

A Bright Future for Delawareans

BY GOVERNOR JOHN CARNEY

WHEN WE BEGAN 2020, we could never have predicted the challenges this year would bring. We have been on a difficult journey as a state and country as we continue to fight COVID-19.

The threat of this virus has been real since Day 1 – especially for our most vulnerable neighbors and loved ones. Protecting lives has been our North Star, our highest and most important priority.

Throughout this crisis, we have attempted to balance the need for a healthy community with the need for a strong economy. You can't have one without the other. Delaware needs both before we can successfully rebuild.

But here's the good news: Delawareans have taken this virus seriously. They have made sacrifices – large and small – to keep their communities healthy. We came together to fight the unprecedented threat of COVID-19. Delawareans rallied around our frontline workers and supported the Delaware families and small business most affected by this crisis.

When we fully emerge on the other side, Delaware will be stronger and more competitive than ever. We have the lowest costs for families and businesses on the northeast corridor. Delaware has great beaches, parks and communities – all with easy access to major urban centers. And we've partnered with private sector leaders to drive economic development and attract more business investment to our state.

We also have a new General Assembly that looks even more like the population it serves and is focused on addressing the issues that matter to Delaware families. That's good news for our state.

Before COVID-19, we managed state government responsibly, working with lawmakers to create a \$125 million reserve fund. That helped us get through 2020 without tax increases or cuts to important programs.

Responsible fiscal leadership also helped us pay for historic investments in our public schools and for the children who need our help the most. And we continue to fund the largest infrastructure program in Delaware history – building new schools, modernizing our roads and bridges, expanding high-speed broadband service, and upgrading our clean water infrastructure.

All Delaware families deserve a fair shot to succeed, and we'll keep focusing on the issues that matter to every Delaware community: good jobs, world-class schools, and safe communities.

Our future as Delawareans is bright. Thank you for your partnership and hard work throughout this difficult time. Let's keep working together to make The First State an even better place to live, work, and raise a family. ■

