



**Press Release – March 7, 2018**

David Baker for State Senate  
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## Baker announces run for 6th Senate District

MILTON, Del. – Longtime public servant and former Sussex County Administrator David “Dave” Baker filed election paperwork on March 7 for the 6th Senate District, which includes Milton, Lewes, Angola, Rehoboth Beach, and Dewey Beach.

Baker, a Democrat, is a lifelong Delawarean with decades of public service experience. He served in the Sussex County Government from 1978 to 2012, moving from the Director of Accounting to County Finance Director and finally County Administrator. He points to strong fiscal bona fides, a record of nonpartisan service under Republicans and Democrats, a focus on issues, and a history of results as cornerstones of his campaign.

“Now more than ever, we need our leaders to be responsive and responsible,” said Baker. “The 6th District is growing and changing faster than anywhere else in Delaware, and Dover faces major challenges, including on the budget, the economy, infrastructure, and health care. I’m running because our leaders need to put aside partisan differences, focus on shared values, and get the job done – and that’s exactly what I’ve done throughout my career. I’ve worked with Democrats and Republicans alike to help Sussex County thrive through good times and bad. I’m ready to bring that experience to Dover, to give Sussex a seat at the table, and to deliver the results our neighbors expect and deserve.”

During his tenure with the Sussex County Government, Baker secured over \$400 million in financing for water infrastructure projects that brought sewer service to 65,000 households; formed partnerships that established the County Airport's highly successful airframe and engine mechanics training program; worked to preserve more than 2,000 acres of farmland and open space; and coordinated public safety funding, including for Sussex County's paramedic service, Emergency Operations Center, and the State Police's County expansion.

Baker's record with Sussex County government has also drawn bipartisan praise. His accomplishments include fiscal management that kept property taxes low and grew the local economy; balancing budgets during the Great Recession without tax hikes or layoffs, which almost no other major government within the state accomplished; helping Sussex County upgrade its bond rating; and funding the County pension and retiree benefit systems.

Baker says he was inspired to run because of the challenges facing Sussex County and will run a positive, issue-focused campaign. His key policy priorities include:

- A budget and economy that work for the middle class
  - Tax reform to produce a sustainable, balanced budget
  - Middle class tax breaks for health care, student loans, and tuition costs
  - Investments in infrastructure to attract and retain employers
- Infrastructure that can support Sussex County's past, present, and future growth
  - Local road improvements in the 6th District, including a major east-west road improvement project in Sussex County
  - Water infrastructure and sewer funding to support a growing population and protect the environment
  - Protect agriculture and fund open space
- Better health care for all
  - Investments in health care facilities and workforce to attract medical professionals and meet the needs of our growing and aging population
  - Alleviate a statewide doctor shortage through additional medical training programs

- Greater coordination and additional resources for the addiction epidemic, including long-term treatment resources to help addicts in recovery

Baker has been involved in the community as a board member for the Cape Henlopen School Board and CHEER, as well as Primeros Pasos Early Learning Center in Georgetown where he helped fund and complete construction of a new \$1.4 million school. He serves on Beebe Hospital's Investment Committee and Delaware's Water Infrastructure Advisory Council, and has worked with local youth as a Boy Scout leader and coach for Milton Little League and Odyssey of the Mind.

Baker has been a full-time Sussex and 6th District resident since 1978. He has bachelor's degrees in Accounting and Sociology from the University of Delaware and a master's in business administration from Wilmington College. He and his wife Sandy live in Milton, where they raised their family. They have four sons – all graduates of Cape Henlopen High School – and six grandchildren.

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