

Bio

My name is Thor Christianson, and I am running for Assembly. A little about myself. I was born in 1964 here in Sitka, and have lived most of my life here. I attended the school here in Sitka, then attended the University of Minnesota. I work at Southeast Region EMS as the resource manager. I am married to Jessica Christianson, and have two daughters ages 9 and 12. I have been a volunteer at the Sitka Fire Dept. since 1997

I have volunteered at the Sitka Fine Arts Camp, Raven Radio, Sitka Community Playground and Sitka Cirque. I have served three terms on the Assembly in the past, from 1998 to 2004 and from 2010 to 2013. During my time on the Assembly, I served as the Assembly liaison to most if not all the boards and commissions that report to the Assembly.

Advocacy Statement

Sitka has a number of challenges right now, and it is important that the Assembly works in a calm, well thought out manner. I have called Sitka home my entire life, and it is important to me that it remains the incredible place to live it is now.

Of all the issues facing Sitka right now, the State budget is the largest. It looks like Sitka is going to lose our share of the fish tax, just under 1.3 million, and the States' promise to reimburse cities for school bonds for 2.4 million. This is on top of the cuts to school funding. This could be devastating to Sitka's economy. I don't believe the situation at the state level will last forever, but in the meantime, Sitka is going to have to make some changes.

We will have to have our priorities set, so that when hard choices have to be made, we can look at our priority list to help with our decisions. We will have to look at both cutting services, and revenue generation. I see the city's main jobs to be education and public safety, and everything else is secondary to that. I realize that others on the Assembly may have different priorities, and that is where the work comes in.

I believe that it very important for the Assembly to treat the city employees with respect. We need to work to make the city of Sitka the kind of place people WANT to work.

