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FEATURED

Reader's View: Saratoga Springs relies upon working relationships

By Patty Morrison Jun 8, 2019



Patty Morrison.
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Like every city, Saratoga Springs relies upon working relationships between government and the community. Programs and policies can serve all only when our leaders base them on inclusive community dialogue, with taxpayers and partner agencies.

Our city faces challenges, and to tackle them, I believe we need MORE.

More begins with respect and open communication. Saratoga Springs' outstanding schools are a result of decades of partnership between our schools and city leaders. This partnership was compromised when the City Council of Saratoga Springs passed a November 5, resolution for the school board to re-vote on more guns in schools. We must repair this.

Decisions about critical issues are increasingly made behind closed doors, with little public input. Our government must operate with the highest standards for ethics and transparency, without conflicts of interest.

More inclusive community planning will meet the needs of neighborhoods today and in the future, preserving our "city in the country."

I voted to change the city's charter for a more effective, inclusive, stronger city government.

As your Commissioner of Finance, I will protect the quality of life that makes Saratoga Springs so special.

- Protecting green open space, promoting smart growth.
- Generating revenue through projects that align with community priorities.
- Building infrastructure for the future, so every resident has access to technology, transportation, a clean environment, safe drinking water.
- Making Saratoga Springs affordable for young families and low-income households.
- Increasing community dialogue for diverse perspectives.
- Ensuring transparency and public engagement in city governance.

I am eager to use my 25-years' experience managing multimillion-dollar projects for Fortune 500 companies to ensure the city budget reflects residents' priorities and sound investments in the future prosperity of our city. I managed finances for both growing and shrinking budgets (up to \$24 million), with the foresight to set aside for a rainy-day fund. As a member of the Saratoga Springs School Board, I am responsible for a \$130 million budget.

I am a business strategist, hired for my success in budget/project management, communications and human resources. I have represented competing sides in negotiations, savvy at finding the middle ground on tough issues. I have developed and implemented policies pertaining to third-party funding sources, health benefits, performance reviews, salary and employee relations.

I bring teams around the table to tackle high-profile projects on time and in budget, with passion and high energy. I'm a listener, asking questions and finding workable solutions.

I pledge to you to be an accessible leader. You'll see me throughout our community —supporting downtown business, at family events, town hall meetings, farmers markets. You will easily see how I am working with you to keep Saratoga the special place it is.

I have volunteered my entire life, one who rolls up their sleeves to help not-for-profits like Sustainable Saratoga and MLKSaratoga and citizen activist organizations like Saratoga Unites and Saratoga Progressive Action, all essential to our successes. I grew up in the Capital Region and purchased my home on the westside.

I chose this community because it is so exceptional. I ask you to choose me as your next Commissioner of Finance so together we can ensure its future is strong and well planned for.

Patty Morrison is a 2019 Commissioner of Finance Candidate in the city of Saratoga Springs.

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