



*Educate.
Advocate.
Act.*

Sustainable Saratoga
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September 17, 2019

Dear Candidate,

Sustainable Saratoga is a not-for-profit organization that promotes sustainable practices and the protection of natural resources through education, advocacy and action, for the benefit of current and future generations in the Saratoga Springs area. The November 5, 2019 election offers an opportunity to raise and discuss pressing issues relating to sustainability in this region.

Our supporters are interested in knowing your plans for addressing key sustainability issues confronting our community. We would like you to respond to the questions below by October 8, 2019. Please email your answers back to us at info@sustainablesaratoga.org in digital form. If you have any questions, please email us or call us at 518-620-6139.

As a 501(c)(3) organization we do not, and will not, endorse any particular candidate for an elected office. Your responses and those of other candidates will be posted on our website and Facebook page and emailed to our members and friends verbatim and without any comments.

Thank you in advance for your participation and responses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Art Holmberg".

Art Holmberg
Chair of Sustainable Saratoga



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)? **This is a very challenging need for our community. High property values, high housing demand, high household incomes, vs. affordable housing options are natural conflicts. I think we need to realize that affordable housing is not going to happen on its own. We also need to realize that affordable housing is not going to be developed in the city core. We need to identify land owners outside of the city core that may be willing to develop their land for more affordable housing.**
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? **While this falls outside the direct impact of the County Supervisor role, I fully support common sense approaches to climate change as well as the City Council resolution, and that of other nations, to remain consistent with the Paris Agreement. Extreme suggestions to limit air travel or natural gas of cattle are simply absurd.**
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? **Urban communities like ours rely heavily on automobile transportation. The vast majority of vehicles entering and exiting I87, or vehicles entering the city between 7am-9am are occupied by just the driver. This requires parking. It also requires ADA compliant streets and sidewalks, which remain dysfunctional all across the city.**
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? **Current zoning is in place, and property owners/buyers should be aware of the zoning in their back yards. All residents should be concerned with any deviation to the Comprehensive Plan, and any proposed deviation should have review, approval, and conscience by multiple boards where the public has had ample opportunity to be part of the process.**



- 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?
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?
Many of these issues are the responsibility of the City Council, Boards, and Commissions. As a representative of the City to the County, I would certainly respect requests and needs of the city representatives for county assistance.
 - 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? **Of course!**

