

# What the FCC Has Accomplished Under 3 Years of Chairman Ajit Pai's Leadership

## Bridging the Digital Divide

*Providing billions of dollars for rural broadband buildout, removing red tape, supporting precision agriculture, boosting telehealth, and more*

- **\$1.5 Billion for Rural Broadband in 45 States Through Connect America Fund Auction**—Completed the Connect America Fund Phase II reverse auction, which allocated \$1.488 billion to expand broadband to more than [700,000 rural homes and businesses](#) in 45 states.
- **More Funding for Faster Rural Broadband**—Reformed the high-cost universal service support program for some of the country's smallest rural carriers, including providing \$4.91 billion for carriers to begin receiving funding through the Connect America Fund's Alternative Connect America Cost Model (ACAM) in exchange for commitments to expand, deploy, and maintain broadband at 25/3 Mbps to [363,000 rural homes and businesses](#)—including 37,000 on Tribal lands—as well as \$657 million in additional support to carriers already receiving ACAM support in return for a commitment to serve an additional [106,000 rural homes and businesses](#) with 25/3 Mbps broadband.
- **Promoting Broadband Deployment in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands**—Allocated [\\$950 million in long-term funding](#) to expand, improve, and harden broadband networks in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands through the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund (Bringing Puerto Rico Together Fund) and the Connect USVI Fund.
- **Broadband on Tribal Lands**—Increased [support](#) for carriers providing communications services to Tribal communities. Created a [priority window](#) that allows Tribes to obtain free access to unassigned 2.5 GHz spectrum on rural Tribal Lands.
- **Broadband in Rural New York State**—Partnered with the state government to provide up to [\\$170 million](#) from the Connect America Fund to expand broadband deployment in unserved rural areas of New York State.
- **Quality Standards for Rural Broadband**—Ensured that carriers receiving Connect America Fund support remain accountable to consumers, taxpayers, and the Commission and are delivering the network performance they have committed to provide by implementing [performance testing procedures](#) for carriers that have committed to deploying fixed broadband networks to unserved Americans living in rural areas.
- **One-Touch Make-Ready**—Promoted broadband deployment and competition by [speeding up the process and reducing the costs](#) of attaching new network facilities to utility poles.
- **Removed Regulatory Barriers to Upgrading Networks**—Streamlined discontinuance rules and eliminated unnecessary [network change rules](#) that impede the deployment of next-generation networks.
- **Satellite Broadband Connectivity**—Paved the way for high-speed broadband to be provided by non-geostationary orbit satellite constellations. The FCC approved applications from [OneWeb](#) (June 2017), [Space Norway](#) (November 2017), [Audacy](#) (May 2018), [O3b](#) (May 2018), [SpaceX](#) (March 2018 and November 2018), [Karousel](#) (August 2018), [Kepler](#) (November 2018), [Telesat](#) (November 2017 and November 2018), and [Theia](#) (May 2019).
- **More Affordable Broadband for Rural Americans**—[Eliminated](#) a universal service rule that was unfairly driving up the cost of broadband for rural Americans served by certain small, rural carriers.

- **Rural Health Care & Telehealth**—“While the benefits of digital health care are clear, we’ve been too slow to embrace its potential,” [wrote](#) Chairman Pai and former Kennedy Administration FCC Chairman Newton Minow in the *Boston Globe*. Addressing this challenge has been a priority under Chairman Pai:
  - **Increased Rural Health Care Program Budget By 43%**—[Boosted](#) funding for the FCC’s Rural Health Care Program from \$400 million to \$571 million in 2017 to help meet the growing demand for rural telehealth services. The FCC also now adjusts the cap annually for inflation and allows funds unused from prior years to be carried forward; for the 2019 funding year, the program is providing \$677 million to promote telehealth.
  - **Strengthened Rural Health Care Program**—[Ensured](#) program funds are disbursed efficiently and equitably through rules that promote transparency and predictability in the program’s administration and strengthen safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse.
  - **Connected Care Pilot**—Worked with Commissioner Carr to [propose](#) Connected Care Pilot Program aimed at defraying the costs of providing connected care services to low-income Americans and veterans.
  - **National Cancer Institute Broadband Collaboration**—[Working](#) with the National Cancer Institute to study how increased connectivity in Appalachia can help address the burden of symptom management for cancer patients.
- **E-Rate Support for Connectivity Within Schools and Libraries**—Adopted [final rules](#) to fund internal connections and promote the deployment of Wi-Fi in schools and libraries across the country.
- **Lifeline Reforms**—[Strengthened the Lifeline program’s enrollment, recertification, and reimbursement processes](#) to ensure that limited Universal Service Fund (USF) dollars are directed only toward qualifying low-income consumers. Soft-launched the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier in all states and territories and fully launched the Verifier in 46 states and territories as well as Washington, DC.
- **Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee**—Produced [model codes](#) to help guide state and local governments as they seek to accelerate broadband infrastructure deployment and investment.
- **Native Nations Communications Task Force**—Produced [Report](#) on Improving and Increasing Broadband Deployment on Tribal Lands, with recommendations aimed at closing the digital divide in Indian Country.
- **Precision Agriculture Task Force**—Launched a [new task force](#) to explore ways to enhance the productivity and efficiency of the nation’s farms and ranches through broadband-based technologies, working closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- **Seeing the Digital Divide Firsthand**—Chairman Pai [visited](#) 49 states and two U.S. territories, and traveled more than 15,000 road miles, to get a firsthand look at the digital divide facing Americans in big cities and small towns alike. Met with consumers, local, state, and Tribal officials, entrepreneurs, and many others about ways to accelerate broadband deployment, promote innovation, and close the digital divide.
- **\$20 Billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund**—Poised to [launch](#) a \$20.4 billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, which would be the FCC’s single biggest step yet to close the digital divide. Phase I of the fund would target around six million homes and businesses in rural areas across the country where residents currently lack access to adequate broadband and would deploy high-speed broadband to millions of rural Americans.
- **\$9 Billion 5G Fund for Rural America**—Moving forward to set up the [5G Fund](#), which would make up to \$9 billion in USF support available to carriers to deploy advanced 5G mobile wireless services in rural America. The Fund also would set aside at least \$1 billion specifically for deployments facilitating precision agriculture needs.

## Promoting Innovation and Investment

*Accelerating 5G deployment, freeing up more spectrum, approving innovative technologies, and more*

- **Securing American Leadership in 5G Connectivity**
  - **5G FAST Plan**—Unveiled and executed the Facilitating America's Superiority in 5G Technology Plan.
  - **Held America's First 5G Spectrum Auctions**—Concluded two successful 5G auctions in the [24 GHz and 28 GHz bands](#), raising more than \$2.7 billion in gross bids. Together, the FCC made 1.55 gigahertz of spectrum available for 5G connectivity through these two auctions.
  - **Largest 5G Auction Underway**—Commenced its third 5G spectrum auction in December 2019 with bidding on spectrum in the upper [37 GHz, 39 GHz, and 47 GHz bands](#). The FCC is making 3,400 MHz of millimeter-wave spectrum available through this auction. As of January 28, 2020, gross proceeds in this auction were over \$7.5 billion.
  - **Freeing Up More Low-Band Spectrum for 5G**
    - **600 MHz**—Because of Commission's work with the private sector on the post-broadcast incentive auction transition, 5G service is now being provided in the 600 MHz band throughout much of the nation. Specifically, 7 out of 10 phases in the Transition Scheduling Plan of the 600 MHz band have been completed. 774 of the original 987 repacked stations have moved off their pre-auction channel, representing over 78% of the total repacked stations. The transition is currently ahead of schedule.
    - **800 MHz**—Adopted rules to enable ubiquitous broadband connectivity to be delivered using the 800 MHz cellular spectrum.
    - **900 MHz**—Began the process to repurpose part of this band for mobile broadband services.
  - **Freeing Up More Mid-Band Spectrum for 5G**
    - **3.5 GHz**—Adopted rules under Commissioner O'Rielly's leadership to enable 5G investments in the 3.5 GHz band and approved full commercial service in the band. An auction of Priority Access Licenses for this band is scheduled to begin on June 25, 2020.
    - **2.5 GHz**—Modernized the outdated regulatory framework for the 2.5 GHz band to make more of this swath of vital mid-band spectrum available for advanced wireless services, including 5G.
    - **3.7-4.2 GHz**—Proposed to reallocate 280 MHz of this mid-band spectrum, commonly called the "C band," for advanced wireless services, including 5G.
    - **3.1-3.55 GHz**—Proposed changes to the 3.1-3.55 GHz band, which would be the first step to making spectrum from 3.3 GHz to 3.55 GHz available for advanced commercial services, including 5G.
  - **Freeing Up More High-Band Spectrum for 5G**
    - **26 and 42 GHz**—Working to free up another 2.75 gigahertz of 5G spectrum in these bands.
  - **Freeing Up More Unlicensed Spectrum**
    - **Above 95 GHz**—Adopted rules to expand access to 21.2 GHz of spectrum above 95 GHz for unlicensed use.
    - **5.9 GHz**—Launched a fresh look at the dramatically underused 5.9 GHz band and proposed to make available the lower 45 MHz of the band for unlicensed uses like Wi-Fi and allocate the upper 30 MHz for automotive safety

- technologies, including at least 20 MHz for a new automotive communications technology, Cellular Vehicle to Everything, or C-V2X.
- **6 GHz**—Proposed rules to open up 1,200 MHz of spectrum in the 6 GHz band for unlicensed use.
  - **Speeding Federal Review of Small Cells**—The FCC, led by Commissioner Brendan Carr, adopted new rules that [reduced regulatory impediments](#) to deploying small cells needed for 5G and help to expand the reach of 5G for faster, more reliable wireless service.
  - **Speeding State and Local Review of Small Cells**—The FCC, led by Commissioner Brendan Carr, [reformed rules](#) designed years ago for 200-foot towers—not for 5G's small cell facilities. Among other things, the reforms ban short-sighted municipal roadblocks that have the effect of prohibiting deployment of 5G and give cities a reasonable deadline to approve or disapprove small-cell siting applications.
  - **Restoring Internet Freedom**—[Restored](#) the longstanding, bipartisan light-touch regulatory framework that has fostered rapid Internet growth, openness, and freedom for nearly 20 years. This decision reversed the prior FCC's 2015 imposition of heavy-handed, utility-style regulation on broadband providers.
  - **Approving First LTE-U Devices**—[Authorized](#) the first-ever LTE for unlicensed devices in the 5 GHz band, a significant advance in wireless innovation. LTE-U allows wireless providers to deliver mobile data traffic using unlicensed spectrum while sharing the road with Wi-Fi.
  - **Approving Wireless Charging Tech**—Approved the first-ever wireless, "[power-at-a-distance](#)" charging technology, which is now available to consumers.
  - **Vehicular Radar**—[Expanded](#) the spectrum available for vehicular radars that are used for safety applications like collision avoidance and adaptive cruise control, among other things.
  - **Updates to Aviation Safety Regulations**—[Proposed](#) to modernize the Commission's rules to improve aviation safety, support the deployment of more advanced avionics technology, and increase the efficient use of limited spectrum resources.
  - **Approving New Technologies Faster**—[Proposed](#) new rules to implement Section 7 of the Communications Act to require timely action by the Commission to evaluate petitions or applications proposing new technologies or services.
  - **Innovation Zones**—Created the FCC's first two [Innovation Zones](#), city-scale test beds for advanced wireless communications and network research, including 5G networks.
  - **Experimental Licensing Website**—Launched new experimental licensing [website](#) for program licenses for research centers and universities.
  - **Next Gen TV**—[Enabled](#) broadcasters to voluntarily use the Next-Generation Television standard, also known as ATSC 3.0. Several stations have already begun ATSC 3.0 broadcasting, and this year, dozens more are expected to do so as 20 compatible television models become available for consumers.
  - **Small Satellites**—[Created](#) a new, optional streamlined application process designed for a class of satellites referred to as "small satellites."
  - **Improving GPS for American Consumers**—Authorized non-Federal GPS devices in the United States to access specific signals transmitted from the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) known as [Galileo](#).
  - **Earth Stations in Motion (GSOs)**—[Streamlined, consolidated, and harmonized](#) the rules governing earth stations used to provide satellite-based services on ships, airplanes and vehicles for geostationary satellite orbit satellite (GSOs).
  - **Earth Stations in Motion (NGSOs)**—[Took steps](#) to facilitate the continued deployment of earth stations used to provide satellite-based services on ships, airplanes, and vehicles by advancing proposals to create a regulatory framework for non-geostationary orbit satellites (NGSOs) to communicate with these earth stations.

- **Orbital Space Debris**—Initiated a [comprehensive review](#) of FCC's orbital debris mitigation rules to promote a safe environment for the operation of space-based communications services.

## Protecting Consumers

*Combating illegal robocalls, strengthening rural call completion, improving accessibility, and more*

- **Robocall and Spoofing Enforcement**—Took a number of enforcement actions to combat illegal robocalls and spoofing:
  - Issued a [record \\$120 million fine](#) of a Florida-based time-share telemarketing operation for illegally spoofed robocalls.
  - Fined a telemarketer and his companies more than [\\$82 million](#) for illegal caller ID spoofing for making more than 21 million robocalls to market health insurance.
  - Proposed a more than [\\$37.5 million](#) fine against an Arizona-based company for apparently making millions of illegally-spoofed telemarketing calls that appeared to originate from consumers and other numbers not assigned to the company. This is the Commission's first major enforcement action against a company that apparently commandeered consumers' phone numbers.
  - Proposed a nearly [\\$10 million](#) fine against a robocaller for apparently illegal spoofing during a California election campaign.
- **Robocall Blocking By Default**—[Clarified](#) that voice service providers may block illegal and unwanted calls as the default before they reach consumers' phones.
- **Anti-Spoofing Rules**—[Adopted](#) new rules banning malicious caller ID spoofing of text messages and foreign calls. These rules closed a loophole in the law that prevented the FCC from pursuing scammers sending spoofed text messages and international fraudsters making spoofed calls to Americans.
- **Combating Spam Robotext Messages**—To [protect consumers from spam and scam robotexts](#), issued a ruling making clear that wireless providers are authorized to stop unwanted text messaging through robotext-blocking, anti-spoofing measures, and other anti-spam features.
- **Limiting Robocalls to Reassigned Numbers**—Authorized a [reassigned numbers database](#) to reduce unwanted robocalls that consumers receive.
- **Call Authentication to Combat Spoofed Robocalls**—[Launched](#) a rulemaking to allow the FCC to mandate the implementation of SHAKEN/STIR, a caller ID authentication framework to combat illegal caller ID spoofing.
- **First Cross-Border SHAKEN/STIR Call**—[Completed](#) the first official cross-border call using the SHAKEN/STIR framework with Ian Scott, Chairperson and CEO of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.
- **Illegal Robocalls Report**—[Issued](#) the agency's [first-ever report](#) on illegal robocalls, outlining the steps the FCC has taken through enforcement, policy and regulatory improvements, and partnerships with public and private stakeholders to combat unwanted calls.
- **Working with Partners to Combat Robocalls**—Co-hosted with the Federal Trade Commission an [expo](#) on robocall blocking technologies as well as a [policy forum](#). Partnered with AARP and other consumer-facing organizations to host town hall events focused on robocall education.
- **Spoofing Education Campaign**—Conducted a [campaign](#) to raise awareness of spoofed calls and unwanted call protection tips, pursuant to RAY BAUM'S Act, that reached over 1 million consumers.
- **Cramming & Slamming**—Established clear [new rules](#) to stop unauthorized switches of consumers' chosen telephone company, ban misrepresentations made during sales calls, and prohibit unauthorized charges on their phone bills. The FCC also proposed a [\\$5.3 million fine](#)

against a phone company for apparently switching consumers from their preferred carrier without permission, misleading consumers, and fabricating evidence in response to the FCC's concerns.

- **Rural Call Completion**—Adopted new measures and proposed others to better tackle the problem of [call completion](#) and ensure that calls are completed to all Americans, including those in rural areas. Reached a [\\$40 million settlement](#) with T-Mobile to conclude an FCC investigation into the company's failure to correct problems with the delivery of calls to rural consumers and the insertion of false ring tones with respect to hundreds of millions of calls.
- **Access Arbitrage Reform**—Adopted [reforms](#) to eliminate wasteful arbitrage schemes that exploit the system of intercarrier compensation between local and long-distance service providers and ultimately cost consumers \$60 to \$80 million annually.
- **Rural Phone Rates**—[Repealed](#) the high-cost program's rate floor rule and thus ended the federal mandate that raised the telephone rates paid by many rural Americans.
- **Rural Road Tours**—Launched a series of [rural tours](#) by FCC staff to provide direct outreach and education to rural areas. Topics of focus include robocalls, digital adoption, and bread-and-butter consumer issues, such as understanding your phone bill.
- **Accessibility Through Speech Recognition**—Promoted greater technology accessibility for those with disabilities by clearing the way for [reliable, fully-automated speech recognition technology](#) for Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS)—while ensuring these services meet strong standards of functionality.
- **Video Relay Services Interoperability**—Ensured interoperability of video relay services (VRS) by [incorporating technical standards](#) and establishing an interoperability testing laboratory. Also [authorized direct video communications](#) between sign-language users and customer service call centers.
- **Telecommunications Relay Services**—Took on waste, fraud, and abuse in the TRS Fund by completing the [VRS User Registration Database](#); authorizing a similar [User Registration Database](#) for IP CTS; adopting rules to [prevent unnecessary use of telephone captions](#); and [prohibiting give-aways of unrelated products](#) to VRS users.
- **More Video-Described Programming**—[Increased](#) the amount of video-described programming that certain broadcast stations and cable channels must provide to consumers.
- **Increased Accessibility to Live News**—Spurred improved accessibility to live news programming on smaller stations by hosting a [forum](#) and engaging with stakeholders of the Commission's Disability Advisory Committee to develop an accessibility toolkit for stations.
- **Hearing Aid Compatibility**—[Updated](#) volume control standards for hearing aid compatible (HAC) devices and [required](#) wireless service providers to provide enhanced information on their websites regarding these devices.
- **TV Rescan Consumer Help Center**—[Launched](#) a call center dedicated to helping viewers of over-the-air television rescan their TVs during the ongoing transition of local TV channels to new frequencies following the Commission's broadcast incentive auction.

## Enhancing Public Safety

*Improving emergency alerts, strengthening 911 calling, protecting network security, and more*

- **Protecting National Security Through FCC Programs**—[Prohibited the use](#) of USF funds to purchase of equipment or services from any company that poses a national security threat to the integrity of U.S. communications networks or the communications supply chain; initially designated Chinese companies Huawei and ZTE as companies covered by this rule; and proposed additional actions to address national security threats to USF-funded networks.

- **China Mobile**—[Denied](#) China Mobile's application to provide telecommunications services in the United States because it is vulnerable to exploitation, influence, and control by the Chinese government.
- **Undersea Cables**—[Improved](#) the outage reporting obligations of submarine cable licensees to promote national security while streamlining the reporting process.
- **Improving Accuracy of Mobile Phone Alerts**—[Adopted](#) new rules to improve the geographic targeting of Wireless Emergency Alerts, a system that delivers critical warnings and information to the public on their wireless phones.
- **Vertical 911 Location Accuracy/"Z-Axis" to Better Locate Callers in Multi-Story Buildings**—[Adopted](#) rules that will help first responders locate people who call 911 from wireless phones in multi-story buildings. The new rules will help emergency responders determine the floor level of a 911 caller, which will reduce emergency response times and ultimately save lives.
- **Kari's Law (Enabling Callers to Reach 911 Without First Dialing an Access Code Like "9")**—Enacted [rules](#) to help ensure that people who call 911 from multi-line telephone systems—which commonly serve hotels, office buildings, and campuses—can reach 911 directly and be more quickly located by first responders.
- **911 Calling**—[Adopted](#) rules to ensure that "dispatchable location" information—such as the street address, floor level, and room number of a 911 caller—is conveyed with 911 calls, regardless of the technological platform used, so that first responders can be quickly dispatched to the caller's location.
- **State 911 Fees**—Issued annual [reports](#) to Congress on the collection and distribution of 911 fees by states, including identifying where 911 funding was diverted for non-911 purposes. The 2019 report found that states and territories diverted \$187,085,044 in funding—approximately 7.0%—for uses other than 911. "This is unacceptable," Chairman Pai said of the 911 funding diversion. "When Americans pay 911 fees on their phone bills, they expect that money to fund 911-related services."
- **911 Outages**—[Fined](#) AT&T Mobility over \$5 million for rules violations associated with two nationwide 911 outages that took place in 2017. Fined [CenturyLink and West almost \\$600,000 collectively](#) for rules violations associated with an August 2018 911 outage. These settlements also required the companies to make important changes to their systems to avoid future outages and improve notification to 911 call centers if an outage does occur. Convened stakeholders to participate in a [workshop](#) on improving situational awareness during 911 outages. Also conducted an investigation and issued a [report](#) on a nationwide CenturyLink outage that disrupted 911 service for millions of Americans in 2018, including lessons learned.
- **Hurricane Recovery**—Chairman Pai visited hurricane-stricken areas to assess the damage and restoration progress first-hand, including meeting with local officials and residents in [Texas](#) after Hurricane Harvey, [Florida](#) after Hurricane Irma, two visits to [Puerto Rico](#) and one to the [U.S. Virgin Islands](#) after Hurricane Maria, and [Florida](#) after Hurricane Michael. The Commission issued 1,031 grants of special temporary authority (STAs) and 23 waivers and processed 257 Requests for Assistance or Information to facilitate restoration efforts and provided [\\$116 million in immediate and short-term relief](#) to support the restoration of communications networks in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands following Hurricane Maria.
- **Disaster Response**—Monitored network outages and published daily communications status reports after Hurricanes [Harvey](#), [Irma](#), [Maria](#), [Michael](#), [Florence](#), and [Dorian](#); [power shutoffs](#) in California; and [earthquakes](#) in Puerto Rico. Worked with government partners and industry to support communications service restoration and conducted after-incident [investigations](#).
- **Blue Alerts**—[Adopted](#) a Report and Order creating a dedicated Blue Alert event code in the Emergency Alert System so that state and local agencies have the option to notify the public of threats to law enforcement and to help apprehend dangerous suspects.

- **Emergency Alerting**
  - Issued rules to promote more effective local emergency alert tests and public service announcements, and help prevent false alerts.
  - Issued reports on the [2017](#) nationwide emergency alerting (EAS) test, and the [2018](#) nationwide test of EAS and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA).
  - Adopted [new rules](#) that increase the effectiveness of the EAS by establishing a streamlined electronic database to replace paper-based filing requirements by combining the existing EAS Test Reporting System with new features for filing State EAS Plans.
  - [Investigated](#) the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's January 13, 2017 false emergency alert about a missile attack, recommended steps to prevent alert originators from issuing false alerts, hosted a public [roundtable](#) to encourage awareness and understanding of lessons learned from Hawaii's false alert, as well as to promote a continued dialogue among stakeholders.
  - Hosted a public [workshop](#) to promote the use of multilingual emergency alerting, multilingual capabilities of EAS and WEA, alternative methods for delivering emergency information to the non-English speaking public, and real-world examples demonstrating the use of these tools during disasters.
- **Protecting Against Threatening Callers**—[Granted](#) an emergency temporary waiver to Jewish Community Centers and telecommunications carriers that serve them to allowed these entities and law enforcement agencies to access the caller-ID information of threatening and harassing callers.
- **Tracking Threatening Phone Calls**—[Adopted](#) new rules to allow law enforcement authorities to access blocked caller ID information when needed to identify and thwart threatening callers, and allow non-public emergency services to obtain blocked Caller ID information of callers requesting their assistance.
- **Contraband Phones in Prisons**—[Eliminated](#) and streamlined certain rules to make it easier for correctional facilities to adopt technological solutions to contraband phones in prisons and [convened](#) a stakeholder meeting to address the serious threats posed by the use of contraband wireless devices in correctional facilities nationwide.
- **Interference and Equipment Marketing Issues**—An important FCC priority is to resolve instances of interference and ensure that radio frequency equipment is not designed to be capable of causing harmful interference. Pursuant to this mission, the FCC has:
  - Issued a Notice of Apparent Liability proposing a [\\$2.8 million fine](#) against HobbyKing for apparently marketing drone equipment that apparently did not meet FCC rules on radio transmissions and power levels.
  - Proposed a nearly \$600,000 fine against a company that had apparently been marketing [wellness devices](#)—such as humidifiers—that did not comply with FCC equipment authorization rules for radio frequency devices.
  - Warned a [Bitcoin](#) miner against using its equipment at power levels which were reportedly interfering with mobile phone services.
  - Reached settlements of [\\$61,000](#) and [\\$54,000](#) with companies for marketing LED signs used in digital billboards and elsewhere without complying with FCC rules for radio frequency devices.
  - Warned against marketing of [fishing buoys](#) that use radio frequencies reserved for marine navigation safety communications.
- **Confronting Pirate Broadcasting**—Moved [aggressively](#) to combat illegal broadcasts. For example, proposed maximum statutory fines against [two](#) apparent Boston-area pirate radio operators. Overall, the Enforcement Bureau has taken [hundreds](#) of actions against radio pirates across the nation over the last three years.
- **Suicide Prevention Hotline**—Launched a formal rulemaking to designate [988](#) as a new, nationwide, 3-digit number for a suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline.



- **Accessibility**—Promoted efforts to ensure real-time text capability of Public Safety Answering Points by hosting a [Real-Time Text Education Day](#) so that direct text emergency communications are available for individuals with disabilities as well as hostages and others unable to use their voices.

## Transparency and Process Reforms

*Providing drafts of agenda items to the public, establishing the Office of Economics and Analytics, and more*

- **Making Agenda Items Available to the Public**—Began releasing draft items to the public [three weeks before they are voted on](#) at the Commission's monthly open meetings. Previously, meeting items were not made available to the public until after the final vote.
- **Consumer-Friendly Policy Fact Sheets**—Instituted a process to [release](#) a one-page fact sheet that summarizes each draft meeting item in question to make it more accessible to Americans. Worked with then-Commissioner Mignon Clyburn in a bipartisan manner to make this a reality.
- **Creating Office of Economics and Analytics**—Established and stood up the [new office](#) to better incorporate economics and data into the FCC's work.
- **Getting Things Done**—In the 36 meetings of Chairman Pai's leadership, the FCC has voted and adopted 221 items in open meetings, more than double the previous Administration over the same time period. For the three years from 2014-2016, the FCC voted and adopted 100 items in open meetings.
- **Finding Consensus**—Chairman Pai has restored the collaborative and consensus-based tradition of FCC decision making. Under Chairman Pai, the Commission has voted over 80% of items on the monthly meeting agenda with bipartisan support and over 70% without dissent. Under the previous Administration, fewer than 50% of agenda items were voted without dissent.
- **Transparency Dashboard**—Launched [an online dashboard](#) to provide the public with more information on the agency's work, bringing to fruition a proposal Chairman Pai first introduced in 2013 as a Commissioner.
- **Enforcing Equal Employment Opportunity Rules**—To improve the Commission's enforcement of its equal employment opportunity rules, the agency [shifted](#) staff responsible for enforcing the EEO rules from the Media Bureau to the Enforcement Bureau.
- **Diversity in Media**—[Re-chartered](#) the FCC's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment. Also hosted a [workshop](#) to help small business entrepreneurs navigate corporate supplier diversity programs and identify successful strategies utilized by diverse entrepreneurs who do business with corporate entities. The FCC also hosted a Symposium on Media Diversity, which featured Chairman Pai as the [keynote](#) speaker.
- **Fraud Division**—[Created](#) a Fraud Division within the Enforcement Bureau dedicated to investigating and prosecuting fraud in the Universal Service Fund.

## Eliminating and Modernizing Outdated Regulations

*Getting rid of outdated rules and regulations while updating others for the digital age*

- **Modernization of Media Regulations Initiative**—Initiated a [modernization](#) of media regulations by launching a review of the Commission's rules applicable to media entities to see which rules should be modified or repealed. This resulted in nineteen proceedings, including:

- **Modernizing Children's Television Programming Rules**—[Updated](#), under Commissioner O'Rielly's leadership, children's TV programming rules to reflect the current state of the video marketplace.
- **Cable Leased Access**—[Eliminated](#) government mandate that cable operators make leased access available on a part-time basis.
- **Requirement to Have Paper Copies of Regulations**—Eliminated rules [requiring](#) certain broadcast and cable entities to maintain paper copies of the Commission's regulations.
- **Paper Filing Requirement for Broadcast Station Contracts**—[Eliminated](#) the nearly 80-year-old requirement that broadcasters routinely file paper copies of station contracts and certain other documents with the Commission.
- **Cable Rate Regulations**—Adopted and proposed changes to the Commission's existing [complex cable rate regulation framework](#).
- **Delivery of Cable Notices**—[Adopted](#) new rules that allow cable operators to deliver notices to their customers via email, reducing costs and paper waste for both cable operators and consumers.
- **Cable Data Collection Form 325**—Eliminated the [Annual Report of Cable Television Systems](#), first developed in 1966, because operational and technological changes that occurred over time made the form increasingly obsolete.
- **Channel Lineup Disclosure Rules**—[Eliminated](#) a rule adopted in 1972 that requires cable operators to keep in their local office a current listing of the channel lineups that each cable system delivers to its subscribers. Also eliminated the requirement that certain cable operators make their channel lineup available through their Commission-hosted online public inspection file.
- **License Display Rules**—[Eliminated](#) a rule from the 1930s that required broadcasters to post at certain locations copies of their broadcast licenses.
- **Broadcast EEO Mid-Term Report**—[Eliminated](#) the Broadcast Mid-Term Report filing requirement as that paperwork had become redundant and unnecessary.
- **Payphone Rules**—[Eliminated](#) outdated and costly payphone audit requirements that were no longer necessary in light of marketplace and technological changes.
- **Tariff Rules Modernization**—[Eliminated](#) and updated tariffing rules to better align them with the reality of easy electronic access to tariff filings.
- **Removed Unnecessary Regulation of Transport Services and Facilities**—Largely [eliminated](#) unnecessary pricing regulation of lower-speed, legacy transport offered by price-cap incumbent carriers to spur competition and investment in next-generation networks.
- **Removed Outdated Legacy Voice Service Regulations**—Granted price cap carriers [relief](#) from two 1996-era regulatory obligations (analog voice grade copper loop unbundling requirements and avoided cost resale requirements) that impede the transition to next-generation networks and services.
- **Nationwide Number Portability**—To pave the way for nationwide number portability, [modified](#) antiquated rules that are not applicable to today's integrated all-distance services, impeded nationwide number portability, and frustrated efficient use of the telecommunications network.
- **Old Cellular Rules**—[Eliminated](#) obsolete and unnecessary regulatory burdens applicable to the Cellular Service and other Part 22 licensees to allow these licensees to focus resources on investment in new technologies and services to meet increasing consumer demand.
- **Personal Radio Service Rules**—[Amended](#) the Personal Radio Services rules to update, modernize, and reorganize the rules.
- **Public Inspection Requirements**—[Eliminated](#) outdated public inspection file rules that required broadcasters to maintain paper files even though they are now available online, and required cable operators to maintain and allow public inspection of the location of a cable system's principal headend

- **Removed Unnecessary Accounting Requirements for Carriers**—[Reduced and streamlined](#) accounting rules for carriers (such as eliminating the requirement that larger carriers keep two sets of books, one for regulatory accounting and one for financial accounting) to allow carriers to refocus scarce resources toward expanding and modernizing their networks.
- **Non-Profit Broadcasters**—Relaxed [third-party fundraising restrictions](#) to permit many noncommercial television and radio stations to air limited fundraisers for the benefit of other non-profit organizations. Also eased the reporting burden for volunteer board members of noncommercial broadcasters.
- **Main Studio Rule**—[Eliminated](#) an outdated, nearly 80-year-old requirement that each AM, FM, and television broadcast station have a fully-staffed main studio located in or near its local community.
- **Cable Franchising Rules**—[Prohibited excessive franchise fees](#) and made clear that local governments may not regulate most non-cable services, including broadband Internet access service, offered over a cable system.
- **Traffic and Revenue Reports**—[Eliminated](#) the annual international Traffic and Revenue Reports, which the FCC hadn't used for years.