



League of Women Voters of Saratoga County

## 2011 Voter Guide

[www.lwvsaratoga.org](http://www.lwvsaratoga.org)

**Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Polls open 6 am to 9 pm**

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# 2011 Saratoga County Voter Guide

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, volunteer organization working to promote informed and responsible participation of citizens in government. The League neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate.

# Saratoga County Board of Supervisors

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Ballston



**Peter J. Connors**  
REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican and Conservative lines.

**City/Town of Residence:** Ballston

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** none. Ran for same position in 2009.

**Community Involvement:** Member of the board of Directors @ Cornell cooperative extension Ballston spa. 1 million dollar budget. Elks club 29 yrs. Lions club 17 yrs. member of Disabled American veterans.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Mechanicville High School Grad-Awarded who's who among High School students. Military-United States Army- Fire Prevention and Protection Specialist for the Federal Government for the U.S. Airforce @ Hancock Field Syracuse and the U.S. Army @ Watervliet Arsenal 20 years. Saratoga Supreme Court 15 yrs

**Campaign Phone:** 885-3893

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** 1) Rising cost for homeowners from taxes for schools, Real Property and other fees for special Districts, that some of us are struggling to afford. 2) Infrastructure needs in some areas of town to include failing septic systems and lack of the option to be tied into the County Sewer system to help homeowners and Businesses. 3) Saratoga County needs for us to come up with a plan on how to keep our County Infirmary-(Maplewood) from any threat of being downsized, sold, or compromised from it's present use. The seniors paid their dues to society and people of any age that become severely injured or handicapped should be able to count on its good citizens and county employees to be there for them when tragedy or human suffering takes place.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** Cut Spending on things that most people don't want or need and give people back more of their hard earned money by lowering all taxes across the Board, even the ones they call fees and permits. Any sensible person knows they're just another tax with a different name. If they lower the spending and increase the peoples buying power by giving them more of their own money, the economy improves overnight and all of these problems become solutions. If they enact simple ways to change and simplify our state's fiscal spending and streamline the way of doing business, New York could be # 1 again but in the right category. They should have tax laws that we all understand, and less bureaucracy so it could help Farmers, Businesses and homeowners.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** Well if it helps schools homeowners and Businesses I think it could be a positive step in the right direction. It is supposed to be a circuit breaker for homeowners and this may slow down the sad problem that we have, even here in Saratoga County - We are seeing a high rate of foreclosures on homes from the recession and cost of doing business in New York State. We all want to rein in the cost of spending but most of the time people in Albany and Washington seem to tell us how good we have it and if there is room for improvement we will take care of it right after the new year. If we don't help people with tax relief or better spending we will see more foreclosures and more people leaving, this could hurt the state and the towns too.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** We have long been the county of conservative spending. For many years we were the lowest taxed county of it's size to operate debt free. We always were full of opportunity and promise and still rank

very high on running a lean county government. We have proved these words by our actions. Neighboring Montgomery county to our west abandoned their county nursing home over 10 yrs. ago and left their employees and their senior residents at the hands of a corporation. They didn't want to- but failed to come up with ways to keep it going. I would never vote to give up on our seniors or citizens with catastrophic illnesses, and have a plan to keep these programs going for many years to come. I would sell county lands that we don't use or need.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** I'm not a politician or person of great achievement nor am I a savvy campaigner or person that makes promises I can't keep. Everybody has different strengths and weaknesses and although I may not be popular or charismatic I do believe I can work for the town of Ballston and do what's right for the people. I had two jobs in my career and they both required team work. If I have any good qualities it's because I've had some great teachers. My uncle was our Mayor where I grew up in nearby Mechanicville. He always listened to people and their problems. Once after church he listened to someone for a long time. I said; "Uncle Jack, you must be important!" and he said- "it's nice to be important- but it's more important to be nice" Thank you. Pete.



**Patti Southworth**  
DEM, WF, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Independence

**City/Town of Residence:** Town of Ballston

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Town of Ballston Supervisor

**Community Involvement:** Ballston Spa Lions Club, Ballston Lake Fire Department Womens Auxiliary, Saratoga County Rural Preservation Fundraising Committee, Advisor to Burnt Hills Farmers Market

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have been Ballston's Supervisor since 2008. As a licensed pharmacist, I acquired 28 years of management and financial experience that I now apply as the Town's Chief Financial Officer, keeping Ballston financially sound and maintaining a budget that promotes the Town's long term sustainability.

**Campaign Phone:** 518-441-6548

**Campaign Web Site:** ballstonfirst.org

**Campaign Email:** pattisouthworth@gmail.com

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** Financial sustainability is the most critical issue. As funding sources dwindle government must become more efficient and utilize revenue judiciously. Financial sustainability is not attainable without long range planning (LRP). A LRP will allow government to prioritize needs necessary to provide excellent services long into the future. Government does not need to spend more to do more. Third, we must balance economic development and community character. Providing employment for our outstanding and talented workforce needs to be front and center. Public private partnerships can be a win for both entities. It is imperative we maintain our community character as economic development occurs. Government does not need to spend more to do more.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** The NYS Legislature need to give immediate relief from unfunded mandates they have forced on local government. Medicaid costs have continued to rise since being established in 1966. The Legislature need to pass into law Senate bill S5889-a which gradually shifts Medicaid cost back to NYS. They also need to rescind other unfunded mandates. Until that time, the legislature should stop further erosion of funding and allow local governments to decide how to best administer programs and to what level of service in their municipality.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The two percent tax cap is only half of the solution to give needed relief to taxpayers. Without relief from unfunded mandates it is very likely extreme services cuts will be felt by those we are supposed to be looking out for. Government will need to look for new and innovative ways to operate in order to

decrease spending. This is especially true at the town level where we do not have a town or highway tax. Shared services and consolidation will be the wave of the future. Technology and energy efficiency measures will be a must. Doing more with less, needs to become a way of life.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** As in other counties, social services are in high demand. During economic downturns, unemployment increases and a domino effect begins. No paycheck, no healthcare, no money for food or mortgage/rent payments. Saratoga County does an outstanding job providing needed services that are vitally important to our residents during their difficult time. We should work to streamline where possible and work to eliminate fraud. Much of what the programs cover and how they are administered is dictated to the counties by the state. It is time the state legislature allows counties to deliver services in ways that are in the best interest of their residents.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** We've made tremendous progress in the last four years, but there is still so much to be done. We are in the midst of so many exciting projects that I want to see through to completion. It has been so rewarding to get to know and to work alongside the residents over these past two terms, and I look forward to continuing and building on these relationships. I feel strongly that the Supervisor should be available and responsive to the needs of the residents. I encourage you to contact me by cell phone (441-6548), office phone (885-8502, ex.13), or email pattisouthworth@gmail.com. Listening to the residents, thoughtfully researching decisions, and acting regardless of political affiliation will always put Ballston and Saratoga County First.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Charlton



**Alan Grattidge**  
REP, CON, IND

### Biographical Info:

**Parties:** Republican, Independence, Conservative

**City/Town of Residence:** Town of Charlton

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Town Supervisor

**Community Involvement:** Active with our children's 4-H Club, Member of Charlton Historical Society, Organized many Town events such as Party in the Park, Explore Charlton Weekend, Sundae on the Farm

**Experience and Qualifications:** 3 year Member of the Town Zoning Review Committee, 9 years as Town Councilman, 2 years served as Deputy Supervisor, serving my 6th year as Town Supervisor, Vice Chair of Law & Finance on the County Board of Supervisors, also currently serving as Chairman of the Public Works Committee at the County

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 882-9757 or (518) 365-2403

**Campaign Email:** agrattidge@gmail.com

### Questions:

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** To continue delivering essential services to our residents while having no Town or Highway Tax. Maintaining the rural character of the Town and encouraging our local farms and businesses to be successful. Working on our land use policies to help with smart growth.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** The State needs to take over the Medicaid program from the County to help the property tax payers.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The Town has No Town or Highway Tax now and I plan to continue this policy into the future. The County will have to reduce services in order to live within the Tax Cap. The State needs to take over Medicaid and the unfunded mandates on the County.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** The County will need to explore all options of these programs to be able to continue delivering services to the County residents.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** I have enjoyed serving the residents of Charlton and Saratoga County and look forward to all the challenges we will face in the future. Thank you.



**Paul St. John**  
Broome Party

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican running on the Independent line

**City/Town of Residence:** Town of Charlton

**Community Involvement:** Supervisor 1994-98, Chairman Planning Board 1991-94, Town Councilman 1978-90, Member of Environment Commission 1972-78, Assistant cub master, Internal Vice President Charlton Jaycees, Board Member of GGCSA, Treasurer Greater Galway Community Education Foundation, Board Member St. Mary's Church

**Experience and Qualifications:** Supervisor 1994-98, Chairman Planning Board 1991-94, Town Councilman 1978-90, Member of Environment Commission 1972-78, Courses from Cornell University on Labor Relations, and service on many not for profit board of directors

**Campaign Phone:** 518-399-7827

**Campaign Email:** pstjohn001@nycap.rr.com

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** Declining Revenues, Sales Tax, Mortgage Tax and State Reimbursements, Increase in cost of operations, State Mandates.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** Enable the Emergency Ambulance and Fire District to exist as a single tax entity. When an emergency happens the fire trucks roll and the fireman stabilize the situation and if a person needs transport to the hospital then the ambulance is called and thus delaying the time to getting medical care. If the Fire and Ambulance were allowed to exist in the same fire house then they would roll out together. Current State Law does not allow this to happen.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The tax cap will have little effect on the Town as we currently do not Tax our residence. The tax cap will have little effect on the County as they rely on the sales tax for most of the revenue.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** Privatize Maplewood Manor and cut expenses.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** - no response -

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Clifton Park



**Philip Barrett**  
REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Conservative, Independence

**City/Town of Residence:** Town of Clifton Park

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Town Supervisor / County Supervisor

**Community Involvement:** Town / County Supervisor since 2000, past president of Capital District Regional Planning Commission, various volunteer roles in the community

**Experience and Qualifications:** Town / County Supervisor since 2000, extensive banking background

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.ourcliftonpark.com](http://www.ourcliftonpark.com)

**Campaign Email:** [phil.barrett@ourcliftonpark.com](mailto:phil.barrett@ourcliftonpark.com)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** The current economic downturn and its effect on municipal budgets: To prepare for this, we have established a multi-million dollar rainy day fund and have taken steps to reduce costs, including the renegotiation of health care insurance with employee unions and a reduced workforce through attrition and streamlining management positions. Balancing growth with our Open Space Program: In the last 10 years, the town has permanently preserved more than 1,000 acres of farmland for recreational use and working farms. Attraction of private sector investment: Worked to reinvigorate the Clifton Park Center Mall, starting with Boscov's, directly involved with securing millions in private investment resulting in new jobs and enhanced services.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** Although in Clifton Park we have prepared for this economic downturn by irradiating all town debt, reducing health care costs, streamlining departments and saving for a rainy day, governments are pressured by New York State unfunded mandates on all levels of municipal budgets. We will continue to lobby our state representatives to protect local budgets from these rising mandates.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The Town of Clifton Park has no town property tax, and the Clifton Park Town Board passed a resolution earlier this year encouraging the legislature to pass the low, fixed property tax cap. The town's Highway Tax has been reduced over the last decade to an average of approximately \$30 per home per year. Since the highway tax is extremely low, even a small increase would surpass the cap.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** The economic downturn has put pressure on all social programs. In addition, Maplewood Manor continues to run a significant deficit each and every year. With budget constraints a reality on all governmental levels, it is vital that all options to reduce costs are investigated. Without changes to the antiquated reimbursement structure that regulates funds the county receives for Maplewood Manor, the deficits may continue to grow. This reality will most likely result in the county needing to take bold action and enact unique initiatives to change the negative financial picture surrounding our nursing home.

**Q: Additional comments?**

**A:** I've been humbled to serve the residents of Clifton Park and Saratoga County for almost 12 years. Through difficult economic times, we've maintained no town tax, permanently preserved more than 1,000 acres of farmland for recreational use and working farms, retired all town debt, reduced the highway tax significantly, established a rainy day fund and expanded recreational opportunities/facilities for our residents. In addition we have conducted several long-range planning initiatives, instituted free yard waste and bulk trash pickup and expanded our trails network by more than 10 miles. These are just some of the accomplishments achieved by our team at Town Hall with the support of many dedicated, hard working volunteers in our community.



**Martin O'Connor**  
DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic, Working Families

**City/Town of Residence:** Clifton Park

**Experience and Qualifications:** Worked in and around government my entire professional career. I have a masters degree in public administration with a concentration on state and local finance. I have chosen as a profession working in and around government and would bring this to the job of Town and County Supervisor

**Questions:**

**Q: What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?**

**A:** County Finances. It has recently been reported that the County is running a reported \$7.7 million deficit. Except that the Board of Supervisors closed a much larger gap, \$15 million, through the use of one-shots which means that this is a bigger problem than they are admitting. Environmental pressures. Global Foundries, due to the nature of the industry, and because of the large number of the workers that are coming from outside the county will affect our environment and this must be planned for and not simply reacted to. Affordable senior housing. While there is some senior care and living facilities they, for the most part, cater to the economically well off making it very difficult for our seniors to continue to live here.

**Q: If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?**

**A:** I would ask the State Legislature to pass and the Governor to enact the so-called Millionaires Tax. New York State and its local governments are facing difficult fiscal times and it all New Yorkers must be willing to contribute. No sector of the state should be immune to sharing in pulling us all out of this mess. This is especially true in New York where the people directly responsible for the recession continue to make fantastic sums of money while the rest of us struggle to get by.

**Q: How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?**

**A:** I think the imposition of the two percent tax cap was bad public policy. Ironically, so-called conservatives supported this action even though it is big brother government imposing its will on individuals. School budgets are the only budgets directly voted on by citizens of the state. Yet, we are being told that we are not capable of making those decisions and that the State must impose limits. You would have thought the conservatives would have gone through the roof. You would, of course, have been wrong. One of the strongest selling points we have in Clifton Park is our wonderful school district. As Town Supervisor I would be seeking any way that the Town could help the school district deal with this devastating imposition.

**Q: In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?**

**A:** I think that we need to look carefully at the consolidation of services in the County. There are areas where the County should take over completely the functions of the towns. I would investigate which town functions are absolutely necessary and whether or not, in this day and age, we need town governments at all.

**Q: Additional comments?**

**A:** - no response -

## County Supervisor, Town of Clifton Park



**Anita Daly**  
REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Conservative, Independence

**City/Town of Residence:** Clifton Park

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** county Supervisor

**Community Involvement:** PTA, Committee on Children with Special Needs, CP Republican Committee, Economic Development Regional Council

**Experience and Qualifications:** currently serving my 18th year in public office and have served on virtually every standing committee.

**Campaign Phone:** 518.573.3555

**Campaign Email:** Adaly00@aol.com

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your Saratoga County?*

**A:** 1. maintain low taxes 2. Adopt a balanced budget with no tax increase 3. Unfunded mandates/Medicaid costs

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** Medicaid Reform

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** Due to the lowest taxed entity in NYS, the cap would only generate minimal revenue, therefore causing us to consider other measures such as sales tax increase.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** Without definitive numbers no absolute decision about any social service could be considered. In Saratoga County we would look to consider best practices to ensure our residents receive all necessary services, including privatization or other options.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** Thank you for this opportunity and as always I welcome all comments.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Corinth

**Richard B. Lucia**

REP

Candidate did not submit a response.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Day

**Mary Ann Johnson**

REP

Candidate did not submit a response.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Edinburg

**Jean Raymond**

REP

Candidate did not submit a response.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Greenfield



**Richard Rowland**

REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican

**Campaign Phone:** N/A

**Campaign Email:** tsupvr@nycap.rr.com

**Campaign Web Site:** N/A

**City/Town of Residence:** Town of Greenfield

**Community Involvement:** Greenfield Grange, Saratoga County Agricultural Society, Greenfield Historical Society, Cornell Cooperative Extension Board of Directors

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Town and County Supervisor

**Experience and Qualifications:** 4 years as an elected official, Local businessman, General Manager of the Saratoga County Fair (retired)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** Controlled Growth in the Town. A small Commercial Tax Base in the Town. The process of a rural lifestyle merging with new residents.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** Remove unfunded mandates and caps that prevent local service. People need to realize that Federal and State programs are funded by some tax base somewhere. State programs tend to drive up costs for local government. Everyone needs to pay their fair share and we need to eliminate the loop holes the the wealthy have enjoyed in the past.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The tax cap hinders us greatly. We have produced a no frills budget for years with basic services and a low tax rate. A number of years the boards have balanced the budgets with fund balances. As time has gone on and the economy has softened and services grown that type of budget is unsustainable. Costs of services such as repair and maintenance of roads has risen to record proportions. Without completely depleting the reserves taxes will have to rise.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** The Federal and State governments need to be realistic when they develop programs that eventually are funded by taxpayers. To hold the county to reimbursement levels of year 2000 in 2011 is unimaginable. The nursing home is losing money at an alarming rate. The Federal government and the State reduces what they give to the county and then puts roadblocks in the way of raising revenues to be sustainable. The county had an agreement to fund the cogeneration system at

Maplewood Manor and after the system was installed and saving money the agreement was recinded and reimbursements were cut. I am of the opinion that a deal is a deal and you don't back out of an agreement but apparently that is not the case with government.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** We have to be realistic in government. To not raise taxes just to say we are low is not good business nor good government. All of our costs have gone up. We need to keep pace or reduce services. The public seems to want more services and efficient services. We all need to do the best job and look out for our fellow man more. America was built on the backs of the common man with basic principles that we need to get back to.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Hadley

**Arthur Wright**

REP

Candidate did not submit a response.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Halfmoon



**Deanna Stephenson**

DEM, WF

### Biographical Info:

**Parties:** Endorsed by: Democratic Party, Working Families Party, Saratoga County Democratic Committee, Halfmoon Democratic Committee, Capital District Area Labor Federation

**City/Town of Residence:** Town of Halfmoon

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** N/A

**Community Involvement:** Deanna is currently an Executive Board Member - Treasurer of the Arongen Parent Teacher Association within the Shenendehowa School District. She also volunteers for CAPTAIN Youth Services and served as Deer Run Homeowners' Association-Past Treasurer.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Deanna has a strong professional background in healthcare administration and has been employed with the New York State Psychological Association as the Director of Professional Services since 2009. She advocates for patient rights and best practices for practitioners in the managed care arena.

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 225-3398

**Campaign Web Site:** [deannastephenson.com](http://deannastephenson.com)

**Campaign Email:** [dstephewin@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dstephewin@nycap.rr.com)

### Questions:

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** Fiscal accountability and transparency: Halfmoon is facing a fiscal crisis. With bond debt excessively high and expenditures far exceeding revenues and deficit budgets, it will be essential for Halfmoon to put into place an emergency fiscal plan, rein in spending and restore financial stability for Halfmoon and its residents. Smart Growth Plan: With the continued growth in this region there needs to be an overall five, ten and fifteen year strategic and financial plan. Infrastructure improvement: Due to escalated development, long term planning does not match the growth in this town. The town ends up throwing money at infrastructure issues after the development concludes, leaving it to the home owner to solve.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** New York state needs to address mandate relief for local towns primarily Medicaid. Although Saratoga County as a whole is rich in resources and services to the population it serves, local towns

are being pushed more and more to provide additional services. Each county and town needs to identify, examine and assess their particular needs. Services identified could be collaborated with a neighboring town, considered optional or eliminated if found to be non-essential. Any service in a town or county's budget needs to be funded within the reality of that particular budget.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The tax cap, although initially seemed like a win-win for the taxpayer in Halfmoon and Saratoga County, has a different effect on town and county budgets. In Halfmoon where the budget is already at a deficit and severely strained, it will be difficult to find additional funding due to the town's financial crisis. A tax cap without significant mandate relief will prevent Halfmoon from doing what it needs to do to start over and rebuild a budget in this very difficult economic climate. New York State must be accountable for new mandates and act in partnership with the local town governments. Halfmoon should be given the autonomy to work in collaboration with its school districts to rebuild its financial future.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** Maplewood Manor is not a self-sustaining entity and depends highly on state Medicaid and the county's subsidized payments. The level of service that this facility provides is far reaching to Saratoga County and other counties. I recommend that these types of services be more accessible to the community, but I also recommend that the recipient of the services are evaluated in terms of need and uniquely identified for receiving such critical services. Social services should be regulated a step further to have a recipient evaluated more stringently and assessed to assure that the services match his or her needs. In taking such steps the state and county will keep cost down and make critical social services accessible to those in real need.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** The most recent economic downturn has plagued our nation and our state, and has greatly affected the Town of Halfmoon. We must demand performance and accountability of all elected officials, get a hold on spending and keep development appropriate and mindful. My experience in health care has allowed me to lead great teams as well as be an integral part of them. I want to be able to lead the residents of Halfmoon in a direction that is based on confidence, trust and includes open discussions, strategic planning and vision that appropriately matches Halfmoon's growth and functions within the reality of the town's budget. As I have said to many, I am not a politician, I am a regular person with a regular life that just wants to do the right thing



**Mindy A. Wormuth**  
REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** R, C, I

**City/Town of Residence:** Halfmoon

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Halfmoon Town Supervisor

**Community Involvement:** Shen PTA American Legion 1450 Saratoga County Republican Committee Saratoga County Special Events Committee Halfmoon Republican Committee

**Experience and Qualifications:** Local business owner since 1992, Town and County Supervisor since 2007, Town Board member since 2003, Town Zoning Board member 2001-2003, manager of 3 community group homes for Vanderhyden Hall

**Campaign Phone:** 518-858-8323

**Campaign Web Site:** facebook.com/re-elect Halfmoon Supervisor Mindy Wormuth

**Campaign Email:** mwormuth@nycap.rr.com

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** To always strive to offer our residents the highest possible customer service and continuing to be fiscally responsible by controlling spending in order to maintain our no town tax and our no highway tax policy that have been in place for over 25 years. Maintaining a process that thru open government creates a business environment that allows for smart and balanced growth to support the necessary tax base.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** I would ask the state to look at taking over the Medicaid program and to continue to look at the number of unfunded mandates that are passed on to the local towns and counties in order to help reduce the burdens placed on our local resources.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** At this point Halfmoon continues to maintain the 25+ year history of a no town tax and no highway tax. A policy the current administration looks forward to being able to continue.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** The County Board of Supervisors will need to look at ways to reduce spending in all areas of service delivery and find ways to reevaluate creative ways to provide necessary services at a reduced cost. We will have to tighten our belts like most local families are doing and we have a committed very competent workforce to help accomplish this.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** It is an honor to serve as Halfmoon's Town Supervisor and together we have been able to achieve great things for our community. The opportunity to serve my community has been among the most rewarding experiences of my professional life. Halfmoon is my home, where I've raised my family. Working alongside so many of you I have watched the positive change in our community. For these reasons I've decided to once again seek your support and continue to work for the people of Halfmoon as your Town Supervisor.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Malta



**Paul Sausville**  
REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Endorsed By Independence Party And Conservative Committee

**City/Town of Residence:** Town of Malta

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Malta Supervisor

**Community Involvement:** Currently Town & County Supervisor, Commissioner of Capitol District Planning Commission, Past-Councilman, Former Chair of Planning Board, Past Chair of Zoning Review, Past Chair of Master Plan Committee, Past President of both MBPA and Rotary.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Professional Engineer. Over 30 years of leadership in government; 6 years as Councilman; 5 years as Supervisor. Former President of Sausville & Schriber Consulting Engineers, Former Program Chief with NYS DEC.

**Campaign Phone:** 518-885-4533

**Campaign Web Site:** townofmalta.com

**Campaign Email:** engineer@nycap.rr.com

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** The 3 most critical issues are; 1) Financing Maplewood Manor; 2) Unfair Taxation By Hudson River Regulating District and 3) Maintaining Tax Free Status Of Malta. (Space on this voter guide does not

provide room to respond in more depth. Please send me an email request at; engineer@nycap.rr.com and I will provide you with a thorough response.)

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** Three years ago the "NYS Legislative Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness" issued a report which focused on ways to make counties, municipalities, schools and other local entities more affordable, accountable, democratic, and competitive. To the surprise of some, they reported that the problems are not solely or even primarily caused by local leaders. Many problems were traced directly to State mandates; i.e. "State cost-drivers." The legislature needs to take action to reduce these "cost drivers." (Space on this voter guide does not provide room to respond in more depth. Please send me an email request at; engineer@nycap.rr.com and I will provide you with a thorough response.)

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** Malta does not have a general town-wide property tax (except for a small voter approved retirement program for emergency responders). We do have a fire protection tax. This means any tax proposal exceeding the property tax cap mandate would need 3 members of the town board voting for the tax increase. Because this requires a local law, a public hearing on the tax proposal would be held. (Space on this voter guide does not provide room to respond in more depth. Please send me an email request at; engineer@nycap.rr.com and I will provide you with a thorough response.)

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** Out of Control Regulations -- Our health care world is out of control. State and Federal Medicaid/Medicare reimbursement rules are a mess. They are conflicting, confusing and downright deceptive. Even the experts have a difficult time explaining rules --- rules that seem to defy sensibility. No wonder the cost of health care is so high. It is time to take the fog out of the health care rules, demand streamlining of assistance programs and establish a health care world of plain language and common sense.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** - no response -



**Cynthia Young**  
DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic, Working Families

**City/Town of Residence:** Malta

**Community Involvement:** Trustee and Treasurer, Ballston Spa Education Foundation; Member and Treasurer, Malta Sunrise Rotary; former longtime Chairperson Malta Youth Commission; former Trustee of Brookside Museum

**Experience and Qualifications:** Board of Assessment Review, Zoning Board of Appeals, former Deputy Town Clerk, former Assessment Data Collector

**Campaign Phone:** 518-899-2240

**Campaign Web Site:** youngformalta.com

**Campaign Email:** youngformalta@gmail.com

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** In the Town of Malta one of the most critical issues is development pressure. As Global Foundries nears completion the vision of a town center is coming to fruition. While we need the commercial development to off-set our taxes, we also must try to avoid "sprawl". Another issue facing the Town and County is limited financial resources. The downturn in the economy has reduced the sales tax revenue in Saratoga County. Tough choices will need to be made in program funding for the future. The Town of Malta lacks the strong leadership to make the tough decisions. As change is certain we need a vision of the future that is realistic and the strength to move forward with it.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** One of the biggest concerns state wide is the funding of our schools. I would ask the legislature to make the investment in our schools to make sure that New York students are competitive throughout the world.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The Town of Malta does not currently have a general town tax. Sales tax distribution remains the largest revenue source for Malta. The drop in sales tax revenues will hurt the budgets of all of the municipalities. The County and Towns will face some very difficult decisions as a result of the tax cap. In Malta, we fund many of our recreation programs with revenues from participants. This helps us to maintain a high quality programs at our Community Center and enriches the family values that we pride ourselves on. I hope that we can continue this policy.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** These services are important to many residents of Saratoga County. I think that these essential services, though costly, must be maintained.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** I believe that I can offer the leadership necessary to face the future in Malta. Important decisions are not being made in a timely fashion. For example, we were advised almost two years ago that we need to upgrade our fire protection facilities, but this project remains unsettled. Meanwhile, the fire companies lack the equipment needed to respond to incidents in new developments in town. I support a high density town center to offset the tax burden on residents. The vision of Malta as a "hamlet" is no longer realistic, but I believe we can retain the family values that make Malta a great place to live. I will work to create an environment of cooperation among the town offices and elected officials together.

## County Supervisor, City of Mechanicville

**Thomas Richardson**

DEM

Candidate did not submit a response.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Milton



**Daniel Lewza**  
REP, CON, IND

### Biographical Info:

**Parties:** Endorsed by the Republican, Conservative, and Independence parties. Dan is also endorsed by Town of Milton Highway Superintendent Dave Forbes.

**City/Town of Residence:** Ballston Spa, NY/Town of Milton

**Community Involvement:** Dan and his family are parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Dan assists in coaching both of his daughters' soccer teams.

**Experience and Qualifications:** For over 20 years, Dan Lewza has dedicated his career to working with both state and local officials to improve our lives. Having worked in state government as a Chief of Staff, Policy Analyst and Community Liaison, Dan Lewza has the experience to serve us well.

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 879-6822

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.DanLewza.com](http://www.DanLewza.com)

**Campaign Email:** [danlewza4milton@gmail.com](mailto:danlewza4milton@gmail.com)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** Wise Budgeting: Milton faces an immediate funding crisis. We must rein in spending and increase efficiency to see Milton through this. I'll pursue grants and expand the tax base by attracting new business investment, so we can improve town services. Smart Growth: Saratoga Co. has benefited from economic growth, but we've missed out. We need a new town plan that uses our \$1 million federal main street grant. Let's bring jobs and revenue to Milton, while protecting open space. Open Government: Milton lacks open communication. I developed highly effective constituent services for several legislators, and am eager to do the same as Supervisor. It's critical that issues are addressed in a timely manner. It begins with picking up the phone.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** Local governments need relief from New York's costly unfunded mandates. I've been advocating for this very measure while working at the state legislature. There are number of local government service, benefit, and spending items that are dictated by New York State, that are actually more generous than the Federal Government requires. While well meaning, these mandates have pushed local government spending to an unsustainable point. If we allow counties to examine their own service needs and opt out of those additional services, great savings could be realized for the County and its taxpayers. Saratoga County is more attune to the needs of its residents than Albany.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The two-percent tax cap is a victory for taxpayers, but, without the added component of unfunded mandate relief, it poses a funding problem for local governments. Spending will have to be reined in. Government leaders and administrators will have to creatively look for ways to fund service, such as utilizing grants. Furthermore, local government must seek out cost savings through efficiency efforts, like shared government services, and taking advantage of technology to cut down administrative costs. For example, our Highway Superintendent is very effective at sharing services and equipment with other municipalities to keep costs low while maintain a high quality of service.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** I think the administrators of our County's various social services programs do an amazing job. I'd like to work closely with them to further eliminate fraud and waste. Much of what government is learning now is how to be more mindful and effective with each tax dollar.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** It's been a true pleasure getting to know each Milton resident. I enjoy sitting down to talk about how we can collectively improve the Town of Milton for us all. Everyone has different backgrounds, concerns and passions, but it's wonderful to share a common goal. I know that together, we can make Milton a standout community that is economically vibrant, but treasures its rural countryside and has unrivaled public services, yet remains affordable for all families. It's our town, we can do this.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Moreau



**Preston L. Jenkins Jr.**  
DEM, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic

**City/Town of Residence:** Town of Moreau

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Supervisor Town of Moreau Saratoga County Supervisor

**Community Involvement:** Town Supervisor Town of Moreau Past President of Rotary Club South Glens Falls Past President South Glens Falls Chamber of Commerce Treasurer Gerald B H Solomon Freedom foundation Treasurer South Glens Falls Booster Club

**Campaign Phone:** 518-793-1130

**Campaign Email:** pmnjenkins@roadrunner.com

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** Lack of infrastructure has limited commercial development in the town of Moreau. Medicaid cost has created serious budget issues with Maplewood Manor Nursing Home. Senior housing is becoming a serious issue with our aging population.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** New York should take over the complete funding of public education.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The 2% tax cap will create many problems for all local governments, however the long term effect will lead to better budgets and lower taxes.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** SARATOGA COUNTY SHOULD LOOK IN THE DIRECTION OF PRIVITAZING MAPLEWOOD MANOR.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** - no response -

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Northumberland

**Willard Peck**

REP

Candidate did not submit a response.

## County Supervisor, City of Saratoga Springs (vote for 2):



**Matthew Veitch**

REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, endorsed by Independence and Conservative parties

**City/Town of Residence:** City of Saratoga Springs

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Supervisor-City of Saratoga Springs

**Community Involvement:** Saratoga Springs History Museum, Saratoga County EOC, Saratoga-Wilton Elks No.161, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation, Saratoga County Children's Committee, Saratoga County Citizen's Transportation Committee, Saratoga Casino and Raceway Foundation

**Experience and Qualifications:** B.S. in Education, SUNY Plattsburgh-1994; A.S. in Telecommunications, Pace University-2005; Zoning Board of Appeals-Saratoga Springs; Racing, Public Safety, Trails, Legislative & Research, Economic Development, Public Works, Technology, Social Programs, Law & Finance County Committees

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 542-5283

**Campaign Web Site:** [veitchforsupervisor.com](http://veitchforsupervisor.com)

**Campaign Email:** [veitchforsupervisor@gmail.com](mailto:veitchforsupervisor@gmail.com)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your Saratoga County?*

**A:** I believe the three most critical issues facing us today are unstable revenue streams, diminishing government aid, and antiquated processes that increase the cost of doing business. Saratoga County relies on property and sales taxes and other governmental assistance to fund its operations. Over the past few years, those revenue streams have declined or remained flat. This situation caused budgeting difficulty at the County in 2011. We need examine all expenses and find ways to cut costs with minimal impact to the taxpayer. The County still operates, with antiquated and inefficient processes. Updating these through the use of technology and other means will help to trim those expenses and lower costs overall.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** The one change I would ask the State Legislature to make was just brought up as a bill at the State Legislature recently. The State formula for Medicaid funding requires that Counties match State contributions to fund the program. In Saratoga County, that amounts to \$25 million, or about half of our property taxes yearly. It is a huge burden on us especially with the new property tax cap legislation, and only minimal mandate relief. We have many important investments to make in Saratoga County, such as technology infrastructure, roads & bridges, and facilities. Having an extra \$25 million to do such things without raising taxes is of primary importance.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The 2% tax cap will not affect Saratoga County much in the short term; Since our County taxes are already the lowest in New York State, a 2% ability to increase our tax levy will have minimal impact on our budget. In the long term, in the event the County faces more serious fiscal problems, the 2% tax cap may have to be overridden. The most fiscally responsible course we can follow right now is to hold the line on spending, and to cut non-essential services whenever possible.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** I believe the biggest change we can make to the delivery of services in Saratoga County is to automate the process. Many of our forms and instructions are paper-based, and not accessible on-line. An individual receiving services from the County would have forms mailed to them, visit the County to go through an interview to qualify for services, and then have any special cards or materials mailed to them after the interview. Forms and documents should be shared and completed on-line, and completed forms should be e-mailed to County employees for review. Cards and benefit materials should be e-mailed whenever possible. Having County residents on-line instead of waiting in-line will help make our County's delivery of services more efficient.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** It has been an honor serving as your Supervisor over the last four years. As an elected official, I am always mindful of my stewardship over your money, your quality of life, and your well-being. We should always look at things we do at all levels of government and make sure that it is working the right way for you. I have come to learn in my term in office that issues that come up are not Democrat or Republican issues; they are just issues that we are elected to solve. My experience as Supervisor has taught me that success is not about personal gain or glory. It is about working with others, as a team, and putting our differences aside-to constructively work through our issues, in order to make this City, and County the best they can be.



**Joanne Yepsen**

DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democrat, Working Families Party

**City/Town of Residence:** Saratoga Springs

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** County Supervisor for Saratoga Springs

**Community Involvement:** - Chamber of Commerce Leadership - Saratoga Care Foundation - Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation - Saratoga Artsfest Committee - Presbyterian New England Congregational Church - Women in Development - Sustainable Saratoga - Grants to You - Women Veterans Coalition of NY

**Experience and Qualifications:** Three-term County Supervisor, 25 years of non-profit management with proven capabilities in fundraising, communications, strategic planning, board relations, and fiscal management and planning. Managed a development team for Skidmore College followed by starting and growing my own small business.

**Campaign Phone:** 518-892-3854

**Campaign Web Site:** Yepsenforsupervisor.com

**Campaign Email:** jyepsen@nycap.rr.com

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your Saratoga County?*

**A:** Finances: The rising costs/less funding/more mandates reality will make it increasingly more challenging to balance the County budget, protect our reserve fund and keep taxes low in Saratoga County. We must be vigilant, exploring all possible revenue and mandate relief. Economy/Jobs: Local families and college graduates need to be the priority for jobs created by Global Foundries and spin off businesses. NYS taxpayers deserve to get a return on our public dollar investment. Do More With Less: Look at ways public entities can be serving residents by sharing services and be more efficient with taxpayer dollars; e.g., collaborating with school districts in order to direct the funding toward enhancing the educational experience.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** Pick up the mandate slack so we won't have to override the 2% property tax cap. The Counties in this state need to be a unified voice to ensure that the Medicaid and other costs aren't merely shifted down to the Counties with increased mandates and no increased revenue. To remain the lowest taxed county, the State needs to seriously restructure the Medicaid program. It is an essential part of the public health program, however, under the current relationship with the State, the most basic of Saratoga County services, programs and facilities will be at risk. In the long run, it could potentially cost the government more if local citizens are not adequately and routinely served. In short, significant mandate relief.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** For the foreseeable future, it is our hope at Saratoga County not to override the 2% tax cap, otherwise defeating the purpose of the law. However, the reality of the County budget is that our hands are tied until the State offers meaningful mandate relief. We, at the County have an efficient and good budgeting process but, it is just not possible to continue to balance our budget each year, remain the lowest taxed County in the State, and to provide all the basic services that we all take for granted, UNLESS the state takes over the Medicaid costs. Can we be more efficient? I always advocate for savings, but looking at both sides of the ledger, the numbers just don't work with this apparent cost shift effect.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** Even though funding has decreased over the years to the counties for these services, the social problems do not go away. As your elected leaders, we need to do just what you do in your own homes and your own businesses, make tough choices and prioritize. We introduced and passed legislation at the County that will change the way Maplewood Manor collects their fees. We must continue to pressure the State to take the Medicaid burden off the counties (the biggest piece of the total budget pie for Saratoga), and when food stamps are distributed, we should include nutritional education and examples of how to be healthy and economical at the same time. We should enact legislation that will allow food stamps to be used at local Farmers' Markets.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** Just as the Governor of New York is advocating for our State, it is incumbent upon every County Supervisor to advocate for more revenue and jobs for Saratoga County. I will work to maximize the benefits to our local economy from the Governor's Regional Economic Development initiative and most recent announcement of a \$4.4 Billion investment by five companies for upstate NY. He has done his job, now we need to do ours. In the end, dealing with public budgets is not rocket science. Public officials need to explore and compete for all possible new revenue, advocate for jobs and support small businesses while providing critical public health, youth, veterans and senior programs/services.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Saratoga



**Thomas Wood**  
REP, CON, IND

### Biographical Info:

**Parties:** Republican, Conservative, Independence

**City/Town of Residence:** Town of Saratoga

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Supervisor Town of Saratoga

**Community Involvement:** Schuylerville Area Chamber of Commerce, Schuylerville Lions Club, Schuylerville Central School Alumni Association

**Experience and Qualifications:** I am completing my 8th year as Town of Saratoga Supervisor and formerly served as Town Historian for 18 years and served as member and Chairman of Zoning Board of Appeals for 22 years. I served as a cub and boy scout leader, 4-H club leader, and little league coach.

**Campaign Phone:** 518-695-6780

**Campaign Email:** twood71098@aol.com

### Questions:

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** The three most critical issues facing the Town of Saratoga and Saratoga County are keeping expenses under control, maintaining a low tax rate, and creating jobs and stimulating economic development. By monitoring costs and encouraging economic development we will reduce expenses and increase revenue thereby making it possible to stabilize or reduce the taxes.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** I would ask the legislature to fund all nine state mandates which they force on the county. The nine unfunded state mandates consume more than 90% of the county tax revenue leaving little money for the county to have available for other non-mandated essential services such as the sheriffs department road patrol, highway improvements, and community organizations.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The 2% tax cap will force our town to more closely scrutinize all expenses. At this time there is a good chance that some nonmandated expenses will be reduced or eliminated. We may not be able to pave as much highway as in prior years and may possibly forgo equipment purchases. Vacancies may go unfilled and hours may be reduced. We will strive to work more cooperatively with our villages and neighboring towns plus with Saratoga County. Current level of services will be reviewed and cut and or reduced where possible and use of town assets will be maximized to generate the most possible revenue. In addition where applicable grants will be pursued to financially assist the town in various projects.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** There needs to be a close review of all services to determine where savings can be made. Purchasing procedures can be reviewed and technology applications can be studied to see what new ones are available and how they could improve the efficiency of county operations. We can also look into more cooperative work between towns and the county and between counties. By working together everyone is more efficient. The county may have some assets that they no longer need or use and these can be liquidated.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** My goal as town supervisor is to serve the residents in the very best way possible. I am always available and strive for open and honest communication. I am always available to listen to our residents and provide answers in a timely manner. I communicate through telephone calls, newsletters, calendars, personal meetings and e-mails. The purpose of government is to serve the people.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Stillwater

**Ed Kinowski**

REP, CON, IND

Candidate did not submit a response.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Waterford

**John Lawler**

REP, CON

Candidate did not submit a response.

## Town/County Supervisor, Town of Wilton



**Arthur J. Johnson**

REP, CON, IND

### Biographical Info:

**Parties:** Republican, Independence, Conservative

**City/Town of Residence:** Wilton

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** town Supervisor

**Community Involvement:** Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge, Saratoga County IDA, Saratoga County Water Authority

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have 30 years of service to town government and my previous professional experience with State Taxation and Finance department.

**Campaign Phone:** 518.469.1527

**Parties:** Republican Conservative, Independence

**Campaign Email:** Johnsonforsupervisor@gmail.com

### Questions:

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing your town and Saratoga County?*

**A:** 1. Unfunded mandates in particular - Medicaid. 2. Provide necessary services with a balanced budget and no tax increase. 3. Curb raising pension costs and other employee benefit costs.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects your town or Saratoga County, what would it be and why?*

**A:** Medicaid Reform

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect your town and Saratoga County, and what action, if any, would you propose to help your town and the County adjust to this cap?*

**A:** With no town tax and low county taxes, the tax cap will have little or no effect on the 2012 budget. At this time no adjustment is recommended.

**Q:** *In New York State, counties are the delivery agent for social services such as public health, food stamps, and senior services such as Maplewood Manor. What changes would you recommend for Saratoga County if any?*

**A:** Saratoga County is currently reviewing it's Public Health department standing and will be prepared to make any necessary changes according to the State Department of Health's recommendations for counties of similar size.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** I look forward to serving the residents of Wilton and all of Saratoga County.

# Saratoga Springs City Council

## Mayor, Saratoga Springs



**Scott Johnson**  
REP, CON, IND

### Biographical Info:

**Parties:** Republican, Independence, Conservative

**City/Town of Residence:** Saratoga Springs

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Mayor of Saratoga Springs 2008-present

**Community Involvement:** Current Mayor of Saratoga Springs; Board Member of Saratoga Sponsor A Scholar, The Hawley Foundation For Children, and Children in Nature; Member of Saratoga Springs Rotary Club; Communicant at St. Peter's Church; Married to Julie Miranda Johnson for 25 years, with one son, Conor, in college.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Raised here and returned here in 1987, after Law School and working in Manhattan and Las Vegas; Graduate of St. Peter's Academy 1973; Syracuse University 1977 (B.A. Economics); University of San Diego Law School 1981 (JD); Retired Attorney after 25 years in litigation and commercial law.

**Campaign Phone:** (518)587-8888

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.MayorScottJohnson.com](http://www.MayorScottJohnson.com)

**Campaign Email:** [scottjohnsonformayor@yahoo.com](mailto:scottjohnsonformayor@yahoo.com)

### Questions:

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** With the recession, we still face economic uncertainty that bears heavily upon us. Among the top issues are keeping our local economy strong, continuing efficiency with common sense in City Hall, and safeguarding our unique quality of life. We've been successful in moving essential projects and services forward to meet needs in the most cost effective manner. A comprehensive long term capital program, plans for a new downtown parking deck, and an affordable recreation center still moved forward in difficult times. We've also done more with less in City Hall, being more efficient, productive, and negotiating more affordable union contracts and health insurance. Lastly, we must never lose sight of preserving what makes Saratoga so special

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects Saratoga Springs, what would it be and why?*

**A:** Now with the 2% property tax cap, it will become practically unworkable unless the State Legislature repeals many of the unfunded state mandates that increase our tax burden. Unfunded state mandates unfairly shift the cost of services and government to us at the local level. We can't control these ever increasing costs. Our required pension contribution has increased over \$1 million in one year alone. In collective bargaining, state mandates of binding arbitration and the Triborough Amendment's automatic increase in wages have created an unlevel playing field for cities trying to better control escalating labor costs. Everyone wants fair contracts, but they must be affordable. Without true reform, tax caps are just smoke and mirrors.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect Saratoga Springs, and what action, if any, would you propose to help the City adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The 2% property tax cap will have a dramatic effect on how we meet our City's needs, both now and into the future, unless we continue in being more efficient and economical in how we operate. A tax and spend mentality can't survive in a tax cap reality. You simply can't promise things that you can't afford. To meet our long term capital needs and broaden our tax base, we must focus on economic development that generates revenue and lessens the portion paid by the average taxpayer. For example, I'm proud to have led the first bipartisan public-private partnership for a new parking

deck downtown, finally providing a long awaited parking solution and additional revenue to both businesses and City sales tax. Again, it's just common sense.

**Q:** *What is your position on Charter change for Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** As the Mayor, I believe it's improper for me to state my opinion on the issue of Charter reform. Despite the political "spin" by some opponents, the City Council is not engaging in "voter suppression". Yet I do believe our Charter can be improved and plan on appointing a Charter review commission. My focus is on my sworn obligation to uphold the law and represent all Saratogians, not special interests. We must listen to everybody's concerns. That this is an effort by some citizens doesn't require the Council to rubberstamp it. There are serious financial and procedural concerns, and risks to the City, that remain unanswered. How we operate our government is so fundamental to our success that fiscal responsibility must govern.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** Together, we've made real progress in the last four years. I've listened to you and acted on behalf of our community. I'll continue to provide common sense leadership to be fiscally conservative with your tax dollars, while still meeting our needs. As we face continuing economic uncertainty nationwide, we should maintain consistent leadership based on a proven track record, now more than ever. As your full time Mayor, it's been an honor to serve a community as great as ours. Thank you for your support.



**Brent Wilkes**  
DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democrat

**City/Town of Residence:** Saratoga Springs

**Community Involvement:** Graduate, Leadership Saratoga; Member, Saratoga County Democratic Committee; Member, Saratoga Springs Democratic Committee; Member, Board of Directors, Albany Pro Musica; President, Board of Trustees, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs, 2008-2010; Member, Saratoga Citizen

**Experience and Qualifications:** Masters degree - Public Affairs; Former municipal policy advisor to Governor; Former CAO, Gloucester, MA; Former prof. public admin. grad. school; Directed a statewide technical assistance unit for local governments; Owned management firm for local governments and non-profits since 1989

**Campaign Phone:** 584-8553

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.brentwilkesformayor.com](http://www.brentwilkesformayor.com)

**Campaign Email:** [brent@brentwilkesformayor.com](mailto:brent@brentwilkesformayor.com)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** First, we need to have a strategic vision that lasts beyond one year. We must move from "just getting by" to really planning for the future. We need multi-year financial forecasts to manage within the new property tax cap. We need to address infrastructure needs before they become emergencies. Second, there needs to be a stronger communication link between the citizens and the mayor. There need to be forums for open dialogue. The public should have access to public records without having to go to court. The referendum on charter change should not be suppressed by legal delay. We need to talk more and litigate less. Third, we need more creative solutions. We need to address our problems with 21st century tools, not those from the 20th.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects Saratoga Springs, what would it be and why?*

**A:** Beyond relief from unfunded state mandates, which affects every municipality in New York, I would like to see legislation that would provide stability and predictability for the video lottery terminal (VLT) revenue. It is difficult to plan when the State provides these funds, then takes them away, and then provides them again. The city should receive adequate and reliable compensation for hosting the casino where so many state revenues are generated.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect Saratoga Springs, and what action, if any, would you propose to help the City adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The tax cap will require the city to learn to do more with less. New tax revenue will likely be consumed with predicted increases in pension and health insurance costs. With tight fiscal constraints, we must manage with greater forethought and innovation. We cannot simply make ends meet by cutting out essential services. What fat may exist in government is not like the fat on a piece of steak. It is more like the fat in hamburger. Taking the meat cleaver to city services will damage our quality of life. Instead, we need a scalpel. We must be more creative and innovative. We need to fully explore greater cooperation between departments and even with the county, neighboring municipalities, non-profits, and the private sector.

**Q:** *What is your position on Charter change for Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** The concept of citizen initiative petitions is at the foundation of our democracy. After preparing a petition for charter change in precise accordance with New York State law, and having it validated by a Supreme Court judge, the voters have been suppressed by the legal delays imposed by the incumbent mayor, all at substantial taxpayer cost. The incumbent mayor would rather use taxpayers dollars to litigate than listen. Let the voters decide which form of government they prefer. Let there be a public debate where all voters can evaluate the benefits and liabilities of changing the form of government. This issue exemplifies a fundamental difference in communication styles between my opponent and myself.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** We can do better than the current administration. We can plan for the needs of our city beyond the current year and develop a vision of what kind of city government we leave to the next generation. We can listen more and litigate less. We can share more information with citizens without forcing them to use legal means to obtain public information. I bring with me a depth of experience and expertise. I have successfully managed a business. I have successfully served many cities and towns in times of fiscal stress. I bring a new vision at a time when the old solutions do not apply to the new issues. At stake in this election is the role of the voter. As mayor, I will forge a more active relationship with all voters.

## Commissioner of Accounts, Saratoga Springs



**John Franck**  
DEM, WF, IND

### Biographical Info:

**Parties:** Democratic along with endorsements from the Independence and Working Families Party

**City/Town of Residence:** Saratoga Springs

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Commissioner of Accounts

**Community Involvement:** Past Community involvement includes; Treasurer for Congressman Scott Murphy, Board Member Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Board Member Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation, and Treasurer of Literacy NENY Saratoga-Glens Falls Chapter.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Six Years of Service as Commissioner of Accounts, Licensed Assessor, over 26 years of operation and financial management experience in a range of executive positions (CEO/COO) and proven record in taxes, finance, business development, real estate management and ownership.

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 859-3150

**Campaign Email:** info@your-cpas.com

### Questions:

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** 1. Proper budgeting, we must live within our means by reining in spending and keeping tax increases below the 2% tax cap. 2. Economic growth, we must continue to find ways to expand the property and sales tax bases for the City. 3. Keep our City residents and guests safe by using the most efficient methods for Public Safety.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects Saratoga Springs, what would it be and why?*

**A:** 1. Allow home rule for all municipalities to tax Condominiums based on sales price not on fictitious rental income values.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect Saratoga Springs, and what action, if any, would you propose to help the City adjust to this cap?*

**A:** 1. It will effect Saratoga Springs in a positive way forcing us to spend within our means.

**Q:** *What is your position on Charter change for Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** 1. Upon proper submission allow the voters to decide via referendum.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** I believe in the saying "People shouldn't be afraid of their Government, their Government should be afraid of the People."

## Commissioner of Finance, Saratoga Springs



**Kenneth Ivins**  
REP, CON, IND

### Biographical Info:

**Parties:** Republican, Independent, Conservative

**City/Town of Residence:** City of Saratoga Springs

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Commissioner of Finance

**Community Involvement:** Volunteer with Senior Center, Scouts, United way, Founder of North Woods Cleanup Day.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Over Three years as the current Commissioner of Finance. Many years as a local business man. Former President of the Southern Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce.

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.ivinsforfinance.com](http://www.ivinsforfinance.com)

**Campaign Email:** [ken@ivinsforfinance.com](mailto:ken@ivinsforfinance.com)

### Questions:

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** The three biggest issues facing the city are taxes, uncontrollable expenses, and parking. We need to make sure that everyone can afford to live here. The city needs to constantly keep expenses in check. Lastly parking has been an issue for a long time and this council is addressing this issue. The average household income in Saratoga Springs is about \$60,000. When you consider the affluent in our city and how it skews this figure then you realize that there are a very large number of people who are well below the \$60,000 level. Since my first day in office I have worked hard to reduce waste and cut expenses. In that time we have cut millions of dollars from the budget. Keeping expenses under control is an ongoing task.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects Saratoga Springs, what would it be and why?*

**A:** The one thing I would ask the New York State Legislature is to give us mandate relief. The original Senate version of a property tax cap was very strict. I have been discussing this issue since last January. The Governor must have been listening to folks around the state like me because what was passed included exceptions. In addition a panel has been formed to address mandate relief. There has been a lot of discussion about the Saratoga Springs City budget, its process and problems. The simple matter is that until the New York State rules change in which the city can operate, there is no end in sight to our plight. You can elect new people, you can change the form of government but the current system we must abide by is not sustainable.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect Saratoga Springs, and what action, if any, would you propose to help the City adjust to this cap?*

**A:** This coming year the city will be fine with the tax cap because of VLT revenue, but in future years it may face some real challenges. Without mandate relief or labor concessions on a local level like we have seen on a state level, we could face either a cut in services or a council over ride of the cap. My preference is not an override or a cut in services but the ability to actually have control over our own destiny. As mentioned in the previous question things like pensions and binding arbitration are just

two of the things that need to be addressed. I will continue to lobby our state leaders on this issue because it is too important to the taxpayers.

**Q:** *What is your position on Charter change for Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** Changing our charter and the form of government is once again a hot topic in our city. I have stated on a number of occasions that I feel that there are things in our current charter that should be changed. In addition I have voted to allow the residents the opportunity to vote on what is currently being proposed. At some point, I do believe the charter will be changed. Whether those changes are minor or major, only time will tell. I look forward to the debate that will precede it and whatever the voters decide.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** I want to thank the voters for their past support. Together we have created a more financially stable, comprehensive, and efficient city government. In addition we have put measures into place with the Tax Stabilization Fund to help insure a stable future. I ask for your trust and support so I may continue my position and proven ability to keep costs and taxes down and insure financial stability for the City of Saratoga Springs.



**Michele Madigan**  
DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic Party

**City/Town of Residence:** Saratoga Springs, NY

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** N/A

**Community Involvement:** Volunteer at the Brookside Museum, Home of the Saratoga County Historical Society; Lake Avenue PTA, Yearbook; Maple Avenue Middle School PTA; Saratoga Springs Democratic Committee District Representative.

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have managed budgets in both the public and private sectors, having created business and finance libraries for the NYS Small Business Development Center, the US SBA and a private commercial lender. I have crafted and executed 3 to 5 year plans, managed staff and managed budgets.

**Campaign Phone:** 518-526-9377

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.madiganforfinance.com](http://www.madiganforfinance.com)

**Campaign Email:** [madiganforfinance@gmail.com](mailto:madiganforfinance@gmail.com)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** It is critical that we maintain or enhance essential services - such as fire, police, emergency medical response, snow removal, maintaining infrastructure - without increasing taxes and fees to the point of making the city unaffordable to our residents and businesses. It is impossible to do the above in the absence of long term planning. We must take a serious look at what needs to be done over the next 5 to 10 years, prioritize that list, and put a plan in place to achieve those goals. City government must meet the needs of all Saratoga Springs residents, regardless of their economic status or personal background. For example, as we enjoy the finer things this city has to offer we must not forget the need for affordable housing options.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects Saratoga Springs, what would it be and why?*

**A:** We need more certainty regarding the Legislature's support of gaming. We need certainty regarding VLT revenue sharing and the Legislature's support of our wonderful horse racing season. We do not need a repeat of the uncertainty we had in 2010 regarding the viability of NYRA and our race track, which is the jewel of this region of New York State.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect Saratoga Springs, and what action, if any, would you propose to help the City adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The tax cap legislation will have a much more serious impact on the School District than it will on the City government, but the impact to the City will be significant. In particular, a property tax increase of more than 2% will require the approval of 3 of the 5 Commissioners, requiring the Finance Commissioner to craft a budget that actually has the support of the majority of the council members (in contrast to the 2010 budget, which was not passed by the Council). I would propose creative non-tax revenue sources (such as those proposed by the Fire Department), long term planning, and an

end to the pie-in-the sky projects that "pay for themselves" (such as the recently built Rec Center on Vanderbilt Ave and the proposed new parking deck).

**Q:** *What is your position on Charter change for Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** My position on Charter Change is that a group of citizens gathered signatures and adhered to the rules and procedures to put the issue before the electorate, but the response from the Mayor and several other members of the City Council has been to suppress the rights of the electorate to be heard on this issue. If elected, I would vote to put this issue before the electorate to be decided by them. Regardless of the outcome of this issue, I will offer my services to the city that I love, and hope to do so in the capacity of an elected public official.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** Hard working Saratogians deserve a Finance Commissioner that actually understands the city's revenues and expenditures. For example, in October 2010 we were told by the Finance Commissioner that our entire fund balance (our "rainy day fund") would be spent by the end of the year. This was the rationale for further spending cuts - on top of the 2009 year end layoffs - and property tax increases for 2011 - on top of the 2010 property tax increase (totaling 12.25% increase over 2 years). But during 2010 the fund balance actually grew to \$4.2M. Should we retain someone with such a shaky grasp on our finances, who can't tell a good year from a bad one? What happens to all of us when he mistakes a bad year for a good one? I ask for your support.

## Commissioner of Public Safety, City of Saratoga Springs



**Chris Mathiesen**  
DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democrat

**City/Town of Residence:** Saratoga Springs

**Community Involvement:** Provider of Dental Services to the community since 1978. Involved with Organized Dentistry on the local and district level. Leadership Saratoga Class of 2000. Leadership Saratoga Advisory Committee. Saratoga Springs Democratic Committee District 21 1992-2008

**Experience and Qualifications:** Saratoga Springs Zoning Board of Appeals 2000-2006; Chairman 2005-06. I have a well rounded education and great familiarity with our city and with city government. I will be able to provide the civilian oversight for Public Safety that is necessary with the Commission form of government.

**Campaign Phone:** 518 527 2710

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.mathiesenforpublicsafety.com](http://www.mathiesenforpublicsafety.com)

**Campaign Email:** [mathiesen4publicsafety@gmail.com](mailto:mathiesen4publicsafety@gmail.com)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** -Finances. The city must establish a predictable, stable budget so that the jobs of Public Safety employees are no longer threatened. -Ambulance and Fire Department emergency medical services must be better integrated. Reimbursement for Fire Department Emergency Medical services should be explored. -Saratoga Springs has become a very dangerous place late at night on weekends. These problems must be acknowledged and addressed.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects Saratoga Springs, what would it be and why?*

**A:** The NYS Legislature must enact legislation that will guarantee annual payments to municipalities that host racinoes. The city would then be able to count on those funds as the annual budget is determined.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect Saratoga Springs, and what action, if any, would you propose to help the City adjust to this cap?*

**A:** The 2% tax cap will put Saratoga Springs and every other municipality in NYS in a very tight financial position. The state will have to relax unfunded mandates and increase state aid to cities, towns and counties. Our city can not cut much more. We have a bare-bones budget now. There may be ways of improving efficiency and ways of increasing revenue.

**Q:** *What is your position on Charter change for Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** The voters should not be denied the right to determine whether the City Charter should be changed. The City Council should not continue to spend precious tax-payer dollars on appealing Judge Nolan's decision that the petitions should be honored. It is time for our citizens to vote on this important issue.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** Saratoga Springs is a wonderful city. I have lived here since the age of three and I have raised my family here. I know our city well. I have seen many changes. I do miss the small town atmosphere that we used to enjoy eleven months a year. I do miss being able to walk to nearly everything. However, I am amazed at how well the city has evolved into a twelve month a year destination. Our success has been the result of the smart approach and hard work of many individuals. I do believe that we can continue to build on our success to ensure a vibrant future. My familiarity with our city and with city government will be helpful as we develop policies that will result in an even greater Saratoga Springs.



**Richard Wirth**  
REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Was endorsed by Republican, Conservative, Independence Will not be on Independence line due to a technicality.

**City/Town of Residence:** Saratoga Springs

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Commissioner of Public Safety- Saratoga Springs

**Community Involvement:** Elks Club, Member Senior Center, Member Saratoga Chamber

**Experience and Qualifications:** Presently Commissioner of Public Safety-Saratoga Springs Owner & President-Licensed Private Investigator of Craig Investigations, Inc over 24 yrs. Retired after 35 years in administrative Public Service.

**Campaign Phone:** 518 306-5394

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.wirthforpublicsafety](http://www.wirthforpublicsafety)

**Campaign Email:** [pirw3@aol.com](mailto:pirw3@aol.com)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** 1. Continued Fiscal Responsibility. 2. Maintaining the ability to consistently provide high-quality essential services. 3. Thoughtful management of City Departments to keep taxes low and expenditures down.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects Saratoga Springs, what would it be and why?*

**A:** Unfunded mandates driven by decisions made in Albany are detrimental to the success of our community. Many times these unfunded mandates come from a one-size-fits all mentality and doesn't take into account the differences between upstate suburban communities and downstate metropolitan areas. Mandates on our school systems and social service programs are two examples that drive up local government costs. I would request the State Legislature to give the city relief from unfunded mandates. This burden on our city in these economic times should not be our responsibility.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect Saratoga Springs, and what action, if any, would you propose to help the City adjust to this cap?*

**A:** As Commissioner of Public Safety and an equal voting partner as my fellow commissioners on the Council, I have always supported our constituents by working to lower the tax rate where possible. In the Public Safety Depart. We've done this by working to create new sources of revenue and operate on a leaner more cost effective budget. On the revenue side we created new reasonable fire inspection fees and also implemented a ticket amnesty program to encourage delinquent ticket holders to pay their fees. When it comes to expenditures I worked hard to reduce overtime spending while also consolidating units in the police depart. These are just a few examples of ways that public safety has already begun the process of adjusting to the tax cap.

**Q:** *What is your position on Charter change for Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** In my 35 years plus working in the public sector, I have experienced several forms of municipal government, and I understand the benefits and drawbacks of each. I believe that there is room for tailoring our present form of government to meet the needs of the people, but this needs to be accomplished via an open and thorough dialog with the public, not a closed political discussion. Changes to our form of government must be thoughtful and in the best interests of the community, as an elected official representing all of Saratoga Springs residents I believe we need a significant amount of time analyzing all sides of this topic so that we make the best decision on change for future generations.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** During my term in office, I have utilized my experience to: - Reduce overtime while rehiring firefighters who had been laid off prior to my administration. - Created a new interview room to respect and honor the dignity of crime victims. - Established a meaningful policy for time management and procedures in public safety dept. - Collaborate with neighboring agencies to improve effectiveness and accomplish goals. - Respect and respond to every citizen's request.

## Commissioner of Public Works, Saratoga Springs



**Anthony Skip Scirocco**  
REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican

**Campaign Phone:** 584 3468

**Campaign Email:** skip019@msn.com

**City/Town of Residence:** Saratoga Springs

**Community Involvement:** Member Saratoga - Wilton Elks, Member of the Principessa Elana society, Past Manager Little league baseball, Past Manager Babe Ruth Baseball, Past Manager Pop Warner Football

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Commissioner of Public Works

**Experience and Qualifications:** County Supervisor 4 terms 98-05 Served on numerous county committees including the Law And Finance Committee

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What are the three most critical issues facing Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** One would be Not enough affordable housing two would be dealing with Health care costs three would be nessary upgrades to our aging infrastructure.

**Q:** *If you could ask the New York State Legislature to enact one change which affects Saratoga Springs, what would it be and why?*

**A:** The one thing that I would ask the State Legislature to change would be to include the city in the original VLT legislation that would give the city host benefits on a percentage basis, Because there is an added expense due to the additional drain on our essential services.

**Q:** *How will the new 2% tax cap affect Saratoga Springs, and what action, if any, would you propose to help the City adjust to this cap?*

**A:** It will make the budget desition process a lot more difficult as essential services could be compromised. We would have to find new ways to generate additional revenues.

**Q:** *What is your position on Charter change for Saratoga Springs?*

**A:** It would depend on what type of change is being proposed. Although I think the current form works well in the city, I think as with any form of government you choose it will always depend on the people you elect to serve.

**Q:** *Additional comments?*

**A:** - no response -

## Mechanicville City Council

### Commissioner of Accounts, Mechanicville

**Mark Seber**

REP, CON, IND

Candidate did not submit a response.

## Judicial Races

### Supreme Court Justice, 4th Judicial District of New York State

The Supreme Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in New York State. Justices of the Supreme Court hear civil and criminal cases, and also serve, when appointed by the Governor, in the four Appellate Divisions, which hear appeals as of right from trial court decisions and from administrative agencies. The Fourth Judicial District includes the counties of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington. Supreme Court justices are elected for 14-year terms.

#### (vote for 3):



**Robert Chauvin**

REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Conservative

**Ratings:** Rated Qualified by the Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commissions

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://bobchauvinforjudge.com/home/Home.aspx>

**For more information:** Please see the NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide at [www.nycourts.gov/vote/](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/)



**Ann Crowell**

REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Conservative

**Ratings:** Rated Qualified by the Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commissions

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.crowell2011.com/](http://www.crowell2011.com/)

**For more information:** Please see the NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide at [www.nycourts.gov/vote/](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/)



**John Lahtinen**  
REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Conservative

**Ratings:** Rated Qualified by the Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commissions

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://judgelahtinen.com/index.htm>

**For more information:** Please see the NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide at [www.nycourts.gov/vote/](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/)



**John Silvestri**  
DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic

**Ratings:** Rated Qualified by the Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commissions

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.silvestri2011.com/](http://www.silvestri2011.com/)

**For more information:** Please see the NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide at [www.nycourts.gov/vote/](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/)

## Surrogate's Court Judge, Saratoga County

Surrogate's Courts, located in every county of the state, hear cases involving the affairs of the deceased, including the validity of wills and the administration of estates. These courts are also authorized to handle adoptions. Surrogate's Court judges are elected to 10-year terms in each county outside New York City.



**Rick Kupferman**  
REP

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.saratogajudge.com/](http://www.saratogajudge.com/)

**For more information:** Please see the NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide at [www.nycourts.gov/vote/](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/)