



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR

Chairman Carr Appoints Williams as FCC Chief Economist

WASHINGTON, January 5, 2026— FCC Chairman Brendan Carr today announced the appointment of Dr. Jonathan Williams as Chief Economist for the Federal Communications Commission, in addition to serving as Chief of the Office of Economics and Analytics. Dr. Williams most recently served as a Professor of Economics as well as the Director for the Center for Regulatory and Industrial Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The FCC Chief Economist advises the Chairman, Commissioners, and Bureaus and Offices on economic issues and works within the agency's Office of Economics and Analytics.

Chairman Carr issued the following statement:

“I’m excited that Dr. Williams will lend his talents to the FCC as we continue to integrate economic analysis into our decision-making. Dr. Williams’ record of distinguished scholarship in the academic sector in addition to his extensive research makes him the right person for this job. I look forward to drawing on his advice and counsel as we advance the Commission’s agenda and support President Trump’s America First agenda to increase economic opportunity for American businesses.”

Additional Background Information:

Dr. Williams joined UNC-Chapel Hill as an Assistant Professor in 2015 and has been a Professor of Economics there since 2022. In this role, he also served as the Director of the Center for Regulatory and Industrial Studies (CRIS), which was founded within the Department of Economics to support research related to industrial organization and data science. Additionally, he served as an Academic Affiliate for the International Center for Law & Economics. Prior to his time at UNC, he worked as an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Georgia as well as an instructor at the University of Virginia.

Dr. Williams’ research has focused on industrial organization and applied econometrics. His research has been published in numerous academic journals and he has presented his research in countless seminars over the past decade. He holds both a Bachelor of Arts in economics and a Bachelor of Science degree in applied mathematics from Ohio University, as well as a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Virginia.

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