

Name: Carrie Plant

Profession: I currently work as a Teaching Assistant at the Adak School and as a Developmental Specialist for Sprout Family Services. I also work as a Customer Service Agent at the airport and am co-owner of Great Sitkin Services.

Years in Adak: I have lived in Adak since June 2015 after having visited since 2010.

Qualifications: I have a master's degree in education, a post-graduate fellowship in disabilities, and experience with nonprofit management. I serve on the Adak Restoration Advisory Board.

Vision for Adak or projects and programs you would like to see initiated and completed.

My first priority is fiscal responsibility and sustainability. By this I mean we need to continue interacting with entities far from our island to keep Adak's name present in the public mind, we need to diversify and strengthen our revenue sources, and we need to be very conservative with expenditures in order to ensure that we have funds available for emergencies. My hope is that the City of Adak can grow in its efficiency, not just doing more with less, which the state's economic climate requires, but continually finding ways to work more smartly.

I believe the city's priorities should be the basics:

- efficient management
- public safety
- public works and utilities

We have a very small population and limited economic resources. I believe we could achieve even stronger results in our core services by focusing our attention on the most important needs. Public safety is my biggest concern for Adak—I feel that there is so much that a positive, community-minded, preparedness and prevention oriented public safety program could do. While our community is safe from big city concerns in some regards, there are other ways in which we are at great risk, including the danger of vehicle drivers who drink alcohol and/or consume mind-altering drugs before and during driving, child neglect and domestic violence that simmers and flares up periodically, and the possibility of natural disasters. All of these risks are compounded and complicated by our isolation. A focus on public safety can not only mitigate and manage many of these risks but can also help us become a stronger community.

Similarly, we need to focus on our infrastructure, facilities, and basic services. While the current water project is challenging for residents, it is necessary and forward-thinking. I think that not only do we need to be planning ahead for future system failures but we need to be proactively working on problems that already exist as well as doing what we can to prevent problems down the road. In my mind, one of the central reasons that our community is incorporated as a city is so that we can have services such as trash, sewer, water, and snow plowing. We need to have these departments fully-staffed with motivated and capable people who get the support, resources, and management they need to do their jobs well. I applaud some of the current efforts regarding energy efficiency and encourage that this work be continued.

I believe that in a community as small as Adak that most “projects” and “programs” are best led by private citizens, either through their own volunteer efforts, through their development of small businesses, or through connections with non-profit organizations (which could include creating a non-profit, attracting the attention and resources of larger non-profits, seeking employment or contract work to provide non-profit-based services locally, or simply organizing volunteers without formal non-profit status).

If elected as a City Council Member I would continue my practices of 1) thoroughly reading all documents related to the position and researching issues 2) communicating with members of the public about agenda items and their thoughts about them, including encouraging public commenting. I would also continue my practice of reading widely (Alaskan news, regional news, global news, regional history) to continue to inform my comments and decisions as a council member. I also plan to maintain connections with some of the people I have developed relationships with across our region in order to continue getting a variety of perspectives.

Finally, I uphold a personal value of respecting people of all backgrounds and would carry this in my work as a City Council member, if elected. One of Adak’s biggest assets is the diversity of our people.