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**LightReading**  
**Roku rails against Charter's push to end ban on data caps**

The chairwoman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission wants to hear from stakeholders about how to transition out of a moratorium that the state agency placed on utility shutoffs in mid-March. After a stalemate at the PUC has twice failed to move the needle on the termination ban, Gladys Brown Dutrieuille is attempting to force the issue into a public discussion.

**MediaPost**  
**Disney, Viacom, Others Will Limit Data Collection To Settle Children's Privacy Battle**

In a letter on Monday, Ms. Dutrieuille encouraged stakeholders to submit comments on the current policy, which bans utilities from terminating clients for nonpayment in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to offer their thoughts about customer protections needed if the moratorium is lifted. The PUC unanimously instituted the moratorium in mid-March after Gov. Tom Wolf issued an emergency declaration because of COVID-19.

**USA Today**  
**Beware COVID-related vaccine emails. They're probably fake**

Since then, two commissioners have attempted to lift the ban while the other two voted to have a stakeholder group inform the decision. Both of those motions failed because of the 2-2 split. The PUC is short one member. "It is time to reconsider the March 13 Emergency Order," Chairwoman Dutrieuille wrote on Monday, explaining that keeping the moratorium in place too long can be harmful to utilities and to consumers.

**Bloomberg**  
**WarnerMedia's New CEO Says HBO Max Has One Clear Edge Over Netflix**

She said she plans to address the moratorium at the PUC's Aug. 27 meeting and asked that all comments be submitted by Aug. 18. Comments can be sent to the Secretary of the Commission at [rchiavetta@pa.gov](mailto:rchiavetta@pa.gov) — referencing PUC docket number M-2020-3019244 — or filed directly on the PUC's website using an eFiling account. — **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

**Hollywood Reporter**  
**Disney Removes Fox From TV Studios, Revives Touchstone**

With the COVID-19 pandemic prompting a cascade of event cancellations, ArtsQuest could have just had no Musikfest this year. But the nonprofit arts organization's leadership knew that the Lehigh Valley needed the 10-day music festival, in whatever way it could be held. "We felt it was incredibly important," ArtsQuest Chief Operating Officer Curt Mosel said. "We were listening to the community and nobody could believe that there wouldn't be a Musikfest this year. There was no way we couldn't offer this for the community."

**Associated Press**  
**Pentagon offers military airwaves for 5G wireless networks**

Musikfest 2020 is in the books and, with its mostly virtual format, it's fair to say it was history-making. It became clear early this year as the pandemic worsened in Pennsylvania that a traditional Musikfest — which annually draws a million people and has no way to gate or limit the number of people coming into the festival — could not be held. Instead, ArtsQuest went virtual, hosting 90 concerts in a variety of musical genres by streaming them on [Musikfest.org](http://Musikfest.org) and televising some on **Service Electric TV**.

**New York Times**  
**Big Tech Makes Inroads With the Biden Campaign**

ArtsQuest announced Monday it would not be able to provide any viewership numbers until later in the month. But people from more than a dozen countries, including Japan and Peru, and 150 cities in the U.S. watched the streaming performances. Most of the performances were from highly recognizable local bands. One of those was the Large Flowerheads, known for their trippy '60s get-up-and-dance music.

**Fierce Wireless**  
**Wireless industry remains immune to 'Covid efftct'**

Their show was among those televised on **Service Electric**. Maureen "Moe" Jerant, one of the bandmembers, said they rehearsed for two weeks and really had to work on how to perform without an audience. Being a group that thrives on getting the audience up and dancing, this was challenging.

**Philadelphia Inquirer**  
**Trump says he might give his Republican renomination speech in Gettysburg**

They then had a surprise: Their show on **Service Electric** turned out to be in front of a very small group, about 25 people. "That was one of the happiest moments," Jerant said. "What we do is very interactive." The **Service Electric** shows were also rebroadcast on [Musikfest.org](http://Musikfest.org), which gave Jerant's family and friends who live out of the area a chance to see the band play. — **Allentown Morning Call**

**Washington Post**  
**Crush of mail balloting expected in today's slate of primaries and runoffs**

The calendar says there are almost three months until Election Day. But a large swath of Pennsylvanians will likely begin casting ballots within weeks, creating new challenges for President Donald Trump, Joe Biden, and candidates across the state, as voting starts sooner — and spreads out longer — than usual. With [the coronavirus](#) continuing to disrupt life, [a big chunk of voters in Pennsylvania](#) and [other battleground states](#) are expected to turn to mail voting, under which they can receive and send back ballots well ahead of Election Day, Nov. 3. Pennsylvanians can start receiving mail ballots as early as mid-September. And [a new state law makes it easier for anyone to do so.](#)

That has some Republicans worried that Trump has little time to make up ground in [a critical swing state where he trails in polls](#). Some people may even vote before the first presidential debate on Sept. 29, which Republicans hope will spark a Trump comeback. But the biggest impact, strategists in both parties said, could be on down-ballot races. Trump and Biden have the resources to handle a long period of advertising and get-out-the-vote efforts. Candidates for Congress or the state legislature have less money for a peak campaign season that could last weeks instead of days. “Traditionally, there would be this sort of massive October push to make sure that people turn out on Election Day in November. That’s obviously very different right now,” said Adrienne Shropshire, executive director of BlackPAC, a grassroots group that engages progressive Black voters. “We consider ourselves to be in the [get-out-the-vote] phase right now.”

That means lesser-known candidates can’t save their election appeals and limited cash for the end, Shropshire said. Voters “need to know in August, and they need to without a doubt know in September,” she said, “otherwise they’ll cast those ballots and skip really critical and important races because they won’t know who to vote for.” That can strain challengers, who aren’t as well-known or well-funded as incumbents, said J.J. Balaban, a Democratic consultant in Philadelphia, who has also worked on races in Washington state, which votes almost entirely by mail.

He recalled when he helped [Joe Sestak beat Arlen Specter](#) in Pennsylvania’s 2010 Senate Democratic primary. Specter led big early, but [Sestak caught him late in the race](#). If voters had cast their ballots early, Specter might have locked in some support that later slipped away. As an example this year, Balaban pointed to [Christina Finello, the Democrat](#) running to unseat Republican U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick [in Bucks County](#). She has far less campaign cash than Fitzpatrick. Such a challenger might normally save her big ad buys for the last 10 days of the race. “She has to make a really tough choice between holding it until the end and missing a chunk of voters, or potentially communicating at such a light level for three weeks that she barely gets heard,” Balaban said.

Whit Ayres, a Republican strategist who has worked on many races in Florida, where mail voting is prevalent, said it “complicates life enormously” for campaigns, “because you need to start advertising earlier, start getting out the vote earlier, but then you need to extend those efforts all the way up through Election Day.” Trump and Biden are already tailoring their campaigns to the new reality.

In rolling out the \$280 million Biden TV and digital campaign last week, Biden aide Patrick Bonsignore said the buy is “heavier in the summer and early fall than later on” compared with the past. And after pulling ads off the air when a new campaign manager took over, the Trump campaign planned to [refocus its ads in states that start voting earliest](#), Politico reported. But while early voting could shorten the window for a Trump comeback, strategists in both parties said people voting a month or two early are likely dedicated partisans who would pick their party’s candidate no matter what. In the primary election, only about one out of four ballots mailed in Philadelphia was returned more than a week before Election Day. “The people who vote right away are the people who knew in the womb who they were going to vote for,” Balaban said, quoting a pollster he has worked with.

Still, if someone votes by mail, campaigns don't have to worry about their failing to show up on Election Day because of a coronavirus surge, long lines, or a personal emergency. And the more people vote by mail, the shorter lines will be on Election Day, easing one potential obstacle in cities like Philadelphia. For campaigns, early voting can also diminish the impact of late surprises that can sway undecided voters. If recent primaries are any indication, the impact of the early voting is likely to be skewed, because [far more Democrats are using mail voting](#) than Republicans, as [Trump attacks the method](#) with [false and exaggerated claims](#).

In Pennsylvania, [more than one million Democrats used mail ballots in the June primary](#), compared with 397,000 Republicans. In other swing states like Florida and North Carolina, Democrats are far outpacing Republicans in requesting mail ballots. Despite the president's rhetoric, the Republican National Committee and Pennsylvania GOP are encouraging voters to use mail ballots, and the Trump campaign says its strong staffing will eventually give it the edge in early voting. "You need to contact voters earlier, and it actually works to our advantage having the infrastructure we have," said Ted Christian, a senior campaign adviser in Pennsylvania.

But other Republicans worry that Trump's diatribes [could hamper GOP turnout](#). "It's a concern that trashing the idea of mail voting is going to suppress Republican votes," Ayres said. "Republicans could be leaving a whole lot of votes on the table if they discourage their own supporters from voting by mail." NextGen, a progressive group focused on voters aged 18 to 35, usually builds its major get-out-the-vote effort during the four days leading up to Election Day, said Larissa Sweitzer, the group's Pennsylvania state director.

Now, it's already reaching out to make sure young voters know about mail-in voting. The group texted more than 700,000 Pennsylvanians last week. "It does expand the amount of time that we have to talk to voters," Sweitzer said. "It's our job, it's our responsibility, to then retouch those voters. ... Do you know where to return that ballot? Do you know when to return that ballot? ... Did you sign your ballot?"

As the election goes on, widespread mail voting can help campaigns see what's working, what isn't, and who to target, since public records show who has requested a mail ballot — and who has returned one. "You can really get a sense of who's showing up, and that allows a campaign to start tailoring their message toward later voters who are maybe undecided," said Christian Sinderman, a Democratic consultant from Seattle who also works on races in Oregon, another state that votes almost entirely by mail. And campaigns can better target their phone calls and mailings, since they know who hasn't voted yet. "If you want to be left alone before Election Day," Sinderman said, "send in your ballot early." — **Spotlight PA**

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[Heather Heidelbaugh's](#) first television commercial as the Republican nominee for Pennsylvania attorney general takes aim at the not-so-distant political ambitions of her incumbent opponent, Democrat Josh Shapiro. "I'll keep our community safe, keep politics out of the office, and serve my full term," Heidelbaugh says to the camera, sticking the landing on that last phrase.

[Shapiro is widely expected to run for governor](#) in 2022 when Gov. Tom Wolf's second term wraps up. How widely? Clout [asked Wolf about that future race for governor](#) on Election Day last year. "That's my guy there," Wolf said, nodding toward Shapiro, who declined to comment about 2022. Heidelbaugh, [a Pittsburgh trial lawyer](#), has staffed her election squad with veterans of U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey's campaigns. [Toomey is seen as mulling a bid](#) for the Republican nomination for governor in 2022.

Any hits Heidelbaugh lands on Shapiro in the 12 weeks between now and the Nov. 3 general election could, by proxy, help Toomey in a race two years from

now. Her campaign said it's spending \$200,000 to air the ad on television in the Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Wilkes-Barre media markets. Shapiro's camp, asked if he has ever promised to serve a full second term, responded: "The promise AG Shapiro makes is to wake up every day focused on protecting people over powerful special interests. There are too many important battles to wage right now to be speculating about what might happen in politics years from now."

Shapiro holds a significant cash advantage, reporting \$4.14 million in his campaign account as of June 22, while Heidelbaugh had \$208,871. Heidelbaugh is getting a boost from [the Commonwealth Leaders Fund](#), a political action committee [founded and funded by conservative activists](#). The PAC, which gave her \$50,000 in June, has booked \$435,000 worth of air time to support her, according to the ad tracking firm website Advertising Analytics. The rest of Heidelbaugh's ad serves as an introduction to voters of a candidate who lacks strong name recognition. Her personal story is about overcoming early struggles in life. "My dad left us when I was just eight," she says. "I know what it's like to grow up hungry, to go to bed cold, to get knocked down and to get back up. I understand the problems people face. And I know how to help." — **Chris Brennan's "Clout" column in *Philadelphia Daily News***



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