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| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **Saugerties Democratic Committee Endorses Candidates**  During March, the Saugerties Democratic Committee had two meetings to endorse candidates in upcoming elections. In order to endorse a candidate, two-thirds of committee members must vote for the candidate. Additionally, in races that have more than two candidates, SDC uses ranked-choice voting, where committee members not only list their first-choice but also their second, third, fourth and so on. If no candidate receives the required votes, the candidate with the least votes is eliminated, their first-place ballots are reviewed and the second candidate on those ballots shifts upward. This process continues until a candidate gets the required two-thirds vote for the endorsement. This was the case for town board endorsements, where there will be two vacancies in the November election.  The SDC endorsed candidates are March Gallagher for Ulster County Comptroller, Aaron Levine for Ulster County Legislative District 1, Arick Manocha for Ulster County Legislative District 3, Fred Costello for Saugerties Town Supervisor, Julie Dunn for Saugerties Receiver of Taxes, and Kevin Freeman and Kayleigh Zaloga for Saugerties Town Board.  **Primaries**  Saugerties Democratic voters will have a June primary in Legislative District 2 and for the Town Board. Chris Allen, Joe Maloney, and John Schoonmaker are vying for the Democratic nomination to take on the Republican incumbent in the Ulster County Legislature. Our two endorsed Town Board candidates, Kevin Freeman and Kayleigh Zaloga, will be joined by Diedre Miller, Lauren Rüberg, Nina Schmidbaur and Timothy Scott, Jr. in the June primary.  To ensure that voters get to know all the Democratic candidates prior to the elections, the SDC has invited the six town board candidates to introduce themselves and their platforms and take questions from the community at a virtual candidates' forum on Thursday, May 6, at 7:00 PM. Similarly, we have invited the legislative candidates and the Town Supervisor and Town Receiver of Taxes to do the same at a candidates’ forum on Thursday, May 13, at 7:00 PM. Please save those dates! Details will follow, including the Zoom links for the events.  **Gearing Up**  Candidate petitions have been signed and submitted. All Saugerties Democratic candidates have qualified to be on the ballot. Spring is in the air! What does this all mean? Soon the SDC will be reaching out to community members who share our values of equity, racial, social and environmental justice, inclusivity and compassion to help rally voters to get to the polls.  The June primaries are around the corner. Early voting runs from Saturday, June 12, to Sunday, June 20. Primary Day is Tuesday, June 22. The last day to register to be eligible to vote in the primary is May 28. Check important election dates [here](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-Political-Calendar-v8.0-3.30.2021-Chap-90.pdf). |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **March SDC Meetings Highlights**\*  When there are multiple candidates stepping up to run for office, debate about endorsements can be lively and sometimes contentious, especially when there are many qualified contenders in a race. The SDC met in a special session on March 9 to follow its bylaws that require a 10-day notice to endorse. At the special meeting, the committee plowed through most of the endorsements. But the endorsement of two candidates for Town Board among six candidates was tabled until the regular March 23 meeting, where nominees presented their reasons for seeking office and answered questions. After spirited discussion, there was a motion not to endorse, which was defeated, and then a ranked-choice vote took place for the two endorsements (*see Saugerties Democratic Committee Endorses Candidate*).  \*For a copy of the meetings’ full minutes, please email [saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com) or check [saugertiesdemocrats.org](file:///C:\Users\Christine\Documents\Democratic%20Committee\saugertiesdemocrats.org). Also please email Bill Barr at [saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com) for upcoming virtual meeting links. The remaining 2021 regularly scheduled monthly meetings are April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, Aug. 24, Sept 28, Oct.26, and Nov. 23. All are welcome. |
| **News and Newsworthy** |
| [**The Legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsberg**](https://www.92y.org/event/gloria-steinem-and-amanda-tyler.aspx)with Gloria Steinem and Berkeley School of Law Professor Amanda Taylor. The 92nd Street Y is sponsoring this virtual program on Tuesday, April 6, at 7:00 PM. The $20 tickets can be purchased [here](https://www.92y.org/event/gloria-steinem-and-amanda-tyler.aspx).  [**Impact of Climate Change on Indigenous Women around the World**](https://mainelaw.maine.edu/news/2021-jfw/)**.** A virtual program sponsored by the University of Maine Law School will take place on Thursday, April 15, at noon. The lecture will include our new **Secretary of the Interior** [Deb Haaland](https://www.doi.gov/secretary-deb-haaland) and a reading by [Joan Naviyuk Kane](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/joan-kane), Inupiaq writer. Register for this free webinar [here](https://maine.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d0D9oGjZQQ6p58-KMl1x-Q).  **Ulster County Democratic Committee Spring Brunch** with U.S. Senator Majority Leader [Chuck Schumer](https://www.schumer.senate.gov/) and NYS Senate Majority Leader [Andrea Stewart-Cousins](https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/andrea-stewart-cousins). This UCDC fundraiser is at noon on Sunday, April 18. Purchase tickets [here](https://secure.ngpvan.com/JoMWpo0_8ECHPMirD4nkvw2).  **Earth Day is April 22!** Support environmental organizations such as  [Catskill Mountainkeeper](https://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/), [Hudson Valley Bee Habitat](http://www.hvbeehabitat.org/), or [Sustainable Hudson Valley](https://sustainhv.org/) to name a few.  [**The New Georgia Project**](https://newgeorgiaproject.org/), [**Black Voters Matter Fund**](https://blackvotersmatterfund.org/) and [**Rise, Inc.**](https://risefree.org/black-the-vote/)filed a lawsuit against Georgia’s voter suppression law. Other Republican states are set to follow Georgia’s lead. Democrats are pushing to enact the [**For the People Act**](https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/policy-solutions/annotated-guide-people-act-2021), which will surely die in the Senate if the filibuster remains. Petitions, such as [End the Jim Crow Filibuster Now](https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/end-the-senate-filibuster-now), have sprung up. |