

## 2013 Sustainable Saratoga Candidate Survey

**CANDIDATE NAME: John P. Arpei**

**CANDIDATE FOR (OFFICE): Commissioner of Accounts**

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**QUESTION #1:** Please briefly define “sustainability” and what it means to you.

**RESPONSE:** I view sustainability as pertaining to the stewardship of our natural resources. Saratoga Springs has been blessed with many unique natural resources and I believe that we need to work diligently to preserve them for future generations.

**QUESTION #2:** Many businesses, institutions and municipal governments have designated sustainability coordinators. Do you support the creation of a sustainability coordinator or office in city hall or in the county government?

**RESPONSE:** I support the creation of a sustainability coordinator position at both the county and city governments. We need to ensure good stewardship of both our city and county resources. Overdevelopment in our county can have just as negative impact on our quality of life as overdevelopment in our city.

**QUESTION #3:** What can we do locally to confront climate change?

**RESPONSE:** Reduce our carbon footprint by improving traffic flow, better access to public transportation, more efficient lighting and heating of public buildings, make downtown more bicycle and pedestrian friendly, and encourage investment in energy efficiency.

**QUESTION #4:** What are some of your ideas for sustainable economic development for our community? Do they include casino gambling?

**RESPONSE:** In my view casino gambling takes more from a community than it brings. We need environmentally clean industries that bring good paying and long term employment. I will work to bring businesses that employ fine craftsmen and care about our environment. Global Foundries and the racing industry are two such businesses.

**QUESTION #5:** How do you envision the future development of land within the city's core and within the "greenbelt?"

**RESPONSE:** Future development of land must be managed to ensure that it is in keeping with our city's "city in the country" image. Trees and green space should be included in the requirements for all new development. We should limit development within our greenbelt.

**QUESTION #6:** If elected, what kinds of sustainable activities or projects would you likely retain? How could they be improved? Which ones would you initiate?

**RESPONSE:** I would retain the bike path and pedestrian safety initiatives. However, I strongly believe that both need improvement. The present designated bike routes along high traffic areas such as route 9 are, in my view, too close to traffic. I will work with the Commissioner of Public Safety to initiate a full review of pedestrian access to areas such as SPAC, the malls, and downtown to find ways to improve pedestrian safety. I will also work to make bicycle travel around our city safer and more user friendly. My first priority will be to find ways to improve pedestrian safety for those needing to cross the arterial. I do not want to have another precious life ended on the arterial!