

GREG VITALI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE — 166TH DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

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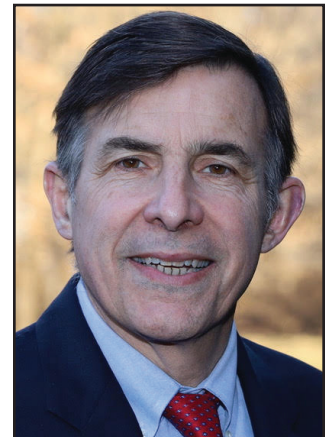
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Vitali Bill Would Eliminate Tax Break for Data Centers

Recently, I introduced legislation (H.B. 2198) to eliminate the sales tax exemption for equipment purchased by data centers. This exemption was created in 2021 to attract data center developers to Pennsylvania. With the rapid growth of data centers across the state, it's clear that the exemption has served its purpose and is no longer necessary.

Since 2023, the Commonwealth has forgone over \$80 million in revenue due to this exemption. If it remains in place, Pennsylvania could lose an additional \$235 million by 2030. Data centers should pay the same sales tax on equipment that other

businesses and individuals do.

Data centers also bring significant challenges. They consume enormous amounts of electricity, driving up consumer energy costs, and can require large quantities of water, potentially straining local supplies. Their growing presence near residential areas can also impact quality of life for neighbors.

Previously, I successfully eliminated this tax exemption for data centers engaged in cryptocurrency mining, and now I am working to ensure all data centers are held to the same standard.

PA Tax Filing Help is Available

Pennsylvania personal income tax help is available through the PA Department of Revenue's Online Customer Service Center at <https://revenue.pa.custhelp.com/> and by calling (717) 787-8201 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Online Customer Service Center contains answers to hundreds of common income tax questions and allows taxpayers to submit questions to the department.

You can also visit a Department of Revenue district office by looking on <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/revenue/contact-us/district-offices> for state personal income tax filing assistance. Help is available

from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Customers are encouraged to call ahead to make appointments, and they should also bring their Social Security cards and photo identification.

Taxpayers can check the status of their refunds online by selecting the Where's My Income Tax Refund link at <https://mypath.pa.gov/> on the department's homepage; or by calling 1-888-PATAXES.

Free tax forms and instructions are available at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/revenue>.

File your PA Taxes for Free with myPATH

You can file your **PA Personal Income Tax Return (PA-40)** for free using **myPATH** link at <https://www.mypath.pa.gov/> - short for **My Pennsylvania Tax Hub**. myPATH is accessible on computers, tablets, and mobile devices and includes automatic calculators to help reduce errors and provide instant confirmation once a return is successfully filed. myPATH is available for state tax filing only; taxpayers will need to find other options to file federal and local returns. You can also file your PA-40 in Spanish using this website: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/revenue/get-assistance/spanish-resources>.

The 2025 Property Tax Rent Rebate Program is now Accepting Applications

Applications for the 2025 Property Tax/Rent Rebate (PTRR) Program are now available. This program provides a state rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2025 to income-eligible residents who are 65 or older, widows and widowers who are 50 or older, and individuals with disabilities who are 18 or older.

The maximum standard rebate is now \$1,000. To be eligible, your household income in 2025 would need to be \$48,110 or less for both renters and homeowners. An annual cost-of-living adjustment has also been established for the income limits so the program can keep pace with inflation and increases in Social Security benefits.

When applying, count only half of your Social Security or Federal Railroad Retirement Tier I benefits toward your total income. Applications can be submitted online at <https://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.

The easiest way to check the status of your rebate is by using the Track Status of Property Tax or Rent Rebate link at <https://www.pa.gov/services/revenue/track-status-of-property-tax-or-rent-rebate>. To check your status, you will need your Social Security number, claim year, and date of birth.

Help Recovering Your Unclaimed Property

My office can help you recover your unclaimed property. Unclaimed property includes checks from employers and utility companies, dividends and interest from savings accounts and stocks, and credit balances.

State law requires businesses to report unclaimed property to the Treasury three years after being unable to find or contact the rightful owner. The PA Treasury is holding about \$5 billion in unclaimed property and estimates that 1 in 10 Pennsylvanians has a legal claim.

My office can file on your behalf and receive notifications on its status and any issues that may arise. We can also contact the unclaimed property department about any questions we encounter.

You can also search for and claim property online by visiting <https://www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property/> or by calling (800) 222-2046.

Alternative to Real ID for Air Travelers

The Federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is now offering an alternative to air passengers who do not have a Real ID or other acceptable form of identification. Passengers now can pay \$45 to use an identity verification system, TSA ConfirmID, to establish their identity at airport security checkpoints. This fee will cover a 10-day travel period. Passengers who use TSA ConfirmID should expect delays. TSA recommends travelers planning to use TSA ConfirmID should pay the fee online before traveling. You can do this by clicking the TSA ConfirmID link at <https://www.tsa.gov/tsaconfirm-id>.

REAL ID is a federally compliant driver's license or ID card with enhanced security features. You now 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.

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 materials needed at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dmv/driver-services/real-id>. 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 you in obtaining copies of Pennsylvania birth certificates or direct you to the proper agencies to obtain other needed documents.

West Chester Pike and Blue Route Interchange Project Update

Work began last May at the intersection of West Chester Pike and I-476 (near Lawrence Rd.) to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion. The work is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

Guide rails have been installed on the West Chester Pike median strip east of the intersection to protect a cantilever overhead lane designation sign which is expected to be installed in May.

In September, the right westbound lane of West Chester Pike which feeds onto the northbound entrance ramp to I-476 is expected to be separated from the other westbound lanes by a median strip and will no longer be subject to the traffic signal light, allowing for a freer flow of traffic.

This new median strip will prevent vehicles coming from South Lawrence Rd. (from the Lawrence Park area) from entering I-476 north where they do now. These vehicles will now enter I-476 on a new on-ramp which has been added slightly to the west.

Bridge repairs are currently underway on eastbound Route 3 West Chester Pike as part of this project.

For more information, visit the Route 3 (West Chester Pike) and I-476 Interchange Improvement Project link at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pennDOT/projects-near-you/district-6-projects/route-3-west-chester-pike-and-i-476-intersection-improvement-project>.

Driving After a Seizure

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) recently updated its regulations regarding driving after a seizure. Under the previous rules, individuals were required to be seizure-free for six months before resuming driving. The new regulations shorten this period to three months, while allowing treating physicians to extend it if medically necessary.

PennDOT believes this change will ease the burden on individuals who rely on driving for work and daily life, without significantly increasing traffic safety risks. Under current Pennsylvania law, healthcare professionals are required to report to PennDOT any individuals whose medical conditions may impair their driving abilities.

PA Expands Breast Cancer Screening Coverage

In November, Pennsylvania enacted legislation expanding health insurance coverage for diagnostic breast examinations.

A 2023 Pennsylvania law required insurers to provide one breast MRI or ultrasound at no cost to certain high-risk women. However, that law did not require coverage for additional testing needed to evaluate breast abnormalities, creating a gap: insurers were

required to cover imaging to detect breast cancer but not to diagnose it.

The new law addresses this gap by mandating coverage for diagnostic breast examinations used to confirm or rule out a breast cancer diagnosis. This ensures that individuals needing further evaluation of their breast health can access the necessary tests for accurate diagnosis and timely care.

Receive My Newsletter Electronically

To reduce postage costs and paper waste, you can opt out of receiving the paper version of my newsletter and receive only the electronic version. Just email your name, request, and address to my office at RepVitali@pahouse.net.

Notary Service for Government Documents

Many official, government-related documents can be notarized for free at our district or satellite offices. Generally, the document must be intended for a local, state, or federal government agency – such as a school board, the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, or the U.S. Treasury. However, there are some limitations on the types of documents we can notarize.

Documents we **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.

The individual whose signature is to be notarized must sign the document in person and provide valid proof of identity. Please call ahead to confirm that our staff can notarize your specific document.

Join My Email Update List

I maintain an email list for those who wish to receive periodic 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.RepVitali.com) 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.

Visit My District & Satellite Offices

My Havertown district office is open to assist with state-related matters from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays. If you have difficulty climbing stairs, staff can come to your vehicle.

You may also visit my Broomall satellite office at Keyboard with Kimmy, 144 Lawrence Road, Broomall, PA 19008, on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This ground-floor office is fully disability accessible and is located near the corner of Sussex Boulevard and Lawrence Road, next to St. Pius.