



HEARING REPORT | SARATOGA COUNTY KRATOM LAW

Board of Supervisors public hearing on Introductory No. 6 of 2026 | Wednesday, October 14, 2026 | Unofficial summary of the County's meeting video

AT A GLANCE

- **No vote yet.** The Board closed the hearing without voting, and no vote date was announced.
- **Next Board meeting.** Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 4 p.m., on the County's online calendar (checked October 14). It is the first chance for a vote.
- **What it would do.** Ban the sale and distribution of all kratom products in Saratoga County, natural leaf included. Distribution includes delivery, so the ban would reach products delivered into the County. Sellers would have 30 days after it takes effect to clear kratom from their inventory, with no sales allowed in that time.
- **Penalties.** A fine of up to \$1,000 for a first violation. A repeat within five years of a conviction is an unclassified misdemeanor, with up to \$1,500 more in fines, up to a year in jail, or both. Each sale counts as a separate violation.
- **Who spoke.** Eleven people: two mothers who spoke about their sons, five others who supported the ban (one with cautions about its costs), and four who opposed a blanket ban. The County also received 48 emails from 34 people: 26 opposed and 8 in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT | 0:02 TO 0:30

Eleven members of the public spoke, with three minutes each.

- **For the ban.** Two mothers spoke about their sons. Residents of Wilton, Malta and Clifton Park, and one other speaker, asked the Board to adopt the ban. [0:02:24, 0:06:28, 0:18:11, 0:22:18, 0:23:49, 0:28:20]
- **Concerns raised.** Speakers said kratom is marketed as natural and safe; labels carry no warnings or interaction information; strength varies and there is no standard serving; it is sold at gas stations and corner stores, including in candy-like products; and there is too little testing and oversight. One asked for a ban until there are real standards and testing. Another noted that people could still buy kratom outside the County.
- **County addiction services.** A nurse practitioner from the County's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services supported the law, but asked the Board to weigh what follows from it: more people entering the legal system, people switching to other substances, and higher caseloads at County addiction services, which she said has limited capacity now. She noted the resolution says the law puts no financial burden on the County. [0:19:58]
- **Against a blanket ban.** Four speakers asked the Board to treat natural leaf differently from concentrated and synthetic products:
 - Scott Urbin of Hudson Valley Botanicals, the Dutchess County kratom company that prepared this summary, asked for a law aimed at concentrated and synthetic 7-OH, like Dutchess County's, with natural leaf kept behind the counter for adults 21 and over. If the Board votes this month, it asked for two things: use Section 11 to let the State's 7-OH limit govern once it takes effect, and have the Health Department report back in a year on what inspections found and what enforcement cost. [0:09:43]

- Tracey Hudson, owner of The Kratom Shop in Schenectady County, asked the Board to hear from independent researchers and toxicology experts on the differences between botanical kratom and synthetic, enhanced products before deciding. [0:11:41]
- Allison Smith, Director of Government Affairs for the Global Kratom Coalition, asked for a law that stops concentrated and synthetic products while keeping regulated adult access to natural leaf, with independent batch testing, accurate ingredient labels, traceable manufacturers and records available to enforcement officials. She said she has draft language to send the Board. [0:14:54]
- David Spenziero, a Rensselaer County resident, said a blanket ban treats natural leaf the same as concentrated, lab-made products. [0:25:01]

BOARD COMMENTS | 0:30 TO 0:35

- **The Chairman, speaking personally,** said people don't always know what they are buying, and that more study, and possibly more regulation, is needed. He said he is "not moved to replicate what the state is doing." Until there is more study and review, "hopefully at the federal level," he said he doesn't believe kratom should be sold as widely as it is in the County. [0:30:02]
- **Written comments.** The Clerk reported 48 emails from 34 people: 26 opposed and 8 in favor. [0:32:48]
- **Enforcement.** A supervisor said they support the ban, called enforcement "very, very important," and said the Board needs to focus on it. They added that the Board could discuss natural leaf again if federal or State guidelines or regulations for it come forward. [0:33:01]
- **Where the emails came from.** A supervisor asked how many emails came from County residents. The Chairman said many didn't say where the sender lived. [0:34:02]
- **Hearing closed.** The Chairman closed the hearing without a vote. [0:34:44]

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- The Board's next meeting is Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 4 p.m., the first chance for a vote. Check the County's online calendar for the agenda.
- Section 11 of the law would end it if State or federal legislation with the same or substantially similar provisions takes effect, or if a State or federal agency issues regulations that preempt it. The Board would decide by resolution whether that has happened.
- If you live in Saratoga County, consider writing to your supervisor in your own words before the vote, and say which town you live in. Supervisors can be reached through their town or city offices.
- Watch the full hearing: youtu.be/1_LLMiwHHRw

About this summary. Prepared by Hudson Valley Botanicals LLC from a machine transcript of the County's YouTube video. Wording is approximate. Advocates who spoke against a blanket ban are named; other members of the public are identified by role. Times are shown as hours:minutes:seconds into the video; check the video at those times before quoting anyone. The video's sound drops out for a few seconds at 0:04:28, 0:10:54, 0:11:14 and 0:27:15. The law's terms are from Introductory No. 6 as introduced on September 15, 2026. Hudson Valley Botanicals sells kratom leaf products and has a financial interest in this law.