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A great time again had by all at our Skeet, Trap & Pheasant Shoot

Thursday's 20th Annual Skeet, Trap & Pheasant Shoot was a huge success, with chilly but perfect autumn weather welcoming participants to Whitetail Preserve...Joey and Pat Gans' spectacular Luzerne County venue for this highly-popular event benefitting the PA Cable PAC. The reception on the eve of the Shoot was once again a feast of delicacies and unmatched hospitality, as a tremendous time was had by everyone – thanks in large part to the outstanding support of the great companies serving as sponsors. An enormous thank you goes to Gold Sponsors [Outdoor Sportsman Group Networks](#), [M&T Bank](#) and [Service Electric Cablevision](#); and Friends of BCAP Sponsor [TVC Communications](#). Many thanks again to the Gans family and Whitetail Preserve staff for supporting our industry through the hosting of this much-anticipated fall favorite on the BCAP calendar!



NewsClips

October 19, 2018

Philadelphia Inquirer

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Comcast Corp. has broken the national gig barrier. The Philadelphia company says it can now offer gigabit speeds to nearly all of its residential and business customers, or nearly 58 million homes in the United States.

Gigabit speeds — 1,000 megabits a second — are 10 times faster than the speed that most Comcast customers buy today, of 100 megabits a second.

The deployment represents the fastest rollout of gigabit speeds to homes among broadband providers, Comcast said on Thursday. Search engine giant Google popularized the notion of gigabit speed with Google Fiber, though it has retreated from its grand ambitions for

[service? Here's what the state is doing about it](#)

Wired
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[I bet Bob Casey Sr. would agree with Lou Barletta when it comes to campaign ads](#)

York Daily Record
[Scott Wagner: 'I'm not an angry guy. I'm a passionate guy.'](#)

Allentown Morning Call
[Lehigh Valley congressional candidates mind their business in forum about jobs, the economy](#)

that internet service. According to Comcast's website, gigabit service in the Philadelphia area costs \$105 a month without a promotional discount.

Tony Werner, Comcast's president of technology and product experience, said the effort to offer the service in the 39 states it serves and Washington took about three years. The company began by offering gig speeds in certain metropolitan areas and has stitched those together into a national service. "Broadband and broadband service is becoming more and more important to our customers and basically everybody on the planet," Werner said.

Though few customers have a reason to buy gig service, Werner said, "what we are seeing is that our power users are connected to 50 to 60 [internet] devices" and are taking it. He used himself as an example, noting his four televisions, two gaming platforms, and eight internet-connected speakers. Beyond traditional electronics, he has garage doors, a stationary bike, a cooker, and other devices that are connected to the internet.

A big benefit of gigabit service is faster downloads. "Call of Duty: Black Ops 4," a video game, can be downloaded in about an hour at 100 megabits a second. At gigabit speeds, the download takes eight minutes, the company said. — **Philadelphia Inquirer**

Amazon.com Inc. executives have made a fresh round of visits to several of the 20 finalists for its \$5 billion second-headquarters project, fueling added anticipation as it nears a decision in a process that has stretched over more than a year. The visits over the past couple of months include New York City, Newark, N.J., and Chicago, according to people familiar with the matter. In addition, Amazon has been following up with other locations, including Miami and the Washington, D.C.-area, according to some of the people. Some cities, like Raleigh, N.C., haven't heard from the retail giant in months, according to people familiar with the matter.

The discussions, which follow an initial round of visits early this year, have added to the already intense speculation regarding which way the technology giant is leaning. While Amazon appears to be narrowing its list of 20 finalists, it is still unclear which cities may be in the lead, and what exactly the additional visits indicate about specific cities' chances.

Still, the visits have shed some additional light on the process. Amazon, for instance, appears to be favoring an urban site, say people familiar with the matter, which could be a problem for some sites in Northern Virginia and Montgomery County, Md. Those two suburbs of Washington, D.C., along with the district itself, have long been speculated to be front-runners, in part because Chief Executive Jeff Bezos has a home there and owns the Washington Post.

People close to the process caution that Amazon is still in negotiations with several cities and hasn't yet completed a deal with any one location. They said the company may negotiate near-final deals with several of them before announcing its ultimate selection, something that could help avoid signaling its choice prematurely. The flurry of recent discussions are part of the home stretch in a contest kicked off in September of last year, when Seattle-based Amazon announced a

public search for what it dubbed HQ2. The company said it could hire as many as 50,000 employees and invest more than \$5 billion in the new location over nearly two decades.

After 238 cities, towns and regions applied with elaborate proposals, **Amazon announced 20 finalists in January**. Mr. Bezos has said Amazon will decide **by the end of the year**. The HQ2 search has broken the mold for economic development in a way that experts say could have lasting impact on how companies invest in new sites—much like Amazon in its business has disrupted everything from the way consumers shop to the way companies compute and store their data.

The shortlist of 20 locations includes large, established cities like New York and Los Angeles, as well as smaller cities like Pittsburgh, Columbus, Ohio, and Indianapolis that have recently experienced an economic revival. The stakes for these smaller cities in winning HQ2 are especially high, promising drastic change by drawing in more highly-skilled workers, attracting other businesses and boosting real-estate prices, according to economic development experts.

After more than a year, officials “are all sitting by their phone waiting,” said Jeff Finkle, president of the International Economic Development Council, an organization that represents economic development officials across the country. Amazon is considering dozens of metrics and factors in its decision, including available tech talent and educational resources, cost of living, and public transportation.

After it announced its shortlist, Amazon conducted whirlwind, two-day site visits to all 20 cities, and asked a host of follow-up questions. They also **requested reams of data** as detailed as local high school test scores, The Wall Street Journal has reported. Publicly, the process was quiet over the summer, with Amazon officials crunching data before executives in charge of the search decided to take another look at a few cities, according to the people. Some cities that didn’t receive a second visit are still in the running for the project. The Chicago Tribune previously reported that Amazon visited Chicago for a second time.

In the recent visits, Amazon executives spent much of their time exploring neighborhoods around, or nearby, sites that have been proposed for HQ2, said the people. Executives appear to be more interested in an urban site that is already woven into the fabric of the city and less interested in having its own campus outside a city center, said the people. One reason would be shorter commutes. It could also help with recruiting employees, something that has proven true with its urban, downtown Seattle campus which is peppered with walkable apartment buildings and trendy restaurants.

In New York City, one of the neighborhoods Amazon is exploring is Long Island City, Queens, according to one of the people. The residential neighborhood is perched on the East River overlooking Manhattan, and is being gentrified by high-rise buildings and young professionals. Gene DePrez, managing partner at Global Innovation Partners Limited, a consulting firm that works on corporate site searches, said companies normally keep their searches secretive until the last possible moment. Most companies don’t want to tip off competitors about a strategic move or cause speculators to drive up real-estate prices. The way Amazon ran a public HQ2 process is “all

the things that we with experience try to work against so you don't get everybody all excited and all upset," he said. — ***Wall Street Journal***

In this season of non-stop campaign ads and fervent public appeals for votes in next month's mid-terms, Bucks County officials are scrambling to find enough workers to staff its polling stations on Election Day. So far, the county has lined up 1,800 poll workers, 200 short of its goal of 2,000. That's barely enough workers to staff the polls and assist voters in Bucks County's 304 voting districts, county spokesman Larry King said. Not to mention the chance that some of those who signed up to work won't show.

And in this defining national election, officials expect voter turnout to be higher than usual on Nov. 6. "This election cycle is particularly busy," said Deanna Giorno, chief clerk of Bucks County. "The voter registration office is working nonstop." In the 2016 general election, Bucks County reported voter turnout of 75.95 percent, higher than the national turnout of around 61 percent. In contrast, turnout in numbers municipal elections in the county has been significantly lower, topping out at 30.32 percent and falling to figures as low as 12.11 percent in the last few years.

Up for grabs in next month's election are all 435 seats in the U.S. House and 33 in the U.S. Senate. This year's balloting will determine whether Republicans continue to control both chambers, and many hard-fought races are at stake as Democrats try to chip away at the GOP's dominance. Across the country, there are more than 6,500 state positions on the ballot, including the Pennsylvania governor and lieutenant governor, as well as numerous local races.

Poll workers in Bristol, Falls, Newtown, and Upper Southampton are particularly short-staffed, Bucks County officials said this week as they launched a recruitment drive in a bid to draw workers to the polls. Needed are election judges, machine inspectors, clerks, and majority and minority party inspectors — the "unsung engine that helps run a smooth election," King said. With the exception of election judges, who are paid \$135 in a full-day shift, those workers earn \$105 a day.

In surrounding counties in Pennsylvania and in South Jersey, officials say they're expecting a sufficient number of poll workers, but they are still looking for more, especially those willing to start working around 6 a.m. and stay until 9 p.m., as votes are tabulated after the polls close. "It's always tough to fill these positions," said John Corcoran, spokesman for Montgomery County. "It's a very long day."

On and around Election Day, some poll workers will likely cancel, he said, leaving vacancies that election officials are suddenly pressed to fill. "There are lots of people pulling out last minute," said Stephanie Salvatore, superintendent of elections in Gloucester County. "So far, knock on wood, we seem to be pretty good." "Normally, I wouldn't say this is going to be a turnout year," said Salvatore, who oversees the county's 229 voting districts, "but I think it's going to be a good turnout year. I haven't seen anything like this since 2008, when Obama was running."

King, the Bucks County spokesman, said poll worker jobs tend to attract retirees and public-sector workers, some of whom have the day

off on Election Day. Many of those who work the polls once, he said, are inclined to come back for another election. In the days since the county announced the shortage of poll workers earlier this week, he said, 25 people had stepped forward, eager to work next month. "It's not really something you do for the money," he said. "It's more of a public service." Anyone interested in working at the polls on Nov. 6 may email Katie M. Pliszka, assistant director of the Bucks County Board of Elections, at kmpliszka@buckscounty.org. – *Philadelphia Inquirer*

Is U.S. Rep. Bob Brady stiffing the Democratic Party in one of the most competitive midterm elections in modern history? The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the party's congressional arm, recently gave its House members a report card: The document breaks down how much each member helped out the DCCC financially.

According to the report, Brady was given a goal of paying \$250,000 in dues to the DCCC in the 2017-18 campaign cycle. His actual contribution: \$0. He had a goal of raising another \$250,000 for the DCCC. But as of September, he brought in \$30,400. The report also states that Brady, who is not running for reelection after 20 years in the U.S. House, has donated nothing this cycle to Democrats in the nation's tightest races.

Some Democrats are grumbling over the alleged stinginess of Brady, who is staying on as leader of Philadelphia's Democratic Party after more than three decades in that post. "It's pathetic that he wouldn't help out the DCCC when we have so many competitive races in our area," said one Democratic consultant. "Having a Democratic Congress would do a ton to help Philadelphia, and it's not like Bob Brady has a lot better to do with his time. Brady's refusal to give money is a thumb in the eye of Democrats angry about Donald Trump." In a phone call, Brady said that "for the past 20 years, I paid my dues."

But this election cycle is different, he said: "We're not required to pay dues if we don't run for reelection." Clout asked a spokesperson for the DCCC if that is true. He didn't immediately respond to our question. There may be a reason Brady hasn't given more. He spent much of 2017 under FBI investigation after it was disclosed that Brady's campaign gave \$90,000 to a primary challenger in 2012 who dropped out of the race. Brady, who was not charged with a crime, has said that he "got a complete bill of health" clearing him. But it cost him. According to campaign-finance reports, he spent almost \$511,000 on legal fees over the last two years. – *Philadelphia Daily News*

