

State Senator District 5	Brent Burdge	Republican
Candidate's Full Name	Brent Burdge	
Email contact:	Burdge4Change@gmail.com	

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

I have been a resident in this district for over 35 years and I have seen the changes that have occurred during that time. I see our schools performing poorly and not preparing our children to be successful in college or careers. I see an increasingly unaccountable government that grows more influential and costly in a state dominated by a single party.

As a result, I have stepped forward seeking to serve my community. I want to be accessible and assist my neighbors with the various challenges they face involving government. I see issues from the impact of reassessments to the decline of businesses in our state to simply fixing pot holes!

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.**

No Response to this question from the candidate.

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

I would publish my voting record and provide insight into the rationale of my positions. I believe in being accessible, with routine community interactions.

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 in and support the importance of maintaining green space as we grow and change our community. As an engineer, I understand the importance of minimizing waste streams and protecting the environment.

I believe that opportunities should be equal and be provided based on capabilities and merit above most other considerations.

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 - traffic is a significant concern for residents in our area, as businesses seek to open and expand. We must find a balance between assessing impact and limiting the opportunities that lead to healthy growth.

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 support incentives to encourage the development of affordable housing by developers. I do not support using the power of government to immerse these developments in existing communities. It is a challenge, but a priority is to provide housing in locations with the best possible access to public transportation or work opportunities.

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 support the development of data centers, as they are important to future growth. However, they must be located where they are not a burden on their neighbors through noise or other considerations. I believe data centers should be responsible for 100% of their power generation needs, so as to be either a contributor or, at worst, neutral impact on the regional power grid.

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 do NOT support the construction and operation of a new container port at the Edgemoor location. I believe resources would be better used in the modernization and possible expansion of the Delaware Port at its current location, where there are 250 acres of undeveloped property on that existing site.

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 am not well acquainted with this specific concern, but I place a high priority on the protection of our local water resources. I would commit to being transparent on this issue.

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 support expanded access to pre-natal care and the development of improved health systems to improve outcomes.

I support public-private collaboration to provide services and support to young mothers, as well.

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 this opportunity to share my perspectives. I am particularly concerned with the direction that politics is taking in our fine state. We see the emergence of the Democratic Socialists movement in what is already a Democrat controlled, single-party political scene. I don't think that reflects the priorities of most of my neighbors, so I have stepped forward to offer a more common sense option. The same is true for several other Republican candidates in our area. I ask everyone to examine the individuals and their policies and not just vote for the party that they have traditionally supported. This time, Vote Republican!