

2021 Candidate Sustainability Questionnaire

1. General Sustainability:

A. What do sustainability and climate resiliency mean to you in the context of local governance?

Sustainability in a local context means to me doing whatever is on our power to decrease the City's carbon footprint and waste output. Climate resilience means being prepared for various extremes in weather and having plans in place to mitigate and adapt to changing conditions.

B. What are your top 3 sustainability-related priorities for Saratoga Springs, and what concrete actions will you take to address them?

I want to see a downtown recycling program, finalize the transition of the city fleet to all electric vehicles, and implement smart street lighting. I will directly advocate to state and federal agencies to secure grants and subsidies for these programs, and use my experience on the Council to generate support and pass legislation to implement and fund these programs when needed.

2. Climate Crisis:

A. What role do you think local governments should play in preparing for and addressing climate change?

Local governments have a large role to play in preparing for and addressing climate change, however it is important to note that city governments cannot do it alone, and although the city can take many steps towards solving these problems it will take cooperation with the state, county, and federal governments to truly become a carbon neutral city.

B. What policies and programs will you implement to improve the environmental health and climate resiliency of our community in the face of increasing climate disruption, including extreme temperatures and precipitation events?

I want to see a downtown recycling program, finalize the transition of the city fleet to all electric vehicles, and implement smart street lighting. I would look to review the city and county's emergency response plans to issues of precipitation and temperature and see where changes may need to be made to handle the changing world around us.

C. Given the urgency of the climate crisis, what policies and programs will you implement to curb greenhouse gas emissions and under what timeline will these policies and programs be implemented?

To curb greenhouse gas emissions I would look to have the City fleet fully transitioned within one year. Moreover, encouraging city residents to transition to greener transportation through more electric charging stations, and decreasing city consumption of electricity through smart city lighting. The City unfortunately however does not have the funding to transition completely to being carbon neutral on its own.

3. Unified Development Ordinance (UDO): For several years, the city of Saratoga Springs has been engaged in a complete rewriting of the city's zoning ordinance. This Unified Development Ordinance is ostensibly the most important regulatory document in the city and will direct land use and development standards for years. The UDO is slated to be voted on after the election, on November 16.

A. Do you believe the draft UDO contains adequate sustainability measures, including protections for our natural resources and mitigations for addressing the climate crisis, to satisfy the vision laid out in the 2015 Comprehensive Plan? Please explain your answer.

The Council has been diligently working to complete the Unified Development Ordinance, and has heard multiple concerns and undergone considerable changes specifically in regards to the greenbelt. I believe through the work the Council has done the UDO does satisfy the vision laid out in the 2015 comprehensive plan.

The city of Saratoga Springs has a "greenbelt" – a large area of low-density, low intensity development in the outer portions of the city – to retain a sense of rural character outside of the city's core while concentrating the impacts of development and transportation within the core, to protect sensitive environmental features such as wetlands and open spaces, and to advance the city's identity as "the City in the Country."

B. Given the intense and persistent development pressure on the greenbelt, what is your assessment of the effectiveness of the UDO to protect this city resource? **I believe the UDO has been successful in preventing weaker green belt protections.** C. If elected, what additional measures would you take, if any, to ensure the continued existence of the city's greenbelt? **I would ensure that any project brought before the council has full and proper public hearings so there is time for residents to understand any impact and to make their voices heard.**

4. Affordable Housing:

A. What steps will you take toward achieving increased opportunities for diverse and affordable housing (both rental and ownership) for both middle- and lower-income levels?

We must continue working on the affordable housing projects the city has undertaken while simultaneously working with our partners in state and federal government to secure additional funding and bring more of these projects to Saratoga Springs.

B. Would you support inclusionary zoning (or some other proposal) to promote affordable housing in Saratoga?

I would support inclusionary zoning as a tool to provide affordable housing.

5. Sustainable Saratoga's Role:

A. What are your thoughts about working in cooperation with Sustainable Saratoga in helping the city achieve greater sustainability features and environmental protections?

Sustainable Saratoga has been an incredible blessing to our community through promoting green actions and being a valuable voice to the Council, this partnership should continue and grow. B. If elected, would you be receptive to a mid-term follow-up with Sustainable Saratoga, to review sustainability progress, obstacles, and possible ways we can work together?

I absolutely would be receptive to a mid-term follow up with your organization, hearing from the community is key to being a successful public servant.

