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| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **Local Elections Are Crucial**  Voter turnout has historically plummeted during off-year elections. Even the term off-year elections implies that they are less important. This could not be further from the truth. Local elections are where the rubber meets the road. Local elections may not get the attention of presidential elections but they have real consequences for everyday people. Our local elected officials are responsible for the day-to-day operations and oversight of our town and county—from the quality of our water and the maintenance of our streets to public safety, affordable housing, and prudent use of our tax dollars.  While overall voter turnout is lackluster in off-years, Democrats must protect against a potential surge in Trump-supporting voters who believe in the Big Lie and QAnon and are being courted by some of the local Republican candidates. Saugerties Democrats and all who believe in the Constitution and democracy must turn out in large numbers in the upcoming elections. We need to keep moving Saugerties forward toward a sustainable and inclusive future. Support our Democratic candidates—volunteer, contribute and vote!  **Ulster County Family Court Results**  On July 13, the Ulster County Democratic Committee chose [Sarah Rakov](https://www.sarahforfamilycourt.com/) to be our candidate for Family Court Judge. Sarah has been an attorney for 20 years, working as the Principal Court Attorney to Ulster County Family Court Judge Anthony McGinty since 2017. Sarah pledges to always put the best interest of the child first when deciding matters before the court. The Democratic Party could not have chosen a more qualified and compassionate candidate for Family Court and we are proud to support her.  **New York Supreme Court 3rd Judicial Candidates**  Since the July newsletter, the NYS legislature passed a measure and Governor Cuomo signed into law the addition of judges to the NY State Supreme Court, including one new slot for the 3rd Judicial District. Therefore, there will be three openings in this year’s election. Laura Jordan of Rensselaer County is expected to join Ulster County candidates, Kevin Bryant and David Gandin, on the Democratic ticket. Voters can vote for three candidates in this race.  **House Select Committee Hearing**  The harrowing testimony by four police officers at the House Select Committee on the January 6 insurrection riveted truth-seeking people of the country and shed new horrific information about that day. Pulitzer Prize winning columnist Connie Schultz, wife of Ohio Congressman Sherrod Brown, captured the feelings of many in her [article](https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/columnist/2021/07/30/capitol-riot-officers-testimony-january-6/5399814001/) in US Today. Meanwhile, the GOP has spun an [alternative tale](https://www.cnn.com/politics/live-news/jan-6-house-select-committee-hearing-07-27-21/h_18e2c60e047c5063398b31842c31bc11) in their attempt to placate Trump and to cover up his and their role in the day’s events. Other Republican representatives tried to distract from the hearings by staging a [demonstration](https://www.salon.com/2021/07/29/gaetz-mtg-turned-away-from-jail-during-visit-to-jan-6-political-prisoners/) in support of the insurrectionists. |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **July SDC Meetings Highlights**\*  The Saugerties Democratic Committee met on Tuesday, July 27, via Zoom. The Committee had planned to vote to fill one committee vacancy in Election District 4, which encompasses the Village of Saugerties. While the opening and how to apply was posted in the local paper and on social media, the vote was tabled to next month to give additional Democrats a chance to apply.  The fundraising committee further clarified the details of the upcoming dinner and dance on September 9 at Cantine Field (*see News and Newsworthy*).  The SDC did not have fundraisers since before the pandemic, leaving its coffers low. And in-person meetings have been on hold, resulting in another source of income—passing the hat among members—to be hamstrung. The treasurer reminded attendees to consider donating to SDC through its [ActBlue account](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/saugerties-democratic-committee-1) to help fund campaigns and other committee activities.  \*For a copy of the 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 Louise Bloomfield at [saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com) for upcoming virtual meeting links. The remaining 2021 regularly scheduled monthly meetings are Aug. 24, Sept. 28, Oct.26, and Nov. 23. All are welcome. |
| **News and Newsworthy** |
| The [NAACP](https://naacp.org) is urging people to call their senators to demand the passage of the [John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](https://www.hrc.org/resources/voting-rights-advancement-act) and the [For the People Act](https://www.commoncause.org/our-work/constitution-courts-and-democracy-issues/for-the-people-act/) regardless of their senators’ political party. The threat to democracy of the GOP voter suppression laws are real. Rather than analyzing why they lost an election and figuring out how they can appeal to voters, the Republicans are putting up barriers to free and fair elections. Please call Senators [Chuck Schumer](https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/office-locations) and [Kirsten Gillibrand](https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/office-location) to voice your support for these crucial voting rights bills. SDC will continue to report on these two bills because in the words of John Lewis, “The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democracy.”  SDC [Dinner & Dance Fundraiser](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdc4elections) will be held on Thursday, September 9, from 6:00-8:30 PM at the Cantine Field Pavilion. The $30 ticket will include dinner by Seasoned Delicious, wine, beer, or nonalcoholic drinks, dessert by Hudson Valley Dessert Company, dancing to Pops and the Weasels, and more. All proceeds go toward the elections and democracy!  Sheriff Juan Figueroa released his first [newsletter](https://mailchi.mp/6af529f8588e/were-officially-one-week-out-from-election-day-10896754?fbclid=IwAR2Fq9AuIDkuhikv2t0qwgRcnwpev_UaeDbnSC7-9aWbT_Rq_6-e-Ug7NiY) last week, updating voters about the opioid crisis and his team’s efforts to offer people with addictions treatment not jail. He states his next newsletter will focus on programs put in place to improve police-community relations. |