

Candidate Statement
Pete Esquiro, Assembly-person

For those of you whom I've not had the opportunity to meet, I want to introduce myself. My name is Pete Esquiro and I have been a resident of Sitka for nearly forty (40) years. I am Tlingit, Tsimpsean, and Filipino. I was born and raised in and around Ketchikan, and educated in the lower 48. I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the Oregon College of Education (now Western Oregon), and later returned to get a Master's Degree in Special Education as a teacher of the deaf. I taught at various schools for the deaf and hard of hearing in both Oregon and California. I also worked as Administrator at a community college in Oregon. I returned to Alaska for half of the 70's to get back to my commercial and subsistence fishing "roots". I returned in 1980 to stay.

I am married to Margie Esquiro who teaches second grade at Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School. We raised our two sons and two daughters here in Sitka, and we are the proud grandparents of three grandsons and one wonderful granddaughter. Raising our family here in Sitka has afforded us the opportunity to be exposed to, and participate in, almost every aspect of life on Baranof Island and in Sitka. In my spare time I enjoy collecting, cutting, and polishing gemstones, silver carving, creating jewelry, sport fishing, and building and flying remote control model airplanes.

I am recently retired from employment with the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, where I served as NSRAA's General Manager for nearly thirty (30) years. As NSRAA's General Manager I was responsible to the Board of Directors for all aspects of the Association's planning, development, and operations. I was able to put together a fine staff and acquire the resources needed to achieve some very lofty salmon enhancement goals in the Northern Region of Southeast Alaska. My having worked for an extremely conservative Board of Directors, through some pretty challenging economic times, taught me how to get the "best bang out of the buck" by utilizing and adhering to sound business practices. I believe that my experiences at NSRAA, helping to achieve compromise among Board members and gear groups, creating realistic goals, adhering to Board approved budgets, working with the Legislature and various state agencies, and facility planning and development, all have given me the qualifications to serve the people of the City of Sitka on its Assembly.

As a member of the Assembly I will work to: keep Sitka a great affordable place to live, and continue to advocate for Sitka's essential services (fire, police, schools, sewer and water, hospital, etc.). This does not, however, mean that I am in favor of creating large bureaucracies which exceed Sitka's needs. We must carefully scrutinize the kinds of grants we apply for and accept, to be sure that they address Sitka's needs, without unnecessarily increasing our city's operating budget. I believe that even if we don't always agree, we must find a way to work together to get through these challenging economic times.