

State Senator District #1	Name	Democratic
Candidate's Full Name	Dr. Adriana Leela Bohm	
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1. What motivates you to seek this position? And what makes you believe you are the “Best” candidate for this position?

I'm running because our democracy is crumbling. I hear this from my students and the thousands of people on whose doors I've knocked. Too many of us are suffering due to unlivable wages; skyrocketing groceries, gas, housing, and energy bills; failing schools; lack of affordable healthcare; an increasingly polluted environment; rising hate crimes; and the dismantling of Civil Rights legislation. These systemic problems are deeply connected and must be addressed holistically. We do not need another report, another commission, or another study.

We need action. We need new voices in the Delaware legislature who will fight against corporate greed, and for the people. As a union organizer, union member, professor (PhD in Sociology), mother, school board member, and activist, I have spent my life bringing people together and building coalitions so that ordinary people have a voice.

I will fight to fully fund public education, ensure that working people can earn wages that support their families, make healthcare and housing more affordable, and protect the rights and dignity of every Delawarean immigrants, workers, the LGBTQIA+ community, and communities of color. In an era of rising hate crimes, xenophobia, ICE escalation and the rolling back of Civil Rights legislation, we need politicians who are willing to fight to keep us all safe, and build the America we are taught to cherish: one that provides equal opportunity and protection for all of us.

2. If elected, what are your top three (3) legislative priorities that you look to address (either change, fix, or implement) for the coming year and the following year? For each of the priorities you identified, please explain

- **What outcome would you look to achieve?**

- **How do you think it is going to help and positively impact the residents in Brandywine Hundred?**
- **Identify the biggest hurdle you expect to face for each of the priorities and expand on how you plan to overcome it.**

Priority 1: Fix Delaware's broken school funding system.

I will fight to replace the outdated formula with an equitable, weighted funding system that directs more resources to students who need them most, fully fund universal pre-K, guarantee free school meals, and close the projected statewide funding gap. For Brandywine Hundred, that means ensuring every child gets a strong start. With a tight state budget, the biggest challenge will be finding sustainable revenue. I will work with educators, families, and fellow legislators to build the coalition needed to fund these priorities and ensure those dollars reach classrooms.

Priority 2: Affordable housing.

I will work to build and preserve affordable housing, direct public dollars and tax incentives toward affordable development, strengthen renter protections, and help seniors remain in their homes through repair and tax-assistance programs. This would give young people, families, and seniors more options to remain in the communities they love. I will prioritize making sure that public investment produces genuinely affordable homes.

Priority 3: Make healthcare affordable for every Delawarean.

I will work to create a statewide insurance plan that covers every Delawarean; work to reduce wait times by attracting and retaining more healthcare professionals in Delaware; remove loopholes insurance companies use to deny care; fight to increase pay for health care workers; adequately fund the hospital cost review board to control rising costs; invest in community-based preventive care, support for caregivers, mental health and substance-use treatment through stronger Medicaid reimbursement and provider incentives; and prioritize access to and availability of autism support services and maternal healthcare.

For families and seniors in Brandywine Hundred, that means a reduction in wait time for actual care; less red tape when attempting to access care; prioritizing pay increases for health care workers so we do not continue to have a shortage of health care workers; and

providing more access to affordable care without having to face financial hardship simply because one becomes sick. This will require standing up to powerful industry interests and building a coalition around the principle that access to quality healthcare should not depend on income.

3. How do you intend to be transparent in your decision-making and keep residents informed before major votes?

Transparency and accessibility have been central to how I serve. During ten years on the Red Clay School Board, I never missed a meeting or abstained from a vote, I made a point of responding to emails, listening to families, and was accountable for the decisions I made. During this campaign, I have knocked on more than 20,000 doors because I believe elected officials should hear directly from the people they represent.

As State Senator, I will bring that same approach to Dover by holding regular town halls and community office hours, communicating with constituents about major legislation before votes are taken, and explaining the reasoning behind my votes afterward. Residents should have a meaningful opportunity to weigh in while their voices can still shape the outcome.

4. What is your position on “Sustainability” when addressing its three main pillars, and how will you address them legislatively? Please provide short-term and long-term initiatives for each of the pillars:

- **environmental** (conserving natural resources, fighting climate change, and reducing waste so ecosystems can recover)
- **economic** (supporting resilient, long-term financial growth and jobs without relying on destructive practices)
- **social** (ensuring fairness, equal opportunities, and healthy communities for everyone).

I am a sociologist (PhD in Sociology from Temple University) and we examine how systems operate, how institutions are connected, and how group experiences are shaped by macro level forces. I know the environment, economics, and social sustainability are all interconnected: we cannot build a healthy economy without protecting our environment, and neither matters if the benefits are not shared equitably.

Environmentally, I support stronger environmental protections and state-level Green New Deal legislation that moves Delaware toward clean energy while creating good union jobs. In the short term, I will work to advance these protections while ensuring that new development is evaluated for its environmental impact. Over the long term, Delaware must

transition to a cleaner economy without placing the costs of that transition on working families.

Economically, my immediate priorities include job & business development, strengthening worker protections, increasing the minimum wage, investing in affordable housing, safe-guarding and growing union work, and lowering costs for working families. Long term, I want Delaware to build an economy that provides stable, family-sustaining jobs and allows people to afford to live in the communities where they work.

Socially, I will prioritize better-funded public schools, affordable healthcare and housing, protections for workers, immigrants, and LGBTQIA+ Delawareans, and investing in walkable/bikeable communities.

5. Will you ensure that there is legislation that requires comprehensive “Traffic studies” to be conducted by WILMAPCO & DELDOT to control and prevent the overuse/crowding of major secondary road traffic when residential and business developments are approved by New Castle County? Please elaborate.

Yes. Comprehensive traffic studies are an important part of responsible development, and residents should have the opportunity to understand and comment on how proposed projects will affect traffic in their communities.

I would support requiring traffic studies while exploring ways to streamline the process, including establishing a three-month target where feasible and better coordinating transportation and land-use planning. We should be able to understand and address the transportation impacts of growth without unnecessarily delaying (or increasing the cost of) the housing our communities need.

6. “Affordable Housing” is one of the key needs in the Brandywine Hundred for newcomers, young families, and senior citizens who want to downsize, and/or cannot afford to buy or provide the needed upkeep of the currently available houses. This means affordable apartment buildings need to be developed, either through new construction or by converting old office buildings into apartments. This also requires public transportation with new routes and/or increasing the frequency of existing routes from apartment buildings to key locations. Given the current 2027 budget cuts to DelDOT, how do you plan to meet residents' needs when you start your new term in office?

Housing and transit have to be planned together. On housing, I will fight to direct public dollars and tax incentives toward affordable homes; convert underused

office buildings into housing; fight to rebuild and rehab abandoned, vacant, and fire-damaged homes; and remove exclusionary zoning barriers that prevent affordable construction.

On transit, I will fight to protect and increase state investment, pursue available federal funding, and prioritize reliable service that connects residents especially seniors and working families to jobs, healthcare, and other daily needs. As Delaware faces tighter budgets, I will oppose balancing them through transit cuts that disproportionately affect people who cannot rely on a car. Ultimately, we need to build more affordable housing in places where residents can access jobs and services without having to depend on a car for every trip.

I am also extremely interested in expanding Delaware's passenger rail system. I'm excited about the Diamond State Rail Line study now underway, which is exploring passenger service from Wilmington or Newark through Middletown, Dover, and communities farther south. I would love to see Delaware make that vision a reality and ultimately explore connections that make it easier to reach our beaches and other communities without relying on a car.

Better rail means more options for commuters, less traffic and pollution, greater accessibility, and good union jobs. I want to work with DelDOT, our communities, and our federal partners to understand what it will take to make expanded passenger rail viable. Let's grow our train system!

7. What legislation will you propose and champion to control the development of the data centers and their energy use without taxing and increasing the power costs of the residents?

Delaware families should not be subsidizing the enormous energy demands of some of the wealthiest corporations in the world. I support legislation already moving through Delaware that would require large energy users to pay the costs they impose on our grid and require major projects to undergo state review of their impacts on energy costs, grid reliability, and our environment.

I would go further by requiring local approval and a transparent public process before large-scale data centers can be built. Communities should have a real say in projects that will consume enormous amounts of energy and water and reshape their neighborhoods. If we cannot guarantee that new data centers will not raise residents' utility bills or harm surrounding communities, I support pausing new development until those protections are in place.

- 8. Just recently, at the end of the 2026 Legislative Session, the state agreed to pitch in an additional \$110 million to help cover a \$189 million shortfall in the Edgemoor container terminal construction (ballooned from originally estimated \$415 million to \$669 million)**
- **When the state's budget is already reduced, how will taxpayers be affected?**
 - **Please explain what you will do to protect and maintain the existing services?**
 - **How do you plan to communicate your legislative efforts transparently so that the services are not eliminated without taxpayers' knowledge and consent?**

The additional \$110 million for the Edgemoor container terminal underscores the need for transparency and accountability. Taxpayers deserve to know why costs increased, where additional funding will come from, and what tradeoffs are involved. I will demand transparency from the agencies and officials responsible for the project.

My platform calls for increased investment in essential services, including public education, healthcare, transit, and services for seniors. I would oppose paying for further cost overruns by cutting these priorities and demand accountability for how public dollars are spent.

I will also advocate for a strong community benefits agreement and ongoing environmental monitoring, and communicate openly with constituents about major budget and legislative decisions. Delawareans should know how their money is being spent and have meaningful opportunities to weigh in.

- 9. DNREC listed Shellpot Creek as NOT SAFE for swimming or primary contact recreation. Shellpot Creek flows through a highly urbanized and suburban area in New Castle County (15-square-mile watershed). It is officially impaired by high levels of bacteria and nutrients from urban and storm-drain runoff, and by elevated concentrations of toxic PFAS "forever chemicals" in the watershed. However, DNREC still allows siphoning or the withdrawal of water from Shellpot. Controlling what is dumped into Shellpot Creek relies on both regulatory limits and community practices.**
- **Could you please explain how you ensure that DNREC monitors the Shellpot Creek regularly and meets the requirements as identified in their regulations?**
 - **How do you control and monitor what is being dumped into the Shellpot Creek?**
 - **How often is Shellpot Creek monitored for safety?**

- **Will you commit to notifying all neighborhood communities under your jurisdiction about the DNREC findings, and to sharing the report DNREC generates, so children and pets are protected from health hazards?**
- **Will you put this information regularly in your newsletters to your constituents?**

Protecting residents from contaminated water is a serious public health responsibility. If elected, I would work with DNREC and community stakeholders to understand how frequently the creek is tested, what pollutants are monitored, how discharges and runoff are regulated, and where gaps may exist. I would use my role as a legislator to push for appropriate oversight, enforcement, and funding to protect water quality and public health.

I also commit to sharing important DNREC findings and health advisories with affected communities, including through constituent newsletters, so residents have the information they need to protect themselves, their children, and their pets.

10. Every year, many women experience serious health complications from pregnancy and childbirth in Delaware. Delaware ranks #1 in the nation for hospital maternity practices according to the Delaware Health Association; however, it struggles with maternal mental health and specific birth outcomes. The state has a preterm birth rate of 10.6% and is ranking 30th nationwide. It ranks 15th in maternal mortality and access.

- **What are you going to do to ensure that all mothers have access to the desired healthcare and healthcare providers, and provide them with services so they can get proper prenatal and baby care education, nutritional services, so every mother and child in Delaware is equipped to start a healthy life?**
- **Please explain the type of legislation you will introduce in 2027 and beyond.**

As a mother of two, I know that pregnancy and childbirth can be a time when families need tremendous support. No mother should have to navigate that period without access to trusted providers, good information, nutritious food, or the care she and her baby need simply because of her income or insurance.

Delaware has made important progress, including extending postpartum Medicaid coverage and expanding access to doulas. In 2027, I would build on that work by investing in maternal healthcare, working to attract and retain more healthcare providers, and advancing policies that specifically address disparities in maternal health outcomes, including Delaware's Black maternal mortality rate. I would also support increased access to mental health and substance-use treatment and preventive care.

Longer term, I support a statewide health insurance plan so that access to care before, during, and after pregnancy does not depend on a family's ability to pay.

Thank you very much for completing the CCOBH 2026 Primary and General Election Survey.

If you would like to provide additional comments, please use the space below.