

# THE VOICE

## 38<sup>TH</sup> DRCP NEWSGRAM



March 2019

Issue 2

### 38<sup>TH</sup> DRCP BOARD

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Always at work for us here in the 38<sup>th</sup> as well as in the Community. **Senator Gerald Hocker and Representative Ron Gray** are pictured in photo on left with myself as well as Lauren Weaver, Executive Director, Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce and Fred Thomas, Membership & Programming Manager. They were the guest speakers for a Chamber member breakfast on February 7<sup>th</sup> entitled “Eggs & Issues” at the Holiday Inn, Bethany. The photo on the right reflects **Senator Hocker** speaking at the February 27<sup>th</sup> Sussex County Republican Women’s Club (SCRWC) monthly meeting. Attendees at both events were extremely appreciative of the clarity and forthright information they shared.



### 38<sup>th</sup> February meeting Guest Speaker, George Ball,

Chairman of the Rail Splitter Society of New Castle County spoke to our members about The Rail Splitter Society of Delaware which is an independent Republican organization dedicated to freedom, rebuilding America and building the Republican Party. Jim Costas is seen here thanking Chairman Ball for familiarizing our Club with varied efforts initiated in New Castle County to overcome strong Democratic control.

## Status of Various Bills and Initiatives from Senator Gerald Hocker

**SB50**- State Wide Property Tax. We do not need a new tax. I voted against it. You have a say with a school Referendum. You do not have a say with a new tax. Right now, **SB50** has been pulled from the agenda. That does not mean it is dead.

It looks like when everything is said and done June 30<sup>th</sup>, we should leave there with a one hundred-million-dollar surplus. That is a good place to be and the reason why is because Ken Simpler proposed budget smoothing last year. This bill did not get voted on but our Governor followed it with an Executive Order. We put 40 million dollars away last year that we did not spend.

**SB19** – Requires a physician to offer a patient ultrasound imaging and auscultation of fetal heart tone services before terminating a pregnancy and SB21- The Act protects the life of the unborn child and enacts The Pain – Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This 20 -week bill will not get out of committee. In fact, neither bill will get out of committee but I did put my name on both bills.

**Dredging** - I was told the dredging has stopped and they canceled the contract. It was supposed to be done by this summer. Also, the ocean is coming close to the Indian River Bridge. Why have we not dredged on the South side. Things are getting bad. Why are we not pumping on the South side? They are going to pipe it from Massey Landing dredging to rebuild the inlet but they stopped the contract. I am not going to accept that answer. A letter is being drafted and directed to the Governor to address the DNREC problems. We need a dredging program.

**Referendum** - The **Indian River School District** will ask the taxpayers once again to fund a new high school and classroom expansions.

After the **district's most recent referendum failed**, Superintendent Mark Steele says the district has removed the current expense portion that would have funded curriculum and employment costs, among other things. Below is a summary of Superintendent Mark Steele's comments.

"We really have taken a look at finance and we believe that we can cover the current expense portion by putting together a savings plan over the next four years, credited to the increased tax receipts we are seeing in our school district," explains Steele. "We think we can put that money aside and have the money to open up and maintain that school."

Without the current expense, Steele says the new referendum proposal would cost taxpayers less.

"For the average taxpayer what that would do would bring down the highest cost value of the referendum," he explains. "[It] would be in year four about 68 dollars, followed by the next five years a reduction of 22 cents."

Steele anticipates the **new referendum will be held in May**.

## A Brief Insight Into What a Typical Day Looks Like in Legislative Hall for Representative Ron Gray

One of the committees that **Representative Gray** serves on is **House Revenue & Finance**. Other committees assigned to him are on the following page. This particular committee met on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and three bills were on the Agenda....HB 17, HB 32 and HB27. Ron explains here each Bill and which Bills made it out of committee or which were tabled.

**HB17: AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 30 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO STATE TAXES AND PRIORITY OF CLAIMS TO INTERCEPT OR REDUCE FUNDS.** This Bill, if passed, would give schools and local government property taxes priority over other claimant agencies. It was released from Revenue & Finance Committee on 3/6/19 with the understanding that the following terms would be resolved prior to bringing to House Floor for a Vote.

1. Finance Dept. would provide a list in order of priority how other intercept participants would be ranked. For instance, child support may want to be a higher priority and receive tax intercept reducing funds first.
2. How penalties would be assessed, reduced or eliminated.

**Indian River School District has \$3,273,893 owed to them without penalties.**

**HB32: AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 30 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO DECREASING THE REALTY TRANSFER TAX.** This Bill would decrease by 1% the rate of realty transfer tax to be received by the State, returning to the rate that was applicable before August 1, 2017. This increase was part of the budget solution passed on 7/2/17 to solve a \$350 million budget deficit. This Bill was tabled, allowing it to be reconsidered later in Committee.

**HB27: AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 30 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO ITEMIZE DEDUCTIONS.** This Bill would allow real property tax itemized deduction to continue in Delaware for State taxes above \$10,000. Delaware is following the Federal cap that was established in the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

Accountants have relayed their clients' concerns regarding Delaware's decision to follow the Federal guidelines since they made decision to invest in properties prior to this change.

This Bill was tabled also allowing it to be reconsidered later in committee. It is estimated that Delaware will receive \$18.7 million additional funds for the 2020 Fiscal Year due to this change. It can certainly be argued that the private sector could better utilize these funds to support our economy rather than the State.

Bills can be reviewed on line at <https://legis.delaware.gov>

## Senator Gerald Hocker and Representative Ron Gray Committee Assignments and Contact Information



### Senator Gerald Hocker – Senate District 20

**Leadership** – Senate Minority Leader

**Committee Member:**

Legislative Council  
Corrections & Public Safety  
Environmental & Natural Resources  
Senate Executive Committee  
Rules & Ethics

**Contact Info:**

Email: [Gerald.Hocker@delaware.gov](mailto:Gerald.Hocker@delaware.gov)  
Office: (302) 744-4085  
Home: (302) 539-4140



### Representative Ronald Gray – District 38

**Committee Member:**

Revenue & Finance  
Veterans Affairs  
Natural Resources  
Agriculture  
Capital Improvement (Bond)  
Judiciary

**Contact Info:**

Email: [Ronald.Gray@delaware.gov](mailto:Ronald.Gray@delaware.gov)  
Office (302) 744-7471  
Home: (302) 436-7024

*We thank you for all the time and effort you give to us  
and the entire State of Delaware for the betterment  
of our everyday lives in Delaware and the Country.*

## Sussex County names custom builder from Ocean View, Bruce Mears, to Planning & Zoning Commission



**2019: Sussex County** is turning to a set of experienced hands to weigh land use decisions and round out the County’s **Planning & Zoning Commission**.

County Council voted to appoint J. Bruce Mears of the Ocean View area to a seat on the five-member panel

### Sussex County Council, etc. Meeting Dates <https://sussexcountyde.gov>

#### County Council Meeting

March 26, 2019

#### Airport Advisory Committee Meeting

March 27, 2019

#### Planning & Zoning Meeting

March 28, 2019

## Voter Harvesting AWARENESS



READ ENTIRE ARTICLE HERE: <http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/returning-absentee-ballots.aspx>

FOLLOW-UP ARTICLES HERE:

[https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2019/03/11/ballot\\_harvesting\\_divide\\_persists\\_amid\\_elections\\_debate.html](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2019/03/11/ballot_harvesting_divide_persists_amid_elections_debate.html)

[https://www.realclearpolitics.com/stream/?topic=voter\\_fraud](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/stream/?topic=voter_fraud)

An absentee ballot, sometimes referred to as a mail ballot or vote-by-mail ballot, is typically returned through the postal service or dropped off at an election official’s office by the absentee voter. Sometimes, though, the voter may be unable to return the ballot in person or get it to a postal facility in time for it to be counted. In these cases, the voter may entrust the voted ballot to someone else—an agent or designee—to return the ballot.

The chart below outlines state policies for who can return a voted ballot on behalf of an absentee voter or any voter who has a mail ballot. In some states, this is limited to a family member, or there is a restriction on candidates or campaign volunteers returning absentee ballots.

<p><b>Delaware</b> Del. Code Title 15 § 5507</p>	<p>Absentee voters must return their ballots by U.S. mail, by delivering it, or “causing it to be delivered” prior to the close of polls on Election Day. There is no explicit provision for an agent or designee to return an absentee ballot on behalf of a voter.</p>	<p>Not specified.</p>
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## Marilyn Booker named Representative District Chair (RDC) for the 38<sup>th</sup> District

I'm Marilyn Booker the new Representative District Chair (RDC) for the 38<sup>th</sup> District. In this role I am the 38<sup>th</sup> District's Delaware GOP representative and liaison between the 38<sup>th</sup> District and the Sussex County GOP. In addition to communicating information between the Delaware and Sussex County GOP organizations and the 38<sup>th</sup> District, my duties include developing Election District Coordinators to be effective in supporting our Representative, Ron Gray and our Senator, Gerald Hocker as well as achieving the goals of the State and County GOP.

Each of the 8 Election Districts in the 38<sup>th</sup> has two Election District Coordinators. The EDC's assist the party and candidates by welcoming newly registered Republicans and Independents to the 38<sup>th</sup> District. EDC's contact the voters in their districts before elections encouraging them to turn out on Election Day or assist them in obtaining absentee ballots. They also recruit other Republicans to assist in door to door, phone banking, sign-waving and manning polling places on Election Day. In the upcoming elections EDC's will be recruiting election Checker/Challengers to assure that the election process is fair and void of fraud.

The EDC role is critical to the success of the GOP locally and nationally. The current 38<sup>th</sup> District EDC's are listed below:

Election District	Election District Coordinator	Election District Coordinator
1	Frank DiNenna	Tom Molnar
2	Bill Murphy	vacant
3	Pat Carroll	Ed Werres
4	Paul Bolton	vacant
5	Shirley Wiley	Sharon Miles
6	Dennis Ward	vacant
7	Bob Lawless	vacant
8	vacant	vacant

As you can see, we have some openings for these very important positions. If you are interested in helping our party to successfully push back the "Blue Wave" in our State, please consider becoming an EDC.

Our District is hosting a **Voter Certification Class at 6:30 PM on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Ocean View Town Center**. This year, we are focusing on Voter Registration and trying to get Independents to consider switching their registrations to Republican. Because there have been changes to the registration forms recently, even if you previously attended a session, it is advisable to attend another. All are welcome. Just send me an email to [mbooker3@icloud.com](mailto:mbooker3@icloud.com) with Voter Registration in the subject line and your name, address phone numbers (day and evening) as well as email address. Interested parties from other districts are welcome to join us.

## State of Delaware Popular Vote

### How They Voted

#### Result: Passed

Name	Yea	Nay	NV	Absent
Sen. Bonini, Colin J. [R]		✗		
Sen. Brown, Darius [D]	✓			
Sen. Cloutier, Catherine A. [R]	✓			
Sen. Delcollo, Anthony N. [R]	✓			
Sen. Ennis, Bruce C. [D]	✓			
Sen. Hansen, Stephanie L. [D]	✓			
Sen. Hocker, Gerald W. [R]		✗		
Sen. Lawson, David G. [R]		✗		
Sen. Lockman, Elizabeth [D]	✓			
Sen. Lopez, Ernesto B. [R]		✗		
Sen. McBride, David B. [D]	✓			
Sen. McDowell III, Harris B. [D]	✓			
Sen. Paradee III, William "Trey" Charles [D]	✓			
Sen. Pettyjohn, Brian Guy [R]		✗		
Sen. Poore, Nicole [D]	✓			
Sen. Richardson, Bryant L. [R]		✗		
Sen. Sokola, David P. [D]	✓			
Sen. Sturgeon, Laura [D]	✓			
Sen. Townsend, Bryan [D]	✓			
Sen. Walsh, John [D]	✓			
Rep. Wilson, David L. [R]		✗		

DOVER, Del. (AP) — The state Senate voted Thursday to have Delaware join other states that want to pool their Electoral College votes for the presidential candidate who wins the national popular vote.

The legislation, approved on a 14-7 vote, requires Delaware to cast its three electoral votes for the national popular vote winner, rather than the winner of the popular vote in Delaware. Two Republicans joined majority Democrats in voting for the bill, which now goes to the Democrat-led House.

Eleven Democratic-leaning states and the District of Columbia already have voted to enter the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. Democrat-controlled Colorado will soon join the list, giving the compact 181 of the 270 Electoral College votes needed to elect the president.

READ ENTIRE ARTICLE: <https://amp.idahostatesman.com/news/politics-government/national-politics/article227270129.html>



### Front Row

Shirley Wiley, Secretary; Tom Fallon, Treasurer; Skip Derick, Vice President **Second Row** Drew Sunderlin, Past President; and Jim Costas, President.

### CONTACT US

#### 38<sup>th</sup> District Republican Club

P. O Box 1371  
Bethany Beach, DE 19930  
[info@38thdrpc.com](mailto:info@38thdrpc.com)  
[www.38thdrpc.com](http://www.38thdrpc.com)

**Monthly meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the Month, except December, at 7:00 pm, South Coastal Library, 43 Kent Avenue, Bethany Beach, DE. No meetings July and August. Membership annual fee is \$20.00 per calendar year and can be mailed to above address.**

### Announcements

- **2019 Annual Membership of \$20.00 is due.** You may pay at our March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting or you can mail in your dues to 38<sup>th</sup> District Republican Club, P. O. Box 1371, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.
- Next Issue of *The Voice* will be June 15, 2019
- **Future Monthly Meetings**, 7:00 pm at South Coastal Library, Bethany Beach, DE:

Monday, March 25~ Speaker, Mike Harrington, DE GOP Chairman

Monday, April 22~ Guest Speaker TBA

Monday, May 27~ Guest Speaker, TBA

Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> is Red, White & Blue Dinner ~ no monthly mtg.

### UPCOMING

**May** Delaware State Convention~ May 3<sup>rd</sup> dinner; May 4<sup>th</sup> Convention Business Meeting. Details below.

**May** Memorial Day May 27<sup>th</sup> BUT ALSO 38<sup>th</sup> Monthly Mtg

**June** Red, White & Blue Dinner, Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>; 6:30 pm at Cripple Creek Golf & Country Club, Dagsboro, DE; Cost \$38.00

**July and/or August** No meeting BUT Summer Event, TBA

### Delaware State Convention

Any member can attend the State Convention either as a Delegate or a guest. The specific info follows:

Dates: Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>. Friday is a dinner with a notable guest speaker and special awards are given. Saturday, is the actual business meeting where delegates throughout the State vote with ballots.

Cost: \$100 for both events. \$50 if attending Friday or Saturday.

Place: Executive Banquet & Conference Center, 205 Executive Dr., Newark, DE 19702 (Rt. 95 to Rt. 896 & Rt. 40)

If you would like to be a delegate contact Marilyn Booker, RD for 38<sup>th</sup> District by emailing her at [mbooker3@icloud.com](mailto:mbooker3@icloud.com) or [info@38thdrpc.com](mailto:info@38thdrpc.com) More info can be found on [www.delawaregop.com](http://www.delawaregop.com)



## 38<sup>th</sup> Member's Perspective

All members are invited to share their perspective in *The Voice Newsgram*.

Articles will be submitted to the Board for approval before being published.

As we gear up for the 2020 election, it is important to remember what occurred in 2018. Although Republican candidates were very successful in the 38<sup>th</sup> and Sussex County in general, it is no time to rest; the remainder of the state did poorly.

In 2018 we saw outside influences affect Republican candidates negatively upstate. Locally, we know that our County is seeing a large influx of new residents that if not embraced properly, could reverse the low-tax, common sense government we have.

In the last edition of The Voice, our 38<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Skip Derick, wrote an article in the 38<sup>th</sup> Members Perspective column "... four areas of concentration..." and shared his thoughts on the ingredients of a good plan. We also hope to learn from our 2018 mistakes and how Maryland, the blue state just next-door, has elected a Republican governor two times running. I would add to that by saying all Delaware Republicans need to unite and, irrespective of primary results, we need to be in solidarity behind our winners.

Getting young people and new county residents involved is another priority for us. To this end, working with and supporting our new RD, Marilyn Booker, we will reach out to new voters as they move into Sussex County and the 38<sup>th</sup> District.

Our foremost priorities for 2020 remains the re-election of our State Senator Gerald Hocker and State Representative Ron Gray and beat back any externally driven influences in Sussex elections. Once we have that in hand, we hope to help other Republican candidates statewide.

Jim Costas, President

38<sup>th</sup> District Republican Club, PAC