

2021 Candidate Sustainability Questionnaire

1. General Sustainability:

- A. What do sustainability and climate resiliency mean to you in the context of local governance?
- B. What are your top 3 sustainability-related priorities for Saratoga Springs, and what concrete actions will you take to address them?

The city council has to ensure policies and laws are in place that sustain natural resources while balancing growth as well as having processes in place to respond to potential damages from climate change. I would continue to advance the work of the Climate Smart Task Force and work toward silver status. Continue to support the work of Complete Streets and get bike lanes in the city and support the sidewalk and trail programs. I would also establish a recycling program on our city streets.

2. Climate Crisis:

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

The government should promote, advocate and educate our residents and businesses on climate change and resiliency. The city should make sustainable options a number one priority. The city has some great programs in place such as the solar park and EV charging stations. I would continue to support and grow the current projects as well as work with community partners to research and implement programs that would help residents and businesses to adopt sustainable habits.

- 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 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?
- C. If elected, what additional measures would you take, if any, to ensure the continued existence of the city's greenbelt?

From my perspective, decisions involving the Comprehensive Plan and the City's Zoning Ordinance are amongst the most important decision considered by the City Council under our Charter. I believe the city council worked to incorporate most of the recommendations from the planning board into the current UDO. Protections were added for the "greenbelt" and the current UDO provides a strong framework and there are future opportunities for enhancements and improvements. I would seek to obtain the most accurate information available and weigh the facts before me to balance the interests of the individual property owners against the interests of the City as a whole. There is no magic formula that can be applied to this balancing test. Ultimately, it is a matter of the sound exercise of judgment by those five individuals on the Council responsible for the decision

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?



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

The city has worked to secure affordable housing options within Saratoga and the city is on target to exceed the HUD limit. I would continue this effort and I support inclusionary zoning.

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?

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?

Community partners, such as Sustainable Saratoga, are critical to our community for advocacy, education and support. Our community is very lucky to have such involved and committed residents. I will always be willing to work with people, to better educate myself on issues and build a better community.

