

# Environmental Justice

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UAPP 225



# Background

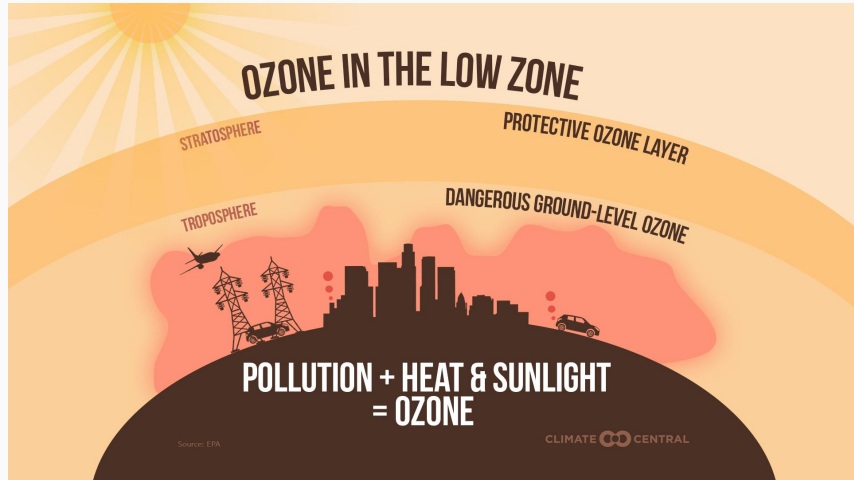
- Fenceline Communities or Environmental Justice Communities.
- Residential areas in close proximity to industrial facilities and major sources of pollution.
- Predominantly low-income Black and Latino families.



## State of the Air:

- American Lung Association's ground-level ozone pollution ratings by county:
  - New Castle: F
  - Kent: B
  - Sussex: C

# What Is Ground-Level Ozone?



- Also known as smog.
- Produced by chemical reactions between sunlight/heat and emissions from vehicles, power plants, refineries, and other industrial pollution.
- Extremely toxic for people and the environment.

# Impacts

- Seven communities in New Castle County have higher risks of cancer and respiratory illnesses compared to Greenville and Delaware as a whole.
  - All seven communities predominantly Black and Latino.
  - Greenville predominantly white, wealthiest in Delaware.
- Result of consistent presence of chemicals including formaldehyde, benzene, and acrolein.
  - All classified as carcinogens

## Impacts Continued...

<b>Community</b>	<b>Increase in cancer risk, compared to Greenville</b>	<b>Increase in respiratory hazard, compared to Greenville</b>	<b>Increase in cancer risk, compared to Delaware overall</b>	<b>Increase in respiratory hazard, compared to Delaware overall</b>
<b>Marshallton</b>	33%	71%	28%	55%
<b>Dunleith</b>	19-23%	32-43%	14-18%	20-30%
<b>Oakmont</b>	19-23%	32-43%	14-18%	20-30%
<b>Southbridge</b>	19-23%	32-43%	14-18%	20-30%
<b>Newport</b>	21%	44%	16%	31%
<b>Belvedere</b>	15%	30%	10%	18%
<b>Cedar Heights</b>	12%	24%	7%	13%

# Impacts Continued...

- Children are the most vulnerable to the effects of fenceline pollution.
  - Home and school typically in same community—constant exposure to polluted air.
- Approximately 3,000 school-age children who attend schools and live within one mile of “high risk” chemical facilities.
- Cancer rates 55-74% higher, respiratory hazards 81-125% higher than Greenville students.
  - Kuumba Academy Charter School (Southbridge) cancer and respiratory risks 3x higher than Greenville.

# Environmental Justice Legislation





# Justice 40 Initiative

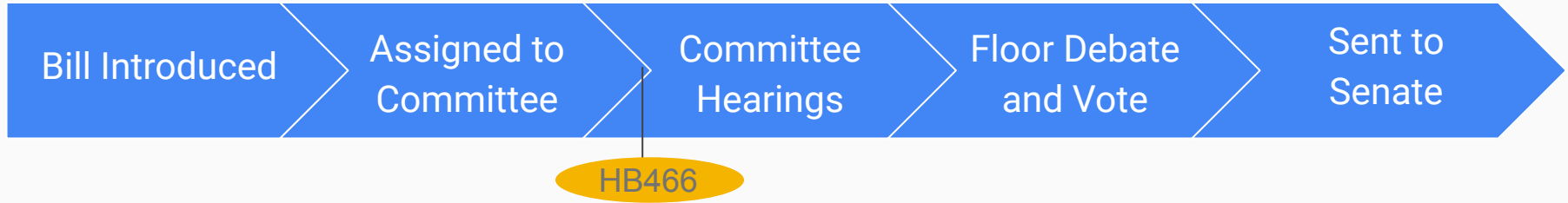
- Biden Administration policy
- Environmental Justice  
Communities must receive at least 40% of benefits from federal investments.
  - Climate change, energy, workforce development, affordable housing, pollution reduction, water infrastructure.

# Delaware's Justice 40 Oversight Committee

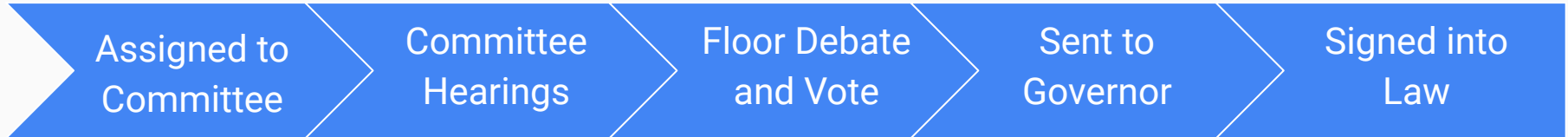


- **House Concurrent Resolution 40**
  - Passed in June 2021
  - Chair: Rep. Larry Lambert, Co-Chair: Sen. Marie Pinkney
  - Regular meetings with community members, state and local officials, etc. to identify needs of the community, crafting policies to meet their needs.
- **House Bill 259—Wireless Emergency Alerts**
  - Result of 2018 Croda chemical leak— updated emergency alert protocols for leaks/fires/explosions that threaten public health and safety.
- **House Bill 466—Environmental Justice Permits**
  - Amends construction permit approval process to prevent further degradation and pollution in Environmental Justice Communities.

# House of Representatives



# Senate



# Questions?

## Sources:

- <https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail/119655>
- <https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?LegislationId=79007>
- <https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail?LegislationId=79014>
- <https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/states/delaware>
- <https://www.ucsusu.org/sites/default/files/attach/2017/10/ej-for-de-summary-ucs-2017.pdf>
- <https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/ground-level-ozone-basics>
- <https://www.eenews.net/articles/delaware-offers-litmus-test-for-bidens-ej-plan/>