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For Immediate Release

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ APPROVES ENFORCEMENT AND NATIONAL SECURITY PROPOSALS AT FCC MAY PUBLIC MEETING

Actions Continue Ongoing Work to Strengthen the Integrity of the Nation's Communications Networks

WASHINGTON, May 23, 2024—Today, Commissioner Anna M. Gomez voted to approve enforcement and national security proposals at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) May public meeting.

Commissioner Gomez voted to approve two proposed monetary forfeitures totaling \$8,000,000: one forfeiture of \$6,000,000 against an individual who is allegedly behind an illegal robocall campaign targeting voters ahead of the 2024 New Hampshire primary election; and a separate forfeiture of \$2,000,000 against a company that apparently failed to comply with the Commission's rules that protect the public from illegal robocalls. The illegal robocalls used deepfake generative artificial intelligence to imitate U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.'s voice and encouraged voters not to vote in the upcoming primary election.

"This is significant," **said Commissioner Gomez**. "The apparent actions of this individual not only harmed New Hampshire voters, but compromised trust in democracy itself, while the apparent actions of the company failed to adequately identify the illegal robocalls. The proposed penalties are important to deter scams that manipulate AI to prey on consumers and threaten our democratic processes." Commissioner Gomez delivered remarks about her vote in English and Spanish.

Commissioner Gomez also voted to approve a proposal to strengthen the integrity of the FCC's equipment authorization program by ensuring trustworthy actors are certifying wireless equipment. The FCC's equipment authorization program reviews all wireless devices that emit radio frequencies prior to sale in the U.S. to ensure they abide by FCC requirements. Private entities, known as test labs and Telecommunications Certification Bodies, test the devices and certify that they comply with FCC rules. The proposal adopted today would ensure that these private entities are trustworthy and do not pose national security concerns.

"In this age of wireless proliferation, we must remain vigilant of technology and actors infiltrating our communications networks to cause harm," **said Commissioner Gomez**. "Today's action builds on the agency's ongoing work to support the integrity of our communications networks by strengthening our wireless equipment authorization system. This is essential to protect consumers and our infrastructure from emerging digital threats."

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Office of Commissioner Gomez: (202) 418-2100 / www.fcc.gov/about/leadership/anna-gomez

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).