

# **GREG VITALI**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 202166

HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2166

lpo.kg.0325

## ***LEGISLATIVE REPORT***

MARCH 2025

# **GREG VITALI**

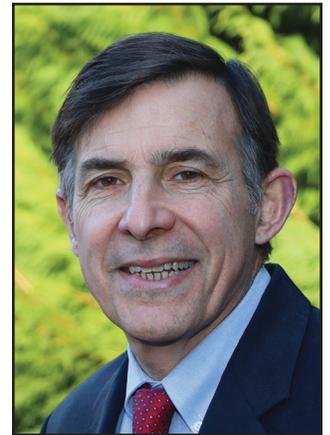
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT**

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

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

✉ RepVitali@pahouse.net

🌐 [www.RepVitali.com](http://www.RepVitali.com)



## ***Property Tax Rent Rebate Applications Now Available***

Applications for the 2024 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program are now available. This program provides a 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.

This year, the maximum standard rebate has been increased from \$650 to \$1,000. To be eligible, your household income in 2024 would need to be \$46,520 or less for both renters and homeowners. When applying, only count half of your Social Security or Federal Railroad Retirement Tier I benefits toward your total income.

The deadline to apply for this program is June 30, 2025. The state will begin mailing rebate checks on July 1. Applications can be submitted online at [www.mypath.pa.gov](http://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.

## ***REAL ID Enforcement Begins May 7th***

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The enforcement of REAL ID will start May 7, 2025. A REAL ID is a federally compliant driver's license or ID card with enhanced security features. After May 7th, you will need a REAL ID or another federal form of identification (such as a passport or military ID) to fly domestically, enter a military base, or enter certain federal facilities. You will not need a REAL ID to drive, vote, access hospitals, visit a post office, access federal courts, or receive federal benefits, such as Social Security or veterans' benefits.

To obtain a REAL ID, you must take proof of your identity (such as your birth certificate or valid US Passport), proof of your Social Security number, two proofs of your current PA address (such as an unexpired driver's license or utility bill), and proof of all legal name changes to a REAL ID center. You no longer need to provide your Social Security card as proof of your Social Security number. Instead, you can now use a W-2 form, a 1099 form, or pay stubs that have your name and full Social Security number as proof.

Before you visit a REAL ID center, you should review the PennDOT REAL ID document checklist to make sure you have all the needed materials at [www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID](http://www.dmv.pa.gov/REALID). The closest REAL ID centers are in Media (1097 W. Baltimore Pike, 19063) and King of Prussia (43 S. Gulph Road, 19406). My office can assist in obtaining copies of Pennsylvania birth certificates or direct you to the proper agencies to obtain other needed documents.

## ***Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program***

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The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is accepting applications until April 5, 2025 or when funds are depleted, whichever occurs first. LIHEAP offers cash grants to help with home heating bills and emergency situations, such as a broken furnace or an unexpected fuel shortage.

Applicants can be renters or homeowners, and the grant will be sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider and credited on your bill. You do not need to be on public assistance or have any unpaid heating bills. Grants do not need to be repaid.

This season's annual income limit for LIHEAP grants begins at \$22,590 for an individual. This limit increases by \$8,070 for each additional person in the household. Grant awards range from \$300 to \$1,000 based on household size, income, and fuel type.

You can apply for LIHEAP online, [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us), or by submitting a paper application to the Delaware County Assistance Office (701 Crosby Street, Suite A, Chester, PA 19013). My office can also help complete and submit paper applications, or you can call the Delaware County LIHEAP Hotline at 610-447-3099 for assistance.

## ***New Military License Plate Designs Available***

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This year the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is offering new military-themed license plate designs. New designs include: Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal plate, Operation Inherent Resolve Veterans plate, Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal plate, Honoring Our Women Veterans plate, and Women Veterans plate.

Military plates can be purchased for \$26 by service members with documentation of eligible service. Anyone can apply for an Honoring Our Women Veterans registration plate for \$41, with \$15 going to the Veterans Trust Fund to support programs and resources assisting women veterans.

My office can provide the needed forms for these plates and submit them to Harrisburg. For more information, visit the registration plates page on PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website [www.dmv.pa.gov/VEHICLE-SERVICES](http://www.dmv.pa.gov/VEHICLE-SERVICES).

## *Reduced Vehicle Registration Fees for Retirees*

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The annual income threshold for the \$11 Reduced Registration Fee for Retirees has been increased from \$19,200 to \$29,906. The Retired Status Vehicle Registration is a discounted vehicle registration processing fee that is available for retired people who meet the requirements.

To be eligible you must be retired and receiving Social Security, SSI payments, retirement benefits, or other pensions and annuities, regardless of age. Your total income should be \$29,906 or less, including income from business, rental, and unemployment. Only one vehicle per qualified applicant may be registered for the retired status fee and you must be the main driver of the vehicle you're registering, unless you're mentally or physically incapable.

To apply for your initial retired status registration, you must complete form MV-371 and mail it to PennDOT. Once qualified for retired status – you can renew your registration online the years following. You can print this form from the [PennDOT Vehicle Services Webpage](#) or contact my office.

## *File Federal and State Taxes for Free Through IRS Direct File*

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Pennsylvania has joined the Federal IRS Direct File program, allowing you to file your Federal and State income taxes online for free.

Using the Direct File online filing tool, qualifying taxpayers will complete their 2024 federal tax returns, and then be directed to Pennsylvania's state income tax filing system, myPATH, where they can file their 2024 Pennsylvania state returns. Some information, including W-2s and demographic information, will automatically be uploaded to your state return to help save time.

IRS Direct File is open for filing until April 15th, the tax filing deadline. To check your eligibility or file for free through Direct File, visit: [www.irs.gov/filing/irs-direct-file](http://www.irs.gov/filing/irs-direct-file)

## *Secondary Disability Parking Placards*

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PennDOT now allows you to have two Person with Disability parking placards, or one Person with Disability parking placard and one Person with Disability registration plate. The Disability Placard is displayed on your rearview mirror and the disability registration plate is affixed to your vehicle.

To obtain a plate or placard, Form MV-145 or Form MV-145A must be completed by the person with a disability and a health care provider or a police officer, and returned to PennDOT. Forms are available on [PennDOT's Webpage](#), or you can get and submit the forms through my office. There are no fees required for the issuance or renewal of a Disability Parking Placard.

## *Notary Service for Government Documents*

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Many official, government-related documents can be notarized for free in my district or satellite office. 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. This list is not exhaustive.

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.

## ***Updates to PA Vehicle Laws***

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Several updates to PA's Vehicle Laws will go into effect this year, specifically related to motorcycle inspections, motorcycle lemon law, EV registration fees, and plate flipping devices.

Now, motorcycles can receive safety inspections anytime during the year. Previously, motorcycles registered in Pennsylvania could only receive safety inspections between March and October.

Motorcycles are now subject to Pennsylvania's Lemon Law. The Lemon Law requires manufacturers of new motor vehicles registered in Pennsylvania to replace or refund the purchase of a vehicle after 3 unsuccessful attempts to repair, subject to some limitations.

In April, owners of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles will be required to pay an annual fee of \$200 to offset the loss of gas tax revenue on those vehicles. In 2026 the fee will be \$250, and in 2027 and each year thereafter, the fee will be adjusted annually for inflation. The amount of this fee for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles is 25% of the amount for electric vehicles.

License plate flipping devices have been banned and a summary offense with a \$2,000 fine has been established. A license plate flipping device switches between two or more license plates or hides a license plate from view.

For more information on these and other legislative changes, feel free to contact my office.

## ***Reporting Potholes***

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Potholes form frequently this time of year as temperatures fluctuate between mild and freezing. You can report potholes on state-owned roadways by calling 1-800-FIX-ROAD (1-800-349-7623) or online through its [Customer Care Center](#). When reporting, please provide as much detail as possible, including the county, municipality, route number and/or street name, and nearby landmarks to help crews locate the pothole. Be sure to record your case reference number, in case you want to follow up or check the status of your request online or through my office.

## ***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, visit my House webpage ( [www.pahouse.com/Vitali/](http://www.pahouse.com/Vitali/) ) 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***

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

## ***Visit My District & Satellite Offices***

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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 Blvd and Lawrence Road, next to St. Pius.

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