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| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **Ulster County Democratic Committee Endorses Candidates**At its February 18 Endorsement Convention, the Ulster County Democratic Committee (UCDC) endorsed NY State Supreme Court 3rd Judicial District candidates, countywide candidates, and legislative candidates. The Saugerties Democratic Committee has yet to endorse its candidates. Of the many UCDC positions, Saugerties residents will vote for the two NYS Judicial candidates, Ulster County Comptroller, Ulster County Clerk, and the Ulster County Legislator in their specific Saugerties district--Districts 1, 2 and 3. The UCDC endorsed candidates are Kevin R. Bryant and David Gandin for NY Supreme Court Justice, 3rd Judicial District; March Gallagher for Ulster County Comptroller; Nina Postupack for Ulster County Clerk; Aaron Levine for Ulster County Legislator [District 1](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2011PostReapportionment-Legislative01.pdf), John Schoonmaker for Ulster County Legislator [District 2](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2011PostReapportionment-Legislative02.pdf), and Arick Manocha for Ulster County Legislator [District 3](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2011PostReapportionment-Legislative03.pdf). All candidates regardless of endorsement must obtain enough signatures on their petitions to qualify for the June 20 primary, if necessary, and the November 2election. We anticipate a primary in at least Legislative District 2.Petitioning begins on Tuesday, March 2, and ends Monday, March 22. The SDC has encouraged all candidates and their surrogates to arrange for mutually-agreeable, socially-distanced times to meet with voters.**Town Elections**Locally, Saugerties residents will be voting for the Town Supervisor, two Town Board members, Highway Superintendent, Town Clerk and Tax Collector. The SDC has yet to back any candidate in our local elections but expects to endorse in some races before the end of the month. There are six Democrats stumping for the two Town Board seats—Kevin Freeman, Diedre Miller, Lauren Rüberg, Nina Schmidbaur, Timothy J. Scott, Jr., and Kayleigh Zaloga. Additionally Fred M. Costello, Jr. is seeking reelection as Town Supervisor and Julie Dunn as Tax Collector. All candidates must receive enough signatures on their petitions to qualify for the June primary, if necessary, and the November election.**Village Elections**Village residents will be electing a mayor and three trustees on Tuesday, March 16. The polling place is Snyder Hose Fire House at 43 Partition Street with hours from noon to 9 PM. The candidates do not run as Democrats or Republicans. All are seeking two-year terms. The incumbent mayor, William Murphy, is unopposed on the New Vision Party. Justine Tomkeill, running on the Enhanced Living Party, is challenging the incumbent trustees—Jeff Helmuth, Brian Martin, and Jeannine Mayer—who are on the New Vision Party. Voters will choose three trustees among the four trustee candidates.  |

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| **Important Information and Upcoming Dates** |
| **February SDC Meeting Highlights**The Saugerties Democratic Committee met on Tuesday, February 23 via Zoom.\* The search committee was to present its recommendations for town candidates followed by a committee vote to endorse. There was extensive discussion on whether the SDC should endorse Democratic candidates prior to the primary. The general opinion was that SDC should endorse candidates, if the required 2/3 vote of committee members for endorsement was reached. However, based on the SDC bylaws, an endorsement vote requires a 10-day notice, which didn’t occur. Therefore a special meeting to consider endorsements has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, at 7:00 PM. Only Committee members can vote in the endorsement process. Email Bill Barr at saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com for the meeting link. The committee also assigned the nine associate members—Elizabeth Buono, Michelle Grossbohlin, Kenneth Klienberg, Deidre Miller, Lauren Rüberg, Finley Schaef, Justine Tomkiell, Deena Turner, and Andrew Zink—to their districts (*see ED Reps section*). In addition to working to advance Democratic values and candidates, they will vote at SDC meetings in place of an absent committee member in their assigned district. \*For a copy of last meeting’s full minutes, please email Bill Barr at saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com or check [saugertiesdemocrats.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CChristine%5CDocuments%5CDemocratic%20Committee%5Csaugertiesdemocrats.org).Also please email Bill Barr at saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com for the upcoming virtual meeting link. The 2021 scheduled monthly meetings are March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, Aug. 24, Sept 28, Oct.26, and Nov. 23. All are welcome. |
| **News and Newsworthy** |
| **International Women’s History Month Conversation** with Hillary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi, Amanda Gorman, and Chrissy Teigen on March 8 @ 7:00 PM. Register [here](https://secure.everyaction.com/5rfOlz_AxU285og5JT__hA2?utm_source=20210224_hrcfb&fbclid=IwAR3p94cuSCUnoKiuFoaMmujBqaSzebMalpufq5nzihSWjWqsE1_ONC_3q5o).**Sirens and Superstars—70 years of women’s contributions to the American music landscape** on March 20 at 2:00 PM in honor of Women’s History Month. Online [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_OY1WoBLiQ&feature=youtu.be).**Preview: Candidates’ Forums in May.** The SDC will hold a Town Board candidates forum on Thursday, May 6, and a forum for the Legislative candidates plus the candidates for Town Supervisor and Tax Collector on Thursday, May 13. Details coming in April newsletter. **Neighbor-to-Neighbor** (N2N), a Democratic Party grassroots, community-building initiative where neighbors nurture relationships and help energize voters, is meeting virtually throughout the pandemic. To learn more, contact Kevin Freeman at kfree2@gmail.com. |