Good morning, and I hope all is well.

While some votes are still being counted across the commonwealth, the outcomes in key party nominating contests have been determined.

Incumbent Bob Casey (D) will officially face off against businessman Dave McCormick (R) as the balance of control in the US Senate is up for grabs in November. Polling thus far indicates that Senator Casey is the favorite to secure a fourth term.

In the race for Attorney General, **York County District Attorney Dave Sunday cruised to the Republican nomination while former Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale locked up the Democratic nomination** in a five-way jungle primary. This is going to be an expensive, top-tier contest come November and it's best classified as a tossup.

Returning to Washington, D.C. for a moment, **incumbents Summer Lee (D-Allegheny) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Bucks) won renomination** despite well-financed opposition from the center-left (Lee) and the far-right (Fitzpatrick). As we look towards the balance of power in the US House of Representatives next year, the two congressional contests to watch in PA are the PA-10 (central PA) and the PA-7 (Lehigh Valley).

Former TV anchor Janelle Stelson (D) secured her party's nomination to face incumbent Scott Perry (R) in the PA-10. Perry is the leader of the House Freedom Caucus and is considered a slight favorite in the November General Election.

PA State Representative Ryan MacKenzie (R) won the right to face incumbent Susan Wild (D) in the PA-7. This race is considered a toss-up.

Finally, the primaries in the PA House and Senate were also determined yesterday. A record 16 incumbent members of the state House were challenged by members of their party. **All incumbents won except Reps. Gregory (R-Blair), Cabell (R-Luzerne), and Boyle (D-Philadelphia). Primary winners include Abigal Salisbury (63%) and Joe McAndrew (70%), both establishment Democrats in Pittsburgh and environs who squashed progressive Democrat challengers.** Republicans need to flip one seat to regain the majority in the state House. However, Democrats are slightly favored to retain their majority in the next legislative session.

In the state Senate, party-backed candidates one each of their respective nominations. Democrats need to flip four seats to win control of the chamber for the first time since the Reagan administration but Republicans are strongly favored to retain control of the chamber.

Buckle up. Pennsylvania will be the darling of not only the race for the White House but the balance of power in Congress. That, plus our highly competitive state-wide competitions means an expensive, noisy seven months ahead.

Pray for your local mail person. Screen your phone calls/texts. Expect to see digital ads when you're doing your online shopping. There will be plenty of knocks at your door.

We're off to the races!
Bob Taylor
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