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Republican gubernatorial candidate Mike DeWine wants to make Ohio a "smart state." Thursday he said he would appoint his running mate, Secretary of State Jon Husted, to head up a private-sector advisory panel that would identify ways to make the Buckeye State a leader in emerging technology. "What is exciting about this is the state is going to have at its disposal the brightest people in the state to advise us," said DeWine, who is the Ohio attorney general. "We will be able to go to that group and say ... 'Here are the challenges in criminal justice, here are the challenges that educators are having. What can you do to help us?' This is really going to put Ohio at the forefront. It's going to send a signal to people all over the country and all over the world."

He made those comments at the [Smart Columbus Experience Center](#), a facility funded by U.S. Department of Transportation that is dedicated to improving mobility in Columbus, including through the use of electric vehicles. "We believe, through a private-public partnership, that we can make Ohio the most innovative, creative, entrepreneurial-friendly state in all of the Midwest," Husted said. "And we still need partnerships not with companies in Silicon Valley, but right here in Ohio."

One way Husted and DeWine propose to allow all parts of the state to participate in the technology boom is to use such private-public partnerships to extend broadband internet to rural areas and small towns that are under-served now. However, if businesses could make money off of such service, wouldn't it be there already? Husted said new government money wouldn't be necessary. "If the government does it right and provides access to the right of ways and things like that, private sector companies will put the broadband, put the fiber in the ground and then share that with the government for all the things we need to do with it," he said.

Kyle Quillen, CEO of Agile Networks, a Canton company that offers 25-megabit-per-second internet service in parts of Belmont County, agreed that additional government investment is not needed to bring broadband to rural areas. "At the end of the day, what it comes down to is that there are mountains of under-utilized infrastructure assets that could facilitate broadband development in urban areas and rural areas and the easier you make that transformation happen — the less hurdles and burdensomeness there is to it — the more investment will come," he said.

Philadelphia Inquirer
Poll shows tight race in key Pa. congressional district

Pennlive
Democrats look to make history in Pennsylvania's new 10th District; Republicans hope to repeat it

Agile Networks has had a private-public partnership of its own with the state. In 2012 the company received a no-bid contract that allowed it to lease space on state-owned cellular towers to telecom providers and keep the money, while Ohio taxpayers footed the bill for the electricity. – *Columbus (OH) Dispatch*

The Justice Department is inviting a bipartisan group of 24 state attorneys general to discuss concerns over social media platforms, after receiving an “increased level of interest” from the AGs, an official said. That is more than previously expected for the meeting scheduled for later this month and is likely to fuel worries among the big internet companies.

Specific topics for the meeting with Attorney General Jeff Sessions include antitrust concerns as well as stifling of conservative speech. Justice officials first announced the meeting last week. At the time, a relatively small group of attorneys general—mostly Republicans—appeared to have been invited. That led some Democratic officials to complain about possible political motives behind the meeting, such as stirring of conservative voters ahead of the November election.

Thursday’s announcement suggests that at least some Democratic attorneys general are being invited to the meeting as well, although it isn’t yet known how many will attend. Some Democratic attorneys general have been among the state officials that have sparred with the tech giants in recent years. Big social media platforms generally have said little about the meeting with state attorneys general so far. **Facebook**, which declined to comment, previously has pointed to comments by Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg, who has said he is open to regulation that protects the privacy of users.

Recent comments by several of the state attorneys general suggest they are exploring an antitrust investigation and hope to enlist Washington. “All of us have expressed concern on a number of different issues, so there’s been ongoing discussion inside the AG circles as to how best to get our hands around these issues,” Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, a Republican who is the current president of the National Association of Attorneys General, said in an interview this week. “Having the ability to have a discussion with [Justice officials] and get buy-in from them, I believe would help to bring some weight” to the concerns.

Twenty years ago, Microsoft Corp. faced lengthy antitrust litigation brought by about 20 state attorneys general, along with the Justice Department. So far, the current generation of internet giants have largely avoided antitrust enforcement action in the U.S., even as the European Union has imposed multibillion-dollar fines on Alphabet Inc.’s Google unit for alleged abuses involving its search function and Android mobile-phone system. And yet, the U.S. regulatory environment is growing considerably less friendly to tech. Several Trump administration agencies, including the Federal Trade Commission, are examining the industry, and President Trump himself recently railed against the internet giants and has attacked behemoths like Amazon.com Inc. and Google. – *Wall Street Journal*

As the race to fifth-generation wireless technology heats up, so do the claims about technological superiority. A day after Verizon Communications Inc. announced that it will be the first carrier out of the

gate to launch 5G wireless in the U.S., AT&T Inc. Chief Executive Officer Randall Stephenson said he's curious to see how the service will be greeted by consumers. "I think even Verizon is wondering how this will be received," Stephenson said in an interview after his appearance at the Goldman Sachs Communacopia conference in New York Wednesday.

Verizon will use high-frequency signals to beam broadband to select homes in Los Angeles, Houston and Indianapolis, and Sacramento, California, starting Oct. 1. The speeds will range up to 1 gigabit a second, with monthly prices starting at \$50. But there's a caveat: To get the service to market first, Verizon is using nonstandard 5G gear in its initial rollout. The company says it will use standardized equipment when it is available. The initial service also is aimed at household users, rather than mobile customers. "They are going to be first with a nonstandard service," Stephenson said. "We will be first with a standards-based 5G service, and it will be mobile."

AT&T said in July that it will bring 5G to Atlanta, Oklahoma City, the North Carolina cities of Charlotte and Raleigh, and Dallas and Waco in Texas by the end of the year using standards-based equipment. The service will initially connect to 5G "pucks" or hot-spot devices, which could be moved around. The tussle between AT&T and Verizon underscores the urgency to get ahead in 5G, which is seen as a driver of growth for the wireless industry. Companies throughout the supply chain are expected to spend an estimated \$200 billion on 5G efforts, and the Trump administration has billed it a national priority as China expands its 5G capabilities. Stephenson downplayed reports that China was ahead of the U.S. in 5G development during a presentation to investors Wednesday. China has "trials" in progress, while U.S. wireless carriers are actively deploying commercial 5G services this year, he said. — *Bloomberg*

As the Pennsylvania Senate's top leader, Joe Scarnati has witnessed his chamber, with a history of moderate politics, become a more polarized institution where compromise is harder to reach, albeit not at the level and rate of the state House. On Thursday, Scarnati, Republican Senate president pro tempore from Jefferson County, floated a bill to try to change those politics in and out of Harrisburg.

Senate Bill 1234 would allow open primaries, ending the state's long-standing election law that only allows voters from the state's largest parties, Republican and Democrat, to cast ballots in spring contests. The bill would allow more than 740,000 independent "unaffiliated" voters to select a Democrat or Republican on the ballot. The bill, however, would not open primaries to anyone registered with a third party, such as the Green Party or Purple Rain Party.

The bill is a long way to becoming law. Election Day is Nov. 6 and the Legislature historically does not take up controversial legislation after polls close. Scarnati dropped the bill into the Senate State Government Committee. With about a handful of session days left in the year, it's doubtful the bill would receive the six positive votes necessary in the Senate and House to reach Gov. Tom Wolf's desk for his possible signature into law.

In a statement, Scarnati said he hopes the measure, should it pass, would lead to greater voter turnout. "In our most recent primary

election, only 18 percent of Pennsylvania's registered voters went to the ballot box to cast a vote,' he said. "The low turnout can in part be attributed to voters feeling disenfranchised by both major parties, who have taken control of our primary process." In a speech this summer before the Pennsylvania Press Club, Scarnati had harsher words to describe closed primaries.

The closed process, Scarnati said in his speech, leads to far-right and far-left candidates who have no interest in compromise. By opening primaries, he said, more moderate candidates would emerge for the betterment of democracy. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 16 states have open primary for unaffiliated voters: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah and West Virginia. –

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