



---

## Delaware Population Consortium Meeting

---

**Where: Room 307 Haslet Armory, 122 Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Dover DE 19901**

**When: January 16<sup>th</sup> 2025; 2pm-3pm**

Remote Option:

Teams: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 267 647 389 34

Passcode: UW7Sj6TS

Phone: +1 302-504-8986, code 455161816#

### Agenda:

1. Call-To-Order
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes from 12/5/2024
3. New Business
  - Action Item: Annual Projections Report
4. Other Business
5. Open Comment
6. Future 2025 Meeting Dates and Adjournment

*Next Meeting: TBD*



**Delaware Population Consortium Meeting**  
**Hybrid Format Meeting In-Person and via Teams**  
**December 5, 2024**

The meeting was held on Thursday December 5, 2024; in Haslet Armory Room 219 and virtually using Teams.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Colton Phillips at 10:02 AM.

The following persons were present:

**Officers:**

Colton Phillips, Chair, DelDOT  
Dan Blevins, Vice-Chair, WILMAPCO  
Owen Robatino, Secretary, New Castle County Government

**Voting Members:**

Samantha Bulkilvish, OSPC  
Arthur Jenkins, DOL  
Wendy Hudson, DSHS  
Matthew Rogers, New Castle County Government  
Jamie Fenske, Kent County Government  
Jamie Whitehouse, Sussex County Government  
Renee Bensley, City of Newark  
Dawn Melson-Williams, City of Dover  
Kristen Krenzer, Town of Middletown  
Eric Thompson, Delaware League of Local Governments

**Others in Attendance:**

David Edgell, OSPC  
Rose Zappacosta, OSPC  
Anson Gock, DelDOT  
Elliott Larkin, City of Wilmington  
Abdulrasheed Dawodu, City of Wilmington  
Michael Petit de Mange, Dover-Kent MPO  
Stacie Cochran-McNeal, US Census Bureau  
Ed Ratledge, UD CADSR  
Nick Stonesifer, Spotlight Delaware

## MEETING MINUTES

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from 10/24/2024:** 1<sup>st</sup> Matt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jamie Fenske.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Annual Report – Review and Vote**

Colton said the draft Annual Report has been released for review. He asked Dan whether he had heard back from Ed, and Dan replied he had not. Colton asked for questions from those present at the meeting, but no one had any. Dan said because it's an action item, the meeting should approve them and can then discuss them. Matt made a motion to approve them, and Eric seconded the motion.

Dawn questioned the data for Dover, why the total population numbers on the detailed population sheet do not match those on the city and town listing, should these numbers match, and which numbers should be used. Dan said he had noticed this problem for other towns and had asked Ed, who said numbers for the bigger towns are calculated from different spreadsheets so differences in the numbers may result. Colton said the population number differences may be due to differences in geography, and the report may need a clear definition of the geography, data sources, and what is being measured in each metric. Renee expressed concern about differences in the numbers for Newark, and population continuing to trend down approaching 2030. She requested an explanation of the methodology involved and which numbers to use.

Elliott asked why there are significant differences for the City of Wilmington between DPC data and Census data, differences that continue into the future projections. He also asked how data are being collected for the City. Colton asked for Ed to respond, but he apparently was having a microphone problem and could not be heard. Elliott also asked whether the data collection methodology is documented, to help the City check data. Colton said the draft report has a methodology section, about which Ed and OSPC should have more information. Elliot said the methodology may be good for the State and the counties but not for the City, and wants the methodology analyzed before moving forward.

Matt suggested delaying response to specific data questions until Ed is available, in order to efficiently handle them. Michael pointed out minor data discrepancies between sections and tables in the report. Matt also suggested moving on to election of officers, in order to not lose a quorum. Colton thought that a good idea, so Matt made a motion to table the vote on the Annual Report and Renee seconded the motion. No one opposed the motion, so it was approved.

## **Officer Elections – Nominations and Vote**

Colton announced that Dan would be moving up from Vice-Chair to chair per the bylaws, and positions would become open for Vice-Chair and Secretary. Colton then requested nominations or volunteers for Vice-Chair. As an encouragement, Samantha pointed out the Vice-Chair position is not arduous, and one holds it for a year before becoming Chair per the bylaws. Colton added that the bylaws allow appointing someone, if necessary.

To move forward, Dan nominated Michael as Vice-Chair. After some discussion, Matt seconded the nomination. Colton asked if anyone else was interested, and hearing no interest or opposition approved of Michael becoming Vice-Chair and he accepted.

Colton then announced the position of Secretary was open and let Owen talk about the position. Owen said he has attended the meetings and written minutes of them, based on the recordings and attendance list. He said the bylaws also list other duties, but he has not been so involved in them. Matt nominated Owen to continue in the position, and Colton seconded the nomination while noting that Owen should want it again. Owen indicated he would continue in the position, while emphasizing the need for teamwork with others including OSPC in order to carry out its duties. Samantha indicated OSPC would be there for such teamwork. Hearing no opposition, Colton approved of Owen continuing as Secretary and he accepted.

## **OPEN COMMENT PERIOD**

Stacie mentioned a 2023 five-year pre-ACS pre-release webinar to be held today with information at <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2024/acs-5-year.html>, and the ACS estimates will be released shortly. Art mentioned a recent conference to inform businesses about current DOL initiatives. Samantha said the State Data Affiliates Network will hold meetings in the coming year, including preparations for Census 2030.

## **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Samantha suggested that Colton speak about the first meeting next year. Colton said the first meeting of the year is held around March or April, following release, analysis, and publication of data. The first few meetings of the year tend to be less involved, and later meetings around June and July become more focused and involved. Colton prefers one or two in-person meetings to better understand data, along with some remote meetings.

Dan said he spoke with Ed during the meeting, and Ed heard the concerns of others but was unable to reply due to technical problems. Dan said a few weeks would be needed to edit the draft report to address the concerns, and suggested the next meeting occur around

the week of January 13. Colton said a defined methodology sheet is desirable, and Dan warned that time would be needed to discuss methodology during the meeting.

Elliott asked if Ed heard the concerns expressed during this meeting about Wilmington, and Dan confirmed that Ed did hear them. Eric asked why questions about the data were being asked now, rather than earlier in the year. Dan suggested that people raise such concerns earlier in the year, to have them addressed in a timely manner. Colton said time pressure may cause an annual report to be drafted before data concerns are fully addressed. Eric expressed concern about the towns having problems with data. Renee said concerns are now being expressed because the original chart showed all the towns, and the report is now showing the individual town breakdowns. Dawn agreed this is the first time they've seen data for their individual towns, and need an explanation why the numbers are different and which numbers to use. Dan said he needs to get back to Ed about the concerns, and will send out a Doodle Poll to schedule the next meeting in January. Colton pointed out the value of reviewing draft reports and expressing concerns before meetings, to help get them addressed in a timely manner. He also confirmed the vote on the Annual Report has been tabled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

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

Dan Blevins  
Chair  
Delaware Population Consortium