



*Educate.  
Advocate.  
Act.*

September 9, 2025

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.

Prior to the upcoming November election our many supporters are interested in knowing your position on sustainability issues in our community. We are requesting your responses to the questions below by October 3, 2025. 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 newsletter subscribers 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelsey Trudell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the top of the "K" across the top of the name.

Kelsey Trudell  
Executive Director  
Sustainable Saratoga

1. In the city's Comprehensive Plan, Saratoga Springs is defined as the "City in the Country," meaning an intensively developed urban core and vibrant downtown surrounded by "the Greenbelt," an outlying area of rural character and natural resources, with low-density residential development. Do you support this vision of Saratoga Springs or do you think it should change? What are your ideas for economic development that promote smart, sustainable growth for our community?

A) *Yes, I support the "City in the Country" vision.*

B) *In my opinion, the most critical issue facing Saratoga Springs is the maintenance of our water and sewer infrastructure (pipes, pumps, valves, hydrants, etc.) in addition to the health of Loughberry Lake. Saratoga Springs cannot keep growing without taxing this infrastructure beyond its capacity. Increasing this capacity would be expensive, but is probably necessary since Loughberry's long-term health is seriously threatened. Saratoga Springs does not need to promote economic development; what it needs is to be a better steward of its water and related infrastructure resources.*

2. The Saratoga Springs Hazard Mitigation Plan ranks severe storms, flooding, and extreme temperatures as the top hazards for the city. The city's natural "green infrastructure," including forests and wetlands, helps protect against flooding, reduces urban heat, and absorbs carbon from the atmosphere. What is your plan for keeping the city's "green infrastructure" intact and for protecting city residents and our local economy from intensifying climate hazards?

*My plan is to protect the "City in the Country" plan and limit developments to within the core area of the city where walking and biking can be encouraged and facilitated. We need to make it easier for folks to build Auxiliary Dwelling Units where possible to support affordable housing needs for grandparents, in-law, or young families. There are still significant opportunities for single-family and multiple-family units in the city core. We should, by all means, protect "the Greenbelt". Not only is this an environmentally sound approach, it also enhances the enjoyment of the city for all residents and businesses.*

3. Approximately 40% of the food produced in the U.S. for human consumption is wasted, with much of it ending up in landfills and resulting in further environmental

problems. Should municipal food scraps collection be added to the City's existing composting operations?

*Yes! I support composting at the city level, starting with a voluntary plan similar to the Pitney Meadows composting campaign. The city should learn from the PM experience and from other cities around NY State who have such programs. This would be a wonderful expansion of the current composting facility.*

4. The cost of housing in Saratoga Springs continues to rise. In other resort communities such as ours, simply building more housing has not reduced housing costs. Please discuss your ideas for making Saratoga Springs more affordable.

*As mentioned earlier, I support easing restrictions on ADU's. Furthermore, my understanding is that there are over 1000 homes in Saratoga Springs that are being used as short-term rentals (Air B&B's). More regulations are needed to either convert some of these units to permanent housing, or to establish a fee structure to develop funding for affordable housing units within the city core.*

*I would also support learning from other cities that have been more successful in encouraging the development of affordable housing.*

5. Sustainable Saratoga and the city of Saratoga Springs have worked hard for years to increase the presence of trees in the city—the "urban forest"—which provides environmental, social, and economic benefits for Saratoga Springs. This ongoing program requires investment in trained professional staff, tree planting, and maintenance. How important is funding for the urban forest among other city priorities?

*Trees are a vital part of Saratoga Springs. Recently, DPW has paid more attention to having the needed manpower, leadership, and training to plant and nurture. I would continue to promote working with volunteer organizations but we need to make sure that the city is providing enough leadership in this interaction.*

6. Please feel free to address your top sustainability priorities for Saratoga Springs or any other sustainability topics.

*The very top issue for Saratoga Springs is the health of our water supply (currently the threatened Loughberry Lake), our aging and degrading water infrastructure, and the inadequate storm sewer system in parts of the city. The city needs to clearly identify other sources of water since reversing the downward quality and quantity trend of Loughberry Lake is an unrealistic environmental and regulatory challenge.*