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## Mayor: Johnson

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The Saratoga Springs mayor's race does not offer an easy choice. Voters must choose between two able, passionate candidates and their long-running disagreements.

Looking at their positions, however, however, we believe that incumbent Republican Mayor Scott Johnson can better lead the city.

One test of a leader is the ability to take the long view and make decisions that are right if not necessarily popular. Since he took office in 2008, Mr. Johnson, an attorney, has shown he is willing to do that.

Case in point: a new recreation center for the city. This project was already bonded for when Mr. Johnson was elected. Critics, including his current Democratic opponent, Ronald Kim, suggested scrapping the center for a new public safety building. Mr. Kim, an attorney and public safety commissioner, says Mr. Johnson has his priorities wrong.

But Mr. Johnson notes that the city would still have had to pay for the bonds for years, potentially losing at least \$1 million. Where's the sense? He also appropriately favored relocating the center to South Side Park, much more accessible for children than the original choice far from the heart of the city. While he has taken heat from some neighbors who brought a lawsuit, it was the right move.

Mr. Johnson has shown a willingness to consider opposing views on critical issues like paid parking, seeking a balance between new revenue and merchants' concerns.

We endorse Mr. Johnson while noting that Mr. Kim is right to push for the new public safety building. We also urge the mayor, should he be re-elected, to bone up on the

state's Open Meetings Law, which the city violated at least once during his tenure with a vote in closed session.

If Mr. Johnson has the courage to make tough decisions, he should have the courage to always make them in public.