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NewsClips

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Philadelphia Inquirer \$31.5 billion question: How will Pa. pay for budget?

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Wolf appoints top Kane deputy to be state's inspector general

pennlive.com Kathleen Kane spent at least \$160,000 on an email probe that

Later this year, Comcast Xfinity cable television and internet customers will no longer need to leave their cable TV home page and switch television set inputs to get Netflix, the most popular of "over the top" streaming services.

Netflix films and TV shows will be just a click away on the X1 cable guide. And if the engineers work their magic fully, a voice request to an X1 remote to "find me movies with Liam Neeson" will bring up options from Netflix as well as from the Comcast universe of live and on-demand content. "Comcast and Netflix have reached an agreement to incorporate Netflix into X1, providing seamless access to the great content offered by both companies," the companies said in a joint statement Tuesday. "We have much work to do before the service will be available to consumers later this year. We'll provide more details at that time." The news was first reported by tech news website ReCode.net, whose parent Vox has received a \$200 million investment from Comcast.

The oldest and most ubiquitous of stand-alone subscription TV services, with more than 31 million U.S. subscribers, Netflix already is just a dedicated (branded) button push away on the remotes of many smart TVs and videodisc players. It's also a staple and prime selling point of streaming TV boxes such as Apple TV, Google Chromecast, and Roku that appeals to "cable cutters" and "cable nevers." Roku's system already offers integrated voice searches of content from Netflix and more than a dozen other service partners. Satellite TV provider Dish Network is likewise on the "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" page. Netflix service is easily tapped and opened as a dedicated "channel" line on the Dish program grid.

Until now, Comcast and Netflix have been often uncomfortable bedmates, with Netflix monopolizing prime-time traffic on internet services such as Xfinity while stealing eyeballs and revenue from Comcast's cable service. In 2012, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings was one of the first to grouse that Comcast violated "net neutrality" principals by favoring its own movie services over those from Netflix, HBO, and Hulu, among others. Even after making a business/technical deal in 2014 with Comcast that improved streaming efficiencies to internet customers, Hastings continued to gripe

[may never see the light of day](#)

[Pittsburgh Tribune-Review Looking back on the Mark Singel years](#)

[Daily Local News \(West Chester\) Many Republican politicians from Pa. and other states will skip GOP convention](#)

[Bloomberg Clinton Spending Roughly \\$500,000 a Day on TV Ads, Trump Zero](#)

about the arrangement.

Sources at Comcast told ReCode on Tuesday that the new arrangement is "unrelated" to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler's recent push to open up the cable-box industry so consumers could buy tuner boxes outright instead of being forced to rent them month to month. Equipment makers such as TiVo would benefit greatly from the opportunity to supply "enhanced content" boxes that treat cable and internet content as equals. – *Philadelphia Inquirer*; [see also original breaking article from ReCode](#)

A federal judge in Philadelphia has struck a huge blow for ballot parity for independent and third-party candidates. Now it's up to the Pennsylvania Legislature to make state law jibe. But consider it only a good start.

It was four years ago that the Constitution, Green and Libertarian parties sued the Keystone State over ballot access. And it's easy to see why. While Democrats and Republican candidates were required to collect 2,000 signatures on nominating petitions to appear on their parties' primary ballots, presumed outlier candidates, barred from the primary ballot, sometimes were forced to collect many times that number to appear on the general election ballot — 2 percent of the largest number of votes cast for an elected candidate in the prior election.

But such a dichotomy clearly is unfair — in fact, unconstitutional — and only served to prop up the Republican-Democrat duopoly. Talk about a racket. And until the the state Legislature acts to end this racket, U.S. District Judge Lawrence F. Stengel radically reduced the petition signature thresholds to 5,000 signatures for president, U.S. Senate and governor and to 2,500 signatures other state offices and the state's appellate courts.

But independents and third-party candidates deserve true parity. And that means the Legislature must act to make the rules of the ballot access game the same for everyone. – *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* editorial



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