|  |
| --- |
| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **It’s Now Showtime** November 2 is the day to cast your ballot if you haven’t voted by absentee or during the early election period (did you catch the [SDC Early Voting parade?).](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jooiUyYR3U) Our town, county and democracy need you to go to the polls and cast your ballot for the candidates on Row A. Our candidates have been working hard—knocking on doors, ringing up phones, listening to voters’ concerns, participating in forums, attending community events and giving it their all. Now it’s on us. We must elect the people who care about the environment, small businesses, racial and social justice, and creating a place where all people are represented regardless of who they know or where they grew up. If you can help with one last push to get voters to the polls, please email Louise Bloomfield at lbloomfieldsdc@gmail.com. And let your friends and family know about our great Democratic candidates, including Aaron Levine for Legislative District 1, Joe Maloney for Legislative District 2, Fred Costello for Town Supervisor, Kevin Freeman for Town Board and Kayleigh Zaloga for Town Board. And don’t forget to turn over the ballot where there are [six Propositions](https://www.ulstervotes.com/ballot-propositions). You can vote for all, any or none of the propositions, but the SDC recommends a “Yes” vote on all six. **Governor Kathy Hochul Comes to Town**More than 150 people showed up to hear Governor Hochul who reminded us that local elections matter. “There is no such thing as an off-year election,” said the governor. “We are on. We are on to elect Democrats where they matter the most.” As she pointed out the accomplishments of our county and local officials—Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan “fighting for rural Ulster, small towns” and fighting to bring back mental health services to the county; Sheriff Juan Figueroa and his innovative approaches to law enforcement, Comptroller March Gallagher watching the dollars, and Fred Costello governing with Democratic values—it was clear that our town and county will be best served by Democrats as we emerge from the pandemic and move forward.Despite a full schedule and the need to get back on the road, Hochul took the time to talk with members of the NY Caring Majority, who spoke to her about the home care shortage and the need for wage increases for this essential workforce. The Fair Pay for Home Care, which NY Caring Majority is promoting, is a bipartisan bill supported by Senator Hinchey and others.  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **October SDC Meetings Highlights**\*The Saugerties Democratic Committee met on Tuesday, October 26, via Zoom. The committee elected Justine Tomkeill as a member for Election District 4. Additionally, the committee finalized plans for the last leg of Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) efforts, including preparing for the visit by Governor Kathy Hochul. \*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). The remaining 2021 monthly meetings are Oct.26 and Nov. 23. All welcome! |
| **News and Newsworthy** |
| [**Build Back Better**](https://www.whitehouse.gov/build-back-better/), the cornerstone of President Biden’s agenda, remains on the table as Democrats hammer out a deal. While the pragmatic president had hoped for a bipartisan bill, Republicans are refusing to engage in the process despite the fact that 57% of Americans support the overall bill and a whopping 83% want the government to negotiate lower drug prices. The bill has been trimmed considerably, yet it remains a significant piece of legislation, if it passes. According to historian Heather Cox Richardson, the press is portraying the ongoing negotiations as “a sign of dysfunction” when in reality this back-and-forth process is how lawmaking gets done. She points out that the real dysfunction is the Republicans refusal to negotiate and engage in actual governing. Stay tuned as the bill winds its way through the House and Senate. A reminder that the [**New York State Independent Redistricting Commission**](https://www.nyirc.gov/home) needs to hear from you. The Commission 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. For a better understanding of the process and why we should care about the final redistricted map, see the New York League of Women Voters’ [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5QUi-Q8sRg&t=7s). The League of Women Voters also has an [instructional video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pci5dVdw0bA&t=18s) on how to present compelling testimony on redistricting. They are long, but worth the effort to learn about the process and what you can do to influence it. The 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 SDC urges Saugertisians to voice their concerns and ideas so that we will be represented fairly and responsibly in the NY State Senate and Assembly and the US House of Representatives.  |