



BY GEORGE, HE'S RIGHT! – There's an old saying about liars and figures, especially in politics, but I'm not here to call anybody names. I'll refer to former Saugerties school board president, retired town cop and (very) active town Conservative Party chairman George Heidcamp. A day or two after this May's school vote in Sawyertown, Superintendent Kirk Reinhardt commented that the budget passed with a 76 percent approval rating. True enough, but as Heidcamp observed, utterly misleading.

Heidcamp, who's good with numbers, would have none of that. The facts, as he wrote in a letter to the *Freeman*, are that the district has 15,625 eligible voters, but that only 1,049 actually cast ballots. Of those, 76 percent voted for the budget.

Heidcamp's bottom line: about 5 percent of eligible voters approved the budget, 95 percent didn't vote at all. Kingston did rather better; about 15 percent of eligible voters turned out for this year's elections which centered around the controversial Kingstonian building proposal uptown and developers' requests for tax abatements.

There is some silver in Heidcamp's dark cloud, however. If only five percent of voters turn out for next year's Saugerties school board elections, a very small number might well influence the outcome. As it did this year.
