Saugerties Democratic Committee Newsletter

November 2023

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| **Complacency Cannot Be Allowed to Win**  In the last local election back in 2021, too many Saugerties Democrats stayed home. As a result, we lost two crucial Town Board seats. Our democracy cannot afford complacency.    While nationally Democrats have overwhelmingly won elections since the Supreme Court ended *Roe v Wade*, last month in Louisiana we saw what happens when voters stay home. There, Republican Jeff Landry won a majority of the vote to become the next governor, where only 31% of registered voters went to the polls. This allowed just 18% of registered voters (his share of the vote) to elect their next governor—in a state where registered Democrats outnumber Republicans by 150,000 votes. Locally, as Legislator Aaron Levine reminds us, he fell short in his first race for legislature by a mere seven votes.    Saugerties Democrats must heed the lesson from these examples—staying home allows the minority (often the most rightwing faction of the population) to elect our representatives and officials. Local elections determine our everyday lives, from investment in infrastructure, use of tax dollars, to housing and economic development and even meting out justice. Please go to the polls and bring your family and friends with you.    **What’s Up with the Working Families Party Line?**  The simple answer is that the Saugerties Town Justice candidate on the Working Families Party (WFP) line does not represent the Working Families Party’s values and was not endorsed by the WFP.  He is on the Republican line and also sought the Conservative line. So, bottom line: vote for Aimee Richter for Town Justice on Row A.    But there is a more complicated answer and it means getting into the weeds. For those who like the details, albeit complex details, this is it. Judicial races are the *only* elections where a candidate who is not a member of the political party can get the party line without permission of the official party. In all other races, if candidates are not registered Democrats, for instance, they must get permission from the Democratic Party to get registered Democrats’ signatures on their petitions to appear on the ballot. If they don’t get permission, they cannot appear on the Democratic line. However, that currently does not apply to judicial candidates. Therefore, the candidate on the Republican line also got the Working Families Party line without permission of WFP even though he does not share the WFP values. In fact, he never even interviewed with the WFP nor attempted to receive its endorsement.    Our Democratic candidate, Aimee Richter, met with the WFP committee and received its wholehearted endorsement. Her opponent challenged Aimee in a WFP primary. With just a handful of people voting in the Saugerties WFP primary—many who had just recently switched their party affiliation—Aimee did not get the WFP line. Had this contest been for any other office, the primary would never have taken place.    NYS Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson is expected to introduce legislation to require judicial candidates to follow the same rules as every other candidate who is not registered with the party but seeks their line. It’s only fair to political parties—Democratic, Republican, Working Families, Conservative—to have candidates who share their values on their lines.    Let’s keep it simple: Vote Row A all the way!    **Reminder of Who Is on Row A**  For folks who are just now thinking about the races and how critical local elections are, here are the candidates on the ballot who deserve your vote. For NYS Supreme Court, [vote for all three candidates](https://www.ulstervotes.com/2023-supreme-court): Richard Rivera, Daniel C. Lynch, and Sherri J. Brooks-Morton. For county government: vote for [Jen Metzger for County Executive](https://jenmetzger.com/); [Manny Nneji for District Attorney](https://mannyforda.com/); Aaron Levine (Legislative District 1); [Joe Maloney](https://www.joeforsaugerties.com/) (Legislative District 2); [Keith Gurgui](https://keithforulster.com/) (Legislative District 3). For the Town of Saugerties: vote for Fred M. Costello, Jr. for Town Supervisor; [Aimee Richter for Saugerties Town Justice](https://aimee4justice.com/); and vote for both Michael Ivino for Town Councilperson and Leeanne Thornton for Town Councilperson.    In addition to sharing our Democratic values, every Democratic candidate from Supreme Court to Town Justice—and every Democratic candidate in between—is more qualified than their opponents. Vote for experience, vote for transparency, vote for Democrats!    **Turn Over the Ballot**  On the Saugerties ballot, there are five propositions—two statewide, two countywide and one Saugerties-only. Ulster County Comptroller March Gallagher has stated that she is “yes” on countywide Proposition 4 that among other things clarifies the audit authority of the Office of Comptroller. Saugerties Democratic Committee is recommending a “yes” vote on Proposition 5,  to make the Saugerties Town Receiver of Taxes an appointed rather than an elected position. |

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| **Monthly Meeting News** |
| **October Saugerties Democratic Committee Meeting\***  The SDC met on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at the Senior Center. Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger was the guest of honor. She gave a thorough update on what the county has accomplished thus far and her priorities for the future. Her formal presentation was followed by a Q&A. Later, the committee finalized Get Out the Vote plans, elected a new member to the committee—Andy Cowan—and agreed to have a December meeting (usually SDC doesn’t meet in December).    \*For a copy of the full minutes, please email [saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:saugertiesdemocraticcommittee@gmail.com) or check [saugertiesdemocrats.org](https://saugertiesdemocrats.org/). Meeting schedule for 2023: Nov 28, Dec 12 (added meeting). Meetings at Senior Center. All welcome. |
| **News & Newsworthy** |
| **Molinaro Watch**  Beware of Republican candidates who campaign as independents or moderates. Once elected, they turn out to be aligned with the most extreme factions of the Republican Party. Mendacious Marc Molinaro not only voted twice for Jim Jordan and once for Mike Johnson, he actually shepherded Johnson's nomination and election as speaker of the House. [Look who Mike Johnson](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/26/opinion/mike-johnson-republican-party.html?unlocked_article_code=1.50w.gf4i.NT_7ZWN-gDDG&smid=url-share) is and see what a threat he is to democracy. That's who our so-called moderate Republican congressman helped to get elected.    In addition to facilitating the election of the most regressive, rightwing zealot, Molinaro also insulted his constituents when he justified his vote: "I think most of the people I represent wouldn't know the speaker of the House if they backed over him with a pickup truck." We will remember his disdain for voters and his extreme votes in 2024.    **Alert: Election Day Road Closure**  While it shouldn’t affect access to people’s polling sites, note that Rte. 212 by the CSX railroad crossing will be closed from Monday, Nov. 6, through Wednesday, Nov. 8. Drivers are advised to seek alternative routes. For people voting on Election Day, if that was a route you had planned to use to your polls, please plan accordingly.    **Violence Down in Ulster County**  Crime has gone down every year in Ulster County. After gun violence spiked during COVID, crimes involving guns are now reduced by almost 50% from 2019. Additionally, as a result of the Ulster County District Attorney’s Office’s Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Program, domestic violence has dropped every year since 2019. Across the rest of New York State, domestic violence has gone up. Kudos to all who have worked so hard to keep Ulster County safe. |

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| **November Community Happenings** |
| **Nov 1, 2, 3, 4, 5:** Early voting; Saugerties Senior Ctr.; daily times see [here](https://elections.ulstercountyny.gov/early-voting/)  **Nov 1, 15:** Town Board Meeting (in-person & [Webex](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/294)); Saugerties Senior Center; contact [lstanley@saugerties.ny.gov](mailto:lstanley@saugerties.ny.gov); pre-board at 6:30 PM; board meeting at 7:00 PM  Village Board meeting; 43 Partition St.; [pmelville@villageofsaugerties.org](mailto:pmelville@villageofsaugerties.org); 5:30 PM  **Nov 1:** Saugerties Sings, a new non-denominational community chorus, sampler; Trinity Episcopal Church, 32 Church St. (& Rte. 9W); [fiddlestitchtoday@gmail.com](mailto:fiddlestitchtoday@gmail.com); 7:00 PM  **Nov 2:** Saugerties Central School District; Countywide Early Evacuation Day; students dismissed approximately 15 minutes early  **Nov 2:** ShoutOut Saugerties; [Writers Read: Hallowed Stories](https://www.shoutoutsaugerties.org/all-events/2023/11/2/diadelosmuertos) with Sara Berkeley and Daniel Villegas; CMM Distillery, 31 Market St.; 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM  **Nov 4:** Scouting for Food; Boy Scout Troop 36 food drive; please drop nonperishable food items at St. Mary’s Hall, 25 Cedar St. to benefit Saugerties Food Pantry; 9:00 AM-12:00 PM  **Nov 4**: Tour of Clovelea; twenty-minute tours of the finished part of Clovelea: the offices + Hinterland designed "Liminal Space" (waiting room); tickets [here](https://www.clovelea.com/tour); 2:00 PM-5:00 PM  **Nov 4:** [The Local](https://www.thelocalsaugerties.com/) presents EMEL, a Woodstock-based Tunisian-born singer-songwriter; 16 John St., [tickets](https://dice.fm/event/qw3ga-emels-hudson-valley-debut-4th-nov-the-local-saugerties-tickets?pid=90f36522&_branch_match_id=1247907788453744159&_branch_referrer=H4sIAAAAAAAAA8soKSkottLXz8nMy9ZLyUxO1UvL1Xc0NU9MNjUySDFMSbQvyEyxtTRIMzYzNTICACKHcqwuAAAA); 8:00 PM  **Nov 5:** [Saugerties Pro Musica](http://saugertiespromusica.org/); Annual Bard Student Concert; United Methodist Church, 67 Washington Ave.; 3:00 PM  **Nov 5:** [The Local](https://www.thelocalsaugerties.com/) presents Jazz with Tim Berne, Hank Roberts, and Aurora Nealand; 16 John St., [tickets](https://dice.fm/event/23ng7-jazz-with-tim-berne-hank-roberts-aurora-nealand-5th-nov-the-local-saugerties-tickets?pid=90f36522&_branch_match_id=1247907788453744159&_branch_referrer=H4sIAAAAAAAAA8soKSkottLXz8nMy9ZLyUxO1UvL1c9MNrWwSDVNNjJNNbEvyEyxtTRIMzYzNTICAMqpmdouAAAA); 4:00 PM  **Nov 5, 8, 12, 19:** ShoutOut Saugerties; Art = Healing; [various themes, locations & times](https://www.shoutoutsaugerties.org/all-events/2023/10/15/art-healing-in-praise-of-linda-mary-montanos-life-in-art-jjssj)  **Nov 6, 20:** Village Board Meeting; Fire Depart., 43 Partition St., info at [pmelville@villageofsaugerties.org](mailto:pmelville@villageofsaugerties.org); 5:30 PM  **Nov 7:** Election Day—go to the polls and vote Row A  **Nov 7:** Town Hall and County offices closed for Election Day  **Nov 7:** Saugerties Central Schools closed for Superintendent’s Conference Day  **Nov 8:** Village Planning Board Meeting; Fire Dept., 43 Partition St., 6:30 PM  **Nov 9:** Saugerties Library Board of Trustees meeting; open to the public; 91 Washington Ave.; 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM  **Nov 10:** Veteran’s Day; town, county, state, federal offices closed  **Nov 10:** [The Local](https://www.thelocalsaugerties.com/) presents John St. Jam; 16 John St., [tickets](https://dice.fm/event/xa8la-john-st-jam-back-by-popular-demand-10th-nov-the-local-saugerties-tickets?pid=90f36522&_branch_match_id=1247907788453744159&_branch_referrer=H4sIAAAAAAAAA8soKSkottLXz8nMy9ZLyUxO1UvL1fe2tDQ1NEw0sUxLsrAvyEyxtTRIMzYzNTICAOLnSVwuAAAA); 7:00 PM  **Nov 12:** [The Local](https://www.thelocalsaugerties.com/) presents Troker: Mexican Rock, Funk, Psychedelics and Jazz; 16 John St.; [tickets](https://dice.fm/event/3685x-troker-mexican-rock-funk-psychedelics-and-jazz-12th-nov-the-local-saugerties-tickets?pid=90f36522&_branch_match_id=1247907788453744159&_branch_referrer=H4sIAAAAAAAAA8soKSkottLXz8nMy9ZLyUxO1UvL1Y9KMkpNNDBNTDU3SrQvyEyxtTRIMzYzNTICAMe9%2BsQuAAAA); 7:00 PM  **Nov 13, 27**: Housing Smart Task Force meeting; Saugerties Senior Center (small room); info at [saughstf23@gmail.com](mailto:saughstf23@gmail.com); 5:30-7:00 PM  **Nov 14:** Saugerties Transportation Advisory Committee; Building Dept. Conference Rm., 4 High St.; 6:30 PM  **Nov 14:** Saugerties Central School Board; Morse Elementary School; meet the board at 6:00 PM; meeting at 6:30 PM  **Nov 16:** [Climate Smart Task Force](http://www.climatesmartsaugerties.org/) meeting @ 5:00 PM & Conservation Advisory Committee @ 6:00 PM; Town Hall Conference Room; contact: [mhodonnell316@gmail.com](mailto:mhodonnell316@gmail.com)  **Nov 19:** Organ recital by Barbara Lee; From Bach to Widor with a Brazilian Detour; Reformed Church of Saugerties, 173 Main St.; free; 4:00 PM  **Nov 20:** Historic Preservation Commission meeting;  Saugerties Senior Center; contact [jeremy@thingsrelevant.com](mailto:jeremy@thingsrelevant.com); 7:00 PM  **Nov 21:** Village Zoning Board meeting; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Nov 21:** Town Planning Board meeting; Saugerties Senior Ctr; [agenda posted](https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/144) prior to meeting; for info, contact: [bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov](mailto:bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov); 7:30 PM  **Nov 22, 23, 24:** Saugerties Central School District closed for Thanksgiving holidays  **Nov 22:** Village Historic Review Board meeting; Village Hall, 43 Partition St.; 7:00 PM  **Nov 23, 24:** Thanksgiving weekend; town, county, state and federal offices closes  **Nov 28:** Saugerties Democratic Committee monthly meeting; Saugerties Senior Ctr; 7:00 PM  **Nov 29:** Saugerties Chamber of Commerce Mixer; Salt & Fire, 124 Partition St.; 6:30 PM    **R.Y.A.N. 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.* |