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November 8, 2019

NPR

In 2020, Some Americans Will Vote On Their Phones. Is That The Future?

Philadelphia Inquirer

NBC's 2020 Olympics broadcast plans have soccer 'extremely high up' hierarchy

New York Times

Disney's Ambitious Streaming Plans Take Big Bite Out of Profits

Washington Post

Facebook under fire after ads identifying whistleblower spread on its platform

Bloomberg

Facebook Staff Lamented 'Unethical' Practices But Were Rebuffed

Zap2it

Cable Top 25 for Week Ending November 3

Pittsburgh

Post-Gazette Pennsylvania voter survey offers warning for progressive candidates in 2020

Amazon.com Inc. has reached a deal with Walt Disney Co. to carry the Disney+ streaming-video service on Fire TV devices, according to people familiar with the matter.

The two companies **had been at loggerheads** over terms for carrying Disney's apps on Amazon's Fire TV devices, the Journal reported last month. At the time, Fire TV wasn't listed as a partner that would carry Disney's new streaming service as a result of those disputes, The Journal reported. Amazon was pushing for the right to sell a substantial percentage of the ad space on Disney apps. It is unclear if Disney agreed to Amazon's terms. Disney+ launches on Tuesday. Disney is set to report earnings Thursday afternoon.

Fire TV is an internet-connected streaming-media player that lets users stream content to their television sets from a range of apps, including Amazon's own Prime Video, Netflix Inc., Sling TV and offerings from a host of TV networks. Disney+, which will include franchises such as "The Simpsons," "Frozen" and "Star Wars," has been a draw for providers. Last month, Verizon Communications Inc. said it would offer its wireless customers on unlimited data plans a year of free access to Disney+, giving the cellphone carrier a fresh way to hold on to customers.

Under that agreement, Disney and Verizon would share the cost of providing the content to the carrier's subscribers, according to a person familiar with the arrangement. When Fire TV was first launched, it allowed a number of media companies to have apps on its platform without sharing any advertising revenue, people familiar with the situation said. Lately, Amazon has been tightening its proposed terms in discussions with certain programmers, the people said. Now, Amazon often starts out asking for about 40% of the ad inventory from programmers, and negotiations often bring it down to 30% or 20%, according to people with knowledge of the company's deals. — ***Wall Street Journal***

An official with Gov. Tom Wolf's administration blasted the state Republican Party on Thursday for alleging the Democratic governor had suppressed the vote in York County by mandating new voting machines.

State GOP attorneys descended on York County on Tuesday night amid a chaotic municipal election that featured long waits at the polls and many technical glitches, which delayed the release of results until Thursday morning. "That's a lie," said Wanda Murren, spokeswoman for the state Department of State.

On Tuesday night, Republicans threatened to seek an injunction of the election results and further legal action against the Wolf administration, including the Department of State and Board of Elections. "We are working our butts off to keep people's faith that elections are fair and their votes are counted," Murren said.

Republican Party officials said that the new voting machines were the result of an unfunded mandate handed down by Wolf. Earlier this year, negotiations between Wolf and Republican state lawmakers over boosting funding for voting machines broke down after lawmakers inserted the cash into legislation that would have also ended straight-ticket voting. "I'm still waiting to see it," Murren said of the lawsuit threat. The state GOP's media conference Tuesday night didn't sit well with county officials either, who also considered it a counterproductive political stunt.

County spokesman Mark Walters described it as "100% political posturing" and an attempt to "shove it in the governor's face." County Commissioner Susan Byrnes, a Republican, said she was offended by the state GOP's partisan response to York County's voting problems.

The new machines were mandated throughout the state as part of a settlement with former Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein and are considered a key part of election security since they produce a paper trail. Officials from the county's Republican and Democratic parties have said the county needs to invest in more voting machines prior to the 2020 presidential election cycle. — ***York Dispatch***

Philadelphia Inquirer
Pat Toomey vowed to be an 'independent voice.'
Trump's impeachment could raise the stakes.

You know the drill by now. Clout asks politicians three “hot seat” questions every Election Day.

Sometime the answers make news, as on Tuesday, when Gov. Tom Wolf gave Attorney General Josh Shapiro a tacit endorsement in the 2022 race for governor. Often they dodge, but that can be just as newsy, showing us what politicians don't want to discuss. Few would address, during **their primary election hot seat sessions** in May, if they thought John “Johnny Doc” Dougherty would be convicted, acquitted, or plead guilty in **the federal case against him** and seven others from politically potent Local 98 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

We posed our questions to 25 politicians Tuesday during lunch at the Famous 4th Street Deli in Queen Village and Relish in West Oak Lane: Will Mayor Jim Kenney run for governor in 2022? Which Democrat would you like to see drop out of the 2020 presidential race today?

On Kenney, Wolf said, “I dunno. That’s my guy right there,” pointing at Shapiro, who is expected to seek a second term as attorney general next year and then run for governor in 2022. Having made news, Wolf dodged the other questions. Shapiro, rarely an off-the-cuff speaker, said we’d have to ask Kenney if he’s running and then also dodged the other questions.

Kenney seemed uncertain and surprised. (Clout wants credit if that becomes his 2022 campaign slogan.) The **Inquirer reported last week** that Kenney is mulling a run. “It’s certainly a possibility, but I don’t know,” Kenney said. “You’re asking everybody if I’m running for governor?” He too dodged the other questions.

State Treasurer Joe Torsella, another potential 2022 contender, answered the Kenney question by quoting Ed Rendell, a mayor who went on to be governor. “Ed Rendell always said being mayor was more fun,” Torsella said. “So if I had to guess, no.”

Torsella had “no idea” about Henon and, after 45 seconds of deep thought, offered up that **entrepreneur Andrew Yang** should drop his bid for president. But then Torsella second-guessed himself, saying Yang “has some interesting ideas.”

Some other answers:

City Controller Rebecca Rhynhart said a Kenney run seems unlikely but “stranger things have happened in politics.” Councilwoman Helen Gym said it would be “surprising” but possible that Kenney runs. Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. thinks Kenney will run.

Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown also had problems recalling Buttigieg’s name. “Not meaning to be disrespectful, but I can’t pronounce his name,” she said, adding that as an African American she saw him as **“mishandling the situation with people”** who look like me” in his town. Buttigieg was heavily criticized this summer for how he handled the uproar after a white police officer shot an unarmed black man in South Bend. – **Chris Brennan’s “Clout” column in Philadelphia Daily News**

