



NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC Expands Broadband Spectrum Opportunity for Utilities, Critical Infrastructure, and Business Enterprise Entities

New Rules Maximize the Potential of 900 MHz Band by Enabling Broadband Deployment Across All Ten Megahertz of the Band

WASHINGTON, February 18, 2026—Today, the Federal Communications Commission adopted new rules to expand access to spectrum for utilities, critical infrastructure, and enterprise businesses deploying private 900 MHz broadband networks. The new rules will unlock the full 10 megahertz of the 900 MHz band for broadband use and eliminate regulatory barriers that have made a 5/5 broadband license an impossibility until now.

This action builds on the FCC’s previous work to realign the band through a market-driven transition and reflects the agency’s commitment to ensuring that spectrum is used efficiently and in ways that strengthen the American economy. The spectrum resources made available through today’s Commission action will stimulate the American economy by driving innovation by utilities, critical infrastructure, and other sectors. These rules will help to address growing demand for private and secure wireless broadband networks across these sectors.

The Report and Order will enable broadband on all 10 megahertz of the 900 MHz band (896–901 and 935–940 MHz), providing enhanced spectrum capacity to meet a wider range of broadband needs. These new rules introduce a county-level, negotiation-based process to enable broadband deployment where private agreements are reached.

The new rules allow the 900 MHz band to be used in a given county in any of three configurations: (1) a “legacy” configuration with 20 wideband channels interleaved with 200 narrowband channels; (2) one six-megahertz broadband segment consisting of two paired three-megahertz channels and two narrowband segments with a total of 159 narrowband channels; or (3) ten megahertz of broadband consisting of two paired five-megahertz channels and no reserved narrowband channels.

Action by the Commission February 18, 2026 by Report and Order (FCC 26-9). Chairman Carr, Commissioners Gomez and Trusty approving. Chairman Carr and Commissioner Trusty issuing separate statements.

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