

# Delaware Population Consortium



## **Delaware Population Consortium Meeting**

**Where: Virtually via Microsoft Teams or Haslet Armory Room 133**

**To join by phone call 1(302) 504-8986**

**Phone Conference ID: 486 466 318# or**

**join the meeting using the link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)**

**Meeting ID: 242 404 181 075**

**Passcode: FeXRpX**

**When: Thursday, October 26, 2023**

**10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

## **Agenda**

- 1. Greetings**
- 2. Review and approval of meeting minutes (September 28, 2023)**
- 3. Vote on Final Projections**
- 4. Other Business**
- 5. Elections for Secretary and Vice Chair**

**Delaware Population Consortium Meeting**  
**Hybrid Format Meeting In-Person and via Teams**  
**September 28, 2023**

The meeting was held on Thursday September 28, 2023; in Haslet Armory Room 307 and virtually using Teams.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Matt Rogers at 10:02 AM.

The following persons were present:

**Officers:**

Matthew Rogers, Chair, New Castle County Government  
Colton Phillips, Vice-Chair, DelDOT  
Owen Robatino, Secretary, New Castle County Government

**Voting Members:**

Samantha Bulkilvish, OMB  
Wendy Hudson, DSHS  
Rachel Alfano, DSHA  
Arthur Jenkins, DOL  
Anson Gock, DelDOT  
Jamie Fenske, Kent County Government  
Jennifer Norwood, Sussex County Government  
Jessica Ramos-Velazquez, City of Newark  
Dawn Melson-Williams, City of Dover  
Bill West, Town of Georgetown  
Daniel Blevins, WILMAPCO  
James Galvin, Dover-Kent MPO

**Others in Attendance:**

Rachel Turney, DOL  
Malcolm Jacob, Dover/Kent MPO  
Ed Ratledge, UD CADSR

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from 7/27/2023:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sam Bulkilvish, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Galvin. Approved.

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from 8/24/2023:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jim, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam.  
Approved.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Review Draft Population Projections**

Ed presented the Draft 2023 DPC Projections, and said the major changes are based on Census Bureau projections for 2021 and 2022. They show Net Migration around 40,000 for the State, mostly in Sussex County. A graph of Net Migration by Year shows in Sussex County around 2021-2022 a large rise and drop, followed by a long-term slow rise. Ed emphasized that Migration affects other aspects of population including births, deaths, and racial structure. A graph of Natural Increase by Year shows a long-term future decline in every county.

Ed continued to see problems with Census data, including a reported overcount of around 50,000 persons in Delaware and tension between groups within the Census. But we may have to live with the current Net Migration numbers, unless data changes in 2023 and 2024. A table of Projections by Age Structure shows for New Castle County a big future increase in the older population and a future decline in younger age groups. In the other counties, the table shows future growth more evenly distributed among age groups. A table of Projections by Race/Ethnicity Structure shows the biggest growth in the Hispanic population, and the white population is going negative in New Castle County and Statewide.

The tables of Municipal population show Middletown leading growth in New Castle County. Growth in Kent County is focused around Dover and Smyrna. Much growth is shown in Sussex, especially the western part of the county. Colton questioned the projected growth in Millsboro, due to potential infrastructure issues. Jim asked why the population of Kent County is static. Ed responded that New Castle County has had big companies build their economy and Sussex has attracted retirees, while Kent depends on government. Ed mentioned factors that could affect population numbers including pandemic, real estate issues, and medical advances. Anson asked about second homes in Sussex County, and Ed discussed retirements in that area. Dawn asked why the population of Dover dipped around 2020-2024, and Ed responded that occupancy of group quarters including colleges may have affected the numbers.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Sam announced a State Planning meeting later that day with a Census representative to discuss Demographic and Housing Characteristics file A, and invited others to attend.

**FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Matt announced that voting on the final demographic projections would occur at the next meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup>, as well as election of the Chair and Secretary for next year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew Rogers  
Chair  
Delaware Population Consortium

DRAFT