



# STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

***FY2027***

**Presentation to the  
Joint Finance Committee**

**February 10, 2026**



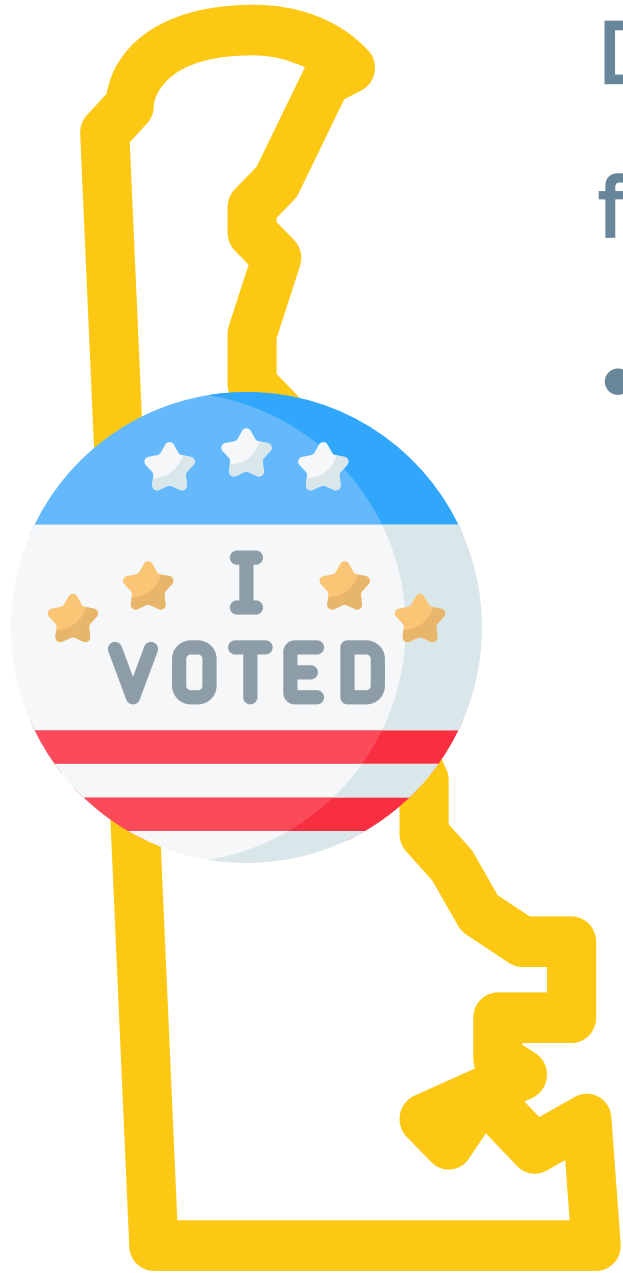


# DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

## *Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) : FY 2027*

Department Accepts GRB and would like to discuss two requests for funding not recommended:

- Campaign Finance System (CFRS) Upgrade
  - Background for this request
  - Anticipated short -term and long -term needs
  - Considerations regarding current generation of CFRS
- Additional Early Voting Locations
  - Background regarding this request
  - Trends in early voting adoption





## *FY 2027 Funding Priority: 2026 State Primary & General Elections and Early Voting*

- Core statutory requirement for the Department
- Reflects increased election officer stipends recently adopted
- Funding request reflects evolving voter behavior and continued adoption of early voting opportunities
- Department strives to limit costs as much as possible





## *FY 2027 Funding Priority: Election Operating Systems Updates*

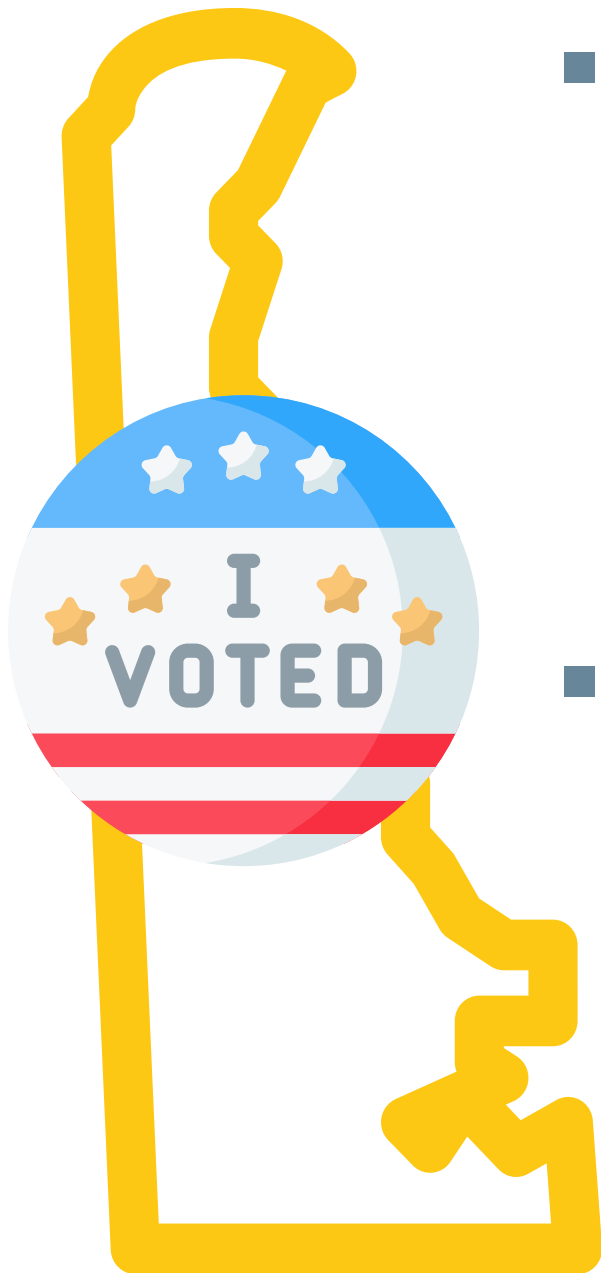
### Voter Registration and Election Management System (Power Profile)

- Department is utilizing original version of PowerProfile initially deployed in 2019
- Significant system updates now available to increase efficiency/ease of use for Department staff, essential with growing voting population
- Updates to software will permit self-service options for public interaction (e.g. election officers signing up for/schedule changes for pre-election training)





## *FY 2027 Funding Priority: Increased Leased Facility Costs*



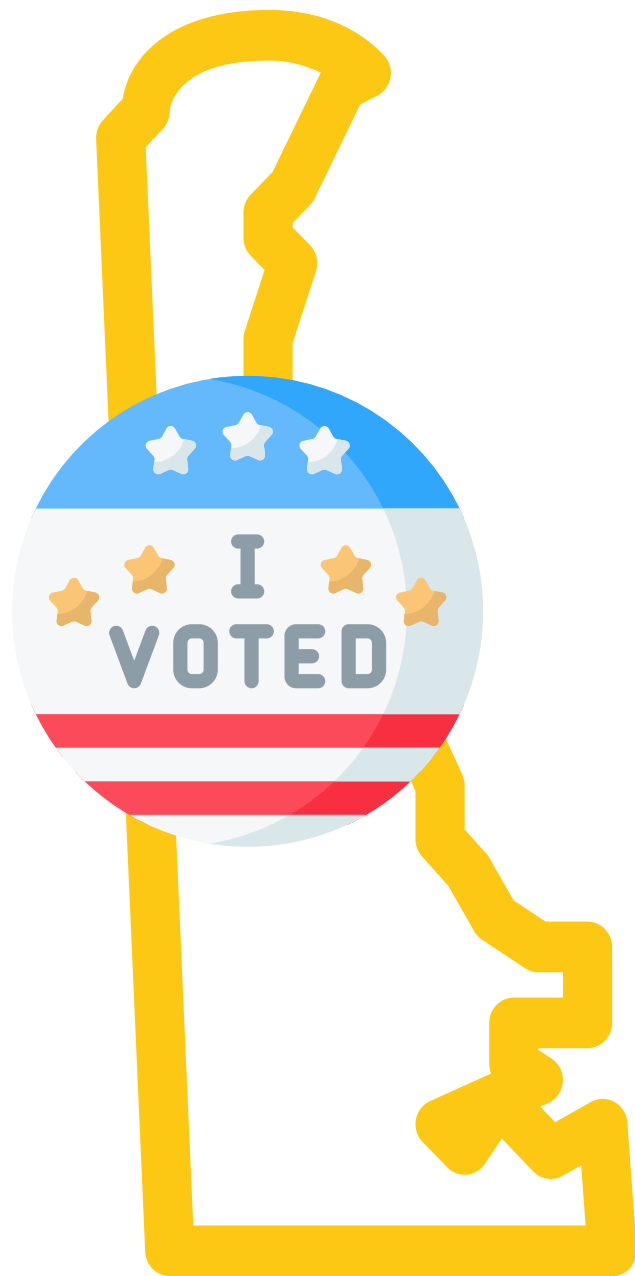
- The Department requests funding to cover the known increases (escalators) incorporated into leases of commercial space used by Department offices
- The Department also seeks funds to cover increases in Common Area Maintenance (CAM) and custodial/janitorial costs for the leased Kent County office/warehouse space



## *FY 2027 Funding Priority:*

### *DTI Security Costs & Information Technology*

- DTI Security Costs : Partial funding for this request, and remaining challenge is potential for uncertainty of availability of federal fund
- Information Technology Costs: Requested funds are sought to provide physical security equipment replacements as recommended due to lifecycle of equipment and available enhancements, and hardware and software upgrades per DTI recommendations







# *FY 2027 Funding Priority Not Recommended : Election Operating System Updates to Campaign Finance Reporting System (CFRS)*



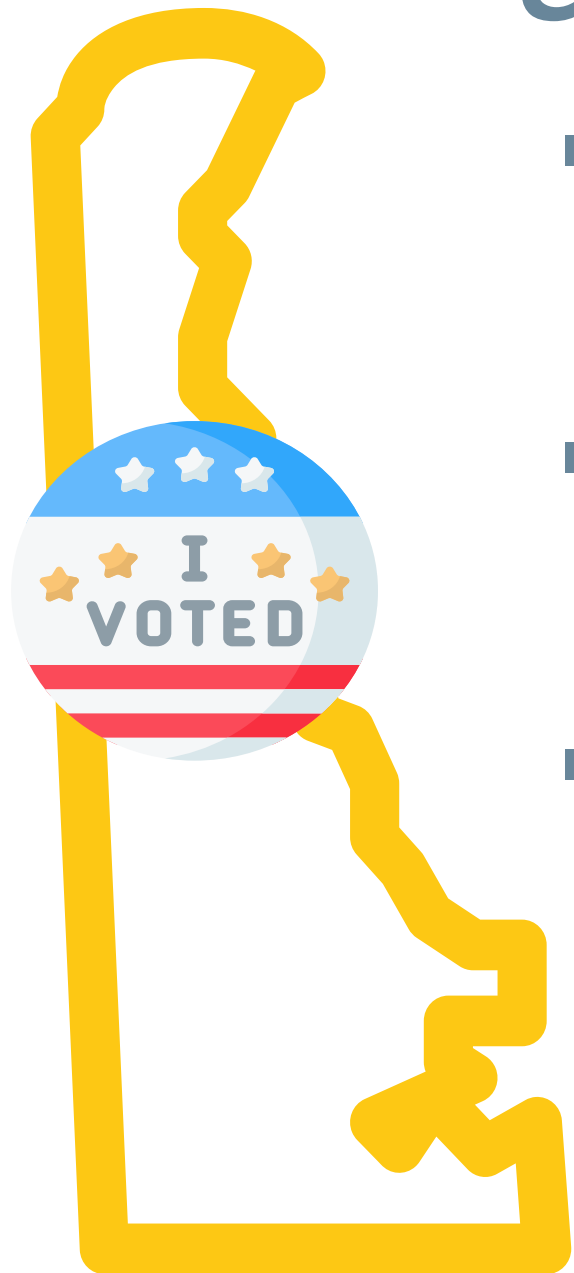
- Department is utilizing original version of the CFRS software acquired in 2013 and deployed in 2015.
- Updated software will permit self-service options for users that now require staff /vendor support.
- Maintaining and enhancing current version of system is becoming cost-prohibitive.
- Upgrade will entail move from a static system to a Software as a Service model.





# *FY 2027 Funding Priority Not Recommended : Election Operating System Updates to Campaign Finance Reporting System (CFRS)*

- Legislative priorities focusing on greater transparency regarding campaign finance data
- Enhancements will only be possible with a significant upgrade to CFRS
- Current system architecture is not capable of supporting these enhancements, and the cost to explore implementing such changes, if possible, would be exorbitant vs. incorporating them into a next-generation system

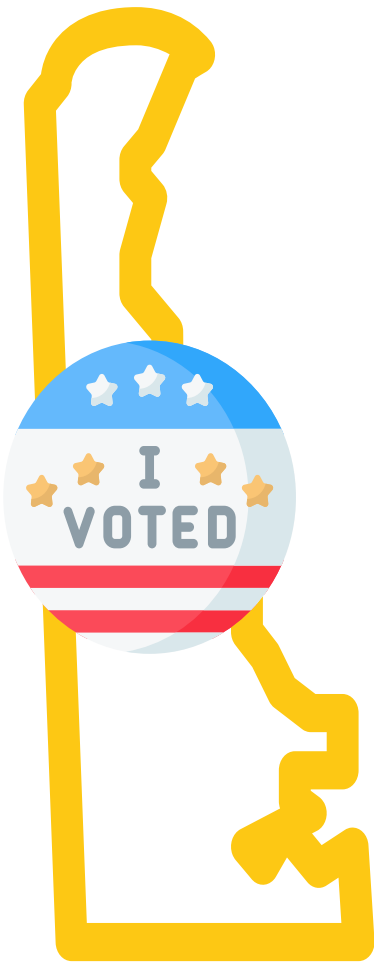






## *FY 2027 Funding Priority Not Recommended: Early Voting Implementation/Expansion Options*

- Although funding not recommended for additional sites, the Department continues to explore the most fiscally prudent approach to maximize early voting access for upcoming election cycles
- This request was responsive to the enthusiastic adoption of early voting by Delaware's voters
- Utilization of early voting became widespread statewide in the 2024 General Election
- Highest level of adoption of early voting in Sussex County through 2024 election cycle





## *Accomplishments : FY 2026 Facilities Upgrades*

- ❑ Expansion of New Castle County Warehouse
  - FY 20 26 funding to allow for a 15,000 sq. ft. expansion of current DOE warehouse space
  - Working with property owner and construction team on design and construction of addition
  - Training Center Enhancements
    - Audiovisual upgrades to enhance election officer training, staff training and meetings in all facilities are now in place

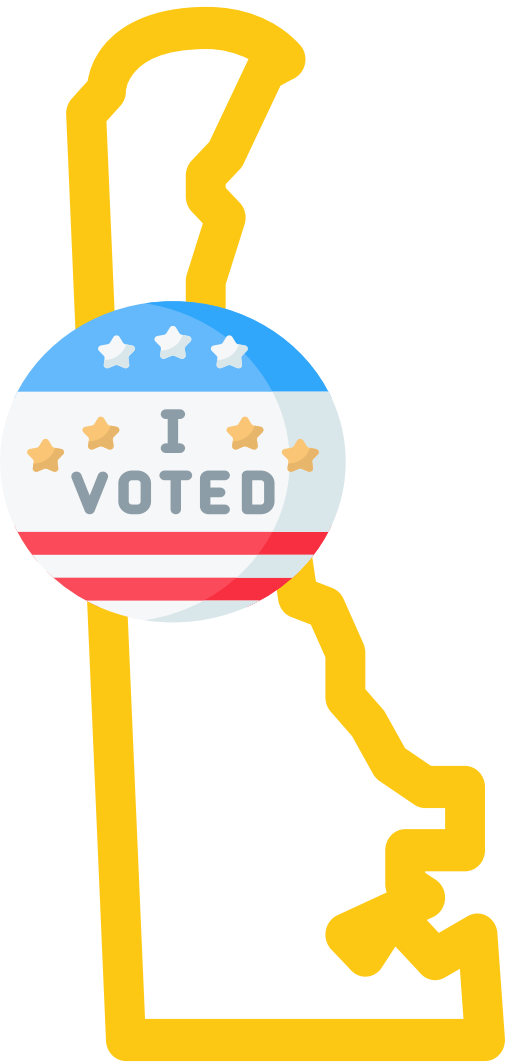




## *Accomplishments : FY 2026*

### *Full-time/Dedicated Deputy Attorney General (DAG)*

- After identifying need for additional legal support, funding was secured for the position
- New DAG began service in January 20 25
- Permits Department to shift our approach to a more proactive posture
- Insight and expertise on legislative and policy areas
- Adding capacity for campaign finance enforcement activities

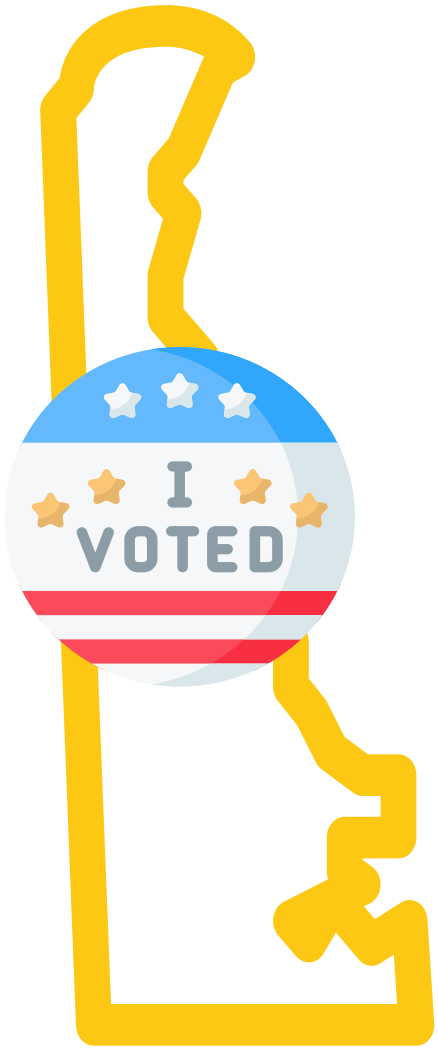




## *Accomplishments : FY 2026*

### *Department of Elections Vehicle Upgrades*

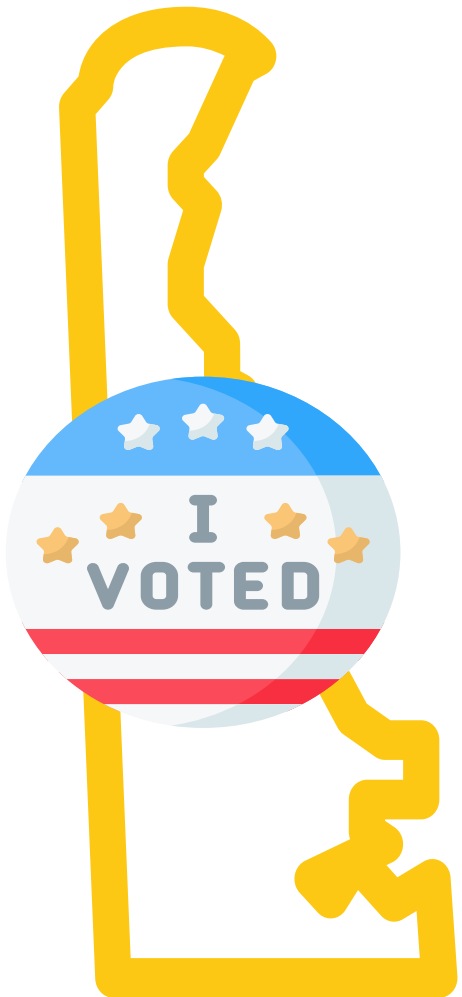
- Deployment of new box truck vehicles to county offices
- Vehicles feature fuel-efficient trucks featuring a host of modern driver safety/accident-avoidance features
  - Existing trucks are being evaluated for long-term viability as additional/backup vehicles if fiscally prudent
  - Additional vehicles available (overall) permit additional community outreach and educational activities

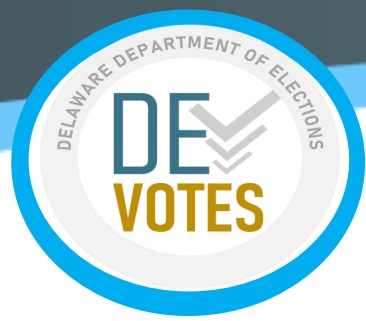




## *Accomplishments: FY 2026 Campaign Finance*

- Continued expansion of campaign finance training
  - Offering additional training sessions and locations
  - Continued enhancement of campaign finance enforcement efforts (working with full-time DAG)
- Continued 1:1 work with committees with outstanding unfiled reports to resolve issues
- Additional written follow-up communications with committees with outstanding unfiled reports
- Additional actions against non-filers via Justice of the Peace Court filings





# *Accomplishments: FY 2026*

## *Voting Equipment Maintenance & Upgrades for Polling Places*

- Voting machines updated to most current version of federally certified/approved software
- Voting machine backup batteries replaced (due to reaching end of recommended service life)
- Addition and deployment of voting equipment to support additional election day polling place locations in Sussex County, and additional early voting sites statewide
- Establishment of on-site equipment parts inventory
- Continued work on polling place accessibility







# ***VOTER INFORMATION & OUTREACH***

- 2024 Voter Information Campaign
  - On budget, producing better than expected results
  - Topics: voter registration & voting information
  - In-house, Effectv, and AB&C collaborative materials and efforts
- **Effectv:** 7 PSAs created & aired on 51 networks streaming & traditional cable services
  - **Campaign Summary:**
    - Video ads delivered 952,088 times with premium content
    - 92% of viewers watched full 30s video ad
- **AB&C: Advertisements and Voter Information Mailer**
  - **Campaign Summary:**
    - More than 8.0 million total impressions delivered to the public!
    - Direct mailer to every registered voter (790,000 voters)
      - Mailing enhanced with information detailed in HB82 (2023)
    - Social Media, Online Media/Newspaper ads, Radio, Billboard

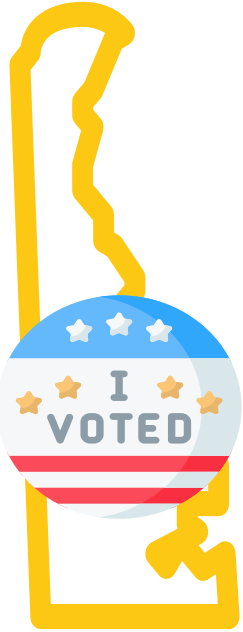




# VOTER INFORMATION & OUTREACH



- **Voter Education & Outreach materials**
  - Voter information flyers, brochures, videos updated for 2026
  - Voter education & outreach webpage <https://elections.delaware.gov/voter/outreach> :
- **Outreach events:**
  - registering voters, recruiting poll workers, voting info., mock/student elections, voting machine demos, events focusing on accessibility features of machine and info for voters with disabilities
  - LIFE Conference, Youth in City Government (Wilmington), Delaware State University student election, Delaware State Fair, and many more!
- **Direct mailings:**
  - Notice to new registrants – enhanced with election dates, ways to vote, etc.
  - Voter Information Postcard to all registered voters in July
- **Strengthening partnerships** with State agencies & nonprofits, other organizations
  - OGOV, Lt. GOV, Government Information Center, DHSS newsletters
  - CLASI, League of Women Voters, Nonprofit VOTE & More
  - Schools, Sororities, civic groups, etc.
- **Advertising & media releases:** PSAs, Social media, online news media, radio, out-of-home ads (billboards)





# *Elections Security*

- Elections Security Group (ESG)
  - A national model of state and local collaboration with federal partners
  - State resources are being called upon primarily given recent changes in the federal approach
  - ESG remains committed to working across jurisdictional lines to deliver most effective approach
  - Strong and resilient collaboration and partnership with United States Postal Service
    - Regular communication with Election Mail liaison





# *Accuracy and Transparency*

- Elections continues to utilize multiple tools to maintain accurate voter rolls
  - Ongoing effort with focus on process improvements
  - Numerous tools in place, including Department's role as a founding member of ERIC: <https://ericstates.org>.
  - Encourage sending any returned undeliverable items to the Department to initiate the address verification process
  - Making it simpler and more convenient for mail received no longer resides at address and return items to the Department, initiating address verification process





## *Managing Costs in Technology*

- Recent voting equipment software upgrade save more than \$110,000
  - Reducing costs while not impacting the content of the upgrade
- Reviewing all aspects of operations for potential savings:
  - Software licensing: lower cost and more effective approaches/leveraging cost savings via DTI collaboration
  - Equipment leases (copiers/printers/multifunction devices)
  - Use of automation tools for website content updates and status monitoring

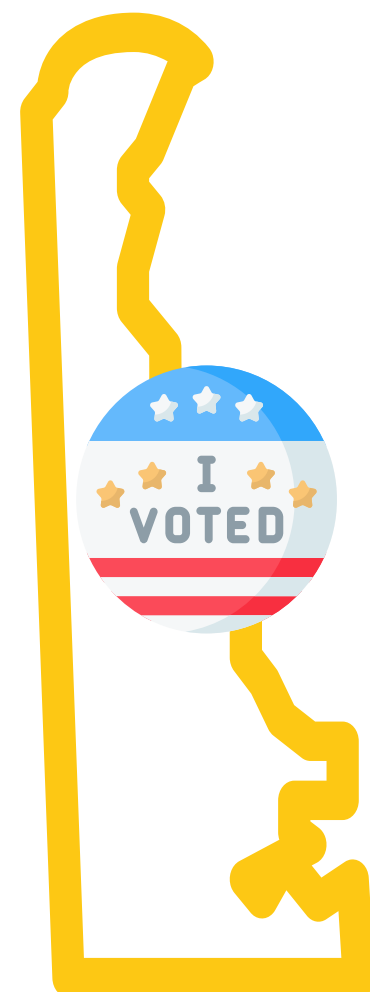






# *VOTING ACCESSIBILITY*

- Department of Elections Website/Digital Accessibility
  - DOE IT & CRO working to redesign to Lighthouse digital design
    - Updated webpages to begin rollout in May 2026
    - ADA WCAG 2.1AA standard inherent in Lighthouse design elements
- Polling Place & Early Voting Site Accessibility
  - Department county offices reviewed each accessibility issue itemized in **CLASI's Disability Rights Delaware 2024 General Election Accessibility Report**
  - Offices have **noted and acted upon** each concern preparing for upcoming elections.
  - DOE engaging with facilities that the DOE uses as voting locations (schools, service/community centers, churches) to remedy accessibility issues that are existent obstacles to facilities' primary public functions.
  - DOE finalizing a progress report for CLASI detailing DOE's response to each issue
  - DOE actively engaging in collaborative partnership with CLASI to improve voting accessibility with the end goal of a fully accessible voting experience for all DE voters.







***State of Delaware***  
***Department of Elections***

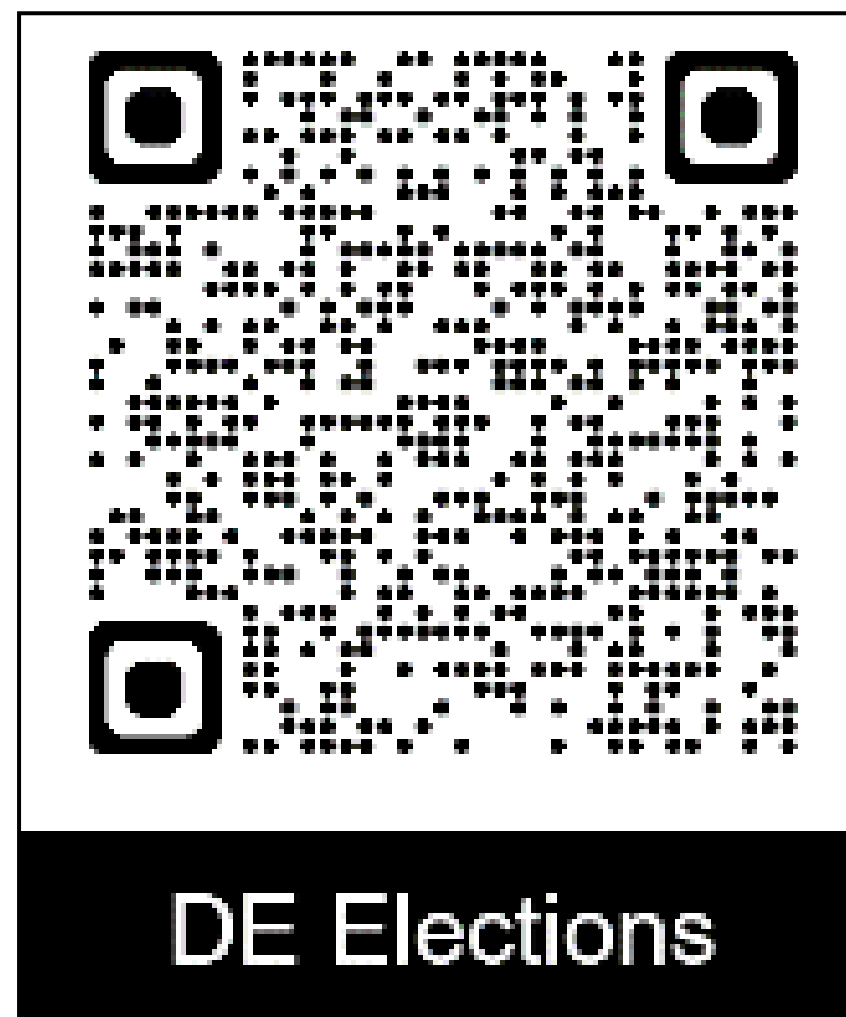
**New Castle County Office**  
820 N French St, Suite 400  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
302-577-3464  
votencc@delaware.gov

**Kent County Office**  
100 Enterprise Pl, Suite 5  
Dover, DE 19904  
302-739-4498  
votekc@delaware.gov

**Sussex County Office**  
119 N Race St  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
302-856-5367  
votesc@delaware.gov

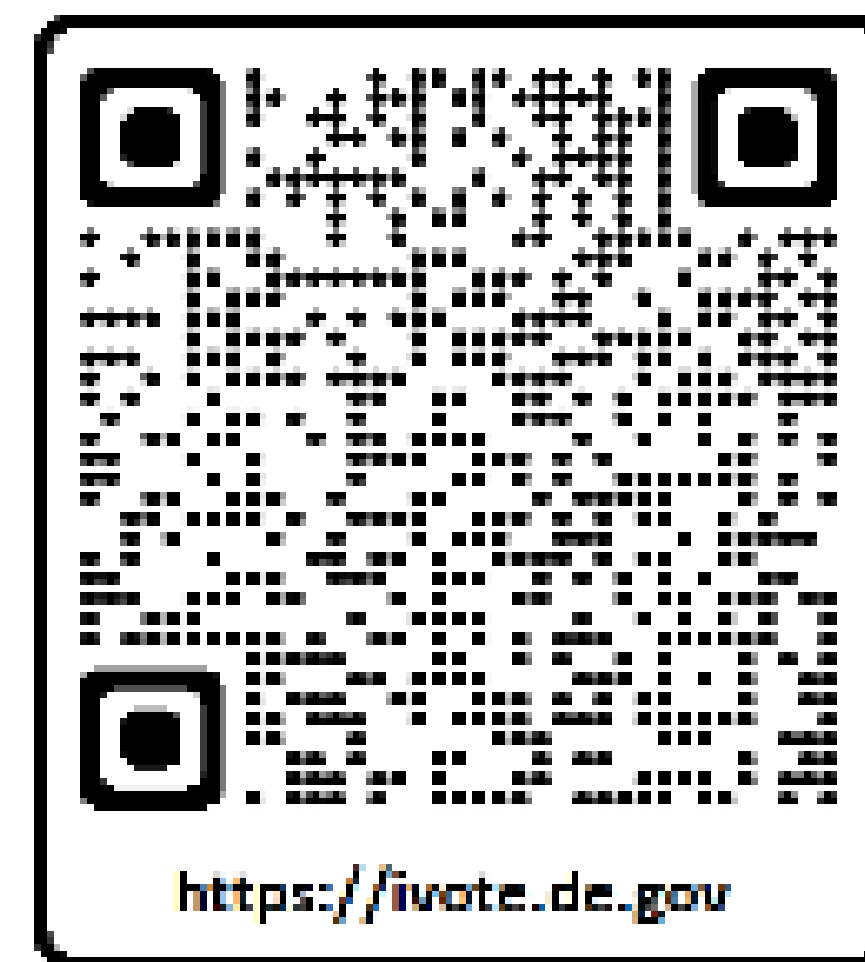
**State Election Commissioner**  
905 S Governors Ave, Suite 170  
Dover, DE 19904  
302-739-4277  
coe\_vote@delaware.gov

**Department of Elections**  
**Voter Registration,**  
**Voting & Election Information**



**[elections.delaware.gov](https://elections.delaware.gov)**

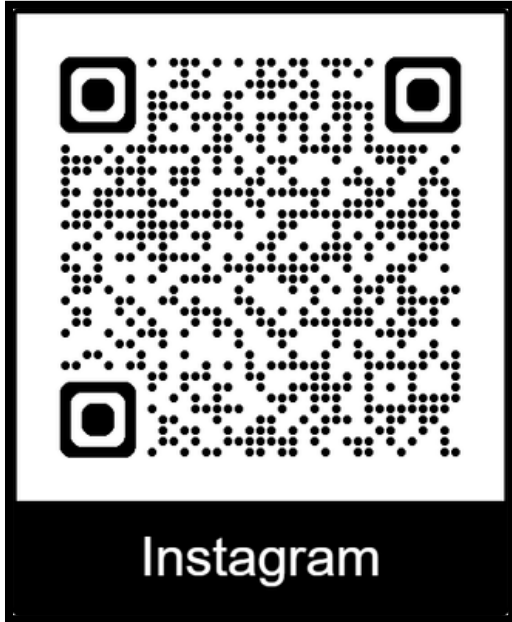
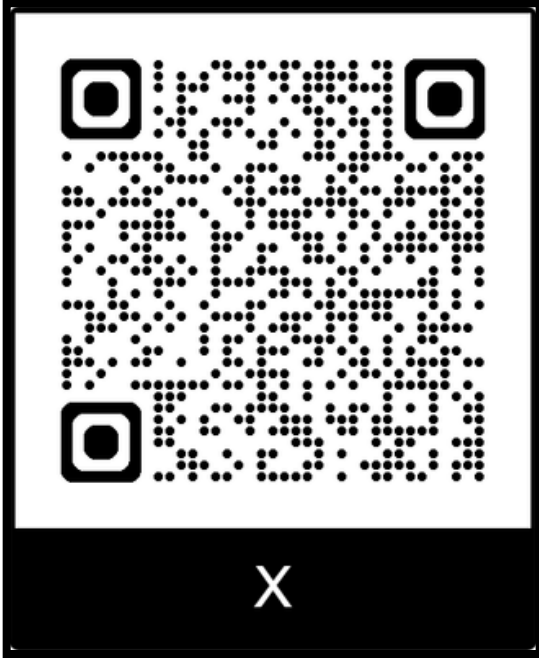
**Department of Elections**  
**Voter Portal**



**[ivote.de.gov](https://ivote.de.gov)**



# Department of Elections on Social Media





# STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

The Department is happy  
to answer any questions.  
Thank you!

