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| **Elections Update** |
| **Four out of Five**  Saugerties saw four Democratic election victories. The predicted national “red mirage,” where apparent Republican victories on Election night changed to blue when mail-in ballots were counted, turned out to be a local phenomenon too. Antonio Delgado, with 52.3% of the vote, returns to Congress. Michelle Hinchey flipped the 46th NY State Senate seat, securing a Democratic supermajority that can overturn governor vetoes. Claudia Andreassen won her third term as Saugerties Town Justice. And Biden-Harris is also in our win column.  **January 20, 2021: A New Era**  While pared down in the midst of COVID, there will be a public celebration of the [inauguration](https://bideninaugural.org/?fbclid=IwAR1eOft-B1qEmzVwVt_8Y-OBPz21SUCPhzS1tHbSb9oBWKhN4jI_Gp0EwQ8) of our new president and vice president. As the Biden-Harris team takes shape, the tone is already being set for a more inclusive, diverse administration. Biden will be nominating Alejandro Mayorkas as the first immigrant and Latino to head up the Department of Homeland Security. Janet Yellen would be the first female Treasury Secretary. Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a 35-year veteran of U.S. foreign service committed to diplomacy, will be United Nations Ambassador. And both Biden and Harris have put together an all-female communications team. The Biden economic team will be filled with economists who champion workers’ rights and income equality, signaling a commitment to put average people ahead of big business and billionaires. Follow the Biden transition [here](https://buildbackbetter.gov/).  **Georgia Senate Race**  Early voting in the runoff elections of Reverend Raphael Warnock vs Kelly Loeffler and Jon Ossoff vs David Perdue begins on December 14. As of November 30, more than 940,000 Georgia voters requested mail-in ballots for the January 5th election. These elections will determine which party will control the Senate. Without a Democratic majority (50-50 with the tiebreaker going to Kamala Harris), Mitch McConnell will continue to block legislation including a COVID stimulus bill, immigration reform and other important measures.  Some ways to help: Direct donations to the [Warnock](https://warnockforgeorgia.com/?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=Update_11-22-2020&utm_medium=email) or [Ossoff](https://electjon.com/?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=Update_11-22-2020&utm_medium=email) campaigns or to Stacey Abrams’ [Fair Fight](https://fairfight.com/?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=Update_11-22-2020&utm_medium=email). Join ‘Indivisible Ulster for Georgia Runoffs’ [phone or text banks](https://www.mobilize.us/2020victory/event/363517/?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=Update_11-22-2020&utm_medium=email). You can also make calls with [Democratic Volunteer Center](https://demvolctr.org/). Donate to progressive organizations on the ground, such as the [New Georgia Project](https://newgeorgiaproject.org/) or [Black Voters Matter](https://blackvotersmatterfund.org/). Finally, to write postcards to Georgia—a short message—contact [chdinsmore@gmail.com](mailto:chdinsmore@gmail.com).  **2021 Elections: Really!**  After the holidays, we will be gearing up for the 2021 elections, which include Town government positions of Town Supervisor and two Town Board members. Additionally three County legislative seats representing Saugerties (LD1—West Saugerties, LD2—Village and Malden, LD 3—Glasco and south) will be coming up. Stay tuned. |

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| **Important Information and Upcoming Dates** |
| **SDC October meeting**  The Saugerties Democratic Committee had its monthly meeting on November 24 by Zoom.\* Highlights of the meeting include:   * Michelle Hinchey gave an update on her victory and thanked the committee for its support. * Saugerties School District Superintendent Kirk P. Rheinhardt, along with several members of his team, presented on the upcoming [Capital Improvement Vote](https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY24000038/Centricity/Domain/930/2020%20Saugerties%20Cap%20Project%20Handout%20FINAL.pdf) on December 15. Voting takes place at each elementary school from noon to 9 PM. * Voted and passed the new SDC Bylaws. * Updates on school, village, town and county issues. * Margarita Asiain gave an overview of the proposed Quarryville radio tower. * Voted to donate $300 plus individual committee member donations to Fair Fight to help with the Georgia US Senate runoff elections. Together, the Committee raised $850 for Fair Fight. * Update on the Saugerties Police Reform and Reinvention Committee. * There are three vacancies and several associate member slots. Anyone interested, email  [lanny@lannywalter.com](mailto:%20lanny@lannywalter.com).   Next SDC meeting is Tuesday, January 26. Please email Bill Barr at [saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com) for the virtual meeting updates.  \*For a copy of 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** |
| The Saugerties Town Boardhas appointed Peg Nau, former receiver of taxes, to fill the seat of Paul Andreassen, who resigned in September. She will serve out the remaining year of Andreassen’s term.  Kudos to the Saugerties artists and merchants on their social justice displays throughout the town. The brainchild of local resident Nina Schmidbaur, the posters were up through Nov.  The Saugerties Police Reform and Reinvention Committee invites the public to respond to its anonymous [survey](https://forms.gle/7vv6Y6z3qmGLi71J8). Questions or comments, call 845-328-1426 or email [SaugertiesPoliceReformReinven@yahoo.com](mailto:SaugertiesPoliceReformReinven@yahoo.com).  With COVID numbers rising, the governor has increased enforcement and fines for businesses that violate [New York on Pause](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-pause). If your requests for masks and social distancing have been ignored, you can register a complaint with New York State COVID-19 ‘New York on Pause’ Enforcement Task Force [online](https://mylicense.custhelp.com/app/ask) or by calling 1-833-789-0470.  And on that note, SDC wishes everyone a safe and peaceful holiday season. See you in 2021! |