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STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT  
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## ***LEGISLATIVE REPORT***

DECEMBER 2019

# **GREG VITALI**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT**



**Capitol Office:**

30 East Wing  
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Harrisburg, PA 17120-2166  
(717) 787-7647

**District Office:**

1001 East Darby Road  
Havertown, PA 19083  
(610) 789-3900

**Satellite Office:**

Ardmore Library  
108 Ardmore Avenue  
Ardmore, PA 19003  
Thursdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

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

## ***New Law Changes Voting Procedures***

Recent changes to Pennsylvania law will allow more flexibility when voting.

Individuals can now register to vote or change their party registration up to 15 days before an election. Previously, the deadline was 30 days.

Pennsylvania's absentee ballot system has been expanded. Previously, obtaining an absentee ballot required a voter to provide an eligible reason. Now absentee ballots can be issued for any reason. These ballots must still be requested via an application available online or in print form.

The ballot applications may now be accepted up to 50 days before an election by the county the voter is registered in. Previously, the deadline was 30 days.

Absentee ballots must now be received by the voter's polling location no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day. Previously, ballots needed to be received by the county election office seven days before the election.

Registered voters may opt-in to a permanent absentee voting list while completing their initial absentee ballot application.

The new election law prohibits straight-ticket voting. Previously, voters could select all candidates of the same party with a single action. Now, each contest must be voted individually.

The new law will be in effect for the April 2020 primary election.

## ***Home Heating Assistance Available***

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The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is now accepting applications.

LIHEAP offers cash grants to help with home heating bills and crisis grants to help with emergency situations, such as a broken furnace or an unexpected fuel shortage. Applicants do not have to be on public assistance to receive help through LIHEAP, nor will any lien be placed on a person's property.

This season's income limits for LIHEAP cash and crisis grants are \$18,735 (yearly) for an individual. This limit increases by \$6,630 for each additional person in the household.

## ***PA Medical Marijuana Program Update***

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Two new medical marijuana dispensaries have opened in King of Prussia. RISE Dispensary located at 445 W. Dekalb Pike and Herbology Dispensary located at 1036 W. Dekalb Pike.

There are now nine dispensaries in the region including locations in Devon, Plymouth Meeting and Malvern.

Pennsylvania's medical marijuana program provides access to medical marijuana for specific medical conditions including autism, anxiety disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, Tourette syndrome, cancer, epilepsy, intractable seizures, post-traumatic stress disorder and terminal illness.

Patients who wish to obtain medical marijuana must first visit [www.padohmmmp.custhelp.com/app/login](http://www.padohmmmp.custhelp.com/app/login) and create a patient profile. Patients then need to obtain a

physician's certification for a qualifying condition. This doctor's visit may not be covered by insurance, and patients may be responsible to pay out-of-pocket. These grants are available to renters and homeowners. They range from \$200 to \$1,000 based on household size, income and fuel type. These grants will be sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider. Crisis grants are also available. Grants do not need to be repaid. Online applications may be completed by visiting [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).

My office can help complete applications and answer questions.

After a patient has been certified by an approved physician, they must purchase a medical marijuana ID card (\$50) through their online profile. Patients should receive their card in approximately seven to 10 days. Medical marijuana ID cards need to be renewed annually.

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

Questions about the program can be emailed to [RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov). More information, including dispensary locations, can be found at [www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov](http://www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov).

Questions about the program can be emailed to [RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov). More information, including dispensary locations, can be found at [www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov](http://www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov).

## ***SEPTA Key Senior ID Card Available at my Office***

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Seniors who present a SEPTA Key Senior ID Card ride for free on all SEPTA service lines within Pennsylvania. This includes the Norristown High Speed Line, buses, trolleys, the subway, and regional rail.

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

SEPTA will mail the key card to your home in two to three weeks.

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.

To renew your card please visit my office and bring your unexpired Senior Key card, SEPTA expiration letter, and a valid Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID card.

Seniors also can obtain and renew an ID card at SEPTA Headquarters at 1234 Market Street in Philadelphia from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the SEPTA Accessible Travel Center at Suburban Station in Center City from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

More information about the SEPTA Key Senior ID Card is available at <http://www.septa.org/fares/discount/seniors-ride-free-info.html>.

## ***REAL ID Reminder***

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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.

PennDOT is encouraging current Pa. driver's license or ID card holders to obtain a Real-ID complainant card as soon as possible before the October 1, 2020 deadline.

Switching to a Real ID compliant card will not result in the loss of fees paid for the unexpired term of your current license or ID card.

To obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card, bring all of the following documentation to a full-service driver's license center if your Pennsylvania Driver's License was issued to you before 2003:

- Proof of identity (original birth certificate with raised seal, or a valid U.S. Passport)
- 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  
Tuesday-Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.**

**1067 W. Baltimore Pike  
Media, PA 19063  
Tuesday-Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.**

If you applied for a driver's license after 2003, you may be able to obtain your REAL ID by mail if PennDOT has your documents on file. To check, visit [www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID](http://www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID).

If PennDOT does not have your documentation on file, you will need to visit a full-service driver's license center.

More information for REAL ID can be found at [www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID/](http://www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID/).

## ***Improvements coming to W.C. Pike and Lawrence Road Intersection***

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A federal grant of nearly \$3 million was recently approved for a project designed to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow at the intersection of West Chester Pike and Lawrence Road.

Improvements will include the modification of the I-476 northbound on-ramp to accommodate two lanes of traffic from westbound West Chester Pike. One of the on-ramp entrances will be an additional westbound lane on West Chester Pike, which will flow directly onto I-476 without

the need to stop at a traffic light. The other new on-ramp entrance will accommodate driver's turning onto West Chester Pike from South Lawrence Road.

Construction of this project will begin in about two years after project design and environmental clearances have been completed. These improvements are expected to take one year.

## ***Drug Addiction Treatment Hotline***

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If you live in Pennsylvania and suffer from drug addiction or substance abuse, you can receive help by calling the 24/7 toll-free addiction treatment hotline at 1-800-662-HELP.

A trained professional will provide a brief assessment. After the assessment, operators will stay on the line while you are connected to relevant treatment. This

hotline is managed by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Program for all Pennsylvania residents to use, absolutely free.

For more information on treatment, visit the Department of Drug and Alcohol Program website at [www.ddap.pa.gov/pages/support-services.aspx](http://www.ddap.pa.gov/pages/support-services.aspx).

# State Could be Holding Your Unclaimed Property

The Pennsylvania Treasury is seeking the owners of more than \$3.5 billion in unclaimed property. One in 10 Pennsylvanians has money to claim that is legally theirs. 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 to see if their names are listed, but you can conduct a search for yourself any time. Visit [www.patreaury.gov](http://www.patreaury.gov) to see if you have property with the state.

If you need help, my staff can help you search or claim something in your name.

## Spotted Lanternfly Spotted in Our Area

The spotted lanternfly, a new invasive bug, is still active in late fall and winter in our area. Here are some things you can do to control them.

In the fall and winter, these bugs lay egg masses. These eggs can survive over winter. You can find egg masses on tree trunks, outdoor furniture, decks, stones, metal, tires, etc. The egg masses are typically about 1-1.5 inches long and covered with a gray or yellowish-brown, waxy coating.



Adult Insect

To destroy eggs, you should smash them or scrape them into a container of rubbing alcohol.

You can limit the number of adult insects by removing their preferred host trees, the tree of heaven. It is recommended that you apply herbicide to their stumps.

If you see a spotted lanternfly or egg mass, please report it online at <https://services.agriculture.pa.gov/SLFReport/> or via phone by calling 1-888-4BADFLY.

## Free Notary Service

Most official documents can be notarized for free in my district and satellite offices. Please call ahead to make sure our 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, 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 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 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. Our notary can meet you on the ground floor. No stairs are required to access our satellite office.

## Ardmore Satellite Office

In July, I opened a satellite office on the bottom floor of the Ardmore Library, which is fully handicapped accessible.

The location, 108 Ardmore Ave., 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.

## 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.

## Join My Email Update List

I maintain an email list for those who wish to receive periodic email 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, please email [RepVitali@pahouse.net](mailto:RepVitali@pahouse.net).