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P.O. Box 145
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Dear Friend,

It has been a crazy but consequential year for the Gardiner Democratic Committee (GDC). We had three elections last year: a primary in June, a special election (for Congress) in August, and the general election in November. Part of the reason for the craziness was the decennial redistricting process that was done initially by the New York State Legislature, then overturned by a court in Western New York, then the redrawing of district maps by an academic from Pittsburgh. The new maps, done by someone who does not know the state, probably cost our party the House of Representatives. However, our candidate, Gardinerite Patrick Ryan, defied the odds and won the special election in August *and* the general in November.

In addition, in a classic gerrymandering move that would have severely diluted Gardiner's ability to elect a Democrat to the Ulster County Legislature, the County Reapportionment Commission in July approved a legislative district map that split Gardiner into two different county legislative districts, combining the part of Gardiner with the most Dems with the already blue New Paltz and diluting the other three-fourths of our town by adding a large part of red Shawangunk. The Gardiner Dems used our own funds and then raised more to sue the Commission on technical grounds and won in court. The result was that the Commission was forced to go back to the drawing board and ultimately produced a map that kept Gardiner in a single county legislative district (District 16) that includes Gardiner and now the northern part of Plattekill. We are, electorally, in better shape now than before the redistricting. *This would not have happened without the GDC taking action to protect our town's political voice!*

The power and influence of the Gardiner Democratic Committee have never been stronger. Locally, all town elected positions are held by those we have endorsed. The Republicans, while not dormant, are weaker than they ever have been both in our town and in Ulster County as a whole. Democrats hold all elected county-wide positions and command a supermajority in the Ulster County Legislature. We also elected, 4 years ago, the first Democratic District Attorney in Ulster County in over 150 years. And we have Jen Metzger and Pat Ryan upholding our values in Kingston and Congress, respectively.

Some of the reason for our success is demographics, but an awful lot, in my opinion, is not an accident. It has to do with far superior organizing on the part of Ulster County Democrats, including the Gardiner Dems. We have a much better-run organization than the Republicans do. Gardiner, for two elections running, has won awards for the percentage of our Dem voters who turn out. In the general election last year, we got over 71 percent of our Dem voters to the polls. That is significantly above the average statewide and above the average in Ulster County.

All of this takes lots of hard work and money: money for literature, signs, advertisements, legal fees, supplies, and more. We are powered 100 percent by volunteers and our overhead is negligible (a post office box and a subscription to an email marketing company). Accordingly,

very close to all of the money raised goes directly to electing candidates who share our Democratic values and policy preferences.

This year will hopefully not be as crazy as last year, but we do have local elections and, for the first time in several years, there is a primary challenge from within our party for Town Supervisor (*mark your calendars—the Primary is June 27—vote for Marybeth Majestic!*) and very probably competition from the Republicans for the Supervisor seat (**General Election on November 7—Vote Row A**). So, we must run a primary campaign and a general election campaign here in Gardiner. And, for county offices, we need to keep the DA's office blue by electing Manny Nneji and we need to make our own Debra Gregg Clinton our next County Legislator. In short, *we need your help to win!*

Please take this opportunity to write a check for whatever you can afford made payable to the Gardiner Democratic Committee and mail it to **GDC, P.O. Box 145, Gardiner, NY 12525**, OR go to our website (www.gardinerdemocrats.com) and click the donate tab to pay securely with a credit card through PayPal.

I am sure you share our concerns about the perilous state of our democracy. With voter suppression, rampant Republican gerrymandering, a Supreme Court with a supermajority of right-wing Republicans, insurrections, and more, we all need to pitch in financially where we can, with our sweat equity when possible, and of course with our votes by always showing up to the polls. While it is certainly important to support progressive candidates and causes nationally (like abortion access in the wake of the reversal of Roe), it is equally important to fight for our Democratic values here at home (think of all the Trump flags that flew locally). Former Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill, famously said, "All politics is local." *We can't do this without you!*

Please call me at (914) 475-3601 if you would like more information, just to talk about politics, or have a concern. *Thank you for your ongoing support for our work.*

Best regards,

Tom Kruglinski
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