Roadmap for a Delaware Republic

Project Delaware

November 20, 2026

https://www.projectdelaware.org

Project Delaware is an open policy roadmap for the State, organized around four pillars in this order: Protect, Power, Educate, and Build. Strong families are the foundation, and State Government Reform runs through every pillar aligned by our Guiding Principles. Every proposal carries a measurable result. Delawareans are invited to read it, discuss it, and help improve it.

Our Philosophy

Why We Start Here

Delaware is a small state with outsized advantages: its people, its location, its corporate law, its ports and farms, and a tradition of neighbors who still know each other. Project Delaware begins from a simple conviction. Government exists to protect those advantages and then to get out of the way, so that families, workers, and communities can build on them. The roadmap is not a wish list. It is an ordered plan, built on first principles, that anyone can read, test, and improve.

Order Matters

The four pillars run in a deliberate sequence: **Protect, Power, Educate, Build.** A people must first be safe in their persons, property, and votes. Then they need abundant, affordable energy, because energy is the engine of every other freedom and every paycheck. Next comes education that equips the next generation to think, work, and govern themselves. Only on that foundation does lasting prosperity get built. Skipping steps produces fragile results. Taking them in order produces durable ones.

Families Are the Foundation

Every proposal must answer one question: does this strengthen Delaware families? The family is the first school, the first safety net, and the first economy. Policy that weakens it, however well-intended, ends up costing more than it saves. Policy that supports it multiplies everything else.

Government as Steward, Not Master

State government reform runs through every pillar because a state's budget, agencies, and rules belong to its citizens. We hold government to the standards we hold ourselves to. It should be transparent about what it spends, accountable for what it delivers, and humble about what it cannot do well. Local control and choice, for parents, teachers, principals, and towns, beat centralized mandates. Every dollar should show a return.

Measured, Not Merely Promised

A good idea that can't be measured can't be trusted. Every proposal carries a result we can count, and every claim should point to its source. When the numbers say a policy is working, we keep it. When they say it isn't, we change course. We'd rather be corrected by evidence than defended by slogans.

Open by Design

This roadmap is public and editable. We believe in open systems: open data, open-source tools, and open debate, with citizens in control of their own information. A plan written in the open is harder to capture and easier to improve. Delawareans of every party are invited to the table, and we will seek common ground wherever it honestly exists.

How We Lead

We lead the way service members are taught to: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, and personal courage. **Mission first, people always.** The mission is a safer, more prosperous, more self-reliant Delaware, and the people are the reason it is worth doing.

Pillars

Protect

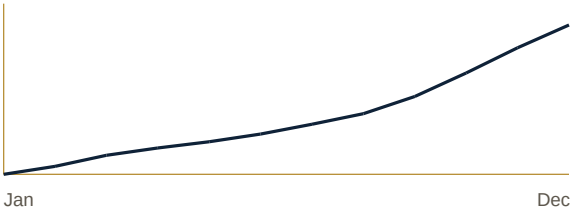
election integrity, public safety, security, sovereignty, property rights

Election Integrity Audit

Executive Action · Legislation

the audit is completed, the findings are released to the public, and any recommended legal changes are taken up in legislation.

Registered voters



Why It Matters

Delaware had 794,908 registered voters. (December 1, 2024). Delaware Department of Elections.
The same monthly table listed 768,978 registered voters. (January 1, 2024). Delaware Department of Elections.
The Department's 2024 report totals 25,761 voter-registration removals. (2024). Delaware Department of Elections.

Voter ID and Roll Maintenance

Legislation

This proposal would require photo identification at the polls and regular maintenance of voter rolls through cross-checks with other states, death records, and federal records to validate citizenship. It would take effect through legislation. Accurate rolls and a consistent identification step at the polling place are basic parts of a trusted election system. Regular cross-checks are meant to keep the list current as people move, die, or otherwise become ineligible, and to confirm that registrants meet the citizenship requirement already in law. In practice, the General Assembly would set the photo identification rule and the schedule and sources for list maintenance. The measurable result is a completed, documented roll-maintenance cycle every year, so the public can see that the list has been reviewed against those records on a regular timetable.

Why It Matters

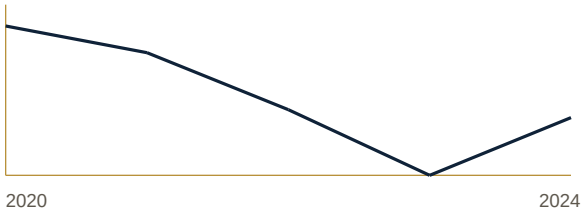
The Department's 2024 report totals 25,761 voter-registration removals. (2024). Delaware Department of Elections.
Delaware had 794,908 registered voters. (December 1, 2024). Delaware Department of Elections.

Public Safety Staffing

Executive Action · Legislation

This proposal would fully fund and recruit Delaware State Police troopers and correctional officers, with retention bonuses and a hiring preference for veterans. Funding can be proposed in the state budget through executive action and enacted through legislation as an appropriation. Staffing levels affect whether prisons and patrols can be run safely. The Department of Correction had [1,720 correctional officer positions filled](https://doc.delaware.gov/assets/documents/annual_report/DOC_2025AnnualReport.pdf) as of June 30, 2025, and the Governor's recommended budget reports [210 correctional officer vacancies](https://budget.delaware.gov/budget/fy2027/documents/operating/correction.pdf) as the fiscal year 2025 actual. The department's correctional officer vacancy rate fell from a high of [19 percent in 2023 to 13 percent in fiscal year 2024](https://doc.delaware.gov/assets/documents/annual_report/DOC_2024AnnualReport.pdf). Filled posts declined from [1,785 on June 30, 2020, to 1,578 on June 30, 2023](https://doc.delaware.gov/assets/documents/annual_report/DOC_2024AnnualReport.pdf), then rose to 1,658 the following year. The State Police Training Academy [graduated 42 recruits in 2024](https://dsp.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/118/2025/05/Annual-Report-2024-update.pdf). In practice, the budget would fund authorized positions, and recruitment would include retention bonuses and a veteran hiring preference. The measurable result is lower vacancy rates for State Police and correctional officers.

Delaware correctional officer positions filled on June 30 of each fiscal year



Why It Matters

The Delaware Department of Correction had 1,720 correctional officer positions filled as of June 30, 2025. (2025). Delaware Department of Correction, FY 2025 Annual Report (Workforce Profile).

The Governor's FY2027 recommended budget reports 210 correctional officer vacancies at the Department of Correction as the fiscal year 2025 actual. (2025). Delaware Office of Management and Budget, FY2027 Governor's Recommended Operating Budget, Department of Correction.

The Department of Correction reported that its correctional officer vacancy rate fell from a high of 19% in 2023 to 13% in fiscal year 2024. (2024). Delaware Department of Correction, FY 2024 Annual Report.

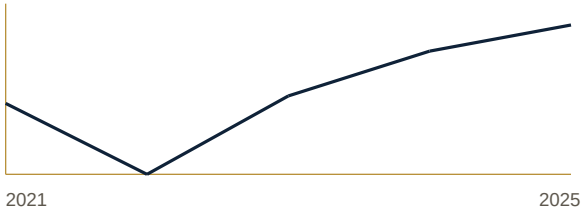
A total of 42 recruits graduated from the Delaware State Police Training Academy in 2024. (2024). Delaware State Police, 2024 Annual Report.

Repeat Offenders and Victims First

Legislation

This proposal would review bail and sentencing rules for violent repeat offenders and strengthen victim notification rights. It would be done through legislation. Delaware recorded [1,755 violent offenses per 100,000 residents in 2025](https://sac.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/64/2026/07/CiD-21-25-Main-Report-final-073126-1.pdf) under the Statistical Analysis Center's broad violent-offense category, a rate that has stayed in a narrow range since [1,734 in 2021](https://sac.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/64/2026/07/CiD-21-25-Main-Report-final-073126-1.pdf). That same year, [77.4 percent of violent offenses were cleared](https://sac.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/64/2026/07/CiD-21-25-Main-Report-final-073126-1.pdf) by the end of the calendar year. Of people released from Delaware prisons in 2021, [63.0 percent were rearrested within three years](https://sac.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/64/2025/12/2021-Recidivism-Report.pdf), the broadest of the state's recidivism measures. The Department of Correction issued [10,434 victim notification letters](https://budget.delaware.gov/budget/fy2027/documents/operating/correction.pdf) in fiscal year 2025. The review would look at how bail and sentencing apply to people who commit violent offenses more than once, and it would set clearer rights for victims to be notified. The measurable results are the violent crime rate and consistent victim notification.

Delaware violent offenses per 100,000 residents (SAC category)



Why It Matters

Delaware recorded 1,755 violent offenses per 100,000 residents in 2025 under the Statistical Analysis Center's broad violent-offense category (17.55 per 1,000). (2025). Delaware Statistical Analysis Center, Crime in Delaware 2021-2025.

Statewide, 77.4% of violent offenses reported in 2025 were cleared by the end of the calendar year. (2025). Delaware Statistical Analysis Center, Crime in Delaware 2021-2025.

Of people released from Delaware prisons in 2021, 63.0% were rearrested within three years, the broadest of the state's recidivism measures. (2021). Delaware Statistical Analysis Center, Recidivism in Delaware: 2021 Release Cohort.

The Department of Correction issued 10,434 victim notification letters in fiscal year 2025. (2025). Delaware Office of Management and Budget, FY2027 Governor's Recommended Operating Budget, Department of Correction.

Critical Infrastructure and Cybersecurity

Executive Action

This proposal would create a joint cyber unit of the Delaware National Guard and the Department of Technology

and Information to protect election systems, utilities, ports, and other critical systems. It can be established by executive action. Delaware's essential services increasingly depend on networks that have to keep running through accidents, outages, and attempted intrusions. A single standing unit, drawing on the National Guard's cyber capacity and the state's technology agency, would give those systems a dedicated team rather than leaving protection split across agencies. In practice, the unit would be stood up inside state government, with a clear list of systems to cover and a regular schedule of assessments, monitoring, and response drills. The measurable result is an operational joint unit with documented coverage of the systems it is assigned to protect.

Sovereignty and Federal Cooperation

Executive Action

This proposal would set a clear policy on how Delaware cooperates with federal law enforcement and how the state coordinates with Dover Air Force Base and other federal partners. It can be issued by executive action. Delaware hosts federal facilities and works with federal agencies on investigations, emergencies, and military operations. A written policy would make those roles predictable for state agencies, local departments, and federal counterparts, so cooperation does not depend on informal practice alone. In practice, the executive would publish the policy, name the state points of contact, and establish a regular coordination process with Dover Air Force Base and federal law-enforcement partners. The measurable result is an adopted, public policy and a working coordination schedule that state and federal partners can follow.

Property Rights

Legislation

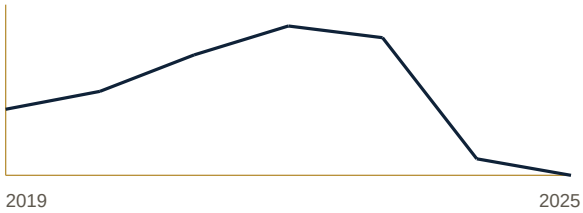
This proposal would limit the use of eminent domain for private development and add landowner protections in energy and land-use siting. It would take effect through legislation. Property ownership is more secure when land can be taken for a public project under known rules, but not transferred to a private developer as a development tool. Energy and land-use siting decisions also affect farms, homes, and small holdings, so owners need a clear process and a meaningful chance to be heard. In practice, the General Assembly would narrow when eminent domain may be used for private development and would set protections that apply when energy or other land-use projects are sited. The measurable result is a statute that limits those takings and spells out the landowner protections that apply in siting decisions.

Drug and Fentanyl Interdiction Task Force

Executive Action

This proposal would create a drug and fentanyl interdiction task force that brings together the State Police, local departments, and federal partners. It can be established by executive action. Drug overdose deaths in Delaware have fallen from a recent peak, but they remain a serious public-health and public-safety problem. [CDC provisional counts](https://data.cdc.gov/National-Center-for-Health-Statistics/VSRR-Provisional-Drug-Overdose-Death-Counts/xkb8-kh2a) show 327 overdose deaths in the 12 months ending December 2025, down from a peak of [544 deaths in 2022](https://data.cdc.gov/National-Center-for-Health-Statistics/VSRR-Provisional-Drug-Overdose-Death-Counts/xkb8-kh2a). [Synthetic opioids other than methadone](https://data.cdc.gov/National-Center-for-Health-Statistics/VSRR-Provisional-Drug-Overdose-Death-Counts/xkb8-k the category that includes fentanyl, were involved in 234 of the 2025 deaths. In 2025, the State Police Troop 2 Drug Task Force and Governor's Task Force units [seized over 13.63 kilograms of fentanyl and heroin](https://dsp.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/118/2026/04/Annual-Report-2025.pdf). The new task force would coordinate investigations and seizures across agencies so that work is not limited to a single troop or unit. The measurable results are overdose deaths and a documented, statewide record of seizures.

Drug overdose deaths in Delaware (12 months ending December; 2025 provisional)



Why It Matters

CDC provisional counts show 327 drug overdose deaths in Delaware in the 12 months ending December 2025. (2025). CDC National Center for Health Statistics, VSRR Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts.

Synthetic opioids other than methadone, the category that includes fentanyl, were involved in 234 Delaware overdose deaths in the 12 months ending December 2025. (2025). CDC National Center for Health Statistics, VSRR Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts.

Delaware overdose deaths peaked at 544 in 2022 in CDC's counts for recent years. (2022). CDC National Center for Health Statistics, VSRR Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts.

The Delaware State Police Troop 2 Drug Task Force and Governor's Task Force units seized over 13.63 kilograms of fentanyl/heroin in 2025. (2025). Delaware State Police, 2025 Annual Report.

Second Amendment

Executive Action · Legislation

This proposal would relax Delaware's gun ownership restrictions through a combination of executive action and legislation. Lawful firearm ownership is already regulated by a mix of statutes and agency rules, so any easing of those restrictions has to be reflected in both places to take effect. The aim is to make lawful ownership less restricted, while leaving the details of which rules change to the executive and the General Assembly rather than prescribing a single new statute here. In practice, the executive would review existing agency rules and permitting practices and could revise those that go beyond what statute requires. The General Assembly would consider changes to the statutes that govern ownership and carry. The measurable result is a documented reduction in those restrictions, adopted in rule or statute, so the public can see what changed and when it took effect.

Power

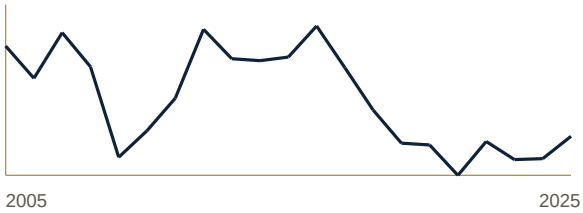
energy abundance, cheap reliable power

Nuclear Delaware

Executive Action · Legislation

2,036 megawatts of natural gas, 655 megawatts of oil, 38 megawatts of solar, and no nuclear plants. [Seventeen Delaware projects](https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/planning/services-requests/interconnection-state-level-statistics.pdf) are in the interconnection queue (11 with agreements totaling 419 megawatts, and 6 under study totaling 241 megawatts), and none of them are nuclear. This proposal would prepare siting and permitting for small modular reactors at Dover Air Force Base, in partnership with the Department of War, and at existing brownfield industrial sites. The state's Nuclear Energy Feasibility Task Force, in its [July 27, 2026 final report](https://legis.delaware.gov/json/TaskForceDetail/GetFileAttachmentByFileAttachmentId?fileId=657137), describes these reactors as units of up to 300 megawatts. It finds that no Delaware statute prohibits nuclear plants, but that the rules for building them do not yet exist. Preparation and partnership can begin through executive action; legislation would clear any statutory barriers and put those missing rules in place. The measurable result is a selected site and a permit filed, adding firm, around-the-clock power for homes and businesses.

Delaware in-state net electricity generation, all sources



Why It Matters

EIA's state generation file lists no nuclear generation in Delaware in any year from 1990 through 2025. (2025). EIA-923 Net Generation by State, 1990-2025 (final).

Delaware had 2,728 MW of installed generating capacity in PJM as of Dec. 31, 2025: 2,036 MW natural gas, 655 MW oil, 38 MW solar, and no nuclear. (2025). PJM 2025 Delaware State Infrastructure Report.

PJM's interconnection queue lists 17 active Delaware projects (11 with agreements totaling 419 MW, 6 under study totaling 241 MW), none of them nuclear. (2026). PJM Interconnection Queue State-Level Statistics (as of Nov. 18, 2026).

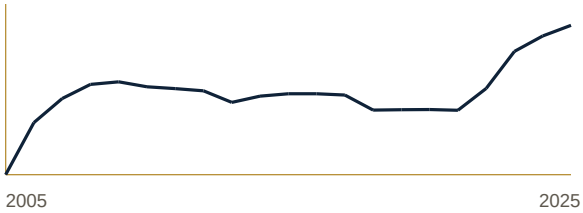
The Nuclear Energy Feasibility Task Force's final report (July 27, 2026) describes SMRs as reactors of up to 300 MW and finds no Delaware statute prohibits nuclear plants, though rules for building them do not yet exist. (2026). Nuclear Energy Feasibility Task Force (SCR 18) Final Report, July 27, 2026.

Ratepayer-First Public Service Commission

Executive Action · Legislation

Delaware's average residential electricity price was [17.15 cents per kilowatt-hour](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/annual/html/epa_02_10.html) in 2025, up from 16.57 cents in 2024. That works out to about [$158 a month](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia861/zip/f8612025.zip) for a typical household using 920 kilowatt-hours, the 36th-lowest average bill among the 50 states. Preliminary figures for January through August 2026 put the residential price at [17.98 cents](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_6_B), compared with 16.79 cents in the same months of 2025. The annual average was [12.52 cents in 2021](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/xls/SEP%20Tables%20for%20DE.xlsx) and has risen each year since. This proposal would have the Public Service Commission put reliability and lowest cost first, including cost-per-kilowatt-hour impact statements on mandates. Appointments can be made through executive action; legislation would set the impact-statement requirement. In August 2026, the state signed [four consumer-protection bills](https://news.delaware.gov/2026/08/26/governor-matt-meyer-signs-energy-consumer-protection-legislation/), including one that creates a separate rate class so large energy users such as data centers pay the full cost of the infrastructure upgrades they require. The measurable result is a more competitive average residential rate compared with regional peers, with reliable service for homes and businesses.

Delaware average residential electricity price, annual (2005-2024 from EIA State Electricity Profile Table 8; 2025 from EIA Electric Power Annual Table 2.10, which reports the same 16.57 for 2024)



Why It Matters

Delaware's average residential electricity price was 17.15 cents/kWh in 2025, up from 16.57 cents in 2024. (2025). EIA Electric Power Annual Table 2.10.

Preliminary data put Delaware's residential price at 17.98 cents/kWh for January-August 2026, versus 16.79 cents for the same months of 2025. (2026). EIA Electric Power Monthly Table 5.6.B (preliminary, released Oct. 23, 2026).

The average Delaware household electric bill was about $158 a month in 2025 (920 kWh at 17.15 cents/kWh), 36th lowest among the 50 states (rank calculated from the same EIA table). (2025). EIA-861 2025 Average Monthly Bill - Residential.

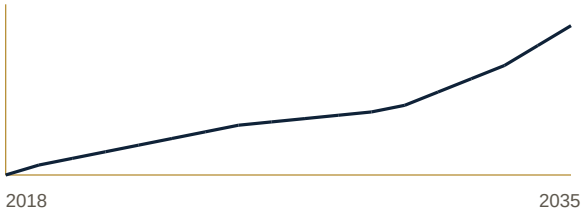
Four energy consumer-protection bills signed Aug. 26, 2026 include HB 233, which creates a separate rate class so large energy users such as data centers pay the full cost of the infrastructure upgrades they require. (2026). Delaware Office of the Governor news release, Aug. 26, 2026.

Mandate Repeal

Executive Action · Legislation

Delaware law requires [40 percent](https://delcode.delaware.gov/title26/c001/sc03a/index.html) of retail electricity sales to come from eligible renewable resources by 2035, including 10 percent from solar. The [Energy Solutions Act of 2024](https://documents.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy/2024-DE-Energy-Plan.pdf) also authorizes a solicitation for up to 1,200 megawatts of offshore wind. In filings with the Public Service Commission for the June 2024-May 2025 compliance year, the state's investor-owned electric utility reported collecting [$77 million](https://azure-na-assets.contentstack.com/v3/assets/blt47b6e332b18fb457/blt7e76e426994ed90f/692df3e146b692380 through its Renewable Compliance Charge, about $11 per megawatt-hour of non-exempt sales, and paying a [$14.4 million](https://depsc.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/54/2026/06/2024-25-RPS-Filing-11252025-v2-part-1-pgs-1-199-_ alternative compliance payment that held the total requirement at 23.25 percent instead of the scheduled 25 percent. This proposal would audit the cost and reliability of the renewable portfolio standard, offshore wind commitments, and climate-plan mandates, and repeal those that raise bills. The audit can be ordered through executive action; changing statutory mandates requires legislation. The measurable result is a public accounting of what each mandate contributes to the bill, and an average residential rate that is competitive with regional peers, so homes and businesses have abundant, reliable power they can afford.

Delaware RPS minimum renewable share of retail sales by compliance year (statutory schedule, including solar)



Why It Matters

Delaware law requires 40% of retail electricity sales to come from eligible renewable resources by compliance year 2035, including 10% from solar. (2035). 26 Del. C. § 354, Schedule I.

Delmarva Power reported $77 million collected through its Renewable Compliance Charge for the June 2024-May 2025 compliance year, about $11 per MWh of non-exempt sales (calculated: $77 million / 6,810,416 MWh reported to the PSC). (2025). Delmarva Power REPSA cost disclosure; Delmarva 2024-25 RPS Compliance Report to PSC.

For 2024-25, Delmarva paid a $14,370,700 alternative compliance payment for 574,828 renewable energy credits, which keeps the non-solar requirement frozen and the total requirement at 23.25% instead of the scheduled 25%. (2025). Delmarva 2024-25 RPS Compliance Report to Delaware PSC (corrected Nov. 25, 2025).

The Energy Solutions Act of 2024 authorizes the State Energy Office to craft a solicitation for up to 1,200 MW of offshore wind. (2024). Delaware State Energy Plan 2024-2028 (DNREC).

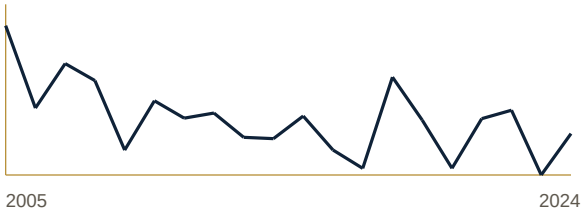
Data Centers

Executive Action · Legislation

A proposed Delaware data-center campus, Project Washington, projected [1.2 gigawatts](https://documents.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Public-Notices/CCE20250425/status-decision-application.pdf) of energy use, ramping up over 8 to 10 years. That is about 45 percent of the [2,684-megawatt](https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/library/reports-notices/state-specific-reports/2025/delaware.pdf) summer 2026 peak forecast for the Delmarva transmission zone, a zone that also serves load outside Delaware. The state [ruled the project prohibited](https://documents.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/CZICB/Decisions/CZ-2026-01-Starwood-Digital-Ventures.pdf) under the Coastal Zone Act in February 2026, a decision later affirmed. Separately, the City of Dover adopted [an 18-month pause](https://www.cityofdover.gov/media/Government/Ordinances-Resolutions-Tributes/2026/Proposed%20Ordinance%2020 on new applications for data centers of 30 megawatts or more. This proposal would place a state moratorium on data centers of 1 gigawatt or more until grid and ratepayer protections are in place, and would fast-track smaller, open-source and community-scale data centers. Permitting guidance can start through executive action; a statutory moratorium requires legislation. The 1-gigawatt threshold is a load large enough to rival a substantial share of the region's peak demand. The measurable result is that no 1-gigawatt project is approved without those

protections, so growth in computing does not put reliable service for homes and businesses at risk.

Delaware total retail electricity sales, all sectors



Why It Matters

PJM forecasts a 2026 summer peak of 2,684 MW for the Delmarva (DPL) zone, essentially flat at 2,682 MW in 2036; the DPL zone also serves load outside Delaware. (2026). PJM 2025 Delaware State Infrastructure Report (2026 Load Forecast).

The Project Washington data center application projected total energy use of 1.2 GW, ramping up over 8-10 years, equal to about 44.7% of the DPL zone's 2026 summer peak forecast (calculated: 1,200 MW / 2,684 MW). (2025). Project Washington Coastal Zone Act Status Decision application (Oct. 30, 2025).

DNREC ruled Project Washington, with 516 diesel backup generators, prohibited under the Coastal Zone Act on Feb. 3, 2026, and the Coastal Zone Industrial Control Board affirmed the decision on April 17, 2026. (2026). Coastal Zone Industrial Control Board Decision CZ-2026-01.

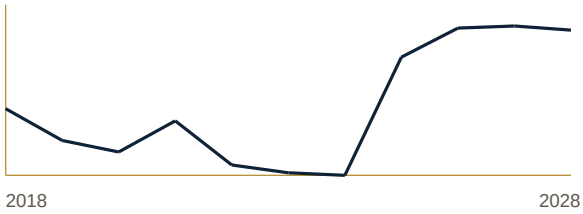
Dover Ordinance 2026-14 pauses new applications for 18 months for data centers of 30 MW or more and other facilities using 100 MW or more (or 75 MW at an 85% load factor). (2026). City of Dover Ordinance 2026-14 (adopted per City Clerk).

All-Of-The-Above Supply

Executive Action

Natural gas produced [86.1 percent](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/state/annual_generation_state.xlsx) of Delaware's in-state electricity in 2025, yet the state still imported more power than it generated. [Net interstate imports](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/xls/SEP%20Tables%20for%20DE.xlsx) were 7.9 million megawatt-hours in 2024, compared with 4.8 million megawatt-hours of in-state generation. The regional grid operator's 2025 transmission plan includes [$38.91 million](https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/library/reports-notices/state-specific-reports/2025/delaware.pdf) in reliability projects located in Delaware. In the regional capacity market, which pays for power plants to be available when needed, the clearing price rose from [$28.92 per megawatt-day](https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/markets-ops/rpm/rpm-auction-info/2028-2029/2028-2029-bra-report.pdf) for the 2024/25 delivery year to $325.00 for 2028/29 across the region, including Delaware's southern zone. Those capacity prices are regional, not Delaware-specific. This proposal would pursue all-of-the-above supply - natural gas reliability, transmission, grid storage, and regional advocacy for Delaware ratepayers - with the goal of making Delaware energy independent and a net exporter of electricity. It can proceed through executive action. Success would show up in higher in-state generation relative to imports, in reliability indices, and in rates that remain competitive for homes and businesses.

PJM capacity auction (BRA) RTO clearing price by delivery year (year shown = start of delivery year, June 1); regional, not Delaware-specific



Why It Matters

Natural gas produced 86.1% of Delaware's in-state electricity in 2025 (calculated: 4,699,834 of 5,461,634 MWh). (2025). EIA-923 Net Generation by State, 1990-2025 (final).

Delaware's net interstate electricity imports were 7,873,394 MWh in 2024, more than its 4,799,212 MWh of in-state generation. (2024). EIA Delaware Electricity Profile Table 10.

PJM's regional capacity auction for the 2028/29 delivery year cleared at $325.00/MW-day across the PJM region including Delaware's DPL-South area, up from $28.92 for 2024/25. (2028). PJM 2028/2029 Base Residual Auction Report.

PJM's 2025 regional transmission plan includes $38.91 million in baseline reliability projects located in Delaware. (2025). PJM 2025 Delaware State Infrastructure Report.

Energy Permitting Reform

Executive Action · Legislation

The state already operates a fast-track permitting program, created by Executive Order 18, that aims to finish complex state reviews within [120 business days](https://news.delaware.gov/2026/10/30/governor-meyer-announces-380-million-advanced-manufacturing-clean-energy-pr with a single point of contact. In June 2026, [four community solar projects](https://news.delaware.gov/2026/06/23/governor-meyer-announces-accelerated-community-solar-projects/) totaling more than 16 megawatts were accepted into that program. The state has said permitting for projects of this kind can exceed [48 months](https://news.delaware.gov/2026/06/23/governor-meyer-announces-accelerated-community-solar-projects/) because of local and state requirements. By comparison, a Coastal Zone status decision on a large proposed data-center project was issued [64 days](https://documents.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Public-Notices/CCE20260043/Status-Decision.pdf) after the application was deemed complete. This proposal would create single-window state permitting with deadlines for energy projects. The measurable result is shorter, predictable permit times, so new supply can come online in time to serve homes and businesses.

Why It Matters

Delaware's JobsFirst Permitting Accelerator, created by Executive Order 18, targets completing complex state permitting reviews within 120 business days with a single point of contact. (2026). Delaware Office of the Governor news release, Oct. 30, 2026.

Four ECA Power community solar projects totaling more than 16 MW were accepted into the JobsFirst Permitting Accelerator on June 23, 2026. (2026). Delaware Office of the Governor news release, June 23, 2026.

The state says permitting timelines for these community solar projects exceed 48 months in many cases because of local and state requirements. (2026). Delaware Office of the Governor news release, June 23, 2026.

DNREC issued the Project Washington Coastal Zone status decision 64 days after the application was deemed complete (calculated: Dec. 1, 2025 to Feb. 3, 2026). (2026). DNREC Coastal Zone Act Status Decision, Feb. 3, 2026.

Educate

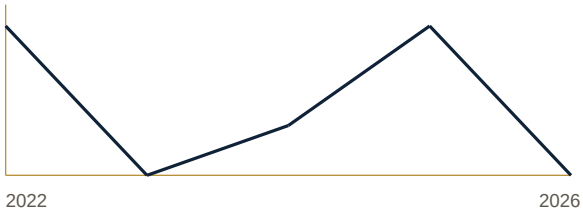
90% true 12th-grade proficiency; classical education plus AI fluency and economic literacy

The 90% Goal

Executive Action

at least 90% of high school graduates reach true 12th-grade proficiency in reading, writing, and math, with school-by-school progress published every year. Delaware does not now administer a statewide 12th-grade test, so the most recent high school measure is the 11th-grade SAT School Day exam. In spring 2026, [44% of 11th graders were proficient in reading and writing](https://data.delaware.gov/Education/Student-Assessment-Performance/ms6b-mt82), down from 47% the year before, and [18% were proficient in math](https://data.delaware.gov/Education/Student-Assessment-Performance/ms6b-mt82), the third straight year at that level and down from 24% in 2022. National comparisons point in the same direction. On the 2024 NAEP, [23% of Delaware eighth graders were proficient in reading](https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/publications/stt2024/pdf/2024220DE8.pdf), compared with 29% of eighth graders in public schools nationwide, and [19% were proficient in math](https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/publications/stt2024/pdf/2024219DE8.pdf), compared with 27% nationally. The proposal would be carried out through executive action. The state would publish annual school-level results and a path for closing the gap between graduating and reaching 12th-grade proficiency, toward 90% by 2036. The measurable result is a rising share of graduates who meet that standard in reading, writing, and math, reported every year so families and schools can see what is changing.

11th-grade SAT School Day: evidence-based reading and writing, percent proficient (Delaware; no statewide 12th-grade test exists)



Why It Matters

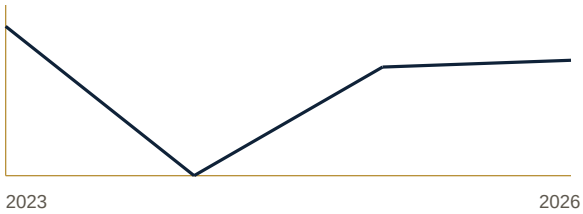
In spring 2026, 44% of Delaware 11th graders scored proficient on the SAT School Day evidence-based reading and writing test, down from 47% in 2025. (2026). Delaware Open Data, Student Assessment Performance (SAT School-Day, grade 11).
In spring 2026, 18% of Delaware 11th graders scored proficient on the SAT School Day math test, the third straight year at that level and down from 24% in 2022. (2026). Delaware Open Data, Student Assessment Performance (SAT School-Day, grade 11).
On the 2024 NAEP, 23% of Delaware 8th graders scored at or above Proficient in reading, compared with 29% of 8th graders nationally in public schools. (2024). NCES, NAEP 2024 Reading State Snapshot Report, Delaware Grade 8.
On the 2024 NAEP, 19% of Delaware 8th graders scored at or above Proficient in math, compared with 27% of 8th graders nationally in public schools. (2024). NCES, NAEP 2024 Mathematics State Snapshot Report, Delaware Grade 8.

Fix Incentives, Not District Maps

Executive Action · Legislation

This proposal would reward schools and educators for proficiency growth, and it would not force district consolidation. The question is whether students are improving enough each year, not whether district lines are redrawn. In 2025-26, Delaware students in grades 4-8 reached, on average, [59.2% of their individual English language arts growth targets](https://data.delaware.gov/Education/Student-Growth/kqmb-6xbs) in the state accountability system, down from 61.2% the year before, and [57.5% of their math growth targets](https://data.delaware.gov/Education/Student-Growth/kqmb-6xbs), about the same as 57.4% in 2024-25 and close to 58.0% in 2022-23. Students in the lowest-performing quartile [reached 66.9% of their English language arts growth targets](https://data.delaware.gov/Education/Student-Growth/kqmb-6xbs). The Department of Education's strategic plan [targets raising the grades 3-8 accountability composite score from 264 to 300 by June 2028](https://education.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/DDOE_strategic_plan_final.pdf). The work would be done through executive action and legislation. In practice, recognition and support would be tied to how much students improve, including those who start furthest behind, while local district boundaries would remain in place. The measurable result is a higher share of students meeting their yearly growth targets, and progress on the state's published accountability goals, without a forced redrawing of the district map.

Math academic growth, grades 4-8: average percent of individual growth target met (Delaware School Success Framework)



Why It Matters

In 2025-26, Delaware students in grades 4-8 reached, on average, 59.2% of their individual ELA growth targets used in the state accountability system, down from 61.2% in 2024-25. (2026). Delaware Open Data, Student Growth (DSSF).
In 2025-26, Delaware students in grades 4-8 reached, on average, 57.5% of their individual math growth targets, about the same as 57.4% in 2024-25. (2026). Delaware Open Data, Student Growth (DSSF).
In 2025-26, students in the lowest-performing quartile tracked by the state accountability system reached, on average, 66.9% of their ELA growth targets statewide. (2026). Delaware Open Data, Student Growth (DSSF).
The Delaware Department of Education's 2025-2028 strategic plan targets raising the grades 3-8 Delaware School Success Framework composite score from 264 to 300 by June 2028. (2028). Delaware Department of Education, 2025-2028 Strategic Plan.

Curriculum Flexibility

Executive Action · Legislation

among nine schools with state literacy coaches and comparable results, [eight raised grade 3 English language arts proficiency from 2025 to 2026, by an average of 5.4 percentage points, compared with a one-point statewide

increase](https://news.delaware.gov/2026/08/18/delaware-schools-receiving-targeted-literacy-support-show-some-of-the-states
Statewide, [grade 3 English language arts proficiency was 40% in 2026, against a 2028 state target of 53%](https://news.delaware.gov/2026/08/18/delaware-schools-receiving-targeted-literacy-support-show-some-of-the-states-str
The proposal would use executive action and legislation to widen the approved list so schools can also choose classical programs and economic literacy, while completing the science-of-reading adoption already required in law. The measurable results are the number of approved curriculum options schools actually adopt, and continued gains in early reading, especially grade 3 English language arts, toward the state's 53% target.

Grade 3 ELA proficiency, Smarter Balanced (DeSSA), Delaware statewide



Why It Matters

A 2022 Delaware law (SS 1 for SB 4) requires every district and charter school serving grades K-3 to adopt a reading curriculum from a state list aligned with the science of reading before the 2027-28 school year. (2022). Delaware General Assembly, SS 1 for SB 4 (151st GA), signed Aug. 29, 2022.

The Delaware Department of Education publishes a recommended list of science-of-reading-aligned high-quality instructional materials from publishers including Amplify, EL Education, Great Minds, and others. (2026). Delaware Department of Education, Early Literacy Publisher Profiles.

Among nine schools with state literacy coaches and comparable results, eight raised grade 3 ELA proficiency from 2025 to 2026, by an average of 5.4 percentage points, compared with a 1-point statewide increase. (2026). Delaware Department of Education news release, Aug. 18, 2026.

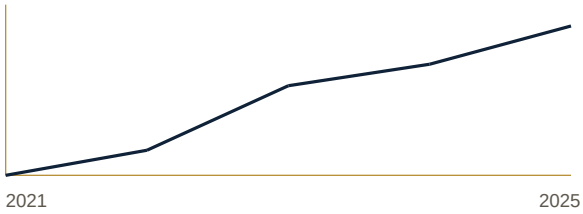
Statewide grade 3 ELA proficiency was 40% in 2026, compared with the state's 2028 strategic-plan target of 53%. (2026). Delaware Department of Education news release, Aug. 18, 2026.

Parental Choice

Executive Action · Legislation

Parental choice would put parents, teachers, and principals first, expand charter capacity and school choice, and opt Delaware into the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit. In 2024-25, Delaware charter schools [enrolled 19,032 students](https://education.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/annual-report-charters-2024.2025.pdf), or [13.3% of public school students](https://education.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/annual-report-charters-2024.2025.pdf), up from 16,903 students and a 12.05% share in 2020-21. The state had [24 charter schools](https://education.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/annual-report-charters-2024.2025.pdf) that year, 22 authorized by the Department of Education and two by the Red Clay Consolidated School District. A statewide waitlist total has not been published; [one Wilmington charter reported 458 students on its waiting list](https://education.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Charter-School-of-Wilmington-2024-25-Annual-Report.pdf) in 2024-25. The proposal would be carried out through executive action or legislation. In practice, the state would add charter seats so more families who want that option can use it, strengthen other choice programs, and opt into the federal tax-credit scholarship. The measurable result is higher charter and choice capacity, a shorter wait for seats, and a published accounting of how many students those options serve.

Share of Delaware public school students attending charter schools



Why It Matters

Delaware charter schools enrolled 19,032 students in 2024-25, up from 16,903 in 2020-21. (2025). Delaware Department of Education, 2024-2025 Annual Report on Charters.

In 2024-25, 13.3% of Delaware public school students attended charter schools. (2025). Delaware Department of Education, 2024-2025 Annual Report on Charters.
Delaware had 24 charter schools in 2024-25: 22 authorized by the Department of Education and two by the Red Clay Consolidated School District. (2025). Delaware Department of Education, 2024-2025 Annual Report on Charters.
Charter School of Wilmington reported 458 students on its waiting list in 2024-25, with 977 students enrolled against an approved enrollment of 970. (2025). Charter School of Wilmington 2024-25 Annual Report (Delaware Department of Education Charter School Office).

AI Fluency and Open-Source Compute

Executive Action

This proposal would make AI literacy part of a high school education, emphasize open-source tools so students and schools control their models and data, and partner with Delaware Technical Community College. It would be carried out through executive action. Delaware has already taken early steps. In September 2025, the state [announced it would be the first to join a national AI certification program](https://news.delaware.gov/2025/09/04/delaware-first-state-in-the-nation-to-partner-with-openai-on-certification-progra with early programming planned for schools and workforce training. The Department of Education's strategic plan [sets a June 2028 target for at least 75% of districts and charter schools to use AI tools while meeting state rules on governance, data security, and privacy](https://education.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/DDOE_strategic_plan_final.pdf), and it calls for a statewide AI Assurance Lab to set standards and evaluate tools used in schools. A 2026 bill to create an AI and extended reality pilot in schools [passed the House but did not become law](https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail/143513). In practice, high schools would teach AI literacy, schools would be able to choose open-source tools they control, and Delaware Technical Community College would help with training and pathways after graduation. The measurable result is the share of districts and charters using AI tools under the state's governance rules, heading toward the 2028 target, along with clearly offered high school AI literacy.

Why It Matters

On Sept. 4, 2025, Delaware announced it would be the first state to join the OpenAI Certification Program, led by the state Office of Workforce Development, with early programming planned across schools and workforce training. (2025). State of Delaware News, Sept. 4, 2025.
The Delaware Department of Education's 2025-2028 strategic plan sets a June 2028 target for at least 75% of districts and charter schools to use AI tools while keeping 100% compliance with state AI governance, data security, and privacy rules. (2028). Delaware Department of Education, 2025-2028 Strategic Plan.
In January 2026, the Governor announced a planned state AI Assurance Lab to set standards for AI use in schools and evaluate AI vendors; the state strategic plan calls for rolling it out statewide. (2026). Cape Gazette, Jan. 12, 2026; DDOE 2025-2028 Strategic Plan.
A 2026 bill to create an artificial intelligence and extended reality pilot program in schools (HS 1 for HB 404) passed the House but ended in a Senate committee and did not become law. (2026). Delaware General Assembly, HS 1 for HB 404 (153rd GA).

Screen Discipline

Executive Action · Legislation

phone-free instructional time, plus limits on passive screen use in early grades, which current law does not address. The measurable result is consistent adoption of a statewide standard for phones during class, and published early-grade screen limits, so instructional time is protected across schools.

Why It Matters

Delaware law enacted March 12, 2026 (SB 106) requires every school district and charter school to adopt a student cell phone policy that limits use during instructional time and to post it online by Aug. 31, 2026. (2026). Delaware Code, 85 Del. Laws c. 238 (SB 106).
In a Delaware Department of Education survey cited in that law, 61% of teachers and staff said student cell phone use in classrooms was very disruptive and another 19% said moderately disruptive. (2026). Delaware Code, 85 Del. Laws c. 238 (SB 106), legislative findings.
Over two years, 20 Delaware schools serving 14,406 students in grades 6-12 joined the state's voluntary School Cellphone Pilot Program, mostly using lockable phone pouches. (2026). Delaware Department of Education, School Cellphone Pilot Program Report, April 2026.
In the pilot's 2025-26 post-surveys, more than 80% of teachers and staff supported the pouches, while about 70% of students did not recommend continuing them. (2026). Delaware Department of Education, School Cellphone Pilot Program Report, April 2026.

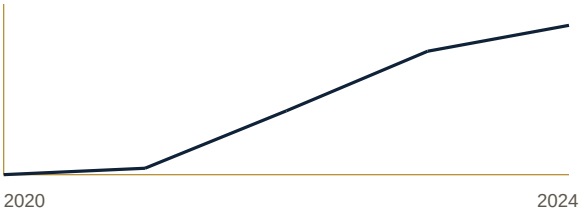
Transparency

Legislation

as of January 2026, [the Department of Education's latest Financial Educational Statistics report still covered 2022-23](https://education.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/annual-report-charters-2024.2025.pdf). What is already known at the state level shows Delaware spends more than most states. In fiscal 2024, public school systems [spent $22,201 per pupil on current operations, compared with a national average of

$17,619](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances/tables/2024/secondary-education-finance/elsec24_sumt
the [ninth-highest among the 50 states and the District of
Columbia](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances/tables/2024/secondary-education-finance/elsec24_sum
State sources provided [$13,522 per pupil, the
eighth-highest](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances/tables/2024/secondary-education-finance/elsec24
Current spending per pupil rose from [$17,235 in fiscal 2020 to $22,201 in fiscal
2024](https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2024/econ/school-finances/secondary-education-finance.html), in dollars not adjusted for inflation. In practice, each school would publish what it teaches and what it spends, in a format the public can use, so curriculum and spending can be compared with student results. The measurable result is a complete, current, school-level posting of curriculum and spending, updated on a regular cycle rather than years after the money is spent.

Current spending per pupil, Delaware public elementary-secondary school systems (current dollars, not inflation-adjusted)



Why It Matters

Delaware public school systems spent $22,201 per pupil on current operations in fiscal 2024, compared with a national average of $17,619. (2024). U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 Annual Survey of School System Finances, Table 8.

Delaware ranked 9th highest in current spending per pupil in fiscal 2024 among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. (2024). U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 Annual Survey of School System Finances, Table 11.

Delaware public school systems received $13,522 per pupil from state sources in fiscal 2024, the 8th highest among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. (2024). U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 Annual Survey of School System Finances, Table 11.

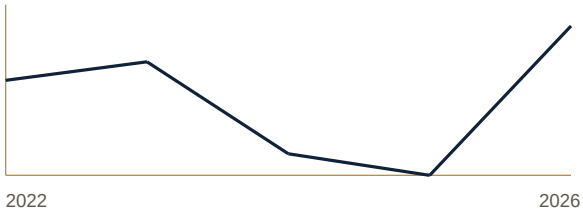
As of January 2026, the most recent Delaware Department of Education Financial Educational Statistics report covered the 2022-23 school year, because finance data lag to reflect final audited spending. (2026). Delaware Department of Education, 2024-2025 Annual Report on Charters.

Teacher and Principal Pipeline

Executive Action · Legislation

This proposal would create alternate certification routes for veterans and working professionals, through executive action and legislation. Staffing remains uneven. At the end of the 2024 hiring season, Delaware still had [259 unfilled instructional and non-instructional positions, about 2.5% of a 10,178-person workforce](https://news.delaware.gov/files/2025/01/Executive-Summary-Delaware-Excellent-Educator-Hiring-Practices-Survey
though that was 52% lower than the prior season. Of those, [189 were instructional and 70 were non-instructional](https://news.delaware.gov/files/2025/01/Executive-Summary-Delaware-Excellent-Educator-Hiring-Practices-
[High school math was the hardest area to staff, ranked among the top five hardest by 74% of districts](https://news.delaware.gov/files/2025/01/Executive-Summary-Delaware-Excellent-Educator-Hiring-Practices-Survey-2
The Department of Education [aims to raise three-year retention of early-career teachers from 72% to 75% by June 2028](https://education.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/DDOE_strategic_plan_final.pdf). Classroom teacher staffing stood at [10,262 full-time equivalents in 2026, after falling to 9,770 in 2025](https://data.delaware.gov/Education/Educator-Characteristics/t9ya-d7ak). In practice, qualified veterans and mid-career professionals would have a clear path to certification, especially in hard-to-staff subjects such as high school math. The measurable results are fewer unfilled positions, stronger staffing in shortage areas, and progress toward the state's early-career retention target.

Full-time-equivalent classroom teachers, Delaware public schools (districts and charters)



Why It Matters

At the end of the 2024 hiring season, 259 positions in Delaware's 19 school districts remained unfilled, about 2.5% of a 10,178-person workforce and 52% fewer than the prior season. (2024). Delaware Department of Education, Excellent Educator Hiring Practices Survey 2024, Executive Summary.

Of the 259 unfilled district positions in 2024, 189 were instructional and 70 were non-instructional roles such as psychologists and therapists. (2024). Delaware Department of Education, Excellent Educator Hiring Practices Survey 2024, Executive Summary.

High school math was the hardest area to staff in 2024, ranked among the top five hardest by 74% of Delaware districts. (2024). Delaware Department of Education, Excellent Educator Hiring Practices Survey 2024, Executive Summary.

The Delaware Department of Education's strategic plan targets raising the three-year retention rate of early-career teachers from 72% to 75% by June 2028. (2028). Delaware Department of Education, 2025-2028 Strategic Plan.

Community Economic Education

Community

in fiscal 2024, [Delaware public school systems spent $22,201 per pupil on current operations, compared with a national average of $17,619](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances/tables/2024/secondary-education-finance/elsec24_sumt The forums would help participants read figures like these, and related data on housing and health care, rather than asserting a single explanation in advance. The aim is practical economic and monetary literacy: how prices are formed, how incentives work, and how to check public data on costs families actually face. That work would complement the economic and monetary literacy options in the curriculum proposal, so the same ideas can be discussed in school and in the community, with sources people can verify. The measurable results are the number of community economic-literacy events held and the number of families who take part, which are also among the Educate section's published metrics.

Build

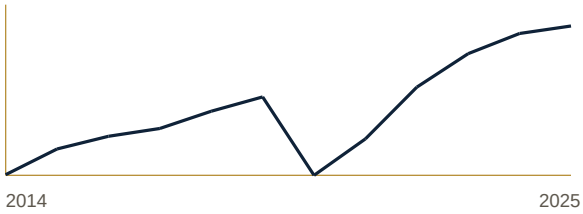
infrastructure, tech hub, private jobs, tax and regulatory reform

Private Jobs

Executive Action

state economic-development, permitting, and workforce efforts would be aimed at that pace, and the dashboard would use the same official payroll series each month. The measurable result is the change in this job count, year over year and over 12 months, compared with the 2% goal and the 3% stretch.

Private jobs outside financial activities, annual average (BLS total private minus financial activities)



Why It Matters

Delaware had 373,800 private-sector jobs outside financial activities in 2025 (annual average; BLS total private 423,100 minus financial activities 49,300). (2025). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (State and Area).

Private jobs outside financial activities rose by 2,300 (about 0.6%) from 2024 to 2025, from 371,500 to 373,800 (annual averages). (2025). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (State and Area).

In October 2026 (preliminary, seasonally adjusted), private jobs outside financial activities were 376,500, up 4,300 from 372,200 in October 2025. (2026). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (State and Area), seasonally adjusted.

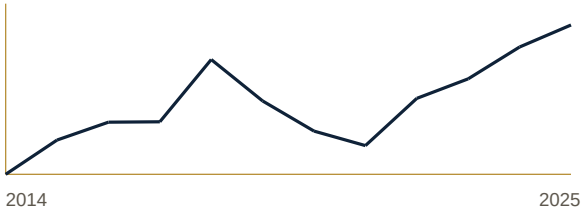
Growth of 2% a year on the 2025 base of 373,800 equals 7,476 jobs a year; 3% equals 11,214 jobs a year. (2025). Calculated from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (State and Area).

Silicon Valley of the East Coast

Executive Action

This proposal would build a tech-hub strategy that pairs Delaware's corporate law with talent from Del Tech, the University of Delaware, and Delaware State University, and with open-source artificial intelligence and lower-cost power. In 2025, [computer systems design and related services employed 5,804 private-sector workers](https://data.bls.gov/cew/data/api/2025/a/area/10000.csv) in Delaware, up [170 jobs, or about 3%](https://data.bls.gov/cew/data/api/2025/a/area/10000.csv), from 2024 and up [1,154 jobs](https://data.bls.gov/cew/data/api/2025/a/area/10000.csv) since 2014. Average annual pay in that industry was [$126,091](https://data.bls.gov/cew/data/api/2025/a/area/10000.csv), compared with [$75,821](https://data.bls.gov/cew/data/api/2025/a/area/10000.csv) across all private industries. The broader professional, scientific, and technical services sector employed [29,503 people, about 7.2% of the state's private-sector jobs](https://data.bls.gov/cew/data/api/2025/a/area/10000.csv). A clearer tech-hub strategy would use executive action to line up those existing strengths-legal structure, the three public campuses, open-source tools, and power costs-so more of that work can be done in Delaware. The measurable results are employment and pay in computer systems design and in professional, scientific, and technical services, tracked in official wage and employment data.

Computer systems design and related services (NAICS 5415), private employment, annual average



Why It Matters

Delaware's computer systems design and related services industry (NAICS 5415) employed 5,804 private-sector workers in 2025 (annual average). (2025). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Employment in computer systems design and related services grew by 170 jobs (about 3.0%) from 2024 to 2025, and by 1,154 jobs (about 24.8%) since 2014. (2025). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Average annual pay in Delaware's private computer systems design and related services industry was $126,091 in 2025, compared with $75,821 across all private industries. (2025). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

The broader professional, scientific, and technical services sector (NAICS 54) employed 29,503 private-sector workers in Delaware in 2025, about 7.2% of the state's 412,488 private-sector jobs. (2025). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

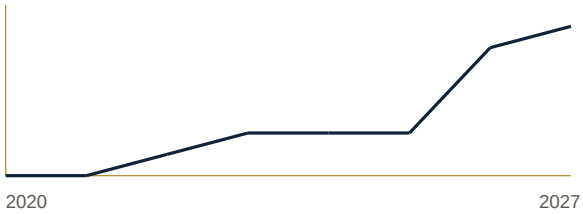
Tax Relief

Legislation

property tax relief first, with the long-term goal of abolishing property taxes; personal income tax cuts phased in as revenue grows; and gross receipts tax reform for small business. Those changes would take legislation, which can pass by a simple majority. On the [2027 State Tax Competitiveness Index](https://taxfoundation.org/state-tax-index/states/delaware/), Delaware ranks [22nd of 50 states](https://taxfoundation.org/state-tax-index/states/delaware/), with an overall score of [5.30](https://taxfoundation.org/state-tax-index/states/delaware/). It ranks [3rd on property taxes](https://taxfoundation.org/state-tax-index/states/delaware/), with an effective rate of [0.54%](https://taxfoundation.org/state-tax-index/states/delaware/) on owner-occupied housing, and [37th on individual income taxes](https://taxfoundation.org/state-tax-index/states/delaware/). The state's graduated income tax has a [top rate of 6.6% starting at $60,000](https://taxfoundation.org/state-tax-index/states/delaware/), and Wilmington adds a [separate 1.25% income tax](https://taxfoundation.org/state-tax-index/states/delaware/). Those ranks already put Delaware [ahead of Pennsylvania (30th), Maryland (44th), and New Jersey (48th)](https://taxfoundation.org/state-tax-index/states/delaware/) overall, while Delaware ranks [50th on corporate taxes and 2nd on sales taxes](https://taxfoundation.org/state-tax-index/states/delaware/). The proposal would start with property taxes, then phase personal income tax cuts with revenue growth, and reform the gross receipts tax

for small business. The measurable results are the state's overall and component ranks, the effective property tax rate, and the personal income tax rate schedule.

Delaware overall rank, Tax Foundation State Tax Competitiveness Index (1 = best; 2020-2026 backcast under current methodology)



Why It Matters

Delaware ranks 22nd of 50 states on the Tax Foundation's 2027 State Tax Competitiveness Index, with an overall score of 5.30 out of 10. (2027). Tax Foundation, 2027 State Tax Competitiveness Index.

Delaware ranks 37th on individual income taxes in the 2027 Index; its graduated income tax has a top rate of 6.6% starting at $60,000, and Wilmington levies a separate 1.25% income tax. (2027). Tax Foundation, 2027 State Tax Competitiveness Index.

Delaware ranks 3rd on property taxes in the 2027 Index, with an effective property tax rate of 0.54% on owner-occupied housing value. (2027). Tax Foundation, 2027 State Tax Competitiveness Index.

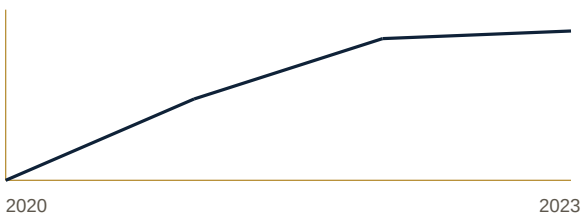
In the 2027 Index, Delaware (22nd) ranks ahead of its neighbors Pennsylvania (30th), Maryland (44th) and New Jersey (48th); Delaware ranks 50th on corporate taxes and 2nd on sales taxes. (2027). Tax Foundation, 2027 State Tax Competitiveness Index.

Regulatory Reform

Executive Action · Legislation

This proposal would inventory every state regulation, put existing rules on a sunset review, and require two rules to be removed for each new one added, so Delaware remains a straightforward place to invest. In 2023, the Delaware Administrative Code contained [103,543 regulatory restrictions](https://quantgov-bulk-downloads.s3.amazonaws.com/State-RegData-5-0_Regulations.zip)-counts of words such as shall, must, may not, prohibited, and required-across about [6.70 million words in 1,125 documents](https://quantgov-bulk-downloads.s3.amazonaws.com/State-RegData-5-0_Regulations.zip). Among the [49 jurisdictions](https://quantgov-bulk-downloads.s3.amazonaws.com/State-RegData-5-0_Regulations.zip) in that 2023 count (48 states plus the District of Columbia; Arkansas and West Virginia were not included), Delaware had the [20th-fewest restrictions](https://quantgov-bulk-downloads.s3.amazonaws.com/State-RegData-5-0_Regulations.zip); the median was [121,620](https://quantgov-bulk-downloads.s3.amazonaws.com/State-RegData-5-0_Regulations.zip). Maryland had [129,455](https://quantgov-bulk-downloads.s3.amazonaws.com/State-RegData-5-0_Regulations.zip), Pennsylvania [164,032](https://quantgov-bulk-downloads.s3.amazonaws.com/State-RegData-5-0_Regulations.zip), and New Jersey [296,926](https://quantgov-bulk-downloads.s3.amazonaws.com/State-RegData-5-0_Regulations.zip). The inventory and a one-in-two-out rule can begin by executive action; a statutory sunset review would take legislation. The measurable results are the number of regulatory restrictions and the size of the administrative code, updated as the inventory and reviews are completed.

Regulatory restrictions in the Delaware Administrative Code



Why It Matters

Delaware's administrative code contained 103,543 regulatory restrictions (counts of shall, must, may not, prohibited and required) in 2023. (2023). QuantGov (Mercatus Center at George Mason University), State RegData 5.0.

Delaware's code contained about 6.70 million words (6,700,783) across 1,125 regulatory documents in 2023. (2023). QuantGov (Mercatus Center at George Mason University), State RegData 5.0.

Among the 49 jurisdictions in the 2023 State RegData file (48 states plus D.C.; Arkansas and West Virginia not included), Delaware had the

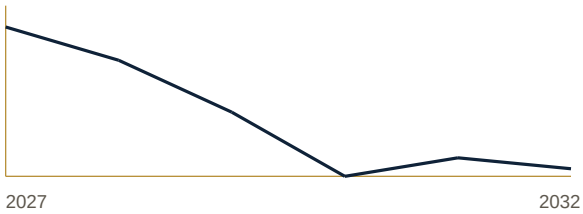
20th-fewest restrictions; the median was 121,620. (2023). Calculated from QuantGov (Mercatus Center at George Mason University), State RegData 5.0.
In 2023, Maryland's code contained 129,455 regulatory restrictions, Pennsylvania's 164,032 and New Jersey's 296,926, compared with Delaware's 103,543. (2023). QuantGov (Mercatus Center at George Mason University), State RegData 5.0.

Infrastructure

Executive Action

[$271.7 million state, $474.5 million federal, and $42.5 million other](https://deldot.gov/Publications/reports/CTP/pdfs/FY27-FY32/Draft%20FY27-FY32%20CTP%20Development%20Plan.p
Federal funds make up about [52.8%](https://deldot.gov/Publications/reports/CTP/pdfs/FY27-FY32/Draft%20FY27-FY32%20CTP%20Development%20Plan
of the six-year program, and the statewide [Bridge Program accounts for about $484.3 million](https://deldot.gov/Publications/reports/CTP/pdfs/FY27-FY32/Draft%20FY27-FY32%20CTP%20Development%20Plan.
By executive action, project selection in that program would be lined up with places where jobs are growing or planned, including the Route 1 and Sussex corridors and the Port of Wilmington. The measurable results are the size and mix of the capital program and whether priority projects in those corridors and at the port move forward on the published schedule.

DelDOT FY27-FY32 Capital Transportation Program, scheduled spending by fiscal year (state + federal + other)



Why It Matters

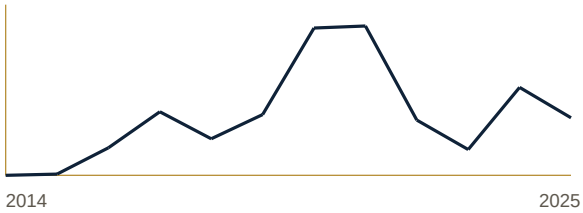
DelDOT's FY2027-FY2032 Capital Transportation Program schedules about $3.70 billion ($3,700,552,632) in spending from state, federal and other sources over the six fiscal years. (2026). Delaware Department of Transportation, FY27-FY32 CTP Development Plan (revised Feb. 13, 2026; CTP adopted Feb. 19, 2026).
Planned CTP spending for fiscal year 2027 is about $788.8 million ($788,779,405): $271.7 million state, $474.5 million federal and $42.5 million other. (2027). Delaware Department of Transportation, FY27-FY32 CTP Development Plan.
Federal funds make up about 52.8% ($1.95 billion) of the FY2027-FY2032 CTP's scheduled spending. (2026). Delaware Department of Transportation, FY27-FY32 CTP Development Plan.
The statewide Bridge Program accounts for about $484.3 million of scheduled FY2027-FY2032 CTP spending. (2026). Delaware Department of Transportation, FY27-FY32 CTP Development Plan.

Housing Supply

Legislation

This proposal would expand housing supply through model zoning and permitting reforms and by making state land available for starter homes. It would take legislation and local action, because much of zoning and permitting is decided in cities and counties. In 2025, Delaware authorized [6,468 new housing units](https://www2.census.gov/econ/bps/State/st2025a.txt) in privately owned buildings, down from [7,141 in 2024](https://www2.census.gov/econ/bps/State/st2025a.txt). [Single-family homes accounted for 5,422 of those units, about 84%](https://www2.census.gov/econ/bps/State/st2025a.txt). Home prices rose about [4.0% from the second quarter of 2025 to the second quarter of 2026](https://www.fhfa.gov/hpi/download/quarterly_datasets/hpi_at_state.csv), and about [81.6% over the ten years starting in the second quarter of 2016](https://www.fhfa.gov/hpi/download/quarterly_datasets/hpi_at_state.csv). Model local rules and a state-land pathway for starter homes are meant to make it easier to add homes where people work and already live. The measurable results are the number of housing units authorized each year, the mix of single-family and other units, and the change in home prices.

New privately owned housing units authorized by building permits, Delaware



Why It Matters

Delaware authorized 6,468 new housing units in privately owned buildings in 2025, down from 7,141 in 2024. (2025). U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permits Survey (annual state estimates with imputation).

Single-family homes made up 5,422 of the 6,468 housing units authorized in Delaware in 2025 (about 84%). (2025). U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permits Survey.

Delaware home prices rose about 4.0% from the second quarter of 2025 to the second quarter of 2026 (FHFA all-transactions index, not seasonally adjusted). (2026). Federal Housing Finance Agency, House Price Index (all-transactions, state).

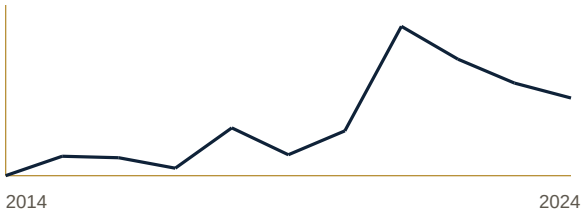
Delaware home prices rose about 81.6% over the ten years from the second quarter of 2016 to the second quarter of 2026 (FHFA all-transactions index). (2026). Federal Housing Finance Agency, House Price Index (all-transactions, state).

Self-Reliance Index

Executive Action

This proposal would create a self-reliance index that tracks, and then reduces, the share of the state budget that depends on federal funds. In fiscal year 2024, federal funds were about [25.0% of Delaware's total state expenditures, or $4.03 billion of $16.09 billion](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASBO/9d2d2db1-c943-4f1b-b750-0fca152d64c2/UploadedImages/SI The [estimated share for fiscal 2025 is about 22.5%](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASBO/9d2d2db1-c943-4f1b-b750-0fca152d64c2/UploadedImages/S ($3.93 billion of $17.48 billion). That share peaked at about [29.8% in fiscal 2021](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASBO/9d2d2db1-c943-4f1b-b750-0fca152d64c2/UploadedImages/SE and was about [19.8% in fiscal 2014](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASBO/9d2d2db1-c943-4f1b-b750-0fca152d64c2/UploadedImages/SE The index can be published by executive action, using a consistent definition-federal funds as a share of total state spending, including capital-and updated each fiscal year. The measurable result is that published share, so the public can see whether dependence on federal funds is falling over time. The proposal does not set a numeric target; the aim is a lower share than today, tracked in the open.

Federal funds as a share of Delaware total state expenditures (capital inclusive), actual, by state fiscal year (ends June 30)



Why It Matters

Federal funds were about 25.0% of Delaware's total state expenditures in fiscal 2024 ($4.03 billion of $16.09 billion, actual). (2024). National Association of State Budget Officers, 2025 State Expenditure Report, Table 1.

For fiscal 2025, NASBO's estimate puts federal funds at about 22.5% of Delaware's total state expenditures ($3.93 billion of $17.48 billion). (2025). National Association of State Budget Officers, 2025 State Expenditure Report, Table 1 (estimated).

The federal share of Delaware's total state expenditures peaked at about 29.8% in fiscal 2021 ($3.96 billion of $13.26 billion). (2021). National Association of State Budget Officers, 2023 State Expenditure Report, Table 1.

In fiscal 2014, federal funds were about 19.8% of Delaware's total state expenditures ($1.90 billion of $9.61 billion). (2014). National Association of State Budget Officers, State Expenditure Report (Fiscal 2014-2016), Table 1.

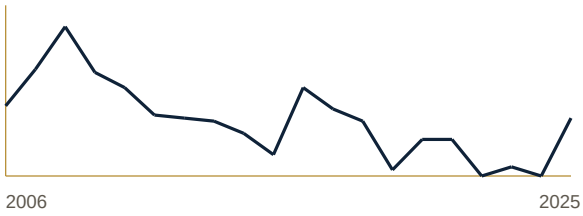
Right to Work

Legislation

This proposal would prohibit union security agreements, which are contract terms that require employees to join a union or pay union fees as a condition of keeping a job. That change would take legislation. In 2025, [10.4% of

Delaware's employed wage and salary workers were union members](https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LUU0204899610), up from [8.5% in 2024](https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LUU0204899610). That was about [47,000 members among 451,000 employed wage and salary workers](https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LUU0203161810). Including nonmembers covered by a union contract, [11.5%](https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LUU0204899710) were represented by unions. Delaware's membership rate compares with [10.0% nationally, 10.9% in Pennsylvania, 12.7% in Maryland, and 14.7% in New Jersey](https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LUU0204899600). The measurable results are the state's union membership rate, the number of members, and the broader coverage rate, published each year in official household survey data. The proposal would change the rules for union security agreements; it does not set a target membership rate.

Union membership rate, Delaware employed wage and salary workers



Why It Matters

In 2025, 10.4% of Delaware's employed wage and salary workers were union members, up from 8.5% in 2024. (2025). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Union Members (Current Population Survey), released January 2026.

Delaware had about 47,000 union members among 451,000 employed wage and salary workers in 2025. (2025). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Union Members (Current Population Survey).

Including nonmembers covered by a union contract, 11.5% of Delaware's employed wage and salary workers were represented by unions in 2025. (2025). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Union Members (Current Population Survey).

Delaware's 2025 union membership rate of 10.4% compares with 10.0% nationally, 10.9% in Pennsylvania, 12.7% in Maryland and 14.7% in New Jersey. (2025). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Union Members (Current Population Survey).

Foundations

Families

the foundation under every pillar

A Family Impact Statement on Every Major Bill and Rule

Executive Action

child care slots, foster permanency time, benefit-cliff reductions, and participation in family resources.

Child Care Supply

Executive Action · Legislation

This proposal would expand the supply of child care by cutting licensing red tape and opening the door wider to home-based and faith-based providers. Child care licensing is governed by [Chapter 30A of Title 14](https://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c030a/index.html) of the Delaware Code and by regulations of the Office of Child Care Licensing. As of November 2026, the state's [open data listing of licensed providers](https://data.delaware.gov/Human-Services/Licensed-Child-Care-Providers-and-Facilities-sorte/jxu7-wnw2) showed 1,238 licensed programs with a combined capacity of 70,230 children. Centers accounted for 64,858 of those slots. The 611 family and large family child care homes made up about half of all licensed programs but only 5,372 slots, less than a tenth of capacity. Under the [family child care regulations](https://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title14/934), a Level I home may care for a maximum of 5 or 6 children depending on their ages, a Level II home up to 9, and a large family home up to 12. In practice, the Office of Child Care Licensing could use executive action to review each licensing requirement, simplify applications and inspections, and shorten approval times while keeping health and safety standards in place. Because the work centers on removing barriers rather than creating a new program, it can proceed without new spending. The measurable result is growth in licensed child care slots, reported from the state's own provider data.

Work-First Benefits Reform

Executive Action · Legislation

fewer and smaller points at which earning more or marrying leaves a Delaware family worse off.

Foster Care and Adoption

Executive Action

This proposal would help children in foster care reach safe, permanent homes faster and would strengthen the state's partnership with faith-based providers in recruiting and supporting foster and adoptive families. Delaware's [2025 Annual Progress and Services Report](https://kidsfiles.delaware.gov/pdfs_archive/fs/fs-cfsp-apsr-2025.pdf) to the federal government shows 561 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2023, up from 501 a year earlier, and 866 children who spent at least one day in care during state fiscal year 2023. The same report found that 25.95 percent of children who entered care between April 2021 and March 2022 reached permanency within 12 months, compared with national performance of 35.2 percent, and that 43 percent of adoptions in fiscal 2023 happened within 24 months of a child's entry into care. In 2025, [75 Delaware children](https://kidsfiles.delaware.gov/pdfs/dscyf-annual-report-2025.pdf) found permanent families through adoption. Because this is an executive action, the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families can carry it out through agency policy, contracts, and the state budget. That means tracking each case against permanency timelines, removing administrative delays, and expanding partnerships with faith-based providers to recruit, train, and support families. The measurable result is shorter foster permanency time, reported publicly each year against the federal 12-month permanency measure.

Parental Rights in Education and Health Decisions for Minors

Legislation

This proposal would set out in state law the rights of parents in the education and health decisions of their minor children. Delaware law already recognizes the role of families in general terms. [14 Del. C. § 157](https://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c001/sc03/index.html) states that "there is no adequate substitute for the involvement of a concerned and committed family in the education of a child." That section encourages communication between parents and schools and calls for a statewide Parents' Declaration of Responsibilities, but it is framed as shared expectations rather than a list of parental rights. In health care, [13 Del. C. § 707](https://delcode.delaware.gov/title13/c007/sc01/index.html) governs consent to the health care of minors, and § 710 of the same chapter allows a minor 12 years of age or older to consent, except to abortion, to certain care related to pregnancy or contagious disease. Because this proposal requires legislation, the General Assembly would pass a bill that states parental rights in education and in health decisions for minors in one clear place in the Delaware Code. Families, schools, and health care providers would then share a common understanding of what the law expects, which can reduce conflict and help parents stay involved in decisions about their children. The measurable result is participation in family resources, meaning how many parents use the information and processes the law establishes, reported by the state each year.

Youth and Technology

Legislation

This proposal would strengthen protections for minors online through state legislation. Families need clear, enforceable rules about how websites, apps, and online services treat young users, and some protections already exist. The federal [Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-16/chapter-I/subchapter-C/part-312) defines a child as an individual under the age of 13 and generally requires covered operators to obtain verifiable parental consent before collecting, using, or disclosing a child's personal information. Delaware's [Online and Personal Privacy Protection law](https://delcode.delaware.gov/title6/c012c/index.html) bars sites and apps directed to children from marketing or advertising certain products to them. The [Delaware Personal Data Privacy Act](https://delcode.delaware.gov/title6/c012d/index.html) bars companies from selling a teen's personal data or using it for targeted advertising without consent when they know, or willfully disregard, that the user is 13 to 17 years old. Because this proposal requires legislation, the General Assembly would review these existing protections, identify gaps that remain for Delaware minors, and pass a bill that addresses them in clear terms that families and companies can understand. The work builds on federal and state law already on the books rather

than starting over, and it keeps parents informed about the choices available to them. The measurable result is participation in family resources, including the number of parents and young people who use the guidance and tools the law provides.

Multi-Generational Economic Conversations

Community

the number of sessions held, guides shared, and families taking part in all three counties.

State Government Reform

Cross-cutting reform of how the state is run, including fiscal responsibility.

A Performance Audit of Every State Department, With Results Made Public

Executive Action

This proposal would conduct a performance audit of every state department and make the results public. A performance audit asks whether a program achieves its goals efficiently, not just whether the books balance. Delaware law already provides a foundation. [29 Del. C. § 2901](https://delcode.delaware.gov/title29/c029/) defines an audit to include a performance audit, and § 2906 directs the Auditor of Accounts to audit the financial transactions of all state agencies, to the extent possible at least once every two years. The office has used this authority for targeted reviews, such as its [performance audit of the Diamond State Port Corporation](https://auditor.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/209/2025/12/Diamond-State-Port-Corporation-Performance covering July 2021 through June 2025. This proposal would extend that kind of review, systematically, to every department. Because this is an executive action, it can be launched through an executive order directing every executive branch department to take part in a performance review on a published schedule, with costs set within the state budget and offset by the savings the reviews identify. Each review would compare a department's spending with the results it delivers for Delaware families and taxpayers, recommend specific improvements, and be posted online in full so residents can follow up. The measurable result is savings identified and realized, reported department by department as each audit is completed and published.

Zero-Based Budgeting Phased in Across Agencies

Executive Action

the [Fiscal Year 2028 budget guidelines](https://budget.delaware.gov/budget/fy2028/documents/guidelines.pdf) set each agency's request target from its Fiscal Year 2027 base budget, plus approved increases and a 1 percent growth percentage. Over the same period, the General Fund Budget Act grew from [$4.77 billion in fiscal 2022 to $7.00 billion in fiscal 2027](https://financefiles.delaware.gov/DEFAC/10_26/DEFACexp101926.pdf). Because this is an executive action, the Office of Management and Budget can phase in zero-based reviews through its annual budget instructions, starting with a few agencies each year until every agency has rebuilt its budget from zero. Each review would ask what a program delivers for Delaware families and whether it is still needed at its current size. The measurable result is savings identified and realized, and budget growth that stays in line with personal income growth.

Spending Limit and Rainy-Day Discipline

Legislation · Constitutional Amendment

This proposal would set a firm spending limit and strengthen rainy-day discipline so that state budgets grow no faster than Delawareans' ability to pay. The [Delaware Constitution](https://delcode.delaware.gov/constitution/constitution-09.html) already limits General Fund appropriations to 98 percent of estimated revenue and caps the Budget Reserve Account at 5 percent of estimated revenue. State law adds a [Budget Stabilization Fund and a Benchmark Index](https://delcode.delaware.gov/title29/c065/index.html) based on personal income growth, population growth, and inflation, but the benchmark applies to the budget bill the Governor submits, not to the budget the General Assembly enacts. For fiscal 2027, the [Benchmark Index was 4.1 percent](https://financefiles.delaware.gov/DEFAC/minutes/Minutes_05_2026_FINAL.pdf), while the [General Fund Budget Act rose from $6.581 billion to $6.997

billion](https://financefiles.delaware.gov/DEFAC/10_26/DEFACexp101926.pdf), an increase of about 6.3 percent. At the end of fiscal 2026, the state held [$366.5 million in the Budget Reserve Account and $469.3 million in the Budget Stabilization Fund](https://financefiles.delaware.gov/DEFAC/10_26/Minutes_06_2026_FINAL.pdf). Through legislation, the General Assembly could apply a spending limit to the enacted budget and set clear rules for building and using reserves. A hard limit could be placed in the Delaware Constitution as a constitutional amendment, which requires approval by two-thirds of both houses in two consecutive General Assemblies, with no voter referendum. The measurable result is budget growth at or below personal income growth, with reserves maintained.

Why It Matters

The General Fund closed with a cash surplus of $116.8 million. (Fiscal year ended June 30, 2024). Delaware Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

The ending General Fund cash balance was $2,746.2 million. (June 30, 2024). Delaware Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

$410.1 million was deposited in the Budget Stabilization Fund. (Effective July 1, 2023). Delaware Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Open Government

Executive Action · Legislation

This proposal would make state government more open through an online checkbook, open data, and firm deadlines for responding to public records requests. Delaware has building blocks in place. The state runs an [Open Checkbook](https://opencheckbook.delaware.gov/) site for state spending and an [open data portal](https://data.delaware.gov/) where agencies publish datasets. Under the Freedom of Information Act, [29 Del. C. § 10003](https://delcode.delaware.gov/title29/c100/) requires a public body to respond to a request within 15 business days. That response may grant or deny access, or it may state that more time is needed because the request is voluminous, requires legal advice, or involves archived records, along with a good-faith estimate of the additional time. The same section requires each FOIA coordinator to keep a log of every request, including its response deadline and the date of the response. In practice, executive action can direct agencies to expand and regularly update checkbook and open data publications, follow consistent data standards, and publish summaries of their FOIA logs so residents can see how quickly requests are answered. Most of this work builds on systems the state already operates. The measurable result is shorter FOIA response times, published agency by agency.

Boards and Commissions Review

Executive Action · Legislation

This proposal would review Delaware's boards and commissions, consolidate or sunset bodies that are redundant, and make appointments based on merit. The scale is significant. The [Office of the Governor](https://governor.delaware.gov/boards-and-commissions/) makes appointments to approximately 300 boards and commissions that affect nearly all areas of public policy, and the Public Integrity Commission's [2025 annual report](https://depic.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/48/2026/03/2025-Annual-Report-v2.pdf) counted more than 300 boards and commissions with about 2,200 appointees in 2023. Delaware already has a legislative review process. Under [29 Del. C. Chapter 102](https://delcode.delaware.gov/title29/c102/index.html), the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee must conduct at least four full or focused reviews each year to determine whether there is a genuine public need for an entity and whether it is meeting that need. At that minimum pace, reviewing hundreds of bodies would take many years. Through executive action, the executive branch can inventory every board and commission, publish each one's purpose, membership, meeting record, and cost, and adopt merit-based appointment standards with published qualifications for each seat. The goal is fewer, stronger bodies whose work is easy for residents to follow. The measurable result is savings identified and realized from consolidation and sunsets, reported publicly as each change takes effect.

Government AI Modernization Using Open-Source Systems With State-Owned Data

Executive Action

This proposal would modernize state government with artificial intelligence built on open-source systems, keeping public data owned and controlled by the State. Delaware has begun building governance for this work. Under [29 Del. C. Chapter 90C, Subchapter IV](https://delcode.delaware.gov/title29/c090c/sc04/index.html), the Delaware AI Commission, whose members include the State's Chief Information Officer, is charged with recommending statewide processes, principles, and guidelines for agency use of AI, encouraging agencies to use AI to improve service delivery where appropriate, and inventorying generative AI use across executive, legislative, and judicial

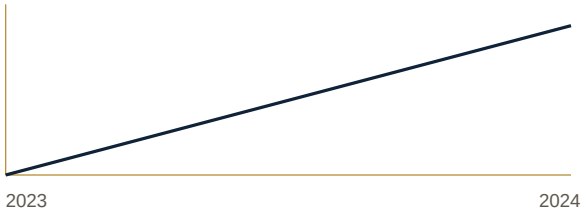
agencies. Open-source systems let the State inspect how its tools work, avoid being locked into a single vendor, and keep residents' records on infrastructure the State controls. Because this is an executive action, the Department of Technology and Information and other agencies can carry it out through procurement standards, agency guidance, and the state budget. That means favoring open-source models and software, requiring that data used or produced by AI tools remains state-owned, and starting with practical uses such as answering routine questions, processing applications, and summarizing documents. Projects would be funded within existing technology budgets or paired with a measured return. The measurable result is savings identified and realized from faster, lower-cost public services, with each project's results published.

A Pension and Retiree-Benefits Sustainability Plan

Legislation

the State Employees' Pension Plan's [June 30, 2025 actuarial valuation](https://open.omb.delaware.gov/FinancialReports/actuarial_valuation_reports/2025/2025-State-EEs.pdf) shows a funded ratio of 87.9 percent on an actuarial basis, with an unfunded liability of $1.687 billion being paid off over a closed schedule. Retiree health care, known as other post-employment benefits, is a larger challenge. The [OPEB Fund Trust's fiscal 2025 financial statements](https://open.omb.delaware.gov/FinancialReports/OPEB-reports/FY25OPEBStatements.pdf) report a total liability of $7.70 billion against $1.37 billion in plan assets as of June 30, 2025. That leaves a net liability of $6.33 billion and a funded level of 17.8 percent. Through legislation, the General Assembly would set a plan with clear funding targets for both pensions and retiree benefits, a schedule for reaching them, and annual public reporting. The goal is to keep promises made to state workers and retirees without crowding out other priorities or shifting costs to future taxpayers. The plan would rely on actuarial work already prepared for the Board of Pension Trustees. Any benefit or contribution changes would be evaluated using the long-term actuarial cost projections that [Delaware law already requires](https://delcode.delaware.gov/title29/c019/index.html) for pension bills. The measurable result is savings identified and realized over time and a rising funded level for retiree benefits.

State Employees' Pension Plan funded ratio



Why It Matters

The State Employees' Pension Plan was 87.1 percent funded on an actuarial-value basis. (June 30, 2024). Delaware Office of Pensions.
The funded ratio on the same basis was 87.0 percent. (June 30, 2023). Delaware Office of Pensions.
The unfunded actuarial liability was $1,718,521,200. (June 30, 2024). Delaware Office of Pensions.

Guiding Principles

the values behind every proposal

1. Strong families are the foundation; every proposal answers "does this strengthen Delaware families?" 2. Pillar order sets priority: Protect, Power, Educate, Build. 3. Abundance and self-reliance over dependence. 4. Results you can measure: every proposal carries a metric. 5. Respect for the taxpayer: no new spending without an offset or a measured return. 6. Local control and choice (parents, teachers, principals, towns) over centralization. 7. Open systems: open-source AI and data, transparent government, user control of compute, models, and data. 8. Leadership values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, personal courage. 9. Bipartisan where possible.