

District Intelligence Brief

Standardized Political Intelligence for the Modern Campaign

Delaware House District 42

2024 RESULT

R+9.6

DISTRICT LEAN

R+2.0

Incumbent running 7.6 margin pts ahead of district baseline

Report Details

Report Date: July 2026

State: Delaware

Chamber: State House

District: 42

Data Vintage: 2016-2024 Election Returns | ACS 2019-2023 | Census 2020

Methodology: Block-weighted areal interpolation via TIGER 2020

About This Brief

What This Brief Provides

The Mispillion Group District Intelligence Brief is a standardized political intelligence product built from certified election returns, U.S. Census demographic data, and American Community Survey economic estimates. Every brief uses identical methodology regardless of the district, state, or purchasing campaign's party affiliation.

Political Performance Analysis

The brief's core analytical engine produces three indices: the State Legislative Voting Index (SLVI), which measures the district's actual legislative vote history; the Statewide State Constitutional Office Voting Index (SCOV), which captures the district's underlying partisan lean through statewide races; and the Incumbency Insulation Index (III), which measures how far the current incumbent runs ahead of or behind that baseline.

Demographic and Economic Intelligence

Every precinct in the district is profiled by racial and ethnic composition, voting age population, and age structure using 2020 Census block-level data crosswalked to current election district boundaries. District-level economic data from the ACS 5-year estimates provides income, poverty, education, and housing context.

GOTV Targeting

The brief concludes with a ranked GOTV (Get Out the Vote) target list scoring every precinct on population size, historical vote volume, and partisan lean. This composite score identifies where field resources will produce the greatest return.

Disclaimer

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Index Terms

SLVI - State Legislative Voting Index

The Democratic two-party vote share in State House contests only, averaged across all contested cycles within the district. Uncontested cycles are excluded; no imputation is applied.

SCOV - State Constitutional Office Voting Index

The Democratic two-party share across six statewide offices: Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Insurance Commissioner in presidential cycles; Attorney General, Auditor of Accounts and State Treasurer in midterm cycles. Federal offices are excluded. SCOV is the partisan lean of the district's electorate independent of who is on the legislative ballot - the baseline a legislative result is measured against.

III - Incumbency Insulation Index

SLVI minus SCOV for the most recent contested cycle. III is signed toward the Democrats: positive means the legislative result ran more Democratic than the statewide baseline, negative means less. Whether that reflects insulation or exposure depends on which party holds the seat - a Republican incumbent is insulated by a negative III, a Democrat by a positive one. The magnitude is the size of the personal vote either way. HD 42 reads -3.8 - the R incumbent runs 3.8 points ahead of the district's statewide baseline.

III Trajectory

The change in the insulation gap across cycles - the SLVI swing minus the SCOV drift, signed toward the Democrats. It is NOT the raw SLVI swing the Five-Cycle Trend chart plots; a district whose legislative vote moved 5.0 points Democratic while its statewide baseline moved 1.5 has a trajectory of 3.5, because only the difference represents movement in the incumbent's personal standing. Read against the seat's holder: a Republican incumbent's insulation erodes on a positive trajectory, a Democrat's grows.

Two-Party Share

Democratic votes divided by the sum of Democratic and Republican votes. Third-party and write-in votes are excluded.

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Delaware House District 42 – John Doe (R, Incumbent)

Report Date: July 2026

SLVI 2024

45.2%

Legislative Democratic share

SCOVl 2024

49.0%

Statewide Democratic share

INSULATION GAP

-3.8

SLVI – SCOVl

TRAJECTORY

+3.6

5-cycle swing

CYCLES

5

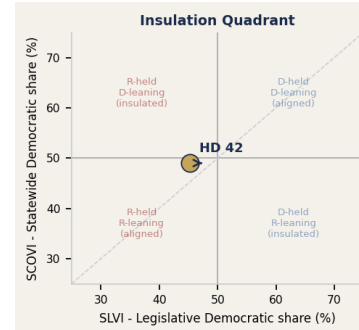
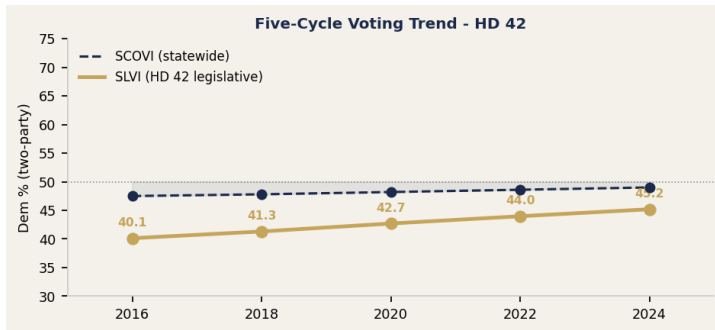
contested

Classification: ALIGNED R-HELD (R-leaning), ERODING

Analyst Summary

HD 42 is a Republican-leaning seat (SCOVl baseline 51.0% R) held by Republican John Doe. The insulation gap of -3.8 points indicates Doe runs 3.8 points ahead of the district's structural baseline. The III trajectory of +3.6 indicates the incumbent's margin is eroding faster than the district's statewide baseline - the gap is closing from above, gradually narrowing Doe's effective advantage. The seat is not currently at risk, but the legislative margin is reverting toward the district's structural baseline.

Five-Cycle Voting Trend | Insulation Quadrant | District Location



Voter Registration – HD 42

DEMOCRATIC

10,164

43.1%

REPUBLICAN

5,743

24.3%

OTHER / NP

7,688

32.6%

TOTAL

23,595

registered

Source: Delaware Department of Elections, July 2026. Other / NP includes unaffiliated, No Party-AVR, and minor party registrants.

Legislative D share (45.2%) tracks registration D share (43.1%) closely (D 43.1% / R 24.3% / Other 32.6%) - unaffiliated voters break in line with the district baseline.

Data Sources

VEST 2016/2018/2020

Voting and Election Science Team, Harvard Dataverse. Precinct-level returns with geometry. doi:10.7910/DVN/NH5S2I (2020 edition). Used as master precinct polygon layer for 2016-2020 reallocation.

MEDSL 2016-2024

MIT Election Data and Science Lab, State Precinct-Level Returns. GitHub: MEDSL/2024-elections-official and associated state-level CSV files. Used for 2022/2024 cycles and SLVI cross-validation.

SLERs

State Legislative Election Returns 1967-2022, Klarner Politics, Harvard Dataverse doi:10.7910/DVN/FJOGJB. Independent published record of as-reported legislative margins. Used to validate the 2022 on-boundary reallocation: pipeline output must reproduce as-reported margins to machine precision before any index is written.

Census 2020 Blocks / TIGER

U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line 2020. 20,198 Delaware blocks with GEOID join to Component A block-district assignment. All areal interpolation performed in EPSG:26957 (Delaware State Plane).

Delaware FirstMap

Delaware FirstMap ArcGIS FeatureServer. Election District polygons (531 EDs, 2023 vintage). Used as precinct routing layer for 2022/2024 MEDSL reallocation where VEST geometry is unavailable.

Method Terms

Areal Interpolation

How precinct vote data is moved onto current district boundaries: precinct polygons are intersected against Census 2020 blocks and votes distributed by block-level population weight. Population-weighted, not area-weighted.

Incumbency Premium

The margin by which an incumbent outperforms their district's generic partisan baseline - name recognition, constituent service and personal relationships rather than party identification. Measured as the magnitude of III; the sign is read against the party holding the seat.

Data Quality – Two-Party Coverage by Cycle

Whether you can trust the older numbers in this brief, cycle by cycle.

This page shows how much you can trust each cycle's numbers. The State Legislative Voting Index (SLVI) measures the Democratic share of the two-party vote in State House races. Its trajectory is the change from 2016 to 2024. Both are only reliable when a district's precincts had a real two-party race - a Democrat and a Republican on the ballot. District lines changed in the 2022 redistricting. To compare older elections fairly, we move each earlier vote onto today's district lines. On the 2016, 2018, and 2020 ballots, some of those precincts came from old races that had only one party running. The table shows how many of this district's precincts had a real two-party race each cycle. When fewer than 80% did, we do not report the 2016-2024 trajectory - the older numbers are too thin to trust. The 2022 and 2024 cycles already sit on today's lines and always have both parties, so they are always full.

Cycle	Two-Party Precincts	Total Precincts	Coverage	Status
2016	8	8	100%	Full
2018	12	12	100%	Full
2020	12	12	100%	Full
2022	today's lines	-	100%	Full
2024	today's lines	-	100%	Full

2016–2024 legislative trajectory: **COMPUTED** (2016 coverage 100%, at or above the 80% threshold).

Coverage = share of reallocated precincts with a two-party House contest. Status Full = 100%; Partial = below 100%.

Total precincts is the number of source-era precincts reallocated onto this district's current lines for that cycle. It reflects the precinct divisions in place at the time of that election, so it can change between cycles and may exceed the number of precincts shown in the Precinct Target Table, which uses today's Election Districts. Coverage is the share of those reallocated precincts with a two-party House race. The 2022 and 2024 races already sit on today's lines and are measured for the district as a whole (one Democrat, one Republican), so no precinct count is shown.

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Precinct Target Table – HD 42

Your precinct playbook: what each party should do where, ranked by effort.

Voter Registration Trajectory

DOE monthly rolls 2023-01 to 2026-07

D +119 net registrants/yr

D advantage 4,421 | D 10,164 R 5,743 Unaffiliated/Other 7,688

Registration and voting trends move together - the roll is confirming the district's electoral direction.

D% = Democratic two-party share across five election cycles (2016-2024). 5-Yr Trend = earliest contested cycle to 2024 change in D%. Dem Role / Rep Role = recommended campaign function from each party's perspective.

Blank cells indicate one of three conditions: (1) the race was uncontested in that cycle - no valid two-party contest occurred; (2) precinct boundaries changed between cycles due to redistricting or administrative realignment - precincts can shift, split, or merge in any election year, not only in formal redistricting years; or (3) source data gaps in the underlying election returns dataset.

Color key - D%: Blue = 60%+ Democratic (strong D), Red = 40% or below (strong R), Black = competitive (41-59%). 5-Yr Trend column: Red = moving R, Blue = moving D.

Data disclaimer: 2016-2020 precinct results are reallocated from VEST precinct geometry to current Election District boundaries via population-weighted spatial crosswalk. Minor vote count discrepancies may result from boundary interpolation. 2022-2024 results use certified MEDSL returns routed through current FirstMap ED geometry.

Precinct	'16	'18	'20	'22	'24	5-Yr Trend	Dem Role	Rep Role
42-01	31%	32%	33%	34%	34%	+3.2	High-Effort	Mobilize
42-02	47%	48%	50%	51%	53%	+6.4	Persuade	Persuade
42-03	36%	36%	38%	39%	40%	+4.1	High-Effort	Mobilize
42-04	39%	40%	42%	43%	44%	+5.5	Persuade / High-Effort	Mobilize / Persuade
42-05	52%	55%	57%	59%	61%	+8.9	Mobilize / Persuade	Persuade / High-Effort
42-06	46%	48%	49%	50%	52%	+6.0	Persuade	Persuade
42-07	37%	38%	39%	40%	41%	+3.8	Persuade / High-Effort	Mobilize / Persuade
42-08	39%	40%	41%	42%	44%	+4.6	Persuade / High-Effort	Mobilize / Persuade
42-09	28%	28%	29%	30%	30%	+2.4	High-Effort	Mobilize
42-10	46%	47%	48%	50%	51%	+5.2	Persuade	Persuade
42-11	34%	34%	35%	36%	37%	+3.0	High-Effort	Mobilize
42-12	38%	39%	40%	41%	42%	+4.4	Persuade / High-Effort	Mobilize / Persuade
42-13	44%	46%	47%	49%	51%	+6.8	Persuade	Persuade

Incumbency Context – John Doe (R)

How much of this seat is the person, not the party - and what is at stake if they leave.

OFFICE	Delaware House of Representatives, District 42
PARTY	Republican
STATUS	Incumbent
DISTRICT LEAN (SCOV)	51.0% R (SCOV, statewide composite)
LEG. PERFORMANCE (SLV)	45.2% Democratic - 3.8 pts ahead of district lean
CONTESTED CYCLES	5 of 5 (2016-2024)
TREND	SLV closing on SCOV (D gaining in leg races) - insulation narrowing

Incumbent Overperformance

John Doe runs consistently ahead of the district's structural baseline. SCOV shows the district as 51.0% Republican at the top of ticket, but SLV shows 45.2% Democratic in the legislative race - a 3.8-point gap in the incumbent's favor. This overperformance reflects candidate-specific strength (name recognition, constituent service, or turnout differential) beyond partisan baseline.

Trajectory

The legislative trajectory of +3.6 - the House two-party swing 2016-2024 - indicates Democratic legislative strength is growing across cycles, gradually narrowing the incumbent's effective advantage.

Open-Seat Vulnerability

The highest-value use of this brief is open-seat planning. If Doe retires or seeks another office, the personal premium evaporates immediately. The underlying SCOV baseline of 51.0% Republican means a generic Republican candidate runs as a slight favorite in an open seat. Democratic retention in that scenario requires recruiting a candidate with demonstrated local name recognition - a Doe-type profile, not a party-line candidate.

Campaign Finance

Cycle	Raised	Spent	Contribs	Small \$	Votes	\$ / Vote
2018	\$31,480	\$29,105	112	\$11,906	4,120	\$7.06
2020	\$27,960	\$28,640	98	\$10,204	5,890	\$4.86
2022	\$34,216	\$31,789	121	\$14,847	4,460	\$7.13
2024	\$52,890	\$55,403	164	\$21,900	6,210	\$8.92

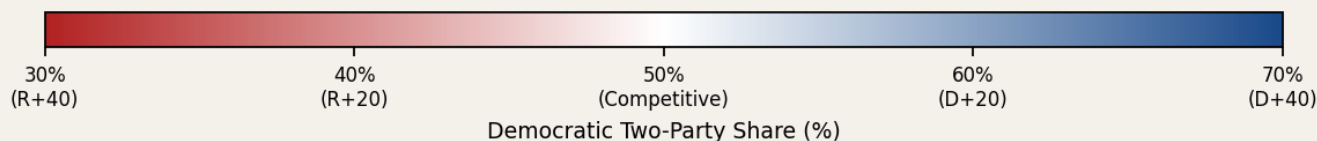
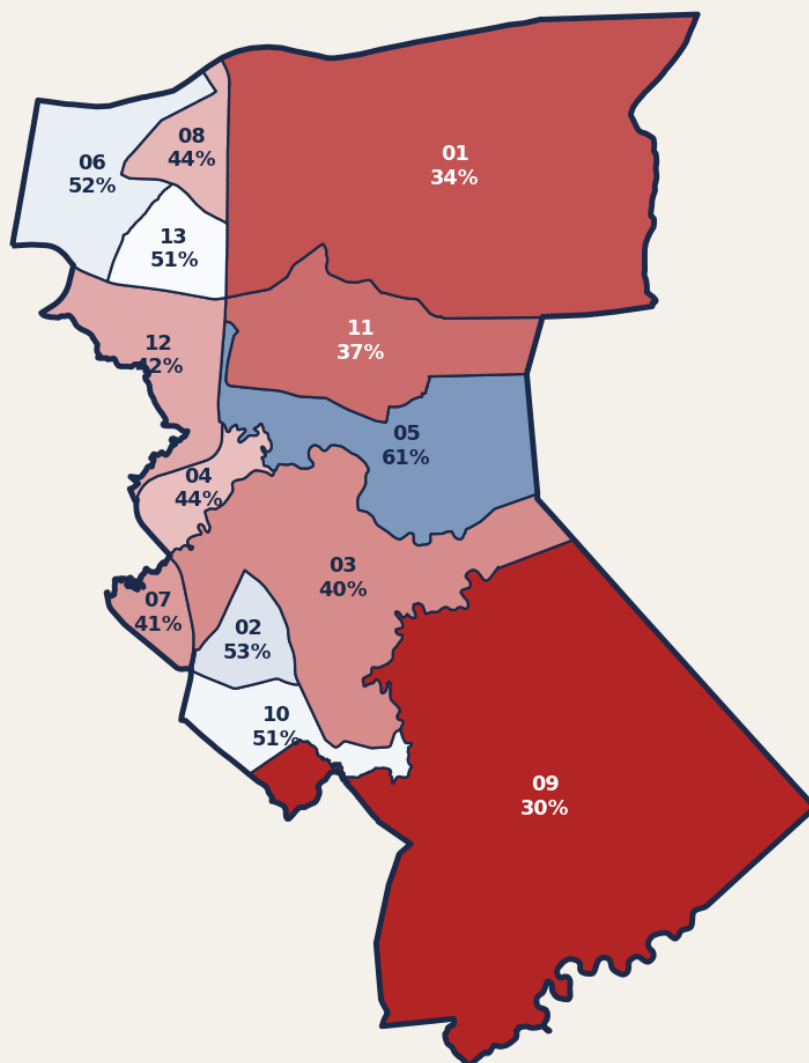
\$ / Vote = total spent divided by candidate vote count that cycle. Rising cost-per-vote signals competitive erosion or contested primary; falling signals safer seat.

Precinct Partisan Lean Map – HD 42, 2024 General

Where the votes are - each party's turf, and the winnable middle.

HD 42 2024 legislative results show 1 Democratic-leaning precinct(s), 8 Republican-leaning precinct(s), and 4 competitive precinct(s). Precinct 42-05 is the strongest Democratic pocket at 61.4% D; precinct 42-09 is the strongest Republican pocket at 69.8% R (30.2% D). The Democratic vote in this district is geographically concentrated in a single precinct - a pattern that argues for targeted GOTV in that precinct and persuasion effort in the competitive band.

HD 42 Precinct Partisan Lean - 2024 General Election



Source: MEDSL 2024 via FirstMap ED block-weight reallocation. Geometry: Delaware FirstMap 2023. Hatched = no contested data.

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District Profile – HD 42

Who lives here overall - the demographic baseline the next pages break down.

Demographics

TOTAL POPULATION

24,731 DE avg: 989,948

NON-HISPANIC WHITE

54.0% DE avg: 58.6%

BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN

20.1% DE avg: 22.1%

HISPANIC / LATINO

9.3% DE avg: 10.5%

ASIAN

4.0% DE avg: 4.3%

OTHER / TWO OR MORE

12.6% DE avg: 12.6%

Voting Age Population (VAP)

TOTAL VAP

18,781

VAP NH WHITE

57.8% DE avg: 62.0%

VAP BLACK

21.7% DE avg: 21.4%

VAP HISPANIC

9.1% DE avg: 8.8%

HOUSING UNITS

8,967

OCCUPIED HOUSING

83.3% DE avg: 90.0%

Economic Profile

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$93,574 DE avg: \$90,174

POVERTY RATE

7.2% DE avg: 7.8%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

3.1% DE avg: 3.2%

OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING

68.1% DE avg: 72.9%

BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

33.5% DE avg: 35.4%

HD
DE

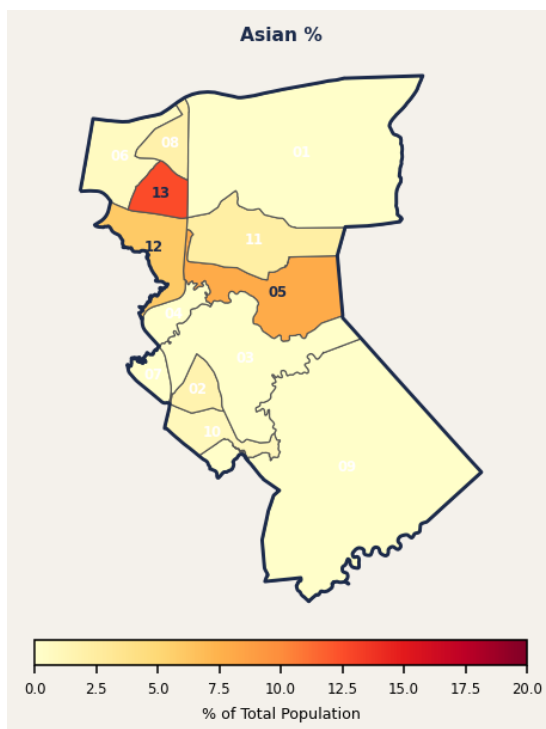
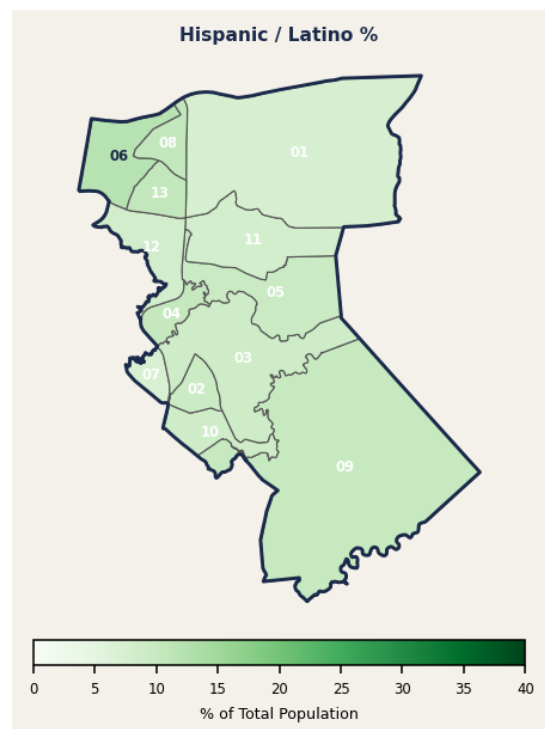
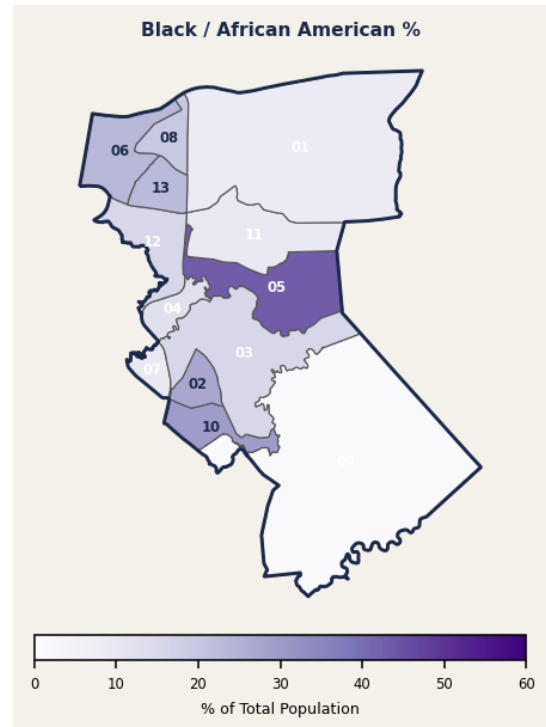
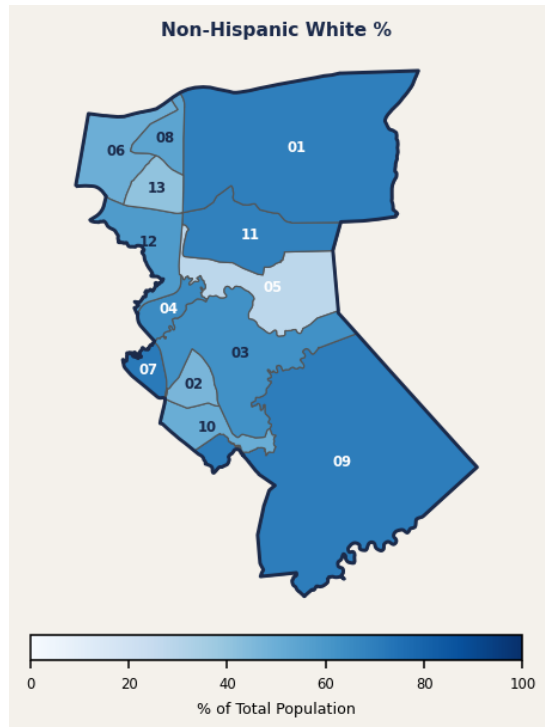
Economic data: ACS 5-year estimates (2019-2023), tract-level interpolated to district via population-weighted block crosswalk. DE avg = statewide population-weighted mean across all 41 HDs.

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Precinct Demographic Composition – HD 42

Where communities concentrate - so outreach reaches the right doors. HD 42's Democratic strength concentrates in precincts with higher Black/African American population share. Precinct 42-05 shows 42.9% Black population and 61.4% Democratic legislative lean - well above the district average of 44.6%. This clustering means Democratic field investment pays highest returns in the district's minority-majority precincts.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census PL 94-171. Block-level counts crosswalked to precincts via ED population weights.

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Demographic Deep-Dive – HD 42 (Precinct-Level Targeting Layer)

How to use this page: find your priority precincts on the partisan and turnout pages, then read their demographics here to shape the message - younger renter precincts, older homeowner precincts, and high-education precincts each answer to different appeals. Precincts flagged as twins share a Census tract and can run one identical demographic message across the group. This layer profiles each precinct on age structure, housing tenure, and educational attainment - the demographic context a campaign overlays on the partisan and turnout data elsewhere in this report. Under-18 share is exact, computed from the 2020 Census full count at block level, so it varies precinct to precinct. Median age, the 65-plus split, owner-occupancy, and bachelor's-plus attainment are American Community Survey estimates published at Census-tract level; where two precincts sit inside the same tract they carry identical values on those fields and are flagged below as demographic twins - combinable turf for demographic targeting even though the campaign still works them as separate precincts.

Precinct	Med Age	<18 %	18-64 %	65+ %	Owner Occ %	BA+ %	Twin
42-01	45.5	21.4	49.7	28.9	69.1	25.9	Group 1
42-02	37.8	32.3	53.5	14.2	69.5	22.3	Group 2
42-03	36.5	26.5	61.0	12.5	70.0	36.7	Standalone
42-04	38.9	22.5	66.6	10.9	55.4	40.7	Standalone
42-05	45.5	33.3	42.2	24.5	69.1	25.9	Group 1
42-06	36.8	22.7	66.6	10.7	66.3	45.9	Group 3
42-07	37.8	20.3	63.0	16.7	69.5	22.3	Group 2
42-08	36.8	23.0	66.4	10.6	66.3	45.9	Group 3
42-09	38.6	15.1	72.5	12.4	57.7	4.8	Standalone
42-10	37.8	24.2	59.9	15.9	69.5	22.3	Group 2
42-11	45.5	17.8	52.0	30.2	69.1	25.9	Group 1
42-12	47.8	24.6	52.1	23.3	71.2	39.0	Standalone
42-13	36.8	32.3	58.4	9.3	66.3	45.9	Group 3

Demographic Twins - Combinable Targeting Turf

Group 1: 42-01, 42-05, 42-11

Group 2: 42-02, 42-07, 42-10

Group 3: 42-06, 42-08, 42-13

Grouped precincts share a Census tract - identical on tract-sourced fields. Treat as one demographic unit for message targeting; work as separate precincts for turnout.

Methodology. Under-18 share and the derived 18-64 cohort are computed from the 2020 Census full count (PL 94-171) at block level and aggregated to precinct - exact, precinct-resolution, zero sampling error. Median age, the 65-plus split, owner-occupancy, and bachelor's-plus attainment are American Community Survey 5-year estimates published at Census-tract level and mapped to precincts via a population-weighted block crosswalk; precincts sharing a tract are identical on these fields by construction and are flagged above as demographic twins. Tract-level ACS is the finest reliable source for these variables - block-group estimates carry sampling margins too wide for precinct targeting.

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Economic Profile - HD 42 (ACS 5-Year Estimates)

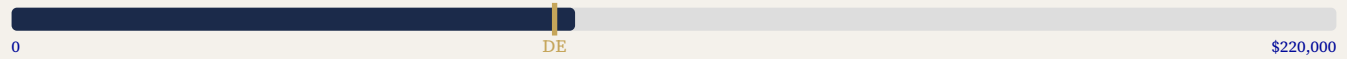
Income, housing, and education - what shapes which issues land here.

Source: ACS 5-year estimates (2019-2023), tract-level interpolated to district via population-weighted block crosswalk. Values are estimates with margin of error. DE avg = statewide population-weighted mean across all 41 HDs.

Median Household Income

\$93,574

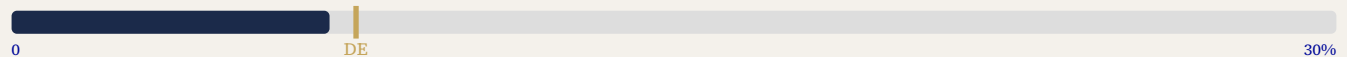
▲ \$3,400 vs DE avg (\$90,174)



Poverty Rate

7.2%

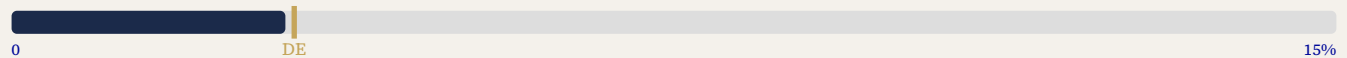
▼ 0.6 pts vs DE avg (7.8%)



Unemployment Rate

3.1%

▼ 0.1 pts vs DE avg (3.2%)



Owner-Occupied Housing

68.1%

▼ 4.8 pts vs DE avg (72.9%)



Bachelor's Degree or Higher

33.5%

▼ 1.9 pts vs DE avg (35.4%)

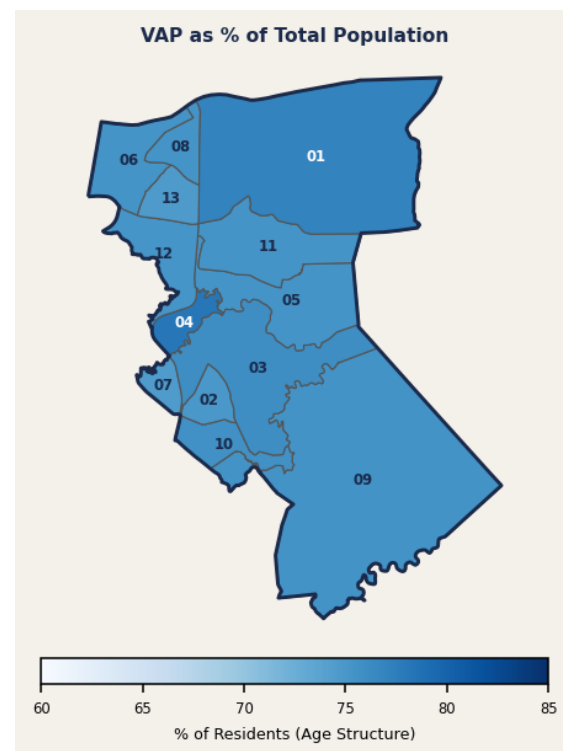
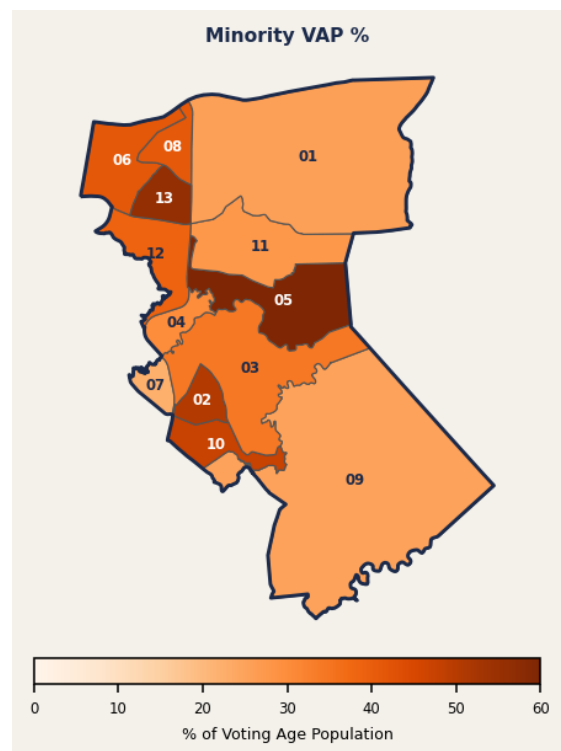
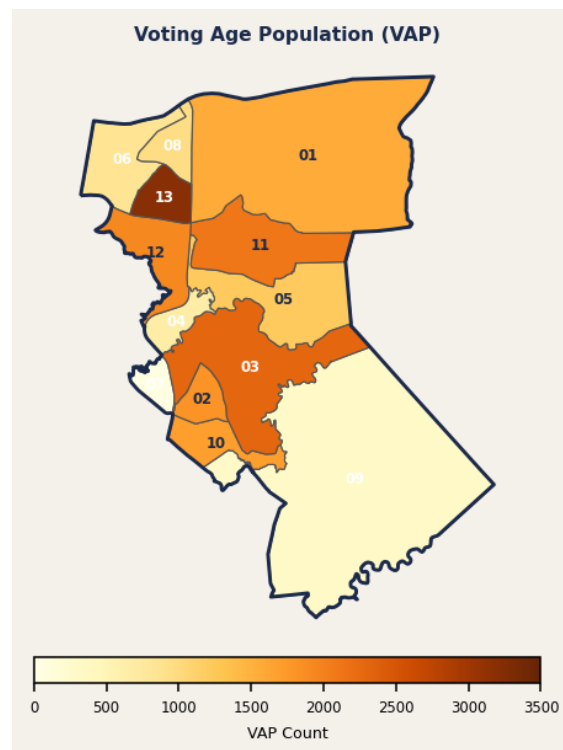
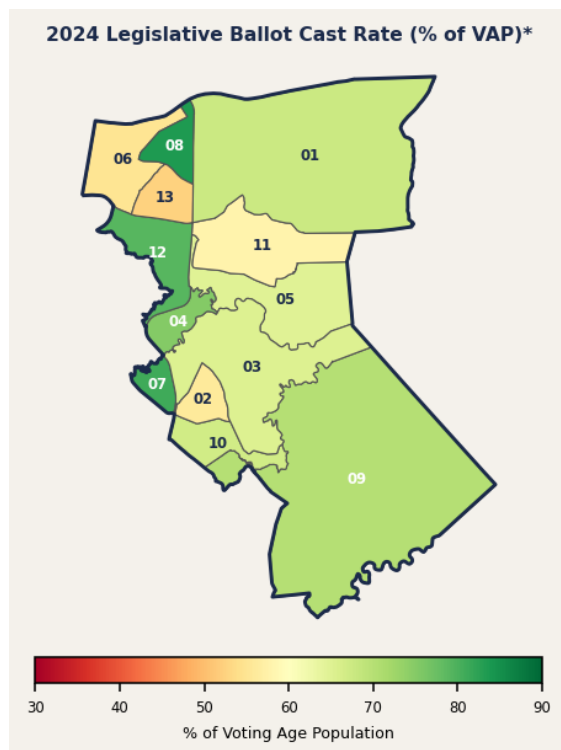


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Turnout and Voting Age Population Distribution – HD 42

Where turnout lags population - the untapped vote pools.



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 PL 94-171 for VAP and demographics; MEDSL 2024 via FirstMap ED reallocation for votes.

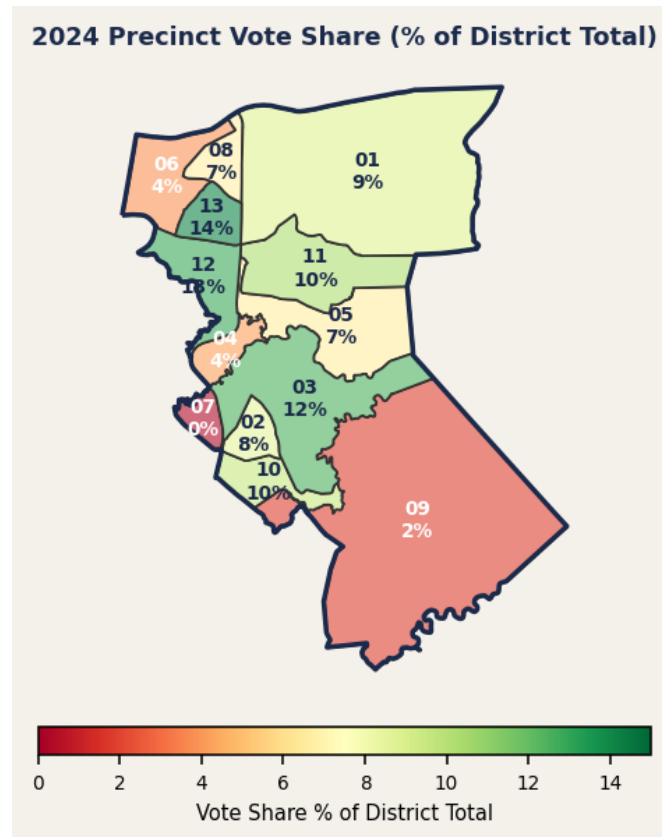
*Ballot Cast Rate = legislative ballots cast / Voting Age Population. Hatched precincts are suppressed: the Census block and Election District geometries do not coincide, so the numerator and denominator use slightly different footprints and the computed rate exceeds 100%.

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Precinct Turnout Analysis – HD 42

Which precincts hold the most unrealized votes, ranked.



Precinct	VAP	Share '22	Share '24	Share Δ	Turnout Opportunity
13	4296	15.9%	14.1%	-1.8	97
02	2416	9.0%	8.5%	-0.5	74
11	2808	11.4%	10.2%	-1.2	74
06	1129	4.1%	3.9%	-0.2	65
03	3009	12.2%	12.5%	+0.3	62
10	2242	8.9%	9.5%	+0.6	51
05	1625	5.9%	6.6%	+0.7	50
01	2025	7.5%	8.8%	+1.3	49
12	2567	11.7%	12.8%	+1.1	30
09	424	2.0%	1.9%	-0.1	29
04	849	3.8%	4.2%	+0.4	24
08	1277	7.1%	6.7%	-0.4	11
07	63	0.3%	0.3%	+0.0	6

Share = precinct share of district vote total. Turnout slack is scored relative to this district's own turnout range.

Turnout Opportunity = turnout slack (60) + VAP size (40). Party-neutral - no partisan lean term.

Green >= 70 = largest unrealized turnout pool.

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Mobilization Opportunity Analysis – HD 42

Your call sheet: which precincts to work first, from your side.

HD 42 contains 13 precincts with vote data. The district's SCOV baseline of 51.0% Republican reflects its structural partisan lean; Doe's SLVI of 45.2% is 3.8 pts ahead of district baseline. The trajectory of +3.6 signals Democratic legislative strength growing.

Field prioritization: 5 precinct(s) clear the favorability gate for the Democratic mobilization list, 8 for the Republican. Each list is ranked by the party's own two-party share; strongest Democratic precinct 42-05 (61.4% D, Mob Opp 54/100); strongest Republican precinct 42-09 (69.8% R, Mob Opp 56/100).

Democratic Mobilization Targets

Rank	Precinct	VAP	D 2024	R 2024	D% 2024	Sh%24	Swing	Dropoff	Mob Opp	Field Role
1	42-05	1226	487	306	61.4%	7%	+0.7	2.8%	54	Mobilize / Persuade
2	42-02	1811	536	475	53.0%	8%	-0.5	3.8%	56	Persuade
3	42-06	851	243	224	52.0%	4%	-0.2	4.0%	50	Persuade
4	42-10	1698	580	558	51.0%	10%	+0.6	3.5%	35	Persuade
5	42-13	3208	851	830	50.6%	14%	-1.8	3.2%	64	Persuade

Republican Mobilization Targets

Rank	Precinct	VAP	D 2024	R 2024	D% 2024	Sh%24	Swing	Dropoff	Mob Opp	Field Role
1	42-09	320	68	157	30.2%	2%	-0.1	3.2%	56	Mobilize
2	42-01	1559	363	690	34.5%	9%	+1.3	2.8%	59	Mobilize
3	42-11	2117	450	772	36.8%	10%	-1.2	1.5%	72	Mobilize
4	42-03	2286	591	900	39.6%	12%	+0.3	2.4%	58	Mobilize
5	42-07	47	15	23	41.0%	0%	+0.0	2.7%	20	Mobilize / Persuade
6	42-12	1934	648	884	42.3%	13%	+1.1	3.9%	31	Mobilize / Persuade
7	42-08	963	350	455	43.5%	7%	-0.4	4.0%	17	Mobilize / Persuade
8	42-04	663	220	278	44.2%	4%	+0.4	1.9%	26	Mobilize / Persuade

Two ranked lists, one per party. Favorability is a hard gate: a precinct below 50% D cannot be a Democratic target, one at or above 50% D cannot be a Republican target. Each list is ordered by the party's own two-party share, strongest first.

Mobilization Opportunity (0-100), shown per precinct but not the sort key: turnout slack vs this district's own range (45 pts), directional favorability toward the listed party (35 pts, zero for the losing side), VAP size (20 pts).

Dropoff = (presidential - legislative votes) / presidential. Turnout = (D + R) / VAP (2020 Census). Votes: MEDSL 2024 via FirstMap ED block-weight reallocation.

Field Role: from each party's own perspective, by the precinct's 5-cycle (2016-2024) average two-party share, the same classifier as the precinct table. From a party's own side: Mobilize (>=60, your base - turn it out); Mobilize / Persuade (52-60); Persuade (45-52, the tossup band); Persuade / High-Effort (38-45, reachable but costly); High-Effort (<38, opponent stronghold - winnable only with heavy personal contact). Labels describe effort per vote, not whether to contest.