

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Pennsylvania offered up to \$4.6 billion to Amazon for HQ2

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
'Maybe we were trying to be something we aren't.'
Pittsburgh's tech community weighs in on Amazon HQ2 loss

Philadelphia Inquirer
Philly breathes a 'collective sigh of relief' as Amazon announces HQs in New York, Virginia

Washington Post
Sinclair and 5 other media companies have settled with DOJ over claims they worked together to set TV ad prices

New York Times
Facebook Failed to Police How Its Partners Handled User Data

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A top Comcast executive, [David Cohen](#), was in Oregon on Monday to tout the company's latest expansion of its [Internet Essentials](#) program - a service that offers online access to those who could not otherwise afford it.

Originally offered to low-income families, Comcast's \$10 monthly service (downloads up to 15 megabits per second) is now also available to seniors, people receiving federal housing assistance and low-income veterans. Comcast is the nation's dominant cable and internet provider, with 600,000 subscribers in Oregon and Southwest Washington. And even as Cohen was touting the service to a group of veterans in Beaverton, President Donald Trump was on Twitter attacking the company for alleged antitrust violations. Comcast, whose networks feature Trump critics on MSNBC and "Saturday Night Live," is just the latest media target of the president. On Monday, Trump appeared to be parroting complaints from the American Cable Association, a group of smaller cable operators who allege Comcast has made it difficult or expensive for them to access Comcast's own entertainment networks.

During his visit, Cohen - a veteran political operative in Comcast's hometown of Philadelphia - took a few minutes to speak with The Oregonian/OregonLive. He addressed the president's critique, competition from video streaming services and fast 5G wireless technology, and why a self-described "white Jewish guy" is serving as Comcast's chief diversity officer.

Q: Tell me a little bit about why you're in Oregon today and Internet Essentials

A: I think you know the Internet Essentials program. We launched it in 2011. It was targeted mostly to families with school-aged children, with eligibility initially limited to families eligible to participate in the national school lunch program. Seven years later, we've signed up more than 6 million low-income Americans to internet at home, a million and a half families, exceeding all expectations, including our own. This year we decided we're in Portland to announce, on Veterans Day (observed) that we are expanding the program to cover low-income veterans. We estimate that there are a million low-income veterans nationally who could benefit from this expansion of eligibility, and about 26,000 of them live in the state of Oregon. So it's a very large expansion of eligibility and we think targeted to a population that could really benefit from home internet access.

Q: As I'm sure you know, Internet Essentials was originally a condition of the NBC-Comcast merger back in 2011. You probably saw the president's tweet today that alleged anticompetitive practices at Comcast, based on concerns from the American Cable Association. Do you have thoughts on the president's tweet?

A: Excuse me for being slightly picky on this, but Internet Essentials was not a condition of the deal. It was a voluntary commitment that we made for consideration of the deal. The voluntary commitment that we made was for three years. We are now more than four years past the expiration of any obligation that we have whatsoever to offer this program. All I'll say about today's news is, let's understand ACA was against our NBC-Universal Deal.... They have their own agenda which has nothing to do with antitrust policy. It has to do with commercial practices and the marketplace and they will do anything that they can to try and get leverage in the marketplace.

Q: What's the president up to today, then?

A: As a practice I do not comment on the president's tweets, whether they relate to Comcast, to me, or to anyone else. I think you have to ask the White House what the president was up to. We're not concerned with the ACA letter to the Justice Department. We are very comfortable with our practices.

Q: I gather that you're here today, at least in part, in your role as Comcast's chief diversity officer.

A: I believe there's a very significant diversity and inclusion impact to Internet Essentials. Because the basic thrust of Internet Essentials is to level the playing field. Level the playing field for education, level the playing field for vocational opportunities. When you look at the digital divide, the dirty little secret is that the people who are without internet access are disproportionately poor and they are disproportionately people of color. The more work we do to close the digital divide, we are having a diversity and inclusion impact.

[chosen as next state House majority leader](#)

[Pennlive Pa. House Democrats revamp leadership team with Philly tilt](#)

[Philadelphia Inquirer ACLU sues over Pa.'s tight absentee ballot deadlines](#)

Q: We have a robust tech community here in Oregon. Diversity is very much on people's minds. I do wonder, for a company that has a chief diversity officer - does it make sense for that person to be a white guy from New Jersey?

A: A white Jewish guy. I get that question. I'll tell you the answer, which is that I have a unique passion around diversity and inclusion. I've come to it over the course of my career and quite frankly there are things I can say and do that an African-American woman might not be able to get away with.

Q: Give me an example.

A: I can call people out. I can call people out for things they do within the company that, if we had an African-American chief diversity officer, people would say, well, she's a woman, or she's African-American. That's why she's doing that. But when I say, as I have said, that half of the workforce in America is women, and I don't understand half of our leadership should not be female, I'm obviously not doing that because I'm a woman who wants to benefit from having half of our leadership in our company being female. I'm doing it because I believe in it. I can set an example that is a unique example as a white male in this space.

Q: We all think of Comcast as our cable company. Obviously the model is changing. People are getting their video, their entertainment from other sources. What is Comcast becoming? How is it going to adapt?

A: We're not your mother's cable company anymore. When you want cable service, we don't send somebody to your house with a big drill to put a hole in the wall and run a coax cable through and screw it into the back of your TV. Broadband is a much more significant part of our business today than video. I'll also note that with the acquisition of (British satellite TV company) Sky, we now have 195,000 employees. Twenty-five percent of our revenues are international. I think we are right now the largest media company in the world. In terms of the trends around the way people watch video, we have not stood still while that has happened. We've put Netflix on our X1 platform (Comcast's main video box). We have Pandora on the X1 platform. We have YouTube on the X1 platform. We have stated our intention to be a conglomeration of content.

Q: You have had one major competitive advantage for many years: you're in so many homes because you did drill holes in the walls a generation ago and you do have cable running to and inside homes. If we move to a future where wireless provides a plausible alternative for home internet connection, for broadband, how does Comcast respond to that?

A: We think we're going to do a very good job competing against 5G. Remember, 5G in most of the spectrums doesn't go through walls and windows. So there are some real technological limitations. I, by the way, don't think our competitive advantage has much to do with the fact that we drill holes in people's walls. I think it's more the investment we that made in our (physical) plant and infrastructure. We made the announcement less than a month ago that we've now rolled 1 gig service out to our entire footprint. Note the way we roll that out as compared to other competitors: We roll it out to everyone. We don't cherry pick neighborhoods. We don't cherry pick high-income customers. We now have the largest 1 gig network in the United States and that's going to give us a big competitive advantage because, at least in its current engineering iteration, 5G is not 1 gig. — **Portland Oregonian**

Verizon plans to target a broader audience for its new 5G home broadband product following the adoption of global standards for the technology, CFO Matthew Ellis said on Wednesday. The top U.S. wireless carrier has launched 5G home broadband in four cities that provide high-speed connections without having to lay a cable connection, using standards agreed with an allied group of operators and providers. "We're very excited with results we've got," Ellis told the Morgan Stanley TMT Conference in Barcelona of the limited rollout.

Verizon will launch 5G-enabled handsets in the first half of 2019 and widen its offering of 5G broadband based on the global standard that was adopted in June. "We see line of site to get to 30 million households in the next few years," Ellis said. He added that 5G would start to have an impact on Verizon's financials in 2020. — **Reuters**

The latest era of Pennsylvania having an all-male congressional delegation ended Tuesday evening, when the state's newest lawmaker on Capitol Hill stood at the front of the U.S. House chamber and raised her right hand.

Democrat Mary Gay Scanlon of Delaware County won two elections last week. One is the full two-year term to represent Pennsylvania's 5th Congressional District beginning in January. She also won a

special election to serve out the term of Republican Pat Meehan, who retired early from the former 7th District. That meant Scanlon, along with two other special-election winners from New York and Oklahoma, were sworn in Tuesday evening, joining the 115th Congress for its remaining session days this year.

Earlier in the day, a group of reporters clustered outside the hotel where the newly elected legislators are staying asked the civil rights lawyer and former school board member if she was nervous to dive right in, just days after being elected. "It would be inhuman if I weren't nervous," Scanlon told them.

Scanlon's jump-start on the next congressional session means that Pennsylvania once again has a woman among its 18 U.S. House representatives, which has not been the case since 2015. **She'll be joined by three other women — Democrats Susan Wild, Chrissy Houlahan, and Madeleine Dean** — when the 116th Congressional session begins in January, with Scanlon describing herself as the "advance guard."

Wild also may get to start her term of service early. In the state's other special congressional election, she and Republican Marty Nothstein were separated by a handful of votes on election night, with some absentee and provisional ballots still to be tabulated as of Tuesday afternoon. The head start gives Scanlon a small boost in seniority and in navigating the labyrinth hallways of the U.S. Capitol.

She told reporters she'd like to continue working on some of the same issues that she's been involved in throughout her career: criminal justice issues, human rights, and helping children and families. That could align well with a spot on the Judiciary Committee, she told reporters. The rest of the state's delegation welcomed her on the House floor Tuesday evening, with Pennsylvania legislators from both parties flanking Scanlon during her inaugural remarks. Among the sea of suits in the House chamber were two Pennsylvania women who came before her: former Congresswomen Marjorie Margolies and Allyson Schwartz. — ***Allentown Morning Call***

