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**BRANDYWINE HUNDRED STATE LAWMAKER
RELEASES DISTRICT SURVEY RESULTS ON
IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

State Representative Gregory F. Lavelle (R-Sharples) has announced the results from his Spring 2007 District Survey where 11th District residents shared their opinions on topics including proposed tax increases, the impending Yard Waste Ban and the expansion of gaming in Delaware.

In response to a proposed property tax increase that would go toward funding capital infrastructure needs at Delaware Technical and Community College, almost 80% said they are opposed to the proposal.

Almost three-quarters of the respondents were against raising the gas tax to address a \$1.5 billion budget shortfall in the Delaware Department of Transportation, yet those who participated were overwhelmingly in favor of increasing the vehicle registration fee. The responses to the Governor's proposed tax and fee increases are as follows:

- 73% oppose increasing the gas tax from 23¢ to 28¢ a gallon
- 59% oppose raising the vehicle documentation fee
- 76% approve increasing the vehicle registration fee from \$20 to \$30
- 55% are in favor of eliminating the E-ZPass discounts on I-95 and Route 1
- 53% approve increasing all Delaware Route 1 tolls
- 89% are in favor of continuing to refine DelDOT's budgeting and planning process and return operating expenses from the Transportation Trust Fund to the General Fund.

Nearly 60% said they are against New Castle County's plan to raise revenue by, in addition to raising property taxes, establishing a hotel tax and increasing cell phone fees to fund 9-1-1 services in general.

In response to the Yard Waste Ban, nearly three-quarters of the respondents are in favor of repealing the ban. (The ban has been delayed until January 15, 2008.) When asked if they would support suspending the Yard Waste Ban to develop a comprehensive, less confusing curbside recycling program that has minimal costs to homeowners, participants overwhelmingly said they would be in favor of such a proposal.

In the event that revenue projections were to exceed the proposed budget in the future, more than 70% of the participants said they would support saving the funds for future revenue losses.

Those who responded were split almost evenly on whether they would support the expansion of slot machines to the Wilmington Riverfront as a way to better compete with Pennsylvania, where slot machine gambling is now permitted.

Nearly three-quarters of the participants are in favor of eliminating some minimum mandatory sentences for nonviolent drug convictions and allowing judges flexibility in those sentencings.

Concerning a Constitutional Amendment that would allow registered voters to initiate a recall, for any purpose, of any elected official in the State of Delaware, more than half said they are in favor of such a proposal.

More than 70% said they would be in favor of establishing an Office of State Ombudsman to resolve state employee-related complaints and grievances early in the process. The goal of the Ombudsman would be to avoid unnecessary confrontation, extended hearing procedures or litigation.

A complete copy of the survey results is available on Rep. Lavelle's website at www.greglavelle.com.

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Out of more than 500 responses:

1. Would you support a property tax increase that would go toward funding capital infrastructure needs at Delaware Technical and Community College?

YES 21%
NO 79%

2. Would you support a Constitutional Amendment that would allow registered voters to initiate a recall, for any purpose, of any elected official in the State of Delaware?

YES 54%
NO 46%

3. Do you support repealing the Yard Waste Ban?

YES 74%
NO 26%

4. Do you support suspending the Yard Waste Ban and trying to develop a comprehensive curbside recycling program that has minimal costs to homeowners and is less confusing?

YES 82%
NO 18%

5. In order to better compete with Pennsylvania, where slot machine gambling is now permitted, would you support the expansion of slot machines to the Wilmington Riverfront?

YES 49%
NO 51%

6. Would you be in favor of establishing an Office of State Ombudsman? The Ombudsman would work to resolve state employee-related complaints and grievances early in the process with the idea of potentially avoiding unnecessary confrontation, extended hearing procedures or litigation.

YES 72%
NO 28%

7. Do you support New Castle County's plan to raise revenue by, in addition to raising property taxes, establishing a hotel tax and increasing cell phone fees to fund 9-1-1 services in general?

YES 42%
NO 58%

8. The Delaware Department of Transportation is facing a \$1.5 billion budget deficit over the next few years. Which of the following options do you believe the state should consider in dealing with this shortfall? (Please select as many as you like.)

- Increase the gas tax from 23¢ to 28¢ a gallon (estimate: raise \$25 million)

YES 27%
NO 73%

- Raise the vehicle documentation fee from 2.75% of vehicle cost to 4.5% of vehicle cost by 2008 (estimate: raise \$43 million)

YES 41.5%
NO 58.5%

- Increase the vehicle registration fee from \$20 to \$30 (estimate: raise \$6.7 million)

YES 76%
NO 24%

- Eliminate the E-ZPass discounts on I-95 and Route 1 (estimate: raise \$10 million)

YES 55%
NO 45%

- Increase all Delaware Route 1 tolls (estimate: raise \$27 million)

YES 53%
NO 47%

- Continue to refine DelDOT's budgeting and planning process and return operating expenses from the Transportation Trust Fund to the General Fund

YES 89%
NO 11%

9. If revenue projections in Delaware exceed the proposed budget for next year, would you support any of the following proposals? (Please select as many as you like.)

- Spend the funds on capital infrastructure improvements?

YES 64%
NO 36%

- Save the funds for possible future revenue losses?

YES 72.5%
NO 27.5%

- Return the funds to the taxpayers in the form of tax cuts?

YES 47%

NO 53%

10. Do you support eliminating some minimum mandatory sentences for nonviolent drug convictions and allowing judges flexibility in sentencing?

YES 73%

NO 27%