Saugerties Democratic Committee Newsletter

September 2022

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| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **When Democrats Vote, Democrats Win**  Democrats woke up on August 24 with a new [sense of optimism](https://thehill.com/homenews/the-memo/3621100-five-reasons-why-democrats-midterm-chances-are-rising/). Pat Ryan was on all the [major networks](https://www.cbsnews.com/live/video/20220824191432-pat-ryan-wins-n-y-19th-congressional-district/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h#x) explaining that choice and freedom were on the ballot and the people had spoken. Once again, Ulster County led the way to victory, providing Pat with nearly 62% of our county’s votes, and was instrumental in getting Pat over the finish line. Here in Saugerties, Pat received 56% of the votes cast. Take a moment to congratulate yourself and reflect on why your vote matters. Then as cultural summer comes to a close with Labor Day, let’s get ready for the big push to elect Democrats up and down the ballot on Election Day.    **That Other Election on August 23**  While the media was laser focused on the special election, Saugerties Democrats had another crucial decision to make—who would be on the ballot in November to represent us in the [new CD19](https://www.latfor.state.ny.us/maps/congress2022/con19.pdf).  With Ulster County being split between the new CD 18 and CD 19, Ulster County Democrats in Denning, Hardenburgh, Hurley, Town of Kingston, Olive, Saugerties, Shandaken, Ulster, Woodstock and parts of Wawarsing chose between Jamie Cheney and Josh Riley. [Josh](https://joshrileyforcongress.com/home/#meet) earned 61% of Ulster County’s eligible Democratic votes and will be facing carpetbagger Marc Molinaro in November. Apparently Molinaro thinks that running against Ryan in Molinaro’s actual home district is not winnable. So instead, he took advantage of a perplexing [Constitutional Article](https://history.house.gov/Institution/Origins-Development/Constitutional-Qualifications/) that requires Congressional representatives to live in their state but not necessarily their district. Josh, a fifth-generation resident of our district, got his [start in public service working](https://twitter.com/JoshuaUE99/status/1552336764034895872) for our Maurice Hinchey. And like Maurice, Josh will turn purple into blue!    **Who Will Be the Next County Executive?**  With Pat Ryan’s victory, he will resign as county executive prior to being sworn into office on September 13. Johanna Contreras will become acting county executive until a new county executive is elected. There is hope that the county executive race may be on the November 8 ballot, which would be a huge savings for Ulster County taxpayers. Ordinarily a contested ballot is decided by a primary; however, time constraints will not permit that. Therefore, whether this race is a November election or a December special election to fill the remainder of Ryan’s term (expiring Dec. 31, 2023), the Democratic candidate will be decided by the Ulster County Democratic Committee (UCDC) at its September 17 Nominating Convention.    Here's how that process works. Town committee members, like your SDC representatives, make up the UCDC and are the lowest level elected officials (they petition for election every two years). The committee members represent the various Ulster County municipalities, which are divided into districts with each district “weighted” to reflect its population. UCDC members will cast their weighted ballots to determine our nominee. Vying to be the Democratic candidate are Jen Metzger, Marc Rider and March Gallagher. It is anticipated that the winner at the convention will require 17,000 weighted votes. Stay tuned. |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **August SDC Meeting**\*  The Saugerties Democratic Committee met on Tuesday, August 30, via Zoom. There were  brief Q&As with the three Ulster County Executive candidates—Jen Metzger, Marc Rider, and March Gallagher. Additionally, there was a debriefing about the special election and primary canvassing, phonebanking and postcarding and an analysis of voter turnout in Saugerties. The upcoming fundraiser, November elections, and a possible storefront in the village during election season were also discussed.    \*For a copy of the full minutes, please email [saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com) or check [saugertiesdemocrats.org](https://saugertiesdemocrats.org/). The upcoming 2022 SDC meetings: September 27; October 25; and November 22.  All welcome! |
| **News and Newsworthy** |
| **The Scariest Man You’ve Never Heard Of**  Barre Seid, a 90-year-old billionaire, is bankrolling the Republicans’ shift to authoritarianism and reshaping the U.S. court system, including the Supreme Court. Seid has provided [clandestine contributions](https://www.propublica.org/article/dark-money-leonard-leo-barre-seid?utm_source=sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=majorinvestigations&utm_content=river) to a new dark money group, Marple Freedom Trust, headed by Leonard Leo, the co-chair of the Federalist Society. Leo advised Trump on judicial nominees and is the architect of a Supreme Court that overturned Roe, undermined climate change mitigation, dismantled consumer protection and created a pro-business/anti-labor atmosphere. Seid’s  donation, worth $1.6 billion, allowed him to avoid paying $400 million of taxes while working to move this country to the extreme right. As frightening as this massive contribution to the most extreme groups is, it further underscores the need to elect more Democrats who will pass legislation that will end dark money in elections and begin to level the playing field. Electing ethical officials is just one important step in saving our democracy; we must support [journalism](https://www.propublica.org/), [newsletters](https://www.grid.news/newsletter/), and [organizations](https://www.brennancenter.org/) that are shining light in the darkest corners of our country.    **Republicans: A Race to the Bottom**  As Alice in Wonderland said, “*Curiouser and curiouser*!” How many Democrats were upset that Liz Cheney lost? Rooting for a Liz Cheney victory demonstrates how the political world is turned on its head. Cheney, one of the most conservative Republicans in Congress, has been cast out of her party because she refuses to support Trump, his insurrection, and the Big Lie. She remains a dying breed—a Republican who cares more about the Constitution, democracy and the truth than votes. The fact that [extremism heads a major political party](https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/3574481-from-fringe-to-the-forefront-an-extremist-takeover-of-the-gop/) should send shivers up our spine. When thinking about donating to campaigns, in addition to contributing to our great candidates, determine where your donations will have the most impact to save our democracy—good resources are [Blue Tent](https://bluetent.us/) and [Swing Left](https://swingleft.org/p/funds).    **Please Join Us for SDC’s Dancing for Democracy Fundraiser on September 8**  [Purchase tickets](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdc-fundraiser-2022?fbclid=IwAR3E--Pe8yAoiRHRUmsnQ_WXibhq-R-qL8SbH3ABNLMd_f0R6Iw7PQYygfc) to support our candidates and open an election season storefront. |

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| **September Community Happenings** |
| **Sept 1:** Saugerties Library Budget & Trustee Election; Library; 10:00 AM-8:00 PM; open to all registered voters  **Sept 2:** Sunset Concerts; Jim Pospisil & Stephen Claire; [Kiersted Dutch Barn;](http://thedutchbarn.org/) 6:30 PM  **Sept 3, 10, 17, 24:** [Saugerties Farmers Market](https://saugertiesfarmersmarket.com/); 115 Main St.; 10:00 AM-2:00 PM  **Sept 4:** Saugerties Jazz Festival; The Partition; 124 Partition St.; 2:00 PM  **Sept 4:** Vernon Benjamin Memorial; Historical Society; 119 Main St.; 4:00 PM  **Sept 6:** Saugerties Schools First Day of Classes  **Sept 6:** Village Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 5:30 PM  **Sept 6:** Town Zoning Board Meeting; 7:00 PM; contact [kfreeman@saugerties.ny.us](mailto:kfreeman@saugerties.ny.us)  **Sept 7:** Town Board Meeting; Webex and in-person; info: [twood@saugerties.ny.us](mailto:twood@saugerties.ny.us); 7:00 PM  **Sept 8:** Dining & Dancing for Democracy (SDC fundraiser); Cantine Pavilion; tickets [here](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdc-fundraiser-2022?fbclid=IwAR3E--Pe8yAoiRHRUmsnQ_WXibhq-R-qL8SbH3ABNLMd_f0R6Iw7PQYygfc)  **Sept 8:** Saugerties Library Board of Trustees Meeting; Community Room; 6:00 PM-7:00 PM  **Sept 11:** 9/11 Anniversary & Salute to Uniformed Service; Cantine Field; 6:00-7:00 PM  **Sept 13:** Saugerties Board of Education Meeting; Saugerties Sr. H.S. Media Ctr; 6:30 PM  **Sept 14:** Village Planning Board meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 6:30 PM  **Sept 15:** Climate Smart Task Force meeting @ 5:00 PM & Conservation Advisory Committee @ 6:00 PM via Zoom; [mhodonnell316@gmail.com](mailto:mhodonnell316@gmail.com)  **Sept 15:** Food Truck Festival; Cantine Field; 4:00 PM-9:00 PM  **Sept 15:** American Legion Post 72 meeting; 30 John St., 7:00 PM; open to all veterans  **Sept 19:** Historic Preservation Committee meeting via Zoom; 5:30 PM; email [jeremy@thingsrelevant.com](mailto:jeremy@thingsrelevant.com)  **Sept 19:** Village Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 5:30 PM  **Sept 21:** [Beautiful Saugerties](https://www.beautifulsaugerties.com/) urges residents to sign up to speak on the Winston Farms Development at the Town Board meeting (see below); Senior Center, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM  **Sept 21:** Town Board Meeting; Webex and in-person at Senior Center; info: [twood@saugerties.ny.us](mailto:twood@saugerties.ny.us); 6:30 PM  **Sept 22:** Comprehensive Planning Board; Senior Ctr, 207 Market St; 6:30 PM  **Sept 22:** Nicole Roskos; Trees & Climate: Can Planting & Preserving Trees & Forests Protect Us from Climate Change?; Saugerties Library; 7:00 PM-8:00 PM  **Sept 23:** UC Community Action Saugerties Farmstand; 207 Market St.; 10:00 AM  **Sept 26:**  Rosh Hashanah (Saugerties Schools Closed)  **Sept 27:** Town Parks/Recreation Advisory Committee; Kiwanis Ice Arena; 6:30 PM  **Sept 27:** Village Zoning Board Meeting; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Sept 28:** Saugerties [Chamber Monthly Mixer](https://discoversaugerties.com/); 32 Partition St; 6:30 PM  **Sept 28:** Memorial VFW Post 5034 Meeting @ 7:00 PM, 30 John St., open to all veterans  **Sept 28:** Village Historic Review Board; Village Hall; 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Ryan House** [Support Group Meeting Schedule](https://www.raisingawarenessrun.com/r-y-a-n-house-schedule/) at 19 Barclay Street, Saugerties (ongoing)  *Check Saugerties Democratic Committee* [*website*](https://saugertiesdemocrats.org/) *for calendar updates.* |