

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

JULY 2013

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT



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Free notary service at district office

If you are a resident of the 166th Legislative District, 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.

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.

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 hand corner.

Supreme Court affirms plan that changes 166th District

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court on May 8 upheld a redistricting plan that redraws the boundaries of all 203 state House and all 50 state Senate districts.

Here's how the plan affects the 166th Legislative District:

Currently, the district includes all of Haverford Township, Wards 3 and 4 in Marple Township and Precincts 5-1, 7-1 and 7-2 in Radnor Township.

For the 2014 election and thereafter, the 166th District will include Wards 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 in Haverford Township, Precincts 1-2, 3-2, 5-1, 7-1 and 7-2 in Radnor Township as well as all of Ward 2. It also will include Wards 4 and 8 and Precinct 10-3 in Lower Merion Township.

Haverford Township Wards 1 and 9 will become part of the 163rd Legislative District, which is currently represented by Nick Micozzie. Wards 3 and 4 in Marple Township will become part of the 165th Legislative District, which is currently represented by William Adolph.

For now, nothing has changed. Constituents should continue to contact my office for help with any state-related matter or to express their opinion on state issues. The new boundaries will be in effect for the November 2014 general election and thereafter.

These changes do not affect your township or school district affiliation.

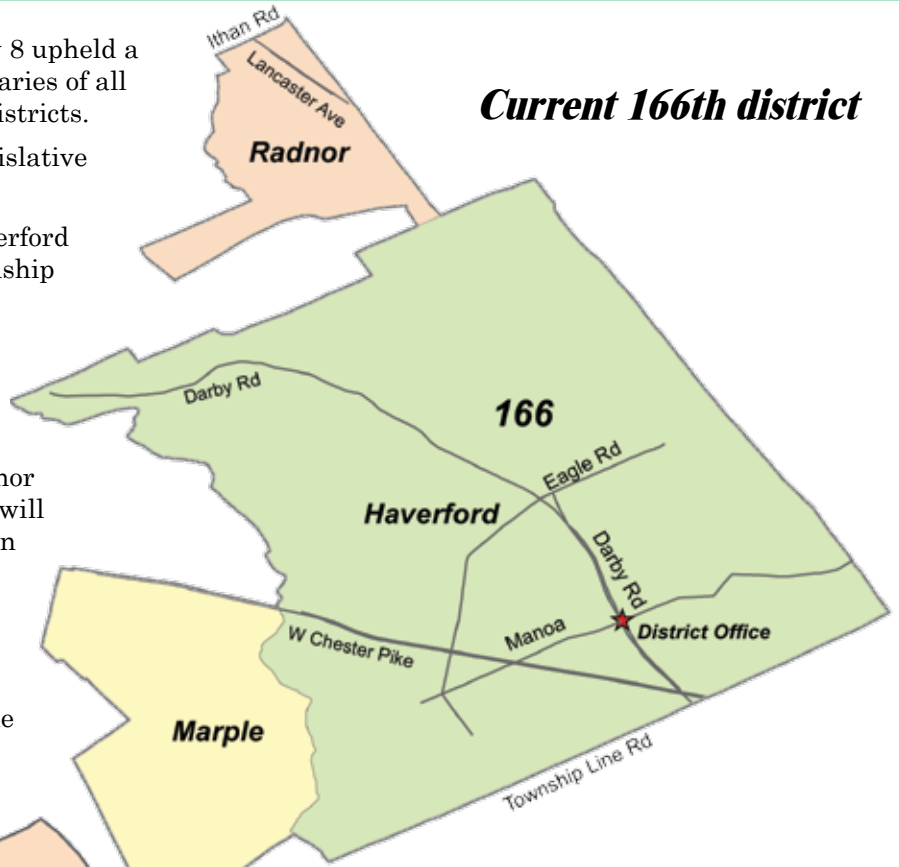
If you are unsure of what ward and precinct you live in, please visit www.votespa.com or call my office.

The process of redrawing the boundaries of Pennsylvania's House and Senate districts takes place every 10 years following the Census. It is done by the Legislative Reapportionment Commission to equalize populations in legislative districts.

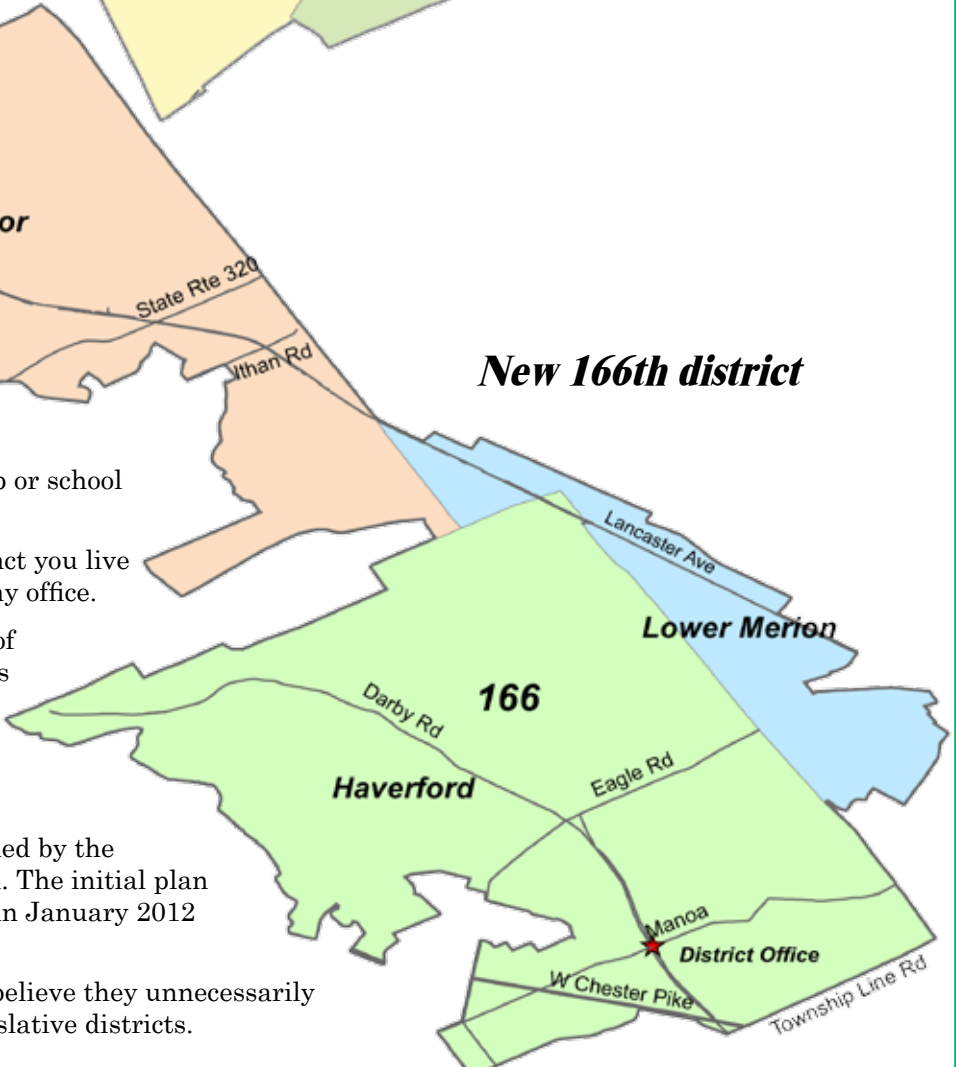
The approved plan was the second plan filed by the Legislative Reapportionment Commission. The initial plan was rejected by the state Supreme Court in January 2012 because it was unconstitutional.

I filed exceptions to both plans because I believe they unnecessarily divided Haverford Township into two legislative districts.

Current 166th district



New 166th district



DEP assumes control of Havertown superfund site

Here is what's happening at the Havertown PCP Superfund site:

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection on June 24 assumed primary cleanup responsibility from the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The federal Superfund law requires that operations and maintenance of the site be transferred to the state 10 years after the cleanup remedy is operational and functional.

Specifically, DEP will assume control of Operable Units 2 and 3.

Unit 2 consists of groundwater recovery wells, a collection trench and a treatment plant that for the past 13 years has removed PCP, arsenic, benzene, and other toxic waste from groundwater. According to EPA, National Wood Preservers disposed of polluted liquid waste down a well at the site where it operated from 1947 to 1991.

Unit 3 consists of additional wells and an open space

behind Rittenhouse Circle near the end of Washington Avenue where contaminants were discovered and excavated.

According to EPA, PCP has been reduced by 75 percent or more in 61 of 75 monitoring wells on site. Those wells are keeping contaminants from moving off site, according to an EPA study.

Nothing will change how the treatment plant operates. DEP has retained Tetra Tech, the same consulting firm EPA used for the past 15 years, and the same employees will run the treatment plant.

EPA will still have oversight capacity, and all cleanup requirements and technologies currently in place remain in effect.

For more information, contact Ruth Wuenschel, EPA's community involvement coordinator, at 215-814-5540 or at wuenschel.ruth@epa.gov. You may read the 2010 five-year review report at <http://is.gd/havsfld>.

PA Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act

Pennsylvania's Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act imposes requirements on home contractors designed to protect homeowners.

Contracts for home improvements of \$500 or more must be in writing and signed by the homeowner and contractor before the work begins. The contract must state the work to be done, the starting and completion date and total cost of the project. The Act only permits contractors to request or accept a one-third deposit, plus the cost of special-order materials for jobs over \$5,000.

Contractors are required to have minimum insurance coverage of \$50,000 for property damage and \$50,000 for personal injury.

The law requires all home improvement contractors, with limited exceptions, to register with the Pennsylvania Attorney General and to display their registration number on all advertising and contracts. Registration increases the accountability of home contractors, who are now subject to criminal penalties for fraud.

To file a complaint against a contractor, call the Office of Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection toll-free help line at 1-800-441-2555 or visit www.attorneygeneral.gov.

To determine if a contractor is registered, or for more information on the law, you may call the Office of Attorney General, Home Improvement Consumer Information Toll-Free Helpline at 1-888-520-6680 or visit www.attorneygeneral.gov.

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 2012 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 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 local office.

If you have already applied, the state began mailing rebate checks on July 1.

Household hazardous waste and electronics drop-off events

There are several more household hazardous waste and electronics drop-off events this year in Delaware and surrounding counties. All events will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. rain or shine.

Sunday, Aug. 11 at **Abington Junior High School**, 970 Highland Ave., Abington. Enter via Tyler Road (HHW only, no E-waste)

Sunday, Aug. 18 at **Springfield Township High School (Montgomery County)**, 1801 E. Paper Mill Road, Erdenheim (E-waste only, no HHW)

Thursday, Sept. 12 at **Rose Tree Park**, 1671 N. Providence Road, Media (HHW and E-waste)

Saturday, Oct. 12 at **Upper Merion Middle School**, 450 Keebler Road, King of Prussia. Enter near 435 Crossfield Road (E-waste only, no HHW)

Saturday, Oct. 12 at the **Government Services Center**, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester (HHW and E-waste)

Sunday, Oct. 20 at **Lower Merion Transfer Station**, 1300 N. Woodbine Ave., Penn Valley (HHW 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.

For more information about the Media event, call the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority at 610-892-9627 or visit www.co.delaware.pa.us/SWA.

For more information about the Abington, Erdenheim, King of Prussia and Penn Valley events, call the Montgomery County Recycling Hotline at 610-278-3618 or visit www.montgomerycountyclecycling.org. For more information about the West Chester event, call Chester County Solid Waste Authority at 610-273-3771 or visit www.chestercounty.org.

Vitali bill would protect public health in Marcellus drilling areas

In June, I introduced legislation that would identify the impacts Marcellus Shale drilling has on human health and would allow doctors to better treat drilling-related ailments.

The Marcellus Public Health Protection Act would require the Pennsylvania Department of Health to establish a surveillance system that would collect, analyze and disseminate information about Marcellus-related illnesses. It also would require the Health Department to compare the health of residents in an area of intense drilling with a control area, and conduct a long-term study on the health impacts of unconventional gas operations.

The bill also would increase drillers' chemical disclosure requirements.

Additionally, the bill would allow physicians to share, to a greater extent, confidential and proprietary information about chemicals used in the drilling process with other health professionals or regulatory agencies for health care purposes.

And, the bill would require a provision in Marcellus leases notifying lessors of the potential adverse health impacts of living near drilling activities.

House Bill 1579 has 23 co-sponsors and bipartisan support. It was referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

The bill was the result of a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing I hosted in May during which a panel of experts offered numerous suggestions to make Marcellus Shale gas drilling safer to people and the environment.

Earlier this year, I introduced legislation, H.B. 950, which would permanently ban the leasing of additional state forestland for Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling. It would protect fragile ecosystems in the remaining 800,000 acres of state forestland that has not been made available for drilling from its unpredictable impacts.

How to sign up for the do-not-call list

You can register both your cell phone and landline numbers with the state and federal do-not-call lists to avoid most telemarketing calls.

To register, visit Pennsylvania's do not call list at www.attorneygeneral.gov/dnc.aspx or call 1-888-777-3406. Registration is free. There is a rolling enrollment. You may sign up at any time and the registration is good for five years. After that, you can re-enroll. Signing up on Pennsylvania's list automatically adds the same phone numbers to the national do-not-call list.

If you continue to receive unwanted telemarketing phone calls, complaints can be filed with the Bureau of Consumer Protection in the Attorney General's Office by visiting www.attorneygeneral.gov/dnc.aspx or by calling 1-800-441-2555. Violation of the law carries a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 and as high as \$3,000 if the person contacted is 60 or older.

The law does not prevent telemarketers from calling those with whom they had an established business relationship within 12 months preceding the call, or telemarketers calling on behalf of charities, political parties or candidates.