



September 7, 2022

Dear _____,

We are writing this soon after we all elected Pat Ryan our Representative to Congress. It feels great to win—not just politically and emotionally, but spiritually as well. Gardiner contributed handsomely (about 70%-30% for Pat) to Ulster County results (roughly 60%-40% for Pat) which put him over the top. At a time when democracy is under serious threat in many parts of the country, it's good to know that right here in Gardiner it's healthy.

Unfortunately, that doesn't mean that the picture is rosy. Our endorsed candidate for State Assembly, Kevin Cahill, lost by 330 votes county-wide (out of more than 12,000 cast) in the June primary election, taking from us a seasoned and powerful representative in Albany. And Shawangunk Republican politician Ken Ronk succeeded in dominating the County Reapportionment Commission and gerrymandering Gardiner—splitting it for the first time in history into two county legislative districts to diminish Gardiner Dems' power in the County Legislature. We are now planning on challenging that shameless power grab in court and will need to finance litigation that would make it possible for a Democrat to win the county legislative seat (currently occupied by Tracey Bartels) that represents three-fourths of Gardiner.

Republican tactics that threaten the nation: rampant disinformation, accusing Democrats of the misdeeds they are hard at work committing, gerrymandering, and undermining faith in our democratic institutions are at work right here in Ulster County. Have you seen the continuing displays of support for Trump and the big lie among our neighbors? The ruling that overturned Roe and other recent bad decisions by a radicalized Supreme Court will affect us here in Ulster County and Gardiner, not just in far-flung red states. The threat is truly existential for democracy everywhere.

The Gardiner Democratic Committee uses every penny raised to further our Democratic values here in Gardiner as well as across Ulster County. This year alone we have contributed significant amounts of financial, moral, and sweat-equity support to our great Sheriff, Juan Figueroa, to Pat Ryan, and to the upcoming campaign to support the ballot measure creating a Community Preservation Fund in Gardiner to help protect open space in our town. While we raised about \$2,500 in our Yard Sale fundraiser in June (thanks to all who contributed sale



items and who worked at the event!), that amount has already been drawn down by some of the contributions mentioned above and will be completely used up by November.

We will further support Pat's bid in the new Congressional District 18, and we will support the party's candidate for County Executive—we need to keep the Executive Office blue. When we begin litigation with the County Reapportionment Commission, we will need to pony up significant funds to pay lawyers. Then there will be other local and county races next year that we will need to fund.

In short, we need your financial assistance to continue and build upon our successes. We realize dollars may be tight and that any political contributions in your budget may be mostly allocated to worthy national causes. But we are in those fights too, and these struggles also are local struggles in which the Gardiner Dems are very much involved. Political action here at home is as vital as fighting the battles at a state and national level.

So, would you please write a check for whatever amount you can afford, made payable to the "Gardiner Democratic Committee" and send to P.O. Box 145, Gardiner, NY 12525? You can also go to gardinerdemocrats.com and click on the "Donate" tab to securely contribute with your credit card*. Your generous contribution will continue to provide the volunteer and financial aid in furtherance—right here in Gardiner—of our shared Democratic values.

As always, should you have questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us at the numbers and email addresses below.

Thank you and please enjoy what's left of the warm weather!

Best regards,

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*Political donations are NOT tax-deductible.

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