



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?**

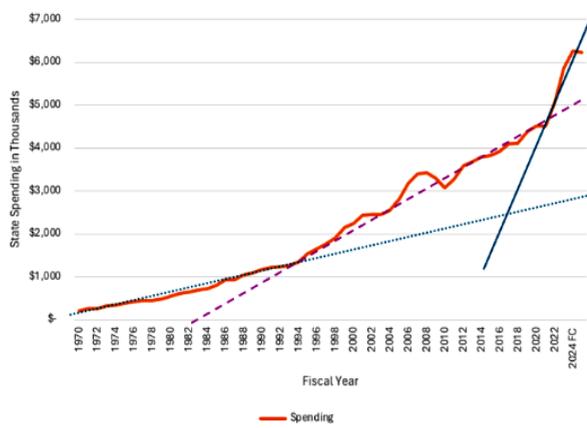
Record Increases in Spending Continue as State Revenues Slow!

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 \$75.17⁵ 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.

Lots of \$\$ Priorities!

40%¹ of the state budget allocated to Health Care and growing!



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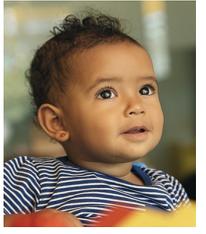
+\$3000 More Per Student called for by Governor Candidate. It's \$2B now.



421³ Charging Stations in Delaware for 445,444 vehicles. We need more!



54,234² New Students as LT Candidate proposes Early Child care for all working moms.



15,715 State Employees want higher wages & more benefits.



4th of July Parade & Fireworks to be Biggest Ever! Volunteers and Sponsors Needed to Sustain the Tradition.



HOCKESSIN, DE: The Hockessin 4th of July Parade, a beloved tradition dating back nearly 50 years, continues to unite the community through a day of festive events. Entirely volunteer-driven and funded solely by donations, this celebration kicks off with morning neighborhood relays, followed by the renowned afternoon parade, and concludes with a spectacular fireworks display at dusk. Organizers emphasize the importance of community support to keep this tradition

thriving. Volunteers are crucial for various roles, from directing traffic in parade staging areas to serving as parade marshals along the route. "We work hard to provide an awesome day of events for the Hockessin community," said Mark Blake, President of GHADA, the Parade Organizer. "Please support us and join us to help keep the tradition alive!" Volunteering ensuring the Hockessin 4th of July Parade continues. Learn more at www.hockessin4th.org.



The Hockessin 4th of July Festival & Fireworks has a community tradition for almost 50 years!

www.hockessin4th.org

Kirkwood Highway Set for Transformation: Community Feedback Shapes Future Plans

WILMINGTON, DE: The future of Kirkwood Highway is taking shape, with community input guiding the Kirkwood Highway Land Use and Transportation Plan. At the May 22nd Advisory Committee meeting, members provided insights to help redesign the corridor between Newark and Wilmington.

The plan envisions Kirkwood Highway as a multimodal corridor, shifting from auto-oriented design to one promoting biking, walking, rolling, and transit use. This transformation aims for safe, accessible transportation and enhanced connectivity to schools, parks, and businesses.

The Advisory Committee, comprising representatives from local organizations like the NCC Chamber of Commerce, Town of Elsmere, and Delaware State University, plays a key role in providing feedback, though it doesn't make decisions. Their local knowledge aids the project

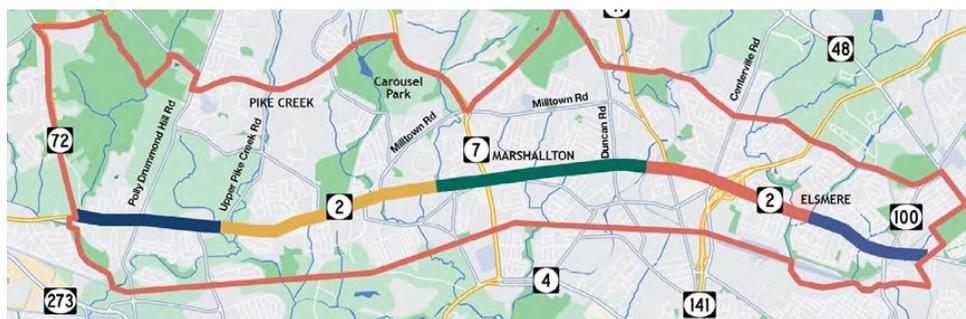
team in shaping recommendations. Despite projected declines in population and employment—losing about 1,300 residents and 1,400 jobs over 30 years—market demand exists for approximately 1,000 new dwelling units. Mixed-use development in aging commercial centers and converting commercial properties to residential use are being considered to address high vacancy rates post-pandemic.

Enhanced transit elements are crucial, with a proposed budget under \$200 million potentially securing federal funding. Proposals include a

new Route 56, micro-transit services, enhanced bus shelters, and improved pedestrian access to stops.

Community members are encouraged to provide feedback online at www.wilmapco.org/Kirkwood and attend the next public workshop in the fall. For more information, contact project manager Dave Gula at dgula@wilmapco.org.

The ongoing community engagement ensures the Kirkwood Highway plan reflects the needs and aspirations of those living and working along this vital corridor.



Community Poll: What do we do about the Budget?

In a 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. More Government is better.

What Do We Need More of...

33% Government Programs and State Employees

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 12, 2024.

Corner Cove Restaurant: A Local Watering Hole Embraced by Everyone

HOCKESSIN, DE: Right in the heart of Hockessin, Delaware, the Corner Cove Restaurant has emerged as a testament to the enduring spirit of small business success. Six months ago, the doors of this two-story culinary haven opened, breathing new life into a historic building that had

long awaited its next chapter. Today, Corner Cove stands as a vibrant community hub, a place where the aroma of scratch-made home pizza, Italian dishes, and the brussels of Maryland crabs inspires fun.

The journey of Corner Cove began with a vision to create a space that harmonized the charm of Hockessin's historic architecture with the modern palate's desire for high-quality, affordable dining. Michael Rocco, a seasoned veteran in the Delaware restaurant scene, transformed the once-vacant hall into a bustling eatery that pays homage to the building's storied past while charting a course for its bright future.



The restaurant's menu is a celebration of local flavors and family recipes. From the flame-cooked pizzas emerging from the white-brick dome oven to the steamed

crab and pasta dishes that evoke memories of family gatherings, every meal is an invitation to savor the richness of the region's produce. The commitment to scratch-made cooking is unwavering, with a promise that nothing arrives frozen and every dish is crafted to order.

Corner Cove's success is not just measured by the satisfied palates of its patrons but also by its

contribution to the local economy. By reviving a space that stood silent for over two decades, the restaurant has become a beacon of hope for small businesses. It demonstrates the potential for growth and prosperity through dedication, quality, and a deep understanding of community needs.

As Corner Cove celebrates its six-month milestone, it stands as a shining example of what it means to start strong and build a foundation for lasting success. With its blend of historic charm, culinary excellence, and community focus, Corner Cove Restaurant is not just a place to dine; it's a destination that captures the essence of Hockessin's vibrant spirit.

For those who have yet to experience the warmth and flavor of Corner Cove, a visit to this gem in Hockessin is more than a meal—it's a journey through the heart of Delaware's culinary landscape, one that promises to be as enriching as it is delicious.

About This Paper

For more information about this publication, please feel free to call George D. Rotsch 302-354-5730.



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Delaware gubernatorial Race 2024: Who is still in the race to lead us through 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 pre-

sents 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 policymaking 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 Environmentalist 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.

West Park Elementary School Hosts Hygiene for Homeless Presentation

Newark, DE - West Park Elementary School proudly hosted a significant community event on Monday, welcoming representatives from the Hygiene for Homeless (H4H) initiative to accept a generous donation of hygiene supplies collected by the students and staff. This event highlighted the school's dedication to supporting those in need and fostering a spirit of giving within the community.



The Hygiene for Homeless initiative, founded by Mrs. Brenda Mennella, provides essential hygiene kits to homeless individuals across the state of Delaware. This noble cause aims to enhance the dignity and well-being of the homeless population by ensuring they have access to basic hygiene supplies.

Representing H4H at the event were several distinguished guests, including: Brenda Mennella, Founder of Hygiene for Homeless Michael Mennella, Hygiene for Homeless representative, Representative Michael

Ramone, Council Woman Janet Kilpatrick, Dave Tiberi, USN Petty Officer Terri Baker, USMC Medal of Valor recipient Cpl. Bobby Baldwin, DE State Police Cpl. Malloy Newark Police and the Brookside Lions Club

The event featured a heartfelt presentation where students of West Park Elementary handed over the collected supplies to the H4H representatives. The school community has been actively involved in gathering these donations, demonstrating a strong commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of homeless individuals.



Mrs. Brenda Mennella expressed her gratitude to the students and staff of West Park Elementary, stating, "The generosity and compassion shown by the West Park Elementary community are truly inspiring. These donations will go a long way in helping us provide essential hygiene supplies to those in need, restoring dignity and hope."

The presence of local leaders and honored guests underscored the importance of community support and collaboration in addressing homelessness. Representative Michael Ramone and Council Woman Janet Kilpatrick both emphasized the significance of such initiatives in fostering a caring and inclusive community.



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68th DFRC Blue-Gold All*Star Football Game on Friday, June 21st

The highly anticipated 68th Delaware Blue-Gold All*Star Football Game is scheduled for Friday, June 21, 2024.

This annual event, organized by the Delaware Foundation Reaching Citizens (DFRC), highlights the best high school football talent across the state while promoting a powerful message of inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

The Blue-Gold All*Star Game features exceptional high school football players, cheerleaders, band members, and student ambassadors from schools throughout Delaware. These participants play a vital role in the success of the event and the DFRC's mission to enrich the lives of Delawareans with intellectual disabilities.

A highlight of the program is the Hand-in-Hand Program, where participants are paired with children and young adults with intellectual disabilities, known as Blue-Gold All*Star Buddies. Together, they engage in monthly events, including dance parties, bowling outings, and pool parties, building lasting friendships and a sense of community.

Tickets are available for purchase at www.DFRC.org

Parking lots will open at 5, with opening ceremonies set for 6. Tickets (\$10-\$20) are available in advance at bluehens.eventue.net/events/BCC-DFRC and will also be available at the gate on game day.



The Hand-in-Hand Program is the heart of the DFRC Blue-Gold experience. Each year, the Hand-in-Hand Buddies - children and young adults between the ages of 4 and 18 with an intellectual disability- are matched with vetted high school students participating in the DFRC Blue-Gold All*Star Football Program though the DFRC Hand-in-Hand Program lifelong friendships have been created through the DFRC Blue-Gold Hand-in-Hand Program!



Participants: B.J. Alleyne, 3A Player of the Year and State Champion Salesianum running back, will be among the 72 Delaware high school seniors playing in the 68th annual DFRC Blue-Gold All-Star football game on June 21 at Delaware Stadium

A total of 48 Delaware high schools will be represented by students participating as football players, cheerleaders, band members and student ambassadors.



The DFRC Blue-Gold All*Star Football Game dates back to 1956. It was inspired by founders Bob Carpenter and Jim Williams, both parents of children with intellectual disabilities

The Head Coaches: The coaching staffs for the 68th annual DFRC Blue-Gold All-Star football game Marvin Dooley of Woodbridge will serve as head coach of the Gold team, while John Reed of Caravel will be head coach of the Blue team..



The game benefits the Delaware Foundation Reaching Citizens with intellectual disabilities and has raised more than \$6.4 million since its inception in 1956.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024		TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE	
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How Much Money Do We Need To Run Delaware?

Delaware's Revenues Go, So Goes Spending! What Happens When Revenues Stop Going Up and Governor Candidates Promise Even More New Spending?

By Charlie Copeland

Governor Carney came into office in 2017 facing a \$400 million deficit and vowed not to leave his successor with the same problem. He won't, but his successor's problem will likely be much worse. Governor Carney has dramatically increased the State's base spending level while presiding over a flat economy. History shows that higher spending requires higher revenues, but the revenue forecast for the state is essentially flat for the next couple of years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Delaware's government dramatically increased spending to match



COVID-19 revenues. This higher spending base means there is an inherent demand for more spending to support the higher salaries and more programs added during the COVID-19 spendathon.

One example of higher spending is in education. Education spending has risen 34% in the last eight years despite the drastic decline in education outcomes.

Another spending example comes from the Governor's budget proposal for Medicaid, which is "nearly 40% of the operating budget growth [in the proposed budget]." The state significantly expanded the Medicaid rolls in Delaware during COVID-19, and the costs are now

"built-in." Education and Medicaid account for half of Delaware's spending.

Despite the flat revenue forecast, the major gubernatorial candidates are all touting 20% plus spending increases in education, "green" energy subsidies, Medicaid, etc. These spending proposals will rapidly eliminate John Carney's attempted budget reserve.

Ask the Governor Candidates!!

I'm suggesting that Voters in Delaware ask every candidate for Governor where the money comes from when the economy slows down and the growth of government does not!

Your Legislative Update By Brent Burdge

If you like me, it's "Most Wonderful Time of the Year"! Here is my overview and Insights into Active Bills in the Current Term of the Delaware General Assembly. Second of the 2-year, 152nd General Assembly, convening 1/9/2024 and ending 6/30/2024.



- **SB2 "Permit to Purchase Handguns" Passed** – Signed by Governor was Immediately met with a lawsuit from Delaware State Sportsmen's Association.
- **HB140, HA1 "Assisted Suicide" Passed the House**, Hearing held in the Executive Committee – expect to move to the Senate floor.
- **HS2 for HB110 "Taxpayer-Funded Abortions"** Passed the House, Moves to the Senate Passed 26-11, with NCC Republicans voting "Yes".
- **HB346 – Gender Transition Surgery on Minors** erects legal protection for healthcare providers performing gender reassignment surgeries and related treatments. Bill is on the House Ready List.
- **HS1 for HB350 "Hospital Cost Review Board"** Passed, Awaits Action by Governor establishes state control of hospital budget and pricing.
- **SS1 for SB4 "Softening Sentencing & Probation Guidelines"** is under consideration in Senate Finance – estimated annual costs of \$27M!
- **Republican Bills to Reduce Tax Burdens Were Consistently Stalled in Committee including:**
- **HB128 "Revision to State Tax Brackets"** – Establishing new brackets between \$60K-100K and above \$100K. Reported out of committee. On House Ready List since May '23.
- **HB233 "Revise/Collapse Tax Brackets"** – Introduced by Rep. Ramone, 6/16/23. Motion to release failed.
- **HB321 "Increase Personal Exemption for Lower Income Earning Individuals"** – Introduced by Rep. Yearick, 3/5/24, but not worked in committee.

Delaware State Government Spending Much Higher than the Budget Suggests

In a recent revelation, the actual amount of money spent by the Delaware State Government has been unveiled to be significantly higher than previously understood. According to the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO), Delaware's total expenditures for the fiscal year (FY) 2023 reached a staggering \$15.5 billion. This figure encompasses general funds, other state funds, bonds, and federal funds.

The disclosure comes in the wake of NASBO's comprehensive report, which indicated that total expenditures across all states for FY 2022 amounted to \$2.9 trillion. These expenditures varied widely among states, from a low of \$4.7 billion in Wyoming to a high of \$467.6 billion in California.

Delving deeper into Delaware's financial landscape, NASBO's data highlights the state's recent expenditure trends. The figures reveal a consistent increase in spending over the past few years:

- **FY 2023:** General fund spending was \$5.9 billion, with total spending, including federal transfers, hitting \$15.5 billion.
- **FY 2022:** General fund spending was \$5.1 billion, with total spending at \$14.4 billion.
- **FY 2021:** General fund spending was \$4.5 billion, with total spending at \$13.3 billion.
- **FY 2020:** General fund spending was \$4.5 billion, with total spending at \$11.9 billion.
- **FY 2019:** General fund spending was \$4.4 billion, with total spending at \$11.3 billion.

These numbers underscore a significant upward trajectory in Delaware's expenditures, reflecting both the growth in state-funded initiatives and the substantial influx of federal funds, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A striking aspect of this financial surge is its contrast with Delaware's population growth rate, which has hovered around 1% annually. This disparity suggests that the state's spending growth has vastly outpaced its population increase, raising questions about the sustainability and efficiency of such fiscal policies.

For those seeking more information on Delaware's budgetary details, comprehensive resources are available through the State of Delaware Office of Management and Budget, the Delaware Department of Finance, and Delaware's Transparency Resources.

As Delawareans come to grips with these figures, the state's fiscal management and future spending strategies will undoubtedly be topics of keen public interest and scrutiny.



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“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, things 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 out 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.



growth outpace national averages. Demographics play a crucial role, with an aging population and higher rates of chronic disease exacerbated by social determinants like poverty and food scarcity. Despite high spending, Delaware's healthcare outcomes rank 31st nationally, with elevated rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, infant mortality, and premature death. Healthcare infrastructure is concentrated, with six acute care hospital systems, leading to inefficiencies and inflated costs without commensurate health improvements.

Delaware House Minority Leader Proposes Income Tax Relief Bill

PIKE CREEK, DE: In a bid to provide relief to Delaware residents, House Minority Leader Mike Ramone has put forth a bill aimed at offering income tax relief. The proposal, if enacted, would bring significant changes to the state's tax structure. Ramone's bill seeks to replace the current six personal income tax brackets with three new brackets, along with raising the minimum income subject to tax. The anticipated tax savings under the proposal could reach up to 25% for some earners. Despite Ramone's argument that the bill could stimulate the economy, it faced obstacles in a Democrat-led committee in the state House. While acknowledging the need for modifications, Ramone clarified that he wouldn't push for a floor vote without necessary adjustments.



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.



Seniors graduating from Thomas McKean High School on June 1st at the Chase Fieldhouse in Wilmington. Gee Johnson/Delaware News Journal

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Brenda Mennella
Candidate
Delaware 21st Rep District



Eric Braunstein
Hockessin July 4th Parade
Co-Master of Ceremony



Sen. Laura Sturgeon
Delaware State Senate
Education Committee Chair



Ruth Briggs King
Candidate
Lt. Governor

People Making an Impact In Delaware!

- Brenda Mennella is a teaches civic to her students as is running for State Rep to replace Rep. Mike Ramone in the 21st.
- Eric Braunstein will join Rep Mike Ramone as MC of July 4th Parade in Hockessin.
- At the Hockessin Business Association, Sen. Sturgeon insisted that Delaware's reading test for 3rd graders was too difficult and "unrealistic" for too many students. Only 42% of Delaware Students read at grade level. 45th in the US.
- Ruth Briggs King joins Sherry Dorsey Walker, Kyle Evans Gay and Dr. Debbie Harrington as candidates for the Lt. Governor in 2024.

A Community Tradition:

Community Gears Up for Spectacular 4th of July Celebration

HOCKESSIN, DE: The community is already buzzing with anticipation as it prepares for its annual 4th of July celebration. This year's event promises to be a memorable one, with a day full of festivities that cater to all ages.

The day will kick off bright and early at 8 a.m. with neighborhood relay races, a tradition that has been a part of the celebration for years. The friendly competition brings together families, friends, and neighbors in a spirited start to the day.

The highlight of the afternoon will be the much-awaited parade, touted as the best 4th of July parade in the state. Starting at 3 p.m., the parade will commence at Old



Lancaster Pike and make its way down to Valley Road. Spectators can look forward to a colorful display of floats, marching bands, and community groups. As the sun sets, attendees will be treated to a spectacular fireworks display, lighting up the Hockessin sky in a dazzling

array of colors. The fireworks have always been a crowd favorite, drawing oohs and aahs from the audience.

In addition to these main events, the celebration will also feature a beer garden, food trucks offering a variety of cuisines, and live music performances that will keep the crowd entertained throughout the day.

This event is entirely volunteer-driven and supported solely by donations, reflecting the strong community spirit in Hockessin. For the latest updates on the Hockessin Fourth of July celebration, residents are encouraged to follow the event's Facebook page.

With a lineup of exciting activities and a strong sense of community, the 2024 Hockessin 4th of July celebration is set to be an event to remember. Whether you're a local resident or a visitor, mark your calendars and join in the fun!



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Hockessin Historical Society is hosting their 4th annual Juneteenth Celebration on Wednesday June 19th, 2024 at 7:00 in the Hockessin Memorial Firehall. This year speakers include Local Historian Lora Englehart, Wade Catts, and Mill Creek Hundred Historian, Scott Palmer.

Pike Creek Community League Meeting is June 19th at Goldey Beacom College 6:00pm in the Community Room.

Enjoy the grounds of the Hagley Museum on Summer Nights at Hagley on Wednesday evening all summer long. The event features Woodside Farms Ice Cream, food trucks or bring a picnic. The cost is only \$5.

Woodside Farm is supporting the "I Pledge Project" that reward kids who can recite the Pledge of Allegiance with free ice cream on July 1, 2024.

DFRW is hosting Candidate and Volunteer Training on July 13 at Grottos in Dover Delaware for \$15. To register, visit www.LeadershipInstitute.org/delaware2024

Hockessin 4th of July Events:

Registration Deadline for Parade and Neighborhood Relay
Teams due June 30.

Relay Race 9:00am, Parade 3:00, Fireworks at Dusk.



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