

State Representative District 6	Name	Democratic
Candidate's Full Name	Edward Mulvihill	
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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 motivated to seek this position because I care deeply about the community where I grew up and where I’m now raising my own family. I’ve spent my life living, working, volunteering, and owning a small business here, and I’ve seen firsthand both what makes our community special and the challenges our neighbors face.

I believe I’m the best candidate because I bring a unique perspective to the job. As a lifelong resident and fourth-generation small business owner, I understand what rising costs mean for families and businesses, the importance of strong public schools, and the need for government to be responsive to the people it serves. I’ve also spent years advocating in Dover, bringing people together, and working with legislators on issues affecting small businesses and our communities.

Most importantly, I’m running to be a neighbor first and a politician second. I’ll be accessible, transparent, and willing to listen. I will always put the needs of our district and our neighbors first.

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.**

1. Lowering the Cost of Living for Working Families

Outcome: My first priority would be addressing the rising cost of living, particularly childcare, housing, healthcare, and other expenses that are putting pressure on working

families. I would support policies that expand access to affordable childcare, increase the supply of attainable housing, and encourage real wage growth while making sure state policies do not unnecessarily increase costs for families or small businesses.

Impact on Brandywine Hundred: I hear regularly from neighbors who are doing everything right but still struggling to get ahead. Childcare can cost as much as a mortgage, housing costs have increased dramatically, and everyday expenses continue to rise. Reducing those pressures allows families to save, invest in their children, remain in our community, and have greater financial security.

Biggest hurdle: The biggest challenge will be finding solutions that are both effective and financially sustainable. Delaware cannot simply spend its way out of every affordability problem. I would work across the aisle and with stakeholders to identify programs that provide measurable benefits, eliminate unnecessary costs and inefficiencies, and prioritize investments that directly benefit working families.

2. Strengthening Our Public Schools

Outcome: I want to make sure our schools have predictable and adequate funding, that we can recruit and retain great teachers and support staff, and that we address aging school infrastructure. I also support modernizing Delaware's outdated school funding system so resources better reflect the actual needs of students and schools.

Impact on Brandywine Hundred: Strong schools are fundamental to strong communities. Better-supported teachers and classrooms mean better outcomes for our children, while maintaining and modernizing aging school buildings creates safer and more effective learning environments. Strong public schools also protect property values and help make Brandywine Hundred a place where families want to live and raise their children.

Biggest hurdle: Education represents a significant portion of Delaware's budget, and meaningful improvements require long-term commitments rather than one-time investments. My approach would be to prioritize classroom resources, educators, and critical infrastructure while demanding accountability for how education dollars are spent.

We also need a more predictable funding structure that does not continually force communities to rely on referendums to maintain essential services.

3. Lowering Energy Costs and Building a More Reliable Energy Future

Outcome: I want Delaware to pursue an energy policy that prioritizes affordability, reliability, and accountability. That means examining the policies and charges contributing to rising electric bills, strengthening oversight of utilities, protecting ratepayers from costs created by large energy users such as data centers, and encouraging additional energy generation and infrastructure where appropriate.

Impact on Brandywine Hundred: Electricity isn't optional. When rates rise, families have less money for groceries, housing, childcare, and healthcare. Higher energy costs also hurt our local businesses and ultimately get passed along to consumers. A more affordable and reliable energy system would provide immediate and long-term benefits to virtually every resident of Brandywine Hundred.

Biggest hurdle: Energy policy is complicated and involves utilities, regulators, energy producers, environmental goals, regional grid operators, and state and federal policies. There will also be powerful interests advocating for their preferred solutions. I would approach the issue by putting ratepayers first, demanding transparency about what is driving our bills, and working toward practical solutions that balance affordability, reliability, and our long-term environmental responsibilities.

Together, these priorities reflect what I hear most often from our neighbors: make it more affordable to live here, make sure our children have great schools, and make government work harder for the people paying the bills.

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

Transparency and accessibility would be central to how I serve as a State Representative. Residents should not have to wait until after an important vote to find out where their representative stands or why they voted a certain way.

Before major votes, I intend to communicate with residents through regular community updates, social media, email, and in-person office hours and town halls. When an issue has a significant impact on the Brandywine Hundred: I want residents to know what is being considered, hear the arguments for and against it, and have an opportunity to share their views with me before I cast my vote.

I also believe transparency means being willing to explain my decisions, including when someone disagrees with me. After major votes, I will explain how I voted and why. I will maintain an open-door approach, make myself accessible throughout the district, and actively seek input rather than expecting residents to come to me.

My goal is simple: no one should ever have to wonder where I stand, why I made a decision, or how to reach me.

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 believe sustainability requires balancing environmental responsibility, economic opportunity, and the well-being of our communities. These goals should complement one another. Our environmental policies need to be achievable and affordable, economic growth needs to benefit the communities where it occurs, and everyone should have the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy, and prosperous community.

Environmental: In the short term, I would focus on practical investments that reduce energy use and pollution, improve energy efficiency in homes, businesses, and public buildings, protect open space and waterways, and expand opportunities to reduce and recycle waste. I also believe major developments should be evaluated for their impact on surrounding neighborhoods, including traffic, air quality, noise, flooding, and energy demand.

Long term, Delaware needs a realistic plan to reduce emissions while maintaining an affordable and reliable electric grid. I support expanding cleaner energy and increasing generation, but the transition cannot come at the expense of reliability or place an unreasonable financial burden on working families. Climate resilience must also be incorporated into infrastructure and land-use decisions as Delaware prepares for flooding, extreme weather, and other long-term challenges.

Economic: In the short term, I would prioritize reducing unnecessary barriers for small businesses, workforce development, infrastructure investment, and policies that encourage businesses to invest and create good-paying jobs in Delaware. As a fourth-generation small business owner, I understand that sustainability also means creating an economy where local businesses can survive, grow, and pass from one generation to the next.

Long term, Delaware should pursue economic development that expands our tax base and creates careers while ensuring growth pays its fair share of the infrastructure and resources it requires. We should encourage industries and technologies that position Delaware for the future without shifting their costs onto residents. Economic development should strengthen the communities surrounding it, not diminish their quality of life.

Social: In the short term, I would focus on the issues that most directly affect people's ability to build stable lives: strong public schools, affordable childcare and housing, access to healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and lowering everyday household costs. Opportunity means very little if families cannot afford to remain in the communities where they grew up.

Long term, I want Delaware to be a place where every child has access to a quality education, families can afford to raise their children, seniors can afford to remain in their homes, and everyone has a fair opportunity to succeed regardless of their background. That requires sustained investments in education, infrastructure, public health, and our communities while ensuring government spends taxpayer dollars responsibly.

Ultimately, I view sustainability as leaving the Brandywine Hundred and Delaware stronger for the next generation than we found them - environmentally, economically, and socially. The challenge is not choosing among those three goals, but developing thoughtful policies that advance all three together.

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. I support requiring comprehensive traffic studies for major residential and commercial developments so that we understand the cumulative impact of development on our roads and surrounding neighborhoods, not simply the traffic generated by one project viewed in isolation.

The Port of Wilmington expansion at Edgemoor is a perfect example of why this matters. Residents in the surrounding Brandywine Hundred communities have raised legitimate concerns about the additional truck traffic the expanded port could bring to roads like Philadelphia Pike, Governor Printz Boulevard, Edgemoor Road, and the surrounding secondary and neighborhood roads. A project of that size cannot be evaluated only by asking whether a particular intersection technically meets an acceptable traffic standard. We need to understand what thousands of additional truck and vehicle trips could mean for congestion, safety, noise, air quality, and quality of life in the communities surrounding the project.

I would support legislation requiring DelDOT, working with WILMAPCO and local government, to evaluate major developments using current traffic conditions, projected growth, nearby approved or proposed developments, intersection capacity, truck traffic, cut-through traffic on neighborhood roads, and pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Most importantly, these studies need to happen early enough to influence the project. Residents should have access to the findings and an opportunity to provide input before major decisions are finalized. When a development creates the need for additional road or infrastructure improvements, the developer should contribute appropriately toward those improvements rather than leaving existing residents to bear the cost and consequences.

I support responsible economic development, including the opportunities that can come from the Port expansion, but economic development and protecting our neighbors' quality of life cannot be mutually exclusive. We need to plan for growth before it arrives, not react to traffic problems after they have already become part of residents' daily lives.

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?**

I agree that affordable housing and transportation have to be addressed together. Building affordable apartments does little good if residents cannot reliably get to work, medical appointments, grocery stores, schools, and other essential services.

In the Brandywine Hundred, I believe we should encourage the redevelopment of underused commercial properties and vacant office buildings into housing where it makes sense. That can create more apartments for young families, working residents, and seniors who want to downsize while revitalizing properties that are already developed rather than continually consuming additional open space. We also need a mix of housing options so people at different stages of life can afford to remain in our community.

The proposed 2027 DelDOT budget constraints make prioritization even more important. I would advocate for protecting DART service, particularly routes serving areas with concentrations of apartments, senior communities, employment centers, healthcare, shopping, and connections to other transit. Before eliminating or reducing routes, we should examine ridership, frequency, and whether adjusting routes could serve more residents with the resources available.

I also believe transportation planning needs to become a larger part of the development approval process. When significant new residential development is proposed, DelDOT, DART, New Castle County, and developers should be discussing transportation needs before the project is built, including bus stops, sidewalks, pedestrian connections, and whether existing transit routes have sufficient frequency and capacity. Developers benefiting from higher-density projects should also participate in providing the infrastructure necessary to support them.

Ultimately, my goal is not simply to build more housing. It is to create affordable, connected communities where a young family can establish roots, a senior can downsize without leaving the Brandywine Hundred, and residents can realistically get where they need to go without being completely dependent on a car.

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?

I believe Delaware should place a temporary moratorium on the approval of new large-scale data centers until appropriate regulations and ratepayer protections are in place. We should not allow projects with enormous electricity demands to move forward first and figure out how to protect residents from the costs afterward.

During that period, I would work to establish clear rules requiring data centers to demonstrate how their energy needs will be met and to pay the full cost of the generation, transmission, substations, and other grid infrastructure necessary to serve them. Existing residential customers and small businesses should not be required to subsidize those investments through higher electric rates.

But Delaware cannot solve this problem alone. Because we are part of the PJM regional electric grid, increased electricity demand from massive data centers in neighboring states can contribute to higher regional capacity and transmission costs that ultimately affect Delaware ratepayers. I would work with legislators, regulators, and governors throughout the PJM region to push for consistent regional standards for large-load customers so states are not competing against each other by offering weaker requirements and then spreading the resulting costs across the entire grid.

Long term, I would like to see a regional framework requiring very large energy users to pay the costs they create and, where appropriate, bring new generation onto the grid to support their demand.

My position is simple: pause major new data center development, establish strong protections, coordinate those protections across the PJM region, and make sure Delaware families do not pay higher electric bills because of massive energy consumption either here or in another state.

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?**

I have serious concerns about both the cost overruns at the Edgemoor container terminal and the process by which additional taxpayer funding was approved. The Port can be an important economic asset for Delaware, but an important project does not get a blank check. When a project grows substantially beyond its original cost estimates, taxpayers deserve a clear explanation of what happened, who is accountable, and what additional financial exposure remains.

With the state facing tighter budgets, my concern is that additional spending on the Port could ultimately compete with services residents rely on every day, including education, transportation, public safety, and services for seniors and families. I would fight to protect those core services and would insist on greater oversight and accountability before supporting additional taxpayer commitments to the project. That includes independent review of major cost overruns, regular public reporting on expenditures and construction progress, and a clear accounting of the state's total financial commitment.

I would also push for greater transparency when major funding decisions are made, particularly when they occur near the end of the legislative session. An additional commitment of this magnitude should not be something residents learn about after the fact. Legislators should have adequate time to review the details, and the public should have an opportunity to understand the proposal and its potential impact on other state priorities before a vote occurs.

That same transparency applies if budget pressures could result in reductions to existing services. I would communicate proposed cuts through email, social media, community meetings, and office hours before final decisions are made, explain what services could be affected, and actively seek feedback from the people who depend on them.

I support the economic opportunities the Port expansion can bring, but I also represent the communities that will live with its financial, traffic, environmental, and quality-of-life impacts. My responsibility would be to make sure taxpayers and our neighbors have a seat at the table, that essential services are protected, and that Dover does not treat \$110 million of taxpayer money as just another number in the budget.

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?

a. Ensuring regular monitoring and accountability:

Shellpot Creek is personal to me. I grew up in this community and played in and around Shellpot Creek as a kid. Knowing what we know today about bacteria, nutrients, PFAS, and other contaminants makes me especially concerned about making sure families have accurate and timely information about the creek.

As a legislator, I would use both the budget process and legislative oversight to make sure DNREC has the resources necessary to regularly monitor Shellpot Creek and is meeting its regulatory responsibilities. I would also push for greater transparency so testing results are readily available and understandable to the public, rather than buried in technical reports.

b. Controlling what enters Shellpot Creek:

We need to address both permitted discharges and pollution entering the creek through stormwater runoff. I would support stronger coordination among DNREC, New Castle County, DelDOT, and other responsible agencies to identify sources of contamination, investigate illegal dumping or improper discharges, improve stormwater management, and enforce existing environmental regulations. When repeated contamination is detected, we should be working backward to identify its source and hold responsible parties accountable.

c. How often should it be monitored?

Given Shellpot Creek's impaired status and the number of residential communities surrounding it, I believe we should examine whether the existing monitoring schedule is adequate. I support consistent, frequent monitoring, with additional testing following major storm events, suspected discharges, or other circumstances that could significantly affect

water quality. PFAS and other emerging contaminants should also be included when scientifically appropriate.

d. Will I notify neighborhoods? Absolutely.

If DNREC identifies conditions in Shellpot Creek that could present a health risk, particularly to children, pets, anglers, or others who may come into contact with the water, I will communicate that information directly to affected neighborhoods. I will also make DNREC's reports and testing results available through my office.

Government cannot simply publish a report somewhere online and consider the public informed. If there is information residents need to protect themselves or their families, their representative should actively help get that information to them. If the water is found to be unsafe for swimming or human contact signs should be posted on site.

e. Will I include this information in my newsletters? Yes.

Water quality and other environmental issues affecting the Brandywine Hundred will be included in my constituent communications. When there are significant new testing results, health advisories, contamination events, cleanup efforts, or changes in guidance concerning Shellpot Creek, I will communicate those developments through newsletters, email, social media, and other community outreach.

This issue really brings together two things that are important to me: protecting the community where I grew up and making government more transparent and accountable. I played around Shellpot Creek as a child, and children are still growing up around that same creek today. We owe their families clean water, serious oversight, and clear information about what is in it.

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.**

I believe every mother in Delaware should have access to quality healthcare before, during, and after pregnancy, regardless of her income, insurance status, or ZIP code. Delaware has made progress in maternity care, but our preterm birth rate, maternal mortality, and maternal mental health challenges show that there is still significant work to do.

In 2027 and beyond, I would focus on several areas.

- First, expand access to prenatal and postpartum care. I would support protecting and strengthening Medicaid coverage for pregnant and postpartum women and improving access to OB-GYNs, midwives, doulas, and other maternal healthcare providers. We also need to address areas of the state where women have difficulty finding providers or face long waits for appointments.
- Second, make maternal mental health a larger part of maternal healthcare. Postpartum depression, anxiety, and other pregnancy-related mental health conditions need to be treated as healthcare, not as an afterthought. I would support routine screening during pregnancy and throughout the postpartum period and make sure women who screen positive have somewhere to go for treatment and follow-up care.
- Third, strengthen prenatal education and nutritional support. I would support investments in programs that connect expecting mothers with prenatal education, breastfeeding and lactation assistance, nutritional counseling, WIC and other resources. We should also make it easier for healthcare providers to connect families with these programs before they leave the hospital.

I would also support Delaware's efforts to review maternal deaths and serious pregnancy complications so that we aren't simply collecting statistics - we are identifying preventable causes and changing policies accordingly. We should examine disparities in outcomes and make sure every mother receives the same high standard of care.

- Finally, I believe we need to look beyond the doctor's office. Affordable childcare, paid family leave, housing stability, nutrition, transportation, and access to healthcare all contribute to the health of mothers and babies. Improving maternal health requires us to recognize those connections.

My goal would be straightforward: a healthy pregnancy should not depend on how much money you make or where in Delaware you live. We should give mothers access to quality providers, education, nutrition, mental health services, and continued postpartum care so both mother and child have the healthiest possible start.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts and priorities for the Brandywine Hundred.

Throughout these questions, there is a common theme in how I believe government should work. We need to put our neighbors first. Whether we are talking about rising electric bills, strong public schools, responsible development, protecting Shellpot Creek, improving maternal healthcare, addressing traffic, or making sure major projects like the Port expansion do not negatively impact surrounding communities. The people affected by these decisions deserve a seat at the table.

I have spent my life living and working in this community. As a fourth generation small business owner, I am accustomed to being accountable to my neighbors every day. If someone has a concern, they know where to find me. I want to bring that same accessibility and accountability to Dover.

I will not agree with every resident on every issue, but I can promise that I will listen, I will do my homework, I will explain my decisions, and I will never forget who I work for.

I am running because I love this community, I am raising my family here, and I want to leave it stronger for the next generation. If elected, I will always strive to be a neighbor first and a politician second.