

Call me Richard.... “Some years ago,” about 17 to be precise, I took off “to see the watery part of the world.” Driving across this great country of ours that three weeks earlier was galvanized by the fiery destruction of the World Trade Center.

I left New Jersey after 20 years of private practice with one idea of what the future would hold, and I arrived in Sitka completely transformed—grateful to be invited into this community.

I am a surgeon by trade—board certified and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. I have held multiple positions of responsibility from Chief of Staff to Board memberships. I provided care for almost ten years at SEARHC and more that six years at Sitka Community Hospital. I have served our community and Southeast faithfully and I hope well— literally 7/24.

BS and MS(Journalism) Columbia University. MD- Tufts University School of Medicine.

Maybe it is never an easy time to run for Sitka Assembly, but now, today, with the financial storms brewing at all economic levels—Federal, State, and within our own city, it is time to change the conversation.

To put it simply, I will fully engage in the Assembly process. I will try to improve how the Assembly conducts its business (in a good way), and how the Assembly presents information to the public (in a better way.) We must not forget that we are a small town and that public input is vital.

Sitka is becoming ever more dependent on taxation to support its functioning as State and Federal cutbacks occur. I will review the expense and revenue aspects of all city functions to establish a financial baseline.

We cannot ask our friends and neighbors to bear the burden of the ever increasing costs of living in Sitka without first making sure our city is run in the most efficient way possible. We must distinguish between wants and needs.

With an understanding of the city fundamentals—what we can do, what we cannot do, and what we must do—our city's future course will become more easily understood. This includes appropriate growth and job creation.

Sitka abounds in natural beauty and talented people and that is why I believe that solutions will be found for any challenges that we will encounter now and in the future. Sitka can do much more than just make ends meet.

