

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Public Hearing

November 10, 2026

John W. Rudd
State Fire Marshal

Agency Duties, Powers, & Responsibilities

- Title 16, Chapter 66, Subchapter II:
  - **Plan Review & Inspection**
  - **Fire and Post-Blast Investigations.**
  - **Fire Code Enforcement Activities.**
  - **Youth Firesetting Intervention Program.**
  - **Assistance to Fire Chiefs & Law Enforcement.**

Agency Goals

Performance Measures

IPU	Performance Measure Name	Fiscal Year 2026 Actual	Fiscal Year 2027 Budget	Fiscal Year 2028 Governor's Recommended
75-01-01	*Office of the State Fire Marshal*			
	Life Safety Inspections conducted per deputy (12)	85	100	110
	Fire Code Complaints handled per deputy (12)	25	25	27
	Fire investigation caseload per deputy (12)	50	60	62
	Average turnaround time for full plan reviews (days)	15	15	15
	Plan review caseload per fire protection specialist	233	250	250
	Full plan reviews/ inspections: New Castle County Kent County Sussex County	 1518/1464 370/453 1493/1706	 1670/1370 407/340 1640/1390	 1600/1400 380/450 1600/1500

County Projected Growth

Sussex County

2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
237,378	270,818	290,861	307,874	324,894	340,305	361,422

Kent County

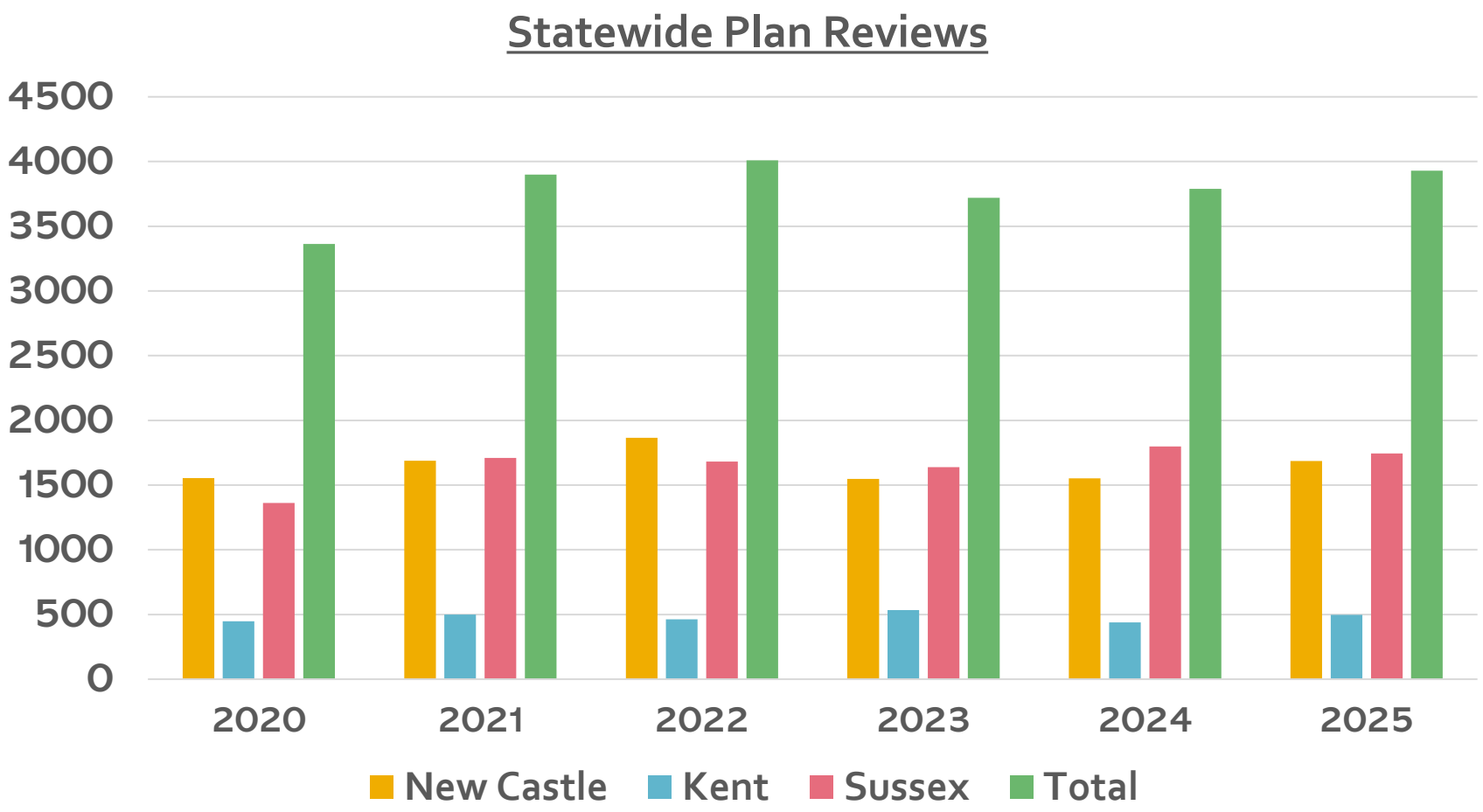
2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
181,851	192,507	198,237	203,275	207,454	210,829	213,883

New Castle

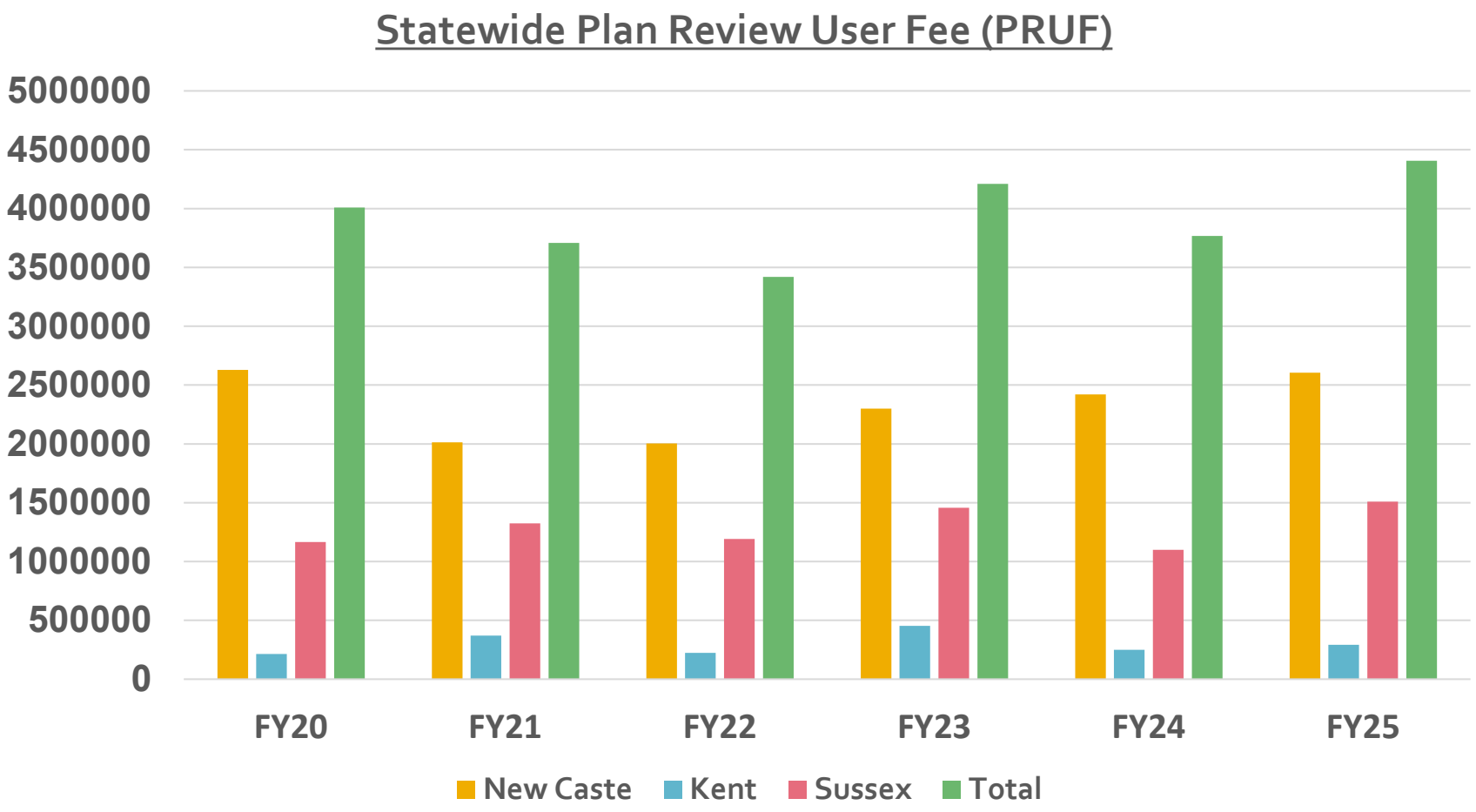
2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
539,519	584,426	595,892	602,230	602,742	598,832	592,561

Source: Delaware Population Consortium 2023 Current Population Projections

Statewide Plan Reviews



Statewide Plan Review User Fee (PRUF)



Executive Orders

- **Executive Order 18- Permit Accelerator**
  - Streamline and Coordinate Plan Reviews
  - Staff required to be dedicated to projects
- **Executive Order 21-Small Business Access, Readiness, and Capital Deployment**
  - Streamline and Coordinate Small Business Inspections
  - Staff required to meet quick turnaround requests for inspections

Agency Requests

Body Worn Camera Funding for Deputy Fire Marshals

- Deputy Fire Marshals are sworn law enforcement officers in accordance with Title 11
- House Bill 195 from the 151st General Assembly requires all law enforcement to wear body worn cameras
- Funding: 35.0 GF

Agency Requests

- **Fire Protection Specialist I Position for each Division Office**

  - **This will provide additional staffing to meet the requirements of EOs 18 and 21, as well as maintain current levels of service while facing increasing plan review and inspection workload demand.**
  - **Funding: 275.76 ASF (three positions)**



Thank You for your continued support of our Agency.