



## The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County

PO Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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

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*Contact: Francine Rodger  
League of Women Voters of Saratoga County  
lwvsaratoga@aol.com  
518-331-4011*

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The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County (LWVSC) announces its support for the proposed new charter for Saratoga Springs. We believe that it is important to separate the legislative functions of government from the administrative ones, to have a strong centralized administration, to have clear lines of responsibility, to be representative of the entire community, to be efficient and cost-effective. LWVSC determined that the current charter doesn't meet those goals.

LWVSC supports the proposed new charter, which creates a council-manager form of government, because it will provide for the separation of powers. It does this by creating a seven-person City Council (including a voting Mayor) who will hire a qualified city manager to run all of the City's departments. LWVSC expects that more people from diverse backgrounds will run for office and elections will become more competitive when Council members don't also have to run a department.

The board of LWVSC took this position of support for the proposed new charter at its September board meeting, deciding that it met the requirements of the position on the Governance of Local Governments adopted in April, 2017.

(<http://www.lwvsaratoga.org/pdfs/localgovernmentconsensus.pdf>). The membership reached that consensus following a study of local governments begun May 30, 2015.

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. It does take positions on selected public policy issues following study and member consensus.

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