Saugerties Democratic Committee Newsletter

November 2022

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| **Crime and Drugs: Armed with Facts**  By now you’ve seen the GOP ads. Maybe you even heard the Republicans in person. Despite their claim that no one is safe and we should all be very afraid, here in Ulster County crime is going down and fatal and nonfatal drug ODs have dropped.    While across the country, crime has ticked up, the violent crime rate is lowest in the Northeast (Democratic strongholds) and highest in the South and West. According to the FBI, the property crime rate in the Northeast was 34% lower than the rest of the country, and the violent crime rate was 26% lower than in Southern and Western states.    The 5 states with the highest murder rates, according to *World Population*, 2022, are Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, and Alaska. And murder rates have fallen 4% nationwide so far in 2022 compared to the same period in 2021 (*NY Times*, Sept, 2022).  Those stats belie the condemnation of NYS bail reform.    **Inflation: Armed with Facts**  Another talking point in those GOP attack ads is higher prices. Inflation is up for various reasons. The pandemic caused serious supply chain issues between people hoarding products and companies having a worker shortage because of illness and fear of Covid. Just as the supply issues began to resolve, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine drove up food and energy prices. And let’s not forget corporate greed. Multinational corporations are taking advantage of the headlines of soaring prices to engage in price gouging and historic corporate profits (*see Katie Porter* [*video*](https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1582475043119980563/pu/vid/576x360/gtt61dlZQYKjI02r.mp4?tag=12)).    The Democrats did not cause or exacerbate inflation. In fact, the United States’ inflation rate (8.5% and lower than the June high of 9.1%) is lower than E.U. countries (10.9%) and the UK (9.9%) and way lower than authoritarian governments, such as Hungary (20.1%), Venezuela (114%) and Russia (14.3%). (*See Political Girl’s* [*video*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kDhHcsE_lc) *about inflation*.)    **Election of Our Lifetime: Truth, Not Hyperbole**  You’re heard it before—this is the most important election of our lifetime. It may feel alarmist. But in reality, our democracy is on the ballot. When one major party embraces authoritarianism, white supremacy, antisemitism, election denial, nationwide abortion bans, and calls for rolling back human rights, social safety networks and “sunsetting” Social Security and Medicare, our democracy is in grave danger. On top of that, the GOP’s historical record of climate change denial, tax breaks for the rich, and packing the courts with political hacks threatens us all.    Do not assume that we're safe because we live in a blue state. The polls are narrowing. Every vote counts. When Democrats go to the polls, Democrats win. Please let’s get to the polls! |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **October SDC Meeting**\*  The Saugerties Democratic Committee met in a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, Oct 25. Since the NYS Democratic Committee stepped up and paid the rent for the SDC headquarters, the committee voted to allocate the resulting “found money” to candidates and for an ad in Hudson Valley One urging people to vote Yes for Prop 1  for clean water, clean air and green jobs. Additionally SDC reviewed upcoming GOTV activities.    \*For a copy of the full minutes, please email [saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com) or check [saugertiesdemocrats.org](https://saugertiesdemocrats.org/). The last SDC meeting of 2022 is November 22.  All welcome! |
| **Reminders About the Ballot (But No More Videos)** |
| **Turn Over the Ballot**  Vote Yes for Prop 1! The Environmental Bond Act authorizes New York State 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. We have seen how climate change has already wreaked havoc throughout the world—raging floods, forests turning into infernos, crop failures, megastorms, and a pandemic. Here in Saugerties, we have seen wells run dry during a prolonged drought. The price tag may seem high, but failure to invest will be more expensive. We either pay now or we pay way more later. We have no time to wait. Vote Yes!!    **Vote for Three Supreme Court Justices**  There are three openings and four candidates. Please vote for *all* three of our brilliant Democratic candidates—Sharon Graff, Meagan Galligan and Heidi Cochrane. The Republican candidate is falsely telling people at GOP events that they should vote for one candidate—him--instead of saying they can vote for three candidates. (An aside: Trump nominated the Republican candidate for the U.S. District Court in 2019 and the nomination was blocked by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand because of her concerns about his anti-choice positions.)    For our Working Families Party (WFP) allies, the three Democratic Supreme Court justice nominees do not have the WFP line--not because they didn't earn it but because the WFP didn't hold a judicial nomination convention. They represent your WFP values.    Remember the courts are our last defense against authoritarianism. We need solid, fair justices.    **It’s In Your Hands**  In the August Special Election, 47% of Democrats voted. More than half sat it out. We must do better. Bring your friends and family to the polls.  Vote for Democrats; they vote for us! |

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| **November Community Happenings** |
| **Nov 1-8:** Get Out the Vote (GOTV)—find virtual & in-person GOTV countywide activities [here](https://www.ulstervotes.com/events)  **Nov 1-8:** GOTV in Saugerties-specific, sign [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZkGWFfULzC2VmkCkjyCDy2aO64nve6NqtbxfQ5TEO3YF59w/viewform) for canvassing; sign [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGY2-7Je4Kpz3CXDTpVRGmMEWQZemJHV4_Sais3mg8gXizCw/viewform) for phonebanking  **Nov 1-6:** Early voting; hours and locations [here](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/early-voting/)  **Nov 1:** Saugerties [Board of Education](https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/our-district/board-of-education); Policy Committee; High School Media Ctr; 5:30 PM  **Nov 2:** Caring Majority virtual GOTV for Candidates Who Care with guests award-winning author & activist Ai-Jen Poo, actor & comedian Steve Way, NYS Senators Michelle Hinchey & Rachel May, NYS Assembly candidate Sarahana Shrestha; 6:00; register [here](https://actionnetwork.org/events/cmrpac-rally-and-fundraiser?clear_id=true)  **Nov 2:** Public Hearing &Town Board Meeting; Webex and in-person at Senior Center; info: [twood@saugerties.ny.us](mailto:twood@saugerties.ny.us); 7:00 PM  **Nov 4:** Star Gazing Party; Saugerties High School Science Club; SHS front soccer field; 6:00 PM; (check <https://shs.saugerties.k12.ny.us/> to ensure weather is cooperating)  **Nov 5-11:** [Fall for Art Show, Sale & Fundraiser](https://www.fallforart.org/); portion of the proceeds will go to local not-for-profits; more info: [sueziw@yahoo.com](mailto:sueziw@yahoo.com)  **Nov 7:** Village Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 5:30 PM  **Nov 8:** Election Day at your [regular polling site](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/faq/where-is-my-polling-place/)  **Nov 8:** Saugerties [Board of Education](https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/our-district/board-of-education) Meeting; Morse Elementary School; 6:00 PM  **Nov 9:** Village Planning Board meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 6:30 PM  **Nov 10:** Saugerties Library Board of Trustees meeting; 91 Washington Ave; 6:00 PM  **Nov 11:** Veterans Day; federal holiday—all government offices closed  **Nov 16:** “Ain’t I a Woman” speech by Sojourner Truth, enacted by the Rev. Deborah Zuil; Friends of the Saugerties Library; Total Tennis; 6:30 PM  **Nov 16:** Town Board Meeting; Webex and in-person; info: [twood@saugerties.ny.us](mailto:twood@saugerties.ny.us); 7:00 PM  **Nov 17:** Climate Smart Task Force meeting @ 5:00 PM & Conservation Advisory Committee @ 6:00 PM via Zoom; [mhodonnell316@gmail.com](mailto:mhodonnell316@gmail.com)  **Nov 17:** American Legion Post 72 meeting; 30 John St., 7:00 PM; open to all veterans  **Nov 21:** Historic Preservation Committee meeting via Zoom; 5:30 PM; email [jeremy@thingsrelevant.com](mailto:jeremy@thingsrelevant.com)  **Nov 21:** Village Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 5:30 PM  **Nov 22:** Town Parks/Recreation Advisory Committee; Kiwanis Ice Arena; 6:30 PM  **Nov 22:** Village Zoning Board Meeting; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Nov 23:** Village Historic Review Board; Village Hall; 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Nov 23:** Memorial VFW Post 5034 Meeting @ 7:00 PM, 30 John St., open to all veterans  **Nov 24:** Thanksgiving; federal holiday—all government offices closed  **Nov 25:** Black Friday; Town Hall & schools closed  **Nov 30:** Saugerties [Chamber Monthly Mixer](https://discoversaugerties.com/); 32 Partition St; 6:30 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.* |