

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

DECEMBER 2025

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Property Tax Rent Rebate Application Deadline Approaching

The deadline to apply for the 2024 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is December 31, 2025. This program provides a state rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2024 to income-eligible residents who are 65 or older, widows and widowers who are 50 or older, and individuals with disabilities who are 18 or older.

The maximum standard rebate is now \$1,000. To be eligible, your household income in 2024 would need to be \$46,520 or less for both renters and homeowners.

An annual cost-of-living adjustment has also been established for the income limits so the program

can keep pace with inflation and increases in Social Security benefits. When applying, count only half of your Social Security or Federal Railroad Retirement Tier I benefits toward your total income.

Applications can be submitted online at: www.mypath.pa.gov or by mail with a paper application. You can obtain further information, a paper application and free help applying through my office.

The easiest way to check the status of your rebate is by using the “[Where’s My Rebate?](#)” tool on myPATH. To check your status, you will need your Social Security number, claim year, and date of birth.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is accepting applications until April 10, or until funds are depleted, whichever occurs first. LIHEAP offers cash grants to help with home heating bills and emergency situations such as a broken furnace or an unexpected fuel shortage.

Applicants can be renters or homeowners, and the grant will be sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider and credited to your bill. You do not need to be on public assistance or have any unpaid heating bills to qualify. Grants do not need to be repaid.

This season’s annual income limit for LIHEAP grants begins at **\$23,475** for an individual. This limit increases by **\$8,250** for each additional person in the household. Grant awards range from **\$200** to **\$1,000**, depending on household size, income, and fuel type.

You can apply for LIHEAP online, www.compass.state.pa.us, or by submitting a paper application to the Delaware County Assistance Office (701 Crosby Street, Suite A, Chester, PA 19013). My office can also help complete and submit paper applications, or you can call the Delaware County LIHEAP Hotline at 610-447-3099 for assistance.

Pardon Applications Now Online

Pennsylvania recently launched an online application process for pardons, making it easier for people to clear their criminal convictions and helping Board of Pardons staff process applications more efficiently. Pennsylvania is one of the first states to offer this option.

Every year, thousands of people apply to the five-member Board of Pardons and the governor seeking approval to remove criminal history information from their records. This information can block access to jobs, housing, and other opportunities.

Previously, applicants had to complete the application on paper and mail it to the board along with all relevant documents. This process was difficult for both applicants and Board of Pardons staff.

In addition to creating a [fully online application for pardons](#), the Board of Pardons also now offers a [PDF application in Spanish](#). Visit the Board of Pardons homepage, www.pa.gov/services/bop/apply-for-clemency for more information.

The online application is intended to give more people the opportunity to earn a pardon.

PA Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Legal Line

The PA Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Legal Line is a free phone service staffed by attorneys at the SeniorLAW Center who provide legal information, advice, and referrals, as well as support for caregivers age 60 and older who need assistance with custody or other legal issues involving kinship care (and the service is not limited to grandparents). There are no income eligibility requirements. The legal line can be reached at 1-877-727-7529.

A growing number of grandparents in Pennsylvania are stepping into a parental role for a second time, choosing to raise their grandchildren due to various challenging circumstances.

Older caregivers can receive free advice and guidance on a variety of civil matters, including custody and dependency. They can also get support in representing themselves in family court, such as help with preparing necessary documents, as well as information on kinship caregiving, support groups, and other resources.

More information can be obtained at the SeniorLAW website: www.seniorlawcenter.org.

Pennsylvania’s College Transfer Website is Upgraded

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has unveiled major upgrades to <https://collegetransfer.pa.gov/>, the state’s online platform for understanding how college credits transfer among Pennsylvania colleges and universities. The redesigned site provides a one-stop resource to make informed decisions about credit transfers.

The platform allows users to see how completed coursework or certifications—such as a community college degree, dual-credit courses, AP classes, or career and technology programs—will be recognized by participating colleges and universities across the state.

Educational Assistance for Children of Veterans

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is providing financial assistance to eligible children of veterans for higher education. The DMVA’s Educational Gratuity Program provides financial assistance to children of honorably discharged wartime veterans who have **service-connected 100% total and permanent disability**, or children of veterans who died in service during a period of war or armed conflict.

The grant program can be applied to colleges, trade schools and apprenticeships in the commonwealth.

The eligible child must be between the ages of 16 and 23, have lived in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for at least five years prior to the application, and attend a

school within the commonwealth. All applicants must demonstrate financial need.

Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$4,000 total — \$500 across eight terms or semesters — for each qualified child.

For more information about the program’s criteria, eligibility and needed documentation, go to the Educational Gratuity Program page on DMVA’s website or visit www.pa.gov/agencies/dmva and click on “Financial Assistance”.

To apply, call the Delaware County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at 610-891-4646 to arrange an appointment.

New Earned Income Tax Credit

Pennsylvania has recently introduced the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit (WPTC). Modeled after the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the new state-level credit equals 10 percent of the federal credit. Anyone who qualifies for the federal EITC will now automatically qualify for both credits.

Pennsylvanians qualify for the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit based on income and

number of dependents. The maximum state credit is \$805. For example, a married couple with three children earning \$60,000 would receive a tax credit of \$183.

Filing will be simple and automatic. When Pennsylvanians file their federal and state taxes, the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue will automatically calculate the state credit.

Pa Tax Questions Answered

The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue (DOR) recently completed major upgrades to its Online Customer Service Center. This tool provides answers to common questions about Pennsylvania taxes such as “Where’s my rebate?”. The Customer Service Center also allows taxpayers to securely submit a question to the DOR. This Service Center is available at www.revenue.pa.gov/help. The system also introduces a new tool to receive taxpayer feedback.

Dog License Deadline approaching

The deadline to purchase a 2026 dog license renewal is January 1, 2026.

Licensing is a legal responsibility for every dog owner in Pennsylvania, and license fees help fund the work of dog wardens who protect both dogs and communities. A license on a dog’s collar also increases the chance of the dog being returned home rather than ending up in a shelter.

Dogs must be licensed when adopted or purchased, or by three months of age if no transfer of ownership has occurred. In Pennsylvania, the youngest age at which a dog can be adopted or purchased is eight weeks.

Delaware County residents can purchase a dog

license online at www.padoglicense.com or get a paper application by calling the Delaware County Treasurer’s office at 610-891-4273.

An annual dog license costs \$10.80. Lifetime licenses are available for \$52.80 for dogs with permanent identification, such as a microchip or tattoo. Senior adults and people with disabilities may be eligible for discounted fees of \$8.80 for an annual license or \$36.80 for a lifetime license.

Owners who fail to license their dogs can face fines of up to \$500, plus court costs for each unlicensed dog.

Learn more about dog licensing in Pennsylvania online at licenseyourdogpa.pa.gov.

New legislation ensures Pennsylvanians PACE and PACENET eligibility

Pennsylvania recently enacted legislation to protect seniors from losing PACE and PACENET eligibility if their annual Social Security cost-of-living adjustment pushes them above normal income-eligibility limits. This protection will remain in effect until December 31, 2027.

Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, PACE and PACENET, provide low-cost prescription medications to qualified residents aged 65 and older. The programs coordinate with Medicare Part D and other prescription drug plans—such as retiree or union coverage, employer plans, Medicare Advantage, and Veterans' benefits—to help reduce out-of-pocket medication costs.

You can obtain an application from the Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA), participating pharmacies, senior centers, or my office. If you have questions about PACE or PACENET, you can call my office, the PACE Helpline at 1-800-225-PACE, or COSA at 610-490-1300.

Notary Service for Government Documents

Many official, government-related documents can be notarized for free in my district or satellite offices. Our general policy is that the form must be intended for a local, state, or federal government agency—such as the school board, the state Department of Revenue, or the U.S. Treasury—and even then, there are some limitations on the types of documents we can notarize.

Some documents my office cannot notarize include

birth certificates, car titles, wills, deeds, marriage certificates, mortgages, powers of attorney, personal financial documents, non-state pension documents, and the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9.

The person whose signature is to be notarized must sign the document in person and provide proof of identity. Please call ahead to ensure our staff can notarize your type of document.

Receive My Newsletter Electronically

To reduce postage costs and paper waste, you can opt out of receiving the paper version of my newsletter and receive only the electronic version. Just email your name, request, and address to my office at RepVitali@pahouse.net.

Join My Email Update List

I maintain an email list for those who wish to receive periodic updates about public meetings, traffic alerts, community events, state and local programs and services, and other items of interest to the community.

To be added to that list, visit my House webpage (www.RepVitali.com) and scroll down until you see the form to submit your name and contact information. You may also call or email my office to submit this request.

Visit My District & Satellite Offices

My Havertown district office is open to assist with your state-related matters from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays. If you have difficulty climbing stairs, we can come to your vehicle.

You may also visit my Broomall satellite office, located at Keyboard with Kimmy (144 Lawrence Road, 19008), on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This ground-floor office is disability accessible and is located near the corner of Sussex Boulevard and Lawrence Road, next to St. Pius.