



"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

~ Harry S. Truman



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**dangerous times'**

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**These Philly-area**  
**employees can't**  
**believe they have to**  
**report for work**  
**during the**  
**coronavirus crisis**

**Philadelphia Inquirer**  
**Who actually has the**  
**power to postpone**  
**the Pa. primary over**  
**coronavirus?**

**Philadelphia Inquirer**  
**Pa. Senate approves**  
**remote voting rule in**  
**response to the**  
**coronavirus**

**The Caucus**  
**How Pennsylvania's**  
**three row officers -**  
**attorney general,**  
**auditor general and**  
**treasurer - get**  
**around, and who**  
**pays**

**Allentown Morning**  
**Call**  
**Republicans sweep**  
**3 special elections**  
**for Pennsylvania**  
**House, including**  
**seat in Bucks**  
**County**

**Harrisburg Patriot**  
**News**  
**Amid coronavirus**  
**crisis, the Pa.**  
**General Assembly is**  
**now equipped to**  
**assure continuity of**  
**government**

Sling TV today rolled out its "Stay in & SLING!" initiative which includes a free tier of its streaming TV service with live news to help consumers stay up to date on the COVID-19 crisis.

The Sling TV free experience currently includes news from ABC News Live, a 24/7 streaming video news channel, and thousands of movies and shows suitable for kids and families. It's available through apps on a Roku, Amazon Fire TV or Android devices, or by visiting [sling.com](http://sling.com) in Chrome, Safari or Edge browsers.

The company said current Sling TV subscribers can access free content from Sling TV within the user interface on any Sling TV-supported device, without changing their subscription.

"To stay informed in these uncertain times, Americans need access to news from reputable sources," said Warren Schlichting, group president at Sling TV, in a statement. "With many Americans finding themselves staying at home, we have an opportunity to use our platform to help them deal with this rapidly evolving situation."

The free Sling TV offers comes as the streaming TV service's parent company, Dish Network, is temporarily settling some of its broadcast channel blackouts to ensure its subscribers have access to news.

The satellite provider and Cox Media Group said to "keep communities safe, healthy and informed," they are suspending the contractual retransmission dispute between the two companies. Dish said it also reached a short-term agreement to restore channels owned by Mission, Marshall and White Night Broadcasting until April 13, 2020.

"Dish is committed to ensuring that our customers have access to critical local news coverage regarding COVID-19 in their community," said Andy LeCuyer, Dish senior vice president of programming, in a statement. "Our customers always come first, and restoring these channels is one more step we've taken to help them get through this challenging time." -- *Fierce Video*

Amid high anxiety about a pandemic that's turning the world upside down, politics hovers over all, for good or bad or both. On one hand, primal concerns of health and safety, personal finance, uncertain outcomes, leave little room for full attention to politics. On the other hand, is there a more important time to focus on same? Its leaders deal with issues of primal concern. And elections decide who those leaders are.

So, of course, it's important. It's just that these days, politics is a mix of news and nonsense, the latter of which all of us are better off without. Think about recent days.

I can't shake images from last Sunday's Democratic debate between Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders, a pair of late-stage septuagenarians who so far served a combined total of 72 years in public office. (That number, by the way, approaches [the average life expectancy for an American male](#), now 76 years.)

Biden and Sanders spent a couple of hours pretending they were still in a competitive race, and bickered like biddies on bridge day over who said what or voted how in 1996. Biden got high marks from talking heads and top print outlets, but likely that was mostly because he added nothing new to his blooper reel.

Watching the debate, it was hard not to mentally picture [Statler and Waldorf](#), the pair of cranky old-guy Muppet characters grousing up in the balcony. Talk about inspiring.

And how about the other septuagenarian running? [President Trump generously rated himself at 10 out of 10](#) for his handling of the health crisis. No surprise, surely. But is the nation comforted in any way by Trump's self-aggrandizement?

Or by his, let's say, transparent efforts to backfill. For example. He first told the country it's no pandemic, it's one person coming from China. Then, for months, he said nothing to worry about, it's under control, it's going to disappear. Then, this week, he said, "[This is a pandemic, I felt it was a pandemic long before it was called a pandemic.](#)" And so it goes.

Still, there's evidence of bipartisan honesty and competence playing out across the country. [Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf](#) has been consistent and solid. Republican [Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine](#) has drawn attention for taking aggressive, proactive steps ahead of the virus hitting his state.

[Maryland Republican Gov. Larry Hogan](#) has gotten high marks for acting decisively without waiting for federal pronouncements. And I'm betting many voters, especially Democrats, watching New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's press briefings are wishing he had run for president this year.

As it is, we're looking at Biden v. Trump no matter what happens in remaining primaries (if they're held) or upcoming political conventions, whether held as scheduled, altered or cancelled. Then a fall campaign of who knows what: traditional with rallies and such; or virtual.

In all of this, our politics remain divided and, as a result, so does our reaction to the virus. A new national [Politico/Morning Consult poll](#) shows 80 percent of Republicans believe Trump's handling of the outbreak has been "excellent" or "good." Only 10 percent of Democrats agree.

And an [NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll](#) shows 40 percent of Republicans think coronavirus is a real threat while 76 percent of Democrats do. There's long been a theory in political science that America's deep political divide could be closed by a common enemy (as it was briefly post-9/11) such as a natural disaster, war or pandemic.

So far that's not the case. Which is why politics in the time of coronavirus is both vital and annoying. -- [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

