



# ***Who Decides Her Future?***

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**Delaware is one of 19 states that  
DOES NOT consider parental interests  
as a fundamental right.**

It's one of the reasons state officials were able to attempt  
implementing Regulation 225, seeking to allow school  
children as young as five-years-old to designate their  
own race, gender, and name without parental  
notification or consent.

**Call: BRYAN RASH  
at 302-650-4278**

**AND TELL HIM YOU SUPPORT HIS POSITION  
on adopting a constitutional amendment  
protecting parental rights.**





*Elect*



**BRYAN**

**RASH**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**25TH DISTRICT**

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8739297





## **Bryan Rash is:**

- ❌ **Not a career politician - #Term Limits**
- ❌ **Not partisan - #Every voice matters**
- ❌ **Not going to waste time and resources**
- ❌ **Not fiscally irresponsible with your money**
- ❌ **Not Ineffective in working with others**

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Wilmington, DE 19801

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**IN THE STATE  
HOUSE RACE  
IN YOUR DISTRICT  
WE ENDORSE**

**JOHN KOWALKO**  
**FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

**THIS NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> VOTE  
TO ENSURE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS  
IN DELAWARE**

POLLS ARE OPEN 7AM TO 8PM  
TO FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE  
VISIT [IVOTE.DE.GOV](http://IVOTE.DE.GOV)



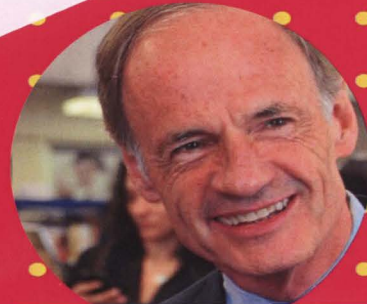
1866

# **PLANNED PARENTHOOD ADVOCACY FUND OF DELAWARE**

## **PROUDLY ENDORSES**



**Lisa Blunt Rochester**  
**U.S. Representative**



**Tom Carper**  
**U.S. Senator**



**Kathy Jennings**  
**Attorney General**



**Colleen Davis**  
**Treasurer**



**Kathy McGuinness**  
**Auditor**



# Re-Elect John Kowalko

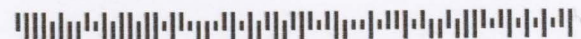
for State Representative on  
Tuesday, November 6th

Our Voice for Open  
Government, Budget Fairness,  
and Protecting the Environment



Democrat John Kowalko  
14 Kells Ave.  
Newark, DE 19711

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Email: [kowalkoforthe25th@gmail.com](mailto:kowalkoforthe25th@gmail.com) ★ Website: [johnkowalko.com](http://johnkowalko.com) ★ Cell Phone: (302) 547-9351

Paid for by Committee to Elect Kowalko



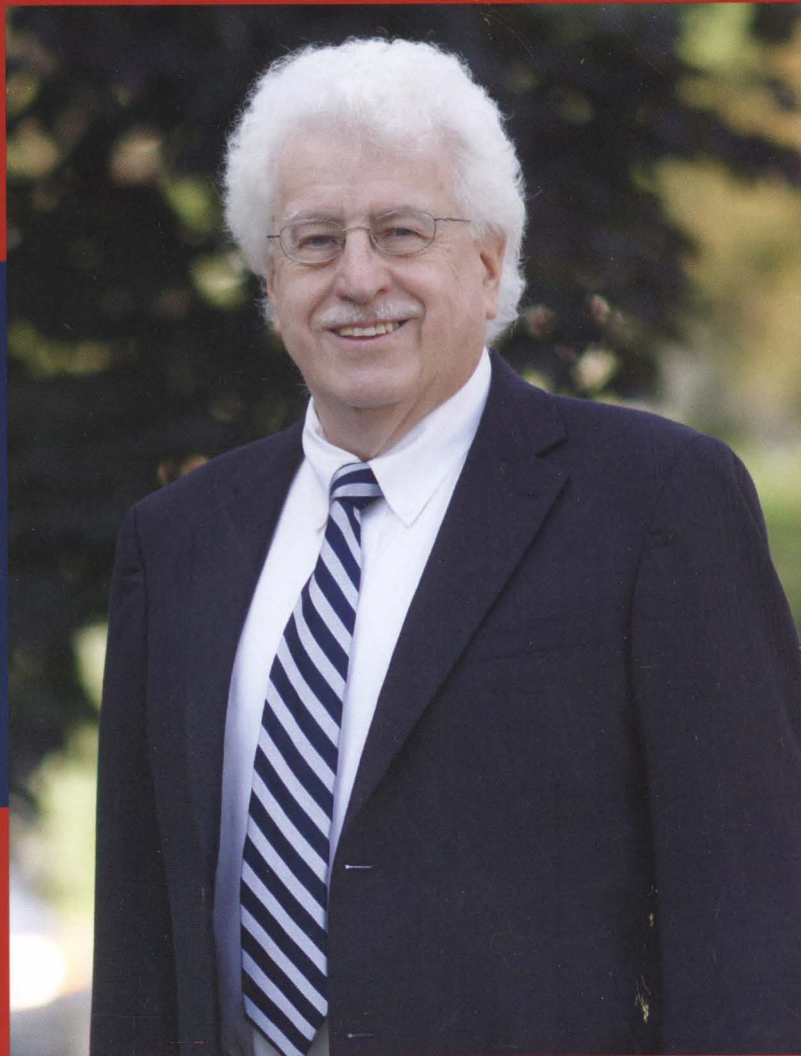
# Re-Elect John Kowalko

Democrat ★ 25th District Representative

**VOTE | NOV 6**


- ★ Committed to Constituents
- ★ Proven Track Record on Issues
- ★ Collaborates to find Common Ground
- ★ A Progressive Leader in the Legislature
- ★ Serves on Five House Committees: Energy, Health and Human Development, Labor, Manufactured Housing, and Natural Resources

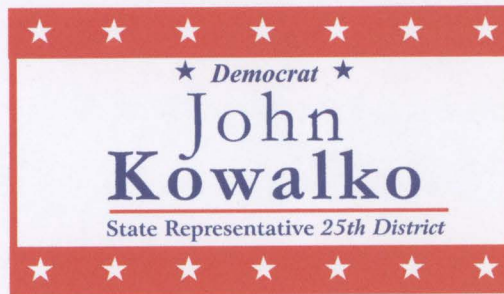
State Representative John Kowalko is a progressive champion. He has been the moral compass of our State legislature and a defender of open-government. John has only one agenda, fairness for all people. – James “JJ” Johnson, State Rep 16th District





John  
**Kowalko**

For State Representative *25th District* 



Dear 25<sup>th</sup> District Democrats:

I am writing to request your support for my good friend and colleague **Councilwoman Lisa Diller** who is running again for **New Castle County Council, 5<sup>th</sup> District**. Many people, especially City of Newark residents, do not know how much the work of the New Castle County Council affects the quality of life in our communities. Libraries, parks outside of the city, land use, housing programs, sewer, and public safety including police and paramedics all fall within the purview of County government. As our Council member, **Lisa** is a reasonable, consistent voice for good government. She has an outstanding track record of serving constituents and has held monthly constituent meetings since her election in 2009 at the Newark Senior Center as well as attending meetings in the communities of her 46,000 constituents.

**Lisa** co-chairs both the New Castle County Council's Community Services Committee as well as the Boards and Commissions Subcommittee. She has served as the lead sponsor on several pieces of legislation to help deal with the vacant housing issue in the unincorporated areas of the County. She has worked to create the **popular 55+ brochure to assist older adults** in accessing New Castle County Services. She has initiated collaborative programming for youth with the school districts that has been expanded to other jurisdictions. She has worked to streamline the process for the appointment to New Castle County Boards and Commissions.

**Councilwoman Lisa Diller** has been a consistent voice for balance and fairness in the relationship between the City of Newark and New Castle County. She worked with me on the potentially disastrous attempt at annexation near the Southbridge community which would have allowed 43 townhomes on a parcel where New Castle County would have allowed 5-7 homes.

I greatly value **Councilwoman Diller's** collegiality and commitment to the greater Newark area. I hope that you will join me in supporting her on **Tuesday, November 6 for re-election as our 5<sup>th</sup> District New Castle County Council member**.

Sincerely yours,

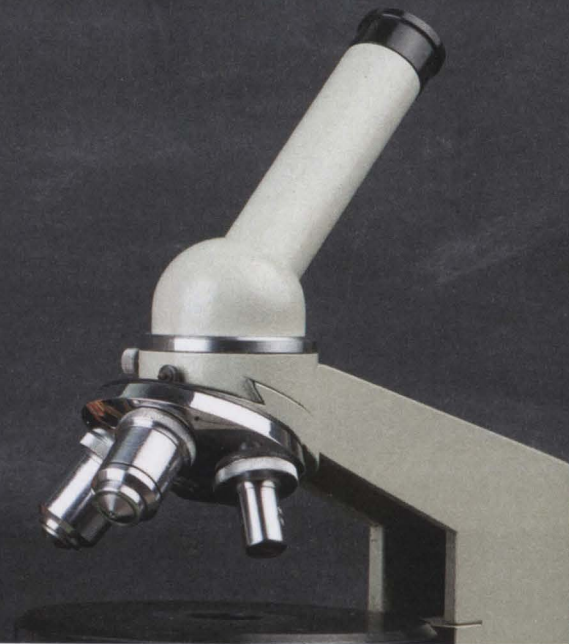
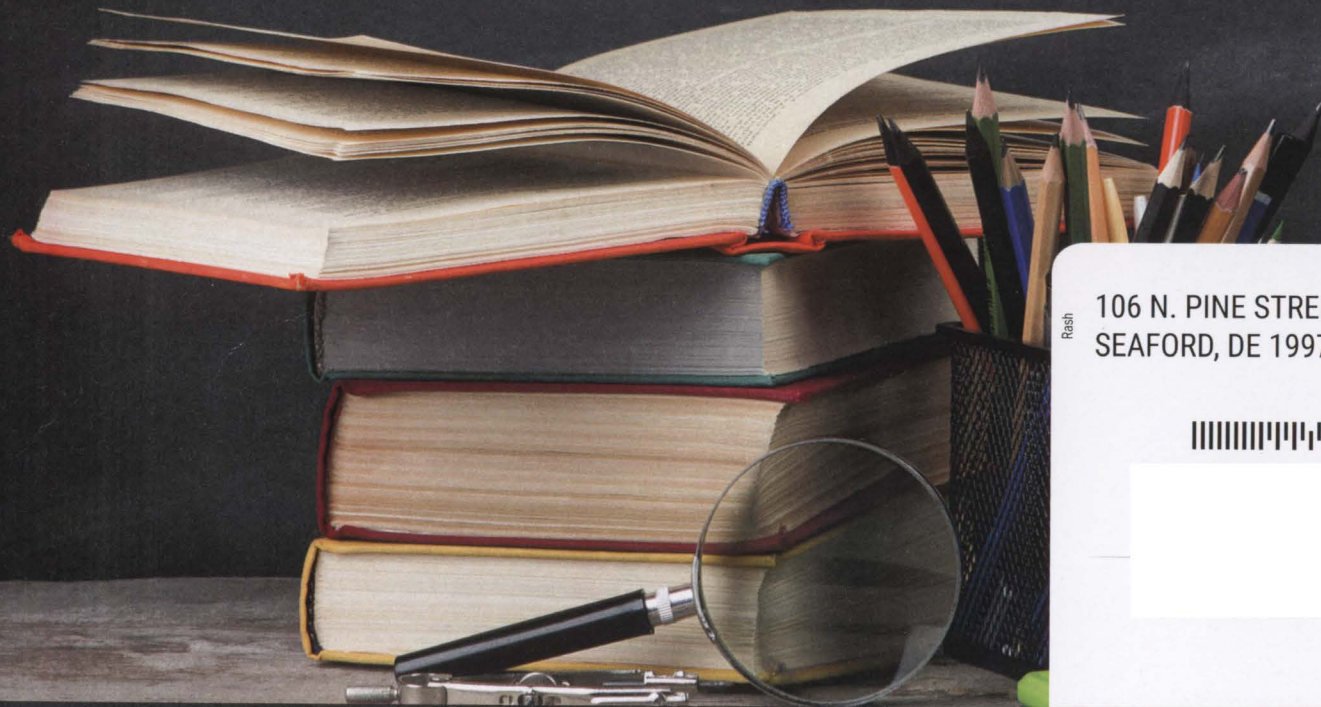
John A. Kowalko Jr.  
State Representative

14 Kells Avenue ★ Newark, DE 19711  
737-2396 (h) ★ 547-9351(c)  
[www.johnkowalko.com](http://www.johnkowalko.com) ★ Email: [kowalkoforthe25th@gmail.com](mailto:kowalkoforthe25th@gmail.com)



# TODAY'S LESSON PLAN:

Equipping our students  
for success



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106 N. PINE STREET  
SEAFORD, DE 19973

Rash



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# THANKS TO DOVER DEMOCRATS, OUR SCHOOLS RANK AMONG OF THE WORST IN THE NATION...

- ✗ Delaware's eight-grade math and reading results rank 31st in the nation.
- ✗ Fewer than 30 percent of our high school graduates are college-ready.
- ✗ Less than 50¢ of every \$1 spent reaches the classroom.

---

**BRYAN RASH** WANTS TO BUILD AN EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT PUTS STUDENTS FIRST.

EMAIL **BRYAN RASH** AT **RASHEDUCATIONPLAN@GMAIL.COM**

AND TELL HIM YOU AGREE WITH HIS PLAN TO PUT OUR STUDENTS FIRST.

All statistics taken from <https://www.delawareonline.com/story/opinion/contributors/2017/03/30/education-and-economic-growth/99838846/>







**Democratic Party**



**Republican Party**

JOHN A.  
**KOWALKO, JR.**



BRYAN K.  
**RASH**



**VANCE FUNK**  
**FORMER MAYOR OF NEWARK**

Dear Timothy,

Since retiring as Mayor, I have refrained from commenting on elections. But this year, there is an exceptional candidate in the 25<sup>th</sup> District in Newark - Bryan Rash. It is important that I speak up since it is important for Newark.

Bryan and his family have always been a part of our community. His parents hired me as their lawyer many years ago. I knew Bryan when he was growing up. I know Bryan and his lovely wife.

**Bryan will be an outstanding State Representative for Newark.**

WHY?

**He has strong family values.** A very kind and caring person, he has stepped up and volunteered to help in many community causes. As a small business owner, Bryan understands what is needed to grow our Delaware economy. Without growth in small businesses, we will not have future jobs for our children and grandchildren.

Like me, Bryan is a **strong supporter of the University of Delaware.** The University is an integral part of our community. **It produces jobs.** The new Star Campus is the center for the future growth of Newark. His opponent's record of opposition to the University seriously damages not only our school but our Newark community as well.

**Education is very important to Bryan.** He understands the value of getting a good education whether it is a trade school, charter or public school. He works directly with Voc-Tech to provide part time employment for their students. **His opponent fights all charter schools** even though they have been very successful, directly contributing to the improvement of our public schools as well.



**We face very high utility cost in Delaware.** Bloom Energy stands as the failed government decision. Bloom Energy has never produced the promised jobs. Nevertheless, **every month we all pay in our utility bill a subsidy to Bloom Energy - to date over \$200 million.**

Bryan's opponent voted for this deal. He now admits that he made a mistake. Anyone can make a mistake. **But he has done nothing to correct his mistake and end this bad deal.** Bryan has pledged if elected he will leave no stone unturned to find how to end these monthly payments.

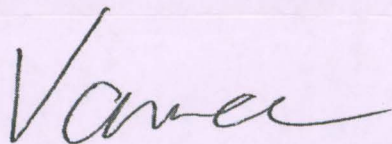
During my years as Mayor of Newark I was amazed how many times I was told by members of all parties and persuasion "do not let Representative Kowalko "sponsor your legislation – **it will never get done.**

Bryan Rash understands our values and concerns. Bryan will be fresh strong voice for us in Dover. Bryan will support our great University, our school systems at all levels and work to end the terrible price we pay every month for the failed Bloom Energy deal.

**Bryan is not a politician** – he is a hard-working small businessman. He is exactly what we need to represent Newark and our people in Dover.

Please take a few minutes and join me in pledging to vote for Bryan Rash next Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. **See you on Main Street.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vance".

Vance Funk  
Retired Mayor-City of Newark

Paid for by Bryan Rash for House
----------------------------------



# While the rest of the country is experiencing a booming economy,

## 10 YEARS OF TOTAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONTROL IN DOVER IS HURTING DELAWARE'S ECONOMY...

- In 2017, Delaware was one of only two states that lost jobs
- In 2017, Delaware was one of only two states that saw its poverty rate rise
- Delaware hurt home values by raising the real estate transfer tax in 2017
- After 10 years of total democratic party control, Delaware ranks 44th on the Cato Institute's Fiscal Policy Report of States

Balanced Government and Free Enterprise PAC  
1606 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Wilmington, DE 19806

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# Who's ready for a new plan?



**Bryan Rash** has a plan for economic development and job creation...


- ✓ Cut taxes on small and medium businesses
- ✓ Cut the excessive red tape and regulations
- ✓ Rein in the excessive growth of state spending
- ✓ Keep government focus on job creation and economic development

**Call: BRYAN RASH**  
**at 302-650-4278**  
and tell him you support  
his plan for job creation



Standing Strong for Student Success

136 E. WATER ST. | DOVER, DE 19901

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# Leading the Effort for Even Better Schools

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John Kowalko  
*State Representative*



*Endorsed by Delaware's Teachers & Education Support Professionals*



**John Kowalko**  
*State Representative*



## The Leader We Need to Improve Public Education



**Providing record funding for schools** so they have the tools, technology and quality teachers our kids deserve.



**Keeping students safe** by supporting important funding for smart security measures and other initiatives that make classrooms more secure.



**Supporting healthcare reforms** to make coverage more affordable and accessible for families, and ensure no child goes without healthcare – because healthy kids do better in school.

Paid for by DSEA Advocacy Fund for Children & Public Education. Learn more about DSEA Advocacy Fund for Children & Public Education at <http://elections.delaware.gov>

**Please Remember to Vote** on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>



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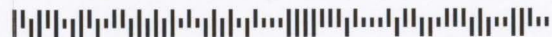
HOW DOES

**JOHN KOWALKO**

EXPECT OUR  
KIDS TO LEARN  
LIKE THIS?

25/K

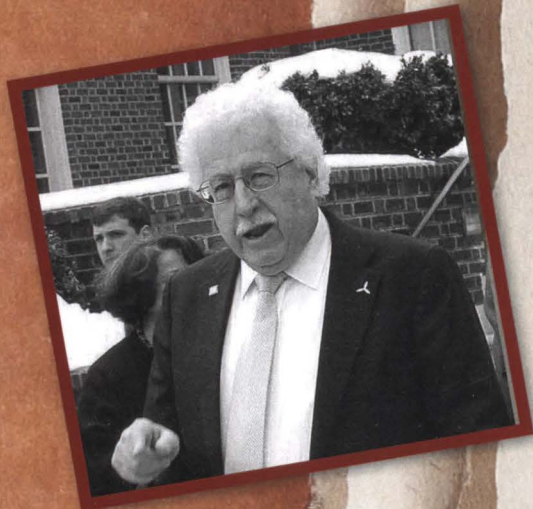
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SEAFORD, DE 19973



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Less than half of every dollar spent on Delaware education **actually reaches our kids' classrooms...**

So:

- ✗ Delaware's eight-grade math and reading results rank 31st in the nation.
- ✗ Fewer than 30 percent of our high school graduates are college-ready.
- ✗ Delaware ranks third highest in non-teacher staff per student.

All because **John Kowalko** and his special interest buddies have clogged up our education system...

Making it impossible for our tax dollars to reach the classroom!

ALL STATISTICS TAKEN  
FROM <https://www.delaware-online.com/story/opinion/contributors/2017/03/30/education-and-economic-growth/99838846/>

CALL **302-744-4351** - TELL **JOHN KOWALKO** TO  
START TAKING CARE OF OUR STUDENTS!



Dear Neighbor,

For the past twelve years, State Representative John Kowalko has represented the 25th District in Dover. In that time, he has proven to be a true statesman who has represented the residents of Newark. Please join me in supporting the re-election of John Kowalko when you vote Nov. 6th.

John Kowalko does not bow to special interests. Instead, he is an advocate for all of us. He works tirelessly to improve policies to create conditions for a clean and healthy environment, improve our educational system, ensure equality for all Delawareans, and bolster our economy.

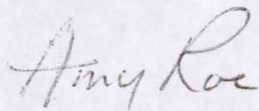
John has taken risks to protect our community. In 2013 and 2014 he was the sole voice for the residents of Newark in the General Assembly during our fight against the power plant that was proposed on UD campus. Other legislators attempted to extort the City and the University, threatening to take away our Alderman's Court or to remove a portion of UD's budget. It was a difficult time, but John Kowalko was our champion. He defended us when times were the toughest.

When I first learned about the power plant during the first week of June in 2013, I called John Kowalko. I told him that I really needed his help at the next City Council meeting, and that I didn't have the time at the moment to go into the explanation as to why. John not only showed up just because I asked him, he listened carefully to my testimony and then he spoke in my support. He joined what would become our fight and stood shoulder to shoulder with us as we waged what I consider to be the most difficult challenge of my lifetime. I will never forget how reassuring it felt to have my State Representative at my side for those long months.


My experience is not unique. I hear similar stories from many others in the community. John Kowalko has our backs. He will defend us with the deepest of integrity. He is our voice in the General Assembly and we all benefit from his uncompromising ethics.

Election day is just around the corner. To learn more about your John Kowalko, you can visit his website at [johnkowalko.com](http://johnkowalko.com). With an impeccable record of being responsive to his constituents, I encourage you to reach out to John directly with any questions you may have. His email is [kowalkoforthe25th@gmail.com](mailto:kowalkoforthe25th@gmail.com) and his cell phone number is (302) 547-9351.

Please join me in voting to re-elect John Kowalko on Tuesday, November 6th.



Amy Roe





**Sally Milbury-Steen**

54 Shull Drive, Newark, DE 19711-7719  
302-368-4813 [smilburysteen@gmail.com](mailto:smilburysteen@gmail.com)

Dear Neighbor,

Please join me in voting for John Kowalko on November 6 as our 25<sup>th</sup> District Representative in the Delaware House of Representatives.

John, a retired union machinist, community activist, and government reformist, has always been a man of the people. First elected in 2006, he has been serving us ever since by listening to our concerns, learning about our issues, and acting upon them to make things better for us, for our children, for our community, and for our state.

As evidence of his hard work for us in Dover, he introduced and secured the unanimous passage in the House and the Senate of **HB 331**, helped pass **HB 456** and has helped protect **DP&L** customers:

- **HB 331** -Motivated by the untimely passing of their son, Michael, Bonnie and Chuck Yeatman asked for legislation to help ensure that other parents will not suffer the same loss of a child. John turned their request into **HB 331** which has now created regulations concerning the use, distribution, and education of benzodiazepine and non-benzodiazepine hypnotics. It requires practitioners to obtain consent from a minor's parent or guardian prior to prescribing these drugs, and requires pharmacists to include a cautionary statement explaining the risks associated with the use of these drugs.
- **HB 456** has amended the Delaware Code to prohibit the use of lead paints on outdoor structures such as bridges, water towers, playground equipment, highways, parking lots, and utility towers and poles, in order to protect public health from the dangers of such paints. This bill not only enables a cleaner and healthier environment in Delaware, but it makes Delaware the first state to ban lead paint on outdoor structures. He is grateful to community activists Amy Roe and Sarah Bucic for their persistence in passing this bill.
- **John protected DP & L electric ratepayers** by gathering 38 signatures from fellow legislators to support the Public Advocate's efforts to mitigate the proposed increase in electric rates that Delmarva brought before the Public Service Commission. The original rate increase request was for \$31 million, but after months of negotiation, a settlement was agreed to that reduced the reduced the proposed rate increase entirely and gave a \$6.8 million credit to the customer base.

Representative Kowalko believes that a healthy democracy depends upon open, transparent, and accountable government. He will continue to introduce reforms to make this happen in Delaware, by moving our State government decision-making from behind closed doors to engagement and dialogue on policies and issues with the people.

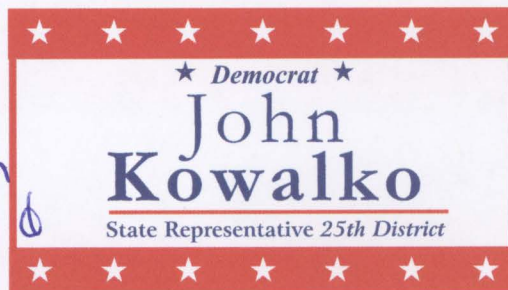
Nobody says it better than John, *"My biggest accomplishment in my twelve years as a representative has been my willingness to listen and study all aspects of every issue and educate myself on the nuances of those policies and laws that we craft in Dover. I'm most proud of my ability to keep my commitment to serve the working families, businesses and communities of Delaware and not succumb to special interests and I will proudly pledge that the only 'special interests' I will serve are the people of Delaware."*

Please join me in voting for John Kowalko on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,  
*Sally Milbury-Steen*  
**Sally Milbury-Steen**



Dear Tim,  
My sincerest  
thank you for  
your help  
support.



*I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help on my campaign. Reelection is not always a foregone conclusion but with people, such as you, working on my behalf it will always be a successful venture.*

*I appreciate your support for my efforts as a State Representative, but I find the gift of your friendship most rewarding of all.*

*Meeting the challenge of living up to other people's expectations can often be a daunting task but your hard work and effort made this election an enjoyable and fruitful experience and I assure you that I will never let you down.*

*Representing your needs and those all the people of Delaware has been a challenging but enjoyable direction to my life and I could not have traveled this path without your help.*

*Thank you for supporting me on behalf of all my constituents.*

*Yours truly,*

*John A. Kowalko*

14 Kells Avenue ★ Newark, DE 19711

737-2396 (h) ★ 547-9351(c)

[www.johnkowalko.com](http://www.johnkowalko.com) ★ Email: [kowalkoforthe25th@gmail.com](mailto:kowalkoforthe25th@gmail.com)



# **RE-ELECT DEMOCRAT ★ JOHN ★ KOWALKO**



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
25TH DISTRICT**

**The only Special Interest I'm  
committed to is YOURS!**

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

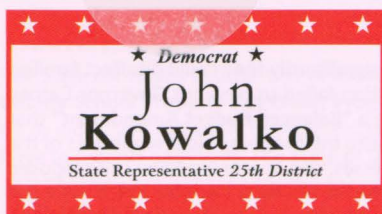
**kowalkoforthe25th@gmail.com  
(302) 547-9351**

# AN EXPERIENCED LEADER WITH A PROVEN TRACK RECORD



- ★ Ensuring government transparency
- ★ Creating a clean, green, healthy environment
- ★ Securing equal access to all publicly funded education opportunities
- ★ Ending corporate giveaways at taxpayer expense
- ★ Creating a balanced budget that funds needed services for families and businesses





14 Kells Ave.  
Newark, DE 19711



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## Legislative Update - FROM REPRESENTATIVE JOHN KOWALKO

2017-2018

Dear Neighbor,

We concluded the 149<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on July 1st. Once again I was faced with a myriad of challenges to ensure a fair and open government that serves the needs of all Delawareans. My allegiance to you and your families is unwavering. **You** are the only **"special interest"** I am committed to. I have an opponent once again this election and if you agree that I have served in your best interests, I will need all of you to come out on November 6<sup>th</sup> to vote for my re-election!

We passed some significantly effective legislation this year that helps families and the middle class. We passed the first leg of a constitutional amendment to guarantee equal rights for women in Delaware and passed a paid family leave period for state workers that will support many of the growing families in Delaware. I was particularly proud to be a primary sponsor who led the fight to **restore the Pharmaceutical Assistance Program** that benefits the elderly and neediest members of our state. I also was honored to sponsor and help pass legislation to create a lethal violence protection order that could take away someone's firearms if they are deemed to be a threat to themselves or others (**HS 1 for HB 222**). I am continuing my efforts to reform **Delaware's LLC laws** that allows limited liability protections for businesses but has been used in some instances to create companies that have laundered drug and terrorists assets and been used in human trafficking. I also had the privilege of working with members of the **Southridge Condominium Association** and residents of the surrounding communities, **Arbour Park** and **Academy Hills**, among others, to **prevent the deforestation of eight acres** of old growth trees and vegetation along **West Chestnut Hill Road and Independence Way**. This would have caused significant harm to the surrounding area including storm-water runoff problems, increased traffic congestion, and irreparable harm to the environment and quality of life of the surrounding area. Additionally, I am pleased to announce a recent settlement that will significantly **benefit all Delmarva (DP&L) electric ratepayers**. I will explain in further detail later in this newsletter.

I will continue to fight against taxpayer giveaways to the wealthy corporations at the expense of the middle class. We must institute a fair tax structure that will allow working people to subsidize their own families and not huge corporations. We must restore the drastic cuts we have made to public education funding that continue to be imposed by this administration.

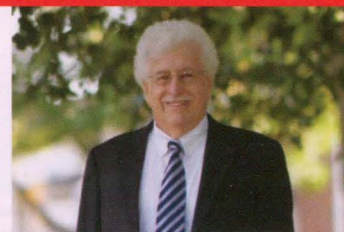
A common thread running through the problems we encountered this last session was a continuing lack of transparency by the executive branch and other state agencies. **FOIA requests** for records of meetings and decision making discussions have been routinely denied by the **Governor's Office** and requests for relief have fallen on deaf ears at the **Attorney General's Office**. Without full transparency and openness in the government's decision-making process, we, as legislators, cannot and should not expect to have the public's confidence and trust in the policies we create and the decisions we make.

Over the last ten years, Delaware has given **hundreds of millions of taxpayer money** to the **world's wealthiest corporations**. I will need your help convincing my fellow legislators that we instead need to dedicate money to encouraging and assisting growth in smaller Delaware based companies to allow our small businesses to prosper, expand, and provide thousands of new jobs.

These are some examples of how important it is to have a government that is open and transparent. The advantage to having many sets of eyes reviewing the decision-making process and the policies that result is that critiques and improvements can be made to ensure the benefits and identify the potential harm. **I intend to bring full transparency to government** and engage the public in every aspect of policy making. **I will always work on behalf of you, my constituents, and in your best interests, regardless of pressures brought to bear by "special interests."** As I near the end of my sixth term as your State Representative, I realize my responsibility to you and your families is of paramount importance and the reason you have put your faith in me at election time. I will never betray your trust and will make sure your voices are heard. There is much to do and many more obstacles to overcome. You have my word that I will be resolute and determined in facing the challenges and fighting for you, your families, and in the best interests of all Delawareans. **I will need your vote on November 6<sup>th</sup>** to allow me to continue investing in your future.

Sincerely,

John





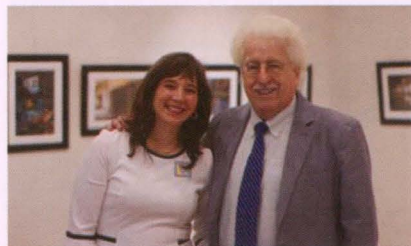
## ECONOMIC NEWS

As always, when looking at any proposed tax or fee increases, I consider whether or not they are regressive and how significantly they could disaffect families who are already struggling with the current economic situation. A recent proposal (**HB 460**) to amend the constitution failed to pass but Governor Carney issued and signed an executive order to circumvent the will of the legislature. In fact, **HB 460** is an attempt to impose a "Balanced Budget Amendment" that will establish certain budgetary constraints to force the services and programs of the **most vulnerable Delawareans** onto the chopping block regardless of the intent of future legislatures, and it will establish regressive taxation policies that will hurt working families, small businesses, and poorer workers. The proposed bill is a recommendation from the unelected and unaccountable **Advisory Panel to the Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council**, which even has the audacity to suggest **taking away deductions from Delaware taxpayers as a way to reform personal income tax** without any consideration on the impact to ordinary families, individuals, and small businesses. This is one of the most regressive taxation reform proposals I have witnessed. Under Executive Order **#21**, the necessary social services and support programs for the neediest will be the first to be cut back and suffer the most severe consequences if there are across the board cuts.

As mentioned earlier, we did restore the **Pharmaceutical Assistance Program** that benefits the elderly and neediest people. If you were a member of this program before it was cut from last year's budget, then please call **1-800-996-9969 (option 2)** to requalify.

Our failure to confront the real possibility of another banking crisis/failure is a cause for grave concern and as a member of four **National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL)** committees, I have offered resolutions to reinstate a modernized **Glass-Steagall Act** across the states.

## SPONSORED LEGISLATION OF NOTE



*John with Amy Roe, environmentalist extraordinaire who made the lead paint ban a reality.*

During the 149<sup>th</sup> session, I sponsored numerous pieces of important legislation. One of the more important to me was **HB 331**.

**HB 331** — This bill passed both chambers unanimously and awaits the Governor's signature. Motivated by the untimely passing of their son, Michael, Bonnie and Chuck Yeatman asked for legislation to help ensure other parents do not suffer the loss of a child. This bill creates regulations concerning the use, distribution, and education of benzodiazepine and non-benzodiazepine hypnotics. It requires practitioners to obtain consent from a minor's parent or guardian prior to prescribing these drugs, and requires pharmacists to include a cautionary statement explaining the risks associated with the use of these drugs.

**HB 456** — This bill, also passed unanimously, amends the Delaware Code to prohibit the use of lead paints on outdoor structures such as bridges, water towers, playground equipment, highways, parking lots, and utility towers and poles, in order to protect public health from the dangers of such paints. This bill will enable a cleaner and healthier environment in Delaware. Special thanks to community activists **Amy Roe** and **Sarah Bucic** for their persistence in passing **HB 456**.

I also introduced significant legislation which passed the House unanimously but did not reach the floor in the Senate. Some bills were held in committee and not placed on the agenda. With your support this **November 6<sup>th</sup>**, I will be reelected and can reintroduce the following important bills.

**HB 479** — This bill prohibits the manufacture, sale, or distribution of upholstered residential furniture and children's products that contain **harmful flame retardant chemicals**. People who are not in the business of selling these products and nonprofits are exempted from this Act. These flame retardants have been found to cause cancer, particularly to firefighters who are extinguishing fires.

**HB 72** — This bill removes the broad exemption that the **University of Delaware** and Delaware State University currently receive under the state Freedom of Information Act.

**HB 71** — This bill adds appointed members of the **Cash Management Policy Board** to the definition of "public officers." This designation would subject the appointed members of the Board to annual financial disclosure requirements since they handle over \$2 billion in State investments.

**HS 1 for HB 57** — In an attempt to obey federal law, to coordinate with the federal law enforcement agencies, and to assist Delaware registered agents who form LLCs to avoid severe federal fines, this bill attempts to prevent the use of our **Limited Liability Act** by persons, businesses, groups, and nations identified by federal agencies as a threat to this country and its laws.

Once again leadership stalled legislation that would have provided a fairer tax for everyone by **creating two additional brackets for the wealthier** while keeping the middle class earners whole. These were **HB 107**, **HB 108**, and **HB 109**.

I serve on the **Energy Committee**, the **Health and Human Development Committee**, the **Natural Resources Committee**, the **Labor Committee**, and the **Manufactured Housing Committee**. As my 25<sup>th</sup> District constituent, you have access to a lot of influential committees, and I welcome and encourage your input and ideas to facilitate that advantage.

## ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT

I have continued my practice of intervening in rate cases important to you that are brought before the **Public Service Commission**. As a direct result of my involvement and the 38 signatures I gathered from my fellow legislators supporting the **Public Advocate's efforts**, I am pleased to announce a recent settlement that will significantly **benefit all DP&L electric ratepayers**. I chose to intervene in **PSC Docket # 17-0977** in order to join the **Public Advocate**, **Drew Slater**, in mitigating the proposed increase in electric rates requested by Delmarva. The **original rate increase request was for \$31 million**. After the recent corporate tax cuts were passed, the **Public Advocate**, supported by me and my colleagues, filed a petition to capture that corporate windfall and give it back to the ratepayers. After months of negotiations, a settlement was agreed to that resulted in the **original \$31 million rate increase request being reduced entirely and a \$6.8 million credit given to the customer base**. The credit amounts to a \$15 per year (1.4%) decrease in the typical customer's bill. This reversal totaling nearly \$38 million is extraordinarily good news for ratepayers and a special note of appreciation should be extended to Public Advocate Drew Slater for his remarkable efforts in this matter. I would like to also extend my thanks and appreciation to **Representative Kim Williams** and all other General Assembly members who signed the letter of support.



*John with Public Advocate Drew Slater, who successful fought for a huge rate reduction for Delmarva customers.*

I also expect similarly good news in the matter of **PSC Docket # 17-0978** (the application of **DP&L for an increase in natural gas rates**) that will result in savings for natural gas customers.

I am determined to represent your interests to prevent higher utility bills from eroding the economic stability of your family budget. As a member of the **House Energy Committee**, I will continue to address issues affecting your family's health, the environment, and the economy.

As an active member of the **National Council of State Legislators (NCSL)**, I have participated in many forums and panel discussions about the effects of fossil-fuel dependency and the failure to confront the real possibility of **another banking crisis/failure**. As a member of four **NCSL** committees, I have offered resolutions to **reduce fossil fuel subsidies**, **prohibit expansion of off-shore drilling**, and provide funding for **renewable and clean energy sources**.



## SENIORS

The State continues to offer one of the most effective programs to assist Delaware seniors, and I continue to support this important policy. **The New Castle County School Property Tax Credit Program**, financed by the State, is very successful at reducing the tax burden on eligible senior homeowners. If you are 65 or older, you can apply to receive credit for your school property tax. This program is based on age not income. Once you receive the credit, you do not have to reapply each year. The State of Delaware will pay **50%** of your school tax bill, up to **\$400**. To be eligible, you must have **turned 65 by June 30<sup>th</sup>** in the year that you are applying for the tax credit, and you must apply by **September 1<sup>st</sup>**. For an application, please contact the County Assessment Division at **(302) 395-5520**, and also ask about New Castle County's property and sewer tax reductions dependent on income.

**ELDERinfo (now known as Delaware Medicare Assistance Bureau):** This is Delaware's State Health Insurance Assistance Program. It is designed to assist seniors with Medicare and general questions and concerns. They may be reached at **1-800-336-9500**.

**Delaware Prescription Assistance Program:** The Delaware Prescription Assistance Program, recently restored, will assist low-income seniors with the costs associated with prescription drugs. To see if you qualify, please call **1-800-996-9969, option 2**.

**The Delaware Helpline Can Help You:** Call **1-800-464-HELP** for information on state government agencies and referrals to community resources.

**Cancer Care Connection:** This non-profit organization helps patients, family members, caregivers, and friends in locating a wide range of services at no charge. Coping assistance and professionally trained cancer resource coaches are available toll-free at **1-866-266-7008**.

**Senior Roll Call Lifeline:** The Roll Call program is run by the New Castle County Police and provides a reliable, daily telephone call to seniors. Every morning you will receive a phone call from the program. When you answer the phone, a prerecorded message will ask if you are OK. Just hang up the phone and the computer will note all is well. Please call **(302) 395-8159** to learn more about this free program.

**Newark Senior Center:** The Newark Senior Center provides wonderful services and a wholesome environment for seniors. If you are a senior, you should join to take advantage of its services. If you are not a senior, I hope you'll consider volunteering to help with its activities.



### Survey Your opinion counts! Let me hear from you!

I want to thank all of you for your responses to questionnaires in the past. This year I am posing five questions for your consideration and hope you will respond to them by detaching this section and mailing it to me or by email at [john.kowalko@state.de.us](mailto:john.kowalko@state.de.us).

I would also ask that you send me your email address so that I may send you occasional emails with information important to the 25<sup>th</sup> District and your families. Financial constraints prevent me from sending this type of newsletter out more often than yearly, and so email allows me to keep you informed more often in matters of interest critical to my constituents.



*Lily Peterson was chosen as one of the winners of Delaware's 2017 Young Environmentalist Awards. From left: Steve Peterson, Lily Peterson, me, Lauren Richards Peterson, Kyle Schwab.*

**QUESTION #1** - Do you think we should create two additional **higher** tax brackets? Yes ☐ No ☐

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION #2** - Do you **oppose the practice** of taxpayer giveaways to the wealthiest corporations? Yes ☐ No ☐

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION #3** - Do you support reforming **Incorporation and LLC licensing laws** to require divulging the identity of the "beneficial owner" in order to prevent fraud, money-laundering, and formation of "**shell companies**?" Yes ☐ No ☐

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION #4** - Do you support open and transparent government obligations that would ensure **public access to policy decision making** at all levels of elected government? Yes ☐ No ☐

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION #5** - Do you support requiring the Attorney General's Office to **enforce the law** in all FOIA matters including the DOJ and the Governor? Yes ☐ No ☐

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to receive occasional emails from me with information important to the 25<sup>th</sup> District, please include your email address here and I'll add it to my list: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't forget!**

For more information visit: [www.johnkowalko.com](http://www.johnkowalko.com)



## EDUCATION NEWS

The proliferation of corporate education reform agendas continues to drain needed financial resources from public education and deposit those monies in the for-profit sector.

Recent education policies and laws have caused a great deal of conflict and confusion. The result is a failure to focus on **fundamentals and the needs of students**. A recent proposal by the **Governor** will close some **neighborhood schools** in Wilmington that have become **comfortable, familiar, and accessible places** for parents, grandparents, and their children. The plan to refurbish two monolithic buildings to house **K-8 Wilmington/Christina students** in a less-than-welcoming environment will not promote a better learning environment for these kids and could result in more adversarial conditions and less individual attention, and also impede families from participating in that educational experience. I asked the Governor to use the proposed \$15 million for the poorly thought out venture to instead **restore the \$36 million in cuts** to public education his administration imposed and to hire full-time **Reading and Math Specialists** for those **neighborhood Wilmington schools**. The impact of **Reading and Math Specialists** assigned to struggling schools has shown to be an unqualified success in helping educate young students. The **Delaware Department of Education** and **State Board of Education** continue their misguided efforts to judge educators and student performances based on an **unproven** system that could mischaracterize good teachers as ineffective while completely failing to identify the educational needs of the individual students. The adoption of the **Smarter Balanced Assessment Test**, an unproven and potentially harmful exercise, comes with a **huge price tag** and no obvious way to **identify children's potential or needs**.

I will concentrate my efforts on trying to correct the inconsistencies and vagaries in our education laws to allow a **true, available choice** for all parents while preserving the intent of alternative programs such as charter schools to flourish as laboratories of innovation that can be replicated in traditional schools.

I have visited many schools in the 25<sup>th</sup> District and throughout Wilmington and have witnessed some extraordinarily successful programs. These successes are due to the highly qualified and dedicated teachers and administrators in those schools and the willingness of the students and parents to partake of those advantages. My personal measure of the success of any public education system is that **"to be considered as successful, an education system must provide the opportunity for all children to reach their full potential."** Anything short of that can never be satisfactory or acceptable.

**"Do not train children to learning by force and harshness, but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each."** — Plato

## MEETING CONSTITUENT NEEDS

My pledge to all of you is that I will never abdicate my ultimate responsibility, as your elected public servant, to meet any and all constituent needs. I try to make myself available any day and at any time, not only to listen to your suggestions, complaints, and concerns, but to **hear and respond** to your needs. Ultimately, I am responsible to all my 25<sup>th</sup> District constituents and all citizens in Delaware because I work for you. I accept that responsibility and take those tasks very seriously and enthusiastically. If I cannot answer your concern, then I will find someone who can. If you find yourself in need of my services, please call my office at (302) 577-5321, or my home number at (302) 737-2396. If it is an emergency matter, you may leave a message on my home phone or email me at [john.kowalko@state.de.us](mailto:john.kowalko@state.de.us). I personally check my emails several times daily. If you are elderly or do not use email or need an immediate response that is time sensitive, please call my cell phone at (302) 547-9351.

## QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES, STREET REPAIR & STORMWATER PROJECTS

I continue to evaluate street conditions with an **on-site personal visit** to assess the need for street repair and storm-water relief projects in order that all funds administered from the **Community Transportation Fund** will be spent effectively, judiciously, and where needed most. Some projects of note have been funded and some completed and others are being cost-estimated so that I can dedicate their funding. Projects that have been funded are **Myers Road** and **Havertown Road** in Robscott Manor, **Greer Drive** and **Godwin Drive** in Elwin Manor, **Cornwall Drive** and **Plymouth Drive** (with Senator Sokola's help) in the City of Newark, **Edjil Drive** in Catalina Gardens, **Winsome Way** in Pencader Village, **Knights Crossing** in Beaulieu, **Cobble Creek Curve** from Phoenix Avenue to Pebble Place, and parts of **Four Seasons Parkway**. After two years of effort, I have managed to negotiate and fund a **four-way stop sign placement** at the intersection of **Edjil Drive** and **Janice Drive** that will allow a safer crossing for students at neighboring **McVey Elementary School**. I am also awaiting estimates for projects that I will fund for the upcoming construction season that will include **Winsome Way at 896**, **Snowflake Road** (in back of the shopping center), and a portion of **Harkfort Road** and **Four Seasons Parkway**. I expect to fund a major repaving of **Biscayne Boulevard** in **Palm Springs Manor** as soon as needed paperwork is finished.



Rep. Kim Williams, me, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester on Labor Day with Delaware State Education Association.



Visiting areas with DelDOT for necessary street repairs.

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Representative John Kowalko  
14 Kells Ave.  
Newark, DE 19711

