



NEWS

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FCC Chairman Powell: Another 70 Million Americans to Have Freedom to Switch Wireless Carriers and Keep Their Phone Number on Monday

Washington, D.C.—Beginning Monday, May 24, the ability of consumers to change their wireless telephone provider and keep their number expands to cover the entire country as Federal Communications Commission number portability rules take effect in smaller markets, covering an additional 70 million Americans.

“Now all Americans can enjoy the benefits of competition,” said FCC Chairman Michael Powell. “These changes will bring lower prices, more innovation and better service to everyone. Wireless carriers will now, more than ever, deliver for rural America.”

Last November, the FCC required wireless carriers in only the 100 largest cities to start allowing customers to switch and keep their numbers. Over 3.5 million numbers have been switched. Most of these—approximately 3.34 million—involved wireless customers switching from one wireless carrier to another. Approximately 229,000 involved landline customers taking their landline number to a wireless carrier. Just over 7,000 people transferred a wireless number to a landline phone.

“Your phone number belongs to you, and you can take it with you—no matter where you live,” said Powell.

Additional information is available at www.fcc.gov/cgb/NumberPortability/

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