



Gardiner Dems

P.O. Box 145 • Gardiner, NY 12525

Above all, being a Democrat means having compassion for others. It means putting government to work to help the people who need it. It means using all available tools to provide good health care and education, job opportunities, safe neighborhoods, a healthy environment, a promising future. It means standing up for people who have been kept down, whether they are Native Americans or African Americans, women, immigrants, or the homeless. It means taking care of the mentally ill, of seniors, of vulnerable children, of veterans—and making sure all people are treated with respect and dignity.

George McGovern, What It Means to Be a Democrat, 2011, Penguin Books

July 23, 2021

Dear Fellow Gardiner Democrat,

I hope this letter finds you and yours well as we (hopefully) are emerging from our long covid hiatus. I am writing to ask for your continued support of the Gardiner Democratic Party.

If the author of the above quote, our 1972 Democratic presidential nominee, were writing today, he would surely include explicit reference to LGBTQ Americans, all people of color, and to our struggle to make Black Lives Matter. That is who we Democrats are: **we are about all of us**, not just some of us, or our own narrow self-interest.

Almost 50 years after his loss to Richard Nixon, we are at the dawn of a new era in which we, as a nation, can choose McGovern's vision or its opposite, the vision of Donald Trump, his enablers, and the insurrectionists who stormed the capital on January 6 seeking to extend an authoritarian administration.

The election of Joe Biden was our triumph over another four years of Trumpism! President Biden's successful roll-out of the vaccine and the passing, against solid Republican opposition, of **the American Rescue Plan** was another huge victory. Landmark infrastructure legislation is likely to pass this year, leading to more job creation and a healthy post-covid economy.

Of course, obstacles abound. Unprecedented threats to voting—holding free and fair elections—are being legislated all over red-state America with voting rights legislation stalled in the Senate. Trump and, more importantly, Trumpism are still going strong. Obstructionism is the key tactic employed by Republicans in a closely divided congress and in the courts, newly packed with right-wing judges.

Many of us have responded to threats at the national level by giving generously to individual Democratic campaigns, to our state and national Democratic Party, and to independent political action groups like MoveOn.org, Indivisible, and Stacy Abrams' Fair Fight. We at the Gardiner Democratic Committee strongly encourage such investments in our political future.

However, it is also important to support our home-grown political organizations in order to nourish democracy and Democratic values right here in Gardiner, in Ulster County, New York.

The Gardiner Democratic Committee is a not-for-profit arm of the Ulster County Democratic Committee, composed of hard-working volunteers dedicated to electing Democratic candidates at home. We use your financial support to organize local campaigns for town and county office. We pay for print and online advertisements, campaign materials, websites, campaign signs, and a social media presence in support of our candidates. We make financial contributions to the campaigns of our candidates for state and county-wide office. We run campaigns for our local town candidates. And we organize at the grassroots level. In the coming months, we will roll out an initiative called

Neighbor 2 Neighbor where our volunteers will go door-to door to listen to your input and translate your concerns into priorities for our local party. Its goal is to grow our Gardiner Democratic community.

In elections, we have had great successes, including:

- Electing in 2019 a **Democratic County Executive, Gardiner's own Patrick Ryan**, who has skillfully managed Ulster County through the largest public health crisis in a century and who has led on a slew of major challenges from a shortage of affordable housing to making our county a leader on environmental issues.
- Electing **David Clegg as the first Democratic Ulster County District Attorney in more than 150 years**.
- Electing and re-electing **Democrat Antonio Delgado to the U.S. House of Representatives**, who in 2018 replaced an entrenched Trumpist Republican, helping to flip the U.S. House of Representatives blue. Antonio has been a breakout star in the House, delivering handsomely for both rural and urban residents of New York's 19th Congressional District.
- The election, in 2018, of **Juan Figueroa, Ulster County's first person of color to be elected to the office of County Sheriff**. Juan is changing the culture of policing in our county and leading in areas such as diversity awareness and battling the opiate crisis.
- And as important as any of these is **the election of Democrats (or D-endorsed unaligned) to almost every Gardiner town office**, from Supervisor to every Town Board Member, both Town Justices, Highway Superintendent, and our great County Legislator, **Tracey Bartels**.

But we lost **our great State Senator, Jen Metzger in 2020**, who was defeated by a Republican now pushing a solidly Trumpist agenda. **We need to take that seat back in 2022!**

And if recent events have taught us anything it is that **advancing democracy and voter engagement are a never-ending process** and must be a priority on a local and national level in order to save our representative system of government and **nourish the principles embodied in George McGovern's words**.

So, we ask for your help. If you gave money in 2020 to support national political change, we respectfully ask that you **match those contributions at the local level** by giving generously to the Gardiner Democratic Committee. **We will appreciate anything you can contribute**. Please print your name and address on your check and send it to:

**Gardiner Democratic Committee
P.O. Box 145
Gardiner, NY 12525**

You can also go gardinerdemocrats.com/donate, where you can contribute to our work securely using your credit card through the secure PayPal portal (you do not need a PayPal account to use this method, just a credit card).

Thank you for your past support, and for your continuing commitment to keeping our local government blue.

Sincerely,

Tom Kruglinski
Chair, Gardiner Democrats

Debra Clinton
Vice Chair, Gardiner Democrats