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A closely watched special election for a vacant U.S. House seat in Pennsylvania comes to a head Tuesday, in a district that Democrats hope offers them a blueprint for how to win in Trump country.

The race in the 18th Congressional District, **between Democrat Conor Lamb and Republican Rick Saccone**, is by all accounts tight. Both GOP and Democratic internal polling show the race within a few points, officials have said, making it a tossup election in an exurban Pittsburgh district that voted for President Donald Trump by 20 points in 2016.

The closeness of the race has Democrats hoping they can show they can win in a Trump-friendly district, not just in the 23 districts that voted for Hillary Clinton for president and elected a Republican House member in 2016. Democrats need to win a net 24 seats to take control of the House. "Conor Lamb didn't seek to distance himself from Donald Trump; he chose instead to make himself more like Donald Trump," said Charlie Gerow, a longtime political strategist in Pennsylvania. "He ran away from Nancy Pelosi."

Mr. Lamb, a former federal prosecutor and Marine, has said he doesn't agree with the more liberal wing of his party on issues like a so-called Medicare-for-all health system. He also has been campaigning with pro-coal groups, like the miners union, and has backed Mr. Trump's new punitive tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum. And, Mr. Lamb said he wouldn't support Mrs. Pelosi, the House Democratic leader, to lead the party's caucus if he should win his election. Outside organizations have spent at least \$12 million in the race. More than \$10.5 million of that has been spent by groups aiming to bolster Mr. Saccone, also a military veteran and a current state legislator, and attack Mr. Lamb, according to the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics. The Republican groups have sought to bolster a Saccone fundraising operation that has lagged behind that of his Democratic opponent.

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Philadelphia Inquirer Op-ed from Sen. Anthony Williams (D-Philadelphia): Independent citizens commission needed to manage Pa.'s redistricting

Polls have shown that Democratic voters in general are more enthusiastic about voting this year than Republicans, and Democrats see the closeness of this race and their 2017 gains in New Jersey, Virginia and Alabama as signs of a coming blue wave. Republicans counter that they have won all five special House elections under Mr. Trump's presidency, showing they can defend their turf despite the president's low approval rating nationally. Messrs. Lamb and Saccone are vying for a seat left vacant when former Rep. Tim Murphy, a Republican, **resigned last year** after revelations of an extramarital affair. The winner of Tuesday's race will have to run again in November in what is likely to be a new district, as **Pennsylvania is having to redraw its congressional maps** because of a **state Supreme Court court ruling**.

Still, because the district as drawn favors Republicans, the GOP would like to be able to show it can hold it. The district has 70,000 more registered Democrats than Republicans but includes many of the types of voters who have moved away from national and local Democratic candidates. Labor unions have played a big role in the blue-collar district, with the United Steelworkers and the United Mine Workers having endorsed Mr. Lamb. Tim Waters, national political director for the steelworkers union, said in an interview that Mr. Saccone is "too far right" for the district. "We're up against an antiunion candidate," he added.

A Saccone spokesman said Sunday the Republican enjoys "broad support from union workers" because he is "campaigning on cutting middle-class taxes and bringing jobs and opportunity back to our region." The race has spurred the parties to bring out their big guns, with former Vice President Joe Biden hitting the stump for Mr. Lamb last week and **Mr. Trump appearing at a rally** for Mr. Saccone on Saturday night. "I could not have asked for a stronger endorsement of our campaign," Mr. Saccone said in a statement after the president's visit. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the largest newspaper in the area, endorsed Mr. Saccone on Sunday.

The National Republican Congressional Committee, the House GOP's campaign arm, believes it has a winning attack message in races this year: linking any Democratic candidate to Mrs. Pelosi, who is particularly unpopular among Republican voters in much of public polling. But in the Pennsylvania special election, Mr. Lamb has sought distance from the national party, and the campaign arm of the House Democrats has spent little on the race. Some of Mr. Saccone's allies say the Republican's conservative bona fides are well suited to the district, but they acknowledge **Mr. Lamb has proved to be a better fundraiser**. Mr. Saccone previously told The Wall Street Journal in an interview: "If it was all about money, Hillary Clinton would be president and Jeb Bush would've been our nominee."

At the rally Saturday in Moon Township, Mr. Trump gave remarks that were freewheeling and covered an array of topics before he called Mr. Saccone to the podium near the end. He said that Mr. Saccone would support his agenda in Congress and called Mr. Lamb "smart" for backing the Trump administration's punitive tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum, a policy the president called "my baby." "But as soon as he gets in, he's not going to vote for us," Mr. Trump said of Mr. Lamb. The White House said before the president's Saturday rally, which was organized by the Trump campaign, that Mr. Trump would look to rally his supporters behind Mr. Saccone by positioning his tariffs as a boon to Western Pennsylvania. The president called Mr. Saccone "a really good person" and invited the candidate on stage during the rally. "We need him," Mr. Trump said. "We need the votes." – **Wall Street Journal**; **in Pittsburgh Tribune Review, what does future hold for 18th District winner?**

Stop me if you've heard this one before. A major technology company is looking to expand, and Pennsylvania is on its radar.

Pennsylvania could be in the running for Apple's fourth campus, **according to an analysis by Bloomberg**. The news outlet looked at where Apple already has offices, where it has a high density of part suppliers, and cities that offer good tax incentives and business environments, educated workforces and public transportation. "When you consider all these factors, Apple seems likely to choose among northeastern states such as Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and upstate New York; North Carolina and Florida in the southeast; and Midwestern states like Illinois and Wisconsin," the Bloomberg reporters concluded, adding that a campus in the Eastern Time Zone also gives Apple a jumpstart on the day.

Tim McNulty, a spokesman for Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, said he was not aware of any communication between Apple and the city regarding a campus in Pittsburgh. Allegheny County and Allegheny Conference on Community Development declined to speak specifically about discussions that may or may not be talking place with Apple. Apple operates a technology hub in Pittsburgh's Strip District. The company employs more than 350 people between its Pittsburgh office, retail stores

and other locations, a company spokesman told the Tribune-Review in January. Across Pennsylvania, Apple employs about 1,300 people. Apple employs 84,000 people across the country. Pittsburgh and Philadelphia were included in Bloomberg's analysis of cities with good public transportation and educated work forces. The cities were not included as ones offering good tax incentives or business environments. Apple in January **announced it will build a new campus somewhere in the United States**. The new campus is part of plans to create more than 20,000 jobs and invest more than \$30 billion in the United States over the next five years. The location of the new campus will be revealed later this year. Apple will not launch an Amazon HQ2-style bidding process for the new campus.

Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are finalists for Amazon's second headquarters, which could bring 50,000 jobs and \$5 billion in investment. Amazon has said it will announce the winning city later this year. This isn't the first time Pennsylvania has been in the mix for a major technology development including Apple. In January 2017, Pennsylvania trade and economic development officials met with the chairman of Foxconn Technology Group, a Taiwanese technology device manufacturer famous for making Apple products, to discuss the company building in the state. Foxconn Chairman Terry Gou said he'd like to invest in Pennsylvania following that meeting.

The display manufacturing facility would cost more than \$7 billion and might create 30,000 to 50,000 jobs, Gou said. But Pennsylvania did not land the Foxconn facility. The company will build in Wisconsin instead. Foxconn in 2013 **announced plans to build a \$30 million plant in Harrisburg** and invest \$10 million in Carnegie Mellon University for research and development. The Harrisburg factory was not built and the status of the R7D funding to CMU is unknown. – *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*

