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| **New Year! New Era!** |
| **January 6, 2021: Congress Counts Electoral Votes**Congress will meet in a joint session on January 6th to formally count the votes of the Electoral College. Despite what is expected to be a contentious process in what is largely a ceremonial event, Joe Biden will be declared winner of the presidential election. Democracy will prevail; but we have learned we must be vigilant to secure fair and free elections. **January 20, 2021: Inauguration** President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris will be sworn in on January 20th at noon on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, becoming the 46th president and 49th vice president respectively. The theme of the 59th inaugural ceremonies is “Our Determined Democracy: Forging A More Perfect Union.” The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC) is chaired by Senator Roy Blunt, Republican from Missouri. The day’s events can be watched on the JCCIC [website](https://www.inaugural.senate.gov/59th-inaugural-ceremonies/), [C-Span](https://www.c-span.org/), all major television networks and in Spanish on [Univision](https://www.univision.com/).**2021 Local Elections: Where the Rubber Meets the Road**Important town and county elections are coming up this year. On the county-level, we will be voting for a full-term County Comptroller (March Gallagher won the Comptroller race in 2019 to fill the remainder of Elliott Auerbach’s term). Additionally, Saugerties will be voting on three County legislature seats (two-year terms): Dist. 1 Blue Mountain, Dist. 2 the Village and Malden, and Dist. 3 Glasco and the northern part of the Town of Ulster.On the town-level, races abound, including Town Supervisor (two-year term), two Town Board seats (four-year terms), Highway Superintendent (four-year term), Town Clerk (four-year term), and Tax Collector (four-year term). We will also be voting for two New York State Supreme Court Justices for Judicial District Three (14-year terms), covering Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster counties. SDC will be providing crucial information about the role of the New York Supreme Court and the Justice candidates prior to the race.Anyone interested in learning more about these elections or wants to be interviewed by the SDC Search Committee, please email saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com or write to the SDC, P.O. Box 511, Saugerties, NY 12477. Please send a résumé or background statement if requesting to be interviewed by the Search Committee. |

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| **Important Information and Upcoming Dates** |
| **No December SDC Meeting/No Minutes**The Saugerties Democratic Committee will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, January 26. Please email Bill Barr at saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com for the virtual meeting updates. All are welcome.Reminder: There are three vacancies and several associate member slots on the Saugerties Democratic Committee. Anyone interested, email  lanny@lannywalter.com. |
| **Local News** |
| The Saugerties Police Reform and Reinvention Committee (SPRRC) will hold its first public Town Hall on Wednesday, January 6, at 6:30 PM. Register for the Zoom meeting [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMscuihqDwrGdMQW2xnLwei3Yp8GjMcZmDE). For more information, email SaugertiesPoliceReformReinvent@yahoo.com or call 845-328-1426. Additionally, SPRRC continues to encourage people to fill out its anonymous police survey—[English](bit.ly/SaugertiesSurvey) or [Spanish](bit.ly/EncuestaDeSaugerties).Ulster County has begun the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines with the first ones administered to health care workers on December 18. County Executive Pat Ryan announced the formation of the Ulster County Vaccine Distribution Coalition, led by [Dr. Marc Tack](https://health.usnews.com/doctors/marc-tack-22224), to help educate the public and determine the vaccine distribution schedule. For additional information about the Coalition or to get involved, email UCVDC@co.ulster.ny.us. The Ulster [County COVID-19 dashboard](https://covid19.ulstercountyny.gov/dashboard/) remains active and up-to-date on the prevalence of COVID throughout the county and broken down by towns. Neighbor-to-Neighbor (N2N), a grassroots, community-building initiative where neighbors nurture relationships and help energize voters, is meeting virtually throughout the pandemic. To learn more about N2N, contact Kevin Freeman at kfree2@gmail.comPlease keep your eyes peeled for updates on the upcoming 2021 elections, including information on those who have thrown their hats in the ring thus far and ways to become involved as a candidate or volunteer. We may have a new president on the horizon but we have more work ahead. Wishing everyone a happy, safe, and peaceful 2021! |