



# Valerie Longhurst

State Representative

15th District

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Dear Neighbor,

I hope this message finds you well.

After a concerned constituent brought to my attention a string of accidents on Kirkwood St. Georges Road, I funded a radar speed sign to be installed along to the road to help reduce speeding. I also requested that DeIDOT complete a safety study to see what could be done to improve the road. Please see the full DeIDOT review and recommended improvements below.

In addition, I would like to share that the new suicide prevention law that I sponsored last year in the General Assembly went into effect this school year. This new law will help to increase attention to students in distress by implementing various measures focused on training and suicide prevention policies.

Lastly, I recently had the opportunity to attend the African Union Church Cemetery opening in Delaware City and was also able to welcome the first Speech-Language Pathology graduate students at the University of Delaware. Please see below for more information.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have about issues in the 15<sup>th</sup> District or the state.

Sincerely,

Valerie Longhurst

## Community Meeting with DeIDOT and Wawa Developer



Rep. Valerie Longhurst is pleased to share that a constituent, Manon Neal, asked her to host a community meeting for her neighborhood and the surrounding neighborhoods to give residents who live further away from the State Route 72 corridor a better understanding of Wawa development on State Route 72 & State Route 71. Rep. Longhurst was happy to bring together the community, DeIDOT, and the Wawa developers to discuss the plans for the Wawa and the DeIDOT projects along the corridor, including the Route 1 interchange divergent diamond project.

Please let Rep. Longhurst know if you would like to have DeIDOT or the Wawa developer attend an upcoming community meeting in your community by emailing [Valerie.Longhurst@state.de.us](mailto:Valerie.Longhurst@state.de.us) and she will get it scheduled.

## Suicide Prevention Legislation Implemented in Schools

*[Rep. Longhurst and Gov. Markell discussing the new suicide prevention law.](#)*

Rep. Valerie Longhurst would like to share that the [new suicide prevention law](#), passed last year, went into effect this school year. [House Bill 90](#), which she sponsored along with Sen. Nicole Poore, requires all public school employees to receive a 90-minute training each year on suicide prevention, while also requiring all public schools to establish a suicide prevention committee and for local education agencies to create a suicide prevention policy.

*[Click here to read the latest coverage from the \(Wilmington\) News Journal.](#)*

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## Speech-Language Pathology Cohort Begins Program





*Rep. Longhurst with the first class of UD's Speech-Language Pathology master's degree program.*

Rep. Valerie Longhurst is excited to share that, after more than a decade of hard work and persistence, she had the opportunity Monday to see the results of those efforts when she met with the first class of the University of Delaware's Speech-Language Pathology master's degree program to wish them well in their studies.

This was the first issue a constituent, Samtra Devard, brought to her attention shortly after she was elected in 2004 about a shortage of speech pathologists in Delaware. The new master's program at the University of Delaware happened with one call from an amazing mom and her love for her daughter, Lauren. Hundreds applied for less than 30 slots to be a part of this new program.

## Opening of African Union Church Cemetery



*[The opening of the Long-Abandoned African Union Church Cemetery in Delaware City.](#)*



Rep. Valerie Longhurst joined Rep. J.J. Johnson, church members, family, and officials last weekend to dedicate and celebrate the opening of the long-abandoned African Union Church Cemetery in Delaware City.

[Rep Valerie Longhurst speaking at the opening of the African Union Church Cemetery.](#)

The cemetery was established in 1835 and was part of the free African-American community of Polktown, located adjacent to Delaware City. Five veterans of the American Civil War, United States Colored Troops, are among those interred there. Their graves are marked with U.S. military markers provided by the government to the deceased. By the beginning of the twentieth century, the cemetery was probably abandoned. Mount Salem Union American Methodist Episcopal Church has been working for the past 20 years to restore and preserve the historic cemetery, culminating in Saturday's celebration.

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## Improving Road Safety on Kirkwood St. Georges Road

Rep. Valerie Longhurst would like to share the following notice from DeIDOT regarding safety improvements on Kirkwood St. Georges Road.

### DeIDOT Road Study

We have completed our review along Kirkwood St. Georges Road between DE71- Red Lion Road and Main Street, which is located in New Castle County, north of the Canal. Specifically, we reviewed the approximate 3-mile corridor to determine if traffic control device improvements were justified to enhance driver behavior due to the concerns raised by the residents, especially within the curves.

Crash data was examined from August 2013 to August 2016 to determine if there were crash patterns along the corridor. The crash data shows there has been a total of 17 crashes along the roadway. The crashes did have a pattern of being clustered within the curve at McCoy Rd. The data also showed that there has been a trend of vehicle crashes involving inattentive driving and run off the road that may lead to a motorist failing to navigate a geometric change in the roadway, such as a curve. Based on the crash patterns, we are recommending signage improvements to enhance these geometric changes and hopefully, reduce crash patterns.

Field visits and data collection were also completed to evaluate roadway characteristics. The field visit confirmed the roadway has a centerline, edge line, and bicycle lane striping, but no edge drop off concerns. Ball bank data, which refers to an inclinometer that is used for the specific purpose of determining safe curve speeds for horizontal curves, was collected along the corridor. The ball bank data showed the curves could be driven ranging from 15 miles per hour to 45 miles per hour, depending upon the curve and direction of travel. As part of the signage recommendations, the curves will be clearly marked with warning signs in advance of the curves and signage within the curves will be relocated to enhance driver attentiveness as they maneuver through the geometric change in the roadway. Work orders will be issued for the improvements which may take a few weeks to complete due to our current fabrication backlog.

