

# **GREG VITALI**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 202166

HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2166

lpo.kl.0318

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

MARCH 2018

# **GREG VITALI**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**

1001 East Darby Road  
Havertown, PA 19083  
(610) 789-3900  
Fax: (215) 560-4197

EMAIL: [greg@gregvitali.com](mailto:greg@gregvitali.com)

**CAPITOL OFFICE:**

38B East Wing  
P.O. Box 202166  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2166  
(717) 787-7647  
Fax: (717) 705-2089

WEBSITE: [www.gregvitali.com](http://www.gregvitali.com)



## **Register and Vote**

The 2018 primary election will take place on Tuesday, May 15. The last day to register to vote in it is Monday, April 16.

Voters will cast ballots for governor, lieutenant governor, U.S. Senate, Congress, General Assembly, and for state and local party committees.

You can register to vote and find your polling location at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com).

### **Important 2018 primary election dates**

- **April 16** – Last day to register to vote
- **May 8** – Last day to apply for an absentee ballot
- **May 11** – Last day for county election offices to receive absentee ballots
- **May 15** – Primary election day

You may vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to make it to the polls because of illness or disability, or you will be out of your municipality the entire day.

Delaware County residents may obtain an absentee ballot application from the Bureau of Elections located in the Government Center at 201 W. Front St., Media. Applications are available online at [www.co.delaware.pa.us/elections/election.html](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/elections/election.html).

Montgomery County residents may obtain an absentee ballot at Montgomery County Voter Services, One Montgomery Plaza, Suite 602, 425 Swede St. Norristown. Applications are available online at [www.montcopa.org/753/voter-services](http://www.montcopa.org/753/voter-services).

Applications for absentee ballots also are available in my office.

## ***Prepare Now for Real ID Driver's Licenses***

Citizens are advised to begin preparing now if they wish to obtain REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses next year. The federal REAL ID Act is requiring enhanced security features on driver's licenses if they are to be used for identification purposes for domestic air travel or federal facility access.

You can continue to use your Pennsylvania driver's license for all identification purposes through at least Oct. 10, 2018 and most likely until PennDOT is ready to issue REAL ID-compliant licenses.

When applying for a REAL ID license next year, citizens who obtained their first license or ID card before September 2003 will need to personally visit a licensing facility and provide the following documentation:

- Proof of identity (original birth certificate with a raised seal and parents' names listed, or a valid U.S. Passport)
- A Social Security Card (may not be laminated)
- Proof of all legal name changes (marriage license or court order from applicable county's family court)
- Two proofs of current, physical PA address (unexpired PA license or ID and a no-more-than 90-day-old bank statement or utility bill with the same name and address)

## ***PA Medical Marijuana Program Dispensaries Open***

The first medical marijuana dispensaries in the area have opened – Keystone Shops (420 W. Lancaster Ave., Devon) and Terra Vida Holistic Centers (64 N. Main St., Sellersville). Dispensaries in Plymouth Meeting, Malvern, Yeadon and King of Prussia are expected to open soon.

Patients who wish to obtain medical marijuana must:

1. Visit the Patients and Caregivers Registry online at [padohmmp.custhelp.com/app/login](http://padohmmp.custhelp.com/app/login) and create a patient profile.
2. Obtain a physician's certification that you suffer from one of the designated 17 serious medical conditions. To find an approved physician, go to [is.gd/MMPractitioners](http://is.gd/MMPractitioners).
3. Return to the Patient and Caregivers Registry online and pay for a medical marijuana ID card (\$50).
4. Obtain medical marijuana from an approved dispensary in Pennsylvania.

Questions about the Medical Marijuana Program can be emailed to [RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov). More information is also available on the Department of Health website at [www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov](http://www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov).

PennDOT advises citizens to begin gathering the required documents now. Marriage license and birth certificate requests can have waiting periods up to six months. Requests for birth certificates can be made through my office. Marriage records must be requested through the county that originally issued the license.

Beginning March 2018, individuals who were issued a driver's license or ID after September 2003 will be able to visit PennDOT's website to confirm that their required documents are on file.

You will not be required to obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license. However, a regular license or ID will be insufficient for air travel or federal facility access once REAL ID-compliant licenses are available.

REAL ID-compliant licenses will carry a one-time \$30 fee in addition to the standard renewal fee for a regular license or ID (currently \$30.50).

A website for online REAL ID-compliant license applications will become available next year.

## ***iLottery Games Expected This Spring***

A law expanding gambling passed last fall will permit the Pennsylvania Lottery to offer online lottery games, known as iLottery, designed for smart phones and personal computers. Online Lottery games designed to work on monitors in bars and other businesses could also become available in the first half of this year.

According to the Pennsylvania Lottery, the first iLottery games available will be similar to scratch-off games.

I voted against the gambling expansion bill that authorized iLottery because I feel that it is bad public policy to raise public funds on addictive behavior.



*Construction on the College Avenue bridge at Haverford Avenue in Haverford Township is expected to be completed by late May, according to PennDOT.*

## ***Upcoming Hazardous Household Waste Collections***

There will be household hazardous waste collections in southeastern Pennsylvania in 2018. All events will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine.

- **Sat., May 5 at the Emergency Services Training Center** – 1700 Calcon Hook Road, Sharon Hill
- **Sat., May 19 at Temple University** – Ambler Campus – enter at 1431 E. Butler Pike, Ambler
- **Sat., May 26 at 1st District Highway Yard** – 4800 Parkside Avenue, Philadelphia
- **Sat., June 9 at Rose Tree Park** – 1671 N. Providence Road (Route 252), Media
- **Sat., June 23 at Abington Junior High School** – enter at 2056 Susquehanna Road, Abington
- **Sat., June 30 at Norristown Area High School** – 1900 Eagle Drive at Whitehall Road, Norristown

Household hazardous waste includes household products labeled poisonous, toxic, flammable, caustic, corrosive, reactive or explosive. Items containing Freon and electronic waste will not be accepted.

For more information about collections in Delaware County, call the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority at 610-892-9627 or visit [www.co.delaware.pa.us/SWA](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/SWA).

For more information about collections in Montgomery County, call the Montgomery County recycling hotline at 610-278-3618 or visit [www.montcopa.org/recycling](http://www.montcopa.org/recycling).

For more information about collections in Philadelphia County, call the Philadelphia Streets Department at 215-686-5560 or visit [www.philadelphiastreet.com/hazardous-waste](http://www.philadelphiastreet.com/hazardous-waste).

## ***Children's Health Insurance Program to Continue***

Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) will continue serving more than 180,000 Pennsylvania children with health care thanks to continued state and federal funding.

CHIP covers immunizations, wellness checkups, prescriptions, dental, vision and hearing services, diagnostic testing, emergency care, mental health benefits, and hospitalization, as well as substance abuse rehabilitation and other services.

CHIP coverage is available to any child in Pennsylvania whose family earns too much to qualify for Medicaid, but can't afford to purchase private insurance or isn't covered by an employer.

The CHIP income eligibility guidelines have changed this year. For an average four-person family, CHIP is free if the household income is \$33,383-\$52,208, low cost from \$52,208 to \$78,814, and full cost over \$78,814. Premiums vary depending on the carrier.

If your child doesn't have health insurance, or if you know of a child who isn't covered, you can find out more about CHIP, including providers in your area, and how to enroll at [www.chipcoverspakids.com](http://www.chipcoverspakids.com) or by contacting my Havertown office.

## ***'Right to Try' Law Offers Hope to Patients with Terminal Diseases***

"Right to Try" legislation signed into law in October enables eligible patients with terminal illnesses to use experimental drugs, biological products and devices not yet approved by federal regulators.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval process for investigational drugs, biological products and devices, including three rounds of clinical trials, can take as long as 15 years, leaving many to die while awaiting treatment.

Under the new Pennsylvania law, drug manufacturers are permitted to make the medications available to eligible patients after the products successfully complete the first phase of clinical trials.

Physicians will not be held liable for recommending

experimental products to their terminally ill patients.

While the law does not require insurers to cover these products, they may do so at their own discretion. The most recognizable diseases that this type of law is used for are ALS, Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) and cancer. The law does not apply to everyone diagnosed with one of those diseases, nor is it limited to just them: the patient has to have a terminal diagnosis, an experimental treatment has to be available, their physician has to prescribe that experimental treatment, and the manufacturer has to be willing to provide it.

For information about Right to Try laws across the country, visit [righttotry.org](http://righttotry.org). To read Pennsylvania's Right to Try law, visit [bit.ly/2BPm382](http://bit.ly/2BPm382).

## ***Property Tax/Rent Rebate Deadline is June 30***

The application deadline for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is June 30. The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program provides a state rebate on 2017 property taxes or rent to income-eligible residents who are 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older. To be eligible, your household income must be \$35,000 or less if you are a homeowner, or \$15,000 or less if you are a renter.

When applying, you only have to count half of your Social Security or federal Railroad Retirement Tier I benefits toward your total income.

You can obtain an application in my office or download the form online by going to [www.revenue.pa.gov](http://www.revenue.pa.gov), scrolling to “Top Pages” on the right side of the page, and then clicking on “Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.”

My office can help you apply.

## ***Free Notary Service at District Office***

You can have most official documents notarized for free in my district office. Please call ahead to make sure the notary is in the office and can accommodate your type of document.

Examples of documents that my office is **not able to notarize** include car titles, wills, powers of attorney (financial and advance directives for health care), and the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9.

Notary work is done most weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The person whose signature is to be notarized

## ***Consumer Fireworks Are Now Legal in Pa.***

A new law governing fireworks went into effect in October. It permits the sale, purchase and use of aerial fireworks for those persons 18 years and older.

The new law states that a person setting off fireworks must have permission from the owner of the property from which they are being fired, and it prohibits the use of fireworks in buildings or motor vehicles or within 150 feet of an occupied structure.

## ***Join My Email Update List***

I maintain an email list for those who wish to receive periodic email updates from me about public meetings, traffic alerts, community events, state and local programs and services, and other items of interest to the community. If you would like to be added to that list, please email my office at [RepVitali@pahouse.net](mailto:RepVitali@pahouse.net).

## ***Is the State Holding Your Unclaimed Property?***

The state Treasurer’s Office is holding \$3.2 billion in unclaimed property, and it is estimated that about one in 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property.

Unclaimed property may include:

- Closed bank accounts;
- Uncashed checks, including paychecks;
- Lost stocks and bonds;
- Contents of safe deposit boxes;
- Expired gift cards/gift certificates.

To find out whether you have unclaimed property, you can search in the Unclaimed Property database at [www.patreasury.gov/Unclaimed-Property](http://www.patreasury.gov/Unclaimed-Property) or call 1-800-222-2046. There is no charge to claim your unclaimed property.

My district office staff will be happy to help you search the Pennsylvania Treasurer’s Office website for unclaimed property.

must sign the document in person, in the presence of the notary, and provide proof of identity such as a valid driver’s license, photo ID card, or passport. Please let my staff know if witnesses are needed, in addition to the notary, for your documents. My office has a limit of five notarizations per person.

My office is on the second floor. If you are unable to climb stairs, please let us know when you call, and we can arrange to have the notary meet you on the ground floor.

Fireworks that remain illegal under federal law include M-80s, M-100s, cherry bombs and quarter- and half-sticks of dynamite.

A violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$100.

A new 12 percent tax on their sale also is in effect. The law sets aside 2 percent of the taxes, up to \$2 million a year, for emergency medical service grants and volunteer firefighter training across the commonwealth.

## ***Social Media Update***

You can follow me on Facebook at [Facebook.com/RepVitali](https://www.facebook.com/RepVitali). There you will find updates from Harrisburg, district news and other important state-related information.

You also can follow me on Twitter @GregVitali.