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VOTER RESOURCE GUIDE

Delaware Landscape.

"I'm out Delaware, My peoples heavy there!" - Bobby Dime\$

This section will be specific to the tiny wonder, the diamond state, the First State – Delaware. While our focus will be on the three county beauty, you can access this information about any of the 50 states. You just need to search for your official state agency/department/entity dedicated to elections.

Delaware Voting Laws



The Delaware Constitution, Article 5 (Elections) outlines your voting rights. It also ensures that those that are registered to vote can't be coerced, threatened, hindered or intimidated by any person or corporation when voting. We want to highlight Section 1 of Article 5: the general assembly has the power to change the "means, methods, and instruments" of elections as they had been established in order to "secure secrecy and the independence of the voter, preserve the freedom and purity of elections and prevent fraud, corruption and intimidation threat." This is very important because it gives the General Assembly the power to change election laws. Which ultimately means you have the power to influence election laws, because you elect who serves in the General Assembly.

Voting registration has been a priority for the Delaware General Assembly and at the national level. This was exemplified by the Delaware and National Motor Voter acts of 1993. Most of us that received a license, learners permit, and/or an ID after 1993 were automatically registered to vote at the DMV. More recently, with the passage of Senate Bill 5, Delaware Code now allows for the seamless registration of voters through the integration of Division of Motor Vehicles and other complying agency records.

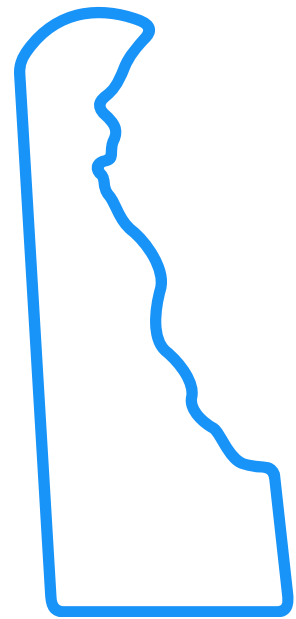
Delaware's voting laws are always evolving and are a key issue that Delawareans should care about.

Where you vote: I.E. Districts and Polling Places

You are assigned a district based on lines drawn by the policymakers in your respective states along with census data. Census data is used to estimate the population so that districts have equal representation. The area an elected official represents is a district. In Delaware there are 41 House Districts, meaning there are 41 Delaware Representatives. Additionally, there are 21 Senate Districts in Delaware, so.. you guessed it... there are 21 Delaware State Senators. Then there are county districts, and so on and so forth. We know this is confusing. What is important to know is that your district is where you live and dictates who represents you. See the links below to find which district you belong to.

District Maps

- [Senate Districts](#)
- [House Districts](#)
- [New Castle County](#)
- [Kent County](#)
- [Sussex County](#)



Who do you vote for?

Who you vote for is the billion dollar question. Quite literally: billions of dollars are spent every election cycle on persuading voters. Your own philosophies and morals will tell you how you should vote. Again, that's not what this resource guide is meant to do. We're here to encourage you to become passionate about voting in an informed manner. Voting in this day-in-age does require work and energy, but so do all good things. You will have to do research, but luckily for you, we live in a time where you can gain access to so much information at your fingertips. The question you should ask yourself is this: **Who can best represent my voice and make my community a better place?**

Challenges for Delaware voting:

Delaware does not truly have a voter registration problem. Through the legislative efforts mentioned above, the vast majority of Delaware is registered. The main challenge is *The People v. The Couch*. How to get voters motivated and actually to the polls is of much greater concern. Significant barriers to voting access, like transportation, polling place locations, and scheduling conflicts, have also impacted voter turnout in Delaware.

Know who represents you:

In the Civics 101 section, Figure 1 discusses how the federal and state governments mirror one another. This section will lay out the Delaware state and local elected officials and the offices they occupy. It is important to know who currently holds office, so you know who to contact and hold accountable. Below you will find a few resources to learn about who represents you.

- [The Governor's Office](#)
 - [The Executive Branch](#) - The Lt. Governor who is elected by the people, and the Governor's Cabinet, who the governor appoints to run state agencies
- [Delaware General Assembly](#)
- [House of Representatives](#)
- [Senate](#)
- [New Castle County](#)
- [Executive Office](#)
- [County Council](#)
- [Kent County](#)
- [Sussex County](#)
- [County Council](#)
- [County Administrator](#)
- [Delaware Mayors and City/Town Managers](#)



Conclusion.

We know this may feel overwhelming, and honestly at times it can be. We understand if you feel frustrated with the world of politics, and hold the belief that nothing will truly make a difference. Feeling this way is valid. But the reality is, nothing will really change if we all decide to not be civically engaged. Civil rights have never been won by giving up. As we talked about in earlier sections, so much effort has been deployed to disenfranchise the people's vote. This shows that voting has power. Not only does your vote have power, but the power of your voice is amplified when you stay informed, show up, and connect with your elected officials. Delaware is a small state which at times can lead to some sticky personal situations, ifykyk, lol. It also means there are boundless opportunities to make a meaningful difference in your community.

Remember, the only one who can take away all your power is you!

