

# Notices

**Notice:** The total number of registered voters on the Voter Registration Totals by Senatorial District report will differ slightly from the Voter Registration Totals by Representative District report. Reason being Delaware Code, Title 15 Chapter 19 § 1901(b)(3), provides that Delaware citizens absent from the State who are eligible to vote in accordance with the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), and who are permanently living outside the United States, are not assigned a Senatorial District in our Voter Registration System. These voters are registered at the address of the county elections office for the county in which they last resided before moving overseas. The Code further states that these persons are permitted to vote for federal offices only.

**Notice:** Title 15 Chapter 30 § 3001 - No political party shall be listed on any general election ballot unless, 21 days prior to the date of the primary election, there shall be registered in the name of that party a number of voters equal to at least 10/100 of 1 percent of the total number of voters registered in the State as of December 31 of the year immediately preceding the general election year. Click [here](#) to view ballot status of political parties.

**Notice:** Election Districts are voting districts consisting of registered voters sharing the same legislative districts, who have the same ballot style and vote at the same polling place. The Department assigns registered voters to specific Election Districts/Polling Places, as per 15 *Del. C.* Chapter 41 “General Provisions” §§ 402 to 4105 at [Delaware Code Online](#).

The foundation of the structure of Election Districts is based on Representative Districts. Every ten years using census data, Representative Districts are reapportioned and determined by the General Assembly per 29 *Del. C.* Chapter 8, “Composition of and Reapportionment of the General Assembly” Subchapter 1, General Provisions, §804, at [Delaware Code Online](#).

Title 15, Chapter 45, “Ballots, Election Supplies and Polling Places,” §4501 requires “a single ballot for Presidential, Vice-Presidential, state, county and district candidates.” Since this single ballot design is mandated in the Code, it is imperative the Department create Election Districts so that all within the district share the same Representative, Senatorial, County Council, Levy Court, and Wilmington City Council District (Wilmington registered voters).

The number of registered voters is the fundamental piece of the entire Reapportionment/Redistricting process in Delaware, starting with the redistricting of the legislative lines. When creating Election Districts, once areas have been identified as containing identical districts, ballot styles, etc., the Department factors in size of the area’s population of

registered voters and ensures, as best it can, that election districts are designed to best serve the needs of all the registered voters assigned to the district.

Delaware Code (Title 15 Chapter 41, "General Provisions," §4105, [Delaware Code Online](#) ) directs that Election Districts must generally contain between 500 and 3,000 registered voters.

Some Election districts contain a relatively small number of registered voter minimum, which may occur for two reasons. In some cases, the geographic area of an Election District is **quite large**, but the population within the area is small, as is the situation in some of the more rural parts of the state. In creating Election Districts, the Department takes into consideration the distance voters must travel to their assigned polling place. Therefore, Delaware may host an Election District/Polling Place in which only a small number of voters vote, but that is within reasonable proximity to voters' residences. In other cases, Election Districts may be **very small geographically** and contain very few registered voters. These situations are the result of the interaction/overlapping of state and county or municipal (City of Wilmington) district lines. The Department makes every effort to avoid creating these types of districts, but the Department must work with the various district maps as approved.

In other cases, Election Districts may contain closer to 3,000 registered voters. This occurs in densely populated areas such as within cities and other areas with multi-family residences, apartment complexes, large housing developments, retirement communities, or senior/assisted living facilities.

The Department's goal is to designate Election Districts that ensure safe, convenient and accessible voting experiences for all voters.