



RIGHT TO CONNECT

2020 PLATFORM FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY RIGHTS

RIGHT TO EQUAL VOICES ONLINE

- Support the Save the Internet Act of 2019, already passed by the House of Representatives, which would fully restore Net Neutrality rules along with necessary Title II protections.
- Oppose legislation that would restore only a few bright-line rules without other important Title II protections for universal service and internet users' rights.
- Appoint FCC commissioners who support strong Net Neutrality protections under Title II of the Communications Act.

RIGHT TO AFFORDABLE INTERNET

- Urge the FCC to terminate its 2017 proposals to gut the Lifeline program, which subsidizes critical communications services for low-income households.
- Support legislation to collect data on actual broadband prices and to make internet access more affordable for low-income communities and people of color.
- Support FCC authority to investigate and stop unjust and unreasonable practices and prices charged by internet service providers.
- Appoint FCC commissioners who understand the importance of promoting affordable broadband options.
- Establish a broadband-affordability tax credit to close the digital divide and invest \$140 billion of general treasury funds in this effort.

RIGHT TO LOCAL NEWS

- Support legislation to restrict broadcast-media consolidation – for example, by limiting broadcasters to owning just one television station per local market and reaching only 15% of the national audience.
- Support legislation to promote media-ownership diversity – for example, by offering tax credits for station sales to women and people of color.
- Support legislation to force all deregulatory media decisions to include an analysis of how they will impact women and people of color, and to forbid deregulation that harms women and people of color.
- Appoint FCC commissioners who are committed to fulfilling the agency's obligation to promote media diversity and ownership by women and people of color.

RIGHT TO DEPENDABLE NETWORKS

- Demand an independent FCC commission to investigate the federal government's response to the post-hurricane communications crisis in Puerto Rico, especially as compared to hurricane response in places like Florida.
- Direct federal recovery funds to equitably build resilient communications infrastructure in Puerto Rico.
- Support local communities in the development of decentralized, locally controlled communications networks in Puerto Rico and other vulnerable areas.
- Promote policies that hold companies accountable for building resilient networks and guarding against corporations exploiting future disasters for profit.

RIGHT TO MEDIA OWNERSHIP

- Oppose the T-Mobile/Sprint merger, which would raise prices, crush competition and disproportionately harm low-income people and communities of color.
- Support antitrust efforts to investigate media and tech companies with outsized market power, along with enforcement action to end monopolistic abuses.
- Appoint FCC commissioners, FTC commissioners and DoJ officials who prioritize the public over industry profits and bring a critical eye to vague and unenforceable public-interest claims made by merger proponents.

RIGHT TO PRISON PHONE JUSTICE

- Support the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2019, which repairs FCC authority over extortionate prison-phone rates.
- Oppose measures to replace in-person prison visitation with video calls. Video and phone contact must be supplements, not replacements for in-person visits.

RIGHT TO ACCOUNTABLE MEDIA

- Create an interagency task force to investigate the history of discrimination in our media system and in government oversight and regulation of our media.
- As part of this investigation, fund extensive study by academics from impacted communities into the history of discrimination in our media system.
- Seek robust public comment on the impacts of this discriminatory history.
- Produce a comprehensive report on discrimination in the media that draws on the public comments and government and academic findings, including remedies and policy proposals.

RIGHT TO PUBLIC PRIVACY

- Support efforts to end mass surveillance, as well as so-called targeted surveillance that disproportionately harms activists and communities of color.
- Support legislation to prohibit social-media monitoring by law enforcement agencies operating without strong guidelines and proper oversight to protect First and Fourth Amendment rights.
- Oppose dangerous data-sharing agreements with ICE that target immigrants at the border and threaten their families within the United States.
- Appoint DoJ and intelligence-agency officials who are committed to transparency and to ending mass spying and surveillance programs.

RIGHT TO ONLINE PRIVACY

- Support comprehensive privacy legislation giving people meaningful control, protections, transparency and the means to assert their rights over the collection and use of all private data.
- Endorse legislation with strong anti-discrimination and civil-rights protections along the lines of the Online Civil Rights And Privacy Act, drafted by Free Press Action and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, which would apply longstanding civil-rights protections to digital-data practices.
- Appoint officials across the government who will work diligently to protect privacy and civil rights.

RIGHT TO PRESS FREEDOM

- Support legislation to tax the advertising revenue of large online platforms and redirect those funds to public, independent and noncommercial journalism.
- Support legislation that carves out a designated path for journalism outlets to apply for 501(c)3 nonprofit status.
- Endorse state-level initiatives to fund local-news media, especially in regions of the country — so-called “news deserts” — where there are no traditional local-news outlets.
- Endorse local community-engagement efforts to promote accountability and dialogue between noncommercial media and underserved communities, including people of color.
- Defend the Corporation for Public Broadcasting against congressional efforts to “zero out” its funding.