

Paul Andreassen For Saugerties Town Supervisor



Formula on Position Statements and Answering Topic Questions:

1. What is the concern of the targeted audience (who cares?)
2. What are you offering (concrete action)?
3. How does it differ from what others offer (differentiator)?
4. What are the specifics (details)?
5. What are the benefits (who and how will they benefit)?

Example: Our community is rightly concerned about and needs.... I will propose/institute a plan that does Unlike the current administration which has only done...., my plan includes.... which has these benefits....

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(1) *Police Commission.*—

All residents of Saugerties want to feel and be safe and protected. I want to **immediately form a police commission** to ensure that our police force is well managed and meets the unique needs of our community. **Unlike the**

current administration that considers the town supervisor and board members as being an adequate de facto police commission and states that all is well even though they have never convened or taken any action or oversight known to the townspeople, I propose a formal commission composed of additional independent members with the time and intention to meet regularly in a public forum to continually examine issues including why turnover of the police force has been so high (its not just about salary - we should be able to retain good officers), how budget dollars could be better spent (our town doesn't need everything and anything), and why the police chief has such an inordinate presence heading parades and featured so prominently in local papers and photo shoots (when other town officials who are doing more for the public should be better recognized).

(2) Business and Economic Development.—

Our town needs to attract new business that will provide good paying jobs and pay their share of taxes to reduce the current tax burden on townspeople and improve our quality of life. I propose a **much greater emphasis on improved zoning and enforcement, and a business-friendly climate** that leads to contained and appropriate growth. Unlike the past decades of efforts by current and past town officials that have spent considerable money on infrastructure but then failed to attract the right businesses and made it almost impossible for any outside business to want to come to Saugerties, I will focus on ensuring that requirements for prospective business are clear from the beginning and not an endless list of demands that unnecessarily drive up the cost and timeframe and cause business to go elsewhere; that we don't restrict the types of business that can come in due to outdated zoning policies; and that we enforce the laws we have to remove or reuse unwanted or abandoned, dangerous structures and eyesores. This balanced approach will bring in the kinds of business that enhance our community and local economy.

(3) Large Projects Such as the Ice Arena.—

Large six-and seven-figure projects such as the replacement of the roof of the ice arena have major effects on the town and its budget and must be managed properly. I want the town to always **follow a solid process for projects that includes advanced planning, input from experts,**

continual management, and adequate reserves. Unlike the current administration that has been kicking the can down the road on needed improvements for too long, overly reliant on hard-to receive grants, unwilling to always consult experts, and inconsistent when they are too demanding or too lax or whether they fully evaluate alternatives, I will establish a clear schedule for needed improvements to reduce and eliminate surprises, a reserve to ensure we can pay for them when the time comes vs find our coffers empty, a consistent process that includes due diligence and multiple bidders, and the use of experts so that we act with knowledge and not be susceptible to incomplete, misleading information or poorly managed services.

(4) Climate Change.—

Saugertarians want to do their part and in many cases provide leadership in what a community can do to combat climate change which threatens the future of not just our country, but our world. Climate change is scientifically real, and I will **introduce and support major green measures that reduce waste, increase reuse, and at the same time provide economic benefit.** Unlike the current administration that continues to pat itself on the back for meeting some minimal goals to achieve so-called Climate Smart status with a handful of electric charging stations, playing catch-up to the kinds of solar farms that are already common, or a reduction in plastic bags that only minimally effect climate when compared to the heavy overconsumption of our society, I will significantly increase community education about consumption and packaging, including what and how more waste can be recycled so less goes to landfills, ensure that residents make greater use of multiple forms of alternative energy in a cost effective way that draw such companies to our community to produce products and offer services, and to promote better use of public transportation to reduce pollution and traffic congestion.

(5) Opioid Crisis.—

Our community, which has been disproportionately devastated by the opioid epidemic, needs to end the pain, suffering, and economic price. My initiative recognizes that every economic class – rich or poor - is susceptible to this crisis, and that in addition to greater education of and availability of Naloxone use which I support, we also **provide proactive**

identification, education, and support to those that are at risk. **Unlike a focus on just addressing the aftermath of the problem (what to do after someone overdoses and police or ambulance are called to the scene),** I would focus on educating people on utilizing many known and effective alternatives **to reduce initial use**; encouraging consumers to push back when their physicians over-prescribe to **not be the victim of the pharma industry**, and to manage these drugs with the same common sense lock-them up approach used with firearms to **reduce them getting into the wrong and unapproved hands.**

(6) High Taxes.—

Our community is subject to crippling high taxes that are driving long-time residents from their homes and the area and preventing the influx of new residents and business – people want to understand why taxes are so high and what can be done about it. **I would employ experts to provide tools to improve the readability and analysis of taxes, perform comparative and value analysis, and take measures to ensure fairness of assessments, taxation, and how the money is spent.** **Unlike the current and former administrations that have for decades hid behind raw numbers and lengthy budgets where they can pad, cut, or deflect understanding,** I would ensure we use modern tools such as graphs and tables along with explanatory text **to improve accessibility, searchability, readability, and analysis**, use comparative data from other similar towns, both within the county and from other parts of the country **so that we can see if what we're paying for and what we're getting is in line**, and ensure that assessments are not just a single increase for everyone, but are based on actual values with consistent criteria on a fair time schedule so that **tax payers do not feel singled out or disproportionately hit.**

(7) Invasive Plants.—

Our community is fortunate to have wonderful waterway resources including the Hudson River and the Esopus that are both historical to our area and our nation, and provide tremendous recreational opportunities, wildlife viewing, and more, yet we have let invasives choke these waterways – we need to take action. **My plan would be to treat invasives as we would any other any other seasonal environmental challenge with the needed**

plan, budget, and execution, including the proper studies, equipment, and scheduled maintenance. Unlike the current leadership who have looked for measures that rely on grants, the willingness of other communities to loan equipment, the ad-hoc hiring of third parties with limited resources, or leaving the challenge to volunteers or home owners to spend their own money, I recognize that we need to converse with experts in the field, invest the requisite funds into the right kind of harvester equipment and schedule the removal in the same way we handle snow, spring and fall brush and leaf pickup, and other realities of our seasonal environment. A well-researched, diligent and effective program may also over time reduce the stranglehold we have on these invasives, and the costs to our community.

(8) Illegal Dumping.—

There are few issues that scare, upset and effect the community more than the illegal dumping of dangerous materials that may affect our water and food supply and our health, not to mention the noise, and it must stop. My approach is to **start with the laws we have, with a strong focus on proper process that requires knowledge, perseverance, and the funds to take on these unreputable perpetrators.** Rather than the approach taken by some, which includes a focus on just raising visibility and community support to “show our leaders care” or showing up at court hearings for photo ops, we should know the letter of the law to focus on what we can influence, not take shortcuts that reduce the validity of tests so we don’t give opponents any wiggle room or delays, and not attempt to influence the court system so we’re not unintentionally hurting our cause.