

East Bethel Candidate Profile



Candidate Name: Joseph Reiter

Office Sought: City Council Member

Bio:



East Bethel is an amazing place to live and I am running for city council because I would like to help keep it this way. Growing up in the area, I spent my youth playing in the woods, walking ditches and swimming in every lake, stream, ditch or pond that I could find. Some of my fondest memories are of spending time with family and friends on the local lakes.

Over the years, I come to love other aspects of our community like being able to see the stars night and how quiet it is when traffic dies down. It would be hard for me to believe there are many other places where large rafters of turkeys march through neighborhoods or ten point bucks sleep under apple trees as we commonly see.

These aspects make East Bethel unique and special. Sometimes we may take for granted these features, but as development moves towards East Bethel, my main priority will always be to maintain our rural lifestyle.

Many of us have lived in and around East Bethel our whole lives, this is our home. We need to come together and celebrate what makes this place great while making those things even better. Otherwise we may lose the things we love to “progress” or forget about them in our increasingly busy lives.

As a council member, I will propose initiatives to reinforce our traditions and reconnect all of us to our local community and natural resources.

As much as I think many of us would prefer nothing change in East Bethel, I know development is inevitable. For me, it is important that our community focus on quality development rather than only looking for ways to “increase the tax base.” We have seen in recent years many attempts to “increase the tax base” that have not been received well in my neighborhood, and I want to give a voice to those who do not appreciate this direction.

Ultimately, we will pass this city to our children and my position is short-term gains are not as important as the long-term health of our community.