

**1A: What do sustainability and climate resiliency mean to you in the context of local governance?**

Local governments are in a unique position to play a leading role in promoting sustainability and climate resiliency. Local officials can liaise directly with state and federal officials to help direct needed funds toward sustainability projects with the greatest positive impact on their own communities. By keeping sustainability a top priority and listening directly to the views of residents, local governments can help shape climate-friendly policies that work for their communities.

**1B: What are your top 3 sustainability-related priorities for Saratoga Springs, and what concrete actions will you take to address them?**

My first priority is to increase efficiency and reduce consumption in order to make Saratoga Springs a carbon-neutral city by 2030. By encouraging and incentivizing a shift toward renewable energy sources like solar power as well as modeling reduced consumption from the platform of City Hall, we can accomplish this goal. I also plan to make adoption of the Complete Streets Plan a priority. As cities across the nation work to make their cities more bike-friendly, it is time for Saratoga Springs to join that effort. I will work to install the necessary bike lanes and expand bike-share programs in order to promote carbon-friendly sources of transportation. Finally, I will make it a priority to protect our greenbelt. Our city's green spaces are at the heart of our status as "a city in the country," and I will work hard to prevent these beautiful spaces from being taken over by developers.

**2A: What role do you think local government should play in preparing for and addressing climate change?**

Local governments can play a leading role in promoting solutions to prevent climate change at the local level, and a key supporting role in bringing state and federal funds to municipalities to fund programs that help address the climate crisis. Our city government can and should be at the forefront of this effort.

**2B: 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?**

As Mayor, I'll lead our city government in its efforts to improve our city's environmental health and climate resiliency. I'll engage in dialogue with residents from every neighborhood to create plans tailored to the needs of our city that will reduce carbon emissions and promote resiliency. I'll make sure our city is in compliance with our state's nation-leading climate law, the CLCPA. I'll work directly with state and federal representatives to secure coming stimulus funds for sustainability-related projects like installing newer, more efficient HVAC systems in older buildings and schools. I'll encourage the construction of new energy-efficient, affordable housing, and I'll take advantage of federal programs like the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) to help make our existing infrastructure more efficient.

**2C: 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?**

In view of the urgency of our climate crisis, I plan to work towards making Saratoga Springs a carbon-neutral city by the year 2030. First, I will conduct an energy audit of our city, to determine how much

carbon emissions we generate. With this number in hand, we'll be able to create a complete plan for accomplishing the goal of carbon neutrality, through a combination of reducing energy consumption and procuring our energy from more efficient sources, and by purchasing offsets if needed. We can work toward incorporating renewable energy into our grid as much as possible by encouraging residential solar power, geothermal development, and energy efficiency in all new construction. We can develop unused industrial and agricultural land or brownfield into large on-site solar panel fields. We can also reduce consumption by improving alternatives to automobile transportation and by upgrading and weatherizing older buildings. With some of these measures in place, we can also apply for classification as a climate-smart community, which would open the door to more grants from state agencies and authorities to finish the job.

**3A: 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.**

I do not believe that the current draft UDO contains adequate sustainability measures to address our climate crisis or to satisfy the vision of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan. Firstly, the draft UDO is incompatible with the Comprehensive Plan in that it allows non-residential land use in several greenbelt gateway districts. The draft also fails to meet the Plan's requirement to fashion regulations promoting affordable, diverse housing, and fails to include the stringent green building standards we need to fully address our climate crisis.

**3B: 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?**

The draft UDO will present a direct threat to our greenbelt by failing to protect it from the persistent development pressure on its borders. As mentioned above, the draft UDO allows non-residential land use in some greenbelt gateway districts. This represents just another step in the continued undermining of our beautiful and essential green spaces in order to benefit a few wealthy developers.

**3C: If elected, what additional measures would you take, if any, to ensure the continued existence of the city's greenbelt?**

As Mayor, I'd take multiple measures in order to protect the city's greenbelt through the foreseeable future. I'd lead the city in working with private landowners to establish conservation easements in order to protect lands in or near the greenbelt from future development. I'll work with the state to expand our protected areas by expanding the Spa State Park to include the whole area between U.S. Route 9 and N.Y. Route 50, keeping this land permanently green. I'd also reach out to local environmental advocacy groups like Sustainability Saratoga, Saratoga PLAN, the New York League of Conservation Voters, and others in order to solicit their input about how best to protect our green spaces.

**4A: 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?**

The skyrocketing price of housing in our city, as it has across the nation, is squeezing middle and lower-income residents into inadequate housing or out of our city entirely. As Mayor, I'll work to identify communities and neighborhoods in need of more affordable housing. Then, I'd work with private stakeholders, developers, and advocacy groups to ensure that this new housing is built affordably and sustainably with the needs of the local population in mind.

**4B: Would you support inclusionary zoning (or some other proposal) to promote affordable housing in Saratoga?**

Yes, I would support inclusionary zoning as a measure to promote more affordable housing in our city.

**5A: What are your thoughts about working in cooperation with Sustainable Saratoga in helping the city achieve greater sustainability features and environmental protections?**

I would be happy to work with Sustainable Saratoga and other environmental groups in order to help the city and the state meet their emission reduction goals and become more sustainable and climate friendly.

**5B: 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?**

Yes, I will always be open to meeting with groups working to make Saratoga Springs a greener, more sustainable community.