

Municipal Clerk: please distribute this to the mayor and assembly members and budget task force members. Thank you.

My thoughts on some current Sitka issues:

I am against the senior citizen tax exemption. My husband and I are both senior citizens. Seniors use the services the tax helps pay for – the hospital, police and fire protection, electricity, etc. This includes roads even though some argue they don't drive or don't drive as much as the younger set. However, the people who provide their food, heat, medical care and countless other services use the roads. How do they think the town functions without roads?

I am against having Mt. Edgecumbe and Sitka Community hospitals combined into one. As a non-native, my husband and I have had a few procedures done at Mt. Edgecumbe and, now that Sitka Medical is owned by SEARHC, some items are billed through SEARHC. Not once has my billing ever been right or timely. There has always been some sort of issue and no one locally is ever able to answer my questions. I am always given a non-toll-free number in Juneau to call and those calls have taken months to resolve, if at all.

I do not believe there should be a sales tax cap. One argument for a cap comes from high-end retailers who say it will prevent sales to tourists. This is not true. How many times have you been in another city and decided not to buy something because of the added tax, especially a luxury item? Probably never. We're losing a lot of revenue because of that cap.

I am against a property tax reduction for senior citizens. It just doesn't make sense. The property is worth no less just because someone is older.

I don't understand why others should have to bear the burden because people weren't smart enough to plan for their retirements. We have certainly planned for ours and do not rely on anyone other than ourselves.

Name withheld by request.