

Dear Editor and Readers,

I have known my friend Rick Hughes for over forty years. Although we grew up in different regions, from early childhood we have been linked by the San Juans. Now we both consider ourselves lucky to call this county home. I am happy to endorse and recommend Rick for the county council.

Rick has always had what my mother called "the gift of the gab." In his case, this quality is truly a gift. He loves meeting people, finding common cause with them and building connections. Through his business and family, he is rooted in the community of the San Juan Islands.

Although at times he and I have disagreed on political issues, I have always found Rick to be willing to listen to alternate points of view. He is able to enjoy even spirited debate while maintaining respect for those whose opinions differ from his own. Over the years I have seen his views evolve, informed by discussions, life experiences and reading. Rick has a passion for questions of governance and I find him to be very well-informed about the political issues of the day.

Rick is an honest man who is stepping forward in a true attempt to help his community in a role for which he is well-suited. I am confident he will put forth his best effort to move San Juan County forward. Rick has been in office for only four weeks, but has already jumped in with both feet. He has volunteered for over a dozen committees and speaks of county business with detailed knowledge and enthusiasm. If re-elected, Rick will continue to bring energy, passion, enthusiasm and integrity to his role as councilmember. Please consider casting your vote in his favor.

Thank you.

Max Hanson
Olga