



## Electronic Vehicle Mandate Now Law! Governor's Office Outlaws Most Gas Powered Cars Without a Vote of Any Kind?

It would appear that Delaware State Government will take control of the technology for transportation across Delaware. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has plans to transform Delaware life as if we are residents of California without citizen's consent or even a vote in the General Assembly.

Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is charting an ambitious course to control our method of transportation, setting its sights on an 82% reduction in gas-powered vehicles by 2035.

However, the public's response, as acknowledged by DNREC itself, has been one of opposition, highlighting a potential disconnect between policymakers and the populace.

The plan hinges on a rapid shift to emission-free vehicles, with only 18% of the market allocated to traditional gas-powered vehicles. The democratic underpinning of such a transformative agenda is brought into question as thousands of Delawareans express dissent through public comments, meetings, and polls.

Practical concerns loom large over this vision. The economic implications of this transition are significant, with the electric vehicle (EV) industry facing challenges such as high manufacturing costs, limited range, and reliability issues.

Beyond individual consumer challenges, the economic ecosystem surrounding the automotive industry faces disruption, from dealerships to repair shops and supply chains. Infrastructure readiness is a major stumbling block, with slow chargers and an inade-

quately prepared energy grid potentially leading to echoes of the fuel crises of the '70s.

### What do State Officials think?

By adopting the ZEV regulations, Delaware drivers won't have to go out of state to find an electric vehicle to purchase, and our dealerships will benefit by keeping Delaware customers in Delaware.

### What do the Republicans think?

The mandate has seen pushback from state Republicans, who believe that the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is exceeding its authority by passing this mandate.

**What do Auto Dealers think?** Consumers just aren't interested, they say, and electric vehicles (EVs) are stacking up on their lots. Nearly 4,000 U.S. car dealers including many in Delaware, asked that the government tap the brakes on proposed emissions regulations.

**What do families think?** The idea of phasing out the production of new gas-powered vehicles by 2035 faces more public opposition than support. About six-in-ten Americans (59%) say they oppose this, while 40% favor it. The share of Americans who favor phasing out gas-powered vehicles has declined 7 points since 2021. Support is down among both Democrats and Republicans. *Source - Pew Research- June 2023.*

### What Do Small Business Owners think?

EV Mandate is a problem for small business owners like us. We will need to increase prices, reduce employment and decrease services according to small business owner Sherm Porter of Elsmere Delaware. The Government ignored our concerns!



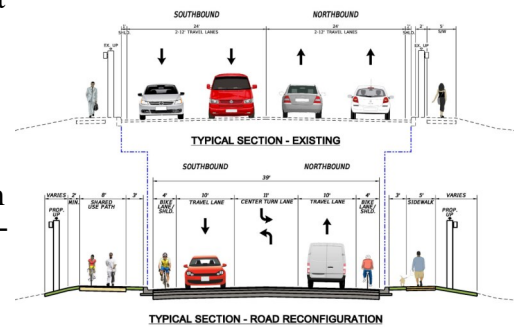
Photo: Gov. Carney signs Electric Vehicle Mandate in December into law despite opposition from families, small businesses and auto dealers.

## DelDot Still Considering Reducing Faulk Road to One Lane to Add Bike Path

According to the official website, Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDot) is still considering a proposed roadway reconfiguration project, to reduce Faulk Road one lane in both direction and included a continuous sidewalk, bicycle lanes, a center left-turn lane. The plan, known as a "road diet," was originally proposed at public workshop held on July 12, 2022 attended by 241 people. After the DelDot presentation, Brandywine Hundred residents overwhelmingly rejected the idea, citing concerns about the road diet approach. DelDot has refused to cancel the project and reports that they are looking to develop options to address various concerns.

Brent Burdge, a prominent figure in the community campaign has urged DelDot to listen to the citizens of Brandywine Hundred. "Many neighbors have expressed concern that the new proposals may not adequately consider the needs of commuters, parents, and residents who depend on Faulk Road. The road diet concept, aimed at reducing traffic, is now under scrutiny as the Department, in collaboration with legislators, revisits the drawing board to develop alternative options.

Del Dot Plans to reengage with the community in 2024 emphasize a commitment to addressing diverse concerns and finding a balanced solution..



## Was It Too Important for A General Assembly Vote?

### The Administration explains why they MUST mandate what kind of car you can buy!

In March of 2022, Governor John Carney announced that Delaware will join 13 other states in adopting California's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) regulations, providing drivers looking to purchase an electric vehicle with more choices at Delaware dealerships. "By adopting the ZEV regulations, Delaware drivers won't have to go out of state to find an electric vehicle to purchase, and our dealerships will benefit by keeping Delaware customers in Delaware.

By creating a better environment for the sale and purchase of electric vehicles, and aligning the environment with massive investments in infrastructure from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we will create a positive electric vehicle future in our state." The Governor believes that we must ban gas powered vehicles to make it easier for people who want an electric car to purchase them in Delaware.

## We want your opinion:

Tell us what you think about the Governor's Administration mandating that 82% of people must buy and electric vehicle?



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# Is the Lack of Freedom Already Threatening Delaware's Quality of Life?

By Jane Brady, A Better Delaware, LLC

Recently, the Cato Institute did a study on freedom in each of the 50 states, measuring economic freedom and personal freedom indicators. The Cato approach is more to the libertarian view of government intervention, and I part ways on the issues of marijuana and some incarceration policies, but the standard they apply is consistent: less government interference through regulation, taxation, and social policy means more freedom.

The study measured each state on multiple criteria over the period from the year 2000 to 2023. Delaware did not fare well, and ranked, overall, 44 out of 50. Indeed, the report noted that Delaware had an "all around poor performance" on all three dimensions of freedom that were measured.

One measurement of economic freedom was fiscal policy, such as the tax burden on citizens and businesses, how much of the

budget the government "consumes" and how large the government workforce is. By their measure, the states with lower taxes and smaller government rank higher, and higher is better. Delaware is at the bottom and ranked 47th out of the 50 states. Our tax burden is high, and our overall tax burden is worse than average, about 12.7% of adjusted personal income. The State of Delaware is our largest employer, and a huge percentage of our budget goes to government programs. In fact, of all the categories, this is Delaware's worst performance.

The second measurement of economic freedom was regulatory policy, including consideration of such factors as land-use restrictions, healthcare, labor regulations, like occupational licensing requirements, and policies related to the ease of bringing lawsuits. They compare the regulations in the states to the state and federal constitutional guarantees. When the regulations restricted those guarantees the impact of that restriction was weighed as greater than others. Delaware fared a little better in this category coming in at 33 out of

50, giving us an overall economic freedom rating of 42. But the authors noted that much of Delaware's "touted advantage of corporate laws now is significantly overstated." Our business climate is not what it once was. And the report noted our certificate of need requirements for health care facilities.

The evaluation of personal freedom included such factors as incarceration rates, gambling freedom, gun rights, tobacco freedom, education choice and marijuana freedom. Delaware ranked number 43 in the area of personal freedom, even with our expansive marijuana, marriage, and abortion laws. That means that a lot of our personal decisions are regulated by the government in Delaware. Our land-use and energy freedom has declined because of an aggressive, renewable portfolio standard.

I encourage everyone to read the report and to consider how government intervention has affected your life and work. Then, contact your elected officials and tell them you want more freedom, fewer taxes, and a more open and transparent process in our government so you can know what action

## Community Poll: How Should We Govern in Delaware?

In an recent online survey, Delaware Residents seem disagree with State Officials :

Who should decide what kind of car is right for a family in Delaware?:

36% Government Leaders  
64% Consumers

Who should decide the important issues for the state of Delaware?

75% The People Representatives. General Assembly  
25% Unelected Professional State Officials.

Does Mandating Electric Cars now seem like Common Sense?

68 % No Common Sense is letting the market decide.  
32% Yes, let our leaders decide for all of us.

is being considered and how you might affect it.

Jane Brady serves as Chair of A Better Delaware. She previously served as Attorney General of Delaware and as a Judge of the Delaware Superior Court.

**Brandywine Beacon**  
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## Delmarva Bloodbank Needs Help: Can you donate?

Start 2024 with a New Year's resolution that save lives.

By Bob Rhodonda

Becoming a blood or platelet donor is easy. But shockingly, only 3% of eligible donors contribute, resulting in sporadic blood shortages reported throughout the year. Blood purveyors like the Red Cross and the Delmarva Blood Bank consistently need help, offering an opportunity for you to make a meaningful impact. The importance of blood and platelet donations cannot be overstated -

they save lives, aiding cancer patients, those undergoing major surgery, dealing with pregnancy complications, accidents, or various blood disorders.

The challenge lies in the limited shelf life of blood (42 days) and platelets (5 days). My recent notification that my platelet donation was utilized at the University of Penn Hospital and the Children's Hospital of Penn exemplifies the immeasurable value of such contribu-



tions. Now, as we step into January, the need for blood remains constant. This month may bring unique challenges, such as increased accidents due to winter weather or seasonal illnesses, underscoring the importance of maintaining a steady and sufficient blood supply. Your resolution to donate in 2024 will play a vital role in meeting the ongoing needs of patients and healthcare facilities throughout the year.

## Legislative Update: General Assembly Opens Jan 9th!

This is a monthly update on activities in the Delaware Legislative Assembly, providing information and insight into what is happening in Dover and into what may directly affect you.

The 2024 Legislative Session is scheduled to begin January 9<sup>th</sup> and continue through June. This is the second year of the 2-year session, so many bills are already active.

### Budget and Tax Issues:

The State of Delaware has benefitted from an extraordinary influx of funds from the Federal Government over the past 4 years due to COVID-related issues. This has resulted in \$4 Billion in extra funds that have been made available, although few of those funds were used directly for COVID-related issues. As this funding has ended, the appetite for spending has remained. There have been a number of bills submitted to return some of this excess to the voters, through Senior Property

Tax relief, reduction in the Real Estate Transfer Tax and adjustment in Income Tax Brackets, but these have been stalled in committee by the current majority party, the Democrats.

### Family Issues

Active bills of concern to Delaware families include "Taxpayer-Funded Abortion (HS1 for HB110)", "Assisted Suicide (HB140)", "Approving Medical Experimentation, Sterilization & Mutilation of Children (HB230)". This last one would establish Delaware as a "sanctuary state" for so-called "gender-affirming care" to minor children.

Senator Kyle Evans-Gay promised to push for more funding for "new Moms" with health and anxiety issues as well as early childhood education and lower cost daycare at the Wilmington Rotary Club meeting on January 4th.

### Education

The legislature is taking steps to address poor academic performance in our schools. There are 25 schools with Language Arts or Math scores below 10% proficiency - less than 1 in 10 students is performing at grade level in these basic skills. This is an urgent need and passed 39-0 in the House and is pending in the Senate.

Each month, we will try to provide some insight that allows you to exercise your rights as a Delaware constituent to contact, work with and influence your legislators for the betterment of our State. Legislators may all be reached through the Legislative Hall general number, (302) 744-4114 or at through the website: [legis.delaware.gov](http://legis.delaware.gov).

Brent Burdge, has been an observer and legislative analyst for more than 10 years and tracks pending legislation for a variety of organization in North Wilmington





# “Operating within State Constitution Protects Freedom for all and is Common Sense”

Delaware State Representative  
Michael Ramone, 21st District

Adhering to the constraints set by the Delaware State Constitution is not merely a legal obligation; it is a steadfast commitment to safeguarding individual freedoms and embracing common-sense governance. The constitution serves as the bedrock of our democratic principles, outlining the boundaries within



which government powers are defined and restrained. Respecting these limits is paramount for preserving the delicate balance between authority and individual liberties.

In the context of freedom, the state constitution stands as a guardian against potential overreach, ensuring that the rights of citizens are upheld and protected. It acts as a guiding compass for lawmakers, emphasizing the core values that under-

pin a just and equitable society. Operating within these constitutional confines reflects a commitment to the principles of fairness, justice, and the rule of law.

Moreover, treating the state constitution as a cornerstone of governance is a matter of practical wisdom. It acknowledges the accumulated wisdom of those who drafted the constitution, distilling their insights into a framework that has withstood the test of time. Embracing these constitutional limits reflects a recognition of the lessons of history, fostering stability and continuity in our legal and political landscape.

In the broader political context, the notion of one-party rule that disregards the constitutional framework is a perilous path. Such an approach risks undermining the very foundations of our democracy, concentrating power in a way that neglects the checks and balances carefully embedded in the constitution. A commitment to the constitution becomes a bulwark against the potential abuses that can accompany unchecked authority, emphasizing the importance of diverse perspectives and ensuring that the rights of all citizens are respected, irrespective of political affiliations. In essence, operating within the confines of the Delaware State Constitution is not just a legal requisite—it is a conscious choice to safeguard freedom, uphold common-sense governance, and protect against the perils of one-party rule that ignores the constitutional bedrock of our democratic principles.

## Trend: Delaware State Government Seeking to By-Pass the Delaware Constitution

### Religious Freedoms

**Pastors Sue Gov. Carney Over Worship Restrictions in a Future Emergency.**

Two pastors announced a lawsuit against Gov. John Carney relating to his pandemic-era restrictions on churches, religious groups and places of worship during the Covid-19 State of Emergency.

The lawsuit, brought forth by members of the “Committee to Save Christmas,” will seek an injunction to prevent Carney and future governors from taking any emergency action that restricts church attendance and activities.

Behind the suit are Pastor Alan Hines of Townsend Free Will Church in Townsend and Pastor David

Landow of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.

The First Freedom in Delaware’s Bill of Rights says in its last sentence that “no power shall or ought to be vested in or assumed by any magistrate that shall in any case interfere with, or in any manner control the rights of conscience, in the free exercise of religious worship, nor a preference given by law to any religious societies, denominations, or modes of worship.” A spokesman from Carney’s office did not respond to a request for comment on Carney’s restrictions on churches during the pandemic.



### Election Laws

**Democrat Legislators’ Attempt to change Voting Laws blocked by Delaware Supreme Court.**

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court of Delaware has ruled the state’s mail-in voting and same-day voter registration statutes unconstitutional. The decision also addresses the state legislature’s failed initial attempt to amend the Delaware Constitution to allow no-excuse absentee voting, and its subsequent attempt to pass a near-identical bill without amending the Constitution.

“Stymied by the proposed amendment’s failure in the House, the legislative proponents of the expansion of no-

excuse voting by mail reverted to the ordinary legislative process,” the court wrote.

Democrats knew at the time it was not legal and did it anyway.

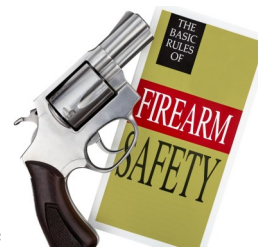
**Legal Action Update: Delaware Republicans on behalf of the people challenged and won this case. 2022 Election was held using the Constitutional Approved rules for absentee voting.**



### Public Safety

**State Democrats Advance New Gun Permit Law while General Assembly is NOT in Session.**

In an rare move, the Delaware House of Representatives Appropriations Committee has advanced a controversial new law that would require Delawareans to obtain a permit through a firearm training course in order to buy a handgun. Senate Bill 2 was originally released by the House Judiciary Committee in May, but was re-assigned to the Appropriations Committee as it is estimated to cost \$100,000 or more to the state within the next three years.



In December, the Appropriations Committee released the bill as well, advancing it towards a general vote in the House while the General Assembly was NOT in Session, and without the normal process of bipartisan hearing and public comment. The Delaware House of Representatives is now in recess and will reconvene on Tuesday, January 9th in the new year.

### Emergency Powers

**Delaware One of the Last to Terminate the State of Emergency Powers after Covid-19 crises ended.**

During the Covid shut down, the Governor unilaterally, without any vote of the General Assembly, continued the declaration of emergency for over a year and a half. Many members of the General Assembly, both Republican and Democrat, wanted a say on behalf of their constituents regarding the extent and duration of that shut down.

It is time for the Delaware General Assembly to review legislation that has given the bureaucracies of government authority without the peoples’ representatives having a say in the adoption and implementation of policy.

### Editor’s Note: Ask Yourself...

*During the Covid Emergency, the Governors and his Administration took on tremendous powers and authority. Now, isn’t it time to return decision making to the people and their elected leaders in the General Assembly as required by the Delaware State Constitution?*

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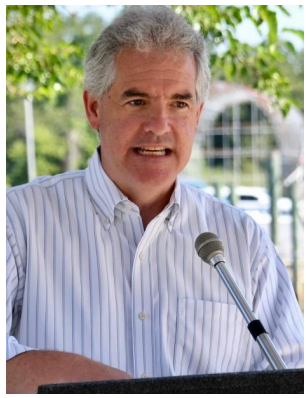
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Secretary Shawn Garvin  
DEREC who lead the EV  
Mandate despite opposition



Judy Travis  
Founder, Stocking for Soldiers  
Sent 9000 Stocking in '23



Larry Mayo  
Certified Senior Instructor  
on the State Constitution



Simba sings "I Just Can't  
Wait to Be King" to open  
Legislative Session; 1/9

## People Making an Impact In Delaware!

- Sec. Garvin and environmentalist leads DNREC's EV Mandate into law in December.
- Stocking For Soldiers, under Judy Travis's direction, delivered over 9000 Stocking this season to soldiers around the world.
- Larry Mayo, Institute on the US Constitution offers courses on the Delaware Constitution.
- Simba and too many others want to be King as the General Assembly opens this month.



## How Can You Make a Difference?

# Simple Ways to Get Involved and Protect Freedom for All!

Preserving and safeguarding freedom isn't a passive endeavor. Individuals must actively participate in the democratic process. By getting involved, whether through voting, civic engagement, or advocating for change, citizens contribute to the protection and enhancement of their freedom. It's a dynamic relationship where the collective actions of a society shape the contours of liberty.

When people actively voice their concerns, participate in elections, and engage in meaningful dialogue, they become the guardians of the very freedom they cherish.

Getting involved isn't just a right; it's a responsibility. Democracy thrives when individuals take an active interest in shaping the policies and decisions that impact their lives. When people contribute their time, energy, and voices to the democratic process, they fortify the foundation of freedom, ensuring that it remains robust and resilient.

In essence, the act of getting involved is a powerful assertion that freedom isn't just granted. It's nurtured, protected, and strengthened through the active participation of an informed and engaged citizenry.

## Four Ways to Preserve Freedom and the Delaware State Constitution!

### Follow the Legal Actions that are pending...

Follow the active lawsuits to protect Religious Freedom, Voter Integrity and efforts to block the EV mandate on Delaware Live.com.

### Talk to Your Political Leaders... just tell them what you think!

Contact your local State Representative or State Senator. Ask their opinion on the issues regarding the role of the State Government vs. the needs and wants of the people. Get to know what is important to you and your family and hold your election officials accountable for representing you!

### Get Educated on the Delaware State Constitution

Take a Course in the Delaware State Constitution taught by Larry Mayo, a certified by the Institute on the Constitution. Institute on the Constitution operations center and Constitutional Study Center is holding continuous classes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am - 12:30 for class schedules, contact Larry Mayo at [larry@theamericanview.com](mailto:larry@theamericanview.com).

### Run For Office: Seeking School Board Candidates!

Our Community will hold elections for School Board in May, 2024. If you are frustrated with the state of our schools and want to make a difference for the children in our community, Contact Nancy Mercante at Citizens for Better Schools at 302-307-2485.



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## OUR JANUARY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Delaware General Assembly opens the new session on January 9th at Legislative Hall in Dover. This year the session runs through Jan. 25th.

The Delaware Art Museum presents the most important art exhibit of decades, the Rossettis Exhibit, all month. Guided tours are available 1/20, 1/21, 1/27, 1/28 in January. [www.delart.org](http://www.delart.org)

The Candlelight Dinner Theatre presents the classic Broadway Musical, "Hello Dolly" opening and Saturday January 20 and run thru February. For more info call the Box Office at 302-475-2313.

Movie Night: "Miss Virginia", the emotional and inspirational true story about Virginian Walden Ford, who fought for school choice for parents in D.C, and won! Congo Legacy Center on 501 West 28 Street in Wilmington on January 22. 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Movie. Free.

Winter Fitness Walks in Nature guided by Eileen Hazard at Mt. Cuba Center on Thursday Jan, 25 at 9:00 - 10:30am.

Tequila Dinner by Tex Mex Tequila is an evening of tequila-fueled fun with mouthwatering feast paired with the finest tequila at 4737 Concord Pike on Thursday January 25 at 6:30.

