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| Mike Ivino for Saugerties Town Board. Absentee ballots postmarked by June 27 and received by the Board of Elections by July 5 will also be counted. But the current leads are insurmountable, with Leeanne at 787 votes, Mike at 586 votes and Paul Andreassen at 466 votes. Congratulations to Leeanne and Mike! What is official is our Democratic town slate for November: Fred Costello for Supervisor,  Leeanne Thornton and Mike Ivino for Town Board, and [Aimee Richter for Town Justice](https://aimee4justice.com/). They will join with our legislative candidates—Aaron Levine, Joe Maloney, [Keith Gurgui](https://keithforulster.com/)—and our countywide candidates—[Jen Metzger](https://jenmetzger.com/), [Manny Nneji](https://mannyforda.com/)—on the Democratic ticket. After a bit of a breather, SDC committee members and our great volunteers will be working tirelessly to have our entire slate win in November.  **MAGA-like Attacks on Our Candidates**Local Republicans have taken a page from the national MAGA playbook by spreading disinformation and making ugly attacks on Democrats. Don’t be fooled by opinions that are presented as facts. Beware of candidates who pose as nonpartisan but sit back and let their surrogates attack. This has been ongoing with the District Attorney’s race and will likely seep into other local races. No doubt about it, the discovery law has caused many challenges for district attorneys to prosecute cases—throughout New York State. Unfortunately, stories and opinion pieces dressed up to look like news have presented an inaccurate picture of our Democratic candidate for DA. A NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services database on cases and their dispositions across the state and across time show that Ulster County has done better than most counties. Please sign up for the Ulster County Democratic Committee [newsletter](https://mailchi.mp/ulstercountydemocrats/primary-today-republican-attacks?e=105a744b21) or reach out to the Saugerties Democratic Committee to get the facts. **Molinaro Watch**Marc Molinaro continues his push to the extreme right. Joining MAGA Republicans, Molinaro voted to “condemn and censure” Adam Schiff for his role on the [Select Committee to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the United States Capitol](https://january6th-benniethompson.house.gov/). In essence, Molinaro and company punished Schiff for doing his job of holding Trump and the insurrectionists accountable for attempting to destroy our democracy. Molinaro took the side of the Trump apologists who still see the attack on the Capitol as a benign tourist visit.  Additionally, Molinaro again joined climate change deniers by voting to stop “limits on energy conservation standards for kitchen appliances.” Molinaro showed his bright red colors with his vote for the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act (REINS), which [Public Citizen](https://www.citizen.org/) has called [“one of the most radical threats in generations to our government’s ability to protect the public from harm.”](https://www.citizen.org/news/reins-act-oppose/)   Unlike 2022, when Molinaro ran as a moderate, he now has a record. His votes align with the values of extremists and not the vast majority of his constituents. Remember that in 2024. |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **June Saugerties Democratic Committee Meeting\***The SDC met on Tuesday, June 20, at the Senior Center. The committee finalized plans for getting out the vote for the Democratic town board primary, including canvassing and phonebanking. Additionally, SDC discussed plans to march in the July 4 parade. And Andrew Zink and Aaron Levine updated the committee on village and county legislation and votes. \*For a copy of the full minutes, please email saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com or check [saugertiesdemocrats.org](https://saugertiesdemocrats.org/). Meeting schedule for 2023: July 25, August 22, Sept 26, Oct 24, Nov 28. Meetings at Senior Center. All welcome. |
| **News & Newsworthy** |
| **Elections Matter: Supreme Court**A little recent history. Back in 2016 with just a smidge under a year left on President Barack Obama’s term, a Republican Senate led by then Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refused a vote for Obama’s nominee to the Supreme Court—Merrick Garland. Trump was elected, took office in January 2017 and appointed Neil Gorsuch in April 2017 to replace the late Justice Antonin Scalia, who had died more than a year earlier. In 2018, Trump replaced retiring Anthony Kennedy with Brett Kavanagh. Then Ruth Bader Ginsberg died unexpectedly on September 18, 2020—less than two months before the presidential election (and early voting already underway in many states). With a Republican president, McConnell quickly pushed through the nomination of Amy Coney Barret. And what did a Republican Senate and president deliver? A court with a conservative majority that rules against precedent, takes away civil rights, and is aligned with the wealthy and powerful over the middle class and poor.  For whatever surprise and relief we felt when the Supreme Court ruled in a handful of cases to protect [democracy and voting rights](https://apnews.com/article/supreme-court-elections-state-legislatures-a620db8c1ad30fc34b3ab0c81b29b87c), the last days of the 2023 Supreme Court term were devastating. On Thursday, the Court upended diversity and opportunity with its decision to [end affirmative action in college admission](https://www.npr.org/2023/06/29/1181138066/affirmative-action-supreme-court-decision). Oh, the irony! Clarence Thomas, who sits on the Supreme Court because of the opportunity he received through a race-conscious college admission decision, read his majority opinion from the bench. Then on Friday, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of [discrimination against the LGBTQ community](https://www.politico.com/news/2023/06/30/supreme-court-limits-lgbtq-protections-in-dispute-over-services-for-same-sex-weddings-00104398), against the Biden [student loan forgiveness program](https://wapo.st/46xccyA), and against a challenge to [Mississippi’s Jim Crow era law](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/supreme-court/supreme-court-rejects-challenge-jim-crow-era-mississippi-voting-law-rcna85633) barring select felons from voting. And let’s not forget the Dobbs decision in June 2022, overturning Roe v Wade and leading to the immediate passage of [state abortion bans](https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/04/18/human-rights-crisis-abortion-united-states-after-dobbs).  While this is a terrible Supreme Court for most of us, it has been especially hard on young people. For that reason, Democrats must continue to listen to 18- to 30-year-olds and keep their issues and values front and center. They have led on climate change, gun safety, equality, racial justice and care of the vulnerable.  With the prediction of Thomas and Justice Samuel Alito retiring during the next presidential term, we need the youth vote more than ever to restore justice to the courts and remind the party of the values that make us Democrats. |