

The Comprehensive Plan of the City of Saratoga Springs, adopted in 2015, is a unified set of policies that will guide the future development of the city. The Plan consists of nearly 250 recommended actions and a Future Land Use map that indicates the desired location, uses, and intensity of development. Key elements of the vision of the Comprehensive Plan include the “City in the Country” concept, and the importance of sustainability in all aspects of city management and development.

1. What steps will you take toward achieving sustainable economic development in the City, including diverse and affordable housing (both rental and ownership)?

Within the role of Commissioner of Public Works, the term sustainability can have several definitions. At its fundamental level, I need to ensure that I am being a steward for the city's infrastructure. We currently do not have a proactive plan for addressing and replacing infrastructure. I will be bringing forward a 5, 10 and 20 year infrastructure plan such that we can project, budget, and address our infrastructure in a sustainable and affordable way. On our current path, we will run headlong into uncontrollable tax increases when a major system component fails. I will also be introducing a program in our water billing directed towards low wage residents.

As far as housing is concerned, I am very concerned for the lack of truly affordable housing for our working class citizens and retirees on fixed income. The current “affordable” or “work force housing” seems to be aimed at a more affluent group than the men and women who work in our restaurants, stores, etc. That said, there are several projects currently under construction and I want to see the impact of those opening before advocating for a specific plan or program.

2. The City Council recently adopted a resolution with a unanimous vote to support policies consistent with the Paris Climate Change Agreement. What policies and programs will you implement to improve the environmental health and resiliency of our community, including any policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with this resolution?

I fully support the directive of the Paris Climate Accord. Unfortunately a lot of the DPW fleet is not appropriate for conversion to current EV technologies, but the personal vehicles that are, I will convert them to EVs. We need to do a thorough audit of all of our buildings to identify and address deficiencies in energy efficiency and I will authorize that to happen. Lastly, we currently cannot account for 30% of the water that we produce. That is extremely costly and results in excess usage of energy, chemicals and could be causing potential environmental harm (erosion, etc). I will be finding and fixing those leaks so our system losses approach those considered as benchmarks (10% loss goal, 5% is considered best in class)

3. In 2016 the City Council adopted a recommendation that calls for the creation of a unified and efficient parking management plan and policy for downtown. What steps do you think should be taken to implement or amend that plan, and what are the other major transportation and mobility issues you think should be addressed?

The results of that plan have not been published to my knowledge, so I would start with getting those and releasing them to the community. I do not support the current lot that was recently approved for the city center. The previous iteration showed a \$400K annual operational loss, which also stated that paid on street parking was “Necessary” to support that number. We cannot implement plans we know are financial losers, that also support a dying mode of transport. I am a solid supporter of the Complete Streets Program and will be the leader of that effort on the council. I will be focusing on ensuring safe and walkable sidewalks at all times of the year and the implementation of the authorized bike lanes.

4. The Greenbelt is the outlying rural area around the City's urban core.

- Do you support adjustments to the Comprehensive Plan that would change allowable uses or increase or decrease allowable densities in the Greenbelt?
- What kind of actions, if any, do you think the City should take to protect the watershed and Saratoga Lake from the deleterious effects of development?

I do not support changes to our comprehensive plan that would allow for higher concentration housing, commercial or industrial purposes in residential areas. We need to make significant and MAJOR investments into our water infrastructure. The Dam is failing and protection from potential traffic accidents needs to be implemented in addition to further protect this asset. Loughberry resides in several towns and it will take a participatory/collaborative approach between our neighboring communities. I will make that effort. We are currently not taking any funds out of our development process for investment in our infrastructure. I will be implementing connection fees as a revenue stream for direct investment in our water system. If we do not protect our existing system, the need for alternate source waters is inevitable.

5. The Comprehensive Plan calls for action on key sustainability issues facing our community, including affordable housing, parking, trails, energy conservation, environmental protection, recycling and waste reduction, and multimodal transportation. However, the City Charter does not assign responsibility for these issues to any specific City department.
  - What actions will you take to establish leadership and make progress in these areas?
  - For which of these specific areas will you pledge to assume responsibility, if no other council member has already assumed responsibility?
  - Could a non-profit like Sustainable Saratoga play a role in achieving your agenda?

As Commissioner of Public works, I have responsibility for all of our municipal buildings. I will take ownership of their evaluation and making improvements to their energy efficiency. The city recycling program was eliminated by the current commissioner is violation of NYS law. I will be reimplementing that immediately. Additionally, I own the grounds and parks and will be banning the use of Glyphosate on city property and by city workers my first act in office. I have witnessed the State DOT spraying it on the shores of our reservoir, that practice will also be stopped. Lastly, I will be making a big push to reverse the loss of our Urban Forrest and will look to Sustainable Saratoga as a key partner in identifying areas for planting efforts. I want to see us get to 1000 trees planted by the end of my first term.