



The Philadelphia Inquirer

ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.



U.S. Vice President JD Vance (right) meets with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during high-level talks aimed at advancing a deal to end the Middle East conflict, at the Bürgenstock Resort in Obbuergen, near Lucerne, in Switzerland, Sunday. Nathan Howard / AP, Pool

Breaking glass ceiling isn't focus of Garrity's campaign

Pennsylvania is one of four states that hasn't elected a woman as governor or U.S. senator. The GOP gubernatorial nominee points to other reasons to back her bid to oust Shapiro.

By Michelle Baruchman
Staff Writer

If elected in November, Stacy Garrity would become Pennsylvania's first female governor in the state's 238-year history.

Even now, she is one of only two women in history to receive the Republican Party's nomination for the job.

The state has never had a woman as its governor; no woman has been elected as U.S. senator; and both times a woman ran for president, she lost the state. Over the last two centuries, Pennsylvania's political glass ceiling has proven stubbornly resistant to cracks.

But on the campaign trail against Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro, Garrity, 62, said she doesn't give that too much thought.

"It's my least favorite thing to talk about," she said. "I was the oldest of four daughters, and we were just told that we were expected to work hard."

Navigating gender dynamics in politics can prove to be a particularly fine balance. Republicans, in particular, often emphasize that candidates should rise on their skills and talent, not personal identity.

Garrity emphasized her attention is on issues like the power grid, education, and reining in spending, though she recognizes the historic significance of a potential win.

"Republicans, for the most part, are based on merit, and that's how

→ SEE GARRITY ON A5

Vance meets top Iranian officials as U.S. tries get negotiations on track

Iranian officials said the talks had entered a "difficult phase" after an "insulting message" on social media from President Donald Trump.

By Aamer Madhani,
Seung Min Kim,
and Jamey Keaton
Associated Press

OBBERGEN, Switzerland — High-level U.S.-Iran talks on their interim

deal to end the war had a tense start Sunday in Switzerland as Tehran took offense at comments by President Donald Trump, who threatened to attack and told Iran's president to watch what he says.

The comments from afar — on social media and to news outlets — complicated efforts by Vice President JD Vance and mediators Pakistan and Qatar to keep Iran engaged in discussions meant to address thorny issues like Tehran's nuclear program, the Strait of Hormuz, and the unfreezing of billions of dollars in Iranian assets.

Before anything, however, Iran wants to discuss Lebanon, where

Israel's military has been fighting the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group, since the deal halts conflict on all fronts.

"Iran must immediately stop their highly paid PROXIES in Lebanon from causing trouble," Trump said on social media. "If they don't, we'll hit Iran very hard again, just like we did last week, only harder!!!"

"They would do better to be careful about their statements," Iran's lead negotiator, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, said on X after Trump's comments. "Our armed forces are prepared to respond to them in a different manner. They may keep talking, it is we who act."

Iranian state media said talks had entered a "difficult phase" and recessed after the "publication of an insulting message by the U.S. President." The Iranian delegation then met with Qatari mediators and left the negotiating site, state media said.

Vance and U.S. negotiators including Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, had met with Qalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi for what Iranian state media said was about 80 minutes.

It was not clear when they might meet again.

→ SEE IRAN ON A4

Inside Roosevelt Mall's \$70 million makeover

The 60-year-old shopping center in Northeast Philly is being transformed with an organic grocer, new fast-casual dining options, and retail shops like Ulta Beauty and Victoria's Secret.

By Erin McCarthy
Staff Writer

As Brixmor Property Group executives began transforming the Roosevelt Mall, they briefly debated whether to change the name.

After all, the 60-year-old Northeast Philly shopping center is undergoing a more than \$70 million makeover that promises to bring it into the modern age with new tenants, upgraded facades, and a better layout.

As Brixmor executives walked around the 620,000-square-foot complex on a recent day, they said they already see the outdoor mall becoming a community hub — with

a gym, an organic grocer, and new fast-casual dining options.

Despite these changes, they have decided the Roosevelt Mall should not be rebranded.

"It's an iconic name," said David Vender, Brixmor Property Group's executive vice president for the north region, who is based in Conshohocken. "People know it as a landmark."

Brixmor operates about 350 shopping centers nationwide, but some of its top executives — including new CEO Brian Finnegan, who grew up in Roxborough — have soft spots for Philly, forged by personal or family connections to the region.

During a visit to the Roosevelt Mall last week, they said they were proud of their local properties.

Those include the Village at Newtown in Bucks County and Pilgrim Gardens in Drexel Hill, where the company recently built an artful "Delco" sign to tap into local pride.

And they said their connection to the community around the Roosevelt Mall has only grown stronger since last year's plane crash, which killed eight people, injured two dozen, damaged nearby homes, and

→ SEE MALL ON A10

French soccer fans visit Philly for the World Cup trip of a lifetime



Fans react during France's opening match against Senegal on Tuesday. Some of those fans have taken up residence in Philadelphia ahead of Monday's match against Iraq. Hiroko Masuike / New York Times

Four Frenchmen have been exploring the city, sampling cheesesteaks, and learning expressions like "Go Birds!"

By Alex Coffey
Staff Writer

Eight years ago, when FIFA announced that the World Cup would be coming to the United States in 2026, a student in France felt a rush of excitement. He and his friends had been watching the international soccer tournament on television since they were kids.

They'd never seen it in person. The last time their native country hosted the competition was in 1998, before all four Frenchmen were born. In the years since, they'd tried

→ SEE FANS ON A8

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