SARATOGA LAKE VERSUS THE HUDSON RIVER:
VOTER PREFERENCES FOR THE FUTURE SARATOGA SPRINGS DRINKING WATER SOURCE

By

Sarah Loomis and Julie Ringer

questions asked in order to standardize the responses gathered, ultimately providing us with a quantifiable set of data for analysis.

A list of 9,638 registered voters within the city of Saratoga Springs w

led to placing sensitive questions about partisan affiliation and income brac

whether certain independent variables, residents' feelings about cost of the project for example, would impact a dependent variable, in this case the probability of Saratoga Springs' residents preferring Saratoga Lake or the Hudson River.

The most significant finding from our research is that the majority of residents polled favored Saratoga Lake. Of the 313 participants, 46.3 percent favored Saratoga Lake compared to 28.4 percent in favor of the Hudson River. 4.2 percent favored another sour60ET Q Q q 5.670001 5.700058j 50 0 0 50 79 0 Tm ( ) Tj 401004 0 40

Additionally, those respondents who favor Saratoga Lake were more likely t

Considering Glasgow's work in relationship to our findings, it would appear that the Democrats have been extremely successful in choosing how to discuss the drinking water issue. This assertion seems especially fair in light of various comments made by survey participants. In the words of one woman referencing Public Works Commissioner Tommy McTygue, "If Tommy trusts the water, I do too" (Ringer 2007).

McTygue has aggressively promoted the use of Saratoga Lake and is in strong opposition to the Hudson River option; his opinions are widely known throughout the city and County. De i ha on;

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are

sample, had a 57 percent likelihood of choosing Saratoga Lake (Figure 2). Voters perceive that Saratoga Lake will provide higher quality drinking water, and that the cost of the pr

relationship between citizens' length of residency in the city of Saratoga Springs, and subsequent sentiments about the f

in the city for less than 15 years (Figu

property, homes, and businesses surrounding the lake worry about the potential economic impacts

> global-scale issues, like global warming, biodiversity, a hole in the ozone layer. Others think locally-- their neighborhood watershed, the leaky landfill down the street. Still others treasure their ability to hunt, fish, swim, hike and canoe in parks and public lands; and a fourth group thinks about fighting crime, graffiti, traffic, pollution and litter when they think about 'environmental' issues. 'So, it turns out where you stand on the environment has a lot to do with where you sit.' Just because you want the farmland near your subdivision protected from development doesn't mean you're concerned about global warming.

Defining the term environment is not the only obstacle when attempting to discern environmental attitude. Judging the actual depth of environmental awareness is also extremely problematic due to the fact that what people support verbally is often very different than their practices. In her 2005 article, Katharine Mieszkowski discusses that while broad support for environmental issues exists, it is relatively insignificant. Oftentimes people are likely to claim deep interest or even an obligation to issues of environmental protection or importance, yet when it comes down to affecting their actions, namely political decisions, most Americans are less inclined to place much importance on such issues (Miezkowski 2005).

There are sizable obstacles for quantifying environmental ethos. Therefore, our study attempted to uncover environmental attitude not only by asking questions explicitly regarding perceptions of the environment, but also sought to examine environmental

Survey participants were asked to give their opinions on the quality of the environment in Saratoga Springs as well as in the United States. When asked, how would you rate the quality of t

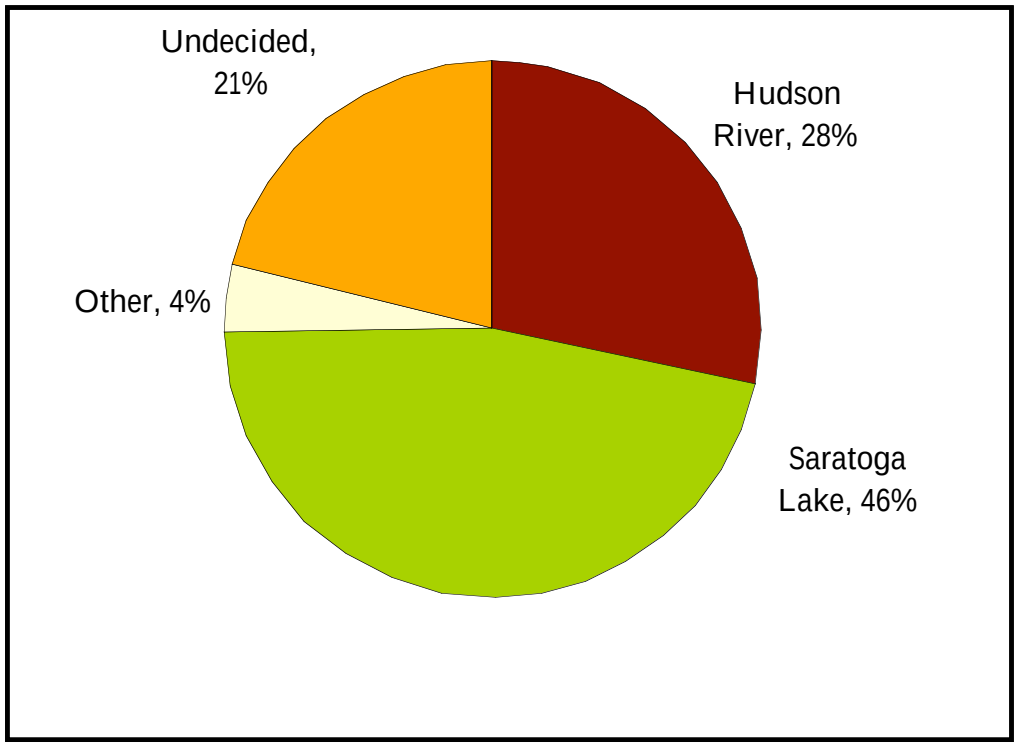
very

traditionally been associated with a liberally minded population. This association is likely to influence responses, especially regarding the discussion of the chosen water s

have sent to voters. Policy makers have effectively disseminated the message that Saratoga Lake is a cheaper project, will provide higher quality water and avoid contact with PCBs,

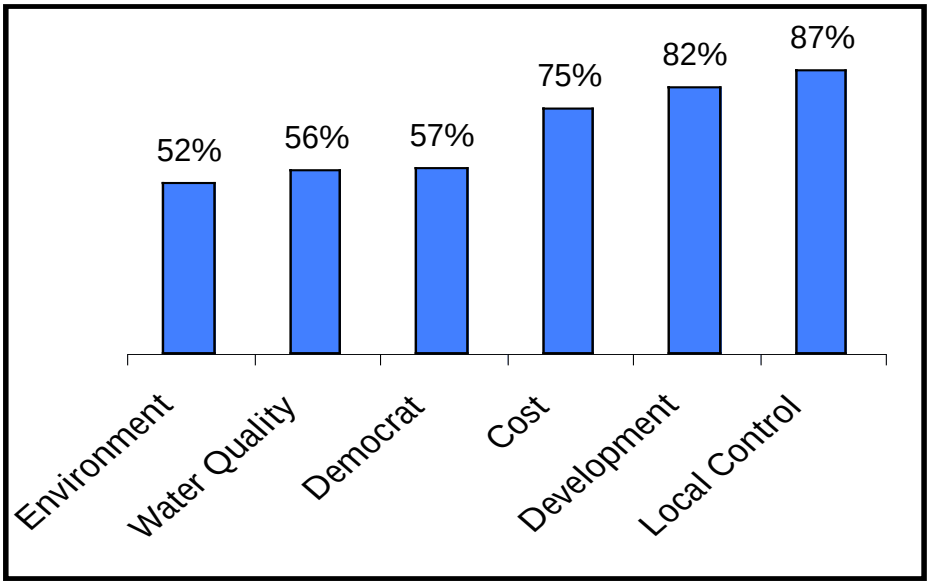
may theoretically support an environmental agenda, the more salient fa

FIGURE 1: **Source Preference**



Frequency Percent

FIGURE 2: **Likelihood of Preferring Saratoga Lake as Based on Respondents' Most Important Factor**



Variables in the Equation

Variables	B	S.E.	Sig.

FIGURE 3: **Supporters of the lake are more likely to say a candidate's stan**

FIGURE 4: **Personal Importance of the Environment**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Most Important	52	16.6	16.6	16.6
Very Important	220	70.3	70.3	86.9
Somewhat Important	40	12.8	12.8	99.7
Not Important	1	.3	.3	100

FIGURE 5: **If respondents think the environment is MOST important, they are more likely to think a candidate's stance on drinking water is a major factor when voting in elections**

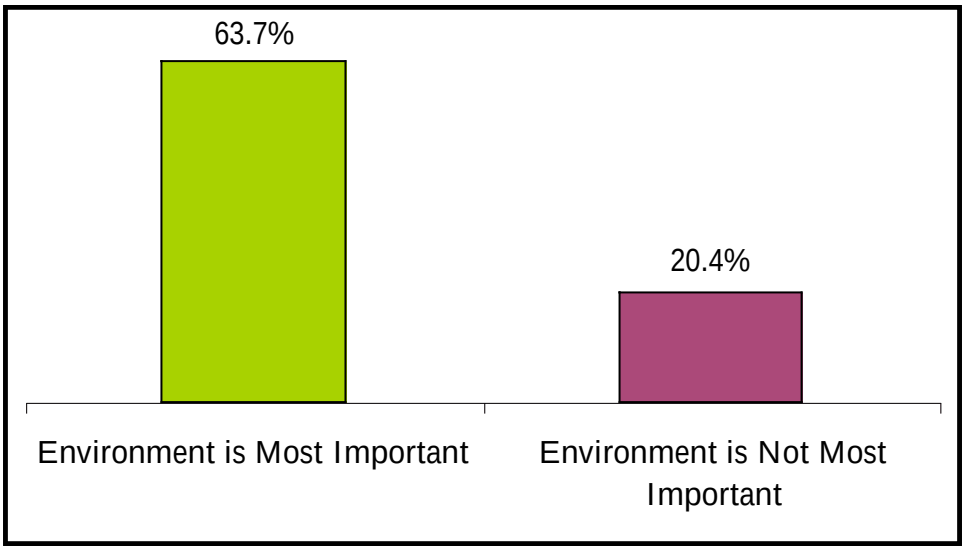
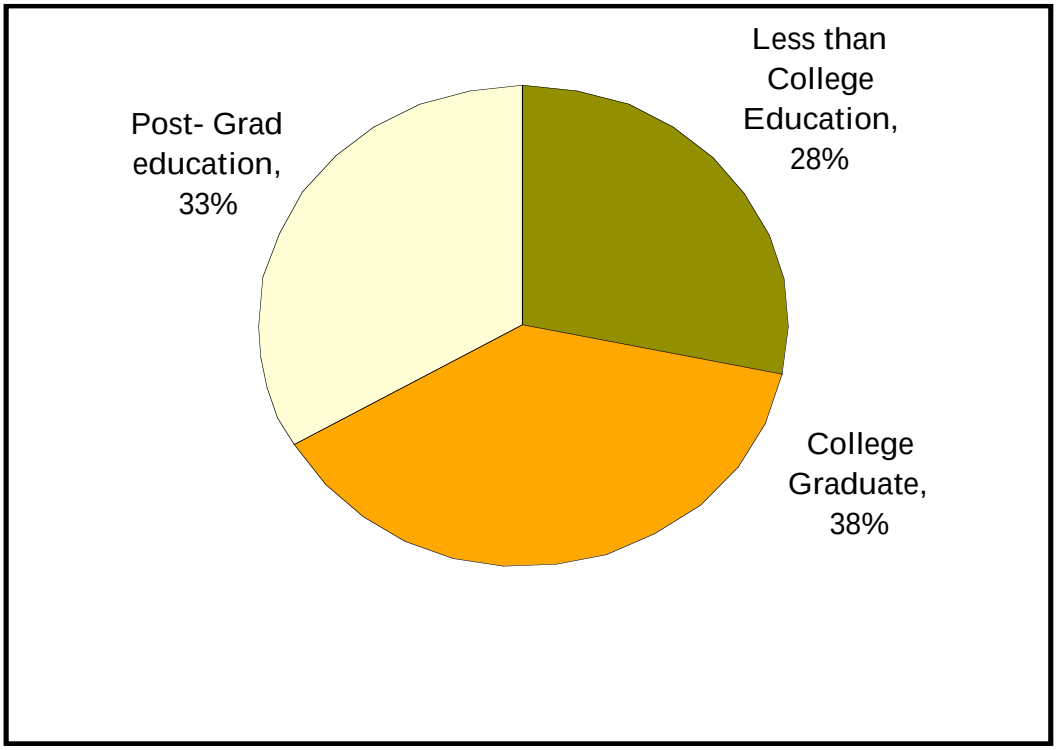


FIGURE 6: **Cross-Tabulation of Party Identification and Preferred Source**

FIGURE 8: **Cross-Tabulation of Importance of Environment and Source Preference**

PID Categor

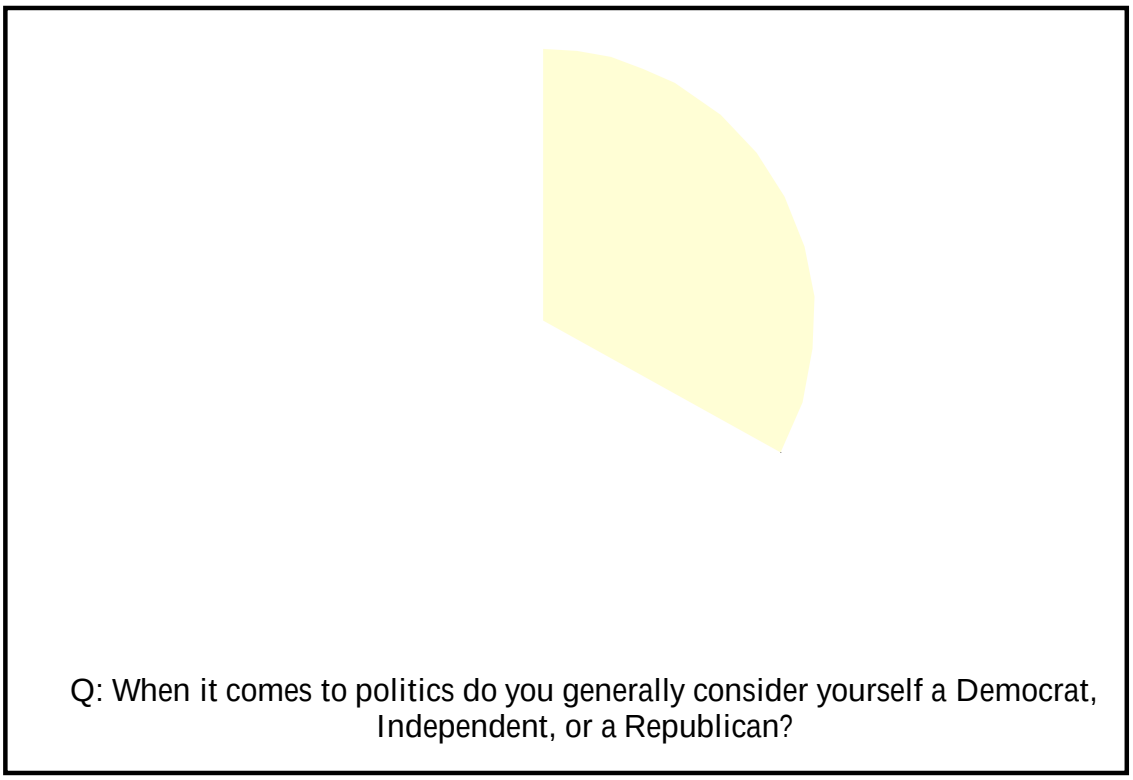
FIGURE 10: **Education**



		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than College Education	89	28.4	28.4	28.4
	College Graduate	120	38.3	38.3	66.8
	Post- Grad education	104	33.2	33.2	100.0
	Total	313	100.0	100.0	

FIG

FIGURE 12: **Party Identification**



Q: When it comes to politics do you generally consider yourself a Democrat, Independent, or a Republican?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Major Factor	131	41.9	41.9	41.9
	Minor Factor	152	48.6	48.6	90.4
	Not a Factor	28	8.9	8.9	99.4
	Don't Know	2	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	313	100.0	100.0	

[redacted]

otal
23
00.0%
7.3%
7.3%
55
00.0%
17.6%
17.6%

[redacted]

FIGURE 14: **Correlation between Length of Residency and Income**

		Residency Categories	Income Bracket
Residency Categories	Pearson Correlation	1	-.055
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.331
	N	313	313
Income Bracket	Pearson Correlation	-.055	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.331	
	N	313	313

	Income Bracket	
	Under	

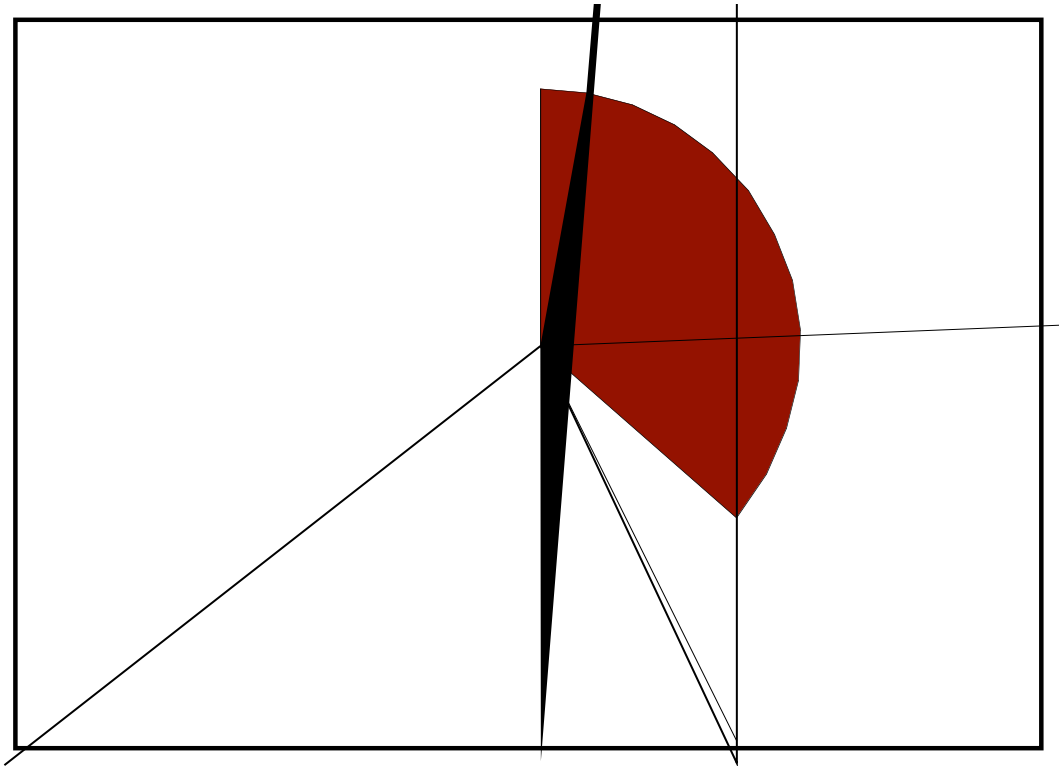
FIGURE 15: **Cross-Tabulation Between Income and Source Preference**

FIGURE 16: **Cross-Tabulation of Recreation on Saratoga Lake and Source Preference**

FIGURE 17: **Recreation on Saratoga Lake**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent

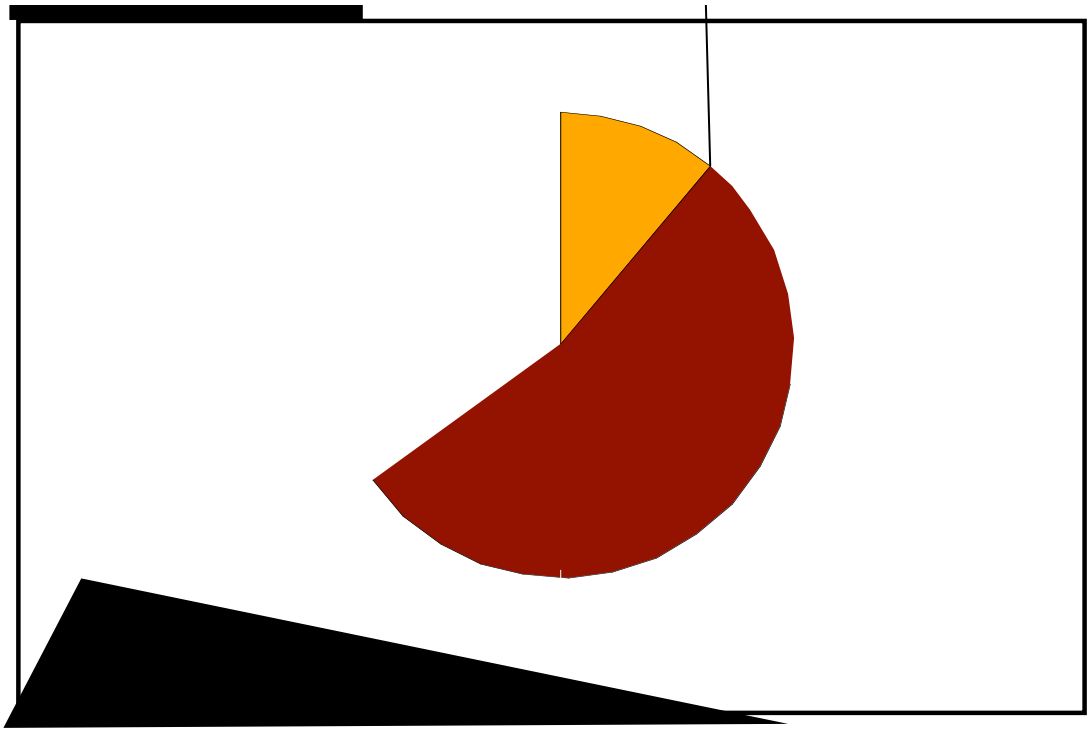
FIGURE 18: **Environmental Quality of Saratoga Springs**



	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Excellent	113	36.1		

FIGURE 19:

FIGURE 20: **Information for Decision Confidence**



Blake, D.E., N. Guppy and P. Urmetzer. 1997. Canadian Public Opinion and Environmental Action: Evidence from British Columbia

Hyers, E. 2006. Why the Democrats S

APPENDIX A: **Survey**

1. Have you heard that Saratoga Springs is currentl(n) Tj 50 0 0 50

5. Saratoga shou

1. increased
2. decreased
3. stayed the same
4. don't know

How would you rate the quality of:
13. The environment in Saratoga Springs today –1. excellent, 2. good, 3. only fair, 4. poor
14. The environment in the United States today. –1. excellent, 2. good, 3. only fair, 4. poor

15. How important to you, personally is the environment? Would you say it is the most important, very important, somewhat important, or not very important?

1. most
2. very
3. somewhat
4. not very important

16. How important a factor is a candidate's stance on drinking water when you vote in local elections? Would you say it is a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor at all?

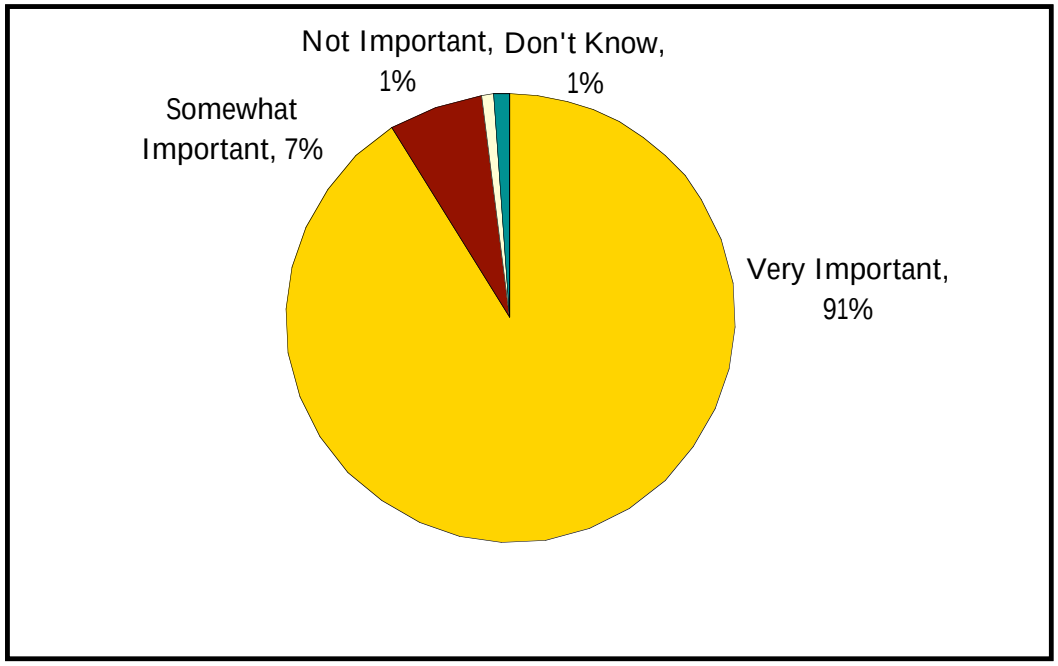
1. Major factor
2. Minor factor
3. Not a factor

17. When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as a,

1. Strong Democrat
2. Lean Democ

20. Now, I don’t want to know you

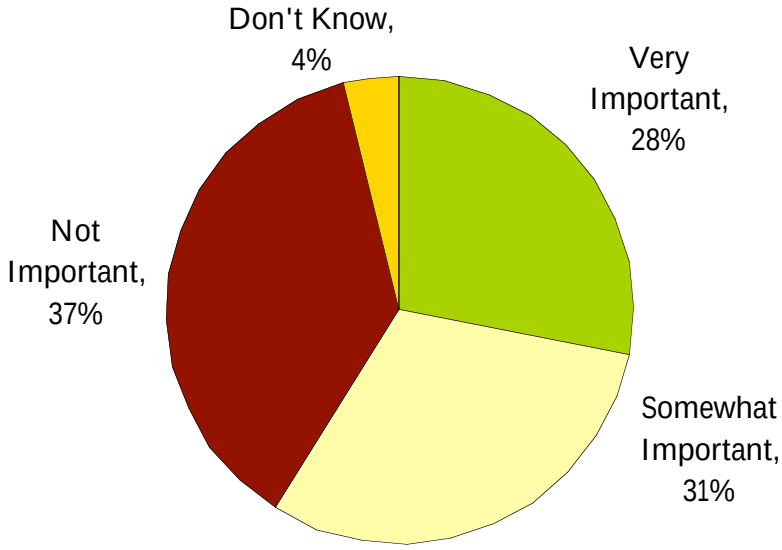
Question 4



		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Important	286	91.4	91.4	91.4
	Somewhat Important	21	6.7	6.7	98.1
	Not Important	3	1.0	1.0	99.0
	Don’t Know	3	1.0	1.0	

	Total	313	100.0	100.0	

Question 6



Q: How important is impact on development when considering a new drinking water source?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Important	88	28.1	28.1	28.1
	Somewhat Important	98	31.3	31.3	59.4

	Not Important	116	37.1	37.1	96.5
	Don’t Know				

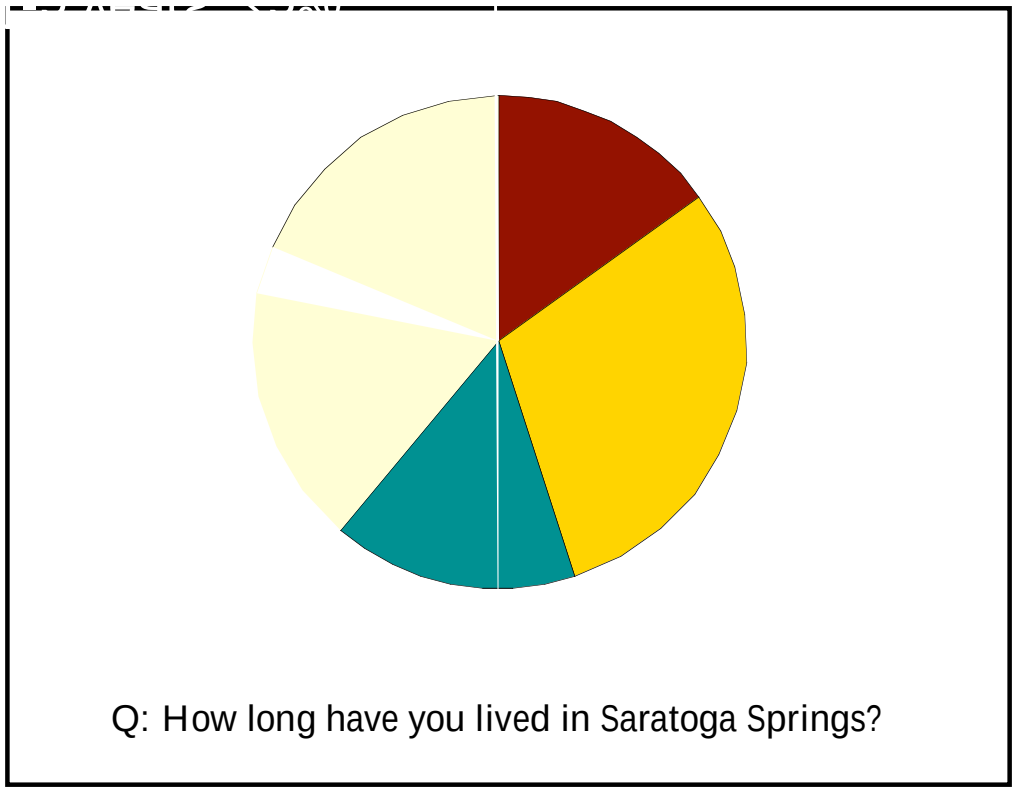
Somewhat Important	115	36.7	36.7	85.6
Not Important	40	12.8	12.8	98.4
DK	5	1.6	1.6	100.0
Total	313	100.0	100.0	

Ques

Quality	190	60.7	60.7

Stay the Same	120	38.3	38.3	76.4
DK	74	23.6	23.6	100.0
Total	313	100.0	100.0	

Question 18

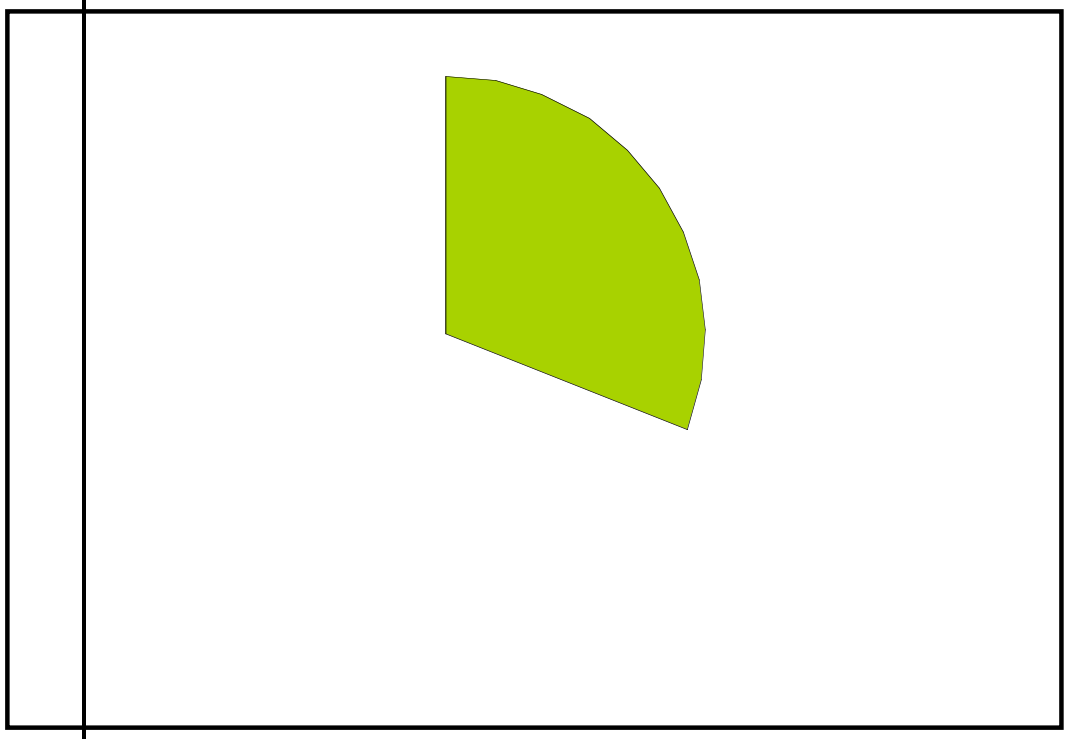


Q: How long have you lived in Saratoga Springs?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1-5 years	48	15.3	15.3	15.3
6-				

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Under $25,000	23	7.3	7.3	7.3
	$25-50,000	55	17.6	17.6	24.9
	$50-100,000	112	35.8	35.8	60.7
	$100-150,000	59	18.8	18.8	79.6
	Over $150,000	41	13.1	13.1	92.7
	Refuse	23	7.3	7.3	100.0
	Total	313	100.0	100.0	

Question 21



	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent

Valid	1917-1945	98	31.3	31.3	31.3
	1946-1975	193	61.7	61.7	93.0
	1976-1989	22	7.0	7.0	100.0
	Total	313	100.0	100.0	

Assumed

Men	134	42.8	42.8	100.0
Total	313	100.0	100.0	

APPENDIX C: **Raw Data**

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**
1	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	37	9	4	1945	1
1	2	1	1	1	2	2	4	3	2	5	1	2	2	1	1	1	32	10	4	1948	1
1	1	2	1	2	2	1	4	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	5	50	10	2	1921	2
1	5	2	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	2	3	1	2	2	2	4	35	10	4	1948	1
1	2	2	1	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	3	2	2	3	18	9	3	1965	2
1	2	3	4	1	4	3	4	3	2	5	3	1	3	3	3	2	10	10	1	1943	2
1	2	1	4	1	1	1	4	3	3	2	3	1	4	1	1	1	30	10	3		

1	5	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	1	3	22	10	4	1941	2
1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	37	9	5	1946	1
1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	5	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	4	18	7	6	1968	1
1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	57	9	2	1929	1
1	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	4	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	9	10	3	1974	2
1	2	2	1	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	3	1	3	3							

1

1	1	1	1	3	3	1	3	5	2	5	3	1	3	2	1	5	58	10	4	1949	1
1	5	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	4	3	4	2	1	3	63	3	6	1944	1
1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	5	3	3	4	3	1	1	26	5	1	1950	2
1	2	1	1	1	3	2	4	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	7	11	3	1957	

1	1	1	3	1	3	1	2	5	2	4	1	1	2	2	2	4	24	10	5	1958	2
1	1	2	1	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	15	11	5	1964	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	3	2	1	1	29	7	2	1948	2