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| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **Countdown to Elections**  With [early voting](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/early-voting/) fast approaching, [absentee ballots](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/absentee-ballots-info/) arriving in mailboxes, and [Election Day](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/my-calendar/?mc_id=54) a month away, the election marathon is now a sprint to the finish line. Our Democratic candidates need you! Local elections are our last defense against attacks on our democracy. We need elected officials who believe in the Constitution, science, equality, and sustainable growth. We need elected officials who believe that Joe Biden is our duly elected President and that January 6 was an insurrection, not a tourist stroll through the Capitol. **Fred Costello**, [**Kevin Freeman**](https://kevinforsaugerties.org/), [**Kayleigh Zaloga**](https://www.kayzalogaforsaugerties.com/), **Aaron Levine**, [**Joe Maloney**](https://www.joeforsaugerties.com/), and **Arick Manocha** are our defense. Please help the SDC get out the vote. Sign up [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfscFL6W9Y31Z947B05cbVxlmO80jIuKCMiDEI6e3PBjZwG_A/viewform) to volunteer. Check out the Ulster County Democratic Committee’s [voters’ guide](https://www.ulstervotes.com) to learn about countywide elections.  **Turn Over the Ballot**  On the flip side of the ballot, there are [six Propositions](https://www.ulstervotes.com/ballot-propositions)—five on the NY State Constitution and one an Ulster County Charter referendum (*see full text of Saugerties ballot props* [*here*](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/list-of-props.pdf)).  Proposition 1: Amending the Apportionment and Redistricting Process—a yes vote will amend the NYS Constitution to remove the partisan bias in redistricting previously set up by the Republican-controlled State Senate and instead will create an independent commission. It also creates a fairer and less onerous census process.  Proposition 2: Right to Clean Air, Clean Water and a Healthful Environment—a yes vote will have environmental impacts considered earlier in government decision-making and will make it easier for New Yorkers to take legal action if the government fails to uphold this right. This is considered a major environmental advocacy and protection amendment.  Proposition 3: Eliminating 10 Day Voter Registration Requirement—a yes vote will allow state legislators to pass same-day verified voter registration, making it easier for citizens to register on Election Day and vote.  Proposition 4: Authorizing No-Excuse Absentee Voting—a yes vote would allow all voters to request an absentee ballot without having to explain their reason for the request.  Proposition 5: Increasing the Jurisdiction of the NY City Civil Court—a yes vote will amend the NY State Constitution to raise the jurisdictional limitation from $25K to $50K, allowing that court to hear more cases and freeing up cases in the NYS Supreme Court.  Proposition 6: Utilization of Funds Designated for Payroll Expenses within the County Budget—a yes vote amends the County Charter to prohibit reallocating payroll funds to other program expenses. |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **September SDC Meetings Highlights**\*  The Saugerties Democratic Committee met on Tuesday, September 28, via Zoom. Based on the successful September fundraiser, the SDC authorized campaign funding to our local candidates who requested funds. Additionally, the committee voted to recommend a “Yes” vote on the six propositions on the 2021 ballot (*see Turn Over the Ballot*). The Committee discussed concrete ways members and the community can help elect our candidates.  \*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). The remaining 2021 monthly meetings are Oct.26 and Nov. 23. All welcome! |
| **News and Newsworthy** |
| [**Bans Off Our Bodies Marches**](https://womensmarch.com/)will be held on October 2 in Washington, DC, NYC, and locally in [**Kingston**](https://act.womensmarch.com/event/oct-2-2021-march/1770?source=map&akid=) and [**Woodstock**](https://act.womensmarch.com/event/oct-2-2021-march/2561?source=map&akid=) at 11:00 AM. These marches are in response to the two latest Texas anti-abortion laws. Texas Governor Gregg Abbott publicly signed a law that effectively bans abortions after six weeks, fails to provide exceptions for victims of rape or incest, and authorizes “bounty hunters” to sue clinics, doctors, nurses, and even people who drive women to appointments for at least $10,000. (The Supreme Court allowed it to go into effect with a [5-4 shadow docket](https://msmagazine.com/2021/09/28/supreme-court-shadow-docket-abortion/) ruling.) With less fanfare, Abbott signed a second law prohibiting anyone but a doctor from providing a pregnant woman with abortion-inducing medication, which they can only provide within seven weeks of conception.  **Saugerties Candidates Forum**, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, will be held on Monday, October 18, at the Senior Center. Town Board candidates present from 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM and County Legislative Districts 1, 2, and 3 from 8:00 PM to 9:15 PM.  [**New York State Independent Redistricting Commission**](https://www.nyirc.gov/home) is tasked with drawing up the boundaries for federal House seats and the state Senate and Assembly based on the 2020 census. The final map will determine who will be our congressional representative, state senator and state assembly member. As part of this process, the commission has been holding public meetings to hear from New Yorkers about how district lines can be more representative of their communities. The commission was required to release a preliminary map by September 15 and to no one’s surprise the Republicans and Democrats on the Commission could not come to a consensus and instead released two competing maps. The Redistricting Commission needs to hear from you! The next public hearing for our area is on Monday, November 8, in White Plains at 3:00 PM. You must sign up by November 6 to participate. More information about the process can be found [here](https://www.nyirc.gov/participate). The Commission’s website has a [link to public comments](https://www.nyirc.gov/storage/archive/Mid-Hudson_Capital_Region_Redacted.pdf) thus far. The SDC October newsletter will provide further information as it develops. Stay tuned. |