Saugerties Democratic Committee Newsletter

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| **Elections Update** |
| **Elections: What We Know; Almost Certain; Our Hope**  We delayed the November newsletter until after the election and when we had a better understanding of the results. New York’s mail-in ballot count will begin soon, leaving several contests unclear. Uncertainty seems to be the theme of 2020, but we have some news.    **What We Know**  Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will be the next president and vice president of the United States of America! Winning the popular vote by more than 4 million and the electoral college with 279 and counting, President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris made history. Joe Biden is the oldest elected president and Kamala Harris is the first woman, Black and South Asian vice president. Harris can inspire girls and women that they will have a seat at the table. And Biden can remind seniors that it’s never too late to pursue your dreams.    Locally we can celebrate Claudia Andreassen’s victory! Although mail-in ballots have yet to be counted, Claudia garnered 59% of the in-person vote and leads her two opponents by about 1,600 and 4,00 votes. Congratulations, Claudia.    Unfortunately, Betsy Kraat was not successful in unseating the Republican incumbent. Betsy had a Herculean task challenging Chris Tague in a gerrymandered district that is overwhelmingly Republican. Betsy has our heartfelt gratitude for stepping up and embracing a message of social justice, tenants’ rights and universal health care.    **Almost Certain**  We believe that Antonio Delgado will be reelected. Ulster County voted overwhelmingly for Antonio, delivering him nearly 60% of the county vote. With the in-person ballots counted, he has more than 50% of the vote. About 60,000 mail-in ballots are outstanding, but 51% are from registered Democrats and 22% are from registered Republicans. Several media outlets have called this race for Antonio. We have no doubt he will prevail.    **Our Hope**  In the 46th NY Senate race, Michelle Hinchey is trailing her Republican opponent by about 8,000 votes, with 26,000 mail-in ballots awaiting to be counted. Of the returned ballots, 51% are from registered Democrats or members from the Working Families Party, 21 % were either from the Republican or Conservative parties and approximately 23% came from voters with no party affiliation. In another gerrymandered district, the road to victory is difficult but not impossible for Michelle. We are hopeful that the mail-in ballots will deliver a Democratic victory. Interested in helping with the mail-in ballot count? Contact Jeff Collins at [jefferyacollins@gmail.com](mailto:jefferyacollins@gmail.com).    **Analysis**  Saugerties did its part in this historic and democracy-saving victory as well as in our State and local races. More than 40 people participated in the SDC coordinated campaign phonebanks, speaking to nearly 1,000 voters and leaving more than 5,000 messages about all our Democratic candidates. Additionally Democrats from our town wrote countless postcards and letters, and texted and called voters in swing states. We helped deliver the vote in Georgia, Pennsylvania and other states.  Congratulations and thank you to all our volunteers.    Nationally, the Biden-Harris ticket owes a debt of gratitude to communities of color, particularly women of color. While 79% of Black men supported Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, a whopping 90% of Black women voted for the Democrats. And the large Native American turnout—89% among Navajo—may have given the edge to the Democrats in Arizona and Wisconsin. And despite the chatter about Latinos supporting Trump, about two-thirds of Latino voters cast their ballot for the Democratic presidential ticket.    And young people did not disappoint. A record-setting youth turnout also helped propel the victory—with more than 25 million votes cast by Generation Z and Millennials. When all the votes are counted, between 53% and 56% of people under 30 will have voted in the presidential election.    **Georgia Senate Race**  With the Alaska Republican Senate race just called, Georgia holds the key to control of the U.S. Senate. Democrat Jon Ossoff faces Republican David Perdue and Democrat Reverend Raphael Warnock faces Republican Kelly Loeffler in run-off elections on January 5, 2021. To get rid of the odious Mitch McConnell as Senate Majority leader, these races are must wins. Want to help? You can sign up to assist either or both campaigns [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJK2AdgNpYk7VjLs9h-t-2ZYyjwf96pnYeG_ki5mYhXVAZnQ/viewform?fbclid=IwAR0-o8iuvYJo2L07vntH7Iwz-J91ak-ciClEuOfmB2mDW7gSZ3QBMTSdo9E). You can donate to help Stacey Abrams in her fight to get out the vote for the Georgia run-off [here](http://gasenate.com/). And [Vote Forward](https://votefwd.org/) is gearing up its letter writing campaign to get out the Georgia vote. If you want to send postcards, contact [chdinsmore@gmail.com](mailto:chdinsmore@gmail.com). For an overview of all things Georgia Senate race, read [Political Charge](https://politicalcharge.org/2020/11/11/how-to-help-win-the-2-georgia-senate-runoff-elections/?fbclid=IwAR3XVtjaWlBLOu4s6OtPwQy7GgjZh7WMohbXnXu5zUc9nWs85V10tdmNPMo). |

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| **Important Information and Upcoming Dates** |
| **SDC October meeting**  The Saugerties Democratic Committee had its monthly meeting on October 27 by Zoom.\*  Highlights of the meeting include:  -          The Committee tabled the vote on new members and associate members until January to give additional time for candidates to step up.  -          The Committee discussed the process of recruiting and electing new members with various suggestions on reaching out to the community.  -          Endorsed Betsy Kraat for NY State Assembly District 102.  -          Reviewed the November 2020 Campaign Strategic Plan.  -          Discussed the process of formulating new bylaws.  -          There are two vacancies and several associate member slots. Anyone interested, email [lanny@lannywalter.com](mailto:%20lanny@lannywalter.com).  Next SDC meeting is Tuesday, November 24. Please email Bill Barr at [saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com) for the virtual meeting updates.  \*For a copy of the last meeting’s full minutes, please email Bill Barr at [saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com) or check [saugertiesdemocrats.org](http://www.saugertiesdemocrats.org). |
| **Local News** |
| **Saugerties Black Lives Matter** vigil has changed from daily to once a week. Please join your neighbors in standing for racial justice on Saturdays at the corner of Market and Main Streets from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM.    The **Saugerties Police Reform and Reinvention Committee** (SPRRC) has launched a [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SaugertiesPoliceReformReinvention) page. A community survey will be posted and distributed next week, including via an SDC email. You can also call (845-328-1426) or email [SaugertiesPoliceReformReinven@yahoo.com](mailto:SaugertiesPoliceReformReinven@yahoo.com) to contact SPRRC. |