Saugerties Democratic Committee Newsletter

October 2022

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| **Highlights from the Election Ballot Edition** |
| **Truth in Advertising**  You may have received mailings from Republicans who want your vote. But you may not even realize that they are Republicans because they either fail to include their party affiliation or print it so small you need Sherlock Holmes to find it. Don’t be fooled by their buzzwords ‘bipartisan’, ‘moderate’ or ‘environmentalist’. Nothing is further from the truth.    While the Republican Party’s “[Commitment to America](https://dailycampus.com/2022/09/29/gops-commitment-to-america-is-misleading-and-hypocritical/)” is vague and crazy (such as promising things that already exist because of Democrats—vaccines against Covid and healthcare that covers pre-existing conditions), we know what the Republican Party has turned into and what it actually supports. But here are some things the [Conservative Party](https://home.conservativepartyusa.org/national-platform/) stands for: end abortion, repeal the Affordable Care Act, promote fossil fuels and fracking, and support the NRA. That’s what the Republican/Conservative candidates don’t want you to know. And that’s why we need to get every Democrat to the polls this year to elect our candidates up and down the ballot.    **Countywide Races: Where the Rubber Meets the Road**  Local races affect our quality of life, yet too often people ignore them. Even when people show up for local elections, they sometimes stop filling out the ballot after a few top ballot races—ignoring the election of officials who will affect their day-to-day lives. Our current local Democratic elected officials have made Ulster County a beacon for climate-smart action, social justice and economic growth. Let’s show up this year for our two Democratic Ulster County candidates—[**Juan Figueroa**](https://www.juanforulster.com/) and [**Jen Metzger**](https://jenmetzger.com/).    We know Sheriff Juan Figueroa and the innovative work he has done addressing the opioid crisis, improving police-community relations, diversifying his office and leading the [biggest drug bust](https://www.timesunion.com/hudsonvalley/news/article/New-Paltz-based-drug-ring-busted-17244245.php) in Hudson Valley history. But former State Senator Jen Metzger is new to us.    Jen Metzger served as the Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Rosendale and multiple terms on the Rosendale Town Board. She started the grassroots, not-for-profit Citizens for Local Power, which successfully fought against rate-gouging by Central Hudson. As the first Democrat elected in a historically Republican NYS Senate district, she passed nation-leading climate legislation and laws protecting reproductive freedom. Jen received a 2019 NAACP award, acknowledging her dedication and service to the community. Appointed to the NYS Cannabis Control Board, she has built equity and sustainability into this new industry.  As county executive, she will focus on affordable housing, climate change, economic opportunities, broadband and cell phone access, creative and sustainable development, and expansion of mental health and substance abuse disorder services. Jen, a collaborative team builder, will make sure all voices are heard and all communities have a seat at the table. Her opponent, a financial supporter of the Conservative Party, is one of those Republican-Conservatives who is conveniently leaving his party affiliations off his ads.  **Statewide Elections: Our Voices in New York Government**  With the end of Roe v Wade, state government is our only line of defense—at this point—to protect a woman’s right to choose. (Republican Lindsey Graham has shown the Republicans’ hand to [end abortion rights across the country](https://www.npr.org/2022/09/13/1122700975/gop-sen-lindsey-graham-introduces-15-week-abortion-ban-in-the-senate) if they take the House and Senate). With rabid anti-choice Republican candidates, electing Democrats to NYS government is crucial.    Saugerties very own **NYS Senator** [**Michelle Hinchey**](https://michellehinchey.com/) has a 100% rating by Planned Parenthood and a history of championing women’s rights. That alone should be cause to fight like hell to get her elected, but there is so much more that Michelle does for her constituents and NYS. Michelle received a 100% rating from the New York League of Conservation Voters for her work on mitigating climate change. In her first term, Michelle has passed more than 50 bills from expanding broadband and healthcare to supporting family farms. Her constituent services are unparalleled, as recently demonstrated when her office went into action to help a local business save perishable inventory during Central Hudson’s work on Partition Street. Despite Michelle’s stellar record, she is in a tough race. The new legislative map has Michelle running against a longtime incumbent, who like all Republican candidates is anti-choice and anti-gun safety. Her Republican opponent even voted against a bill to protect abortion providers from lawsuits from out-of-state laws calling for their extradition, arrest and prosecution. Her opponent has a failing grade from Planned Parenthood.    Running to represent us in the NYS Assembly is [**Sarahana Shrestha**](https://sarahanaforassembly.com/), a climate activist, who will be a progressive voice for workers’ rights, housing, healthcare and the environment. Although Sarahana doesn’t have an Assembly record yet, she has already demonstrated through her tireless campaigning where she directly engages with voters that she will work around the clock to make our voices heard in Albany. Her opponent switched to the Republican Party in 2018—two years after Trump and the party’s move to embrace the [Radical Right](https://www.counterextremism.com/topics/far-right-extremist-groups?gclid=CjwKCAjwp9qZBhBkEiwAsYFsbxcVQH84KB1UYLnO9nUgu1keHmKbLwzYYhDKQVDP1pr1tQmqEPmOvBoCF6MQAvD_BwE)—and is running on both Republican and Conservative lines (*see “Conservative Party” in* *Truth in Advertising*). The Republican’s social media posts include anti-gun safety rhetoric and a post stating he misses Giuliani. The choice is clear—vote Sarahana.    **The New CD19—Protecting Our Freedoms**  Keeping a Democratic majority in Congress runs through our district. Electing [**Josh Riley**](https://joshrileyforcongress.com/) in our new Congressional district is our best chance of saving democracy. The Republican agenda is a countrywide ban on abortion rights, investment in fossil fuels, defunding public education, relitigating same-sex marriage, representing billionaires over everyday people, banning books, and supporting fascist regimes such as [Hungary](https://www.npr.org/2022/07/13/1111274698/how-the-american-right-became-aligned-with-hungary-and-its-authoritarian-leader). While the vast majority of Americans do not support the Republican agenda, through gerrymandering and voter apathy, we run the risk of watching our fundamental rights get destroyed. *This election is as important as the special election where we elected Pat Ryan.* We knew how dangerous Marc Molinaro and his anti-choice and pro-gun agenda was. It’s even more dangerous now because the Democratic majority hangs in the balance. *We must defeat Molinaro again!* |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **September SDC Meeting**\*  The Saugerties Democratic Committee met in a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, September 27. The committee discussed the runup to the election and the opening of the SDC storefront at 262 Main St. After an informative presentation by NYS Assembly candidate Sarahana Shrestha, the committee heard from Marjorie Leopold, rallying people to join a local housing affordability coalition.    \*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: October 25; and November 22.  All welcome! |
| **Last Few Words About the Ballot** |
| **Let’s Not Forget Other Races on the Ballot**  We tend to highlight the elections of the candidates who directly affect our lives in Saugerties and whom we have come to know over the years. There is something about those personal connections, where with a quick call to a representative’s office, we’re talking with a staffer who may be our neighbor. Those nitty-gritty relationships keep us connected to government. But the Democratic candidates who don’t seem quite as accessible as Josh, Michelle, Sarahana, Jen and Juan are still crucial to our well-being.    We must send [**Chuck Schumer**](https://www.schumer.senate.gov/) back to Washington, DC to protect us from the nefarious scheming of the Mitch McConnells, Lindsay Grahams, Ted Cruzes, Tom Cottons and the rest of the Republicans who are wanting to strip us of our rights.    To ensure that New York State remains pro-choice, pro-environment, pro-gun safety, pro-social justice and more, vote for Governor [**Kathy Hochul**](https://www.governor.ny.gov/lt-governor-antonio-delgado), Lieutenant Governor [**Antonio Delgado**](https://www.governor.ny.gov/lt-governor-antonio-delgado), Attorney General [**Letitia James**](https://ag.ny.gov/about-attorney-general) and Comptroller [**Thomas DiNapoli**](https://www.osc.state.ny.us/about/comptroller-biography).    There are three openings for **New York State’s** [**3rd Judicial Supreme Court**](https://ww2.nycourts.gov/courts/3jd/index.shtml). Unlike the U.S. Supreme Court, New York’s Supreme Court is not the [highest state court](https://www.nycourts.gov/courts/structure.shtml). This court hears some felony and misdemeanor criminal cases as well as civil cases that affect everyday folks such as contract disputes, malpractice suits, and divorce and child custody. While candidates for judicial offices cannot reveal their political positions or how they would rule on a case, their political party affiliation means something. Vote for the highly qualified Democratic candidates—[**Heidi Cochrane**](https://www.heidicochrane.com/aboutheidi), [**Meagan Gilligan**](https://www.electgalligan.com/) and Ulster County’s own, [**Sharon Graff**](https://www.graff4supremecourt.com/).    The Town of Saugerties has an additional judicial race—town court justice. Democrat **Chris Kraft** is running unopposed for his second four-year term. Despite his being unopposed, voters should keep going down the ballot and cast a vote for Kraft.    **Turn Over the Ballot**  The statewide ballot proposal is the Environmental Bond Act, which will authorize NY to borrow $4.2 billion through a bond for specific climate change mitigation projects. It includes $250 million for improving stormwater systems, $200 million for wastewater infrastructure, $500 million for zero-emission school buses and $1.5 billion for such initiatives as wetland protection and renewable energy development. While the price tag is high, failure to invest in the environment will lead to more costly catastrophes and other disasters that threaten Mother Earth. We are paying the price of climate change today with our local drought and the country’s unprecedented hurricanes. We have no time to wait. The Democratic Party is recommending a “Yes” vote for Proposition 1.    **Crucial Election-Related Dates**  October 14—last day to register to vote  October 19—last day to change your address with the Board of Elections  October 24—last postmark date to [apply by mail for an absentee ballot](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/absentee-ballots-info/) (Note: you can continue to go in person to the BOE for an absentee ballot through Nov. 7. Also,if you apply for an [absentee ballot you cannot change your mind and vote in person—](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/absentee-ballots-info/)you will be given an affidavit ballot if you applied for an absentee ballot and show up at the polls.)  October 29—first day of [Early Voting](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/early-voting/)    **Saugerties Democratic Challenge**  In the August special election, 47% of enrolled Democrats in Saugerties voted. We trailed other towns that had 50% or more—Gardiner, Hurley, Marbletown, Olive, Rochester, Rosendale and Woodstock.  Where were our other 53%? Yes, it was vacation time. And, yes, it was on the heels of the June primary. But we can do better.    Here’s the challenge. You are already a voter—keep up the good work. But we need you to help get out the vote. There are so many things to do—canvassing, phoning, writing postcards, texting, staffing the SDC storefront on Main Street. There are countless ways to help. Some of our friends, family and neighbors sit out elections or are inconsistent voters. We need to reach them. Will you help us?    Decide what you can and want to do and sign up [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSduqHVDrCK26XGyr5BIGcVoWM4tz-C2iTomqoyqqex7KQfpyA/viewform). Or stop by our storefront at 262 Main St at our open house on Saugerties First Friday on October 7 (*see calendar*) to meet the candidates and talk to SDC members about upcoming election activities. Or contact Mike at [mharkavy@hvc.rr.com](mailto:mharkavy@hvc.rr.com), 845-246-7493, 845-366-0233 or Liz at [lizbuono@gmail.com](mailto:lizbuono@gmail.com), 845-594-2847 to sign up to canvass.    Not to be competitive (well maybe a bit competitive), but do we really want to lag behind other towns in getting Democrats to the polls? Whatever you do to help get Saugerties Democrats to the polls will be great! Please join our team. |

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| **October Community Happenings** |
| **Oct 1 & 2:** [Hudson Valley Garlic Festival](https://www.hvgf.org/); Cantine Field; 10:00 AM-6:00 PM (Sat) & 10:00 AM-5:00 PM (Sun)  **Oct 3:** Village Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 5:30 PM  **Oct 5:** Yom Kippur; Saugerties Schools closed  **Oct 5 & 6:** [*Right Before I Go*](https://www.woodstockplayhouse.org/rightbefore); moving, and surprisingly light play helps broaden public perspective of suicide; Woodstock Playhouse; 7:00 PM (*courtesy post*)  **Oct 5:** Town Board Meeting; Webex and in-person; info: [twood@saugerties.ny.us](mailto:twood@saugerties.ny.us); 7:00 PM  **Oct 6:** Michelle Hinchey Fundraiser; Saugerties private home; 5:30 PM-7:30 PM; tickets [here](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/mh-saugerties-1006)  **Oct 6:** Saugerties Senior High School; Financial Aid Night; Media Center; 6:30 PM  **Oct 7:** Destination Saugerties: First Friday; [SDC Election Campaign Office open house](https://www.mobilize.us/michellehinchey/event/521049/); wine & cheese; 262 Main St.; 5:00 PM-7:00 PM  **Oct 8, 15, 22, 29:** [Saugerties Farmers Market](https://saugertiesfarmersmarket.com/); 115 Main St.; 10:00 AM-2:00 PM  **Oct 9:** Mum Festival; Seamon Park; noon to 5:00 PM  **Oct 9:** Salsa Party with [Cuboricua](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXNK7xAmaC4), honoring NYS’s first elected Latino sheriff; Seasoned Delicious; 3:30 PM-6:00 PM. Tickets [here](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/salsa-with-juan?fbclid=IwAR0057Rv2QkIAUZZibEqYxlS7ucJFJrBnvqKt08iyngy-5USyZrk4D73JgY) and at the door  **Oct 10:** Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day; Saugerties Schools & Library closed  **Oct 11:** Saugerties [Board of Education](https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/our-district/board-of-education) Meeting; Cahill School; 6:00 PM  **Oct 12:** Village Planning Board meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 6:30 PM  **Oct 15 & 16:** Fall Festival; Saugerties Senior Center; 207 Market St; 10:00 AM-4:00 PM  **Oct 17:** Historic Preservation Committee meeting via Zoom; 5:30 PM; email [jeremy@thingsrelevant.com](mailto:jeremy@thingsrelevant.com)  **Oct 17:** Village Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 5:30 PM  **Oct 19:** Town Board Meeting; Webex and in-person at Senior Center; info: [twood@saugerties.ny.us](mailto:twood@saugerties.ny.us); 6:30 PM  **Oct 20:** Climate Smart Task Force meeting @ 5:00 PM & Conservation Advisory Committee @ 6:00 PM via Zoom; [mhodonnell316@gmail.com](mailto:mhodonnell316@gmail.com)  **Oct 20:** American Legion Post 72 meeting; 30 John St., 7:00 PM; open to all veterans  **Oct 23:** Touch a Trunk; food, music, trick-or-treating; $5 per person (children under 2 free) to benefit the Saugerties Animal Shelter & Saugerties Historical Society; 11:00 AM-3:00 PM  **Oct 25:** Town Parks/Recreation Advisory Committee; Kiwanis Ice Arena; 6:30 PM  **Oct 25:** Village Zoning Board Meeting; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Oct 26:** Saugerties [Chamber Monthly Mixer](https://discoversaugerties.com/); 32 Partition St; 6:30 PM  **Oct 26:** Village Historic Review Board; Village Hall; 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Oct 26:** Memorial VFW Post 5034 Meeting @ 7:00 PM, 30 John St., open to all veterans  **Oct 27:** Comprehensive Planning Board; Senior Center, 207 Market St; 6:30 PM  **Oct 28:** UC Community Action Saugerties Farmstand; 207 Market St.; 10:00 AM  **Oct 28:** Trunk or Treat Day; Saugerties Senior High School Bus Circle; 6:00 PM-9:00 PM  **Oct 29:** Early Voting begins; find the site and hours [here](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/early-voting/)  **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.* |