

## FACT SHEET: How Net Neutrality Protects Consumers and Online Freedom of Speech

*“For everyone, everywhere to enjoy the full benefits of the internet age, broadband access needs to be fast, open, and fair.”*  
– FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel

### Overview

Open internet protections have long had widespread – upwards of 80% – support from the American people who have come to expect that they will be able to access all lawful content on the internet uninhibited by their broadband service provider’s business decisions. Across administrations from 2005 to 2018, it was the clear policy of the FCC to enforce open internet standards. Chairwoman Rosenworcel’s proposal would reinstate that longstanding policy by restoring net neutrality rules and classifying broadband service as a telecommunications service under Title II of the Communications Act.

The proposed no blocking, no throttling, and no unreasonable discrimination protections will prevent broadband service providers from deliberately interfering with consumers’ access to lawful content, applications, and services.

### How Open Internet Rules and Title II Classification Help Consumers

- **Openness** – Restore basic rules to prevent broadband providers from blocking legal content, throttling speeds, and creating paid-for fast lanes.
- **Free Speech** – Open internet policies protect Americans’ freedom and their speech, only regulating *broadband companies’* ability to limit consumer and business activities.
- **Service Standards** – Consumers expect fair treatment by the businesses with which they engage, and Title II allows the FCC to ensure those standards are met.
- **Privacy** – Title II would restore broadband consumer privacy and data security protections that apply to all telecommunications services under the Communications Act.
- **Robocalls & Robotexts** – Broadband network oversight could help fight scam calls and texts that often originate from online platforms and traverse VoIP networks.
- **Nationwide Standard** – Establish a uniform national standard for internet openness rather than a patchwork of state-by-state approaches, benefiting consumers and Internet Service Providers.

### Background

The Chairwoman shared with her colleagues a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. If adopted by a vote of the full Commission at its monthly meeting on October 19, 2023, the agency will begin a new rulemaking to take public comment on the proposal. Any person or organization can file comments and see others’ comments at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs>. After a review of that public record, the Chairwoman can decide whether and how to proceed, including adopting final rules which would also require a majority vote of the bipartisan FCC.

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