

State Senator District 1	Hildi Bachtle	Republican
Candidate's Full Name	Hildi Bachtle	
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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?**

For the past 56 years, the Democrats have had a majority in our state Senate. Today they have a super majority. The state House of Representatives has had a majority for the past 18 years. One more representative and they too, will have a super majority. If that happens, they can totally rewrite the Delaware constitution. We are already seeing the results of imbalance. For our legislature to work properly and prosperously, we need balance. A large number of constituents are not being heard. Our government was designed to be “by the people, for the people”.

Our present incumbent votes party line every time! His independent opponent can’t decide which party with which he will align. I truly love this state and will vote to champion long awaited improvements and cut the wasteful spending.

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 **Schools:** Stop throwing money at the problem we already spend approximately \$22,500 per student annually way more than other states but with dismal results.

- **Achievement:** The system needs to be discussed with teachers and administrators, working in Delaware analyzed by outside professionals and re-organized.
- **Biggest Hurdle:** People and organizations don’t like change, especially if it’s to their pocketbook. Our children have been cheated for more than a generation.

2 & 3. Cost of Living & Sensible Ideas:

- **Action:** These two are similar in procedure. Reduce the cost of energy through legislation that would make it profitable for a power plant to be built. Introduce common sense legislation as mentioned in the Republican State legislators “2026 Contract with Delaware Voters”, which includes a Home Ownership Savings Act for first time homebuyers, a Homeowner Protection Act for those over 65, No Tax on Tips, and No Tax on Overtime. This contract includes other common sense ideas.
- **Achievement:** Reducing the cost of energy will need some price restructuring. If voters will give Republicans their vote, I believe these sensible ideas can be passed with legislation.
- **Biggest Hurdle:** Getting voters to understand this is no longer the Democratic party of yesterday year.

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

I intend to send out a weekly newsletter while in session as to what is being discussed ready for a vote, plus items thought to be of interest. Also, hold in person meetings to discuss issues of concern to the community. I will be a senator for all the people, knowing what it's like to be part of a segment of the population whose thoughts and ideas have previously been disregarded.

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).

It is evident that these issues are presently being addressed and need to be reevaluated on a regular basis. We should be working to improve and sustain our environment, as well as for the growth, enrichment, and social interaction of our populous. From my life experiences, I believe society is progressing nicely. Should I have the opportunity, it would be my pleasure to learn more and help contribute to the solution(s).

- 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.**

Absolutely! I’m not certain why this has not already been addressed. Newcastle County has always been most desirable for its accessibility. With so many vacant office buildings and an increasing need for housing, it is crucial we have in depth and comprehensive traffic studies.

- 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 have been a Realtor for many years and have seen this problem approaching. It is also a concern for the Department of Land Use. Perhaps a study of New Castle County is in order. We cannot have Office building upon office building converted to dwellings without a comprehensive plan. DelDOT’s 2027 budget cuts may need to be addressed. This is a huge issue that needs immediate attention.

- 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?**

Data Centers need to be located away from residential areas. The cost of energy should be predetermined by size and usage. A formula should be established for their power usage without taxing or increasing power costs to residence.

- 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?**

They need to stop construction on the new Edgemoor Terminal right now! The most recent cost to build is over \$1 billion. The present location can be renovated and converted to an AI run facility and has 250 acres available for expansion.

When the state took over the present port of Wilmington from golf trainer (owing 97 million in back rent that was forgiven), the port had 32 clients. Today they have 2, one of whom is thinking of leaving. Additionally, there are lawsuits by PA and NJ, environmental issues and the use of illegal Es-cheated funds.

it is my belief that this project is and has been a waste of taxpayer money. Concerned, citizens have asked to speak with the governor, but have been denied. This is very disappointing. When the present facility which has not been updated in 30 years can be renewed, there will be less need for subsidy and be more cost efficient with AI technology. Building a brand new port does not make fiscal sense.

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?**

Unfortunately, I have not been able to find much info concerning the situation at Shellpot Creek. From what I've read, these toxic PEAS "forever chemicals" are also in other neighboring waterways. If elected, I plan to work with authorities in Delaware and neighboring states to help further restore our creeks and waterways.

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.**

This is another area of which I was unaware and find it very troubling. I will look into this healthcare crisis, find out what is presently being implemented to correct the situation, and keep an eye on the progress. If legislation is needed, I will be an advocate.

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 appreciate having had the opportunity to express my thoughts and to learn a little more of what is needed in our community. Thank you.