

Advocacy Statement

My Name is Austin Cranford; I decided to run for city assembly because the city has failed to listen to the voters on everything from the budget to possible corruption, and it has caused irreparable harm to the community.

As a result of the city's actions, the cost of living has reached a point where longtime residents have to leave because they can no longer afford to live. The issues are only worsening as the city raises utility rates and taxes to pay for their failed and ineffective projects because they are incapable of adequately budgeting the money the community has provided to them. Meanwhile, the city has refused to properly investigate claims of corruption, nepotism, and favoritism resulting in lawsuits. When the community brings up issues, they get stonewalled by the Assembly and the city administrator, which acts more like an autocracy than a democracy.

The Assembly is there for the people and community, not personal or political gain. Therefore if elected, I intend to make immediate proposals listed below to hold the city accountable to the community they should represent and begin fixing issues plaguing our society.

- Removal of sales tax from essential goods such as food and utilities.
- A ban on utility rate increases for the next three years.
- A Third-Party Investigation and transparency report regarding the budget.
- A Third-Party Investigation into accusations of abuse of power, corruption, and nepotism within the city.
- Removal of regulations that harm businesses and quality of life.

Biographical Information

I was born in Pinehurst, North Carolina, located in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains population at the time was 8,743, which has since become 18,019. My Parents are also from North Carolina, and I am the oldest of three siblings. I graduated with my GED from UAS Sitka in 2017 and am finishing my Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. I did a three-year term with the US Army in the Signal/Cyber Corp and currently work for the University of Alaska as their sole IT Staff.

I have lived in Italy and six US states and traveled 364,433 miles, rounded to about fourteen and a half trips around the globe, 17% of the planet overall. Hobbies include chess, outdoor activities, traveling, theatre, and history.

