

Pennsylvania Business Report Podcast
The 2022 Pennsylvania Primary Election and a look to the Fall Contests
With Brittany Crampsie and Josh Novotney
***Transcript**
June 14, 2022

***Murtha:** The following Podcast is a production of Macallan Communications publishers of the Pennsylvania Business Report. PBR is the daily must-read source for news about the latest business and policy developments that serve as a catalyst for economic activity in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. You can find PBR on the web at WWW dot Penn biz report.com*

And welcome to the Pennsylvania business report podcast. I'm your host Jim Murtha.

This past May 17th, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania conducted its latest primary election. The cycle was a bit more interesting in that voters were choosing candidates for open seats in the governor's office; Tom Wolfe was term limited and the United States Senate seat being vacated by the retiring Pat Toomey.

The Senate contest received an unusual amount of attention by the national media because of the evenly split between Democrats and Republicans in Congress's upper chamber in Washington. The campaign was made even more interesting by

the backgrounds of the GOP candidates and the relative physical stature and iconoclastic style of one of the Democrats.

In the race for the governor's office, Democrat Josh Shapiro, the current Attorney General was able to clear the field and run unopposed. The Republicans selected state senator Doug Mastriano.

In the US House Pennsylvania again as in the past lost a seat in the house because of reapportionment. The Commonwealth will have 17 total seats in the house. Still a significant number, but well short of the state's high watermark of 36 seats it had in 1910.

The State House has been under total GOP control since 2011. And with substantial GOP majorities in both houses, the Democrats will have a difficult hill to climb to take back either one this coming fall.

To explain how we got here, the word the electorate might be going are two political consultants from both sides of the aisle for the Republican viewpoint.

Novotney: Josh Novotney. I'm a partner at SBL strategies, which is government relations firm in Washington, DC. And before that, I've worked for a couple of statewide Republicans Governor Corbett and Senator Pat Toomey. I've also worked on a lot of Republican campaigns around the Commonwealth. And yeah, happy to be here.

Murtha: *And for the Democrats.*

Crampsie: Brittany Crampsie and the principal of Britt Crampsie Communications LLC, most recently off of a five year stint with the Pennsylvania Senate Democrats as their press secretary and communications director before that was back and consulting for progressive causes in and around Harrisburg. And before that, member of the media.

***Murtha:** Alright, before we talk about individual races, I wanted to get your ideas on what you think the key issues are going to be in the voters minds when they go to the polls, this coming November. Britt, why don't we start with you?*

Crampsie: Sure. I think it's fair to acknowledge that the Democrats are going to face some headwinds in this year, the midterm in a president, the midterm for president's party is typically pretty bad. We saw it in 2010, 2016 2018, when it goes back into the 80s. So, facing that pressure is going to be difficult for Democrats statewide. You got anger at the president no matter who it is and what's going on. And there are some legitimate reasons to be angry gas prices, I think are going to be top of mind. But then we also have some issues that aren't necessarily economic or the pocketbook issues that drive these midterms. So, I think guns are going to be top of mind and then whatever happens with the Supreme Court with the Roe v. Wade decision.

***Murtha:** Okay, Josh, what do you what do you say?*

Novotney: Yeah, I think Brittany did a good job summarizing the issues. It's definitely a headwind for Democrat type of year. And there's definitely some things being thrown out there by Democrats to kind of, you know,

change people's minds on what they care about, but I think she knocked out of the park in regards to gas prices.

Being top of mind, I also think, too, that, you know, the baby formula, the shortage of kind of basic goods on the shelves and, and, and crime in general, and kind of the law and order. We saw the San Francisco DA get recalled a couple nights ago in a city that is, you know, I don't know, the registration numbers off top of my head, I'm guessing at least 70% 80%. Democrat and probably pretty progressive. So yeah, I think there's gonna be some headwinds. But also, you know, I think we'll talk about today, candidates matter.

Murtha: *I wanted to talk about the campaign that I thought was the most interesting race we had this cycle and that was a contest for the open US Senate seat now occupied by Pat Toomey.*

At the beginning, the GOP primary more from what many people thought was a two-horse race featuring hedge fund CEO David McCormack and Dr. Mehmet Oz, and they spent millions of their own money in the campaign. And yet, as we were coming down the stretch a late closer Cathy Barnett made it also made it very, very interesting.

It took a couple of weeks to settle the contest, and Dr. Oz came out ahead, I think with about 900 votes when it was all said and done. So, Josh, how did Dr. Oz pull this one out?

Novotney: Yeah, this is this is an interesting one for the history books. So, the dynamic of the race on both sides is extremely interesting, but particularly with the Republican side, and the recount, I think to kind of get to the main point of your

question with Kathy Barnett, surgeon at the end, I think both Dave McCormick and Dr. Oz put a lot of money in negative ads towards each other, and their super PACs as well.

And I think that definitely led to a situation with some other dynamics as well that people were not happy with either. The former President Donald Trump came in and back Dr. Oz, spoke poorly of David McCormick, and that led to a lot of kind of unease with McCormack and then also McCormick was very effective in driving up Dr. Oz's negative strictly on pro-life issues after the Supreme Court document leak. And people's minds on that. And Barnett was an unknown, that the only thing people knew about her was that she was very conservative. So, they kind of thought about her for half a second and then decided now we're gonna go back to one or the other, and Dr. Oz pulled it off. But one interesting thing that I found out yesterday that I think was interesting was that I found out that Dr. Oz actually spent more of his own money than David McCormick, which I think everyone thought was the exact opposite.

***Murtha:** Well, they're both pretty wealthy, so I guess they can afford to do it. Before we leave the GOP side, do you think the Trump endorsement was determinative in this?*

Novotney: So, it was early enough that it definitely affected the race, I think, you know, I never really fell into the narrative that McCormick was running away with it as a leader. All the polling that I had heard about always had a very tight so I think is a very tight race the whole way. They both had negatives for a Republican primary. McCormick did a lot of business in his past and China. Oz obviously had a lot of TV shows where he talked about

issues that didn't fall on the side of Republican voters. So, I think they both had a lot of negatives for Republican primary least. But you know, long story short, I think the Trump endorsement definitely helps.

Crampsie: I don't think we found out that it had the juice that we thought it had, maybe about, you know, six or 12 months ago. 900 votes is really remarkable to say that anything put it over the edge 900 votes across all these counties is a difference of what yards sign people saw on their way into the polls even I mean, it really is one to study and the amount of money that Josh talked about is remarkable. I think this is going to be a record setting year nationally for money spent on a Senate race.

Murtha: *We seem to be doing that every cycle.*

Crampsie: You know, it just new records are being said all the time.

Murtha: *All right. So, let's move on to the Democrats. Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman just steamrolled Connor Lamb by 32 points. And I was kind of shocked about that because Connor Lamb was a veteran of campaigns and a military veteran. He had a great resume. And from where I sit, you know, Pennsylvania typically elects people like Conor Lamb. He's kind of more moderate. Fetterman is more of the left, left wing of the party if I can, if I can go that far. But how just Fetterman took every county, which you don't see that? How did that happen?*

Crampsie: Well, if you go back to the beginning of his term as lieutenant governor, he visited every county several times on his marijuana legalization tour. He's been very popular for the beginning. He's run for statewide office before and

though he was unsuccessful in that primary his name ID is pretty good. He's been on national television a whole lot. And while he's not, you know, got the traditional establishment democratic resume that somebody like Connor Lamb does. He appeals to voters because the outsider, the outsider element, I think that he's still maintains even after being lieutenant governor, and they've seen him you know, not a lot of not a lot of Democrats spend a lot of time in the northern tier counties. Honestly, there aren't a lot of Democrats there. But he did the groundwork he made those visits. He spoke about issues that matter to people and Connor Lamb while he had a great way and then that special election for his house seat wasn't as well known statewide. He was starting at a little bit of a lag there.

***Murtha:** I see. Okay, well, now we've got an Oz- Fetterman match in November. And as I mentioned, I mean, historically, it's at least in our statewide candidates, and certainly with US senators. They're kind of either slightly left to center or slightly right of center, and they don't really tend towards the extremes, in my view. But now, like I said, Fetterman I think is a little more left and OZ I'm not entirely certain because he didn't have much of a track record. But this is going to be a very interesting fall election. How does this play out?*

Brittany? We'll start with you.

Crampsie: Sure, I think we have two candidates here with remarkable name, ID and such big personalities, that they may be able to isolate themselves from national trends. And I don't, I wouldn't say that Fetterman is super left wing. He's got a lot of populist appeal. Even some Trump voters have no knowledge voting for Fetterman. But I saw polling early in the Senate Republican primary that had odd name ID it's something near 90%. And that's difficult to combat but like you

said, he doesn't really have a record. And he's also going to have a complication of Mastriano. Next to his name on the ballot. And I don't really see what a voter who's excited about Mastriano. And Dr. Oz looks like so it'll be interesting to see who drives more turnout in the governor's race and what those implications are on the Senate side.

***Murtha:** Josh, how do you see it?*

Novotney: Well, I agree with Brittany, I think there's a lot of appeal for John Fetterman. He gets a lot of people from California, New York, donated to his campaign, hundreds of 1000s of people. So, I think he's done a good job of bringing those folks into the fold. Unfortunately, they can't vote for him. And I see this one going towards Oz. Jim, to kind of your point, I think Oz is not too far right of center.

Historically, that kind of does better. I also think too, as you know, and I give John Fetterman a lot of credit, he's done a great job, kind of creating his, his persona and everything over the years, and he's a very savvy and smart politician. But you know, people are going to be voting against Joe Biden. I've even heard recently that Josh Shapiro's numbers with Doug Mastriano are tighter than expected. I still think at the end of the day that there's gonna be a lot of cross voting. You know, probably a Shapiro/Oz - voter is probably going to be I won't say common, but I think out there. But I think probably Fetterman is a little too far left too much of a Bernie bro. To get elected, in my opinion.

***Murtha:** Okay. Britt, you had something interesting to add?*

Oz negatives? I don't know if they got enough attention in the primary but he's been registered to vote in New Jersey. He's not really Mr. Pennsylvania here. And while he is very popular, I don't know if his affiliation with Oprah is something that Republican voters are really excited about. I know there's some hesitation about his ties to Turkey. But I think we're gonna see more and more of that. Speaking of the out of state support, Dr. Oz is himself an out of Stater.

***Murtha:** Yeah, I think he's the only candidate ever served in the Turkish army ever run statewide in Pennsylvania. I'm pretty certain.*

Novotney: Hey, we are the party of diversity.

So he'll be the first Muslim Senator. So but nope. In all seriousness, though, I think he explained that pretty well. And he announced he was going to denounce his citizenship. I think he's taking care of his mother. It's an issue that I didn't think should have been brought up in the primary To be honest, his mother's I think he's, you know, the equivalent Power of Attorney for her. She's elderly. And I think that is the reasoning behind it. Well, we I think we all know that.

***Murtha:** We all know the details have absolutely no place in any campaign.*

Crampsie: So, I think his explanation on that was great and very fair. The family first issue there, I think, very important. Unfortunately, there's a Christian white nationalist running for Governor and I don't know if they're going to really get along or Mastriano is going to accept the Turkey thing.

Novotney: Yeah, well, luckily, Doug Mastriano has only one vote.

Murtha: *Let's move on to the governor's race. We have an open seat because Tom Wolfe is term limited. And, you know, Wolf interrupted the time-honored tradition since Pennsylvania changed its constitution in the late 60s to allow Governors to run for another term. It's always been a party gets eight years and then they lose out and the other party gets another eight years. But that changed when Corbett lost to Wolf. So now we've got the Republican side, Doug Mastriano. He won over, I guess, seven total candidates, mysteriously the GOP decided not to endorse anybody in February. And I know that among some of the party upper echelon, they're probably thinking that they probably should have done that, because Mastriano has a way of well, getting somebody's dander up here in there. So Mastriano won by a significant margin. Given the crowded field, he got the Trump endorsement. So, how does this play out for what kind of campaign does Mastriano run?*

Josh, how does he get independent voters and the Never Trump Republicans?

Novotney: Yeah. So, I think the question is, does he want the vote? We haven't quite seen him reach out yet. He had a good opportunity on election night to kind of pivot talk about the economy, talk about Joe Biden talk about, you know, all the issues that I think would win him over a lot of swing votes in the suburbs, and quite haven't seen it yet. So I'm a little less bullish. I think, fortunately, for Mastriano, Biden is going to be on the top of everyone's mind more than him. But Josh has Josh Shapiro has a real opportunity to define him as too extreme. We talked about Fetterman being too extreme, I think, you know, Josh's did a lot of hard work to keep the primary field clear on the Democratic side, and that is going to pay off where he did not have to pivot too far to the left during the primary, and he can kind of define himself now as a more moderate Democrat. So, I think it's gonna be a big, uphill battle. For mastery. I'm not trying to say the race is over.

Because I do think that the national mood is horrific for Democrats right now. But, you know, he's really got to decide to pivot and go towards those voters. And if he does, then I think there are a lot of issues he can talk about. The problem is that Josh will want to talk about Mastriano is, you know, a bus trips down to the Stop the Steal rally on January 6, and things like that, which you know, I think are relevant. But that's, that's what's going to be he's going to have a hard time, pivoting away from the 2020 election issue, and talking about current issues.

***Murtha:** Brittany, Josh Shapiro enjoyed an opponent free primary, did the Old North Korea thing and wiped out all of his opponents.*

Crampsie: For the record.

***Murtha:** I'm just kidding.*

Crampsie: I will also like to say here that I don't believe that he killed anybody.

***Murtha:** It's just so unusual to see a one candidate for a major party in an open seat like this. It just It rarely ever happens. And it's all I'm saying. Obviously, he didn't kill anybody.*

Novotney: But well, we don't know for sure.

***Murtha:** But you had mentioned earlier and Josh had alluded to the headwinds for Democrats. Josh has all the money he needs and will raise more. So how do you look at his campaign coming up and how he's going to present himself to voters in November?*

Crampsie: Voters know Josh pretty well. He was a state representative. He was a County Commissioner. He's been the Attorney General, the top cop now for two terms. People know him. They know his record. He's had a lot of high-profile issues come up to his attorney general. You have the Catholic Church abuse case he brokered a deal between UPMC and Highmark, which very popular in Pittsburgh, he defended the 2020 results. He had a major decision against the Sackler family and the Purdue pharma opioid epidemic. He's done things that impact people across party lines. And I think that with all the money in the world, he's going to be able to remind people of that record if they've happened to forget. But what I think voters are going to have a choice between is hindsight and foresight. Josh has a platform of ideas moving forward and the mastery on a platform is a look in the rearview mirror at 2020. And I don't just mean the 2020 election. His website is still loaded with COVID related content. It's about business closures that have ended more than two years ago. It's about stopping the steal. It's about changing the regulatory processes in Pennsylvania to the tune of like a \$2 million savings. These are small issues from years and years ago. So, it's going to be whether voters care about advancing Pennsylvania or whether they care about getting even or settling scores from several years ago.

Murtha: *Okay, well, well, yeah, we're gonna get into predictions here in a little bit. So let's move on then.*

I want to move on to the congressional races in Pennsylvania.

This cycle as we have for the last time we had a census, we lose a seat, and rarely there's one this time instead of two. So, we're now we're down to 17. Currently, we have a split nine to nine.

In the fall, Dwight Evans in the Third John Joyce and the 13th, Guy Reschenthaler, in the 14th, and Glenn Thompson and the 15th are all running unopposed. And to be fair, they did the North Korea thing too, because they didn't have any opponents either. And either side, although Dwight Evans did have some primary challengers, but he, I think he had 75% of the vote. So there, you know, the rate, the remaining seats have varying degrees of competitiveness.

I want to get your ideas on this I don't have time to talk about every single race. But I want to talk about what you think are the best opportunities for pickups to change the seat in the US House delegation.

So Josh, we'll start with you.

Novotney: Yeah, so that's a great question. So, this is kind of to transition a little bit from what we were just talking about the statewide so this is where, you know, everyone talks about the mail in ballot. The no excuse mail in ballot legislation a few years ago, was important. It was but one thing that Harrisburg also did was that they ended straight ticket voting on ballots.

So, everyone has to push the button for each of the candidates individually, which, you know, I think we've saw in 2020 when Trump lost in Pennsylvania, but we Republicans want to statewide row offices, the state treasurer and the Auditor General, I think we saw that, you know, kind of reap the benefits of that, so to speak. So, I think that's a good thing, because Mastriano I think is, at least for now, until we see more data in the coming months handicap has not been a great top of the ticket, top of the ballot candidates. So, the congressional candidates have a little bit of work to do to make them more independent. The good news is Joe

Biden is also helping them out. Individually, as we talked about, there's a lot of angst with what's going on with the administration. So, I think the number one seat probably is Lehigh Valley, Susan Wild. I think that's seen as the most vulnerable seat in the state for either party.

You know, typically people look at Brian Fitzpatrick in Bucks County as having a tight race. I think I think Brian's doing pretty good this year. I think Lisa Shiller, the Republican candidate, challenger against Susan Wild has a great opportunity to pick up that seat. Lisa's got a good story. She's a former county commissioner, former CEO of a major employer in the area, does a lot of charity work with she rents a coffee shop that hires former addicts that are trying to, you know, get ahead in life and break the stigma of addiction. So she's done a lot of great things. She's now and she's lived their whole life. I think she has a great opportunity for pickup there.

And I think I saw the NRCC the other day put that district on their buy list for the Fall already, which is a good sign that they are going to be very bullish and very aggressive on that seat. After that it gets you know, there's that's probably like the top tier after that there's, you know, the Republicans love to go after Cartwright because his district typically, Trump is one and I believe twice, at least in 2016. But you know, Cartwright has done a lot of, you know, survival. So I think we'll see this year, Jim Wagner is running against them. Jim, pretty good candidate, and is doing all the right things I think he's seen as a better candidate in the past couple cycles. So I think that's another opportunity as well.

***Murtha:** Okay. Britt, how about from the Democrats? Do you see a Republican you could take out?*

Crampsie: I think our best shot is that Fitzpatrick seat. It's been number one on our list since the other Fitzpatrick hadn't. We haven't managed to take it yet. What I think is interesting, will be the electorate in that seat. So, the suburban women outside Philly have always been a target man for the last 20 years. And what they're turning out to vote about, I think may determine or tip the scales in that race. And I think it could be reproductive justice this year, depending on what happens with Roe and then if anything legislatively happens if that turnout changes things there I think has the woman running against Fitzpatrick has a shot that want to be tight. They see a lot of money in that. I do have some concerns for Susan Wild, especially given Pat Brown, the state senator losing his seat to a far right candidate, that the Lehigh Valley is skewing in the direction that Carbon County and the rest of the Northeast has gone. Post Trump. I imagine we're gonna see a lot of money spent there. I think it's a rematch against Schiller last time, but we're also in slightly different seats. These have been redistricted since last time, everyone ran in them and the seven seat got a little bit worse for Democrats.

Novotney: This reminded me of something sorry to interrupt. If the seat that it is now was two years ago, Lisa would have beaten Susan, from my understanding. So it's that tight and that it wasn't a major shift a couple of points. But as a tight race before and if you take the exact same precincts and add them add up the tallies from 2020. That is the new map now Lisa would have won. He got a victory.

Murtha: *So, one seat that caught my eye was a 12. The old Mike Doyle seat. Republicans are running Mike Doyle.*

Novotney: Not that Mike Doyle.

Murtha: *I know that. I'm aware of that. I'm just saying well, there's a fast one if I ever saw when it's like the how many different Bob Casey's have run statewide? I think there's three or four. But*

I don't know if that's really a factor or not. I think the seat is, is a lot different. It used to be just Allegheny County. Now it's Allegheny and significant portion of Westmoreland as well. So I don't know if that's in play. Probably not. But I just thought it was interesting that we had a Mike Doyle there.

Novotney: I think it'd be interesting for junkies like us to watch how many people aren't paying attention when they walk in to vote. But I don't think it's I think it's a pretty safe democratic seat, although I'll say this. So nearby, the Lamb seat is the outgoing. You know, he's obviously outgoing because he ran and lost in the Senate primary. You know, it's still a decently democratic seat, but that's probably a good indicator on a wave year, if it is a big wave year for Republicans. And look what Brittany says is absolutely correct. There's a couple of issues that Democrats are gonna pound they're gonna have the January 6 hearings, this fall, they're already kind of starting to get into them. And, and the Roe v. Wade is going to heat up even more, when the actual decision comes out. I believe at the end of June I think that's when it typically comes up. So, you're gonna have a very hot summer for politics.

And everything. I think at the end of the day, the national mood is so sour on the economy and crime that it probably puts us into Victory Column for taking over the house and possibly the Senate. But they may keep a few seats. But my point is that old lamb district I believe it's 17 is definitely one to watch as an indicator for wavier. Okay. Yeah, I don't think that's a safe democratic seat. But I felt better

about it. After the Republicans nominated Jeremy Shaffer, he had previously run for a state senate seat, he beat longtime Senate Republican Randy Bullock of it in a campaign that moved both of them very, very far to the right. And then he ran again, against Lindsey Williams. What later in the in that general election last again, he he's not really a moderate voter, and I think it's a fairly moderate seat. I think that that that may matter, especially without your straight party ticket voting. Okay. Yeah, it's gonna be interesting, for sure. So you would, would you both agree that that would be a bellwether seat if you're trying to look for a direction for the whole state that that particular seat?

I think that 17 seven, and one will be I mean, they're in different regions of the state. And each of those regions have very different characters right now. Right, right. Yeah, I'd also had the Cartwright seat in there. And I and I'm drawing a blank on the number right now. But I think that's one to watch as well.

***Murtha:** Well, I mean, ticket splitting is. I just flattened it in the 2020 election. I've never seen ticket splitting like that before. When the President wins by 8 million votes and Republican pick up seats everywhere. That was interesting. So, I don't know if we're gonna see the same thing this time, but certainly something like that can happen. Alright, let's move on to the State House. State Senate has been a control the Republicans since 1994. Currently, they've got a seven-seat advantage in the House. The GOP is still dominant, but not quite as formidable as the Senate. There was a four year stretch from 07 to 10 when the Democrats had the majority. Otherwise, the GOP has all the power from 94 as well. All the seats were redrawn for this election.*

Britt, do you see an opportunity for the Democrats to take back at least one of those chambers?

Crampsie: If something changes majorly between now and November in the national mood maybe.

But I don't think they get there. I think there are some Democratic pickups based on redistricting. As, as there should be given the population shifts, but I don't see enough movement to actually to take either of the chambers. And in the Senate, the Senate Democratic Caucus has to defend five pickups from 2018. There are four-year terms there in the state senate, five pickups in that year was unprecedented, but now you got to play defense on all of them.

But there's some opportunities with retirements coming in the southeast with Senator Tomlinson senator mentioned the Northeast with Senator Crivello. And then you saw Pat Brown lose in a seat that could be a toss-up without an incumbent in there. There are a few in play, but there's also a lot of defense to consider as well. The House there are more opportunities because of redistricting. I think there's something like seven new seats, most of them skewed democratic there and Harrisburg, Berks County, Lancaster seats that have had seen major in swells of population, and the Democrats will pick up there, but they're also losing some southwest Democratic members that I think be hard to hold on to without incumbents, I think I think they'll net a couple of seats, you're gonna see a lot of new members just from redistricting, a lot of House Republicans have to run against each other in the primaries. And so you win some through attrition there. But I don't know if the numbers are quite there for a Democratic majority in the General Assembly this year.

Murtha: *Josh, should Republicans be sweating at all, in the statehouse?*

Novotney: Probably not this year to Britney's point. But, you know, I don't think it should be understated that the Democratic State Supreme Court at the ultimate at the end of the day, you know, had control over the new map. So, you know, we are seeing historical midterm election angst against the party in the White House. Whether that continues in two years or not, we'll see sometimes it's a pressure release valve. And people aren't as upset once their party takes over Congress.

So, we'll see. I think the maps the way they are a little concerning, but we may not see it play out for another cycle or two.

***Murtha:** Okay. All right. Well, I want to wrap this up on predictions. And I love these.*

So I'll make you to sweat. And I will try to invite you back in November after the fall elections. And we can compare notes and see how well you did. But let's go with the Governor's race, who wins it and what's the margin of victory when Britt we'll start with you?

Crampsie: Shapiro by eight!

***Murtha:** That's a lot. That's a big number.*

Crampsie: I think that the Republicans scramble there in the last days of the primary is going to be hard to deal from Mastriano romped and that wide field, but he only got 44% of the Republican electorate, and he doesn't have a whole lot for the rest of the party. He doesn't have a great record on any specific issue and the things that he says that he would do as governor are very concerning. I think even

for moderate or right-ish Republicans. I don't think he wins a whole lot more than that 44% That he's got already.

***Murtha:** Okay, Josh, what do you think?*

Novotney: So, I have to give the nod to Shapiro just because of the dynamics. Although I think the headwind for Democrats, keeps it much tighter than eight points. I think it's going to be you know, three, maybe four-point race.

***Murtha:** Okay. So, judging by what you both told me, we're not going to be waiting till three or four o'clock in the morning to determine who's going to win the governor's race.*

Novotney: Probably around 11pm If we want to put in time. Like a wager on that. Yeah, we'll do that. I'll go with 11.

***Murtha:** Okay. All right. All right. Let's talk about the OZ Fetterman matchup for the US Senate.*

Josh, go ahead. And who do you think wins that and how much?

Novotney: Yeah, so I think OZ pulls this out for the dynamics I was talking about. I think Fetterman is a little too far left. And also we didn't talk about it. And first off, let me open this up by saying I hope he makes a full recovery because I think it's much more serious than is being led on. There's a lot of rumors floating out there. I hope not all of them are true. But you know, there is a dynamic that we even talk about about his ability to get out on the campaign trail. His wife

mentioned that it will probably not be until July so at least a few more weeks until he's able to come out of out of the house and get back on the campaign trail and the campaign trail especially in the fall is brutal physically, I've been with it with former bosses and handing bosses off to other staff. After long days it is not easy. But also his record of and also the dynamics of the year and it's not a good year for a far left candidate to be running. So, I think Oz, you know, it's tough to, to have too much of a stretch, because, you know, voters are not going to switch more than about probably about eight or 10% of the voters. You know, go around, jump around on the ballot. So, I'd say OZ will win this one by three.

Crampsie: I'm gonna take Fetterman in this one, but just by one or two. And if we're picking the time, I'd say probably the next day. I think that one is going to be pretty, pretty tight. It's going to come down likely to mail in ballots. And I hope it doesn't take as long as the the 2020. General to get the final account. But I'm thinking that given how tight the Republican primary was, I wouldn't be surprised to see something that tight again. I'm not hoping for a recount or anything, but I think we will be waiting for that one.

Murtha: *Okay. All right now, our US House delegation, we have 17 seats. It split right now. We have 18 with nine to nine. What's the party breakdown on the PA Pennsylvania House delegation? Britt?*

Crampsie: I think that's a tough one. I think Democrats may lose one. Not sure which one? I'm not gonna go that far out. But I don't think I don't think we're gonna come ahead with an advantage here in Pennsylvania.

***Murtha:** Okay, Josh.*

Novotney: So, I think plus two to three seats. I don't know if we'll hold them long term. I think Lisa Shiller will definitely beat Susan wild. That's my prediction. And, you know, I guess the next one to fall would probably be Cartwright and then there might be surprised when in there you know, we have to look at suburbs to Britt's point that the Roe v Wade decision may you know, invigorate some voters to come out. I also think the continued issues with crime in the cities may turn out some voters big time as well in the suburbs. The last thing suburban voters want is the crime in the city that kind of spill out. So, you know, I think even if it's a crazy year, I think even like a Houlihan seat is potentially in play. We have some good candidates around so I'll say two to three seat pickup for Republicans.

***Murtha:** Okay. All right. Well, that's all the time we have for our podcast. Brittany Crampsie, Josh Novotney thank you for an entertaining and informative discussion.*

The preceding podcast was a production of MacAllan communications publishers of the Pennsylvania business report. To submit your ideas for future podcasts. Just go to [www dot Penn biz report.com](http://www.dotPennbizreport.com) and look for the podcast section on the front page. Until next time, I am your host Jim Murtha. Be well be safe and be prosperous.

- *Transcript was created from a speech-to-text platform. Great effort is placed in identifying and correcting errors that naturally result from the platform's inability to distinguish nuanced pronunciations in a multitude of spoken words. Inevitably, some errors are not caught but we believe this transcript captures the essence of the conversation.*

PA Business Report