Saugerties Democratic Committee Newsletter

May 2022

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| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **Keep Your Eye on the Prize**­The media is painting gloom-and-doom scenarios about the midterms. We cannot succumb to media manipulation of our emotions. Between now and November, Democrats have a job to do—actively counter voter apathy, challenge misinformation, and get out the vote. As Republicans play on fears, twist the truth and fabricate crises, the Democrats have focused on getting people healthy, back to work, and expanding opportunities. Unfortunately, emotions and negativity motivate people more than achievements. We need to counter that. Biden inherited a once-in-100 years pandemic and a crumbling economy. Along with the Democratic House and Senate, Biden gave us the American Rescue Plan, the Infrastructure and Jobs Act, and added 6.6 million jobs, with wages rising at an annual rate of 5% and unemployment falling to record lows. The American Rescue Plan’s child tax credits [substantially reduced child poverty](https://www.chalkbeat.org/2021/11/15/22783579/child-tax-credit-schools-biden-reconciliation-plan-education-poverty-families-research), but without the support of Democratic Senators Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema, tragically [the tax credits expired](https://www.npr.org/2022/02/18/1081691222/child-tax-credit-poverty), plunging 3.7 more children into poverty. A solid Democratic majority in both houses can resurrect this poverty-reducing tax credit as well as pass strong environmental legislation, also upended by Manchin. No doubt there have been disappointments with the Biden administration, but the country is far better off with Democrats. Politics Girl explains in a [three-minute video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfyIKfEosRE&t=27s) what has derailed some of Biden’s efforts and why we must double down to elect more Democrats. And the prize we seek? The Supreme Court and democracy. **State Assembly District 103: Know Before You Vote**The New York Court of Appeals, the highest State court, threw out NY’s Congressional and State Senate maps, but left the NY Assembly map in place. While we must wait to learn our Congressional and State Senate districts, Saugerties is now definitely in NYS Assembly District 103. Being new to AD 103 and with a challenger to the incumbent, the candidates’ forum with [Kevin Cahill](https://cahillforassembly.org/) and [Sarahana Shrestha](https://sarahanaforassembly.com/) is essential. Moderated by award-winning journalists Mariel Fiori and Dan Barton, the evening will be informative and straightforward. The program will be in-person at the Senior Center on Thursday, May 12, at 7:00 PM and also available via [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82421595071?pwd=dGVGM0tGR2swTEVrYUdmMjlmdTdZdz09). Register and submit questions [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScFp3faTcmgKblAJazBDkR1lOQzukRB_FioXf8UY5IIrS9v4w/viewform). Light refreshments will be served. **School Board Election: Know Before You Vote**Radical Right ideology over vaccines and masks caused [needless deaths](https://abcnews.go.com/Health/red-blue-america-glaring-divide-covid-19-death/story?id=83649085). Let’s not have political theater wreak havoc on our schools by [manufacturing imaginary academic issues](https://www.npr.org/2022/04/28/1095042273/ron-desantis-florida-textbooks-social-emotional-learning). Teachers and administrators need partners who are committed to students, not a political party. Learn about the candidates and vote on May 17 or by absentee ballot (available at the Hildebrandt Building behind the H.S.) The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a school board candidates’ forum on Monday, May 9, at 7:00 PM at the Saugerties Senior Center. Plan to attend and ask [probing questions](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/opinion-tired-of-uninformed-school-board-candidates-try-asking-these-questions/2022/04?fbclid=IwAR2rh11EI3_lD7Ujn_Hxm7ZZWOaZ5M3lHWc28-4V_RAxvTc6DmFS7tHL0aQ).  |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **April SDC Meeting**\*The Saugerties Democratic Committee held a hybrid meeting (in-person and Zoom) on Tuesday, April 26. There were two guest speakers—Amy Fradon, vice chair of [Voter Outreach](https://www.ulstervotes.com/) for the Ulster County Democratic Committee, and Kate Hagerman from [Catskill Mountainkeeper](https://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/). Amy outlined several initiatives to engage voters including a mobile Democracy Tent, Neighbor-to-Neighbor, a Youth Voter Outreach Corps, and voter registration. Kate spoke about Winston Farm, specifically the proposed development’s potential threat to safe water and Winston Farm’s ecological importance to wildlife.  The meeting also included our monthly “get to know your committee members” segment, spotlighting Justine Tomkiell, Kevin Freeman, and Finley Schaef.   \*For a copy of the full minutes, please email saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com or check [saugertiesdemocrats.org](https://saugertiesdemocrats.org/). The upcoming 2022 SDC meetings are May 25 (Wednesday because of Town Grievance Day), June 29 (Wednesday because of the scheduled Primary Day\*\*), July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, and November 2.  All welcome!\*\*NYS has yet to announce if there will be [two primaries](https://about.bgov.com/news/two-new-york-primaries-confusing-to-cost-up-to-120-million/). |
| **News and Newsworthy** |
| **Central Hudson’s billing** is being scrutinized by the NYS Department of Public Services (DPS) after County Executive Pat Ryan called for an investigation of its price surge. Ryan, State Senator Michelle Hinchey, and State Assemblymember Kevin Cahill will be hearing from constituents on Tuesday, May 3, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM at Kingston High School. Residents must [sign up](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=0WrrnsA12ESOi_DlxEyio229wl_YZtJHl-S4GtE5c39UQlZMTU5VTzdGTDE3MEM5TzlQQlVZUjhMTC4u&wdLOR=cD2A3F9F2-B13F-490A-BDA7-054C29E92F44) to speak. If you can’t attend, you can submit official complaints to DPS [here](https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Comments/PublicComments.aspx?MatterCaseNo=22-00666). **The Poor People’s Campaign** [**Moral March**](https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/june18/) **to Washington & the Polls** will descend upon DC on Saturday, June 18. [Bishop William J. Barber II](https://www.breachrepairers.org/williambarber), [Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis](https://liztheoharis.org/about/), and other activists are calling on people to "build power, shift the political narrative, and make real policies to fully address poverty and low wealth from the bottom up." [Sign up](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDdWJujcKp0ssHZuM8w4jpd9UrEDg4oJNk5LanOILkZ5dvtQ/viewform?link_id=0&can_id=1e98f707f53d0098c6846a3c080b16e7&source=email-get-on-the-bus-with-new-york-city-to-meetusindc-on-june-18&email_referrer=email_1525575&email_subject=get-on-the-bus-with-hudson-valley-to-meetusindc-on-june-18) to join like-minded folks on a chartered bus leaving from Kingston and other NY locations. A **public hearing** on the proposed Ulster County Legislative [map](https://legislature.ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/2020_final%20draft01_color2%20for%20public%20hearing.pdf) will be held in Saugerties on Thursday, May 19, at 7:00 PM at the Saugerties Senior Center. The 23 existing County Legislative Districts are being redrawn based on population shifts from the 2020 US Census data. Among the rules guiding redistricting is equal population, with no legislative district larger than 8,207 or smaller than 7,815. **National Rescue Dog Day** is May 20 and there are plenty of pups at the Saugerties Animal Shelter, [waiting to be adopted](http://www.saugertiesanimalshelter.com/adoptable_dogs.php). There are [great reasons](https://www.countrysideveterinaryclinic.org/services/blog/happy-national-rescue-dog-day-7-great-reasons-adopt-rescue-dog) to adopt a rescue, including having a trusted pal. In the words of Harry S. Truman, “If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.” |

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| **May Community Happenings** |
| **May 1:** Spring Bird Migration; guided nature walk; 7:30 AM; [Esopus Creek Conservancy](https://www.esopuscreekconservancy.org/)**May 1:** [8th Annual Women’s Cycling Grand Prix](http://www.womenswoodstockcycling.com/); 8:00 AM; register [here](https://www.bikereg.com/womens-woodstock-cycling-grand-prix)**May 1:** ShoutOut Saugerties; Hullabaloo Haiku with Sara Grandstaff & Will Nixon; Have a poem written for you; 1:00 PM-3:00 PM; Montano’s Shoe Store alcove, 77 Partition St.**May 2:** Village Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM; Fire Department, 43 Partition St.**May 2:** [Town Zoning Board](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/161); 7:00 PM; Webex meeting; info: kfreeman@saugerties.ny.us.**May 3:** Village/[Hudson Valley Community Power](https://www.hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com/) (HVCP); informational session about the Village joining the HVCP; 7:00 PM; meeting link [here](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86162162965?pwd=MC9qYnY1V0doS3hGTVFhNXlkQkJGZz09#success)**May 4:** Town Board Meeting; 7:00 PM; Webex and in-person; info: twood@saugerties.ny.us  **May 7:** Trout Fishing Derby and Pancake Breakfast benefitting the Saugerties High School Scholarship program; 7:00 AM registration; 7:30-12:30 event; Mullen Farm, 225 Cole Bank Rd**May 7:** Saugerties HS Senior Class Clothing Drive; 8:30 AM-2:30 PM; Senior High Campus**May 7:** Mother’s Day Outdoor Bazaar; noon to 5:00 PM; Reis parking lot, 23 Market St.**May 7:** Blue Jeans Ball, benefit for [Saugerties Animal Shelter](http://www.saugertiesanimalshelter.com/); 5:00 PM-9:00 PM; [Fortune Valley Manor](https://fortunevalleymanor.com/); buffet, cocktails and music; get tickets [here](https://saugertiesanimalshelter.networkforgood.com/events/40276-blue-jeans-ball-at-fortune-valley-manor?fbclid=IwAR1gGHoJ8k0R3wHU2rj0rAABFRzbfV8o5c2_zJo2HPYKNTEavrEZ8cw4YAI).**May 10:** School Board Meeting; public hearing on budget @ 6:30 PM; High School Media Ctr**May 11:** Village Planning Board meeting @ 6:30 PM; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.**May 12:** Assembly District 103 Candidates Forum @7:00 PM; Senior Center**May 13:** Boys & Girls Club Gala @ 6:00 PM; Diamond Mills; information: sueziw@yahoo.com**May 16:** Historic Preservation Committee meeting @ 5:30 PM via [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9699878583)**May 16:** Village Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM at the Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.**May 17:** School Board and Budget vote; 6:00 AM-9:00 PM; at the elementary school near you**May 18**: Town Board Meeting; 7:00 PM; info: twood@saugerties.ny.us**May 19:** Climate Smart Task Force meeting @ 5:00 PM & Conservation Advisory Committee @ 6:00 PM via Zoom. To attend, email climatesmartsaugerties@gmail.com**May 19:** American Legion Post 72 meeting @ 7:00 PM; 30 John St., open to all veterans**May 19:** Orpheum Theater; all popcorn sale profits go to [The Underground Center](http://www.theundergroundcenter.org/)**May 22:** [Cornhole Tournament of Champions](http://events.nyso.org/site/Calendar?id=101281&view=Detail) to benefit Special Olympics; noon to 5:00 PM (registration 11:00-11:59); Cantine Field; for information contact: tgilli@nyso.org**May 24:** Town Parks/Recreation Advisory Committee @ 6:30 PM; Kiwanis Ice Arena**May 24:** [Village Zoning Board Meeting](https://villagesaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10064/content/Generic/View/125) @ 7:00 PM; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.**May 25:** Memorial VFW Post 5034 Meeting @ 7:00 PM, 30 John St., open to all veterans**May 25:** Village Historic Review Board @ 7:00 PM; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.**May 26:** Comprehensive Planning Board @ 6:30; Senior Ctr, 207 Market St.**May 27:** UC Community Action Saugerties Farmstand @ 10:00 AM; 207 Market St.**May 28:** Season opening of the Saugerties Farmers Market; 10:00 AM-2:00 PM; 115 Main St.**Ryan House** [Support Group Meeting Schedule](https://www.raisingawarenessrun.com/r-y-a-n-house-schedule/) at 19 Barclay Street, Saugerties (ongoing) |