

Protecting the Saw Kill watershed and its ecological, recreational, and historic resources through hands-on science, education, and advocacy.



A NOTE FROM: SKWC LEADERSHIP TEAM

We have all experienced our fair share of challenges this year. The COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with civil unrest due to injustice, an unstable economy, and most recently the fires out west, has left many of us in a position of vulnerability. At times it can feel like the issues we fight for as the Saw Kill Watershed Community pale in comparison to the grandeur of what's going on in the news. However, it is important to remember that the issues we fight for affect all communities. Clean drinking water and a healthy environment make up the foundation for every strong community and it is important that we keep pushing for the protection of these basic human rights. As November draws nearer, we must remember that one of the most essential ways that we as citizens can contribute to this fight is at the polls. As watershed stewards, election season is a time when we have a chance to stand up and hold our leaders accountable for the positions they hold and the actions they take with regard to the environment, which all have a right to enjoy. This month's newsletter is dedicated to introducing each candidate who is on the ticket for New York State this November, which includes the NY Assembly, NY Senate, and House of Representatives. We are pleased to bring you this information and hope it serves as a precursor to next month, when we will be releasing the answers that each of these candidates gave to a series of questions we sent them. It is our goal to keep you informed on the positions that each of these candidates is taking on the issues that we hold dear to our hearts as the constituents of the Saw Kill Watershed Community. We look forward to sharing those with you, and in the meantime, remember to register and get out the vote!

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT 106

The New York State Assembly has a total of 150 seats. The 106th District represents people from Ghent to parts of Poughkeepsie, including Milan.

Didi Barrett (D, Incumbent)

Didi Barrett has served as District 106 Assembly Representative since 2012. As a member of the Assembly she chairs the Veterans Affairs Committee and sits on the committees for Agriculture, Mental Health, Environmental Conservation, and Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development. She is also the chairperson of the Legislative Women's Caucus. Barrett's endorsements include the Columbia and Dutchess County Democratic Parties, the New York League of Conservation Voters, NYS Professional Firefighters Organization, and numerous other labor, reproductive rights, educational, and cultural organizations. <https://www.didibarrett.com/endorsements>. For specific information about her environmental goals and vision, please see <https://www.didibarrett.com/issues-continued>.

Dean Michael (R)

Dean Michael is a businessman who is challenging Didi Barrett for Assembly. According to his website, Mr. Michael has lived, worked, and contributed to the Hudson Valley community for over 50 years. He has attended local schools, including Marist, before obtaining his MBA from SUNY Empire State. Dean Michael's endorsements come from the Dutchess County Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association (DCDSPBA), both Dutchess and Columbia County GOP Parties, the Conservative Party and the Libertarian Party. His issues include democracy and civil liberties, economy and taxes, education and criminal justice. His positions on these issues are detailed at <https://www.dean4ny.com/issues>.

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT 103

The New York State Assembly has a total of 150 seats. The 103rd District represents people from Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Kingston, New Paltz, and Woodstock.

Kevin Cahill (D, Incumbent)

Kevin Cahill has represented the 103rd Assembly District, which includes Red Hook and Rhinebeck, since 1998. Now seeking his thirteenth term, Mr. Cahill serves on the Assembly Steering, Health, Higher Education, Consumer Affairs and Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry Committees. He is also Chairman of the Legislative Task Force on People with Disabilities. In his previous term in the Assembly, Mr. Cahill served on several committees including Codes, Real Property Tax, Local Government and Children and Families. He was the Assembly spokesperson for Community Corrections and a member of the task force on Local Government Finance Reform. He has a strong record on the environment, civil rights, labor, and women's issues. As the former Chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Energy, Mr. Cahill introduced initiatives promoting renewable power generation, sustainable building practices, energy efficiency and the development of a green workforce. Kevin Cahill is a graduate of SUNY New Paltz and Albany Law School. He has two daughters and is a lifelong resident of Kingston. For more information, please see <https://www.assembly.ny.gov/mem/Kevin-A-Cahill>.

Rex Bridges (R, C)

Rex Bridges, the Republican and Conservative candidate for the 103rd Assembly District, is a resident of Rhinebeck. He is the business office manager in a retirement community in Millbrook. He is a Navy veteran who is passionate about the defense of freedom and liberty, of life, and the strength of America and New York. For more information, please see Rex Bridges for Assembly on Facebook.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS, NEW YORK DISTRICT 19

The 19th Congressional District includes western Montgomery County, all of Schoharie County, all of Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Otsego, Sullivan and Ulster counties, and parts of Broome, Dutchess and Rensselaer counties. Red Hook, Rhinebeck, and Milan are in the 19th CD. This district has been represented by Antonio Delgado since 2018.

Antonio Delgado (D, Incumbent)

Antonio Delgado serves as the U.S. Representative for New York's 19th congressional district, and was elected in 2018. He lives in Rhinebeck with his family. Delgado serves on the Committees for Agriculture, Small Business, and Transportation and Infrastructure. Delgado believes “there’s more common ground to be found on the issues than people think – after all, we all want our community to have good-paying jobs, strong public schools, and affordable health care.” Delgado’s endorsements include former President Barack Obama, former Vice-President Joe Biden, the New York State AFL-CIO, and the New York State League of Conservation Voters. Detailed position statements are available at <https://delgadoforcongress.com>.

Kyle Van De Water (R)

Kyle Van De Water is a Republican lawyer from Millbrook. He is challenging U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado in the 19th Congressional District. Kyle Van De Water is an Army veteran who served eight years as a judge advocate and served in Afghanistan. He is currently a major in the Army Reserve JAG Corps. Mr. Van De Water lives in Millbrook where he served as Village Trustee from 2017 to 2018. According to his website, Van De Water’s issues include security and safety, healthcare including coverage of pre-existing conditions and free COVID-19 vaccines when available, and expanded drug treatment facilities. He supports American manufacturing and agriculture and lower taxes. You can learn more about Van De Water’s positions by visiting his website <https://www.kyleforny19.com>.

Steven Greenfield (Green)

Steven Greenfield lives in New Paltz. He has been a volunteer firefighter for 16 years, is a two-term elected school board member, and has held numerous appointed positions with the Town of New Paltz and the school district. He serves as a community member of the Legislative Action Committee, which he chaired while on the school board. In a quote from his website, Greenfield aims to “restore the Constitutional separation of powers, end non-defensive war, build a thriving, sustainable post-fossil fuel economy, promote quality education and health care for all, and to return economic and governmental power to smaller-scaled, better-serving, more efficient, more democratic local control.” For more information about Steven Greenfield, please see <https://stevegreenfieldforcongress.com/>.

Victoria Alexander (Libertarian)

Victoria Alexander is a farmer and novelist, as well as a director of an arts foundation. She was a 2020 Fulbright Scholar to Russia, and also serves as the secretary of the electoral reform group Ranked Choice. Her campaign issues include shrinking military spending, decriminalizing drugs, and expanding affordable health care. On the environment, Alexander believes the government can have more of a direct impact by not spending billions of dollars on creating pollution, rather than spending billions to clean it. According to Alexander’s website, “My goal, which unites us all, is to try to decentralize the power that has been concentrated in the hands of the few.” For more information, see <https://directdemocracyus.org/>.

NEW YORK STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 41

New York Senate District 41 is one of the 63 state senate districts. It comprises almost all of Dutchess County and the western half of Putnam County. It overlaps with New York's Congressional Districts 18 and 19. State Senator Sue Serino has represented the district since 2015.

Sue Serino (R, Incumbent)

Sue Serino has served as the representative of the New York State Senate for district 41 since 2015. She is a Republican who previously served on the Hyde Park Town Board and the Dutchess County Legislature. According to her re-election campaign website, Serino's main issues include lowering taxes, creating jobs, and addressing health issues such as the heroin epidemic and Lyme disease. Currently, she has sponsored a bill that will designate the Saw Kill and Fall Kill as inland waterways. This designation will make the waterways eligible for state and federal waterfront revitalization program funding. Senator Serino's campaign website is <https://www.sueserino.com/>.

Karen Smythe (D)

Karen Smythe is challenging incumbent Senator Serino again, after running in 2018 and losing by 688 votes. According to Smythe's website, the defeat "never felt like a loss—simply unfinished business." She has served as a Trustee of Vassar College and on the boards of the Bardavon Theater and the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum. Karen Smythe's goals for the environment include working with federal, state and local partners to meet the goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Investing in the Hudson Valley's drinking water infrastructure and encouraging regenerative farming practices are also mentioned in her environmental issues campaign webpage, found at <https://karen4nysenate.com>.