

“Celebrate Independence Day at the Beach. See the full See the Options! Pages 1 & 2

# DELAWARE BEACH BUGLE

FREE



June-July 2024 A Newspaper for Everyone in Our Community Print Edition

## Our Pending Financial Crisis

How Can We Fund More Education, Health Care, Food & Housing as Our Economy Declines?



State Budget Growing!



State Revenues Slowing!

**Grow the Economy?**  
**Or**  
**Increase Taxes?**  
**Or**  
**Try Common Sense?**

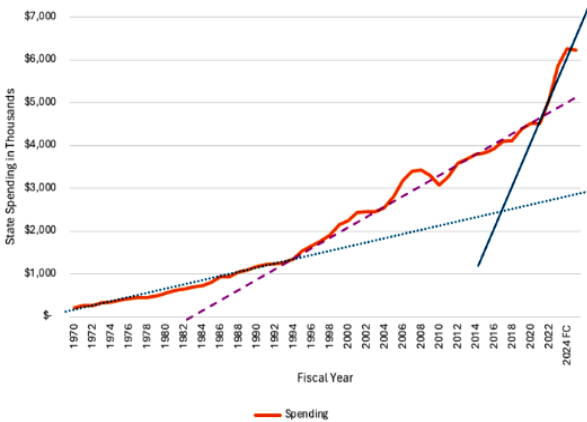
## Record Increases in Spending Continue as State Revenues Slow!

The Delaware State Budget growing and growing!

- Pete duPont Trend (1970-1994):** Trend: Had this continued, the 2024 budget would be \$3 billion, half the current \$6 billion, implying greater wealth for Delawareans.
- Tom Carper Trend (1994-2019):** Under Governor Tom Carper, spending increased 60% faster due to new unclaimed property and gambling revenues. This would result in a 2024 budget of \$5 billion.
- John Carney Trend:** Beginning in 2021, federal aid during the pandemic increased the budget by \$1 billion above the Carper trend, a 20% rise.

The current state government is spending more and growing at a faster rate than ever before. The state is already the largest employer and the new proposal to spend more keep coming. How do we ensure quality of life in Delaware and balance the budget?

GRAPH 1: Delaware's Spending Trend (1970-2024)



(Sources: Delaware Finance Office. (2023). Fiscal Notebook: Section 3 [PDF document])

## What Happens As The Economy Slows?

### Delaware's Economy Shrinks in 2023: Only State with lower GDP than the previous year.

DOVER, DE: In 2022, Delaware's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reached approximately \$75.17<sup>5</sup> billion. However, 2023 saw a slight decline, with the state's real GDP dropping to \$74.26 billion. This decrease in economic output marks a slower growth rate compared to the overall U.S. average during the same period. Delaware was the only state to show a decline in GDP over the period.

When compared to neighboring states such as Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, Delaware's economic performance appears relatively modest. While the national economy has shown resilience and growth, Delaware's economic indicators suggest a need for revitalized strategies to boost local industry and business environments.

The state's modest economic performance highlights potential areas for development and investment to ensure future growth aligns more closely with regional and national trends. As Delaware moves forward, addressing these economic challenges will be crucial for sustaining and enhancing the state's economic well-being.

Additionally, the slowing state revenue growth, attributed to the underperformance of Delaware's economy, is expected to impact future state budgets. This financial constraint underscores the urgency for proactive measures to stimulate economic activity and secure the state's fiscal health. Addressing these economic challenges will be crucial for sustaining and enhancing Delaware's economic well-being.

## Celebrate Independence Day with Family-Friendly Events at the Beach!

REHOBOTH, DE: As the Fourth of July approaches, families across Delmarva are eagerly making plans to celebrate. Whether you're looking to enjoy fireworks by the beach, partake in local parades, or listen to live music, there's something for everyone. Here are some family-friendly events happening across the region:

**Lewes:** Start your Independence Day early with children's games at 9 a.m. on Second Street. According to the Lewes Chamber of Commerce, Second Street will be closed during the games but will reopen shortly after. Volunteers are needed for



this event; those interested can reach out to Lewes City Hall. At 1:30 p.m., the Independence Day boat parade kicks off, organized by the Overfalls and Lewes-Rehoboth Beach Rotary Club. Pre-registered boats can compete for prizes, with registration forms available at the Lewes Chamber of Commerce

Continued on Page 2

**LEWES**  
Chamber of Commerce  
and Visitors Bureau, Inc.

**Lewes Celebrates 4th of July on Thursday!**  
Old-Fashioned Games for Children on Second Street  
9:00 The Independence Day Lewes Boat Parade 2 pm  
Doo-Dah Parade at "approximately" 5 pm

**Independence Day on Saturday, July 6.**  
Fireworks will be launched about 9:30 pm, and the display will be visible along Rehoboth's beach and boardwalk.

**CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH**



# Celebrating Independence Day at the Beach

## Celebrating Independence: A Guide to Dover's July 4th Festivities

Continued from page 1

Visitor Center in the Fisher-Martin House.

Later in the day, the Doo-Dah Parade will run from 4:30 to 5 p.m., followed by a spectacular fireworks display at dusk. For more information, visit Go Fourth Lewes.



### Rehoboth Beach:

The celebrations continue on July 6 with the band Funsters performing at 8 p.m. on the beach bandstand. Fireworks will light up the sky at dusk, visible from all across the beach, with the Funsters continuing their performance until 11 p.m.

Expect several road closures during the event:

The bandstand area will be closed to traffic from 6 p.m. until midnight.

Starting at 7 p.m., only buses and residents will be allowed on Henlopen and Surf avenues.

Vehicles will not be able to cross Rehoboth Avenue at the circle starting at 7:30 p.m.

Rehoboth Avenue eastbound and Church Street from State Route 1 will close to traffic beginning at 8 p.m. Vehicles entering Rehoboth Beach will have to use State Road to Bayard Avenue.

For more details, visit the City of Rehoboth.

### Dewey Beach:

On July 4, fireworks will start at dusk on the Bayside of Dewey Beach, visible from all around the area.

### Bethany Beach:

The Bethany Beach Parade begins at noon on July 4. No pre-registration is needed to participate, but more information can be found on the Bethany

Beach website.

The band 1974 will perform at the bandstand starting at 7:30 p.m. After being postponed last year, the fireworks return to Bethany Beach, starting at 8 p.m. on Wellington Parkway and visible along the beach.

Whether you prefer a day filled with parades and games or a night under the stars watching fireworks, these events provide a fantastic way for families to celebrate Independence Day across Delmarva.



## Community Poll: What do we do about the Budget?

In an recent online survey, Delawareans sent a message to candidates running for office:

When the State Collects More Money than it needs, the State Should?

29% Spend it. We have people in need.

12%% Save it. We will need it in the future.

59% Give it back to the Taxpayers.

Government is Growing....

68% Too fast. Quality of Life is declining.

32% Too Slow. The More Government is better.

What Do We Need More of...

33% Government Programs and Bureaucrats

11% New Taxes to fund more programs.

24% Self-Reliant People

32% Common Sense People with New Solutions.

An Online Survey of 250 Delaware voters between May 29 and June 12th.

## Thrift Shops in the Area: Treasures and Community



### About This Paper

For more information about this publication, please feel free to call

George D. Rotsch  
302-354-5730.



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This publication is a cooperative effort between DispatchDE LLC., and Dover Dispatch. Send comments, suggestions and resumes to publisher@DispatchDE.com.

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Note: this Newspaper was edited with the assistance of ChatGPT.

LEWES, DE: Giving back to the community not only helps those in need but also enriches the lives of donors and shoppers alike. Thrift shops in our area offer a wonderful opportunity to support various charitable causes while finding unique and affordable items. Here are some of the best thrift shops in our community where your donations and purchases make a real difference.

### New Life Thrift Shop

Operated by the Lewes Rehoboth Association of Churches (LRAC), New Life Thrift Shop offers more than just great bargains; it serves with the love of Christ. By shopping or donating here, you're supporting the community. Donation drop off hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, and Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The store is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and on Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The shop is closed on Sundays and major holidays. They accept a variety of items but have guidelines to ensure safety and avoid the costs associated with disposing of unsellable goods. Items not accepted include broken or stained furniture, pet hair-covered items, beds, and cribs. Proceeds from sales benefit the community through LRAC initiatives.

### American Veteran's Thrift Store

American Veteran's Thrift Stores are dedicated to supporting veterans and their families through the sale of donated items. These stores provide a unique shopping experience where customers can find a variety of items at affordable prices while contributing to



a worthy cause. Here's what you need to know about these thrift stores in Delaware. American Veteran's Thrift Stores aim to support veterans by generating funds through the sale of secondhand goods. The proceeds from these sales are used to support veteran programs, including housing assistance, job training, and other essential services that help improve the quality of life for those who have served in the military. By shopping or donating, you directly contribute to these initiatives, making a significant impact on the lives of veterans.

### Harvest Ministries

Another excellent thrift shop option in Lewes is Harvest Ministries. They operates with a purpose beyond thrift shopping. Their mission likely involves community outreach, support, or charity work. This store offers a variety of items, and shopping here helps support their mission. Visit to find out more about their community efforts and to browse their selection. You can reach them at (302) 846-3009 for pricing, hours, and any other inquiries.

### Goodwill Store & Donation Center Milford

Though not located in Lewes, the Goodwill Store & Donation Center in Milford is nearby and part of the well-known

Goodwill network. The Goodwill Retail Store and Donation Center in Milford, Delaware is located at 694 N. Dupont Hwy, Milford, DE 19963. Here's what you need to know:

Hours:

Monday-Friday: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sunday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

And more unique secondhand items you won't find elsewhere!

Goodwill stores provide a wide range of secondhand items, and proceeds go toward job training and community programs.



# Opinions and Perspectives

## “Pending Financial Crisis” is an Opportunity for Common Sense

By Rep. Michael Ramone  
Candidate for Governor of Delaware

The Delaware State Budget has seen unprecedented growth in recent years. This money was to have solved our states most pressing problems. Instead, we not only don't solve the current problems, thing got worse in our State. And, now we are looking to start new State Government programs to address new problems we created or never solved.

As we watch young legislators promise more and more government solutions to their voters, we must also heed the warning signs on the horizon.

The growth in spending of our state government is not sustainable. We are on the cusp of a downturn in state revenue, a



looming reality that we cannot ignore. As we navigate this impending challenge, we must be prepared to face some very difficult trade-offs.

Healthcare, education, housing and essential services are critical programs. They are the sectors that directly impact the lives of our citizens and shape the future of our state. However, in the face of dwindling revenues, what do we cut first.

This is not a time for despair, but a call to action. It is a time for us to use common sense and think differently about solving our problems.

We must look beyond traditional big government solutions. We won't always have the money to spend on more new government. When the money runs out,

we can't just raise taxes. We can't collect more from business in taxes, or collect more from people who sell their homes. We should not make it more expensive to be a teacher and live in Delaware. Our kids won't come back home if the further destroy economic growth. If we blindly can push more of the burden on to businesses, because they will move our or simply won't consider Delaware.

It's time to rethink the role of government in Delaware. We must use common sense approach to State Budgeting. We can't allow the Delaware economy to be the only one getting smaller.

We need to go back to basic economics, we need look at where regulations are more a burden and than a protection of the public. Perhaps we need less government mandates and more collaboration between the regulators, the public and business leaders.

Government has a role, but so does the private sector. State Government can't run the economy, decide what car you drive, who can open a new medical practice and run grocery stores in low income communities.

Expanding the State Government has not solved the education program: we still have 58% of public school students who can't read a grade level.

In conclusion, the growth of the Delaware State Budget and the pending revenue decline presents us with both opportunities and challenges. As we chart our course forward, we must strike a balance between leveraging our current growth and preparing for future uncertainties. It will not be an easy task, but with foresight, innovation, and a commitment to our citizens, we can ensure a sustainable future for Delaware.

### News About Your Money!

#### Delaware Economy Shrinks, Only State with a lower GDP than last year!

WILMINGTON, DE: According to data compiled by Visual Capitalist and released in an infographic earlier this month, Delaware had the Lowest Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of any state in the nation in 2023. GDP is the total monetary value of all the finished goods and services produced within a particular jurisdiction over a specific period and functions as a broad measure of economic health. Visual Capitalist noted that "while the U.S. economy defied expectations in 2023, posting 2.5% in real GDP growth, several states lagged behind. Delaware witnessed the slowest growth in the country, with real GDP growth of -1.2% over the year, as a sluggish finance and insurance sector dampened the state's economy." Delaware was the only state posting a negative GDP growth rate. The First State's poor performance outpaced #2 on the list, Wisconsin, by more than a full percentage point.



#### Delaware's Healthcare Spending Exceeds National Average

DOVER, DE: Healthcare spending per capita in Delaware surpasses the national average, with costs consuming a significant portion of the state's budget—approximately 25% or \$1 billion in FY 2017. Medicaid costs and spending



#### Senator Proposes Government-Run Grocery Stores to Combat Food Insecurity

WILMINGTON, DE, Delaware State Senator Darius Brown (d) introduces Senate Bill 254, proposing government-run grocery stores in Wilmington to address food insecurity. The Delaware Grocery Initiative aims to map food deserts and provide financial aid to various grocery store models, including for-profit, non-profit, cooperative, and government-run establishments. With 12.6% of Delaware's population, including nearly 20% of children, facing food insecurity, the initiative's \$500,000 operating budget signifies a vital investment in community welfare. As debates unfold, stakeholders anticipate potential transformations in Wilmington's food landscape, highlighting the broader fight against food insecurity statewide.



#### Delaware House Passes Bill to Subsidize Home EV Charger Installations

DOVER, DE: Delaware's House approved House Substitute 2 for House Bill 13, securing financial aid for residents to purchase and install home electric vehicle (EV) chargers. The bill, passed by a vote of 21 to 13, allocates assistance through the Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility (DSEU), funded by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Low-income applicants could receive up to 90% of the costs, while others could get up to 50%. However, details on eligibility criteria and funding allocation remain unclear. The measure heads to the Senate Environment, Energy & Transportation Committee for review.

#### Former Teacher Matt Meyer Unveils Ambitious Education Spending Plan

NEW CASTLE, DE: Despite spending more than 41 other states per student, former public school teacher and leader of Delaware's largest local government, Matt Meyer, has unveiled a comprehensive 23-page education blueprint for the 2024 gubernatorial race to increase spending by over \$3000 per student. Crafted in collaboration with state educators, Meyer's plan addresses urgent education challenges in the state. In his plan: Matt Meyer aims to modernize the school funding formula, proposing an increase of \$3,400 to \$6,400 per pupil. He advocates for surpassing starting salaries in neighboring states to tackle the teacher shortage. Meyer pushes for universal pre-K access statewide and aims for grade-level reading proficiency by third grade for all children. Additionally, he guarantees higher education access for Delaware students.





Family and friends attend the commencement ceremony held on Friday May 10, 2024 for graduating students of Delaware State University. Photo- Delaware News Journal

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Candidate  
6th Senate District



Russ Huxtable  
Incumbent  
6th Senate District



Donyale Hall  
Candidate  
US Representative



Ruth Briggs King  
Candidate  
Lt. Governor

People Making an Impact In Delaware!

- Kim Hoey Stevenson from Lewes Delaware is running for State Senate in the 6th District.
- Russ Huxtable is seeking a 2nd Term as State Senator in the 6th District.
- Dover Community Activist is running for US. Rep against first time State Senator Sarah McBride. Ruth
- Briggs King joins Sherry Dorsey Walker, Kyle Evans Gay and Dr. Debbie Harrington as candidates for the Lt. Governor in 2024.

The Race for Governor:

Who is the Right Leader to Solve the Pending Budget Crisis

As the 2024 gubernatorial race in Delaware gains momentum, the field is brimming with diverse candidates, each bringing unique experiences and visions for the future of the First State. Let's take a closer look at the contenders vying for the governorship:

**Professional Politician Lt. Gov Bethany Hall-Long:** Currently serving as Delaware's Lieutenant Governor, Bethany Hall-Long brings a robust background in nursing and public health to the forefront of her campaign. With a focus on healthcare policy and community well-being, Hall-Long has been instrumental in driving initiatives to improve healthcare access and outcomes across the state. Her tenure as Lt. Governor played a key role in the State taker of the Hospital System SB350 this session.

**Entrepreneur and Business Leader Rep. Mike Ramone:** As the House Republican

Leader in Delaware, Mike Ramone presents a platform anchored in principles of fiscal responsibility and economic growth. With a background in state politics and a focus on tax reform, Ramone's campaign appeals to voters seeking pragmatic solutions to fiscal challenges while championing pro-business policies. His track record of legislative leadership underscores his commitment to advancing policies that spur economic vitality and promote job creation across the state.

**Former Teacher & New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer:** Matt Meyer, the Executive of New Castle County, stands as a formidable candidate with a multifaceted approach to governance. With a background in education and a track record of fostering economic development and environmental sustainability, Meyer's leadership style is characterized by a blend of pragmatism and

progressive ideals. He emphasizes on community engagement and inclusive policy-making and proposed the largest increase in Public Education ever in his campaign platform.

**Retired NYPD Officer Jerry Price:** Jerry Price, a retired New York City Police Department (NYPD) officer, enters the gubernatorial race with a steadfast focus on public safety and community well-being. Drawing on his law enforcement background, Price's campaign prioritizes initiatives aimed at reducing crime and enhancing police-community relations. His advocacy for stronger community policing strategies and investment in social services reflects a holistic approach to addressing public safety challenges while fostering trust and cooperation between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Former DNREC Secretary and Envi-

ronmentalist Collin O'Mara: Collin O'Mara, former Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), brings a wealth of experience in environmental stewardship to the gubernatorial race. A staunch advocate for clean energy and climate action, O'Mara's campaign resonates with those prioritizing environmental conservation and sustainable development. His vision for Delaware centers on leveraging innovation to mitigate climate change while fostering economic growth that is both equitable and environmentally responsible.

As the campaign unfolds, Delaware voters face a pivotal decision in selecting the next leader to guide the state forward. The race of the Democratic side is hotly contested. The two parties will select their candidate in a primary in September.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the George H.P. Smith Park, ...Saturday, June 22

14th Annual Wings of Hope. A Butterfly Release Saturday, June 22, 9am -12pm, Milton Memorial Park, 115 Federal St.

Jordana Bryant Live in Dewey Beach 8:00 - 11:00 Wednesday, June 26 Bottle & Cork, Dewey Beach.

'Voices from Stonewall' on stage at CAMP Rehoboth,,7 p.m, Friday and Saturday, June 28 and 29, at CAMP Rehoboth, 37 Baltimore

Annual Dewey Beach Running of the Bull 2024Saturday, June 29 At Dewey Beach's Starboard Restaurant, Dewey Beach.

Saturday, June 29 'Finding Home' author Cook to sign books Browseabout Books will host author Deborah Smith Cook for a book .

Garden Party at The Station Sunday, June 30 7-9pm, Kings Station , 720 Kings Highway, Lewes.





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