

My name is Andrew Traugutt. I moved to Sitka in June of 2010 with my wife and challenged step son. Sitka truly takes my breath away with its beauty and tranquility, and I feel privileged to be living here. I spent the last 25 years or more working as an Unemployment Adjudicator for the State of Colorado. For the last couple of years with the State, I worked 60 to 75 hours a week to ensure that claimants who were entitled to benefits, got their benefits on time. For some time previous, I also worked a second job on the weekends to ensure that my family was taken care of and my responsibilities were met. I am not a stranger to hard work. I have four children, two are my stepchildren. I have four dogs, and we used to have somewhat of a zoo over the years that the children were growing up. I am the proud Grandfather of a beautiful baby girl who will be one year old in September.

As I am now retired, I am able to spend an even greater amount of time with one of my favorite interests, and that is politics (you thought it would be fishing!). I have a lot of serious concerns in the area of national politics, but I also have an avid interest in local politics, as I would feel terrible if anything was promoted that would infringe on the beauty of Sitka. I watched sadly for years as Colorado allowed unlimited commercialization and building until there is now hardly any land left without structures and concrete.

I was born in Poland and immigrated to the United States when I was four years old. I got my citizenship when I was eighteen. America has been good to me and my family. I spent most of my educational years in Catholic schools and received my BS in Business in 1982 and later received my MBA in 1984.

Being retired and having all of this free time gives you the opportunity to really see what is of value in your surroundings. I am enjoying exploring Sitka and meeting all kinds of people. I really enjoy my walks with my dogs (did I mention I have four dogs and walk them in shifts?). These walks have enabled me to not only improve on my health, but to meet lots of interesting people, including a wide array of the different cultures that thrive in Sitka, including other transplants like myself. I am participating in the Sitka Trailworks endeavors and also contributing to the data collection efforts regarding our Raven beak deformity tracking.

I am avidly interested in participating in the local government as I believe I can and will contribute a great deal from my past experience and my interest and familiarity with economic control. It is quite important to have good economic skills when raising a family with four children, various dogs, parrots, rodents and other creatures who require food, shelter, time and caring.

I believe that my love of the beauty that is Sitka, and my years of experience adjudicating claims, which involved listening to both sides of an issue, evaluating and making a fair decision, would serve to make me an excellent Assembly Member for the City of Sitka.