

House District 39 Representative

Reynold D. Okitkun “Papa Joe”, Nonpartisan



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Kotlik, AK 99620

EMAIL: Reynold.okitkun@yahoo.com

AGE: 60

PLACE OF BIRTH: Emmonak, Alaska

SPOUSE’S NAME: Lillian Sinka

CHILDREN’S NAMES: Andres Sinka-Okitkun,
Nadine Sinka-Okitkun, Lewis Okitkun, Nevaeh Okitkun

OCCUPATION: Community Human
Service Provider

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 60 years

ALASKAN COMMUNITIES LIVED IN:
Kotlik 1967-2026
Emmonak 1966-67
St. Mary’s 1980-84
Fairbanks 1984-87

EDUCATION:
St. Mary’s High School Mission 1980-84
University of Alaska Fairbanks 1984-87

POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:
Mayor of Kotlik 1996-1999
Kotlik City Council Board Member 1993-1996
Village of Kotlik Tribal Council Board Member 1999-2002

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:
Lower Yukon School District (LYSD) Human Service Provider
2017-2026
LYSD Natural Helper Coordinator 2001-2012
LYSD Home School Coordinator 1999-2001
Indian Child Welfare Advocate 1994-1996

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS MEMBERSHIPS:
Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association Board
Member 2016-2025
LYSD Regional School Board Member 2013-2017
Kotlik Utility Board Member 1994-96

SPECIAL INTERESTS:
Commercial Fisherman
Subsistence Fisherman and Hunter

OTHER:
Volunteer, participant, and supporter of local and regional sports for youth and community, cultural potlatch ceremonies, suicide and substance use prevention activities for youth, and emergency response for community member safety.

STATEMENT:
FIGHTING FOR OUR FISHING RIGHTS

As Native people we rely on our fish and wildlife.

Your vote elects a subsistence fisherman and hunter, father, and grandfather who speaks for our Yupik and Inupiaq ways of living, standing up for our rights. I will fight for you in Juneau.

As Yupik and Inupiaq people, we live traditional and cultural lives, stewards of our land, water, fish and wildlife. The balance between food, fuel, and caring for our families are all critical and basic needs that I prioritize.

I am running nonpartisan to vote for what is right for our people. My goals 1. Restore fishing and subsistence rights to our people. 2. Improve public safety and address response time in locating Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP). 3. Reduce the cost of fuel for our communities. 4. Collaborate with entities and governments to create jobs.

I am Yupik and Inupiaq, named after my great-grandfather, Aapaq. I have lived all my life in Kotlik, hunting, fishing, and gathering traditional foods with my family. My mother is Dorothy (Okitkun) Aloysius. I was raised by my grandparents, Cyril and Anna Okitkun. They taught me about respecting our elders and respecting everything around us.

My grandparents taught me to speak up for what is right and stand up for our people.

My professional and cultural roots reflect service to our people. I appreciate your vote.

*The views expressed in this statement are from the candidate and not endorsed by the Division of Elections.
The text of this statement was provided and paid for by the candidate in accordance with AS 15.58.030 and 6 AAC 25.690.*