

September 20, 2023

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 Saratoga Springs.

The upcoming November election offers an opportunity to discuss pressing environmental issues in our area. Our supporters are interested in knowing your plans for addressing the key sustainability issues confronting our community. We are requesting your responses to the questions below by October 4, 2023. Please email your answers back to us ([kelsey@sustainablesaratoga.org](mailto:kelsey@sustainablesaratoga.org)) in digital form.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, we do not endorse any particular candidate for an elected office. Your responses and those of other candidates will be posted on our website, shared to our social media, and emailed to our members verbatim. We will not provide any comments on the responses.

Thank you in advance for your participation, and please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kelsey Trudell  
Executive Director  
Sustainable Saratoga



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**Board of Directors:** Anne Ernst, Laura Faulk, Dianna Goodwin (Chair), Sarah Goodwin, Elaine McArdle, Harry Moran, Paul Murphy (Treasurer), Richard Romano (Secretary), David Sayer



temperatures. Rate your support for the continued funding of urban tree plantings to expand Saratoga’s urban forest.

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Do Not Support Highly Support

Comments:

Not a County issue, but I strongly urge the City to adopt an ordinance prohibiting “volcano mulching” of trees in the city right-of-way. The private landscapers plant trees, as required by City Planning, but then kill them by over-mulching them.

5. In 2016, the then City Council adopted a report of the Downtown Parking Task Force, which called for several steps including an “Office of Downtown Parking Management,” a volunteer advisory board, and the selection of a professional parking management firm to design and implement a plan. Rate your support for implementing the recommendations in this report for a downtown parking management plan.

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Do Not Support Highly Support

Comments: I do not recall this report. But I believe that parking requirements for developers raise the cost of residential units and work against our need for more affordable housing. New York City is now trying to reform its parking requirements in order to provide for more affordable housing. Saratoga Springs should do so as well.

6. Saratoga Springs is known as the “City in the Country.” Sustainable Saratoga believes it is critical for the city to codify zoning and planning standards, protect the Greenbelt and open space, and support sustainable growth principles. The city’s current zoning ordinance (the UDO) allows development in the Greenbelt that risks urban sprawl. Sustainable Saratoga has supported amendments to the UDO to continue to protect the city’s Greenbelt. Rate your support for amending the UDO to limit development and retain rural character in the city’s Greenbelt, including the rural gateways into our city.

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