



Saugerties Democratic Committee February 7, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes (Zoom, 5:30 pm)

Roll Call

The Secretary called roll and determined that a quorum was present:

Voting Members: Gilda Riccardi, Liz Buono, Kathy Gordon, Ken Kleinberg (Acting) Pam Ross, Bill Barr, Deena Turner, Justine Tomkiell, Christine Dinsmore, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Nejla Lias, Louise Bloomfield, Sue Breen, Tim Scott, Nancy Schaef, Nicole Roskos, Brigid Walsh, Cara Stammler, Joe Maloney, Bob Gelbach, Kevin Freeman, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Joe Hinchey, Anna Markowitz, Barbara Boyce, Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine

Associate Members: Andrew Zink, Finley Schaef, Diedre Miller

Guests: Sheila and Richard Azoff, Jeffery Collins, Nina Schmidbaur

Slate of SDC Candidates for 2022-24 Term for Recommendation to County Committee

After outlining the process used to prepare the slate, the Chair asked for a motion to recommend the 29 voting members currently serving who are running for another term. The motion was made by Liz Buono and seconded by Rick Cousin. The motion passed unanimously, with 29 votes. The Chair then called for nominations of candidates to fill the 3 remaining positions on the slate.

Christine Dinsmore nominated Sakinah Irizarry, seconded by Rick Cousin. Rick Cousin nominated Andrew Zink, seconded by Bob Gelbach. Bill Barr nominated Ken Kleinberg, seconded by Mike Harkavy. There being no further nominations, Christine moved to vote on adding all three nominees to the slate together rather holding separate votes for each; this motion was seconded by Kathy Gordon. After some discussion the motion passed by a vote of 16 to 12. Each of the new candidates then spoke. The Chair asked all of them for their ideas for involving SDC members more closely in the community. Sakinah suggested working with the schools to register new voters as they turn 18. Ken cited the Hudson cleanup day as a good model—benefiting the community while meeting a lot of people outside a political framework. Andrew mentioned sharing information about community events and inviting one another to them (e.g., the Village Planning Board meeting that discussed RYAN House, the Town Board’s cannabis forums). The Chair called for the vote on adding the three candidates to the slate; the motion passed by a vote of 28 to 0 with 2 abstentions. The Executive Committee will consult with the new members in allocating them to election districts (EDs) before the slate is submitted to the County Committee by February 14.

Petitioning Process for 2022

The Chair invited the Town and County petitioning coordinators, Bill Barr and Jeffery Collins respectively, to outline the process. All Committee candidates need to get signatures from 5% of their EDs’ registered Democrats in order to be on the primary ballot. Bill explained that he will obtain all the petitions at the end of February, for pickup from his house. Candidates will have 3 weeks to collect signatures (on their own petitions and also those of all Democratic candidates endorsed by the County Committee who need

to petition). Filled out petitions need to be returned to Bill by March 21. The Executive Committee will provide further guidance through the process specifically for SDC candidates.

Jeffery noted that he and Ashley Dittus will be holding a Zoom webinar on the petitioning process on February 28. He explained that if more than two Committee candidates in the same ED meet the signature requirement, there will be a primary election in that ED; the two candidates with the most votes will then become Committee members in the next term. (If the same voter signs petitions for more than one candidate, their earliest signature is the one that counts.) The County will provide lists from the voter rolls of registered Democrats in each ED. The default will be for both Committee candidates in an ED to be listed together on the petitions, but candidates can opt to petition individually.

Endorsement Vote—Michelle Hinchey for re-election to State Senate

Louise Bloomfield moved that the Committee endorse Senator Hinchey for re-election, seconded by Aaron Levine. Bill Barr noted how much she has accomplished on behalf of the district in her first term. Lanny noted that the entire county is united in her support and that she more than deserves our endorsement. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Aaron announced the monthly Legislature meeting on February 15; Joe announced the Legislature's Democratic caucus meeting on February 8.

There being no other business, Margo McGilvrey moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rick. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary