

# **GREG VITALI**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 202166

HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2166

lpo.jc.0721

## ***LEGISLATIVE REPORT***

JULY 2021

# **GREG VITALI**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT**

**Capitol Office:**  
30 East Wing  
P.O. Box 202166  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2166  
(717) 787-7647

**District Office:**  
1001 East Darby Road  
Havertown, PA 19083  
(610) 789-3900

EMAIL: [RepVitali@pahouse.net](mailto:RepVitali@pahouse.net)  
WEBSITE: [www.RepVitali.com](http://www.RepVitali.com)



## ***Real ID Enforcement Postponed until 2023***

Enforcement of Real ID has been postponed until May 3, 2023. Then you will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, identification card, or other acceptable form of identification at airport security checkpoints and certain federal facilities. Real ID is a federally compliant driver's license or identification card with enhanced security features.

**To obtain Real ID you will need to bring all the following to a full-service Driver's License Center or Real ID Center:**

- 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 family court)
- Two proofs of current, physical PA address (unexpired PA license or ID and no more than 90-day-old bank statement or utility bill with the same name and address)

The closest Real ID Center is: 43 S. Gulph Road, King of Prussia. For more information about Real ID visit: [www.dmv.pa.gov/realid](http://www.dmv.pa.gov/realid).

## ***New Photo Required for PA Driver's License Renewal***

Last month PennDOT discontinued the use of file photos for the renewal of Pennsylvania driver's licenses and photo identification cards. Now when you renew your license or ID card by mail or online you will receive a camera card and will need to have your photo taken at a PennDOT Photo license Center. Since May of 2020 PennDOT has used file photos to help mitigate the spread of COVID.

The closest photo License center is at AAA, 30 Greenfield Avenue, Ardmore. For more information on renewing your drivers license visit: [www.dmv.pa.gov/Driver-Services/Pages/Open-Locations.aspx](http://www.dmv.pa.gov/Driver-Services/Pages/Open-Locations.aspx).

## ***SEPTA Senior ID Cards Expiration Extended***

SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards allow seniors (65 years and older) to ride for free on all SEPTA service lines in Pennsylvania. The cards expire four years after issuance.

SEPTA is providing a one-year extension for all SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards expiring in 2021. SEPTA is also providing a second one-year extension for cards that expired in 2020. For example, cards with a May 2020 or May 2021 expiration date will continue to be valid through May of 2022.

My district office can help complete first-time applications and take photos. Bring identification containing a birth date, such as a Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID, U.S Passport, or birth certificate.

To replace a lost or stolen Senior ID Card, call SEPTA Key Customer Service at 855-567-3782.

## ***Changes to Medical Marijuana Law Improve Patient Access***

Pennsylvania's 5-year-old medical marijuana law was recently updated to improve patient access.

Now patients can obtain a 90-day supply of medical marijuana (formerly the limit was 30 days). Curbside pickup is also permitted. These two changes make permanent temporary changes made during the pandemic.

Cancer remission therapy and neuropathies of the central nervous system were added to the list of medical conditions eligible for medical marijuana. Other eligible medical conditions include autism, anxiety disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, Tourette syndrome, cancer, epilepsy,

intractable seizures, post-traumatic stress disorder and terminal illness.

Patients no longer need to meet a doctor in person to receive a prescription for medical marijuana. This can now be done via tele-health appointments.

The 5-person limit on the number of patients for whom a caregiver can secure medical marijuana is eliminated. This will make it easier for inpatient care facilities to provide medical marijuana to their residents.

More information, including dispensary locations, can be found at [www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov](http://www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov).

## ***Controlling the Spotted Lanternfly***

The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive insect first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014. Here is some advice from the Penn State Extension on controlling this pest:

If you find a nymph or SLF adult, try to destroy it. First, try methods that do not use insecticides like swatting, stomping, or capturing them in a circle trap. Here are instructions on making a circle trap:

<https://extension.psu.edu/how-to-build-a-new-style-spotted-lanternfly-circle-trap>.

If you have many SLF on your property you can use insecticides to kill them. Choose EPA-registered

insecticides. For information about insecticides go to: <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-and-pesticide-safety>. Consider hiring a certified pesticide applicator.

Removing infested trees can prevent honeydew and sooty mold accumulation below. If possible, remove one of SLF's favorite hosts, the tree of heaven. Use an herbicide to kill its root system. For more information: <https://extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven>.

If you see a spotted lanternfly or an egg mass, please report it at <https://extension.psu.edu/have-you-seen-a-spotted-lanternfly> or call 1-888-422-3359.

## *Upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Dates*

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There will be several household hazardous waste collections in southeastern Pennsylvania in the coming months. Here are some events nearby:

- **Saturday, September 18**  
**1600 Calcon Hook Road, Sharon Hill, PA 19079**  
**(Emergency Services Training Center)**
- **Saturday, September 25**  
**400 South Lewis Road, Royersford, PA 19468**  
**(Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center)**
- **Saturday, October 16**  
**8500 Furey Road, Upper Chichester, PA 19061**  
**(Upper Chichester Municipal Building)**
- **Sunday, October 24**  
**1300 N. Woodbine Avenue, Penn Valley, PA 19072**  
**(Lower Merion Transfer Station)**

All events will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine. 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 registration, additional dates, and more information about collections in Delaware County, call the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority at (610) 892- 9627 or visit <https://www.delcopa.gov/recycle/hhw.html>.

For additional dates and more information about collections in Montgomery County, call Montgomery County Recycling at (610) 278-3618 or visit <https://www.montcopa.org/637/Recycling-Information>.

**Registration is required for all events and can be done on the above websites.**

## *Recovering Unclaimed Property Made Easier*

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The Pennsylvania Treasury Department recently upgraded its Unclaimed Property software, making recovery of your property easier.

Unclaimed property includes checks from employers and utility companies, dividends and interest from savings accounts and stocks, and credit balances.

Previously, you needed to print, complete, and mail a claim form to the Treasury Department and wait for processing. Now, certain claims can be filed

## *Property Tax/Rent Rebate Deadline Extended*

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The application deadline for Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate program has been extended to December 31. The program provides rebates for qualifying Pennsylvanians on their previous year's property taxes or rent paid based on last year's income. This year's program applies to property taxes or rent paid in 2020.

To be eligible, you must be 65 or older, a widow or widower 50 or older, or 18 or older with a permanent disability. A homeowner's income must be \$35,000 or less. A renter's income must be \$15,000 or less. Only half of gross Social Security benefits are counted in calculating income. Other sources must be counted in full.

Rebates range from \$250 to \$650.

Homeowners who pay a high proportion of their income in property taxes may receive a higher amount.

Applications can be submitted online at <https://mypath.pa.gov>. My office can provide a paper application and additional assistance.

## *Join My Email Update List*

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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).

online, providing real-time approval and faster payment.

The Pennsylvania Treasury is holding about \$3.4 billion in unclaimed property and estimates that one in 10 Pennsylvanians has a legal claim.

You can search for your unclaimed property at <https://www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property>. My office can also help you search.

## ***Free Notary Service***

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Most official documents can be notarized for free at my district and satellite offices. Please call ahead to make sure our notary is available and can notarize your type of document.

Documents my office is **not able to notarize** include car titles, wills, deeds, powers of attorney, and the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9.

Notary work is done weekdays between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 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 us know in advance if witnesses are needed. 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. Our Satellite Office does not have stairs and is handicapped accessible.

## ***New Unemployment Compensation System Now Online***

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A new unemployment benefits system is now online and accepting claims at [www.benefits.uc.pa.gov](http://www.benefits.uc.pa.gov).

The new system makes filing for benefits easier and faster. Claimants will now use Keystone ID, an online account management system used for many other Commonwealth services. Those without a Keystone ID can create one the first time they log in.

Keystone ID will replace the current UC Personal Identification Number (PIN) used to file for benefits. Individuals who file weekly claims by phone will continue to use the PIN. You can file these claims by calling 888-255-4728.

You can also file a new claim by phone by calling 1-888-313-7284.

## ***District & Satellite Offices Open***

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My Havertown District Office is opened to help with your state related matters Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

My Satellite Office at the Ardmore Library is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The library,

## ***Haverford Township Library Renovations, State Grant Moving Forward***

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Last September the Haverford Township Board of Commissioners voted to renovate Haverford Township Free Public Library. I was happy to secure a \$1 million grant for this project from the Commonwealth's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$16.5 million dollars.

In April, the Board of Commissioners approved a revised design plan, which includes about 5,000 square feet of additional space. This space could provide separate areas for teens, seniors, and tutoring.

Additional renovations include making the library ADA-compliant and energy efficient, new computers, updated lighting, a new elevator, and a new HVAC system. Improvements to parking are also being considered. These changes will be heard by the Zoning Hearing Board in August. If all goes well construction will begin next spring and last about a year.

## ***New App for TOLL BY PLATE Travelers***

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The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission is offering a new smartphone app to TOLL BY PLATE Travelers. The PA Toll Pay app allows non-E-Z PASS users to sign up for autopay and get a 15% discount on tolls. The app also allows TOLL BY PLATE customers to pay invoices and to manage their accounts.

PA Turnpike's TOLL BY PLATE is a tolling system for non-E-Z Pass customers. Cameras at the tolling facility capture a vehicle's license plate and an invoice is mailed to the owner.

To download this app search for "PA Toll Pay" in your device's app store.

For more information about TOLL BY PLATE visit [www.paturnpike.com/toll/tollbyplate.aspx](http://www.paturnpike.com/toll/tollbyplate.aspx).

For more information about E-Z Pass visit [www.paturnpike.com/toll/ezpass\\_info.aspx](http://www.paturnpike.com/toll/ezpass_info.aspx).

located at 108 Ardmore Ave., is fully handicapped accessible and my office there is in the basement.

My staff can assist with SEPTA Senior ID Card Applications, Property Tax/Rent Rebate Forms, Birth/Death certificates, Notary services, and more at both locations. No appointment is necessary.