

Steven Eisenbeisz Bio

I have been a resident of Sitka since 1992, only leaving to serve in the United States Marine Corps. After my 4 year enlistment I returned home to Sitka and began my adult life here. Over the past several years I have had many opportunities that added to my knowledge and experience base. The foremost was meeting and marrying my wife, Ashley. I have worked in Real Estate, Corrections, and now own Russell's, a third generation family owned store, with my wife Ashley. My past and present volunteer duties have included Sitka Fire Department as a Firefighter, EMT and Search and Rescue, Member of the Gary Paxton Industrial Park board, Chamber Board Member, Police and Fire commissioner, Downtown Revitalization group. Additionally serving Sitka as an Assembly member, I had liaison opportunities with the Gary Paxton Industrial park board, Tree and Landscape, Sitka Economic Development Association and Sitka Community Hospital board.

Steven Eisenbeisz Advocacy Statement

Sitka is going through some tougher times right now. The cost of living here has increased in the form of groceries, rent, inflation and municipal fees, while incomes have not risen to the same level. Our assembly is tasked with maintaining the quality of life we all enjoy here, while attempting to minimize fee increases. Those who listen to assembly meetings know that I advocate for fiscal responsibility. My checkbook is not wide open, and I will not approve a project without scrutiny and constructive criticism.

I am an advocate for the whole picture. At times the assembly only hears about only the positives of a project or ordinance change, without further investigating or talking about the potential less than desirable outcomes. I have asked for both sides to be presented, and will ask the tough questions to get it sorted out if necessary. During my time on the assembly many votes that started out 6-1 have become much closer, 4-3, indicating to me that my questioning is helping the assembly understand what is being presented.

There are two issues that I wish to take on that I feel will only help Sitka. First, we need increase the amount of low cost rentals available for young people and economically struggling households. A property tax incentive could spur new construction of these rentals, without an increase in city fees. This could also encourage young families who are leaving to stay in Sitka, a trend which must be reversed. Additionally, I wish to explore a revision of our infrastructure master plans from a user rate based system to one that gives a set dollar amount, and projects are built within the given funding.

