

## Going away mad?

*Rep. Chris King should keep his office open until his term is up.*

Sore loser? Not sure what other explanation there might be for state Rep. Chris King shutting down his district office three weeks before his term expires - at least that was the situation last week. The freshman Democrat became a onetermer on Election Day, when he lost to Republican Frank Farry.

While King remains a member of the state House until Nov. 30, his chief of staff confirmed the office's early closure last week, explaining that only a skeleton crew is on the clock so staff members can use up remaining vacation time.

And so residents of the 142nd District face possible inconvenience if they turn to King for help.

Those who do so might find the door to King's district office locked as we did last week. A recorded message referred callers to the office of state Sen. Tommy Tomlinson, R-6, who represents residents of the 142nd in the state Senate. Monday, however, the phone was answered.

Meanwhile, state Rep.-elect Farry is hurrying the opening of his offices, a full-time location in Middletown and a part-time office in Lower Southampton. We're glad to hear that.

We're also glad to hear that King made arrangements with Tomlinson to handle his constituent calls - if he's not going to do it. Still, we encourage King to keep his office open — since he's on the state payroll until Nov. 30!

We're both surprised and disappointed that King might not serve out his term in its entirety. The young Democrat did a good job in his time in Harrisburg. He was a leader on much-needed reform in the state House and was well-versed on complex issue facing the Legislature. He earned our endorsement for another term.

Voters saw things differently. A former assistant township manager in Middletown, Farry was an impressive candidate. He has a law degree and also serves as a fire chief. Indeed, service to the community distinguishes Farry. We encourage King to follow Farry's example.