

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 202166

HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2166

lpo.ts.0719

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

JULY 2019

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

CAPITOL OFFICE:

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

WEBSITE: www.gregvitali.com



Satellite Office Opens in Ardmore

I recently opened a satellite office in the Ardmore Library to better serve a variety of constituents, including people who have difficulty with stairs or live a distance from my Havertown office.

The location, 108 Ardmore Ave., is handicap accessible and on the lower floor of the library.

The office is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All services available in our main district office are available in our satellite office, including SEPTA senior key card applications and notary services.

If you have questions regarding the satellite office, please call the main district office at (610) 789-3900.



Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Deadline Extended

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Deadline has been extended to Dec. 31.

Applications for this program for taxes or rent paid in 2018 are available at my district office or online at www.revenue.pa.gov. The program provides rebates up to \$650 on rent or property tax paid by Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older.

The income limit for applicants is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. Half of Social Security income and all Social Security cost-of-living increases are excluded from income calculations.

Claimants must reapply for rebates every year because they are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid each year. Spouses, personal representatives or estates may file rebate applications on behalf of deceased claimants who lived at least one day in 2018.

My office can help complete and submit the application.

The state has begun mailing refund checks to those who have already filed. Check the status of your rebate at www.doreservices.state.pa.us/PITServices/WheresMyRebate.

PA Medical Marijuana Program Expanded

Anxiety disorders and Tourette's syndrome have been added to the list of qualifying conditions to obtain legal medical marijuana. The list already includes cancer, epilepsy, intractable seizures, post-traumatic stress disorder, terminal illness and other conditions.

Patients who wish to obtain medical marijuana must first visit padohmmp.custhelp.com/app/login and create a patient profile. Patients must then obtain a physician's certification for a qualifying condition and purchase a medical marijuana ID card (\$50) through

their online profile. Medical marijuana may then be obtained from approved dispensaries in Pennsylvania.

Nearby dispensaries include TerraVida Holistic Centers in Malvern (484) 328-3442, Ilera Healthcare in Plymouth Meeting (484) 531-4420, Keystone Shops in King of Prussia (484) 581-7189, and CURE Pennsylvania in Wynnefield (215) 876-2873.

Questions about the program can be emailed to RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov. More information can be found at www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov.

New Law Gives Immunity in Car Rescues

A new Pennsylvania law gives civil immunity for the necessary use of force to rescue someone in distress from a motor vehicle. Previously, those who acted to save an individual from a car by breaking a windshield, for example, could have been liable for damages to the vehicle.

To receive civil immunity, a private citizen must be acting in good faith, believe the person is in imminent danger of harm and is unable to exit the vehicle on their own, try to locate

the driver, and attempt to contact law enforcement prior to rescuing the individual.

The private citizen must use no more force than necessary in entering the vehicle, leave written notice on the vehicle afterwards, and remain with the individual until law enforcement or first responders arrive in order to be eligible for civil immunity.

New Law Addresses Sexual Assault and Harassment on College Campuses

Under a new Pennsylvania law, post-secondary colleges and universities will be required to adopt clear and understandable sexual harassment and sexual violence policies that inform victims of their rights. In addition, students who witnessed or have been the victim of sexual assault or harassment will be able to anonymously report these incidents on a college-sponsored website.

The law also prevents reporting students who may have been in violation of school drug and alcohol policies from being disciplined. Anonymous reporting without the fear of disciplinary action is designed to help more students come forward. Incidents are also reported more promptly when online anonymous reporting platforms are present.

The law goes into effect June 2020.

Ardmore Avenue Bridge Replacement Begins

The Ardmore Avenue Bridge, which spans the Route 100 line at Ardmore Avenue Station, is being replaced and will be closed until the spring of 2020.

PECO, Comcast and Verizon have already removed their aerial lines to make way for the bridge replacement. This was done beforehand to reduce the amount of time that Ardmore Avenue will be closed to traffic.

Several parking spots at the SEPTA station will be unavailable during this project, and parking will be accessed through Golfview Road. During the road closure, motorists will be detoured over Haverford Road, College Avenue and Darby Road. A temporary pedestrian bridge will be installed at the Ardmore Station for access to the platforms of the Norristown Hi-Speed Line.

The project will also widen Ardmore Avenue.

SEPTA Key Card Updates

In 2016, SEPTA introduced Key cards, which are electronic cards you can use instead of cash or physical passes to ride SEPTA-operated transportation. Currently, Key cards can be used on SEPTA lines (Broad Street, Market-Frankford, Norristown), buses, trolleys, subway, and regional rail.

SEPTA has adjusted lowered the minimum amount of money customers can load onto SEPTA Key Cards to \$1 at station kiosks on the Market-Frankford and Broad Street lines.

Key cards expire in three years and almost 40,000 fare cards are due to expire July 31. Those cardholders will need to buy new key cards before the July 31 deadline. You can transfer the existing balance from an old key card to a new key card by calling SEPTA at (855) 567-3782. Cardholders who use a weekly or monthly plan do not need to transfer their balances.

Customers should register their SEPTA Key Card after purchase to protect against loss or theft. Cards can be

registered at www.septakey.org or by calling (855) 567-3782.

Senior SEPTA Key Cards allow seniors to ride for free on all SEPTA service lines in Pennsylvania. The cards expire every four years.

My district office can help complete applications and take photos for seniors who need a card. Bring a form of identification with a date of birth on it, such as a Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID, U.S. passport, or birth certificate.

Seniors without SEPTA Key ID Cards but who have a valid Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID card issued before July 2017 can still ride for free.

SEPTA Key Cards and SEPTA Senior Key Cards can be obtained at SEPTA Headquarters at 1234 Market Street in Philadelphia from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. or the SEPTA Accessible Travel Center at Suburban Station in Center City from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

REAL ID Reminder

Beginning October 1, 2020, a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card, or a U.S. passport or military ID, will be necessary to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a secure federal facility.

To obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card, you will need to bring all of the following documentation to a full service Driver's License Center:

- Proof of identity (original birth certificate with a raised seal, or a valid U.S. passport)
- A Social Security card
- 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)

The two closest full-service Driver's License Center locations are:

143 S. Gulph Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

1067 W. Baltimore Pike, Media, PA 19063

PennDOT is advising customers who want REAL ID-compliant licenses or ID cards to apply as soon as possible.

More information for REAL ID can be found at www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID/.

Pennsylvania Could be Holding Your Unclaimed Property

The Pennsylvania Treasury is seeking the owners of more than \$3.4 billion in unclaimed property. One in 10 Pennsylvanians has money to claim. Types of unclaimed property include checks from employers and utility companies, dividends and interest from savings accounts and stocks, and credit balances.

My office regularly checks the database for district residents. You can check yourself by going to the state Treasury website at www.patreasury.gov or calling (800) 222-2046.

My staff also can help you search or claim something.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

There will be several more household hazardous waste collections in southeastern Pennsylvania in 2019. All events will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine.

- Saturday, September 14
Penn State University
25 Yearsley Mill Road, Media
(Middletown Twp)
- Saturday, September 28
Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center
400 South Lewis Rd., Royersford
- Saturday, October 5
Upper Chichester Municipal Building
8500 Furrey Road, Upper Chichester
- Sunday, October 20
Lower Merion Transfer Station
1300 N. Woodbine Ave., Penn Valley

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 to <https://www.delcopa.gov/departments/swa.html>.

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

Free Notary Service at District and Satellite Offices

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

Examples of documents that my offices are **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 weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the district office and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the satellite office. The person whose signature is to be notarized 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. Unfortunately, we cannot provide witnesses at our satellite office.

My district 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. If you would prefer, our satellite office is conveniently located on the ground floor of the Ardmore Library.

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](https://twitter.com/GregVitali).

Join My Email Update List

I also 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.