

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 202166

HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2166

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2020

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

Satellite Office:

Ardmore Free Library
108 Ardmore Avenue
Ardmore, PA 19003
Thursdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

EMAIL: greg@gregvitali.com

WEBSITE: www.gregvitali.com



SEPTA Key Senior ID Card Expiration Extended

SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards allow seniors 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 of all SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards expiring in 2020. Seniors with a card expiring in 2020 will be able to continue to ride SEPTA using their current card for 12 months beyond the printed date of expiration. For example, cards with a May 2020 expiration date will continue to be valid through May 2021.

Card holders with a Senior ID Card expiring in 2020, who still wish to renew their card this year, can obtain same-day card renewal at either SEPTA Headquarters, located at 1234 Market Street, or the SEPTA Accessible Travel Center located at Suburban Station, 15 N. 16th Street.

My district office can help complete first-time applications and take photos for seniors 65+ who need a card. Bring a form of identification with a date of birth on it, such as a Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID, U.S. passport, or birth certificate.

SEPTA Key Cards and SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards can be obtained at SEPTA Headquarters at 1234 Market Street in Philadelphia from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. or the SEPTA Accessible Travel Center at Suburban Station in Center City from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Seniors without SEPTA Key Senior ID Cards but who have a valid Pennsylvania driver's license or non-driver ID card issued before July 2017 can still ride for free.

Now Online: SEPTA Key Card Fund Transfers

In 2016, SEPTA introduced Key Cards, which are electronic cards you can use instead of cash or physical passes to ride SEPTA-operated transportation. Currently, Key Cards can be used on the buses, trolleys, the subway, and regional rail. Key Cards expire three years from the date of issuance.

SEPTA has launched a new online feature which allows riders to transfer funds and unused one-day passes from expired cards to new cards. Previously, the only way to transfer funds and passes was by phone or in person.

To access the new transfer feature visit <https://www.septakey.org/>. You can also make changes by calling SEPTA Key Customer Call Center at (855) 567-3782.

You can buy SEPTA Key Cards at SEPTA Transit Sales Offices, Center City Regional Rail Sales Office, and fare kiosks located at 1234 Market Street, select bus loops, and the Broad Street/Market Frankford Line Stations.

Customers should register new SEPTA Key Cards after purchase to protect against loss or theft. Cards can be registered at www.septakey.org or by calling (855) 567-3782.

New Pa. Law Gives More Protection to Child Sexual Abuse Victims

A new Pennsylvania law gives more legal protections to victims of childhood sexual abuse. The new law gives future victims of child sexual abuse more time to file civil lawsuits and allows them to sue governmental entities. The law also ends or increases the time limits for prosecutors to file criminal charges.

Now, someone who was the victim of sexual abuse when he or she was a minor may file a civil action seeking money damages until reaching age 55. Someone who was between the age of 18 and 24 when the incident occurred has until the age of 30 to begin a civil action and a person over the age of 24 has two years to bring a civil action against the wrongdoer.

The new law also allows civil lawsuits seeking money damages relating to the sexual abuse of minors to be brought against the Commonwealth and local governments for their negligence.

Under the new law, the criminal statute of limitations for certain sexual crimes against minors has been removed entirely. This means a prosecutor can bring criminal charges no matter how long ago the alleged incident occurred. The criminal statute of limitations for certain sexual crimes against persons between the ages of 18 and 24 has been increased to 20 years.

These changes in the law apply to future incidents only and are not retroactive.

New Laws Increases Age to Purchase Tobacco Products to 21

In December, federal legislation increased the legal purchasing age of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and vaping products, from 18 to 21.

Effective July 1, a new Pennsylvania law will prohibit the use of tobacco products in school buildings, on school buses, and on school district property.

Under the new law, a student will commit a summary offense if they **possess** or **use** a tobacco product in a school building, on a school bus, and on school district property. While, any person, other than a student, will commit a summary offense if they **use** a tobacco product in the same locations.

School boards will need to establish a policy to enforce the prohibition of tobacco on school grounds. The school board may designate areas no less than 50 feet from a school building, stadium or bleachers where tobacco use may be permitted by individuals other than students.

PennDOT Quiz

You pull up to an intersection to make a right turn. You see a traffic signal with a steady red light. You also see a “right turn signal” with a steady red light (as depicted in the photo). There is no “No Turn On Red” sign at the intersection and no cars in the area. Are you legally able to turn right? (Answer on page 4.)



Intersection of West Chester Pike and Veterans Blvd. in Broomall.

Register to Vote by April 13 for Primary Election

Tuesday, April 28 is Pennsylvania's primary election.

In this primary election, registered Democrats or Republicans can select nominees from their respective parties to represent them in the November 3 general election.

Voters will cast ballots for President of the United States, U.S. Congress, State Attorney General, State Auditor General, State Treasurer, State Senator and State Representative, and delegates to the presidential national conventions.

Voting procedures have changed since the last election.

Key 2020 Primary Election Dates

- March 9: Vote by mail period opens.
- April 13: Deadline to register to vote
- April 28: Primary election

The last day to register to vote or change party registration in the primary is April 13. Previously, the deadline was thirty days before the election. You can complete your voter registration online at www.register.votespa.com.

In addition, Pennsylvania's absentee ballot system has been expanded. Previously, voters needed to provide an eligible reason to obtain an absentee ballot. Now absentee ballots can be issued for any reason. These ballots must still be requested via an application available online at www.votesPA.com/ApplyAbsentee or in print form.

Absentee ballots must be received by the voter's polling location no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day. Previously, ballots needed to be received by the county election office seven days before the election.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Your polling place may have changed since the last election. Voters can verify their polling location at www.votespa.com.

Unless you are a first-time voter or voting at a new precinct, photo ID is not required.

Delaware County residents can obtain more information by visiting the Delaware County Election Bureau website at <http://www.delcopa.gov/electionsbureau/index.html> or call (610) 891-4673.

Montgomery County residents can obtain more information by visiting the Montgomery County Voter Services website at <https://www.montcopa.org/753/Voter-Services> or call (610) 278-3275.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Applications Now Available

Applications for the 2019 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program are available.

This program provides a state rebate on 2019 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. The maximum standard rebate is \$650.

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, only 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 free help applying through my district office or on the state Department of Revenue's website at www.revenue.pa.gov.

The state will begin mailing rebate checks on July 1.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

There will be several household hazardous waste collections in southeastern Pennsylvania in 2020. Here are some upcoming events nearby.

- Saturday, May 2, Emergency Services Training Center
1700 Calcon Hook Road, Sharon Hill
- Saturday, June 13, Norristown Area High School
1900 Eagle Drive, Norristown
- Saturday, June 20, Abington Junior High School
2056 Susquehanna Road, Abington
- Saturday, June 20, Delaware County Community College
901 Media Line Road, Media

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 additional dates and more information about collections in Delaware County, call the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority at (610) 892- 9627 or visit to <https://www.delcopa.gov/departments/swa.html>.

For additional dates and more information about collections in Montgomery County, call the Montgomery County recycling hotline at (610) 278-3618 or visit www.montcopa.org/recycling.

Home Heating Assistance Available until April 10

The 2019–2020 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program – LIHEAP – is accepting applications for heating assistance grants through April 10. LIHEAP offers cash grants of \$200 to \$1,000 that are sent directly to the utility company to defray heating costs for eligible households, and crisis benefits of up to \$600 for households in immediate danger of being without heat. Contact my office or visit <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx> for help applying.

Pennsylvania's Do-Not-Call List Law Expanded

Recent legislation has made several changes to Pennsylvania's Do-Not-Call List. This program maintains phone numbers for those who do not want to receive telemarketing calls. Telemarketers are prohibited from placing sales calls to any phone numbers on this list.

Under the new law, business telephone numbers can now be registered on the Do-Not-Call List. Previously, only residential numbers could be registered.

Furthermore, registered telephone numbers on the Do-Not-Call List are now permanently maintained in the system. Previously, registered phone numbers were removed every five years.

Additionally, robocalls are now required to contain an opt-out procedure on how to stop receiving future telephone solicitation calls from that telemarketer or telemarketing business.

Lastly, any telephone solicitation calls are prohibited on legal holidays.

You can register for Pennsylvania's Do-Not-Call List by visiting <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/protect-yourself/do-not-call-list/>, or by calling 1(888) 777-3406.

Social Media Update

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

You also can follow me on Twitter @GregVitali.

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, please email RepVitali@pahouse.net.

Free Notary Service

Most official documents can be notarized for free in my district and satellite offices. Please call ahead to make sure our notary is in the office and can accommodate your type of document.

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

Notary work is done weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 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 my staff know if witnesses are needed for your documents. 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. No stairs are required to access our satellite office.

Ardmore Satellite Office

Last July, I opened a satellite office on the bottom floor of the Ardmore Library, which is fully handicapped accessible.

The location, 108 Ardmore Ave., is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All services available in our main district office are available in our satellite office, including SEPTA senior key card applications and notary services.

If you have questions regarding the satellite office, please call the main district office at (610) 789-3900.