

State Senator District 5	Shay Frisby	Democratic
Candidate's Full Name	Shay Frisby	
Email contact:	TogetherwithShay@gmail.com	

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 I care deeply about people and their families. Knocking doors has given me the opportunity to hear directly from parents, seniors and working families about their concerns and ask, "who is looking out for us?" Those conversations stay with me and have made me chiefly motivated by the needs of the oppressed, those whose voices are too often overlooked and whose struggles are too often dismissed. Their struggles shouldn't become someone else's talking point. They should become the reason we act. I'm running to listen, to fight for families, and to make government work for the people it serves.

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.**

If elected my top priorities would be making life more affordable for families, strengthening our communities and making sure the government works for the people. I will work to make childcare more affordable and accessible while supporting better pay for childcare workers because parents should not have to choose between working and caring for their children. Ultimately, I do not want to settle for "affordable" childcare as I want Delaware to follow in New Mexico's footsteps and pass free universal childcare. Universal childcare will require the support of the broader movement, but I am confident in my organizational abilities to make it happen.

Additionally, I want Delaware to prioritize affordable housing by implementing policies that help working families keep more of their hard-earned money. And since the federal government has effectively abdicated its responsibility to provide us with healthcare, I want our state to step in by providing a Medicaid buy-in public option. As a proud endorsee of

Bernie Sanders, I consider myself part of the nationwide effort to eventually pass Medicare for All.

I believe that our communities will be strengthened if we improve the material reality of the working class, such as with the above policies. From my experience serving Delaware families, I know how frustrating it can be when you need help and cannot get answers. As I serve Delaware's working class, I want to make the government easier to navigate, more responsive, and accountable to the people it serves. One of the reasons I refuse all corporate donations is because I need to stay beholden to people over corporations, and I intend to do just that.

- **(a)** I want to see families have more stability and less stress. That means improving conditions for Delawareans through universal childcare, housing that families can actually afford, truly accessible healthcare, and a government that responds when people need help. Most importantly, I want people to feel that their voices matter and that someone in government is looking out for them and their families.
- **(b)** What I've learned from attending McDaniel Civic Association meetings and talking with residents at their doors is that people care about both the big issues and the things that affect their daily lives. Residents have raised concerns about Shellpot Creek, road safety and traffic calming, better signage, and having access to CPR and safety training for community members. These conversations have shown me that being an effective Senator means listening to what is happening in our neighborhoods and helping residents find solutions. I want to bring those concerns to Dover, work with our civic associations and community leaders, and make sure Brandywine Hundred has a strong voice when decisions are made. My goal is simple: listen, follow through, and make sure residents know they have someone fighting for their community.
- **(c)** The biggest hurdle will be finding the funding, support, and political will to turn these priorities into real results. My approach will be to listen to residents, work with community partners, and research best practices from states that are already finding solutions. For example, New Mexico became the first state to offer no-cost universal childcare and has continued strengthening its program through sustainable funding and support for childcare providers. For housing, I would look closely at Minnesota's approach to preserving affordable housing and increasing housing options, including investments to protect existing affordable units. For healthcare, Maryland offers an example of a state taking action to address healthcare costs, including its Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

I don't believe Delaware has to start from scratch. I want to learn from what other states are doing well, understand what hasn't worked, and bring the best ideas home to Delaware. Most importantly, I will continue listening to the people who are directly affected and make sure their voices help shape the solutions.

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

I intend to be transparent because, as a longtime Claymont resident, I have personally experienced the frustration of watching major decisions happen without residents feeling heard or having enough opportunity to shape the outcome. We have seen warehouses, large storage facilities, and industrial development change the character of our community. I am not against business or development, but I believe development has to make sense for the people who already live here.

Before major votes, I plan to make real efforts to educate residents on relevant topics so they know what is being proposed, how it could affect our neighborhoods, and where I stand. I will listen to civic associations, families, seniors, and community members and keep them informed throughout the process. I want us to build communities that have room for businesses, but also room for children to play, seniors to thrive, families to gather, and neighbors to know one another.

Finally, I believe my commitment to refuse donations from corporations, businesses, or their dark-money PACs helps keep my intentions transparent. I am funded solely by the people, and they are who I wish to serve.

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.) As a board member of the Claymont Coalition for Environmental Justice, I will advocate for protecting our natural resources, reducing pollution and waste, and addressing the impacts of climate change. In the short term, I will support stronger environmental protections, responsible development, and greater community input.

In the long term, I feel that the federal government needs to take ownership of this issue. Unfortunately, very few in the federal government are willing to take serious climate action. Bernie Sanders endorsed my campaign because he knows that changing the federal government will require a mass movement. I am proud to be part of it.

(b.) As a small business owner, I understand the importance of creating opportunities to earn a living, grow a business, and build financial stability. That experience drives my commitment to supporting small businesses, workforce development, and good-paying jobs while promoting responsible economic growth.

In the long term, I will advocate for development that brings investment and opportunity without sacrificing the quality of life, health or character of our communities. Additionally, I want Delaware to implement a living wage so that all Delawareans can have a dignified standard of living.

(c.) I will fight for communities where everyone has a fair opportunity to thrive and feels safe, supported, and heard. In the short term, I will continue working with organizations like Sussex Help, La Esperanza, and the Delaware Coalition for Immigrant Justice to understand community needs, identify gaps in services, and find ways to support the important work they are already doing to provide resources, information, and protection. I will also focus on universal childcare, accessible healthcare, quality education, safe neighborhoods, and services for seniors and families.

For the long term, I will work to remove barriers that keep people from getting ahead and ensure every resident has a meaningful voice in decisions that affect their lives. Healthy communities are built when people have a voice, feel supported, and have the resources they need to thrive.

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 stronger, transparent traffic studies before major residential and business developments are approved. Residents should not have to deal with increased congestion, unsafe intersections, or cut-through traffic after a project is already approved.

I am already working with DelDOT, WILMAPCO, DNREC, New Castle County, and community representatives to ensure we look at cumulative impact of multiple developments, not just one project at a time. That includes examining secondary roads, intersections, pedestrian safety, emergency access, school traffic, and whether our existing infrastructure can safely handle additional vehicles. As a state worker, where

appropriate and within the boundaries of my role, I'm also willing to help make direct connections between community leaders and the appropriate agencies so concerns can get to the right people.

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'm already doing the work. I've been working with the H.O.M.E.S. Campaign on housing justice and attending budget hearing focused on affordable housing and homelessness. If elected, I will build on that work by bringing together New Castle County, DelDOT, DART, WILMAPCO, developers, and community organizations to expand affordable housing and connect it with reliable transportation. With limited DelDOT funding, we will need to prioritize resources, pursue partnerships, and find creative solutions. Housing and transportation must be planned together so young families, seniors, and working people can afford to live and remain connected to their communities.

Additionally, I want to emphasize that when elected, I will do whatever I can to stop budget cuts to critical services, such as DelDOT. I believe that Delaware needs to shift burdens to people who can actually withstand them. It cannot continue to saddle working families with these problems when they are presently struggling.

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?**

First, I need to stress that data centers being constructed for the current LLM/AI bubble have extremely limited (or perhaps outright zero) utility. LLMs require infrastructure that blights our environment and harms local economies. The technology has been shown to harm our physical and mental health and has not been linked with substantial increases in productivity. Data centers that chiefly run LLMs do not belong in our community because the costs outweigh any supposed benefits.

For other data centers, I will champion legislation that puts the cost and responsibility of data-center growth on the companies creating the demand not on Delaware residents. That means requiring a separate large-energy-user rate structure so residential customers are not subsidizing data-center electricity or infrastructure, requiring data centers to provide long-term energy-use projections, and requiring them to pay for the grid upgrades their projects require. Delaware's climate Action Plan specifically identifies these measures as ways to prevent data-center-driven costs from being passed to ratepayers. I will also support minimum on-site clean-energy requirements, energy-efficiency standards, water-use reporting, and stronger environmental review before large projects are approved.

I'm not against business or technology. I'm against a system where residents pay the price in higher utility bills, their health, or long-term environmental impacts for a corporation's profit. If a data center comes to Delaware, it should pay its fair share of the cost and impacts it creates.

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?**

Both Delaware and the nation at-large have placed far too great a burden on regular people who are already struggling. I believe that Delaware needs a progressive taxation system where working-class families and the wealthy pay taxes that are fair to them. That will take time to pass and buy-in from my fellow General Assembly members, but unless we shift toward a fair taxation system, scenarios like what is happening in Edgemoor are going to repeat. Frankly, I fear that on our present trajectory, working class taxpayers are going to be affected quite poorly.

Ideally, I do not want struggling families to be affected at all. I will be a voice in the State Senate that opposes any disruptions to services to regular people. However, I will not be able to accomplish this alone as it is going to take Delawareans throughout the state to make it clear to the General Assembly that working people are not going to tolerate diminished services.

As for how I plan to communicate these efforts, I want to use my campaign to fund door-to-door outreach year-round. This will require hiring an organizer who will canvass even when there's no upcoming election. I believe that in-person, door-to-door contact is the best way to actually communicate. Additionally, I will continue to host constituent meetings, attend meetings of organizations such as your own, and utilize any means of communication that can inform our residents. Democracies need the people to be informed in order to function.

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.) One of the most common points of feedback I hear about DNREC is that they are inadequately resourced to perform their statutory duties. This relates back to the fact that I believe struggling Delawareans are already facing far too many burdens while the wealthy are enabled to enrich themselves further. When DNREC does not function, it is low-income and working class communities that deal with the consequences. There is nothing fair about this.

I am committed to protecting our environment and standing up for regular people. This means that I will passionately fight to see DNREC funded with what they need to do their jobs. If they still don't perform their mandated duties, then I will work with the Executive branch to ensure that DNREC is staffed solely by people dedicated to the work.

Regarding Shellpot Creek specifically, I believe that representation in the General Assembly requires a constant dialogue between elected officials and constituents. Our community clearly finds it unacceptable for Shellpot Creek to be so polluted, so I will ceaselessly advocate on our district's behalf.

I consider one of the roles of elected officials to be coordinating existing resources. To that end, I have already spoken with DNREC on this issue, coordinated a meeting together with the Civic Association Leaders and secured a point person to follow-up, provide a one-page breakdown of DNREC's assessment of the Shellpot creek and to be readily available to attend community meetings. DNREC have stated that the Shellpot Creek segment within McDaniel is meeting water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and ammonia, and that this segment is not meeting water quality criteria for enterococcus. They elaborated that enterococcus is an indicator bacteria and [their reporting system] does not distinguish between human origin and wildlife.

I have no formal scientific background, but I believe that elected officials should defer to experts in their respective fields. If other experts dispute DNREC's findings, this becomes a matter of governmental oversight and will require a General Assembly to respect the scientific method and determine the best pathway forward. I am prepared to do that.

(b.) Besides funding, elected officials should defer to scientific experts. I will continue to work with local environmental organizations and seek out advice from ecologists as to what controls should be in place. Again, I need to stress that I take zero corporate donations. I have no motivation for this office other than to serve the people, and will not tolerate pseudoscientific counter-arguments from business interests. Protecting Shellpot Creek necessitates listening to scientists and actually doing what they suggest.

Additionally, environmental controls require enforcement after being put in place. This nation and state often lack the political will to go after businesses who pollute our environment. I have no such qualms about fighting to see our environmental laws enforced.

(c.) According to DNREC, Shellpot Creek is monitored for safety every two years and their report on this is published at: <https://dnrec.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/assessment/reports/>

As State Senator, I will serve as a liaison between organizations, such as your own, and existing resources.

As stated above, I believe that we need to defer to experts in this field. If experts believe that Shellpot Creek needs to be monitored more often, I will listen to them. Oftentimes, it is not a mystery what proper environmental regulations should look like. The problem is typically a lack of resources and a lack of political will. I will rally whatever resources I can, and I will always provide the political will to do what needs to be done for Shellpot Creek.

(d.) Yes. As I stated previously, I believe that the best way to communicate is through in-person contact. When elected, I want to have my campaign continually canvass neighborhoods even during political “off-seasons” and will distribute pertinent information to communities through campaign organizers.

(e.) Yes. I consider this a baseline function of the office and I am committed to 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.**

According to Wilmington City Councilmember Shané N. Darby’s nonprofit, Black Mothers in Power (BMIP) (learn more about their work at <https://www.blackmothersinpower.org/>), 53% of Delaware pregnancy-related deaths are preventable. I believe that this is unacceptable, especially since this issue predominantly impacts low-income individuals and people of color. As I said previously, I am proudly endorsed by US Senator Bernie Sanders. I share his opinion that the number one way to fix the healthcare system for both Delaware and the nation as a whole is to pass universal, single-payer healthcare legislation (such as Medicare for All).

Until this happens, there are many things that the State Senate can do to improve maternal mental health and birth outcomes. For instance, midwives have been shown to improve pregnancy outcomes. Therefore, I will push to see midwives covered by Medicaid and

private insurance, and work to ensure that Delawareans have opportunities to be trained in midwifery.

Additionally, my broader policy goals complement pregnancy outcomes. I want universal childcare so that parents are no longer spending unaffordable amounts on childcare. I also want a living minimum wage so that Delawareans have jobs that provide a dignified standard of living.

I am committed to seeing that mothers are healthy and given every possible opportunity to live a safe and prosperous life.

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 serve!