Preface

The League of Women Voters of Delaware, established in 1957, is open to all men and women of voting age. A basic tenet of the League is that a democracy is competent and functional only through active participation of a well-informed public. The League, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to furthering such participation in government, has compiled and updated this information as a factual presentation of the structure and operation of Delaware’s government. We hope readers will find it useful.

The League is indebted to the state, county and local officials and their assistants who furnished information and comments for this updated edition of Delaware Government. League members responsible for revising major sections, proofreading, and design are:

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DELAWARE FACTS

Delaware has an area of 1,982 square miles and ranks 49th in size among the 50 states. It measures 96 miles long but is only 9 to 35 miles wide. The northern section lies on the Piedmont Plateau where the elevation rises from sea level at Wilmington to 447.85 feet above sea level near Ebright Road in northern New Castle County. The state’s southern section comprises a flat coastal plain. Climate is moderate with an average rainfall of 44.4 inches per year. In 2006 the population was estimated to be 853,476 with most of it centered in the Wilmington metropolitan area.

New Castle County

Population: 532,034
(2007)

Area: 437 square miles

County seat: Wilmington

Kent County

Population: 147,601

Area: 595 square miles
Capital Area Map – Dover, DE
Delaware’s Symbols

http://portal.delaware.gov/delfacts
Nicknames First State
Diamond State
Blue Hen State
Small wonder
Motto Liberty and Independence
State bird Blue Hen chicken
State flower peach blossom
State tree American holly
State bug ladybug
State fish weakfish
State marine animal horseshoe crab
State fossil belemnite
State mineral sillimanite
State soil Greenwich loam
State herb sweet goldenrod
State butterfly tiger swallowtail
State macro invertebrate stonefly
State beverage milk
State star Delaware diamond

![Ladybug Image]