

State Senator District 5	Ray Seigfried	Democratic
Candidate's Full Name	Raymond Seigfried	
Email contact:	seigfriedraymond@gmail.com	

1. **What motivates you to seek this position? And what makes you believe you are the “Best” candidate for this position?**

I was motivated to run for public office by a simple realization: Delaware’s biggest challenges aren’t caused by a lack of political promises—they are caused by a lack of operational execution in Dover. Having spent over 25 years as a senior healthcare executive at ChristianaCare and a professor of health policy, I saw firsthand how complex, broken systems directly harm working families, seniors, and our state budget. I didn’t enter public service to offer high-level political rhetoric; I ran to apply analytical rigor, industry expertise, and statutory precision to solving structural problems.

I am the best candidate in this race because real progress requires a legislator who can turn policy values into passed law on day one. It is easy for candidates to offer broad, aspirational slogans on complex issues like healthcare equity, community safety, or childcare, but delivering actual outcomes requires knowing how to write the bill, build legislative coalitions, navigate state budget formulas, and oversee regulatory enforcement.

I don’t just advocate for progressive goals in theory. I understand the mechanics of state government well enough to enact them in practice. I offer tested, data-driven leadership that delivers measurable results.

My track record demonstrates that focus in action:

- **Healthcare Cost Containment & Access:** Co-Prime sponsor of **SS 2 for SB 1** to strengthen primary care and help control health insurance costs, prime sponsor of **SS 1 for SJR 7** to increase transparency from Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and pursue lower prescription drug costs, and author of **SB 71 (The Birthday Rule)** allowing seniors to switch Medigap plans during their birthday period without medical underwriting.
- **Civil Rights & Constitutional Due Process:** Prime sponsor of **SB 207** and **SCR 123** to hold companies accountable for participating in deportations without due process protections and to press for greater transparency and accountability in state-supported transportation contracts.
- **Community Safety & Re-entry Reform:** As Chair of the Senate Corrections & Public Safety Committee, leading efforts to strengthen community safety while protecting effective work-release and re-entry programs that reduce recidivism and improve successful transitions back into society.

- **Reproductive Freedom & Consumer Protections:** Voted to place reproductive freedom in the Delaware Constitution through **SB 5** and co-sponsored **HS 1 for HB 62**, protecting Delaware families from utility shutoffs during dangerous heat and cold emergencies.

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: Containing Healthcare Costs & Reining in Prescription Prices

Holding healthcare systems and pharmacy middle-men accountable while lowering out-of-pocket expenses for working families and seniors.

- **Outcome:** Slow the growth of healthcare costs by strengthening hospital cost-growth benchmarks, increasing transparency and accountability for Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), lowering prescription drug costs where possible, and expanding access to high-quality primary care across Delaware.
- **Positive Impact on Brandywine Hundred:** Reduce financial pressure on middle-class families and seniors living on fixed incomes by helping make healthcare and prescription medications more affordable—so fewer residents have to choose between paying for medicine, medical care, groceries, or other household necessities.
- **The Plan:** Building on the healthcare reforms I've already championed, I'll continue pursuing legislation that increases competition, promotes price transparency, strengthens oversight of hospitals and Pharmacy Benefit Managers, expands primary care, and reduces out-of-pocket costs for Delaware families. I will work with healthcare providers, employers, and patient advocates to make quality care more affordable without sacrificing access or outcomes.

Priority 2: Protecting Ratepayers, Strengthening Our Energy Grid & Ensuring Community Transparency

Protecting our power grid, shielding ratepayers from unfair costs, and ensuring Delaware communities have a voice in major development decisions.

- **Outcome:** Build on Delaware's recent progress by strengthening safeguards for hyperscale data centers, prohibiting secret government non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), ensuring large data centers pay the full cost of the electric infrastructure they require, requiring long-term commitments for new energy generation, and supporting strong environmental and community protections for noise, water use, and air quality.
- **Positive Impact on Brandywine Hundred:** Protect Brandywine Hundred families and seniors on fixed incomes from unfair electricity rate increases, strengthen the reliability of our electric grid, safeguard drinking water and neighborhood quality of life, and ensure residents receive transparent, timely information about major industrial projects proposed in their communities.
- **Biggest Hurdle & The Plan:** Powerful technology developers and energy interests seeking to accelerate approvals, limit public transparency, and shift the costs of new infrastructure onto Delaware ratepayers. I supported **SB 312** to prohibit secret government non-disclosure agreements that prevent public transparency, and co-sponsored **HB 233** and **HB 445** to ensure hyperscale data centers are financially responsible for the infrastructure they require and help meet their growing energy demands without unfairly burdening Delaware families. Moving forward, I will continue working with state regulators, utilities, county officials, and local communities to strengthen these protections, enforce responsible development standards, and ensure that economic growth never comes at the expense of Delaware taxpayers, neighborhoods, or our environment.

Priority 3: Protecting Civil Rights, Due Process & Equal Opportunity

Defending constitutional rights, ensuring government accountability, and protecting every Delawarean from discrimination while expanding opportunity for all.

- **Outcome:** Strengthen due process protections, promote transparency and accountability in government actions, ensure every Delawarean is treated fairly under the law, and continue advancing policies that expand educational opportunity and protect residents from discrimination.
- **Positive Impact on Brandywine Hundred:** Preserve the constitutional rights and freedoms that protect every resident, strengthen public confidence in government decision-making, ensure families are treated fairly regardless of their background, and create more equitable educational opportunities so every child has the chance to succeed.

- **The Hurdle & The Plan:** Political polarization and special interests that seek to weaken constitutional protections, limit transparency, or divide Delaware communities instead of solving problems. Building on my sponsorship of **SB 207** and **SCR 123**, I will continue working to ensure government actions respect constitutional safeguards and individual rights and I will continue defending due process and constitutional rights by advancing policies that promote accountability, transparency, and equal treatment under the law.

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

Leadership Through Transparency and Accessibility

Transparency isn't just a promise. It is a responsibility. I believe residents deserve to know what their elected officials are doing, why decisions are being made, and how they can make their voices heard before important votes are cast. I don't believe legislation should come as a surprise to the people it affects. Before major votes, residents deserve the opportunity to understand the issue, ask questions, and share their perspectives.

My commitment is to keep Brandywine Hundred residents informed, engaged, and connected through three key practices:

- **Being Present in the Community:** Good representation starts with listening. I will continue attending civic association meetings, neighborhood events, and community gatherings throughout Brandywine Hundred to hear directly from residents, answer questions, and discuss significant legislation before votes are taken.
- **Providing Clear, Timely Updates:** Before major legislative decisions, I will use my official communication channels, including social media, email newsletters, and community updates, to explain pending legislation in plain language, what it does, why it matters, and how it could affect our neighborhoods.
- **Making Government More Accessible:** Delaware's legislative process should be easy to understand, not difficult to navigate. I will continue directing residents to the Delaware General Assembly's online resources so they can track bills, committee meetings, public hearings, and roll call votes, while also making myself available to answer questions and explain the issues that matter most.

I believe transparency is built through consistent communication, honest dialogue, and a willingness to listen. My goal is to ensure that every resident has the information they need to stay engaged and confident that their voice is being heard before decisions are made in Dover.

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).

Protecting Our Environment, Economy, and Communities for Future Generations

Sustainability means making decisions today that strengthen Delaware for the future. It requires balancing responsible environmental stewardship, economic opportunity, and the needs of our communities. As a legislator, I believe we can grow our economy while protecting the resources, neighborhoods, and quality of life that make Delaware a great place to live.

a. Environmental Sustainability

Short-Term Initiatives:

- Strengthen oversight of large-scale developments, including hyperscale data centers, to ensure they are responsible neighbors that protect energy reliability, water resources, and surrounding communities.
- Support policies that improve transparency around energy use, reduce unnecessary waste, and protect Delaware's air and water quality.
- Continue investments in infrastructure that protects clean water and reduces environmental risks.

Long-Term Initiatives:

- Develop a balanced energy strategy that improves grid reliability, encourages innovation, and reduces environmental impacts.
- Promote responsible growth that considers long-term impacts on Delaware's natural resources.
- Support conservation efforts that protect Delaware's waterways, open spaces, and ecosystems for future generations.

b. Economic Sustainability

Short-Term Initiatives:

- Protect Delaware families and businesses from unnecessary cost increases, including rising healthcare and energy costs.
- Encourage responsible economic development that creates good-paying jobs while requiring businesses receiving public benefits to be accountable to Delaware taxpayers.
- Expand workforce development opportunities that connect Delawareans with careers in growing industries.

Long-Term Initiatives:

- Build an economy based on innovation, skilled workers, and sustainable industries that can compete for generations.
- Invest in education, workforce training, and infrastructure that support long-term economic growth.
- Ensure economic development strengthens communities rather than placing additional burdens on residents.

c. Social Sustainability

Short-Term Initiatives:

- Continue expanding access to affordable healthcare, protecting consumers, and supporting policies that improve quality of life for families and seniors.
- Ensure communities have a voice in decisions that affect their neighborhoods.
- Support programs that strengthen public safety, education, and opportunities for Delaware residents.

Long-Term Initiatives:

- Build communities where every Delawarean has access to opportunity, quality education, healthcare, and a safe environment.
- Promote policies that reduce inequities and ensure government works effectively for all residents.
- Strengthen trust between residents and government through transparency, accessibility, and accountability.

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.

Position: Yes.

Responsible growth requires responsible planning. Residents should not be left dealing with increased congestion, unsafe road conditions, and neighborhood cut-through traffic because transportation infrastructure failed to keep pace with new development.

I support strengthening the coordination between DelDOT, WILMAPCO, and New Castle County to ensure that major residential and commercial developments are evaluated based on current traffic conditions, cumulative impacts, and the ability of surrounding roads to safely handle additional demand.

How I Will Address This Legislatively

1. Require Current and Accurate Traffic Data for Development Decisions

The Problem:

Traffic patterns change over time. Development approvals based on outdated traffic counts may not accurately reflect current congestion, neighborhood growth, commuting patterns, or existing roadway limitations.

Legislative Action:

I will support legislation and regulatory improvements requiring traffic analyses to use current data and updated reviews when significant time has passed or when surrounding conditions have materially changed before final development approvals are granted.

2. Evaluate Secondary Roads and Neighborhood Impacts

The Problem:

Traffic studies must look beyond the immediate entrance of a development. Residents often experience the greatest impacts on nearby residential streets, feeder roads, and intersections where drivers seek alternatives to congested corridors.

Legislative Action:

I will advocate for DelDOT's traffic review process to better account for secondary road impacts, neighborhood cut-through traffic, and cumulative congestion throughout surrounding areas.

3. Strengthen Coordination Between State and County Planning**The Problem:**

Land-use decisions and transportation planning must work together. Communities suffer when residential growth moves faster than transportation improvements.

Legislative Action:

I will work to strengthen coordination between New Castle County, DelDOT, and WILMAPCO so that transportation capacity is considered earlier in the approval process. When infrastructure improvements are needed, developers should contribute appropriately toward solutions rather than shifting the burden onto existing residents.

4. Expand Transportation Improvement Districts**The Problem:**

Reviewing developments one project at a time does not always capture the cumulative impact of growth across an entire area.

Legislative Action:

I will support expanding the use of Transportation Improvement Districts (TIDs), which allow communities to plan transportation improvements proactively and ensure that new development contributes its fair share toward needed infrastructure upgrades.

The Bottom Line

Brandywine Hundred residents deserve growth that is thoughtful, responsible, and supported by adequate infrastructure. Development should not move forward by simply adding more cars to roads that are already struggling. By requiring better data, stronger coordination, and fair contributions toward transportation improvements, we can protect neighborhood quality of life while planning responsibly for the future.

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?**

Meeting the Need Through Responsible Growth

Affordable housing is not just about building more units. It is about creating housing options that allow young families, workforce professionals, and seniors to live in communities where they can access jobs, healthcare, shopping, and transportation. Brandywine Hundred needs a thoughtful approach that encourages housing options while protecting neighborhood character and ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with growth.

With continued pressure on transportation funding, we must be strategic about how we expand mobility options. My approach is focused on aligning housing, transportation, and economic development through three practical strategies:

1. Encourage Adaptive Reuse of Existing Commercial Properties

The Challenge:

Vacant and underutilized office buildings along established commercial corridors represent an opportunity to create housing without expanding development into existing residential neighborhoods.

The Plan:

I will support policies that encourage responsible conversion of underused commercial properties into housing, including workforce and senior housing options. By reimagining existing buildings along corridors like Concord Pike, we can add housing opportunities while making better use of existing infrastructure.

2. Promote Housing Near Existing Transportation Corridors

The Challenge:

Expanding public transportation requires significant resources, and we must make the most effective use of existing DART routes and infrastructure.

The Plan:

I will support transit-oriented development that places appropriate housing options near existing transportation corridors, allowing residents easier access to jobs, healthcare, grocery stores, and community services. Thoughtful planning can help seniors, workers, and families maintain independence without requiring every resident to rely exclusively on a vehicle

3. Ensure New Development Helps Support Community Infrastructure**The Challenge:**

When new development occurs, existing residents should not bear the entire cost of the additional demands placed on roads, transportation, and community services.

The Plan:

I will support policies that encourage developers to contribute to infrastructure improvements associated with new projects, including transportation amenities such as safer pedestrian connections, improved bus stops, and other mobility improvements. At the same time, affordability must remain a priority by ensuring fees and requirements do not unintentionally increase housing costs for seniors, workforce families, or first-time buyers.

The Bottom Line

Brandywine Hundred needs housing solutions that are thoughtful, balanced, and connected to the community. By repurposing existing commercial properties, encouraging housing near transportation corridors, and ensuring new development contributes responsibly to infrastructure needs, we can create more opportunities for seniors, families, and workers while protecting the quality of life that makes our neighborhoods special.

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?**Protecting Ratepayers While Managing Data Center Growth**

Delaware has the opportunity to benefit from new technology and economic investment, but that growth cannot come at the expense of families and small businesses already

facing high energy costs. The rapid expansion of hyperscale data centers creates significant demands on our electric grid, and we must ensure that the companies driving those demands are responsible for the costs they create.

I support establishing strong guardrails that protect residential ratepayers, require transparency, and ensure large energy users contribute fairly to the infrastructure and energy resources needed to support their operations.

My Legislative Action Plan

1. Create Stronger Protections for Residential Ratepayers

Legislative Action:

Support legislation like **HB 233** that establishes a separate rate structure for large energy users so the costs associated with extraordinary electricity demand are not unfairly shifted onto residential customers.

Impact:

Data centers should pay their fair share for the additional infrastructure, capacity, and system upgrades needed to serve their operations, protecting Delaware families from unnecessary rate increases.

2. Require Responsible Energy Planning for Large Data Centers

Legislative Action:

Support policies like **HB 445** that require large energy users to provide clear plans for meeting their energy demands through additional generation, energy procurement, efficiency measures, and other responsible solutions.

Impact:

New development should strengthen Delaware's energy future rather than strain existing resources. Responsible planning helps protect grid reliability while encouraging innovation and investment.

3. Increase Transparency in Major Development Decisions

Legislative Action:

I voted for **SB 312**, which prohibits government entities from entering into certain non-disclosure agreements that prevent the public from understanding major economic development decisions. Moving forward, I will continue advocating for

transparency requirements that ensure residents have access to information before projects with significant community impacts move forward.

Impact:

Residents deserve to know what is being proposed in their communities, how decisions are being made, and what impacts those decisions may have on their neighborhoods, utility costs, and quality of life.

4. Protect Grid Reliability During Extreme Demand Periods

Legislative Action:

Support stronger reliability requirements for large energy users, including participation in demand-response programs and other measures that help protect the grid during extreme weather or peak usage periods.

Impact:

During times of greatest stress on the system, Delaware must prioritize reliable electricity for homes, hospitals, emergency services, and essential community needs.

5. Ensure Economic Incentives Deliver Real Community Benefits

Legislative Action:

Review economic development incentives for high-energy-use projects to ensure Delaware taxpayers receive meaningful benefits, including job creation, responsible investment, and protections for ratepayers.

Impact:

Economic development should create lasting value for Delaware communities and not place hidden costs on families and small businesses.

The Bottom Line

Delaware should welcome innovation and economic growth, but growth must come with accountability. Data centers can be part of our future, but they cannot come at the expense of Delaware families who are already paying rising utility bills or residents who deserve a transparent process. I will continue fighting for responsible development, fair cost allocation, and open government so that Delaware's future is built with communities, not behind closed doors.

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?

Protecting Taxpayers, Essential Services & Transparency in State Spending

Large public investments can strengthen Delaware's economy and create long-term benefits, but taxpayers deserve accountability when project costs increase. The recent cost overruns associated with the Edgemoor container terminal project highlight why the state must carefully evaluate major investments, protect essential services, and maintain transparency throughout the process.

1. How Taxpayers Are Affected

Large infrastructure projects require significant public investment, and unexpected cost increases can create difficult choices about how limited state resources are allocated.

While additional capital funding for Edgemoor does not result in an immediate increase in state income or property taxes, taxpayers have a right to understand the tradeoffs involved. Every major expenditure requires careful consideration of competing priorities, including transportation, education, public safety, infrastructure, and community services.

2. Protecting and Maintaining Essential Services

My responsibility as a legislator is to ensure that investments in economic development do not come at the expense of the programs Delaware families rely on every day.

I will:

- **Protect Operating Budgets:** Ensure that funding for essential services, including public education, healthcare, senior services, and public safety, remains a priority and is not compromised by cost overruns on major capital projects.
- **Demand Greater Accountability for Major Projects:** Support stronger oversight, cost controls, and accountability measures for large public investments so taxpayers are not left responsible for unexpected increases without appropriate review.
- **Prioritize Long-Term Fiscal Responsibility:** Ensure that Delaware maintains responsible reserves and financial planning so the state can continue providing essential services during future economic challenges.

3. Ensuring Transparency and Public Accountability

Residents should never learn about major financial decisions after the fact. Government works best when taxpayers have clear information and opportunities to provide input.

I will:

- **Provide Regular Budget Updates:** Communicate clearly with constituents about major spending decisions, capital investments, and their potential impact on state priorities.
- **Support Greater Financial Transparency:** Advocate for accessible information about major appropriations, funding sources, and long-term financial obligations before major decisions are finalized.
- **Engage Residents Before Major Budget Decisions:** Hold community conversations and provide updates during the budget process so residents understand the choices being made in Dover and have an opportunity to share their priorities.

The Bottom Line

Economic development and infrastructure investments are important to Delaware's future, but they must be accompanied by transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility. I will work to protect essential services, safeguard taxpayer dollars, and ensure residents have a clear understanding of how major financial decisions affect their communities.

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 Shellpot Creek and Preserving Clean Water for Our Communities

Shellpot Creek is an important natural resource running through Brandywine Hundred and surrounding communities. When waterways are impaired by bacteria, nutrients, stormwater runoff, or emerging contaminants like PFAS, residents deserve a government that is actively monitoring conditions, enforcing environmental standards, and communicating clearly with the public.

As a member of the Senate Environment, Energy & Transportation Committee, I will use my legislative oversight role to ensure Delaware continues protecting our waterways and that residents have timely access to information about water quality conditions.

a. Ensuring DNREC Monitoring and Regulatory Compliance

I will work to ensure DNREC has the resources and oversight necessary to fulfill its responsibility to monitor impaired waterways, enforce water-quality standards, and track progress toward restoration goals.

This includes:

- Supporting transparent reporting on watershed conditions, pollutant sources, and restoration efforts.
- Ensuring established water-quality standards and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements are being actively monitored and addressed.
- Supporting continued PFAS testing, source identification, and remediation efforts where contaminants threaten public health and the environment.

b. Controlling Pollution and Protecting Shellpot Creek

Protecting Shellpot Creek requires addressing both regulated discharges and stormwater runoff.

I will support efforts to:

- Strengthen stormwater management practices for new development and redevelopment projects.
- Improve coordination among DNREC, New Castle County, and DelDOT to reduce pollution from urban runoff.
- Hold permitted dischargers accountable when they fail to meet environmental requirements.
- Encourage investments in green infrastructure that reduce flooding, runoff, and pollutant flows into local waterways.

c. Monitoring and Public Access to Water Quality Information

Residents should not have to search multiple government websites to understand whether local waterways are safe.

I will advocate for:

- Clear, accessible public reporting of DNREC water-quality findings.
- Timely updates when conditions change or new concerns are identified.
- Continued monitoring of impaired waterways and priority areas where public health concerns exist.

d. Communicating Findings to Neighborhood Communities

Yes. Residents deserve to know what is happening in the waterways near their homes.

I will:

- Share DNREC water-quality reports, advisories, and updates through my constituent communications.

- Work with civic associations, neighborhood organizations, and local officials to ensure important information reaches residents.
- Support clear signage and public education efforts regarding unsafe water conditions.

e. Including Water Quality Updates in Constituent Communications

Yes. Protecting our environment and public health should be part of regular communication with residents.

My newsletters and constituent updates will include:

- Water-quality updates when new DNREC findings are released.
- Information about restoration projects and environmental improvements.
- Opportunities for residents to participate in cleanup efforts and community stewardship.

The Bottom Line

Our waterways should be community assets, not sources of concern. Protecting Shellpot Creek requires strong environmental oversight, reliable monitoring, responsible development practices, and transparent communication. I will continue working to ensure Delaware has the resources and accountability measures needed to protect clean water for our families, our pets, and future generations.

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.**

Improving Maternal and Women's Health Outcomes Across Delaware

Every mother and child in Delaware deserves access to quality healthcare, regardless of

where they live, their income, or their insurance coverage. While Delaware has made important progress in maternity care, significant challenges remain, including preterm births, maternal mental health needs, healthcare access, and disparities in outcomes.

Improving outcomes requires more than quality hospital care. It requires a comprehensive healthcare system that supports women before, during, and after pregnancy, while ensuring families have access to preventive care, education, nutrition support, and the resources needed to give every child a healthy start.

Making Women's Health a Higher Priority

Women's health must be treated as a comprehensive healthcare priority throughout every stage of life. For too long, conditions that uniquely or disproportionately affect women have not received the attention, research, and resources they deserve.

As a legislator, I have supported efforts to expand women's healthcare access and improve early detection and treatment, including legislation addressing ovarian cancer detection and improving healthcare resources and protections for women experiencing menopause.

Moving forward, I will continue advocating for policies that ensure women have access to preventive care, timely diagnosis, and evidence-based treatment options. Maternal health is a critical part of this work, but so is ensuring women receive quality healthcare before pregnancy, between pregnancies, and throughout their lives.

My Legislative Priorities for 2027 and Beyond

1. Expand Access to Maternal Healthcare Providers

The Challenge:

Many Delaware families continue to face barriers accessing OB/GYN providers, midwives, doulas, and maternal health specialists. Timely prenatal and postpartum care is essential to improving outcomes for both mothers and babies.

The Plan:

I will support policies that:

- Expand access to certified doulas and midwives through fair reimbursement and streamlined provider participation.

- Strengthen workforce incentives, including loan repayment and training opportunities for maternal healthcare providers who serve communities with limited access.
- Expand community-based healthcare options so mothers can receive care closer to home.

2. Strengthen Maternal Mental Health Support

The Challenge:

Pregnancy and childbirth can create significant mental health challenges, including postpartum depression and anxiety. Too many mothers struggle to access support when they need it most.

The Plan:

I will work to:

- Expand access to perinatal mental health screenings and referral programs.
- Improve coordination between hospitals, pediatric providers, primary care providers, and behavioral health specialists.
- Increase access to telehealth and other flexible care options for new and expecting mothers.

3. Improve Prenatal, Postpartum, and Family Support Services

The Challenge:

Healthy outcomes depend on more than medical care. Nutrition, education, transportation, and access to basic resources all play a role in maternal and infant health.

The Plan:

I will support programs that:

- Expand access to prenatal education, breastfeeding support, infant care resources, and safe sleep education.
- Strengthen nutrition assistance and postpartum support programs for new mothers and families.
- Improve connections between healthcare providers and community resources so families receive support before challenges become crises.

4. Advance Evidence-Based Maternal Safety Practices

The Challenge:

Preventable complications require continued attention to healthcare quality, consistency, and best practices across Delaware's maternity care system.

The Plan:

I will support legislation and oversight efforts that:

- Encourage adoption of evidence-based maternal safety practices.
- Strengthen collaboration with the Delaware Maternal Mortality Review Committee and healthcare providers.
- Improve data collection and accountability so policymakers can identify gaps in care and target resources where they are needed most.

The Bottom Line

Delaware must make women's health a higher priority. No woman should face preventable health complications, delayed diagnoses, or barriers to care because of gaps in our healthcare system.

By expanding access to maternal healthcare providers, strengthening mental health services, improving prenatal and postpartum support, and investing in women's healthcare throughout every stage of life, we can build a healthier Delaware where every mother, child, and family has the opportunity to thrive.

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.

When I first joined the General Assembly, I brought more than 25 years of healthcare leadership experience from ChristianaCare because I understood that Delaware needed leaders who could tackle complex challenges from day one. Improving healthcare affordability and access requires more than good intentions. It requires experience, persistence, and a deep understanding of how our healthcare systems operate.

That experience has guided my work to lower costs for Delaware families, increase transparency, protect state retiree benefits, hold Pharmacy Benefit Managers accountable, and expand access to primary care. I have focused on finding practical solutions that deliver real results for the people we serve.

I have also brought that same approach to public safety and community wellbeing through my work on the Senate Corrections and Public Safety Committee, supporting evidence-based violence prevention efforts and policies that strengthen our communities.

At a time when Delaware faces complex challenges involving healthcare, economic growth, public safety, and responsible development, experience matters. Re-electing me means keeping a proven problem-solver in this seat who understands how to get results, who knows how to navigate the legislative process, and who will continue fighting for transparent, effective government that puts Delaware families first.