

# GOP mulls recount, lawsuit after Pennsylvania upset

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Associated Press

CANONSBURG, Pa. — Republicans eyed a recount and a lawsuit over perceived irregularities in a closely watched U.S. House race in Pennsylvania where Democrat Conor Lamb clung to a slender lead in the longtime GOP stronghold friendly to President Donald Trump.

With the last batch of absentee ballots counted, Lamb, a 33-year-old former prosecutor and first-time candidate, saw his edge over Republican Rick Saccone shrink slightly, to 627 votes out of more than 224,000 cast, according to unofficial results.

The four counties in the Pittsburgh-area district reported they had about 375 uncounted provisional, military and overseas ballots. They have seven days to count the provisional ballots, and the deadline to receive military and overseas ballots is next Tuesday.

With the margin so close, supporters of either candidate can ask for a recount.

The GOP is considering lodging a recount request, and county officials reported receiving a letter from a law firm requesting that they preserve their records, something the counties say they do anyway under state law.

Separately, Republicans mulled legal action, according to a person familiar with the deliberations. This person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal planning.

Complaints could include that party lawyers were prevented from observing the counting of some absentee ballots, voting machines erroneously recorded votes from Lamb, and voters were confused by some information from the state elections website.

Officials in Allegheny County, the most populous and Democratic-leaning county in the district, pushed back on Republican claims Wednesday, saying the lawyers had lacked written authorization from the GOP and they had received no reports Tuesday of malfunctioning voting machines.



AP Photo/Keith Srakocic

**Republican Rick Saccone had been criticized as a lackluster candidate.**



AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar

**Democrat Conor Lamb surprised in a House district drawn to favor Republicans.**

tioning voting machines.

The Associated Press has not called the race, which is seen nationally as indicator of Democratic enthusiasm and GOP vulnerability heading into the November elections that will determine whether Republicans retain their control of Congress.

Lamb has declared victory. Saccone, a 60-year-old Air Force veteran turned state lawmaker and college instructor, hasn't conceded. Both men stayed out of sight Wednesday, and Saccone's campaign said that Saccone had no plans to concede before vote counting was finished.

The counties, under state law, perform an audit of the results on the electronic voting machines that typically involves comparing the overall tally on a hard drive, a flash drive and a paper tape that separately record each vote. Deviations are a rarity, county officials say.

Absentee ballots are open to inspection to determine whether the person is eligible to vote or whether the voter's intent was clear, and that is more likely where a review might alter a final count, said Douglas Hill, executive director of the County Commissioners

Association of Pennsylvania.

But a difference is "never large numbers, it's always around the margins," Hill said.

Regardless of the outcome, Lamb's showing seemed certain to stoke anxiety among Republicans nationwide and renew enthusiasm among Democrats.

Trump won the district by about 20 percentage points in 2016, and the seat has been in Republican hands for the past 15 years. It was open now only because Republican Rep. Tim Murphy, who espoused strong anti-abortion views, resigned last fall amid revelations that he had asked a woman with whom he was having an extramarital affair to get an abortion.

Democrats must flip 24 GOP-held seats this fall to seize control of the House, and months ago few had counted on this district to be in play.

Lamb asserted his independence from national Democratic leaders and played down his opposition to Trump. But he also fully embraced organized labor in a district with influential labor unions and a long history of steel-making and coal-mining, hammering Republican tax cuts as a giveaway to the

rich and promising to defend Social Security, Medicare and pensions.

Trump and his allies, meanwhile, invested tremendous time and resources in the seat, mindful the contest could be used to measure Trump's lasting appeal among white, working-class voters and Democrats' anti-Trump fervor.

Outside groups aligned with Republicans poured more than \$10 million into the contest, about seven times the outside money that helped Lamb.

Saccone had cast himself as the president's "wingman." But where Murphy had long allied himself with unions, Saccone's conservative voting record alienated them.

A White House spokesman on Wednesday warned against reading too much into the razor-thin outcome, saying Trump's campaigning for Saccone "turned what was a deficit for the Republican candidate to what is essentially a tie."

Lamb's victory is somewhat symbolic. Under a state court order in a gerrymandering case, the seat is one of Pennsylvania's 18 U.S. House districts whose boundaries will change next year, and the new ones will be in play in this year's mid-term elections.

Even before Tuesday night's vote, Saccone was making plans to seek the nomination in a different district in May's primary, a new southwestern Pennsylvania district that leans solidly Republican without the Pittsburgh suburbs that helped Lamb.

Neither Saccone nor Lamb lives in that district, but Saccone is planning to run there since, under the new boundaries, Saccone's home is in a Pittsburgh-based district that is heavily Democratic and home to longtime Democratic Rep. Mike Doyle.

Lamb is expected to run in a new district west of Pittsburgh against Republican Rep. Keith Rothfus. That district is far less friendly to Republicans than Rothfus' existing district and is described by Republicans as a toss-up.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

### US imposes sanctions on Russians for election meddling

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration today imposed sanctions on 19 Russians for alleged interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, including 13 indicted by special counsel Robert Mueller as part of his Russia-related investigation.

Also targeted were five Russian companies, including the Internet Research Agency, which is accused of orchestrating a mass online disinformation campaign to affect the election that Republican Donald Trump won over Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The Treasury Department announced the sanctions amid withering criticism of Trump and his administration for failing to use the congressionally mandated authority to punish Russia for the election interference. Trump himself has been skeptical of the allegations.

The sanctions are the first use of the powers that Congress passed last year in retaliation for Moscow's meddling. The targets include officials working for the Russian military intelligence agency, GRU. Thursday's action freezes any assets the individuals and entities may have in the United States and bar Americans from doing business with them.

The department said in a statement that the GRU and Russia's military interfered in the 2016 election and were "directly responsible" for the NotPetya cyberattack that hit businesses across Europe in June 2017.

### US, France, Germany blame Russia for UK nerve agent attack

LONDON — The leaders of the United States, France and Germany joined Britain today in blaming Russia for poisoning a former spy with a powerful nerve agent, calling the attack "the first offensive use of a nerve agent in Europe since the Second World War."

In a rare joint statement, U.S. President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister Theresa May said "there is no plausible alternative explanation" to Russian responsibility.

They said Russia's failure to respond to Britain's "legitimate request" for an explanation "further underlines its responsibility."

The leaders said the use of a chemical weapon is "an assault on U.K. sovereignty" and "a breach of international law."

The statement is the fruit of British efforts to enlist international support as it tries to hold Russia accountable for the March 4 attack that left former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in critical condition and a British police officer seriously ill.

U.K.-Russia relations have plunged to Cold War-era levels of iciness since the poisoning. May on Wednesday expelled 23 Russian diplomats, severed high-level contacts with Moscow and vowed both open and covert actions following the attack.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said today that Moscow would "certainly" expel some British diplomats in a tit-for-tat response.

### Syria marks 7 years of war; thousands leave besieged enclave

BEIRUT — Thousands of civilians streamed out of a town in Syria's besieged, opposition-held enclave of eastern Ghouta today, crossing on foot and in pickup trucks and tractors to government-held territory near the capital, Damascus, according to footage on state-run Syrian television.

Al-Ikhbariya TV showed men, women and children walking out of the town of Hamouria carrying their belongings, including clothes and mattresses and suitcases, some over their heads. A herd of sheep was among the crowds leaving through the crossing.

Syrian state-run Al-Ikhbariya said nearly 10,000 people left Monday — the largest civilian exodus from eastern Ghouta since the government launched a punishing assault on the rebel-held region more than three weeks ago. More than 1,200 civilians have been killed in government and Russian airstrikes and rocket fire.

The mass exit came as Syrians marked seven years since the popular uprising that sparked their country's vicious civil war — and hours after Syrian government forces blanketed the town with airstrikes and rocket fire.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group put the number of those who had left eastern Ghouta so far today at 9,300. It also said government forces targeted a column of civilians fleeing Hamouria before dawn Thursday, wounding several people, and that 26 people were killed in government strikes on the town on Wednesday.

The U.N. estimates that close to 400,000 people are trapped inside the government's siege of eastern Ghouta. They are running out of room to flee as government forces close in on the space.

### Without Toys R Us, 30,000 jobs, a black hole for toy makers

NEW YORK — The demise of Toys R Us will have a ripple effect on everything from toy makers to consumers to landlords.

The 70-year-old retailer is headed toward shuttering its U.S. operations, jeopardizing the jobs of some 30,000 employees while spelling the end for a chain known to generations of children and parents for its sprawling stores and Geoffrey the giraffe mascot.

The closing of the company's 740 U.S. stores over the coming months will finalize the downfall of the chain that succumbed to heavy debt and relentless trends that undercut its business, from online shopping to mobile games.

And it will force toy makers and landlords who depended on the chain to scramble for alternatives.

CEO David Brandon told employees Wednesday the company's plan is to liquidate all of its U.S. stores, according to an audio recording of the meeting obtained by The Associated Press.

Brandon said Toys R Us will try to bundle its Canadian business, with about 200 stores, and find a buyer. The company's U.S. online store would still be running for the next couple of weeks in case there's a buyer for it.

# TV SCHEDULE

Evening listings THURSDAY

THURSDAY EVENING		A - Charter Astoria/Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach										MARCH 15	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	Grey's A. "Old Scars, Future Hearts" (N)	Scandal "The List" (N)	With Murder "Nobody Else Is Dying" (N)	KATU News (N)	(3:55) Jimmy Kimmel			
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Grey's A. "Old Scars, Future Hearts" (N)	Scandal "The List" (N)	With Murder "Nobody Else Is Dying" (N)	KOMO 4 News (N)	(3:55) Jimmy Kimmel			
4	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	Superstore (N)	A.P. Bio (N)	Chicago Fire "A Breaking Point"	KING 5 News (N)	(3:55) Tonight Show			
6	KOIN	(6) (4:00) NCAA Basket.	NCAA Basketball Division I Tournament (L)					To Be Announced	KOIN 6 News (N)	(3:55) Colbert			
7	KIRO	(7) (4:00) NCAA Basket.	NCAA Basketball Division I Tournament (L)					To Be Announced	KIRO 7 News (N)	(3:55) Colbert			
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	Superstore (N)	A.P. Bio (N)	Will & Grace (N)	Champions (N)	Chicago Fire "A Breaking Point"	KGW News (N)	(3:55) Tonight Show	
9	KRCW	(9) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Tough Mudder: Tougher Together (N)	Arrow "All for Nothing"	News at 10 (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half		
10	KOPB	(10) Curious Traveler	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Viewer's Choice							
11	KPTV	(11) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Gotham "Reunion" (N)	Showtime at the Apollo "Week 3" (N)	10 O'Clock News (N)	News (N)	Page Six TV			
12	KPDV	(12) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)	Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game	The Game			
13	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Gotham "Reunion" (N)	Showtime at the Apollo "Week 3" (N)	Q13 News at 10 (N)	Q13 News (N)	The Simpsons			
20	TBS	(20) (4:15) NCAA Basket.	(4:45) NCAA Basketball Division I Tournament (L)				The Detour	The Detour	Conan	Conan			
22	KZJO	(22) Friends	Friends	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	
29	ESPN	(29) (4:00) NCAA Wrestling Division I Championship (L)	SportsCenter The day's news in the world of sports. (N)				SportsCenter (N)	College Gameday (L)	College Gameday (L)	SportsCenter (N)			
30	ESPN2	(30) (5:00) Tennis BNP Paribas Open Site: Indian Wells Tennis Garden -- Indian Wells, Calif. (L)					Nación ESPN (N)	College Gameday (L)	To Be Announced	30 for 30			
31	NICK	(31) The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	SpongeBob	*** Rango (2011, Animated) Isla Fisher, Timothy Olyphant, Johnny Depp.	Stuck in Middle	Stuck in Middle	Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls	Stuck in Middle	Bizaardvark	
32	DISN	(32) Jessie	Jessie	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Stuck in Middle	Stuck in Middle	Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls	Stuck in Middle	Bizaardvark	
34	FAM	(34) ** Mr. Deeds (2002, Comedy) Winona Ryder, Peter Gallagher, Adam Sandler.		Beyond "F.G.B." (N)			** Mirror Mirror (2012, Adventure) Julia Roberts, Armie Hammer, Lily Collins.		The 700 Club				
35	FMC	(35) (5:00) ** The Karate Kid ('10, Act) Jackie Chan, Jaden Smith. (c50) ** The Karate Kid (2010, Action) Jackie Chan, Taraji P. Henson, Jaden Smith.		Beyond "F.G.B." (N)			** Mirror Mirror (2012, Adventure) Julia Roberts, Armie Hammer, Lily Collins.		(c40) FXM Presents	Project Almanac ('14) Jonny Weston.			
36	LIFE	(36) Grey's Anatomy "Flight"	Project Runway	Project Runway	Project Runway	Social "Posen on the Red Carpet" (N)	Runway "Rock Your Face Off" (N)	(c05) Glam Masters	"Natural Beauty"	Project Runway "Rock Your Face Off"			
38	ROOT	(38) (4:00) MLB Baseball Spring Training	Fight Sports MMA	Fight Sports MMA	Fight Sports MMA	Social "Posen on the Red Carpet" (N)	Runway "Rock Your Face Off" (N)	(c05) Glam Masters	"Natural Beauty"	Project Runway "Rock Your Face Off"			
39	F51	(39) (5:00) UFC 25 Greatest Fights "8-12" (N)					UFC Fight Night 37	UFC Fight Night 37	UFC Knockouts	UFC Main Event			
43	SPIKE	(43) Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	TMZ Sports (N)	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.	UFC Top Ten				
44	COM	(44) (5:30) ** How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days ('03) Matthew McConaughey.		*** Titanic (1997, Drama) Kate Winslet, Billy Zane, Leonardo DiCaprio.			A. Ninja "Qualifying Episode 3" (N)	** National Treasure ('04, Adventure) Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Nicolas Cage.					
45	HIST	(45) Swamp People "Hell Rains Down"	Swamp People "Texas 911"	Swamp People "Blood "Texas Tag Out"	Swamp People "Hotter Than Hell" (N)	(c05) Truck Night "Over the Cliff" (N)	** Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play			
46	A&E	(46) The First 48 "Night Run"	The First 48 "Deadly Rap"	The First 48 "Deadly Rap"	The First 48 "Trap House"	60 Days In "Get Them Out" (N)	60 Days In "Get Them Out" (N)	(c15) First 48 (N)	(c45) The First 48				
47	TLC	(47) Naked Me "I Want Eric Love"	My 600-lb Life "Marla's Story"	My 600-lb Life: Supersized "Benji and David's Story" (N)	600-lb Life: "Antonia and Natasha" (N)	My 600-lb Life "Benji and David's Story"	Naked and Afraid "Argentina"	Naked and Afraid "Argentina"	Naked and Afraid "Argentina"	Naked and Afraid "Argentina"			
48	DISC	(48) Hacked and Afraid "Belize Breakdown"	Naked and Afraid "Worlds Collide"	Naked and Afraid "South Africa" (N)	Naked and Afraid "Equador" (N)	Naked and Afraid "Argentina"	Naked and Afraid "Argentina"	Naked and Afraid "Argentina"	Naked and Afraid "Argentina"	Naked and Afraid "Argentina"			
49	NGEO	(49) Primal Survivor "Savage Jungle"	Primal Survivor "Jungle Sacrifice"	Wicked Tuna "Tuna Tantrums"	Tuna "Hooked Up: Fresh Blood" (N)	Life Below Zero "Predator vs. Prey" (N)	Wicked Tuna "Tuna Tantrums"						
50	TNT	(50) (4:15) NCAA Basketball		The Alienist "The Boy on the Bridge"	The Alienist "A Fruitful Partnership"	Supernatural "Two and a Half Men"	Supernatural						
51	AMC	(51) (5:30) ** How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days ('03) Matthew McConaughey.		*** Titanic (1997, Drama) Kate Winslet, Billy Zane, Leonardo DiCaprio.			A. Ninja "Qualifying Episode 3" (N)	** National Treasure ('04, Adventure) Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Nicolas Cage.					
52	USA	(52) (c05) ** National Treasure (2004, Adventure) Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Nicolas Cage.		Chopped "Got Your Goat?"	Chopped "Clam Clash"		A. Ninja "Qualifying Episode 3" (N)	** National Treasure ('04, Adventure) Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Nicolas Cage.					
53	FOOD	(53) Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play	Chopped "Got Your Goat?"	Chopped "Clam Clash"		Chopped "Dim Sum Yum"	** Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play			
54	HGTV	(54) Flip or Flop Vegas	Flip or Flop Vegas	Flip or Flop Vegas	Flip or Flop Vegas	Flip or Flop	FlipFloVegas (N)	Flip or Flop Vegas	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	
55	FX	(55) (4:00) Kingsman: The Secret Service	** Furious 7 (2015, Action) Paul Walker, Jason Statham, Vin Diesel.				Atlanta (N)	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Safe House ('12)	
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360			
58	FNC	(58) Hannity	The Ingraham Angle	The Ingraham Angle	Fox News @ Night	The Profit "Southern Culture"	The Profit "Mr. Cory's Cookies"	Hannity	The Profit "Windward Boardshop"	Paid Program			
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank	Back in the Game	Back in the Game	Back in the Game	Back in the Game	Back in the Game	Back in the Game	Back in the Game	Back in the Game			
63	TRM	(63) Southern Charm "Reunion"	** Enough (2002, Thriller) Bill Campbell, Juliette Lewis, Jennifer Lopez.	** The Sandpiper ('65, Drama) Richard Burton, Charles Bronson, Elizabeth Taylor.	** G.I. Joe: Retaliation ('13) Dwayne Johnson, Adrianne Palicki, Channing Tatum.	** Lara Croft: Tomb Raider ('01, Adventure) Jon Voight, Iain Glen, Angelina Jolie.	** Lara Croft: Tomb Raider ('01, Adventure) Jon Voight, Iain Glen, Angelina Jolie.	The Magicians "The Art of the Deal"					
64	BCV	(64) (5:00) Butterfield 8 Elizabeth Taylor.											
65	SYFY	(65) (5:00) The Mechanic Jason Statham.											
102	RFD	(102) SF Machinery	Small Town	Rural America "Live" "AARP" (N)	Steve Lantvit	Rural Eve. News	Market Journal	GA Farm Monitor	SF Machinery	Small Town	Time Life Library		