



*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 10, 2025. Please email your answers back to us (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?

Even though I'm running for County Supervisor and do not have a vote at the Council table, I and have always been in full support of the Comprehensive Plan's central concept defining Saratoga Springs as a "City in the Country." My family lives in the furthest reach of the Greenbelt and has for over one-hundred and twenty-five years. Preservation of what's left of our greenbelt as open space needs to be a priority to maintaining our "City in the Country." I would like to see our City expand our use of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) as a means to help with affordable housing and senior and family care, especially for the outer districts with larger lot sizes.

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?

Preservation can be done using land trusts or through zoning laws. We can require green space minimums on development projects and compact mixed use to reduce sprawl and protect undeveloped land (ie open space). When elected Supervisor, I will advocate for these types of initiatives where possible and for the continuation of vital existing funding for open space that the County already does.

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?

Even though as Supervisor this is not something I can vote for, I believe that yes, we should absolutely upgrade our existing composting operations to add municipal food scraps where feasible. Certain challenges such as infrastructure needs would have to be overcome but we can look to cities that already compost food waste as examples for implementation strategy and benefits such as Toronto and Seattle.

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.

While the County Supervisors do not have direct vote regarding the City planning, more affordable housing is needed across the County. Many of our workers are commuting long distances to their jobs in our downtown restaurants for example. Ways to make housing more affordable could include inclusionary zoning, we can encourage public-private partnerships that provide tax incentives or other grant funding, and as I mentioned above I fully support the expansion of use of Accessory dwelling units.

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?

Again, as a Supervisor I will not have a say in the City planning. However, as an advocate for our community at the County level I will work to promote funding opportunities for these interests as they are critical to not only our present but planning for our future.

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

I am aware that we have outgrown our County buildings in Ballston Spa and that the County may be looking at moving from Ballston Spa, or expanding its facilities elsewhere. This is likely a long-term project but an opportunity to examine the most energy efficient and climate smart manner to build for our future. I hope to be a part of this critical county planning.