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New York City and Northern Virginia will be the homes for Amazon.com Inc.'s second and third headquarters, according to people familiar with the matter, ending a more than yearlong public contest that started with 238 candidates and ended with a surprise split of its so-called HQ2. The imminent announcement is expected as soon as Tuesday, according to the people. Other cities may also receive major sites, some of the people said.

Amazon is dividing the second headquarters evenly between New York's Long Island City and Arlington County's Crystal City neighborhoods, which are both located directly across from the major city centers. The company plans to evenly split the operations with as many as 25,000 employees in each location. The decision effectively gives Amazon a major presence in three coastal hubs that politically lean left, at a time when tech companies are under scrutiny for their perceived elitism and liberal social views. Amazon declined to comment.

Government officials in both New York and Northern Virginia were expecting to hold events for announcements on Tuesday, according to people familiar with the matter. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio discussed the Amazon deal Monday night during his weekly television appearance, although he didn't confirm that the city had been officially selected. He was hopeful that HQ2 would come to New York City. "We're talking about the single biggest economic development deal in the history of New York City," he said.

Amazon's move to New York pits it against rival Google, which is gearing up for its own expansion in the city. The Wall Street Journal reported last week that the Alphabet Inc. unit will add office space for more than 12,000 new workers, an amount nearly double the search giant's current staffing in the city, people familiar with the matter said. On Monday night at [the Journal's D.Live tech conference](#), Google financial chief Ruth Porat confirmed the company [plans to double its New York City staff](#) of 7,000 over a decade.

Amazon had recently been in late-stage negotiations with several locations including New York, Crystal City and Dallas, people familiar with the matter earlier said. Aside from its HQ2 decision, Amazon may also announce that other cities have won big projects, but it wasn't clear what form they might take or where they would go.

The District of Columbia area, which had three locations among the finalists including Crystal City, was long considered a leading candidate in part because Amazon Chief Executive Jeff Bezos has a second home there and he owns the Washington Post. Crystal City, a 1960s-era office and residential development close to the Pentagon, has seen its fortunes wane over the past decade or so, as major tenants, including Defense Department and private-sector tenants, have pulled up stakes.

Its sheer size and proximity to Washington, Reagan National Airport, metro stops and other transportation, made it an attractive prospect for Amazon's ambitious second-headquarters plan, according to people who have been involved in the discussions. Adding to its appeal, it is also largely in the hands of a single developer. A potential downside is the region's notoriously bad traffic, which would likely require significant new investments, according to people familiar with the matter. Amazon's impact on housing could be substantial.

Virginia could be a good fit for Amazon politically, as an important purple swing state that promises political clout no matter which party is in power. While the D.C. area lacks New York's cutting-edge culture, it is big, highly diverse and just maybe hip enough. Long Island City, Queens, was a longtime industrial neighborhood that is experiencing a residential housing boom, with more than 16,000 new apartments built since 2006. It is the fastest-growing community in New York City.

The neighborhood is along the East River and is accessible by multiple subway lines, the Long Island Rail Road and two ferry stops. It is also close to La Guardia and John F. Kennedy International airports. While the city included four neighborhoods in its original bid, officials were leaning on Long Island City from the start, according to people familiar with the process.

while losing popular vote

Philadelphia Inquirer Election Round 2: Pa. legislators to select new (or old) leaders

Philadelphia Inquirer Editorial: The election is done, but improving voting in Pennsylvania isn't over

Amazon began the search across North America in September 2017, with the aim of creating a second, equal headquarters to its home base in Seattle. It had said the new location would house roughly 50,000 jobs and represent billions in investments. Amazon narrowed the contest to 20 finalist cities in January, then asked for reams of data and made whirlwind two-day site visits, during which cities tried to impress the company's economic development team.

Then came the big surprise a week ago when the Journal reported that Amazon planned to split its second headquarters evenly between two locations rather than picking one city. The change in plans came after Amazon executives concluded it could recruit more of the best tech talent if it spread the office over two locations. And by halving the size, Amazon would help ease potential issues with housing, transit and other areas where adding tens of thousands of workers could cause problems. The decision to split what was deemed one of the largest economic development projects in recent history triggered a flurry of criticism about Amazon's original intentions but also fresh hopes. Some city officials said they would have tailored their proposals to match that need, while others said they thought it increased their city's chances.

The split also raised questions about how equal the two new locations will be with Amazon's current Seattle base, which employs more than 45,000 people. Amazon factored in a host of qualifications for the selection of its new headquarters sites, including access to mass transit, proximity to an airport with direct flights to and from Seattle and—perhaps most important—a pool of available tech talent nearby. The company also weighed whether it would be one of the largest companies in a city, something that might make it a magnet for the same kind of scrutiny it receives in Seattle over social problems. Plus, Amazon hoped to show an actual economic impact through its investments in a new area, highlighting its job creation abilities.

Some economic development experts scratched their heads at Amazon's decision to make the process public, which resulted in complicating factors including a longer-than-usual short list and speculative real-estate purchases around proposed sites. It also has brought additional scrutiny to potential incentives Amazon might receive to locate in certain areas.

Still, the process has resulted in a year of positive publicity, highlighting Amazon's ability to create jobs and investments, even as the company has faced critics ranging from President Donald Trump to Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who have called out the company over issues like wages. "This was really a platform for Amazon to market its transition from traditional e-commerce" into a major tech company creating jobs across industries, said John Boyd, principal at site-selection consultancy the Boyd Co. "It was also a platform for cities to promote themselves to a global audience."

The choice of its new office sites follows Amazon's September announcement that it would raise its minimum wage for warehouse workers to \$15 an hour. Amazon also has announced major hiring plans over the past year as it builds out more warehouses and expands its U.S. workforce. Amazon's decision leaves a group of cities that expended months of resources and time without a clear reward. Some cities have said the process raised awareness for other potential economic-development deals. Amazon has said it might consider some also-rans for other projects. — *Wall Street Journal*

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AT&T Inc. Chief Executive Randall Stephenson fired back at the White House over its decision to suspend the press credentials of a CNN correspondent, saying officials had ignored established procedures in a way that appeared to violate press-freedom protections.

The Trump administration said it suspended credentials for Jim Acosta, CNN's chief White House correspondent, because he "placed his hands" on a White House intern who was trying to take the microphone from him at a press conference after President Trump indicated he was no longer going to address him. Video of the press conference showed Mr. Acosta keeping hold of the microphone and making incidental contact with the intern briefly.

"If the White House wants to pull someone's press credentials, there is a process," Mr. Stephenson said at The Wall Street Journal's WSJ Tech D.Live conference Monday. "That process must be followed, otherwise what is the criteria for pulling somebody's press credentials?" "You didn't like the line of questioning? Well, that kind of seems to be violative of our protections of freedom of the press," he said. Mr. Stephenson, who has headed the telecommunications giant since 2007, has taken on a new role as a media mogul after AT&T completed its roughly \$81 billion acquisition of Time Warner Inc. in June following a lengthy antitrust fight. Time Warner includes CNN and other media outlets.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders tweeted a video of the incident involving Mr. Acosta that appeared to have been edited in a way that makes the reporter's actions look more aggressive, according to an analysis by Storyful, a social-media intelligence firm owned by News Corp, the parent company of the Journal. "If the president doesn't like his conduct in the press briefing room then there's a process to articulate that he doesn't like it," said Mr. Stephenson. "There has been no process followed."

The White House didn't immediately respond to a request for comment late Monday. Separately, Mr. Stephenson called again for clearer standards on net- neutrality rules, saying no company should be allowed to slow the content of another one. "We don't really have legislative clarity," he said, adding that companies "should not be able to block you from getting to Netflix or whatever you want to get to."

Internet service providers "should not be allowed to throttle somebody else's content," he said, referring to the practice of slowing internet speeds. And he said any device should be allowed to connect to the internet without interference. "There should be no blocking," said Mr. Stephenson. — **Wall Street Journal**

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Productivity at workplaces around the country may have spiked Monday afternoon as Facebook was unreachable for a time. The social media site went down a little after 1 p.m. in the Pittsburgh area for about a half-hour. A map on [downdetector.com](http://downdetector.com) showed that the outage affected the eastern half of the U.S. , the city of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and parts of Peru and Chile. The Facebook website did not load and only read, "Sorry, something went wrong. We're working on it and we'll get it fixed as soon as we can."

A Facebook spokesperson said a routine test caused users to have trouble accessing or posting to all Facebook services including WhatsApp and Instagram. "We quickly investigated and restored access for everyone. We're sorry for the inconvenience," the spokesperson said. With Facebook down, many social media users turned to Twitter to complain and post gifs. Instagram and WhatsApp, both owned by Facebook, did not go down. — **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**

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The winner of Pennsylvania's soon-to-disappear 15th District congressional seat should be announced today, the last day counties have to tally provisional ballots and three types of out-of-state absentee ballots. The candidates are Democrat Susan Wild, Republican Marty Nothstein and Libertarian Tim Silfies. The winner will be sworn in this week and serve the final eight weeks of a term vacated by former U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent, a Republican.

The 15th District, created as part of the state's 2011 congressional map, starts in part of Northampton County and runs west, covering all of Lehigh County and portions of Berks, Lebanon and Dauphin counties. The district will be dissolved when the congressional term expires on Jan. 3. It will be replaced by a more compact 7th District, which was created under a 2018 state Supreme Court ruling that found the 2011 map was unconstitutionally gerrymandered to favor GOP candidates.

Wild, a lawyer, won the 7th District, which has more Democrats, by 10 percentage points on Election Day. She will be sworn in on Jan. 3 and serve a full two-year term. Nothstein held a 58-vote lead over Wild in the 15th District race two days after Election Day, with ballots still to be counted.

Not every county's total then included provisional ballots, which voters submit if there is a question about eligibility at the polls on Election Day. The counts also did not include absentee ballots for military personnel, federal workers and overseas employees — which are due Tuesday. Nothstein has vowed to serve if elected. He'd have to relinquish his elected post as a Lehigh County commissioner per the county's Home Rule Charter, which disallows an elected official to hold another political office. If Nothstein resigns as county commissioner, the Board of Commissioners would have 45 days from the date of the vacancy to appoint a replacement from the same party. — **Allentown Morning Call**