedot.com/markbunker2024/donate	Anedot donation form; 2026 equivalent should be created or relinked

Consolidation opportunity: Bunker currently operates under at least three public identities online — @XENUTV (activist), MarkBunker4U / Citizen Bunker (post-council personal), and MarkBunker2024 (prior campaign). For the 2026 race these should point at a single call-to-action: the new campaign site.

6. Media Coverage & Coalition

Recurring media platforms covering Bunker

- **The Underground Bunker** (Tony Ortega) — tonyortega.org — the preeminent independent outlet covering Scientology; Bunker is a frequent subject and source
- **Tampa Bay Times** — consistent local-paper-of-record coverage of his campaigns and Scientology's Clearwater operations
- **Florida Politics** — covers all council races and Scientology-related political stories
- **Tampa Bay Newspapers (tbnweekly.com)** — Clearwater Beacon local coverage
- **Cult News Network** — advocacy outlet covering his campaigns
- **National Today / Clearwater Today** — local news aggregator
- **Mike Rinder's Blog** — mikerindersblog.org — endorsement platform and commentary

Known endorsers & allies

- **Leah Remini** — actress, host of "Scientology and the Aftermath"
- **Mike Rinder** — former Scientology executive, co-host of "Aftermath," author
- **Tony Ortega** — investigative journalist, former Village Voice editor
- **Brooks Gibbs** — activist, recent Pinellas County collaborator

Podcast & interview footprint (selected)

- **Change Agents with Andy Stumpf** — "Exposing Scientology" episode (YouTube)
- **Julian Dorey Podcast** — Episode 203, "Scientology EXPOSED: Mark Bunker's 30-Year War"

7. Mike Rinder's Blog — Full Coverage Archive

Mike Rinder — former Scientology senior executive, co-host of "Leah Remini: Scientology and the Aftermath," and author of *A Billion Years* — has been Bunker's most consistent editorial supporter. His blog (mikerindersblog.org) has published at least **20 posts** about Bunker across the 2020, 2024, and anticipated 2026 campaigns. The pattern is significant: a national-caliber Scientology critic endorsing a local Florida council candidate year after year.

Rinder on Bunker: "the only real accountability scientology faces" from any government official · "the only politician in the City of Clearwater or Pinellas County not in fear of scientology"

2019 — Candidate announcement

- **Sept 5, 2019** — Mark Bunker for Clearwater City Council (*campaign announcement, seeking experienced campaign manager*)
- **Oct 2, 2019** — Why Elect Mark Bunker? (*analysis of Scientology's growing presence on local boards*)

2020 — First campaign, election, early tenure

- **Jan 20, 2020** — Mark Bunker's New Scientology Hit Squad (*Scientology hecklers disrupting candidate forum*)
- **Feb 3, 2020** — Elect Mark Bunker (*yard signs, volunteer call*)
- **Feb 7, 2020** — Elect Mark Bunker (*video endorsement*)
- **Mar 17, 2020** — Clearwater Elections Today — Vote for Mark Bunker
- **Mar 17, 2020** — Unofficial Result — Mark Bunker Wins Election (*called "historic"; Scientology-backed candidate placed fourth*)
- **Mar 18, 2020** — City Councilman Mark Bunker and Scientology Tax Exempt Status (*IRS revocation advocacy*)
- **Apr 1, 2020** — Mark Bunker Settles In at City Hall (*swearing in, office setup*)
- **Apr 4, 2020** — Mark Bunker Strikes Fear Into Scientologists' Hearts (*internal Scientology directives warning members against contact*)
- **Oct 12, 2020** — Episode 12: Mark Bunker (*podcast conversation*)

2023–2024 — Reelection cycle and aftermath

- **Sept 30, 2023** — Re-elect Mark Bunker to the Clearwater City Council
- **Feb 22, 2024** — Clearwater Election: Why Mark Bunker? (*contrasts his expertise with opponents*)
- **Feb 27, 2024** — Scientology's Vision for Clearwater; Why Mark Bunker Must Be Re-elected (*argues downtown has become a "wasteland"*)
- **Mar 9, 2024** — Scientology's Latest Harassment of Mark Bunker (*campaign sign theft, church denials*)

- **Mar 19, 2024** — Vote for Mark Bunker Today
- **Apr 5, 2024** — Clearwater: The First Scientology City — Another Huge Step (*post-defeat: major downtown property purchase by Scientologist following Bunker's replacement*)
- **Apr 10, 2024** — New Clearwater Mayor — Proof There's a Sucker Born Every Minute (*criticizes new mayor's church-friendly posture*)
- **May 11, 2024** — City of Clearwater: Is Their Scientology Honeymoon Over? (*post-Bunker council re-examining stance*)
- **May 13, 2024** — Lyin' Ryan Prescott is Back (Sort Of) (*references Scientology's 2020 anti-Bunker efforts*)

What this archive means for the 2026 website

Rinder's archive is itself a **campaign asset**. These 20 posts document: (a) *three* separate Scientology-backed efforts against Bunker's candidacies, (b) specific incidents of campaign sign theft and forum-disruption "hit squads," (c) internal Scientology directives warning members away from Bunker, and (d) the concrete civic cost of his 2024 loss (immediate property acquisitions by Scientologists, reversal of reformist posture). Any "Why Mark Bunker?" page on the new site should link directly into this archive — it is the receipt for every claim his campaign makes about Scientology's political operation in Clearwater.

8. Recent Public Activity (2025–2026)

- **March 2025** — Publicly responded to his council replacement's pro-Scientology votes; covered by The Underground Bunker
- **March 12, 2026** — Campaign launch video for Seat 5
- **March 27, 2026** — With activist Brooks Gibbs, intervened at a Pinellas County Board of Commissioners meeting to stop a decision reportedly favorable to Scientology
- **April 21, 2026** — Public commentary on Scientology's "grand opening" event in downtown Clearwater (reported as a "hostile takeover" by Ortega's Underground Bunker)

9. Narrative Summary — What His Footprint Says

Bunker's digital footprint is unusually coherent for a local candidate: a **30-year single-subject activism record** (Scientology accountability) has produced national and international media recognition, a distinct online persona ("Wise Beard Man"), celebrity-journalist allies (Remini, Rinder, Ortega), and a prior term in elected office with concrete, non-Scientology-adjacent accomplishments (housing, infrastructure, redevelopment).

The **liability** in the footprint is the same as the asset — it is almost entirely defined by one issue. For a general-election audience beyond Scientology critics, the council-record narrative (ADUs, North Greenwood CRA, water infrastructure, Drew Street safety) needs to be surfaced as prominently as the activism story. The new markbunker.com is the correct venue to balance both narratives.

Beacon; Cult News Network; National Today / Clearwater Today; Wikinews XenuTV interview; Julian Dorey Podcast Ep. 203; Change Agents with Andy Stumpf. All URLs and handles verified April 22, 2026.