

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 202166

HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2166

lpo.kl.0814

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

AUGUST 2014

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:

38B East Wing
P.O. Box 202166
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2166
(717) 787-7647
Fax: (717) 705-2089

WEBSITE: www.gregvitali.com

Seniors ride free with SEPTA ID card

Senior citizens may apply for a Senior Citizen Identification Card from the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) at my district office in Havertown.

The ID cards enable seniors to travel for FREE at any time without restriction on SEPTA buses, trolleys and subway lines. With the ID card, you are also eligible for a \$1 fare on SEPTA's Regional Rail lines.

You must appear in person after your 65th birthday to fill out an application with one of the following forms of identification: photo driver's license, Pennsylvania non-driver photo ID, PACE card, passport or naturalization papers, birth certificate, baptismal certificate or armed forces/separation papers from military service.

You also can obtain your ID card at the following locations:

- The ground floor of SEPTA Customer Service at 1234 Market St. in Philadelphia, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 215-580-7800 for details.
- The 69th Street Transportation Center at the intersection of 69th and Market Streets in Upper Darby, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 215-580-3800 for details.
- Norristown Transportation Center, Lafayette and Swede streets, Norristown, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 215-580-4687 for details.

2014 household hazardous waste and electronics drop-off events

More HHW and electronics drop-off events will be held in Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties this year.

All events will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine.

Sept. 14 (Sunday) -- Penn State University-Brandywine Campus, 25 Yearsley Mill Road, Media, Delaware County (HHW, computers, TVs and small electronics)

Sept. 20 (Saturday) -- Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center, 400 S. Lewis Road, Royersford, Montgomery County (Only HHW will be accepted)

Sept. 27 (Saturday) -- Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center, 400 S. Lewis Road, Royersford, Montgomery County (Computers, TVs and small electronics only)

Oct. 11 (Saturday) -- Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, Chester County (HHW, computers, TVs and small electronics)

Oct. 18 (Saturday) -- Upper Chichester Municipal Building, 8500 Furey Road, Upper Chichester, Delaware County (HHW, computers, TVs and small electronics)

Vitali fights to protect state lands

Marcellus shale natural gas drilling should not be done in Pennsylvania state parks and forests. That's why I opposed Gov. Tom Corbett's recent plan to lease additional mineral rights on state lands. I also am fighting to prevent additional drilling in Loyalsock State Forest.

The fiscal year 2014-15 budget assumes \$95 million from additional gas drilling leases in state parks and forests.

Despite repeated requests, the governor has yet to disclose which parks are under consideration for drilling. Consequently, I filed two Right-to-Know requests. The issue is currently being litigated in Commonwealth Court.

No additional lands have been leased pending the resolution of a separate lawsuit filed by the Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation.

In August, I introduced H.R. 500, which would urge Gov. Corbett to protect the 25,621-acre Clarence Moore Lands in Loyalsock State Forest from natural gas drilling.

Loyalsock is a valuable 114,000-acre forest in Bradford, Lycoming and Sullivan counties. The Clarence Moore Lands include the Old Loggers Path, one of the state's best hiking trails, and Rock Run, an exceptional-value stream.

I will continue to work to protect Loyalsock and other state lands from drilling.

Oct. 19 (Sunday) -- Lower Merion Transfer Station, 1300 N. Woodbine Ave., Penn Valley, Montgomery County (Only HHW will be accepted)

Oct. 25 (Saturday) -- Upper Merion Middle School, 435 Crossfield Road, King of Prussia, Montgomery County (Computers, TVs and small electronics only)

Household hazardous waste includes household products that are labeled poisonous, toxic, flammable, caustic, corrosive, reactive or explosive. Computer equipment includes hard drives, keyboards and monitors. Electronics that can be dropped off include televisions, scanners, irons and DVD players.

Please do **NOT** bring smoke detectors, latex paint, alkaline batteries, asbestos, explosives, air conditioners, large appliances or any items containing Freon.

Call the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority at 610-892-9627, Montgomery County's Recycling Hotline at 610-278-3618 or the Chester County Solid Waste Authority at 610-273-3771 if you have questions about one of their events.

Is the state holding your unclaimed property?

The state Treasurer's Office is holding \$1.9 billion in unclaimed property, and it is estimated that about one in 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property.

Unclaimed property may include:

- Closed bank accounts;
- Uncashed checks, including paychecks;
- Lost stocks and bonds;
- Contents of safe deposit boxes;
- Expired gift cards/gift certificates.

To find out whether you have unclaimed property, you can search your name, as well as your friends and family in the Unclaimed Property database at www.patreasury.gov/Unclaimed/search.html or call 1-800-222-2046. There is no charge to claim your unclaimed property.

You can also contact or stop by my office. My staff will be happy to help you search the Pennsylvania Treasurer's Office website for unclaimed property for free.

Indoor tanning ban for minors

The Indoor Tanning Regulation Act took effect in July, prohibiting tanning for those younger than 17 and requiring parental consent for those who are 17. Indoor tanning exposes users to both UV-A and UV-B rays, which damage the skin and can lead to cancer.

The new law also requires tanning facilities to post signs warning of the dangers of tanning. They must also provide access to their records to the Department of Health and to keep customer records for three years.

Tanning facility operators also must provide protective eyewear, free, to each customer.

For more information, please visit bit.ly/1kmV2L2.

Yellow Dot Program provides life-saving information to first responders

Pennsylvania's Yellow Dot Program was created to assist citizens in the first hour of emergency care following a traffic accident when they may not be able to communicate their needs. Placing a yellow dot in your vehicle's rear window alerts first responders to check your glove compartment for vital information to ensure you receive the medical attention you need.

To participate, you must complete a personal information form which includes your name, contact information, emergency contact information, medical history and medications, allergies and your doctors' names.

Forms are available in my office or you can register for the program by visiting www.yellowdot.pa.gov.

The program is a cooperative effort among the Pennsylvania Departments of Transportation, Health and Aging; the Pennsylvania State Police, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and First Responders and local law enforcement.

Join my email update list

I 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.

Application deadline extended for Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

The state has extended the application deadline for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program to Dec. 31.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program provides a state rebate on 2013 property taxes or rent to income-eligible residents who are 65 or older; widows and widowers 50 or older; and people with disabilities 18 or older.

To be eligible, your household income must be \$35,000 or less if you are a homeowner, or \$15,000 or less if you are a renter. When applying, you only have to count half of your Social Security or federal railroad retirement Tier I benefits toward your total income.

You can obtain information about the program, an application and help applying through my district office. There is no charge to apply to this program.

Some companies offer assistance in completing these applications for a fee. Please disregard these offers.

Free notary service at district office

You can have most official documents notarized for free in my district office. Please call ahead to make sure the notary is in the office and can accommodate your type of document. Notary work is done most weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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. We also ask that residents observe a five-signature limit.

My 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.

Receive newsletters electronically

I am sending newsletters via email in an effort to reduce postage costs and help the environment. If you want to opt out of receiving the paper version, and receive only an electronic copy, go to my website, www.gregvitali.com and click on "Sign up for e-newsletters" in the upper left corner.

Important information about the Nov. 4 election

The general election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 4. Voters will cast ballots for the office of governor, congressman, state senator and state representative.

State representative candidates will be running in newly reconfigured legislative districts.

Residents of Haverford Township Wards 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Radnor Township Wards 2 and 7 and Precincts 1-2, 3-2, 5-1; and Lower Merion Township Wards 4 and 8 and Precinct 10-3 will be voting for state representative in the 166th District. (See map.) I currently represent this district.

Residents of Haverford Township Wards 1 and 9 will be voting for state representative in the 163rd District. Residents of Marple Township Wards 3 and 4 will be voting for state representative in the 165th District.

Unless you are a first-time voter, you do not have to show ID to cast a ballot. Commonwealth Court has struck down the state's voter identification law.

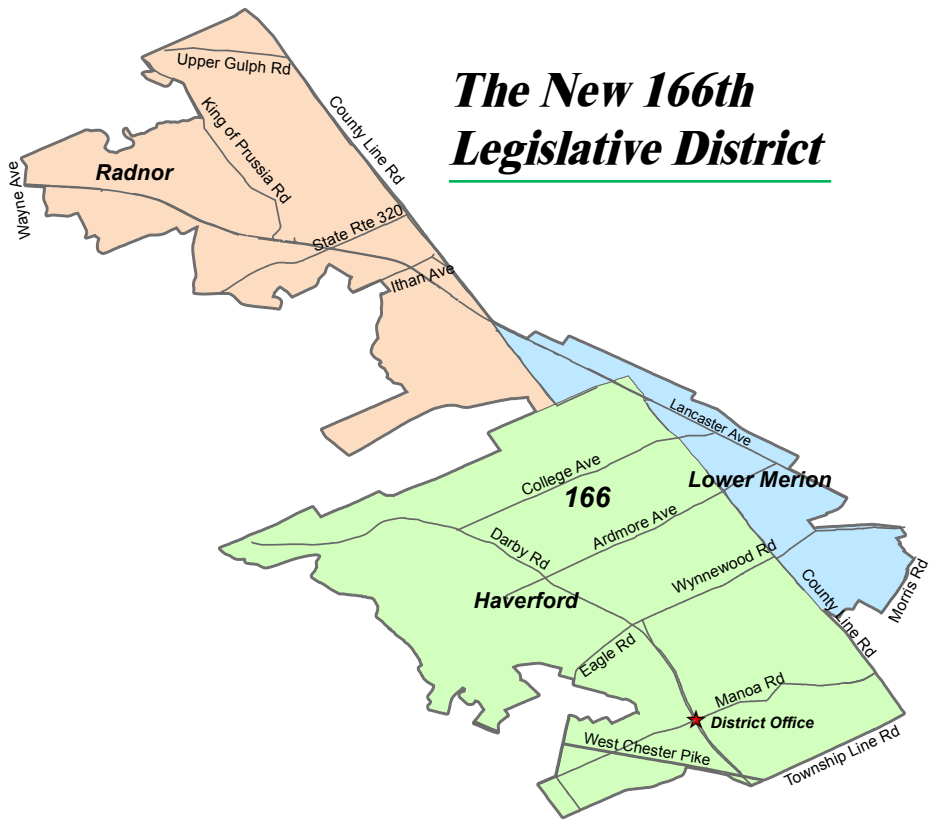
You may vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to make it to the polls because of illness or disability, or you will be out of your municipality the entire day.

Delaware County residents may obtain an absentee ballot application from the county election bureau located in the Government Center at 201 W. Front St., Media. Applications are available online at www.co.delaware.pa.us/depts/election.html.

Montgomery County residents may obtain an absentee ballot at Montgomery County Voter Services, One Montgomery Plaza, Suite 602, 425 Swede St. Norristown. Applications are available online at www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?nid=753.

Applications for absentee ballots also are available in my office.

You may determine if you are registered to vote and the location where you vote by visiting www.votespa.com.



The New 166th Legislative District

Important 2014 general election dates

- Oct. 6** – Last day to register to vote.
- Oct. 28** – Last day to apply for an absentee ballot.
- Oct. 31** – Last day for county election offices to receive absentee ballots.
- Nov. 4** – Election day. Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Same-sex marriage now legal in Pa.

In May, a federal judge struck down Pennsylvania's ban on same-sex marriage, finding it violated the due process and equal protection provisions of the United States Constitution.

This means that same-sex couples in Pennsylvania now can marry.

Same-sex couples wishing to marry can start the process by obtaining a license at the Register of Wills Office at the Montgomery or Delaware County Courthouse.

The phone number for the Montgomery County Register of Wills Office is 610-278-3414. The phone number for the Delaware County Register of Wills Office is 610-891-4548.

Same-sex marriage had been illegal in Pennsylvania since September 1996 when former Gov. Tom Ridge signed legislation into law banning such marriages. In 2013, the ACLU filed suit in U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania on behalf of 23 plaintiffs to overturn Pennsylvania's ban. That suit led to the most recent federal court ruling.