

Green Bay, Preble Vote Merger by Big Margin

REDAVE DEVENDON

change in municipal boundarie

Preble

at the

Crossroads

By Scott Cooper Williams | Press-Gazette Medla

esidents in the town of Preble had it all: their own restaurants, stores, parks — everything.

And Green Bay wanted it all.

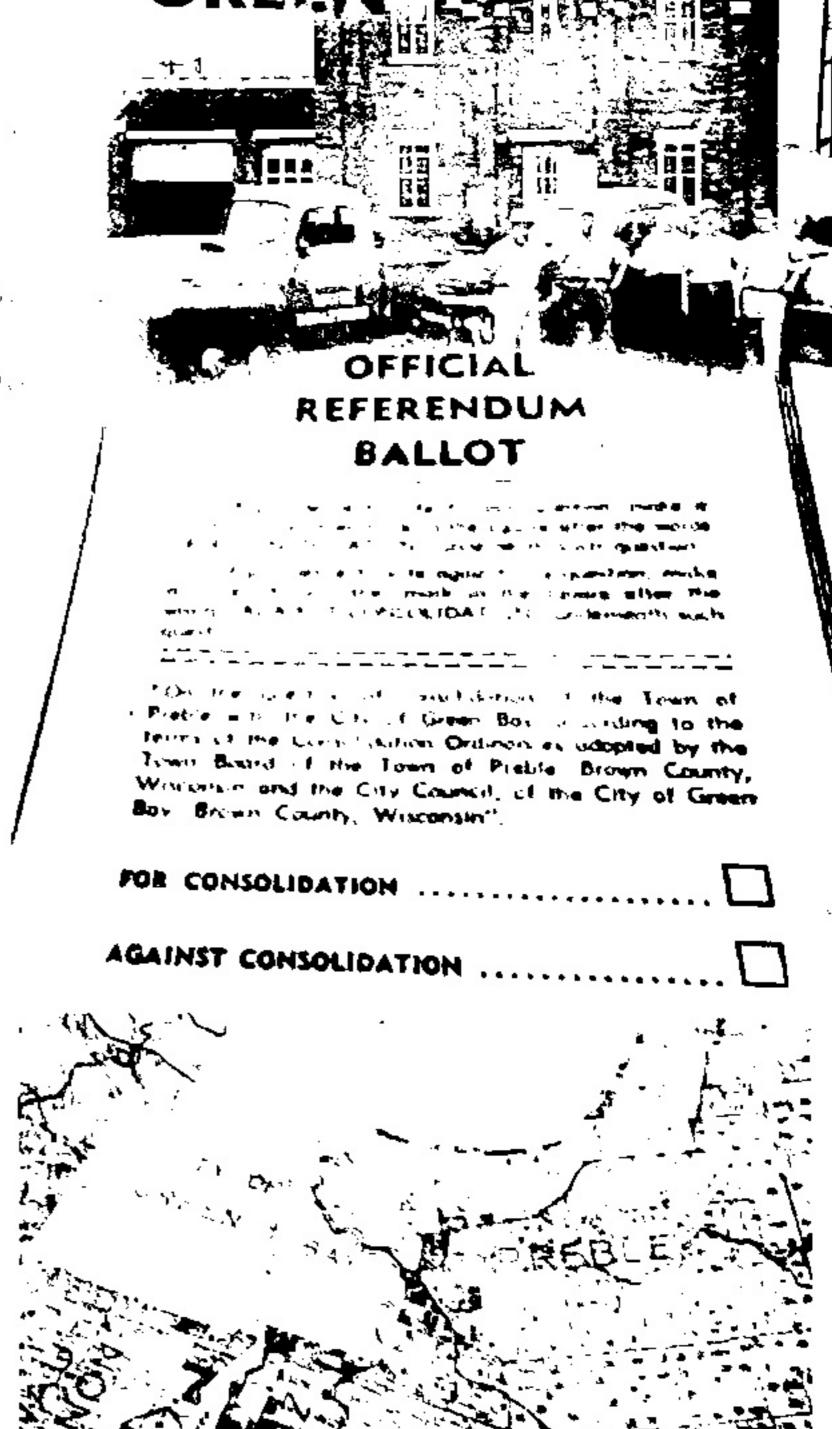
After a long struggle over Green Bay's efforts to annex Preble, the two municipalities asked voters 50 years ago today to decide a ballot measure that would change the region forever.

On the same day Lyndon Johnson was elected president in 1964, voters in Green Bay and Preble settled a long-running feud by agreeing to combine their neighboring municipalities into one.

The merger nearly doubled Green Bay's size geographically, and it vaulted the city from Wisconsin's sixth-largest to fourth-largest in population, jumping overnight from 66,000 people to 81,000.

Green Bay also gained control of vast undeveloped acreage along such key future corridors as Mason Street and Deckner Avenue.

» See MERGER, A2



SCOTT COOPER WILLIAMS/PRESS-GAZETTE MEDIA
The town of Preble and city of Green Bay are shown on this
map as they appeared side by side before the merger.

GREEN BAY AND PREBLE, CIRCA 1964, BY THE NUMBERS

		Green Bay	Preble
Status		City	Town
Established		1854	1859
Population		66,000	15,000
Size		22 square miles	18 square miles
Tax base	•	\$378 million	\$63 million