



The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County

The Roles, Responsibilities and Oversight of Saratoga County's Economic Development

Statement of Position

Adopted January 17, 2007

Updated January 16, 2013, May 30, 2015, June 14, 2023

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County believes that Saratoga County's economic development allocations and entities should adhere to the following principles:

Activities should include, but not be limited to, providing assistance to any municipality requesting such assistance in devising economic development plans, while respecting the autonomy and authority of municipalities in creating their own growth scenarios through their Comprehensive Plans.

Any economic development entity created and or funded by the County should be subject to the direction of the County Board of Supervisors and, in order to promote accountability and transparency, should comply with complete and accurate reporting and open meeting requirements. Saratoga County and/or the Saratoga County Industrial Development Agency should have a formal contract for any services to be provided by any such entity. Such contracts should include but not be limited to specific deliverables that are outlined and measurable. Any such entity should be required to provide annual public reports on its accomplishments against the contract deliverables.

Any project should be subject to Smart Growth principles, including focusing development on existing infrastructure and municipal centers while protecting natural resources and open space, in order to revitalize communities and limit sprawl. Projects should adhere to diversity, equity and inclusion principles. Projects involving workforce development should be limited to those efforts that will enhance economic, personal, and social well-being for project employees, including livable wages, health insurance, and other fringe benefits.

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Please note: On Dec. 7, 2023, the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, 3rd Department, ruled that the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation is a local authority subject to the Public Authorities Law, including oversight and transparency requirements.