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| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **Saugerties Central School Board of Education and Budget Elections**The children of Saugerties are counting on us to go to the polls on Tuesday, May 18, between 6:00 AM and 9:00 PM to vote for their future. Three incumbents, Raymond “Mike” Maclary, James Mooney, and Robert Thomann, are running unopposed. The proposed [school budget](https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY24000038/Centricity/Domain/1/2021-2022%20BUDGET%20STATEMENT.pdf) represents a 2.19% tax increase. The [Real Property Tax Service Agency](https://ulstercountyny.gov/real-property) has yet to release tentative assessed values, but a change in property tax up or down would be minimal. Absentee ballots are now available at the Hildebrandt Building (behind the Junior High School). Completed absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 PM on May 18. In-person election day voting will be held at the Cahill, Morse, Mount Marion or Riccardi elementary schools.**Town Board Primary**The Saugerties Town Board Democratic primary in June is open to all registered Saugerties Democrats. There are two open seats and six people competing—SDC-endorsed candidates Kevin Freeman and Kayleigh Zaloga, and also running are Diedre Miller, Lauren Rüberg, Nina Schmidbaur and Timothy Scott, Jr. Voters can select two candidates for Town Board in the primary. Although SDC has endorsed Kevin and Kayleigh, the Committee wants Saugerties Democrats to hear from all candidates and learn about their platforms. Therefore, we will be holding a [**Zoom Town Board Candidates**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdeCpqT4qHtPcTcMneSjptsH7rANLqRXv) Forum on Thursday, May 6, at 7:00 PM. Be an informed voter, submit your questions and register for this informative night [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdeCpqT4qHtPcTcMneSjptsH7rANLqRXv). **Legislative District 2 Primary**Unlike the Town Board primary, only Democratic voters living in Legislative District 2 can cast a ballot in the primary to decide who the Democratic Leg 2 candidate will be. The June primary will see John Schoonmaker, endorsed by the Ulster County Democratic Committee, Chris Allen, and Joe Maloney vying for the Democratic nomination to take on the Republican incumbent in the Ulster County Legislature. SDC did not endorse in this race. We will give the three Legislative District 2 candidates, along with Legislative District 1 & 3 candidates, Aaron Levine and Arick Manocha, Town Supervisor Fred Costello, and Town Receiver of Taxes Julie Dunn, the opportunity to introduce themselves, their platform and why you should vote for them at a second [**Zoom forum**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vc--urz4iE9X8p_Q7yFeRExsDg-A06PmW) on Thursday, May 13, at 7:00 PM. Even if you don’t live in Legislative District 2, come meet the candidates. Submit your questions and register [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vc--urz4iE9X8p_Q7yFeRExsDg-A06PmW). It’s never too early to learn about the candidates!The Town Board and Legislative District 2 primaries begin with early voting from Saturday, June 12, to Sunday, June 20. Early voting sites have yet to be announced. Primary Day is Tuesday, June 22, from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM. The last day to register to vote in the Democratic Primary is May 28. If you need to [register](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/voter-registration/), learn more at the Ulster County Board of Elections. |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **April SDC Meetings Highlights**\*The Saugerties Democratic Committee met on Tuesday, April 27, via Zoom.\* The Committee discussed the upcoming June primary, candidate forums (*see Town Board Primary and Legislative District 2 Primary*), and the May 18 school budget vote. Looking toward the November election, several Democratic candidates are awaiting a forthcoming court decision on their Working Families Party authorization, which was challenged by Republicans. The Committee also adopted a community agreement, crafted by members of an SDC subcommittee, designed to have meetings be more efficient, cordial and productive. \*For a copy of the full minutes, please email 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 upcoming virtual meeting links. The remaining 2021 regularly scheduled monthly meetings are May 25, June 22, July 27, Aug. 24, Sept 28, Oct.26, and Nov. 23. All are welcome. |
| **News and Newsworthy** |
| **Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation** will observe **International Workers Day** on May 1 with a webinar on the 1911 [NYC Triangle Shirtwaist Factory](https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/triangle-shirtwaist-fire). This was a horrific and preventable tragedy, where 146 garment workers—mostly Italian and Jewish immigrant women and girls—were trapped inside a building where owners routinely locked the doors. Presenters will analyze this horrific disaster and connect it to necessary labor reforms to improve working conditions today and to passing [Protecting the Right to Organize Act](https://edlabor.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Fact%20Sheet%20-%20PRO%20Act.pdf). Register [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_li2zxLaNSZ6KV5ZUk8kG0A?fbclid=IwAR0g8PIWUlhCc9sPW6KTspAd9Bp02mRB34NUoec1WIquK3hnzvFSqKGpP5w).[**Riverkeeper**](https://www.riverkeeper.org/)is organizing two important events this month. On May 1 there will be a clean-up of the Hudson River from Brooklyn to Warren County. Sign up [here](https://www.riverkeeper.org/news-events/events/rvk-events/10th-annual-riverkeeper-sweep/) for the **Riverkeeper Sweep** in Ulster County. And on May 5 at 6:00 PM, Riverkeeper will present a [Zoom webinar](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_o-Wy5s8wSs6alKmcma8w8g), **Ashokan Reservoir: Stop the Mud & Give Us Clean Water.** The May 8th **National John Lewis Voting Advancement Act Day of Action**, a day of good trouble across the country, will be held locally in midtown Kingston outside Seasoned Delicious on 10 Cedar Street. This [nonpartisan event](https://www.mobilize.us/publiccitizen/event/382792/) will begin with a rally including civil rights activists, community leaders, and elected officials at 2:00 PM and a march at 3:00 PM followed by a Festival of Activism with music by Simi Stone, New Pro Baptist Church Choir, P.O.O.K., teach-ins and more. All marches across the nation will step off in unison as the Selma ‘John Lewis Voting Advancement Day of Action’ march crosses the Edmund Pettus Bridge. “On May 8, we continue to honor his legacy by crossing every Edmund Pettus Bridge in America that separates Americans voters from their right to cast a meaningful ballot.” ~Daryl Jones of [Transformative Justice Coalition](https://tjcoalition.org/about-tjc/)   |