|  |
| --- |
| **Politics and Elections Because That’s What We Do** |
| **Elections: The Good News**While we don’t have the official numbers yet, Ulster County came out strong for our Democratic candidates. NYS Senator Michelle Hinchey won reelection with 52% of the district vote over a four-term Republican incumbent (due to redistricting). In Ulster County, Hinchey garnered 60% of the vote. NYS Assembly member-elect Sarahana Shresthra beat her Republican opponent with 59% of the vote districtwide and in Ulster County with 60%.In the Third Judicial District, all three Democratic candidates—Heidi Cochrane, Sharon Graff, Meagan Galligan—were supported by the majority of Ulster County voters, 26.23%, 26.36% and 25.66%, respectively. Across the district, Cochrane didn’t do as well and is currently trailing the one Republican candidate by 999 votes, triggering a hand recount. In our new Congressional NY19, Ulster County went for Josh Riley over his Republican opponent by 58% to 42%. Since Ulster County makes up a small fraction of the new district, we couldn’t put him over the top. (More about this later.) In countywide races, Ulster County Sheriff Juan Figueroa, running unopposed, earned more than 99% of the vote. Ulster County Executive-elect Jen Metzger defeated her Republican opponent with 56% of the vote. And in the local Town Justice race, Chris Kraft, running unopposed, received 99% of the vote. We are awaiting the official numbers, but preliminary numbers for Saugerties show that 8,858 votes were cast in the Congressional race, with 52% for Riley. **Elections: The Not So Good News**The new district maps split Ulster County, with the majority of our towns now placed in the new CD18. Despite the county’s overwhelming Democratic majority, we couldn’t get Josh Riley over the finish line in our CD 19. Based on conversations with the candidate and political analysts, Riley’s narrow defeat had two main causes—dark money and a statewide strategy to stave off the rise of Lee Zeldin, the Republican candidate for governor. Republican-leaning PACs spent $6.2 million on attack ads directed at Riley, falsely tying him to “defund the police” and to NYC crime rates. (As discussed last month, violent crime is lowest in the Northeast and the five states with the highest murder rates overwhelmingly voted for Trump in 2020.) The Republican strategy to [scare voters with false scenarios about crime](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/27/nyregion/republicans-election-ny-suburbs.html?smid=url-share) in their neighborhoods worked, allowing an election denying extremist to tighten the governor’s race. Ultimately, the Democratic Party focused its “get-out-the-vote” efforts in New York City, the most reliable Democratic stronghold, leaving the rest of New York ripe for the Republican disinformation campaign. While the state Democratic Party’s tradeoff to protect New York from a right-wing zealot made sense, it cost six New York Congressional seats and the House majority.  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **November SDC Meeting**\*The Saugerties Democratic Committee met in a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, Nov 22. The bulk of the meeting was used to reflect on and critique the election season including campaign coordination, canvassing, phone banking, postcard writing, sign distribution, and office management. Additionally, Kathy Gordon presented preliminary voter data. It was noted—and appreciated—that countless volunteers showed up to help get out the vote. \*For a copy of the full minutes, please email saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com or check [saugertiesdemocrats.org](https://saugertiesdemocrats.org/). No meeting in Dec. See you on Jan 24, 2023!  |
| **News & Newsworthy** |
| **Generation Z Showed Up**The predicted “red wave” was thwarted in part by a wave of young voters. Overall, 1 in 8 voters were [under age 30](https://wapo.st/3AWc1yV) and the majority voted for Democrats. The issues that brought Gen Z to the polls were climate change, gun violence, reproductive rights, racial justice and LGBTQ rights. And while Gen Z is less tied to a political party and more to issues, the Democratic Party is more aligned with their values. **Georgia Senate Runoff** Eyes are on the December 6th Senate runoff in Georgia, where incumbent [Rev. Raphael Warnock](https://warnockforgeorgia.com/) is facing Trump-backed candidate Herschel Walker. While Democrats hold a slim majority with 50 Senate seats after the midterms (Kamala Harris breaks 50-50 ties, giving Democrats the edge), there is a [huge difference between 51 and 50](https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/difference-51-seat-senate-democratic-majority-make/story?id=93278188). With 51 senators, Democrats would be the majority on all committees rather than equally sharing committee seats with Republicans. Having committee majorities eases procedural requirements and helps counter the potential sabotage of legislation by centrist Democratic Senators Joe Manchin or Kyrsten Sinema. More importantly, electing Warnock, a humane and effective legislator, would stop Walker, an incompetent idealogue, who has been [described as a pawn](https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1586832985273270273/pu/vid/320x320/9xRbMenGQEkcTyhy.mp4?tag=12) of MAGA Republicans. There’s still time to help get out the vote for Warnock by joining a Swing Left [virtual phone bank](https://www.mobilize.us/crooked/event/543764/). **A Win for Unions**A [federal judge ordered Amazon](https://gothamist.com/news/federal-judge-orders-amazon-to-cease-and-desist-from-retaliating-against-union-organizers?oref=csny_firstreadtonight_nl) to stop retaliating against union organizers in a case involving the multibillion-dollar corporation’s firing of a Staten Island employee for advocating for workplace health and safety precautions. The case is expected to reverberate across the nation. **Holidays:** Whatever you celebrate, we wish you peace, joy and health. See you in 2023! |

|  |
| --- |
| **December Community Happenings** |
| **Dec 2-4:** [Newberry Artisan Holiday Market](https://newberryartisanmarket.com/); 30+ vendors; 236 Main St., 11:00 AM-6:00 PM**Dec 4:** Holiday in the Village; schedule [here](https://discoversaugerties.com/); noon-6:00 PM**Dec 4:** Festival of Trees; Saugerties Library; noon to 4:00 PM**Dec 4:** Rock Academy Holiday Concert; Orpheum Theater, 156 Main St; free; noon**Dec 5:** Village Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 5:30 PM**Dec 5:** Town Zoning Board Meeting; Saugerties Senior Center; agenda [here](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/49%3Afield%3Ddocuments%3B/content/Documents/File/2598.pdf); 7:00 PM**Dec 7:** Stories of Marginalized Workers on the D&H Canal; [Lifespring](https://www.lifespringsaugerties.com/); Zoom; 11 AM-12:30 PM**Dec 8:** Saugerties Library Board of Trustees meeting; 91 Washington Ave; 6:00 PM**Dec 10:** Malden Firehouse Santa Run (9 AM) & Christmas Party (6 PM); 139 Malden Tpke**Dec 10:** Ugly Sweater Skate; Kiwanis Ice Arena; $10; benefit skating club; 3:00 PM-4:30 PM**Dec 13:** Saugerties [Board of Education](https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/our-district/board-of-education) Meeting; Mt Marion School; 6:00-7:00 PM**Dec 14:** Town Board Meeting (in-person & [Webex](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/294)); Saugerties Senior Center; contact twood@saugerties.ny.us; pre-board at 6:30 PM; board meeting at 7:00 PM**Dec 14:** Village Planning Board meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 6:30 PM**Dec 14:** Saugerties [Chamber Monthly Mixer](https://discoversaugerties.com/); 32 Partition St; 6:30 PM**Dec 15:** Climate Smart Task Force meeting @ 5:00 PM & Conservation Advisory Committee @ 6:00 PM. Town Hall Conference Room; contact: mhodonnell316@gmail.com**Dec 15:** American Legion Post 72 meeting; 30 John St., 7:00 PM; open to all veterans**Dec 16-18:** Shoutout Saugerties Holiday Market; 41 Market St; Fri 4 PM-8 PM; Sat & Sun 11 AM-6 PM**Dec 17:** Christmas Craft & Bake Sale; Ryan House Youth Board; 19 Barkley St.; RSVP: 845-532-8681 or 845-943-1709; 10:00 AM**Dec 17:** Holiday on Ice; Skating Club; $5; Kiwanis Ice Skating Rink; 12:30 PM-2:30 PM**Dec 17-18:** Saugerties Handmade Christmas; Senior Center; 11:00 AM-6:00 PM**Dec 18:** Saugerties Community Band Christmas Concert; Reformed Church of Saugerties; free; Brass Prelude 2:30 PM & Concert 3:00 PM**Dec 19:** Historic Preservation Committee meeting via Zoom; 5:30 PM; email jeremy@thingsrelevant.com**Dec 19:** Village Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St.; 5:30 PM**Dec 22:** Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting; Building Department Conference Room; 4 High Street; contact: leeanne.thornton@yahoo.com**Dec 26**: Federal, State, Town and Village Offices closed**Dec 26-Jan 2:** Saugerties School District closed**Dec 27:** Town Parks/Recreation Advisory Committee; Kiwanis Ice Arena; 6:30 PM**Dec 27:** Village Zoning Board Meeting; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM**Dec 28:** Village Historic Review Board; Village Hall; 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM**Dec 28:** Memorial VFW Post 5034 Meeting @ 7:00 PM, 30 John St., open to all veterans*Check Saugerties Democratic Committee* [*website*](https://saugertiesdemocrats.org/) *for calendar updates.* |