

Delaware's

Young Adult

Guide to

Legislative Hall

&

The 153rd General Assembly



This document is published as a public service by the Division of Legislative Services in collaboration with First State Heritage Park.

For further information,
please visit us on the ground floor at the Legislative Information Office
or call us toll-free from anywhere in Delaware at 1-800-282-8545.

Out-of-state callers must dial (302) 744-4114.
Visit us at our website www.legis.delaware.gov
or email at DGA_Reception@delaware.gov.

Legislative Hall, often referred to as “Leg Hall,” is open to the public on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. When the General Assembly is in session, the building is open until both chambers adjourn.

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Doing a self-guided tour??

Use this booklet as a guide to the history and workings of
Legislative Hall.

Interested in a Challenge?

Participate in our
LEGISLATIVE HALL SCAVENGER HUNT

Check Your Answers at the
**Legislative Information Office, located on the Ground Floor,
and Redeem Your Prize!**



As you tour the building, please note, vending machines are available to the public and located on the ground floor; cafeteria services are available on days the General Assembly is in session; restroom facilities are available at the center of the building on each floor.



A Glimpse at the History of Delaware and Legislative Hall, "The People's House"

"The right in the people to participate in the Legislature, is the foundation of liberty and all free government... .." - Declaration of Rights and Fundamental Rules of Delaware State as enacted September 11, 1776.

In 1682, William Penn, the father of representative government of Delaware, tried to unite two American colonies, Pennsylvania and the Three Lower Counties on Delaware. He invited the men of both colonies to elect representation to attend a joint General Assembly, which took place in December 1682, in Upland (now Chester), Pennsylvania. Despite Penn's efforts, the representatives refused to unite. Later, each colony was granted the right to have its own separate elected legislature while continuing to operate under the same governor.

Upon announcing its independence from Great Britain several weeks before the enactment of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Delaware's General Assembly functioned as the legislative body of "The Delaware State." Eleven years later, on December 7, 1787, the State of Delaware became the first state to ratify the new United States Constitution, earning the nickname "The First State."

The state capital was moved from New Castle to Dover in 1777, during the American Revolution, because of its safer and more central location amid fears of British invasion.

Delaware's legislative body met for the first time in New Castle on May 22, 1704, and has had many homes since then, its longest being the Old State House from 1792 to 1933. The General Assembly has met at Legislative Hall since 1933. This building has been expanded to meet our state's growing needs throughout the years, with another addition discussed in recent years.

Along with the General Assembly, Legislative Hall is home to many beautiful and historic artworks such as the Governor portraits, Women in History, and our Hall of Military Heroes. We also host rotating exhibits throughout the year, most of which feature student competitions from across the state. Outside on our grounds you can find numerous monuments honoring men, women, and events important to our state and nation's history.



New Castle Court House



Old State House



Legislative Hall

Terms to Know for Your Tour!

Amendment: A change or addition to a bill.

Bill: A legislative proposal that could be made into law if passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and approved by the Governor.

Caucus: A smaller body of legislators within the General Assembly based on political party or common interests. They meet to discuss policy and strategy, and to coordinate legislative efforts.

Code: The collection of all Delaware Laws. The Delaware Code is updated with the passing of each new law or adopted changes to existing laws.

Committee: A group of Representatives or Senators established by the rules of its respective chamber, where issues are considered and legislation prepared.

Constituent: You! A resident of a Delaware district represented by a Senator and Representative.

General Assembly: The state's legislative body, consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate. This is known as a bicameral legislature, meaning two chambers that were created to guarantee equal representation for the people. The House and the Senate work with each other and the Governor to create laws and establish a state budget. Both chambers are responsible for passing bills on public policy matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, and voting to uphold or override governor vetoes.

House of Representatives: Comprised of 41 members (Representatives) who are elected for 2-years.

Legislation: The power and function of making laws.

Lobbying: Efforts made by a person or group to influence legislation.

Senate: Comprised of 21 members (Senators) who are elected for 4-years.

Session: The time in which each chamber meets to conduct business. Each General Assembly meets for two years; the odd years (2021, 2023, 2025) are known as first session and the even years (2022, 2024, 2026) are called second session. Session begins each year on the second Tuesday of January and ends on June 30th. Session meetings are held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.



Bicentennial Murals

Delaware ratified the Constitution on December 7, 1787, earning the distinction of becoming “The First State.” Jack Lewis, renowned Delaware artist of Bridgeville, was commissioned to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the ratification with a series of paintings. The Bicentennial Murals, located in the House and Senate chambers, depict ten scenes from Delaware history throughout our three counties.

Mr. Lewis’ life and art were the subject of an award winning 1996 documentary entitled, “If You Lived Here You Would Be Home Now.” It was televised nationwide by the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and drew record crowds when shown at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

As you tour the Senate chamber, enjoy the murals of Kent and Sussex County scenes.

More about Delaware Artist Jack Lewis

John I. “Jack” Lewis (1912-2012) moved to Delaware in 1936 as an artist with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) tasked with documenting activities at CCC camps in the state. After serving in the Pacific with the U.S. Army during World War II, he returned to Delaware and lived in Bridgeville for forty years. During that time, Lewis continued painting and taught art in public schools and at Delaware Technical Community College.

Lewis’ paintings and murals documented Delaware history and daily life in rural communities. His artwork can be found throughout the state in private homes, businesses, and public buildings (Delaware Public Archives).

As you tour the House Chamber enjoy Mr. Lewis’ Bicentennial Murals of New Castle County scenes

Scavenger Hunt Clue #1



The Delaware General Assembly carries on the proud tradition of constituent service and easy accessibility to the people, which has sustained us for more than three centuries. Meeting for the first time in the town of New Castle in 1704, the General Assembly later met in the Old State House from 1792 until relocating to its current home in Legislative Hall. What year was that? _____



President Pro Tempore

David P. Sokola



Senate Majority Leader

Bryan Townsend



Senate Majority Whip

S. Elizabeth Lockman



Senate Minority Leader

Gerald W. Hocker



Senate Minority Whip

Brian Pettyjohn

153rd General Assembly

Senators

Daniel Cruce	(D)	District: 1
Darius J. Brown	(D)	District: 2
S. Elizabeth Lockman	(D)	District: 3
Laura V. Sturgeon	(D)	District: 4
Ray Seigfried	(D)	District: 5
Russell Huxtable	(D)	District: 6
Spiros Mantzavinos	(D)	District: 7
David P. Sokola	(D)	District: 8
John "Jack" Walsh	(D)	District: 9
Stephanie L. Hansen	(D)	District: 10
Bryan Townsend	(D)	District: 11
Nicole Poore	(D)	District: 12
Marie Pinkney	(D)	District: 13
Kyra L. Hoffner	(D)	District: 14
Dave G. Lawson	(R)	District: 15
Eric Buckson	(R)	District: 16
Trey Paradee	(D)	District: 17
David L. Wilson	(R)	District: 18
Brian Pettyjohn	(R)	District: 19
Gerald W. Hocker	(R)	District: 20
Bryant L. Richardson	(R)	District: 21





THE SENATE

The Delaware State Senate is composed of 21 members whose terms are staggered so that approximately half of the body stands for election every two years. Because Senate districts, like House districts, are redistricted every ten years after the U.S. Census, each Senate district has two four-year terms and one two-year term in each ten-year cycle.

The Lieutenant Governor is the presiding officer of the Senate and is elected in a state-wide election every four years. The main duty of the Lieutenant Governor is to preside over sessions and maintain order in the Senate.

Committee appointments in the Senate are made by the President Pro Tempore, a Senator who is elected by a majority of the members of the Senate. If the Lieutenant Governor is absent, the President Pro Tempore carries out the duties of the presiding officer.

The Secretary of the Senate is the chief administrative officer responsible for receiving and releasing all filed legislation, preparing a journal of all action taken on legislation by the Senate, and recording all votes taken on the floor. The Secretary is elected by the members of the Senate.

Delaware is the only state that counts votes by hand via roll call on the floor.

Scavenger Hunt Clue #2



Jack Lewis' celebrated Bicentennial Murals depicting Kent and Sussex County scenes are located inside these chambers. Commemorated with a plaque, within these same walls was the only address at Legislative Hall on record by a sitting president. President Clinton addressed a joint session of the Senate and House during which General Assembly? _____

Kent and Sussex Murals



The Pilots of Lewes

Ocean ships arriving in Lewes needed the help of expert pilots to navigate the shoals and rock ledges in the Delaware Bay and River. Small, shallow-draft pilot boats with fiercely competitive captains raced to the vessels to bring them in. They navigated with the help of the two lighthouses, Cape May and Cape Henlopen. The latter was first constructed in 1764.

Barratt's Chapel

Methodism in America was founded in Barratt's Chapel near Frederica in November 1784 when an ordained Methodist preacher, with the consent of John Wesley, first administered the sacraments to the Delaware faithful. The chapel was named for Philip Barratt, a Methodist convert who donated the land and built the church. The sect grew quickly in Delaware after the Revolution.



The Dickinson Plantation

Built by Judge Samuel Dickinson and completed in 1740, the Dickinson Plantation was the country home of John Dickinson, Delaware's foremost political man of letters and one of the framers of the U.S. Constitution. The house was destroyed by fire in 1804 and restored with a different roofline. Restoration of the plantation as an 18th century farm was a major bicentennial project.



Ratification of the Constitution by Delaware

On Friday, December 7, 1787, thirty Delaware delegates, ten from each county, in Battell's Tavern, also known as the Golden Fleece Tavern in Dover, signed the parchment document ratifying the United States Constitution. Then voted to "fully, freely, and entirely approve of, assent to, ratify and confirm the said Constitution." Delaware was the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution and one of only three to ratify it unanimously. It is from this event that Delaware takes its identity as "The First State."

Caesar Rodney's Ride

In July 1776, Caesar Rodney made the most famous ride in Delaware history, traveling "through thunder and rain" from his farm in Kent County to Philadelphia to cast his vote for Independence. The Delaware delegation was deadlocked with Thomas McKean voting in favor and George Read against. Read changed his vote upon Rodney's arrival, and all three signed the Declaration of Independence.



As you leave the Senate chamber through the large double doors, proceed across the lobby to the House chamber; crossing in front of the main entrance and the Capitol Police desk at the front of the building.



Speaker of the House
Melissa Minor-Brown



House Majority Leader
Kerri Evelyn Harris



House Majority Whip
Edward S. Osienski



House Minority Leader
Timothy D. Dukes

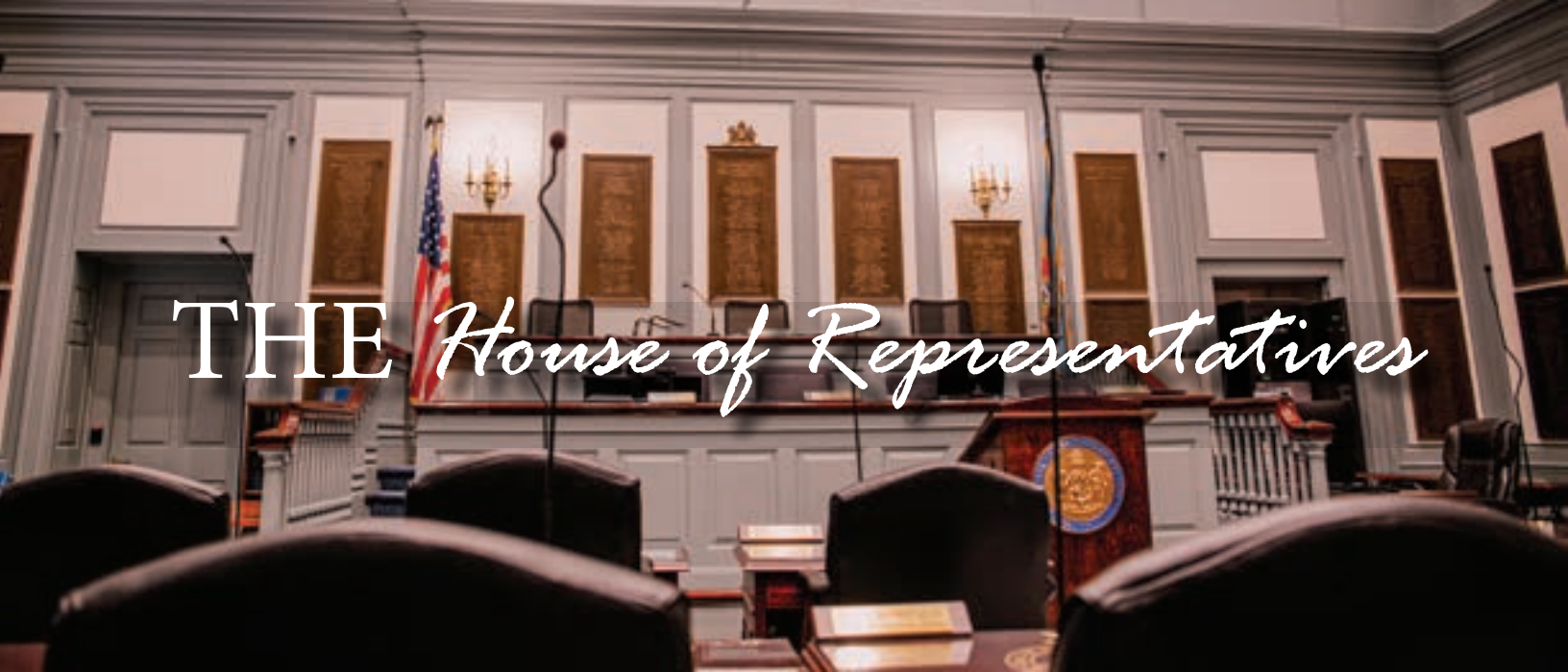


House Minority Whip
Jeffrey N. Spiegelman

153rd General Assembly
Representatives



Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha	(D)	District: 1
Stephanie T. Bolden	(D)	District: 2
Josue O. Ortega	(D)	District: 3
Jeff Hilovsky	(R)	District: 4
Kendra Johnson	(D)	District: 5
Debra Heffernan	(D)	District: 6
Larry Lambert	(D)	District: 7
Sherae'a Moore	(D)	District: 8
Kevin S. Hensley	(R)	District: 9
Melanie Ross Levin	(D)	District: 10
Jeff N. Spiegelman	(R)	District: 11
Krista Griffith	(D)	District: 12
DeShanna U Neal	(D)	District: 13
Claire Snyder-Hall	(D)	District: 14
Kamela T. Smith	(D)	District: 15
Franklin D. Cooke	(D)	District: 16
Melissa Minor-Brown	(D)	District: 17
Sophie Phillips	(D)	District: 18
Kimberly Williams	(D)	District: 19
Alonna Berry	(D)	District: 20
Frank Burns	(R)	District: 21
Michael F. Smith	(R)	District: 22
Mara Gorman	(D)	District: 23
Edward S. Osienski	(D)	District: 24
Cyndie Romer	(D)	District: 25
Madinah Wilson-Anton	(D)	District: 26
Eric Morrison	(D)	District: 27
William J. Carson	(D)	District: 28
William Bush	(D)	District: 29
Shannon Morris	(R)	District: 30
Sean M. Lynn	(D)	District: 31
Kerri Evelyn Harris	(D)	District: 32
Charles S. Postles Jr.	(R)	District: 33
Lyndon D. Yearick	(R)	District: 34
Jesse R. Vanderwende	(R)	District: 35
Bryan W. Shupe	(R)	District: 36
Valerie Jones Giltner	(R)	District: 37
Ronald E. Gray	(R)	District: 38
Daniel B. Short	(R)	District: 39
Timothy D. Dukes	(R)	District: 40
Richard G. Collins	(R)	District: 41



THE *House of Representatives*

The Delaware House of Representatives consists of 41 members who serve two-year terms.

The presiding officer of the House of Representatives is the Speaker of the House, a representative who is elected by a majority of the members of the House for a two-year term. The Speaker's duties include presiding over and maintaining order in the House and appointing members to the House standing committees.

The Chief Clerk is the chief administrative officer, whose duties include receiving and releasing all legislation introduced in the House, recording all votes taken on the floor, and certifying the daily record of legislative action. The Chief Clerk is elected by the members of the House of Representatives.

Scavenger Hunt Clue #3



The framers of the Constitution hoped that by dividing legislative power between two houses they'd be able to ensure equal representation for all. Throughout history, this room has seen many leaders champion for Delawareans and honored them by marking their presence on the walls. Who presided over the members in 1947? _____

New Castle County Murals



The Landing of the Swedes

The first Swedish colonists in America landed on the banks of the Christina River on March 29, 1638, in two ships, the Kalmar Nyckel and the Fogel Grip. Their leader, Peter Minuit, purchased land at present day Wilmington from the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware, established trade, and began construction of Fort Christina.

George Washington at New Castle

General George Washington attended the wedding of Ann Van Dyke and Kensey Johns, a Constitutional ratifier, in the Amstel House in New Castle on April 30, 1784. According to contemporary accounts, Washington stood on the hearthstone and greeted guests.



Old Swedes Church, Wilmington

The foundation stones of Holy Trinity Church, generally known as "Old Swedes," were laid on May 28, 1698, under the direction of Swedish Lutheran pastor Eric Bjork. Although the church has gone through many architectural changes and is now an Episcopal Church, it has been in almost continual use since its construction in 1699.



The New Castle Strand

The Strand, the street nearest the river in New Castle, is lined with picturesque Georgian houses, foremost of which is the George Read house built in 1797 by the son of the Constitutional signer. Packet Alley, half-way along the street, is reportedly the pathway taken by William Penn on his 1682 arrival in the colonies.

The Battle of Cooch's Bridge

The Battle of Cooch's Bridge on September 3, 1777, was Delaware's only engagement in the Revolutionary War. British troops landed in Maryland and headed for Philadelphia. British units and sharpshooters from General Washington's army skirmished near Newark until the Americans withdrew.

The armies met again at the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, where Washington's forces were defeated again.



As you leave the House chamber through the large double doors, proceed across the lobby to the base of the staircase. Ascend the stairs and bear right.

HALL OF MILITARY HEROES

The Hall of Military Heroes is located on the second floor in the gallery area around the balcony.

This collection of paintings honors some of Delaware's military heroes and their service to our country.

Proceed around the balcony to the right.

Also located in the gallery are double doors that lead to the Senate and House chambers' balconies. These areas are available to the public to observe the proceedings of the chambers when the General Assembly is in session.

- General Richard Hastings Ellis, USAF
Laurel ~ 7/10/1919 – 3/28/1989
- Colonel Samuel B. Davis, US Army
Lewes ~ 3/25/1766 – 9/6/1854
- Admiral William F. Halsey Jr., US Navy
Elizabeth, NJ ~ 10/30/1882 – 8/16/1959
- Lt. General L. Eugene Reybold, US Army
Delaware City ~ 2/13/1884 – 11/21/1961
- Lt. General John Wilson O'Daniel, US Army
Newark ~ 2/15/1894 – 3/27/1975
- General Thomas Holcomb, US Marine Corps
New Castle ~ 8/5/1879 – 5/24/1965
- Sgt. William Lloyd Nelson, US Army
Dover ~ 2/22/1918 – 4/24/1943
- Major George S. Welch, US Army Air Corps
Wilmington ~ 5/10/1918 – 10/12/1954
- Sgt. James P. Connor, US Army
Wilmington ~ 1/12/1919 – 7/27/1994



Scavenger Hunt Clue #4



The Hall of Military Heroes is a collection of paintings honoring some of Delaware's military heroes and their service to our country. After learning about these individuals, if one looks over the shoulder of Sgt. James P. Connor, someone can be found who was elected governor but never held the office. What was his name? _____

Governor's Ceremonial Office



Across from the gallery, in front of the double doors leading to the Governors Ceremonial office, is a display that includes Delaware's Chair of Honor and information on Delaware's Roll of Honor. This small memorial honors the Delawareans who have lost their lives, been prisoners of war, or are missing in action.

Turning left from the display, you will reach the beginning of the Hall of Governors. These historical portraits depict our governors in chronological order, along both the north and south end of the hall. Included in this collection is Delaware's earliest recorded governor portrait, Thomas McKean

Read on to learn more about the legislative process, how a bill becomes a law, and the committees and agencies of Legislative Hall.

Scavenger Hunt Clue #5

To the right of an office of celebration, and sometimes controversy, are more of Legislative Hall's noteworthy historical portraits. Governor Carney, our 74th governor, became the 57th Mayor of Wilmington. What other governor was also a Wilmington mayor? _____



Nonpartisan Legislative Staff Agencies

(Located on the Ground Floor)

Division of Legislative Services



The Division of Legislative Services (DLS) serves as a nonpartisan and confidential reference bureau for the General Assembly. It provides a wide range of services, including legislative and legal research, bill drafting, and committee staffing, as well as the development, production, and distribution of public information concerning the General Assembly. The Division is the home to Legal and Research Analysis, Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee support, Legislative Information Office (Bill Room), Legislative Library, Office of the Registrar of Regulations, and the Legislative Print Shop. The Division is also responsible for the overall supervision of the facility, scheduling building events, and use of the conference rooms on the first floor of the Tatnall Building.

The DLS also oversees the Legislative Fellows Program. This program links students from the University of Delaware and Delaware State University in assisting legislators with nonpartisan research needs, gaining valuable observation opportunities and contributing to the governmental decision-making process. In recent years, fellows have worked on areas as diverse as land-use planning, education reform, and juvenile justice.

Office of the Controller General

The Office of the Controller General (CGO) provides nonpartisan fiscal analyses to the General Assembly and fiscal staff support to the Joint Finance Committee and the Joint Committee on the Capital Improvement Program. In this role, CGO staff aid in the drafting and production of the annual Appropriations Act, the Bond and Capital Improvements Act, and the Grants-in-Aid Act. Additionally, the CGO prepares fiscal notes on legislation, participates on the Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Committee, provides staff for legislative standing committees, and represents the General Assembly on numerous ad-hoc committees and task forces. The CGO also operates the Legislative Information System, which contains information on all legislation of the General Assembly, including daily House and Senate Agendas and House and Senate Ready Lists.

The Controller General reports directly to Legislative Council.

Scavenger Hunt Clue #6



Legislative Hall was designed by E. William Martin and Norman M. Isham in the Colonial Revival style. Originally the commission was granted solely to Isham but, due to protest on the grounds that he was not a Delaware resident, local architect Martin was brought in. Isham's influence is clear though when one notes the resemblance to the Old Colony House in Newport, Rhode Island. The construction of Legislative Hall began under the direction of the newly created State Buildings and Grounds Commission, created in 1931 during the Great Depression by which governor?

(Hint- Visit the vestibule near Capitol Police)

*Remember to stop by the Legislative Information Office with your final answers to redeem your prize!

JOINT COMMITTEES

A joint committee has members from both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Joint Finance Committee (JFC)

The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) is responsible for writing the annual appropriations and grant-in-aid acts. The JFC is made up of the six members of the House Appropriations Committee and the six members of the Senate Finance Committee.

JFC meets in February and March to hold public hearings on state agency budget requests. JFC also meets in late May and June to prepare the bills for introduction. The Office of the Controller General provides support for the JFC.

Capital Improvement (Bond Bill) Committee

The Joint Committee on Capital Improvement (Bond Bill Committee) is responsible for writing the annual Bond Bill. The Bond Committee is made up of six members of the House and six members of the Senate.

The Bond Bill Committee meets throughout the session for public hearings on state agency capital improvement requests. The Bond Bill Committee also meets in June to prepare the Bond Bill for introduction. The Office of the Controller General provides support to the Bond Bill Committee.

Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee

The Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee (JLOSC) is a ten-member legislative body composed of five members of the Senate and five members of the House of Representatives. The committee performs periodic legislative review of agencies, commissions, or boards. The purpose of JLOSC's review is to determine whether there is a genuine public need for the entity and, if so, determine if the entity is effectively performing to meet that need.

JLOSC's goal is not to terminate agencies which are sufficiently meeting a recognized state need and which are accountable to and responsive to the public interests, but to use the review mechanism to strengthen and support the entity reviewed. The Division of Legislative Services' staff develops the reports used by the JLOSC to draw conclusions about the entities under review.

Legislative Council

Legislative Council consists of the ten members of leadership from the Senate and House of Representatives. The members of Legislative Council are established by the statute. Legislative Council oversees the two nonpartisan, confidential legislative agencies, the Division of Legislative Services and the Office of the Controller General. Staff support for Legislative Council is provided by the Division of Legislative Services.

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate is the chair of the Council during odd-numbered years and vice chair during even-numbered years. The Speaker of the House is chair of the Council during even-numbered years and vice chair during odd-numbered years.

For more information on Joint Committees, or to see the full listing of Senate Committees and House Committees, visit www.legis.delaware.gov/Committees.

The Journey from an Idea to a Law

Every bill starts with an idea or the recognition that an issue needs to be addressed. Many times, a constituent will contact a legislator with an idea for new legislation or the need to revise a current law.

There have been many times throughout Delaware history that students have been the driving force behind new legislation.

Students did the research, gathered public support, teamed up with a Senator or Representative, and presented their idea at Legislative Hall!

Bill Drafting

The legislator will meet and discuss their idea with caucus or Division of Legislative Services attorneys.

The attorney will research the issue and then draft a bill. Other legislators who support the legislation can be added as co-sponsors. The bill is released and sent to the Secretary of the Senate or Chief Clerk of the House, in the appropriate chamber of origin, where it will be introduced and get its first reading. The

Speaker or the President Pro Tempore will then assign the bill to one of the standing committees for a public hearing.

The Committee Hearing

The committee chairperson puts the bill on the committee's meeting agenda. At the committee hearing, the bill's sponsor, members of the general public, stakeholders, and lobbyists may testify before the committee to show their support or opposition to the bill. The committee members may ask questions of those testifying. The committee then votes on whether to release the bill from committee.

If the bill is not released, it effectively dies in committee, unless it is petitioned out.



Ready for the Debate

If the committee votes to release the bill, it is reported back to the chamber of origin. This constitutes the second reading. It then goes on the Ready List and is available to go on the agenda, at the pleasure of the Speaker or President Pro Tem. If the Office of the Controller General estimates the enactment of a bill will result in a cost, the bill will receive a fiscal note. If the cost is \$100,000 or more the bill is subject to additional review by an appropriations committee.

When the bill appears on the agenda, it is brought before the chamber for its third and final reading. This is the opportunity for the bill's sponsor to explain the content of the bill, provide witnesses to testify, and answer the members' questions, and for the chamber to debate and vote on the bill. The bill can be amended at this time. Votes are taken to determine whether an amendment will be attached to the bill. Amendments can be considered friendly or unfriendly by the sponsor. An unfriendly amendment changes the intent of the sponsor.

Passing a Bill

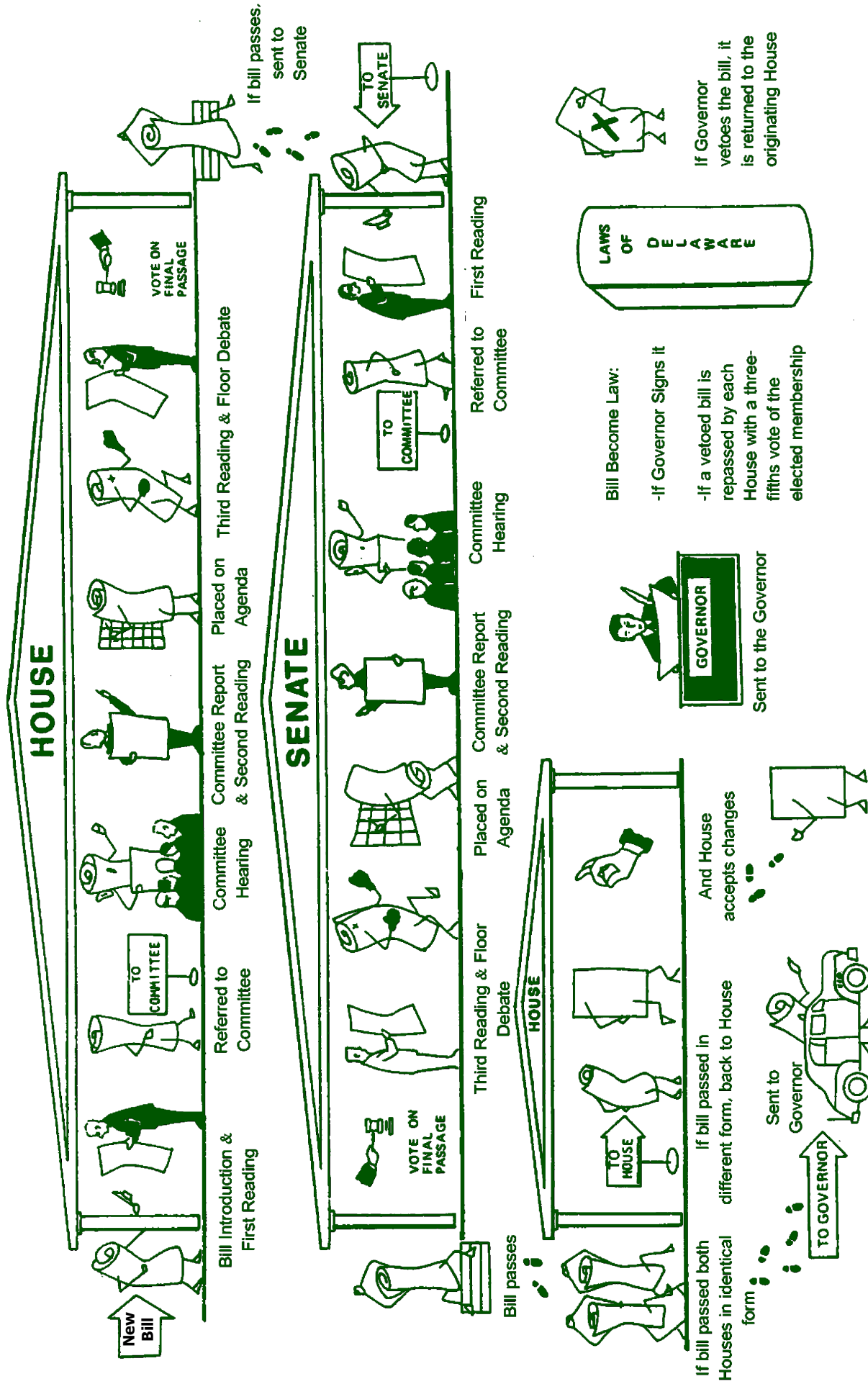
Most bills are passed with a simple majority vote, while other bills, such as certain appropriations bills or bills that amend the Constitution, may require a super majority vote (three-fifths, two-thirds, or three-fourths of all of the members).

Upon passage in the chamber of origin, a bill repeats the same process in the second chamber. If the bill passes both chambers in its original form, it is ready to be presented to the Governor for action. If the bill is amended in the second chamber, it must return to the chamber of origin for approval of the amendments. If the amended bill does not pass, it is defeated. Bills that amend the Constitution are an exception to this process. These bills must be passed in identical form in two consecutive General Assemblies, known as "the first leg" and "the second leg."

When a bill is passed, Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House presents it to the Governor for signature. If the Governor chooses not to sign the legislation, it becomes law within ten days after being presented to the Governor's office, excluding Sundays. If the Governor chooses to veto the bill, a three-fifths vote of each chamber is required to override the veto.

To see a larger Glossary of Terms, view Delaware Laws, or track the status of current legislation visit: www.legis.delaware.gov.

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



This chart outlines the process for enacting a bill by tracing the path of a bill introduced in the House of Representatives. A bill introduced in the Senate would follow the same procedure except the Senate and House action would be reversed.

State of Delaware
Legislative Council
Division of Research

Be The Change

Delaware American Legion Boys & Girls State

Upcoming senior and interested in politics? If this is you, partake in Boys/ Girls State to learn about the government all in one week! Meet guest speakers, draft bills, and make connections that will last a lifetime at Goldey Beacom College.



YMCA Delaware Youth In Government

Gain legislative and judicial experiences, along with press and lobbyist skills. This opportunity is available for 6-12 graders! If interested use this QR code to apply on their website!

Delaware Law Related Education Center

Interested in law? Join the Delaware Law Related Education Center! DELREC grants students exposure to attorneys, provides opportunities to learn more about the legal system, and sparks a deeper interest in legal studies, government, citizenship, and civic engagement.



THE STATE SEAL



The state seal was first adopted on January 17, 1777, and contains the coat of arms. It also bears the inscription around it "Great Seal of the State of Delaware." The following symbols appear on the seal:

The wheat sheaf is adapted from the Sussex County seal and signifies the agricultural vitality of Delaware.

The ship is a symbol of New Castle County's ship building industry and Delaware's extensive coastal commerce.

The corn is taken from the Kent County seal and also symbolizes the agricultural basis of Delaware's economy.

The farmer with the hoe represents the central role of farming to the state.

The militiaman with a musket recognizes the crucial role of the citizen-soldier to the maintenance of American liberties.

The ox represents the importance of animal cultivation to the state economy.

The water (above the ox) stands for the Delaware River, the mainstay of the state's commerce and transportation.

The motto "Liberty and Independence," was approved in 1847.

The dates: 1704, the year that Delaware established its General Assembly; 1776, the year that our independence from Great Britain was declared; and 1787, the year that Delaware became "the First State" by being the first state to ratify the United States Constitution.



State Bird: Blue Hen

Adopted as the state bird on April 14, 1939.

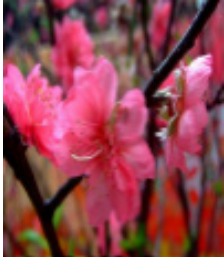
During the Revolutionary War, the Delaware Continentals were known by their fellow fighters as "the Blue Hens' Chicks" in honor of the distinctive bluish fighting hens, which some of the men carried on their travels.

State Tree: American Holly

Adopted as the state tree on May 1, 1939.

The American Holly is regarded as one of Delaware's most important forest trees. In Delaware, the tree can reach a maximum of 60 feet in height.





State Flower: Peach Blossom

Adopted as the state flower of Delaware on May 9, 1895.

Delaware had the reputation as the "Peach State" at the time. Peach trees are native to China and have light pink flowers that bloom every spring, followed by fuzzy fruits that ripen by mid-summer.

Delaware State Flag

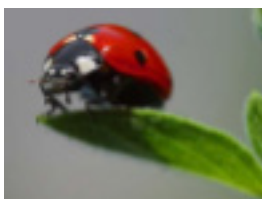


Adopted on July 24, 1913, the state flag has a background of colonial blue surrounding a diamond of buff color in which the coat of arms of the State of Delaware is placed. Below the diamond is the date "December 7, 1787", the day on which Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. constitution making Delaware the first state in the Union, and according it the first position in such national events as presidential inaugurations. According to members of the original commission established to design the flag, the shades of buff and colonial blue, the official state colors, represent those of the uniform of General George Washington as shown on a specific plate from an official U.S. Army publication.

State Marine Animal: Horseshoe Crab

Adopted as the state marine animal on June 25, 2002.

These invertebrates contain a compound, limulus amebocyte lysate (LAL), that is used to detect bacterial poisons in certain medications, vaccines, and medical devices. Chitin, a natural polymer found in the horseshoe crab's shell, is used to make bandages. Delaware Bay is the home to more horseshoe crabs than any other place in the world.



State Bug: Lady Bug

Adopted as the state bug on April 25, 1974.

Some ladybugs have no spots and others have up to 20 spots. Ladybugs are very helpful to a garden as they eat aphids and mites - bugs that are harmful to plants.

State Butterfly: Tiger Swallowtail

Adopted as the state butterfly on June 10, 1999.

The tiger swallowtail, a large, yellow, black-striped butterfly, is indigenous to Delaware and can be seen in deciduous woods, along streams, rivers, and wooded swamps, and in towns and cities throughout Delaware.



Delaware's Legislative Branch

A T E B I L L S E S S I O N
 R E G O V E R N O R R O T E E
 C T K R E L C F E I H C O T R
 E A N O N P A R T I S A N A O
 A N V L E G I S L A T O R B P
 L E E E T T I M M O C M R E M
 I S U S P E A K E R R C O D E
 A A M E N D M E N T R A E N T
 F N S T N E U T I T S N O C O
 S E V I T A T N E S E R P E R
 F C A U C U S E S T F A R D P
 N N O I T A L S I G E L W A L
 S E N A T E S E C R E T A R Y
 T G N I Y B B O L T B S D G O
 P A S S O E R A W A L E D O R

senate secretary

chief clerk

constituent

bill

delaware

debate

representatives

lobbying

caucus

governor

committee

pass

legislator

nonpartisan

code

senate

speaker

fail

legislation

pro tempore

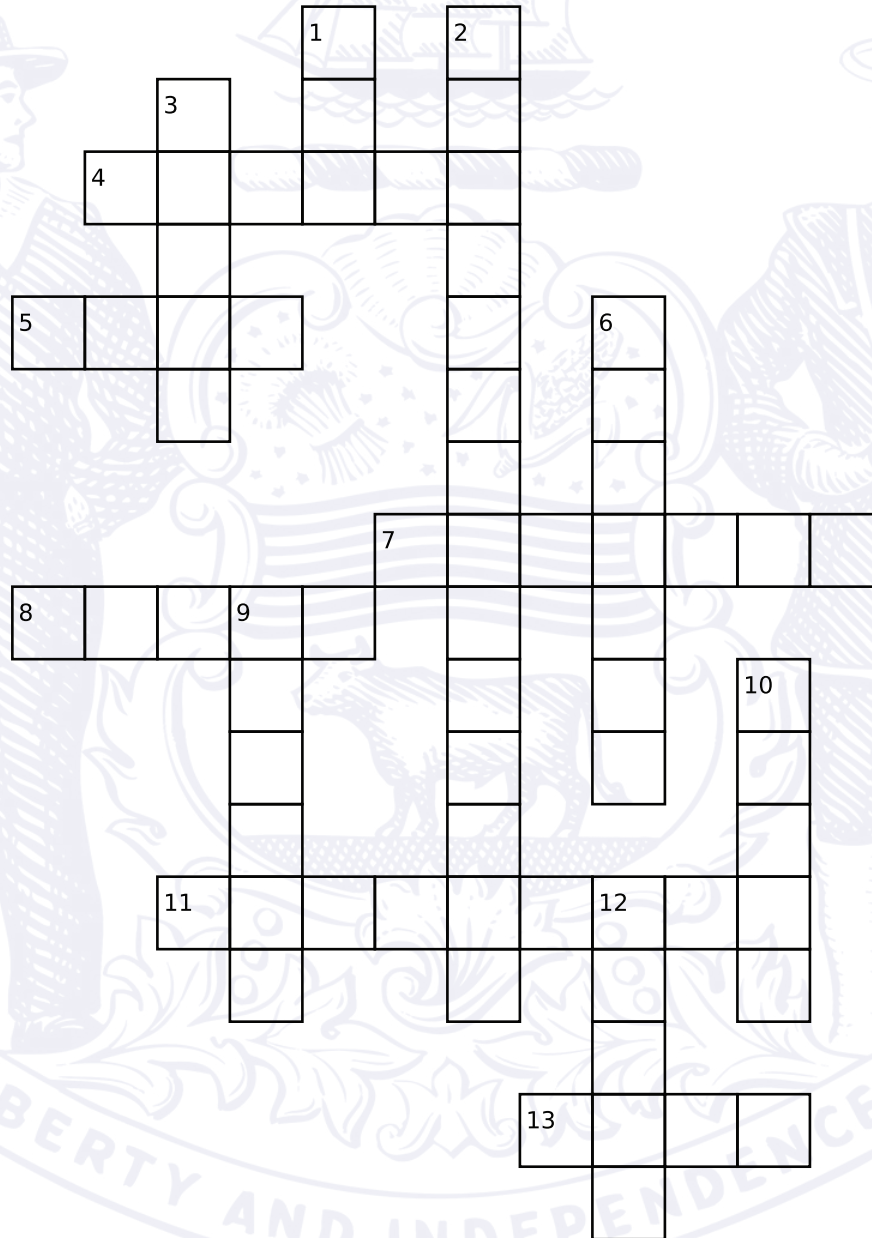
amendment

session

draft

law

Do you know Delaware?



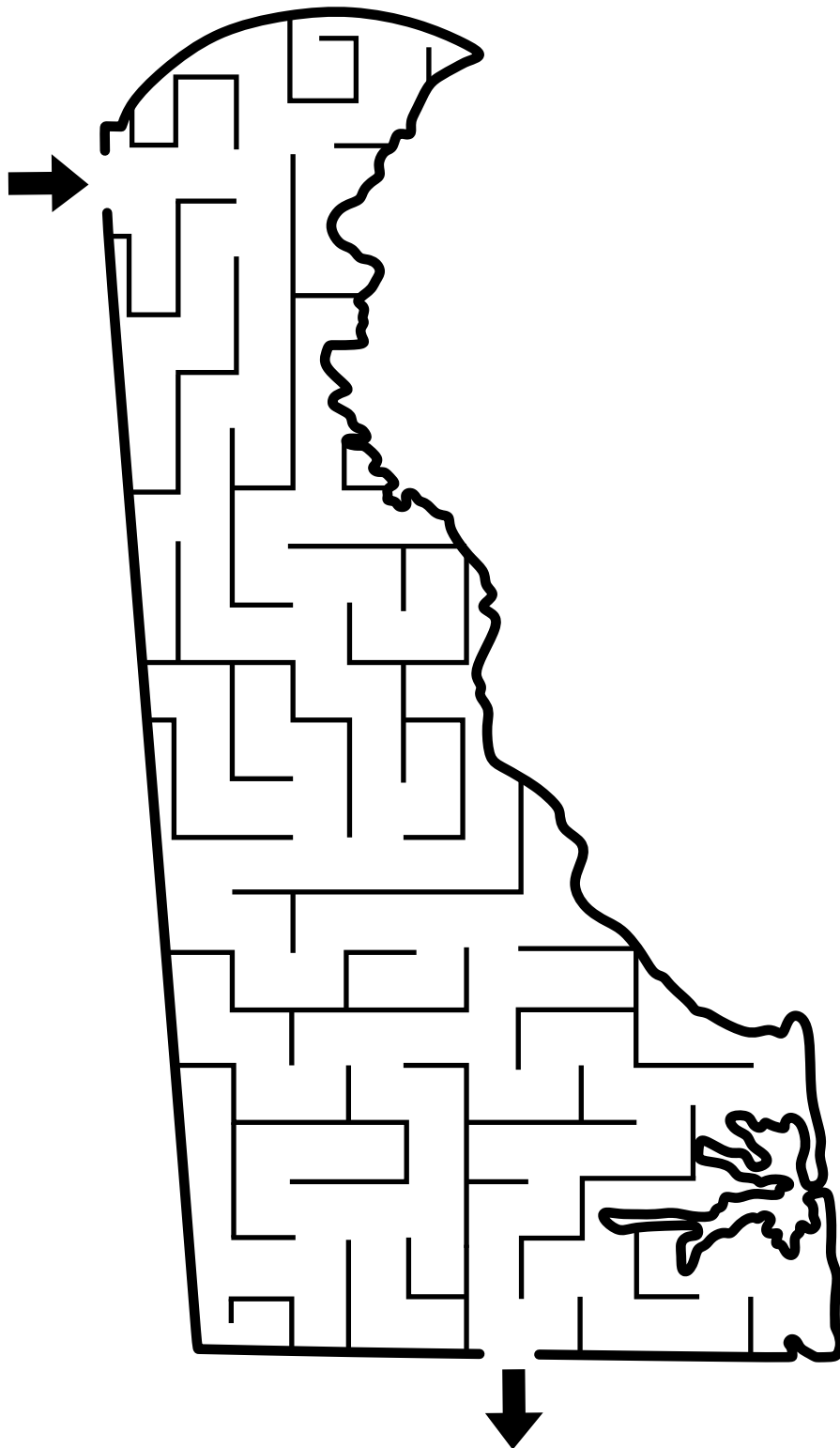
Down:

1. The state bird is the blue ____.
2. The state dinosaur is the ____.
3. The state tree is the American ____.
6. The state wildlife animal is the ____.
9. Tourists flock to the beaches in ____ County.
10. The Capital of Delaware is ____.
12. Delaware has ____ counties.

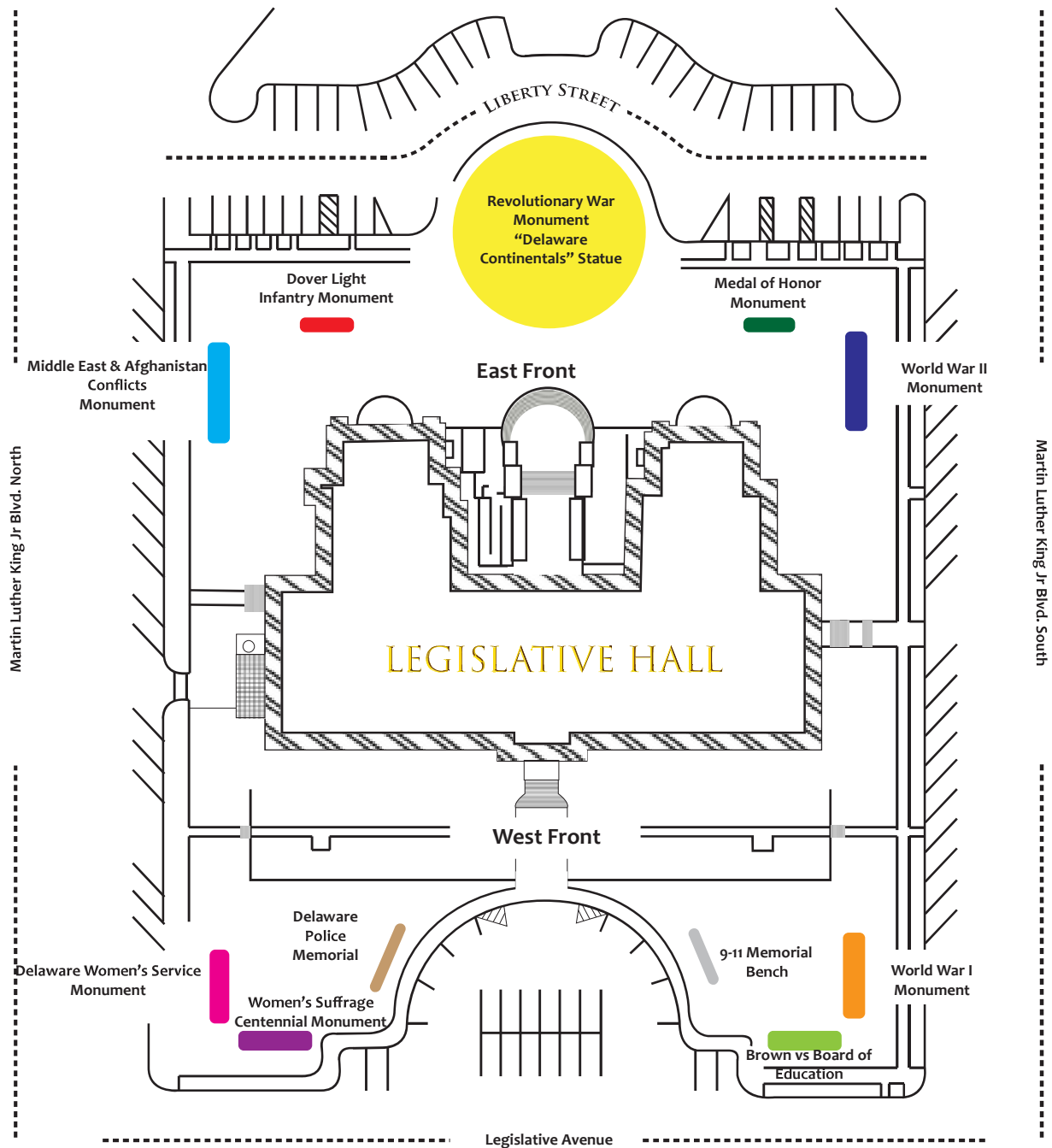
Across:

4. Caesar _____ signed the Declaration of Independence
5. The state beverage is ____.
7. The Delaware state bug is the ____.
8. Delaware was the ____ state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
11. The most northern county is ____.
13. The Capital is in ____ County

Delaware Maze



MAP OF MEMORIALS & MONUMENTS AROUND LEGISLATIVE HALL



- Delaware Police Memorial
- Women's Suffrage Centennial Monument
- Delaware Women's Service Monument
- Gulf Wars & Afghanistan Monument
- Dover Light Infantry Monument
- Revolutionary War Monument "Delaware Continentals" Statue
- Medal of Honor Monument
- World War II Monument
- World War I Monument
- 9-11 Memorial Bench
- Brown vs Board of Education



Delaware Police Memorial

Law enforcement officers often put themselves at risk for the protection and safety of the general public and to maintain public order. This memorial is dedicated to law enforcement officers who have sacrificed their lives while protecting the citizens of Delaware.

Delaware Women Veterans Monument

This monument honors the Delaware women who have served our state and nation in the military or related service, the women who have sacrificed their lives in the process, and those who continue to serve.

Gulf Wars & Afghanistan Monument

The United States of America engaged in military conflicts in the Middle East, from Operation Desert Storm in 1991 to Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001-2014 and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003-2011. This memorial is dedicated to those Delawareans who have fought and sacrificed their lives to keep America free of the conflicts in the Middle East.

Brown vs Board of Education Monument

This monument commemorates Delaware's pivotal role in the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down public school segregation across America.

Dover Light Infantry Memorial

This memorial is dedicated to the Light Infantry of Dover, a part of the 1st Battalion of Kent County, led by Captain Thomas Rodney. The company played key military roles in the victories against British and Hessian forces at the Second Battle of Trenton and the Battle of Princeton.

The Delaware Continentals

This monument is dedicated to the brave Delawareans who fought in the Delaware regiments of the Continental Army.

Medal of Honor Monument

This monument is dedicated to the 18 courageous natives and residents of Delaware who, while serving in the armed forces, distinguished themselves for conspicuous gallantry and selfless bravery and were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

World War II Monument

During the Second World War, over 800 Delawareans made the ultimate sacrifice. Delawareans were involved in virtually every aspect of the war from Pearl Harbor to the signing of the Japanese Peace Treaty. At home, women and children participated in scrap drives and war bond rallies. The men and women of the "Greatest Generation" led our state through its years of prosperity and social change. This memorial is dedicated to those individuals.

World War I Monument

On the front of the memorial is a depiction of a painting by Frank E. Schoonover that depicts the moment after the Armistice on November 11, 1918, when the First Infantry Division crossed the Moselle River to enter Germany. This monument honors the memory of all those who sacrificed their lives in the "War to End all Wars."

9/11 Bench Memorial

This bench is dedicated to the memory of the Delawareans and all the men and women who died in the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, United Airlines flights 175 & 93, American Airlines flight 77, on September 11, 2001, and all of the first responders who sacrificed their lives to save those in danger.

Women's Suffrage Centennial Monument

This monument commemorates the Delawareans who fought to ratify the 19th Amendment and celebrates the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.





Guided Tours of Legislative Hall

Free guided tours are offered year-round and are approximately 30-45 minutes in length.

Guides from First State Heritage Park are available at varying times to provide tours for individuals or groups of less than 10 without reservation; groups with more than 10 people will need to schedule a tour. Please have the following information ready when scheduling:

- Number of people in the group, children and adults.
 - Preferred date of the tour.
 - Preferred time of the tour.

For more information or to book a tour of Legislative Hall, call First State Heritage Park at (302) 739-9194.

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DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES