

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

AUGUST 2025

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

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Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Deadline Extended

The deadline to apply for the 2024 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has been extended to Dec. 31, 2025. The state began mailing rebate checks on July 1.

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 50 or older; and people with disabilities 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 level so that the program will keep pace with inflation and increases in Social

Security benefits. When applying, only count 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 to use the [Where's My Rebate?](#) tool on myPATH. To check you will need your Social Security number, claim year, and date of birth.

New PA Law Bans Handheld Devices While Driving

A new state law that took effect on June 5 bans all handheld devices while driving in Pennsylvania.

This ban includes phones, digital assistants, computers, or anything that is used to communicate or take videos and needs to be held with at least one hand. Devices can still be used legally in hands-free mode. Texting while driving is already banned.

The devices cannot be used at any time while driving, including at traffic lights, stop signs, or while stopped in heavy traffic. The only exception is using a phone to contact police or emergency crews.

A grace period will be in effect until June 5, 2026, and then \$50 fines will be issued. No points will be assigned to the driving record. This is considered a primary offense, so the police don't need another reason to stop you to issue a ticket.

The new law also provides for enhanced penalties of up to five years in prison when convicted of homicide by vehicle while using a device; and up to two years in prison when convicted of aggravated assault by vehicle while using a device.

New and Improved SEPTA App

SEPTA has released a new version of their smart phone application, to make traveling easier and more convenient. The updated app includes enhanced access to SEPTA Key, real-time travel information, and locations of nearby stations and stops. The new app is available for iOS and Android. To download, simply visit the [App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#). Full details on new features, how to download and how to provide feedback is available at <https://www.septa.org/app/>.

PA is Transitioning to a New License Plate Design



Pennsylvania's standard yellow, white and blue license plate design is changing over to a "Let Freedom Ring" design ahead of the

250th anniversary of the United States that will be celebrated across the Commonwealth in 2026.

The "Let Freedom Ring" plates are available for order now. To receive the new design plate, you should order your plate directly from PennDOT.

PennDOT's partners such as dealers and online messengers will use all existing yellow, white and blue design inventory before transitioning to the new plate design.

The new license plates are optional for drivers with current valid license plates.

Vehicle owners can find instructions to request a "Let Freedom Ring" plate from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) online: pa.gov/licenseplate.

Veterans Temporary Assistance Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) offers financial assistance to veterans who are facing an unexpected financial hardship. The Veterans Temporary Assistance (VTA) program provides eligible Pennsylvania veterans and their surviving dependents with financial relief for necessities of life such as food, shelter, fuel, and clothing.

Eligible veterans or their survivors can qualify for an amount not to exceed \$1,600 in a 12-month period. To be eligible, a veteran must have served a period of active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and received a discharge under conditions other than dishonorable. A veteran who suffered a service-connected disability, regardless of the length or status of their service, is also eligible, as well as the surviving dependents of an eligible veteran and the surviving dependents of a service member who died in line of duty or was killed in action.

For more information about the program's criteria, eligibility and needed documentation, go to Veterans Temporary Assistance: bit.ly/pavta. To apply, eligible veterans should contact the Delaware County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at 610-891-4645.

Help Locating Lost Military Documents

Veterans who need assistance locating their lost DD Form 214 (DD-214) and other military documents can contact the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs so they can get credit for time served and receive veteran benefits they have earned.

The DD-214 is a Department of Defense document issued upon a service member's retirement, separation, or discharge from active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. It contains information needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in veterans' organizations. Without this key document, there could be significant delays when a veteran seeks benefits earned through their military service.

Anyone needing assistance from the DMVA to locate their DD-214/215, or other military documentation, can call toll free 1-800-547-2838, e-mail RA-REQ@pa.gov, or stop by the Lickdale Veterans' Outreach Center at 40 Fisher Ave., Jonestown, PA 17038. More information about locating military documents can be found by visiting the Records Request Program: pa.gov/agencies/dmva.

Havertown Superfund Site Update

Between 1947 and 1963, National Wood Preservers, a wood treatment facility, operated near the intersection of Lawrence and Eagle roads in Havertown. The facility disposed of toxic liquids containing pentachlorophenol (PCP), dioxins, furans, and naphthalene through deep-well injection on the site. The site was placed on the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund National Priorities List in 1982, and since 1989, the EPA has been working to trace and clean this contaminated groundwater.

In 2021 and 2022 the EPA identified additional areas of deeper groundwater contamination at the site. A new ground water treatment plant (GWTP) is now being built to replace the previous treatment plant that was demolished in 2021 because it was too small to collect and treat the contamination.

The new GWTP will clean the contaminated water to safe drinking standards. Until the new

plant is ready, a temporary plant is treating the contaminated groundwater.

The new treatment plant is expected to be completed next summer, and the temporary treatment plant (under a grey round tent) is expected to be removed next fall.

Five new deeper wells are expected to be installed by the fall of 2027 to recover additional contaminated water. The new wells will be located on the GWTP site as well as the YMCA parking lot and the Swiss Farms property.

According to EPA, the drinking water in Haverford Township remains unaffected and there are no current risks to human health or the environment.

For more information, visit the Havertown Superfund website, response.epa.gov/havertownpcp or contact the site's Community Involvement Coordinator, Angela Ithier, at 215-814-5248.

West Chester Pike and Blue Route Interchange Improvement Project

Work began in May at the intersection of West Chester Pike and I-476 (near Lawrence Road) to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion.

Already, guide rails have been installed on the West Chester Pike median strip east of the intersection to protect a cantilever overhead lane designation sign which will be installed there.

The right westbound lane of West Chester Pike which feeds onto the northbound entrance ramp to I-476 will be separated from the other west bound lanes by a median strip and will no longer be subject to the traffic signal light allowing for a freer flow of traffic.

This new median strip will prevent vehicles coming from South Lawrence Road (from the Lawrence Park area) from entering I-476 north where they do now so a new on-ramp will be added slightly to the west.

Physical work on the project is expected to continue until July of 2026.

Rebates for Electric Vehicles

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is currently offering approximately 500 rebates – up to \$3,000 – to Pennsylvania residents who purchase qualifying electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. To be eligible, new vehicles must have a purchase price below \$45,000 while used vehicles must only have one previous owner and an odometer reading of less than 75,000 miles. Applicants must also have a household income below 300% of the federal poverty level. This translates to an income cap of \$46,950 for single filers, \$63,450 for a household of two, \$79,950 for a household of three, and \$96,450 for a household of four.

Rebates are offered on a first-come, first-served basis from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Applications must be filed online within six months of purchase. For more information on eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) webpage at Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebates: bit.ly/afvrebates or call (717)-705-0374.

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 going to a local, state, or federal government agency – like the school board, the state Department of Revenue, or the U.S. Treasury – and even then, there are limitations to some of the documents we are able to complete.

Some of the 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 make sure 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 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, 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.

Follow Me on Facebook

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

Visit My District & Satellite Offices

My Havertown district office is open to help 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 down 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 office is on the ground floor and disability accessible. It is located near the corner of Sussex Boulevard and Lawrence Road, next to St. Pius.

No appointments are required to visit my district or satellite offices. For questions about my office or service over the phone, call 610-789-3900.