

Municipal Governance Values/Focus by Party Affiliation

Do you think party affiliation of your town council members doesn't matter? Think again!

Conservative Focus	Liberal Focus
Lower Taxes and frugality with funds – “pick their battles” – good at saying “NO”	Raise Taxes to meet spending requirements – little or no frugality with funds – “everything is important to spend money on” – always say “YES”
Focus on well-being and services to residential back streets and residents of town	Focus on Main Street and business owners (who are mainly from out of town)
Have limited events to attract out of towners, recreation, and tourism	Main focus is on events to attract out of towners, recreation, and tourism
Not focused on sustainable activities such as strict zoning, lighting, easements, aesthetic items	Focused on sustainable activities such as strict zoning, lighting, easements, aesthetic items
Focused on basic sewer, water, and electrical infrastructure	Not focused on basic sewer, water, and electrical infrastructure due to focus on other things
Policing is a priority	Policing is not necessarily a priority
Equality of opportunity and color blindness (no bias) are core values	Diversity, inclusion, and equity (equality of outcome) are core values
Limited or less ordinances, especially pertaining to property rights (zoning)	More ordinances, especially pertaining to property rights (zoning)
Do not favor COVID mask and/or vaccine mandates for businesses	Favor COVID mask and/or vaccine mandates for businesses
Do not favor CATBUS expansion into non-covered municipalities like Walhalla based on demographics of those using CATBUS – believe it incentivizes possible increased crime, homeless population	Favor CATBUS expansion into non-covered municipalities like Walhalla so that “the poor and elderly have transportation opportunities too”
Favor relaxed building codes and enforcement – personal responsibility and freedom important for businesses	Favor strict building codes and enforcement – regulation of businesses required and desired
Want to maintain town “culture” status quo – that is, maintain town culture as a local and rural one	Want to globalize and diversify town culture and bring in outside influences and cultures while often viewing local culture as “too backwards”.
Opposed to increased presence of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism advertising budget similar to the one which City of Seneca has with Edward Publishing	Favors increased presence of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism advertising budget similar to the one which City of Seneca has with Edward Publishing
Opposed to incentivizing the homeless population through tax funded housing and benefits – let the churches, families, and volunteer organizations address the issue.	For incentivizing the homeless population through tax funded housing and benefits. Believe church, family, and volunteer organizations don't do enough so supplement with taxable public service benefits.