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| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **Saugerties Democratic Primary**It’s June and time for registered Democrats in Saugerties to go to the polls. Early voting will take place from Saturday, June 12, to Sunday, June 20. The early voting sites are Saugerties Senior Center, Woodstock Community Center, Midtown Kingston Neighborhood Center, and SUNY Ulster Community College (Senate Gymnasium). The hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 AM—3:00 PM, Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:00 AM—5:00 PM, and Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00—8:00 PM. The Saugerties Senior Center polling place will be closed on Sunday, June 13, but the other three sites will be open. Voters can go to any site during early voting. Primary Day is Tuesday, June 22, at your regular polling site.All registered and enrolled Democratic voters are eligible to cast a ballot in the **Saugerties Town Board** primary and can vote for up to two candidates. With two upcoming seats, SDC has endorsed [Kevin Freeman](https://kevinforsaugerties.org) and [Kayleigh Zaloga](https://www.kayzalogaforsaugerties.com/). All six Town Board candidates participated in an SDC-sponsored candidates’ forum on May 6, which was recorded and can be viewed [here](https://youtu.be/hiYeV-lALb0). Registered Democratic voters living in [Legislative District 2](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2011PostReapportionment-Legislative02.pdf) are eligible to vote in the primary for Ulster County Legislator for Leg. District 2. There are three candidates—Ulster County Democratic Committee-endorsed candidate John Schoonmaker, and Joe Maloney, and Chris Allen. The three candidates for Legislative District 2, along with Aaron Levine (Democratic candidate for Leg. District 1), Arick Manocha (Democratic candidate for Leg. District 3), Fred Costello (Town Supervisor), and Julie Dunne (Town Receiver of Taxes), participated in a forum on May 13, which can be viewed [here](https://youtu.be/Rmfno-PgqbQ). **National Legislation and Actions**Republican senators [blocked a bipartisan **January 6 commission**](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/05/senate-january-6-vote-defeat-democracy/619048/). Choosing politics over patriotism, the GOP saw only six Republicans vote in favor of bringing the bill to the floor for debate. The proposed commission would have been modeled on the bipartisan 9/11 commission, with five Democrats and five Republicans having subpoena powers. The House had approved the bill in a 252-175 vote with 35 Republicans joining all Democrats in support of the commission. [Calls to end](https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/end-the-senate-filibuster-now) the filibuster, [a Jim Crow relic](https://jimcrowfilibuster.com/), are growing.Following record-breaking Black, Brown and youth voter turnout in 2020, GOP state legislatures have pushed undemocratic legislation to suppress the vote of communities of color and young people. These attempts to keep specific groups from the polls—361 voter suppression bills in 47 states thus far—are due to the erosion of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in [Shelby County v Holder](https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/court-cases/shelby-county-v-holder) (2013). Democrats are calling for passage of the [For the People Act](https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/policy-solutions/annotated-guide-people-act-2021). Take action and [join the fight](https://dfadcoalition.org/takeaction/) for democracy. |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **May SDC Meetings Highlights**\*The Saugerties Democratic Committee met on Tuesday, May 25, via Zoom. The Committee elected two new committee members in Election District 1—Liz Buono and Gilda Riccardi. While the Committee has a full slate of 32 members, it does have associate member positions throughout the Town for enrolled Democrats. Anyone interested in being an associate member should contact Lanny Walter at lanny@lannywalter.com.The meeting included updates on the election and campaigns—e.g., the court ruled in favor of Working Families Party authorization of Democratic candidates who will also appear on the WFP line on the ballot—and community issues such as the housing crisis, the DEP discharge into the Esopus, and the Saugerties High School controversial assignment.\*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 June 22, July 27, Aug. 24, Sept 28, Oct.26, and Nov. 23. All are welcome. |
| **News and Newsworthy** |
| **Pride in the Park**: June is Gay Pride Month. With the LGBTQ Community Center’s decision to not have a Gay Pride march, the Village of New Paltz and the [Maya Gold Foundation](https://www.mayagoldfoundation.org/)’s Youth Action Team invite people to a last-minute, grassroots Pride celebration on June 5 (rain date June 6) at Hasbrouk Park from 1:00-5:00 PM. The [**Kingston Multicultural Festival**](https://www.rehercenter.org/kingston-multicultural-festival/) will be held three Sundays—June 13, 20, & 27—at T.R. Gallo Park (alongside Kingston Waterfront Farmers Market) from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. The [Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History](https://www.rehercenter.org) invites local artists to help with its [worry dolls project.](https://www.kingstonmulticulturalfestival.org/worry-dolls/)[**Juneteenth**](https://juneteenth.com/), the observance of June 19 as the African American Emancipation Day, will be celebrated in Kingston at the [Pine Street African Burial Ground](https://www.harambeekingstonny.org/pine-street-african-burial-ground) on June 19 from 12:00-4:00 PM. The theme is "Owned in Life; No Longer Owned in Death"andwill include [Harambee](https://www.harambeekingstonny.org)’s grand opening and tour of the Burial Ground, music, performances, refreshments and more.**Postcards to Protect the Vote**: Join Indivisible, Reclaim Our Vote and One Arizona in a postcard blitz to [Senator Kyrsten Sinema](https://www.sinema.senate.gov/), one of two Democrats (the other was Patty Murray of Washington) who [didn’t show up for the January 6 Commission vote](https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/28/politics/senators-didnt-vote-january-6-commission/index.html), to push for her yes vote on the For the People Act. Postcards, addresses to her Arizona constituents, and text provided. For more information, contact [chdinsmore@gmail.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CChristine%5CDocuments%5CDemocratic%20Committee%5Cchdinsmore%40gmail.com). |