

Katie Riley



Biographical Information:

I am proud to be a born and raised Sitkan. My parents, Sandra Gelber and Tim Riley, gave me a strong work ethic, a passion for adventure, and a drive to give back to my community. I followed my dad's footsteps by working at Sitka Sound Seafoods, before moving onto troll tendering and now fishing in Bristol Bay every summer. My mother inspired my love of the outdoors and living our Alaskan way of life. I work to protect our ability to hunt, fish, and play in the Tongass while developing localized economic solutions for our region as the deputy director of Sitka Conservation Society. I serve as the vice chair for both the Planning Commission (five years) and Sustainability Commission (three years). After graduating from Mt Edgecumbe High School, I went away for college and graduate school, and worked overseas before coming home to invest in our shared future.

Advocacy Statement:

I plan to live my life in Sitka, and I am motivated to ensure that it remains possible for other young people, families, and elders to live here, too. I am running for assembly because I believe that supporting the ability of younger generations to build our lives in Sitka will strengthen our whole community.

I've succeeded in bringing different people together to find compromises that result in long-term benefits to our community. I am experienced in researching issues, asking questions, and listening and learning before making decisions. I speak up for what I believe in, but I keep an open mind and strive for balanced outcomes.

Affordable, accessible housing is the key factor limiting our economy and the ability of young people, professionals, and families to stay here. As a renter living in a trailer park, I'm on the front lines of housing insecurity. As the city studies our municipal land holdings for housing suitability, I'll advocate for solutions to develop affordable homes for year-round Sitkans on these lands.

I will work to achieve a balance between the economic benefits of our growing tourism, healthcare, and marine industries and the costs to our housing stock, infrastructure, and local workforce. I believe that we can better leverage tourism dollars to invest in capital infrastructure projects, benefitting both locals and visitors. I am committed to finding creative ways to maximize the capacity of our clean, locally owned and operated electric system while minimizing costs to system users.