

# Mike Reif, Assembly Candidate

Fifty six years ago I was born in East Detroit, Michigan. Early in life I worked for my father in a number of the residential building trades. It was college at Michigan Technological University that provided me the opportunity to leave the large city and pursue a passion of earning a BS degree in Forest Management. That degree was my ticket to a dream opportunity in Sitka and seasonal employment with the Forest Service in 1977, working in the remote regions of the Tongass. That experience led me to further my forestry career and schooling in Eastern Washington, completing graduate studies from which I earned a certificate in Forest Silviculture. I enjoyed my time down South, but a place named Sitka was luring me back.

In 1981, I returned to Sitka and have remained ever since, 30 plus years now. Sitka was alive with opportunities and I was young and ambitious with an entrepreneurial spirit. It was not long before I created Reif's Hammers & Pipes, a residential home building and mechanical "plumbing & heating" business enterprise. After over 20 years as a thriving business, the home building accomplishment I am most proud of is receiving the "Alaskan Craftsman Builder of the Year Award in 1991 for outstanding construction of energy efficient homes." It was also a proud moment in 2002 when our innovative heating system was featured in a national trade journal. In addition to these land based businesses, the oceans surrounding Sitka also beckon me.

After years of sport fishing and being a deck hand, in 1991, I had a small boat built and started another business, Sitka Sea Roamer. It is a business that keeps me on the ocean engaged in both charter and commercial fishing. I enjoy sharing Sitka's beauty with visiting charter guests, and working with our fishing industry in the harvest of halibut and black cod, and diving for sea cucumbers. In addition to work, Sitka is a great community to volunteer.

I have a passion to volunteer in local city governance. From 1991-1994, I was a member of the Sitka Assembly and Deputy Mayor for two years. In 1995, I ran unsuccessfully for Mayor. For many years I was a member of the Sitka Planning and Zoning Commission, serving both as member and Chair. I was also the Chairperson to the Sitka Charter Review Commission in the mid 90's and for years a member of the Sitka Investment Committee. Currently, I have been just "Sitka Citizen Mike" – my passion for Sitka, and being part of our community central to my day-to-day life.

As Sitka Citizen Mike, I have had the joyful experience along with my wonderful wife, Melanie, of raising our daughter in this kid friendly community. As a family we engaged in Sitka's variety of activities and educational opportunities. Our daughter now lives in New York City, but we know that the values of Sitka have provided her the solid foundation to follow her dreams. One value is Sitka's spirit of community service. This past winter I joined the army of Sitkans who volunteered at the Hames Wellness Center and SJC/ Sitka Fine Arts Camp. Also I have been inspired by fellow Sitkans to serve overseas. During the last four years, I volunteered in both the Philippines and Cambodia. Similar to my introduction to Sitka 30 years ago, I am living a dream—my overseas volunteering has strengthened my commitment to serve on your Assembly; bringing home an even greater passion for community-building.

This is a snap shot of who I am. During this election I will share with you why I want to be your Assembly Person.

Respectfully submitted to the voters,  
Mike