

Austin W. Cranford

Biographical Information:

Austin Wayne Cranford is a candidate for the Sitka City Assembly who has called Sitka home for over a decade. As a 27-year-old IT professional at the University of Alaska Southeast's Sitka campus, he holds a unique and direct perspective on the daily struggles facing young, working-class residents. His career has been built on practical expertise, demonstrated through military and professional certifications. Austin currently serves as the Chair of the Staff Alliance and Vice President of Staff Council, where he has gained valuable experience in collaborative leadership and navigating complex administrative systems. This background, combined with his long-standing ties to the community, positions him to be a relatable and dedicated advocate for Sitka's future.

Advocacy Statement:

Sitka's future depends on our ability to address the urgent issues of affordability and economic stability. I am running for the City Assembly to tackle these challenges. As an IT professional and a working resident, I have a clear understanding of how rising costs and the lack of affordable housing are eroding our community. My platform is built on a commitment to common-sense fiscal policy and proactive solutions.

My first priority is to halt utility rate increases. The City Assembly must explore all avenues to cut costs and the cost of living for residents. Second, I will advocate for a new era of budget transparency. We must conduct a full review of city spending and taxes to ensure that every budget decision is made with the taxpayer in mind. Finally, I am dedicated to working with local and state stakeholders to streamline processes and encourage the development of new housing. The current system is not working. It's time to find collaborative solutions that will expand housing options and stop the exodus of our workforce and young families. I offer a fresh perspective and a commitment to ensuring Sitka remains a place where people can afford to live and work.