

## **FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

### **FCC's Statement of Regulatory Priorities and Regulatory Plan for Fiscal Year 2026**

#### **I. Introduction**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) is the United States' primary authority for implementing and enforcing America's communications law and regulations. The Commission is charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories. The Commission also regulates telecommunications and advanced communication services and video programming for people with disabilities, as set forth in various sections of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. section 151 *et seq.* (Act), and other laws. The FCC's rules and regulations are in Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

As specified in section 1 of the Act, the FCC's mission is to "make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges." Further, section 1 of the Act provides that the Commission was created "for the purpose of the national defense" and "for the purpose of promoting safety of life and property through the use of wire and radio communications."

The FCC is directed by Commissioners who are appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the United States Senate. The President selects one of the Commissioners to serve as the Chairman. Commissioners serve five-year terms, except when filling an unexpired term. Only three Commissioners can be from the same political party at any given time.

The Commission is led by the Chairman and organized into bureaus and offices, based on function. The FCC's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Developing and implementing regulatory programs.
- Processing applications for licenses and other filings.
- Encouraging the development of innovative services.
- Conducting investigations and analyzing complaints.

- Public safety and homeland security; and
- Consumer information and education.

## **II. Regulatory Priorities**

In Fiscal Year 2026, the Commission will continue to advance on its Build America Agenda and the following priorities to deliver results for the American people.

### **A. Accelerate High-Speed Internet Builds**

The FCC will promote a pro-growth agenda to unleash the United States' economy and give all citizens a fair shot at next-generation connectivity. Fundamental to that effort is maintaining and extending the United States' leadership in wireless communications. The FCC's guiding principles will be bringing affordable, reliable, and high-speed Internet to all citizens by focusing on speed, simplification, and spectrum. Americans will be able to cross the digital divide, create jobs, and grow the United States' economy with implementation of the right spectrum policies. In FY 2026 and beyond the Commission will advance policies that will:

- Expand commercial access to mid-band spectrum.
- Reduce barriers to broadband deployment.
- Ensure access to spectrum resources necessary to fuel space, mobile broadband, and unlicensed wireless device sector growth; and
- Alleviate regulatory requirements to facilitate technology transitions and innovation.

The FCC plans on utilizing the full complement of its capabilities to free up unused and underutilized spectrum to create jobs, increase competition, drive down prices for consumers, and connect our communities. The FCC will advance policies to enable greater and more intensive use of spectrum on Earth and in space to promote investment and advancement in next-generation communications technologies. These actions will serve as a catalyst for innovation and growth.

The FCC will deliver real results for the public by expanding connectivity while ushering in prosperity through deregulation and alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens. The FCC will also continue to work on cutting the red tape to help ensure that providers roll out upgraded, high-speed networks to more Americans on a faster timeline. This will keep the United States the global leader in an

increasingly competitive, international marketplace, since red tape drives up costs and holds back Internet builds.

**B. Promote National Security and Public Safety**

The FCC plays a vital national security role by protecting United States communications networks from equipment and services that pose national security risks, and by ensuring the resiliency of our critical communications networks. The United States continues to face persistent threats from foreign adversaries that explore ways to breach our networks, devices, and technology ecosystem. As part of the safeguarding and strengthening of the United States' communications networks, the FCC looks to mitigate the human, technological, and natural threats and hazards jeopardizing the safety and prosperity of our citizens and American companies. In Fiscal Year 2026, the Commission will use its full range of regulatory, investigatory, and enforcement authorities and capabilities to maintain awareness of and respond to threats and hazards, align our technological and national security priorities, and do what is needed to promote the security and stability of our Nation.

The FCC will leverage its Council on National Security to reduce the American technology and telecommunications sectors' trade and supply chain dependencies on foreign adversaries, mitigate America's vulnerabilities to untrusted technologies, and ensure the United States wins the strategic competition with China over critical emerging technologies. The FCC will also engage with Canada and Mexico to develop and manage cross-border spectrum and frequency use agreements to promote efficient use of spectrum by United States public safety agencies in border areas.

Further, American's leadership in wireless deployment and standard setting is critical to our geopolitical leadership and national security; the Commission plays a leading role ensuring the United States will maintain this leadership and that next-generation wireless services develop in ways that will benefit our innovators and interests.

The Commission also has a responsibility to promote the public's access to 911, public safety, ensuring the American people have the means to communicate during major events and disasters, and that first responders and emergency managers have access to reliable communications to facilitate emergency response. To that end, the Commission will continue to advance policies that promote the

public's and first responders' access to reliable 911 and Next Generation 911 services as well as emergency alerting capabilities that are more responsive to public safety and consumer needs.

### **C. Protect Consumers and Promote Free Speech**

Advancements in communications services and technologies have created new challenges for American consumers. The FCC will continue to prioritize consumer protection across all technologies and sectors and empower consumer choice in a rapidly changing communications landscape. The FCC will ensure that consumers have access to information of choice and advanced telecommunications and technologies. The FCC will also continue to ensure the availability of quality, functionally equivalent communications services to people with disabilities.

In Fiscal Year 2026, the FCC will use rulemaking and enforcement authorities to protect consumers from illegal calls, phone-based scams, and other marketplace trends that harm consumers. The FCC will also work to pursue policies that promote and protect free speech and access to information, including efforts to foster media competition and ensuring access to local news sources. This effort is also consistent with Executive Order 14149, *Restoring Freedom of Speech and Ending Federal Censorship* (Jan. 20, 2025).

### **D. Enhance Efficiency and Accountability, and Reduce Waste**

The FCC will continue enhancing efficiency and accountability and reducing waste. The Commission will continue its comprehensive initiative to eliminate rules and regulations that are unlawful, outdated, or no longer necessary in Fiscal Year 2026. This initiative will help reduce regulatory overreach and eliminate unnecessary regulations, as well as reduce fraud, waste, and abuse across FCC programs and operations. One concrete way the Commission is actively achieving this goal is by using its *In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete* proceeding (GN Docket No. 25-133) to work with the public to determine which rules, regulations, and guidance documents should be eliminated to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens. This initiative is consistent with the Trump Administration's priorities, including the following directives:

- Executive Order 14192, *Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation* (Jan. 31, 2025).
- Executive Order 14219, *Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative* (Feb. 19, 2025).

- Executive Order 14267, *Reducing Anti-Competitive Regulatory Barriers* (Apr. 9, 2025); and
- Presidential Memorandum, *Directing the Repeal of Unlawful Regulations* (Apr. 9, 2025).

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