

State Representative District 6	Name	Democratic
Candidate's Full Name	Rachel "Rae" Krantz	
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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?

Our world is facing rapid change and instability. We need creativity and innovation in our state government to face these unprecedented challenges. I want our government to be proactive, and adapt quickly to protect us all from the changing world around us. A better world is possible, if we all do everything we can to make it happen.

I believe I am the best candidate for this position because of my experience, my energy, and my tenacity.

I first started canvassing for Democratic campaigns in 2018, and have canvassed in every election cycle since then. I’ve also joined numerous issue campaigns to try to make life better for Delawareans, including the Fight for Fifteen minimum wage increase, and working on Paid Family & Medical Leave with then-State Senator Sarah McBride. Most recently, I joined the Sierra Club in advocating for data center regulations. This involved a lot of canvassing beginning in the summer of 2025, where I worked to inform people about the data center plans near their home, and how they could contact their elected officials about their concerns. One passion of mine is helping people understand what is happening around them, and how to make their voices heard in our political system. These experiences around coalition building, helping people give voice to their concerns, and working directly with current legislators to try to get good ideas through our state government all have prepared me well to step into this role at this time.

I also would be the first and only software engineer in our state legislature - either Senate or House - and believe this is crucial expertise to have in our government as we grapple with how AI and data centers are affecting our world, and how to push back against the increased surveillance from Flock cameras. We need to have common-sense regulations that protect our jobs from being taken away, our kids’ education from being dimmed, our energy bills from continuing to skyrocket, and our grocery store prices from being increased by an algorithm built on surveillance.

After growing up in Virginia, I married a man from Delaware and we decided to raise our kids here. We enjoy being close to both of our families, and being a part of the community that makes Delaware so special. It is also because of my kids that I feel such a sense of

urgency in meeting the moment that we are in right now by running for State House Representative at this time. I owe it to them to do everything I possibly can to make this world the kind of world they, and all of us, deserve to live in.

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.**

Make Life Affordable for Everyone:

From climate effects to the loss of federal programs to rapidly advancing technologies, our communities are changing faster than they have before. We need creativity and innovation in our government to build a strong economy and lives we can afford. We need universal childcare and healthcare. We need a robust, thriving local economy that supports all of us.

Vibrant Streets and Stable Housing:

Up until now, we have built roads for cars and houses for developers. But we know better now. We can use new research to inform our next stage of development. Safer streets, affordable housing, and financially resilient local governments are possible.

Clean Air & Water as a Right:

No human can live without clean air and water. Yet in Delaware, we consistently rank terribly for both air and drinking water quality. I am a fierce advocate for our environment because our lives depend on us doing better.

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

- Regularly share a newsletter
- Consistently update my social media pages, continuing to post video explainers of bills and how they work
- Monthly town halls and constituent coffees

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).

a. environmental

Short Term

- Build more bike lanes, expand bus routes into the district, and protect funding for rail to incentivize less pollution in travel
- Put more native plants on government properties and incentive planting native plants on private property
- Reforestation around our water sources to prevent erosion

Long Term

- Green Amendment
- Moving to 100% renewables by 2050

b. economic (supporting resilient, long-term financial growth and jobs without relying on destructive practices)

Short Term

- Give Delaware a stake in companies when we invest public money in them “increasing our return and giving us power to keep them here”
- Streamline permitting processes, hiring more workers to ensure that forms and processes are completed quickly

Long Term

- Diversify our revenue sources so that we are less dependent on sources that have less loyalty to and love for our state (e.g. big out of state companies who use their wealth to make us do what they want, instead of what’s best for people in Delaware)

- Invest in and prioritize industries that can't move out of Delaware (health care, education, logistics, new climate science industries looking for a place to set up)

c. social (ensuring fairness, equal opportunities, and healthy communities for everyone).

Short Term

- Pass the second leg of the equal marriage amendment that passed this session
- Pass a trans refuge law so that LGBTQ+ fleeing from other states have safe harbor in Delaware

Long Term

- Expand Justice40 to ensure that 40% of funding, especially around environmental issues, goes to the fence line communities most affected by pollution
- Continue enshrining anti-discrimination laws into the Delaware Constitution, including the right to privacy which has not passed its first leg yet

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, and these requirements also need to come with the funding to ensure that the studies are completed in a reasonable timeframe. As a private citizen, I have advocated for traffic studies of areas I believe need them.

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?

A budget is a moral document, and when we cut funding for these things it shows that we do not truly care about them as a state.

At the top, we need to restore if not increase the funding to DelDOT, and expand affordable housing funding (which jumped from \$10 million to \$100 million recently but needs to go higher). Some of that money should be able to be found without increasing taxes. A large portion of the budget comes from Medicaid and state employee and retiree benefits which have gotten drastically more expensive as health care costs have come up. We need to put more limitations on these costs, which the state has been gradually trying to do over the past few years.

In some cases, we will likely need to raise new revenue. This should be done in a progressive way, so that the burden of these increases don't fall on those already struggling to pay, especially those who have seen big increases with property taxes.

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 was part of the group of advocates working to get New Castle County Council's ordinance regulating data centers passed.

I would like to see a data center moratorium, at least for the hyper scale data centers which have been proposed recently. I have not seen movement on that yet at the state level, so I know it will be a fight and require a lot of coalition building to get something like that done.

The state has already passed some laws I agree with in this regard. These large data centers should produce their own power, and this power generation should prioritize clean energy. We also need to strengthen our grid, as data centers are being built all around us, and as long as our electrical grid continues to be out of date, our rates will continue to be higher than surrounding states. We have got to start building coalitions across state lines, and working with our colleagues in state government in PA, NJ, and MD to make sure we can approach these challenges as a unit and have more bargaining power against these billionaire companies.

- 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 theory behind these sorts of investments is that the jobs created by the infusion of cash will pay off the initial investment via income taxes and other economic benefits. However, we have seen time and time again that this does not always happen. Especially in the case of the port, which has been delayed now for nearly a decade, taxpayers have continually had to foot the bill based on the mismanagement of a private company.

As mentioned above, we need to figure out the best way to keep down health care costs, but we also spend over a billion dollars on contracting. We should look into that to see if there are places that we can bring that work in-house or cut it out entirely. Bringing work in-house also creates more jobs for Delawareans, so it's a potential win-win if it also saves money in the long run. If we need to raise revenue, that should be done in a progressive way, so that the burden of these increases don't fall on those already struggling to pay

I will keep communication lines open, and communicate proactively through newsletters, town halls, constituent coffees, and social media posts.

- 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?**

I have strong working relationships with Representative Sophie Philips, Representative Frank Burns, and Representative Larry Lambert, who all have strong expertise in this area. I plan to work with them on this issue. I also have been endorsed by the Sierra Club, and have strong working relationships with many of its organizers through my own volunteer advocacy with them over the years. I plan to also work with Sierra Club in this endeavor.

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 someone who has gone through pregnancy and birthing, and also been a foster parent, I am intimately aware of the challenging landscape of care in our society. Healthcare affordability and access is a big focus here. Additionally, we have to figure out why our state ranks like this so we can adequately address the biggest causes. In California they created the California Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System (CA-PMSS), and discovered that a big cause of maternal mortality was postpartum hemorrhage. After they added crash carts to their maternity wards and trained staff specifically on how to handle postpartum hemorrhage, their maternal mortality decreased across the state. This is the kind of data-driven action I will push forward if elected as State Representative.

We also have lots of data from other states and cities for proven ways to increase maternal and post-partum health for both the parents and babies, such as providing “baby boxes” so that every newborn baby has a safe place to sleep and crucial essentials to keep them healthy and happy. There’s so much we can do! Maternal health and postpartum care is so important, because for too long our mothers have been forgotten about in our society.

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.

I live true to my values and do not accept corporate donations or corporate PAC support. I want to represent the people, and I am running my campaign to reflect that.