

# Sherri Blankenship



## **Biographical information :**

I am a lifelong Alaskan, born in Unalaska to a police officer and an EMT. After my father's passing, my mother remarried a commercial fisherman, and our family moved to Southeast Alaska, where I grew up fishing and working on the water. At 18, I wrote a seafood niche marketing strategy that earned one of the first State of Alaska seafood marketing grants, launching The Alaskan Fisherman's Market and developing a seafood market in the Midwest. My career expanded into domestic and international seafood marketing before I returned to college at 28, becoming a clinical nutritionist and a registered clinical herbalist. Today, as the owner of several Sitka businesses, I am deeply committed to strengthening the fabric of our community. Above all, I am the proud mother of four children, ages 27 to 12, all raised here in Sitka.

## **Advocacy Statement :**

I believe Sitka's prosperity is built on two pillars: strong industries and strong people. Our commercial fishing fleet, tourism industry, small businesses, educators, and healthcare sector form the foundation of our economy. I will work to ensure these industries are supported, competitive, and able to grow in ways that benefit our entire community. Pro-business policies must also be pro-Sitka policies—designed to create good jobs, keep families here, and expand opportunity for future generations.

At the same time, I believe economic success is inseparable from community wellness. I will support programs that improve health and wellness, education, and housing, because a thriving workforce requires a thriving community.

Fiscal accountability will remain my guide—I will dig into the budget to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely, that Sitka receives every dollar of outside funding available, that our legislative priorities align with our community's true needs, and that spending decisions reflect those priorities.

Most importantly, our decisions today must create opportunity for the next generation. By making it possible for young people to build careers and families here, we ensure Sitka remains vibrant and resilient. Balancing economic development with community wellness and sound budgeting will secure a future that honors Sitka's character while expanding opportunities for those who follow.