Information Technology and Communications

2020 Congressional City Conference
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Lincoln 4
Sunday, March 8, 2020
1:30 p.m.
Agenda: Information Technology and Communications

Marriot Wardman Park Hotel
Lincoln Room 4
Washington, DC

Sunday, March 8

NOTE: The ITC Committee received a federal advocacy update during its February teleconference on February 27. Slides, bill talking points, and other information are attached to this agenda. A recording of the call is available.

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Speaker/Presenter</th>
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| 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING OVERVIEW    | The Honorable Corina Lopez, Chair
Councilmember, City of San Leandro, California |
|               | Councilmember Lopez will lead introductions and provide an overview of expected outcomes from the meeting, as well as an update from NLC’s Board of Directors. |
| 2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | NTIA’S MINORITY BROADBAND INITIATIVE | Gilbert Resendez
Broadband Program Specialist, BroadbandUSA, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce |
|               | In 2019, NTIA launched its Minority Broadband Initiative in partnership with the nation’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to work on solving broadband challenges in vulnerable communities. This program will convene stakeholders to build partnerships between HBCUs and their neighboring communities and use broadband as a catalyst to promote job growth and economic development, particularly in economically distressed communities in the rural South. NTIA staff will provide an overview of this new initiative, as well as resources from BroadbandUSA for local leaders. |
| 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | WORKING WITH THE FCC TO PROTECT YOUR CONSUMERS | Lyle Ishida
Chief, Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission |
Did you know that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has resources to help you protect your residents from unfair billing, robocalling, and scams? FCC staff will update the committee on resources for local leaders to protect consumers and how to engage with the agency’s intergovernmental affairs office.

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  PREEMPTION LITIGATION: WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT’S NEXT

- Gerard Lavery Lederer  
  Partner, Best Best & Krieger

NLC and dozens of cities throughout the United States are engaged in litigation to overturn the FCC’s 2018 small cell preemption orders and 2019 cable franchise order. NLC’s outside counsel will brief the committee on the latest news in each case, including what happened during the recent oral argument of the small cell case before the Ninth Circuit, and what’s coming in 2020 for these critical cases.

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  IGNITE DISCUSSION: NEW AND NOTEWORTHY PROJECTS IN YOUR CITY

- The Honorable Corina Lopez, Chair  
  Councilmember, City of San Leandro, California

- The Honorable Joseph Goldstein, Vice Chair  
  Councilmember, City of Marietta, Georgia

Has your city launched or improved programs focused on telecommunications and technology in your city? What new or noteworthy things has your city done to get residents online, improve cybersecurity, better manage relationships with telecommunications providers, spur technology-driven economic development and innovation, or other related goals? Join ITC Committee members in a dynamic Ignite-style sharing session of local innovation.

_Come prepared to share and discuss with no more than 5 minutes of remarks, with or without slides. Contact Angelina Panettieri at panettieri@nlc.org to add your name to the list._

4:30 p.m.  ADJOURN

5:00 p.m.  ITC COMMITTEE INFORMAL NETWORKING

Get to know your colleagues! Join other ITC Committee members in the hotel bar immediately following the meeting for conversation and Dutch treat drinks.
Congressional City Conference Highlights for ITC Committee Members:

**Sunday, March 8**
- 7:45AM – 8:45AM - First-Time Attendee Breakfast – Marriott Ballroom 1
- 1:30PM – 4:30PM – ITC Meeting – Lincoln 4
- 5:00PM – 6:00PM – ITC Committee Informal Happy Hour – Marriott bar

**Monday, March 9**
- 9:00AM – 10:30AM – Opening General Session – Marriott Ballroom 1,2,3
- 1:45PM – 3:15PM – Federal Agency Round Robin – Marriott Ballroom 1
  - Highlights: Federal resources for broadband access, smart cities, and cybersecurity
- 3:30PM – 5:00PM – General Session – Marriott Ballroom 2,3
- Evening – Council, constituency group, and state league receptions

**Tuesday, March 10**
- 9:00AM – 10:15AM – General Session – Marriott Ballroom 1,2,3
- 10:45AM – 12:15PM – Workshop: Cybersecurity: City Data and the 2020 Census – Virginia A,B,C
- 12:30PM – 2:15PM – Closing Luncheon – Marriott Ballroom 1,2,3
- Afternoon/Evening – Advocate training (Invitation only) and Capitol Steps performance

**Wednesday, March 11**
- Advocates’ Breakfast Reception on Capitol Hill
- Capitol Hill Meetings – With your state league, contract lobbyists, or scheduled by NLC

**Attachments:**
- NLC Policy Development and Advocacy Process
- NLC ITC Committee Roster
- NLC Talking Points – Telecommunications Legislation
- Slides – ITC Committee February Federal Advocacy Update Teleconference
As a resource and advocate for more than 19,000 cities, towns and villages, the National League of Cities (NLC) brings municipal officials together to influence federal policy affecting local governments. NLC adopts positions on federal actions, programs and proposals that directly impact municipalities and formalizes those positions in the *National Municipal Policy (NMP)*, which guides NLC’s federal advocacy efforts.

NLC divides its advocacy efforts into seven subject areas:
- Community and Economic Development
- Energy, Environment and Natural Resources
- Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations
- Human Development
- Information Technology and Communications
- Public Safety and Crime Prevention
- Transportation and Infrastructure Services

For each of the seven issue areas, a Federal Advocacy Committee advocates in support of NLC’s federal policy positions. Members of each Committee serve for one calendar year and are appointed by the NLC President.

**Federal Advocacy Committees**
Federal Advocacy Committee members are responsible for advocating on legislative priorities, providing input on legislative priorities, and reviewing and approving policy proposals and resolutions. Additionally, Committee members engage in networking and sharing of best practices.

Federal Advocacy Committees are comprised of local elected and appointed city and town officials from NLC member cities. NLC members must apply annually for membership to a Federal Advocacy Committee. The NLC President makes appointments for chair, vice chairs, and general membership. In addition to leading the Federal Advocacy Committees, those appointed as Committee chairs will also serve on NLC’s Board of Directors during their leadership year.

At the Congressional City Conference, Federal Advocacy Committee members are called upon to advocate for NLC’s legislative priorities on Capitol Hill, as well as develop the committee’s agenda and work plan for the year. Committee members meet throughout the year to further the plan, hear from guest presenters, discuss advocacy strategies and develop specific policy amendments and resolutions. At the City Summit, Committee members review and approve policy proposals and resolutions. These action items are then forwarded to NLC’s Resolutions Committee and are considered at the Annual Business Meeting, also held during the City Summit.

**Advocacy**
Throughout the year, Committee members participate in advocacy efforts to influence the federal decision-making process, focusing on actions concerning local governments and communities. During the Congressional City Conference, Committee members have an opportunity, and are encouraged, to meet with their congressional representatives on Capitol Hill. When NLC members are involved in the legislative process and share their expertise and experiences with Congress, municipalities have a stronger national voice, affecting the outcomes of federal policy debates that impact cities and towns.
2020 Information Technology and Communications (ITC) Committee Roster

Chair
Corina Lopez
Councilmember
San Leandro, CA

Vice Chair
Alix Desulme
Vice Mayor
North Miami, FL

Vice Chair
Joseph Goldstein
Councilmember
Marietta, GA

David Baker, Mayor, City of Kenmore, WA
Jesse Barlow, Council Member, Borough of State College, PA
Edwin Benson, IT Manager, City of Kingsville, TX
Joshua Butler, Councilmember Ward D At Large, City of East Point, GA
Sheri Capehart, Council Member District 2, City of Arlington, TX
Bob Champion, Council Member Position 2, City of Mukilteo, WA
Cedric Crear, Council Member Ward 5, City of Las Vegas, NV
Robert Day, Council Member District 3, City of College Park, MD
Alix Desulme, Councilman, City of North Miami, FL
John Fogle, Councilor, City of Loveland, CO
Elaine Gaither, Council Member At-Large, Village of Oakwood (Cuyahoga County), OH
Joseph Goldstein, Council Member Ward 7, City of Marietta, GA
Barry Gordon, Mayor, City of Duncanville, TX
Donald Groesser, Mayor, City of Ralston, NE
Bob Hart, City Manager, City of Corinth, TX
Adrian Hayes-Santos, Commissioner, City of Gainesville, FL
Charles Chappie Jones, Vice Mayor, City of San Jose, CA
Randy Keating, Councilmember, City of Tempe, AZ
Larry Kitchens, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Hurst, TX
Benny Lee, Council Member, City of San Leandro, CA
Corina Lopez, Vice Mayor, City of San Leandro, CA
Mike Lynch, Director, Broadband & Cable, City of Boston, MA
David Martin, Council Member, Ward 3, City of Ames, IA
Scott Naumann, Alderman, City of Bettendorf, IA
David Neal, Council Member Ward 4, City of Merriam, KS
Christopher Nelson, Mayor, Village of West Dundee, IL
Susan Norton, Communications Director, City of Fayetteville, AR
Jeremy Rodgers, Deputy Mayor, City of Boca Raton, FL
Bobby Scott, Council Member Place 1, City of Center Point, AL
Don Sheehan, Councilman, City of Centennial, CO
Ed Stern President, Association of Washington Cities (AWC), City of Poulsbo, WA
Brandon Todd, Council Member Ward 4, City of Washington, DC
Lauren Tolmachoff, Council Member, City of Glendale, AZ
Bob Yates, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Boulder, CO
Talking Points
Legislation to Empower Local Broadband Leadership

COSPONSOR H.R. 530 – Accelerating Broadband Development by Empowering Local Communities Act of 2019/S. 2012 – Restoring Local Control Over Public Infrastructure Act of 2019

• H.R. 530 and S. 2012 would repeal recent harmful Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations limiting the ability of local governments to responsibly manage the deployment of 5G wireless infrastructure.
• The FCC regulations force local governments to subsidize private development through fee restrictions, limit their ability to regulate “digital redlining” of neighborhoods, and do not require any commitment from wireless companies to provide more service.
• Cities, towns and villages are eager to welcome new technologies like 5G but must retain the authority to protect the diverse needs of their residents. Federal agencies should work more closely with local leaders to understand those needs, which the FCC’s actions fail to do.
• H.R. 530/S. 2012 does not preclude future congressional or agency action. It only reverses the shortsighted order finalized by the FCC in 2018.

Current House Cosponsors:
Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA-31)
Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA-7)
Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-3)
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-1)
Rep. Anthony Brindisi (D-NY-22)
Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA-26)
Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24)
Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL-6)
Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA-27)
Rep. Gil Cisneros (D-CA-39)
Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN-9)
Rep. TJ Cox (D-CA-21)
Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN-2)
Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO-6)
Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR-4)
Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA-11)
Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL-22)
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX-35)
Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY-16)
Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA-18)
Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY-13)
Rep. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia (D-IL-4)
Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX-15)
Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-3)
Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-2)
Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA-17)
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA-13)
Rep. Andy Levin (D-MI-9)
Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA-33)
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-19)
Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN-4)
Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA-2)
Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA-9)
Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI-4)
Rep. Richard "Richie" Neal (D-MA-1)
Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-2)
Del. Eleanor Norton (D-DC-1)
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY-14)
Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN-5)
Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-20)
Rep. Christopher "Chris" Pappas (D-NH-1)
Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME-1)
Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI-2)
Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD-8)
Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY-4)

Updated 2/26/2020
The Protecting Community Television Act would protect local governments and their community media assets by clarifying the federal definition of franchise fees.

Since 1984, cable franchises have included requirements to serve the community interest, such as services, facilities, or equipment, and have required cable operators to pay rent for the use of public property in the form of fees.

The FCC’s 2019 cable order upended this precedent by claiming that the value of those community interest obligations could be deducted from operators’ franchise fees or eliminated entirely.

The FCC order provides a handout to cable companies by allowing them to dramatically reduce negotiated franchise payments by deducting the value of non-cash franchise elements, such as institutional networks.

The Protecting Community Television Act would halt this overreach and prevent future FCC harms by clarifying that fees are only defined as cash payments to franchise authorities.
**Current Senate Cosponsors:**
Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)  
Sen. Richard "Dick" Blumenthal (D-CT)  
Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)  
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)  
Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH)  
Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)  
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)  
Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA)  
Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)  
Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT)  
Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)  
Leader Charles "Chuck" Schumer (D-NY)  
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)  
Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)  
Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)  
Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)  
Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)

**COSPONSOR H.R. 4486/S. 1167 - The Digital Equity Act of 2019**

- Even in communities with broadband infrastructure, vulnerable residents may be unable to take advantage of the benefits provided by broadband because of lack of equipment, lack of skills, or lack of resources.
- This bill would establish two new grant programs administered by NTIA – one formula grant program for states and one competitive grant program for which local governments would be eligible.
- The grants would be used to support state, local, and nonprofit digital equity programs, including planning, capacity-building, skills training, workforce development, and capital expenditures.
- This program would provide support for evidence-based policymaking by tasking NTIA with evaluating funded projects, collecting best practices, and providing feedback to local, state, and federal leaders about the most effective ways to improve digital equity.

**Current House Cosponsors:**
Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY-9)  
Rep. Ben "Ben Ray" Lujan (D-NM-3)  
Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA-9)

**Current Senate Cosponsors:**
Sen. Richard "Dick" Blumenthal (D-CT)  
Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)  
Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)  
Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL)  
Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA)  
Sen. Maggie Hirono (D-HI)  
Sen. Doug Jones (D-AL)  
Sen. Angus King (I-ME)  
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)  
Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA)  
Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)  
Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)  
Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)  
Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)  
Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)  
Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)  
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)  
Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)
COSPONSOR S. 1065 - The State Cyber Resiliency Act and H.R. 5823 - The State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act

- The State Cyber Resiliency Act and State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act would establish a new grant program within the Department of Homeland Security to assist state, local, and tribal governments in preventing, preparing for, protecting against and responding to cyber threats.
- These funds would help state, local, and tribal governments enhance their cybersecurity workforces, plan for cyber threats, and enhance their ability to respond to a trend of larger, more expensive cyber attacks.
- The program would encourage state governments to establish, in coordination with DHS, cyber resiliency plans as a condition of grant participation.
- States would be required to distribute at least half of funds, which can be used for planning or implementation, to local or tribal governments, and consult with local leaders within the state to plan for grant allocation.

Current House Cosponsors – H.R. 5823:
Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ-10)

Current Senate Cosponsors:
Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO)
Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)


- S. 2748/H.R. 451 would repeal the requirement for the FCC to auction off the 470-512 MHz band (T-Band), which is the portion of spectrum used by 11 major metropolitan areas for public safety communications.
- Local governments have been unable to identify alternative spectrum to move to that would meet public safety and emergency response needs.

Updated 2/26/2020
• Forcing public safety off the T-Band would leave emergency responders without communications channels and waste the millions of dollars spent investing in and upgrading public safety networks on the T-Band.

**Current House Cosponsors:**
- Rep. Mike Doyle (D-PA-18)
- Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY-16)
- Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY-13)
- Rep. Al Green (D-TX-9)
- Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18)
- Rep. Pete King (R-NY-2)
- Rep. Conor Lamb (D-PA-17)
- Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY-17)
- Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-12)
- Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY-6)
- Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA-6)
- Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA-32)
- Del. Eleanor Norton (D-DC-1)
- Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ-9)
- Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY-4)
- Rep. Max Rose (D-NY-11)
- Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA-28)
- Rep. Thomas "Tom" Suozzi (D-NY-3)
- Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA-35)
- Rep. Jefferson "Jeff" Van Drew (R-NJ-2)
- Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY-7)
- Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY-1)

**Current Senate Cosponsors:**
- Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)
- Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA)
- Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
- Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
- Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA)
- Leader Charles "Chuck" Schumer (D-NY)
- Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

**OPPOSE S. 1699 – The STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act**

• NLC urges Senators to oppose S. 1699, the Streamlining The Rapid Evolution And Modernization of Leading-edge Infrastructure Necessary to Enhance (STREAMLINE) Small Cell Deployment Act.

• The STREAMLINE Act would enshrine in statute harmful FCC regulations that would limit local governments’ ability to appropriately manage the deployment of small cell wireless infrastructure in public rights of way.

• The bill would complicate deployments of small cell wireless infrastructure already in progress by harming ongoing negotiations between cities and wireless companies. It would also transfer public property to private companies, with no obligation to communities, and create a new unfunded mandate for local governments.

• Congress should not impose a federal one-size-fits-all preemption of local authority.

**Current Senate Cosponsors:**
- Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)
- Whip John Thune (R-SD)

For more information, contact Angelina Panettieri, Principal Associate for Technology and Communications at panettieri@nlc.org.

Updated 2/26/2020
NLC ITC Committee: Getting Ready to Lobby Washington

February 27, 2020

Agenda

- Chair’s Welcome
- Congressional City Conference – Getting the Most Out of Your Time
- Telecommunications & Broadband Legislation Talking Points
- Other NLC Legislative Priorities
- Top Tips for Lobbying
CCC – Getting the Most Out of Your Time

**Sunday, March 8**
- 7:45AM – 8:45AM - First-Time Attendee Breakfast – Marriott Ballroom 1
- 1:30PM – 4:30PM - ITC Meeting – Lincoln 4
  - Highlights: ITC member city stories ignite session – what technology projects are happening in your community?, legal update on FCC litigation, agency updates from BroadbandUSA and FCC
- 5:00PM – 6:00PM – ITC Committee Informal Happy Hour – Marriott bar

**Monday, March 9**
- 9:00AM – 10:30AM – Opening General Session – Marriott Ballroom 1,2,3
  - Highlights: Former Speaker of the House Paul Ryan
- 1:45PM – 3:15PM – Federal Agency Round Robin – Marriott Ballroom 1
  - Highlights: Federal resources for broadband access, smart cities, and cybersecurity
- 3:30PM – 5:00PM – General Session – Marriott Ballroom 2,3
- Evening – Council, constituency group, and state league receptions

**Tuesday, March 10**
- 9:00AM – 10:15AM – General Session – Marriott Ballroom 1,2,3
- 10:45AM – 12:15PM – Workshop: Cybersecurity: City Data and the 2020 Census – Virginia A,B,C
- 12:30PM – 2:15PM – Closing Luncheon – Marriott Ballroom 1,2,3
- Afternoon/Evening – Advocate training and Hill meeting schedule pick-up (invitation only) and Capitol Steps performance

**Wednesday, March 11**
- Advocates’ Breakfast Reception on Capitol Hill
- Capitol Hill Meetings – With your state league, contract lobbyists, or scheduled by NLC
Broadband Bills

Fighting Preemption of Local Wireless Authority

• H.R. 530 – Accelerating Broadband Development by Empowering Local Communities Act of 2019/ S. 2012 – Restoring Local Control Over Public Infrastructure Act of 2019
  • ASK: Cosponsor H.R. 530 or S. 2012
  • H.R. 530 and S. 2012 would repeal recent harmful Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations limiting the ability of local governments to regulate the deployment of 5G wireless infrastructure.
  • The FCC regulations force local governments to subsidize private development through fee restrictions, limit their ability to regulate “digital redlining” of neighborhoods, and do not require any commitment from wireless companies to provide more service.
  • Cities, towns and villages are eager to welcome new technologies like 5G but must retain the authority to protect the diverse needs of their residents. Federal agencies should work more closely with local leaders to understand those needs, which the FCC’s actions fail to do.

• S. 1699 – STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act
  • ASK: Oppose S. 1699
  • S. 1699 would enshrine in statute and expand harmful FCC regulations that would limit local governments’ ability to appropriately manage the deployment of small cell wireless infrastructure in public rights of way.

STATUS: No hearing has been held on this topic yet. NLC and numerous cities are engaged in litigation to overturn the FCC’s 2018 actions.

Broadband Bills

Fighting Preemption of Local Cable Authority

• H.R. 5659/S. 3218 – The Protecting Community Television Act
  • ASK: Cosponsor
  • The Protecting Community Television Act would protect local governments and their community media assets by clarifying the federal definition of franchise fees.
  • Since 1984, cable franchises have included requirements to serve the community interest, such as services, facilities, or equipment, and have required cable operators to pay rent for the use of public property in the form of fees.
  • The FCC’s 2019 cable order upended this precedent by claiming that the value of those community interest obligations could be deducted from operators’ franchise fees or eliminated entirely.
  • The FCC order provides a handout to cable companies by allowing them to dramatically reduce negotiated franchise payments by deducting the value of non-cash franchise elements, such as institutional networks.
  • The Protecting Community Television Act would halt this overreach and prevent future FCC harms by clarifying that fees are only defined as cash payments to franchise authorities.

STATUS: No hearing has been held on this topic yet. NLC and numerous cities are engaged in litigation to overturn the FCC’s 2019 actions.
Broadband Bills

Supporting Digital Inclusion

• H.R. 4486/S. 1167 - The Digital Equity Act of 2019
  • ASK: Cosponsor
  • Even in communities with broadband infrastructure, vulnerable residents may be unable to take advantage of the benefits provided by broadband because of lack of equipment, lack of skills, or lack of resources.
  • This bill would establish two new grant programs administered by NTIA – one formula grant program for states and one competitive grant program for which local governments would be eligible.
  • The grants would be used to support state, local, and nonprofit digital equity programs, including planning, capacity-building, skills training, workforce development, and capital expenditures.
  • This program would provide support for evidence-based policymaking by tasking NTIA with evaluating funded projects, collecting best practices, and providing feedback to local, state, and federal leaders about the most effective ways to improve digital equity.

STATUS: The House Energy & Commerce Committee held its first-ever hearing on this issue in January.

Broadband Bills

Improving Local Cybersecurity

• S. 1065- The State Cyber Resiliency Act and H.R. 5823 - The State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act
  • ASK: Cosponsor
  • The State Cyber Resiliency Act and State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act would establish a new grant program within the Department of Homeland Security to assist state, local, and tribal governments in preventing, preparing for, protecting against and responding to cyber threats.
  • These funds would help state, local, and tribal governments enhance their cybersecurity workforces, plan for cyber threats, and enhance their ability to respond to a trend of larger, more expensive cyber attacks.
  • The program would encourage state governments to establish, in coordination with DHS, cyber resiliency plans as a condition of grant participation.
  • States would be required to distribute at least half of funds, which can be used for planning or implementation, to local or tribal governments, and consult with local leaders within the state to plan for grant allocation.

• STATUS: H.R. 5823 has passed out of committee.
Broadband Bills

Strengthening Emergency Communications

  - **ASK: Cosponsor**
  - S. 2748/H.R. 451 would repeal the requirement for the FCC to auction off the 470-512 MHz band (T-Band), which is the portion of spectrum used by 11 major metropolitan areas for public safety communications.
  - Local governments have been unable to identify alternative spectrum to move to that would meet public safety and emergency response needs.
  - Forcing public safety off the T-Band would leave first responders without communications channels and waste the millions of dollars spent investing in and upgrading public safety networks on the T-Band.

- **STATUS: The House Energy & Commerce Committee held a hearing on this topic in February.**

Other NLC Legislative Priorities

Pick up talking points for these bills at the Advocacy Central booth during the conference!

**Build Sustainable Infrastructure and a Skilled Workforce**

- Reauthorize the FAST Act for transportation
- Cosponsor the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act (H.R. 1497)
- Reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (H.R. 3167 and H.R. 3872/S.2187)
- Cosponsor the BUILDS Act (H.R. 2831/S. 1517)
- Cosponsor the Investing in Our Communities Act (H.R. 2772)
- Cosponsor the Digital Equity Act (H.R. 4486/S. 1167)
### Other NLC Legislative Priorities

#### Restore Local Authority to Empower Local Solutions
- Cosponsor the Accelerating Broadband Development by Empowering Local Communities Act (H.R. 530) and Restoring Local Control Over Public Infrastructure Act of 2019 (S. 2012)
- Cosponsor the Restore the Partnership Act (H.R. 3883)
- Cosponsor the Protecting Community Television Act (H.R. 5659 and S. 3218)

#### End Housing Instability and Homelessness
- Cosponsor the Eviction Crisis Act (S. 3030)
- Cosponsor the Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act (S. 3083)

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### Top Ten Tips for Lobbying

1. Research your legislators’ committee assignments and cosponsorship status on priority bills
2. Come with local examples, stories, photos, and data
3. Prepare your talking points with your colleagues

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![Chart](chart.png)

**How helpful is it for messages from constituents to include the following? How frequently do messages from constituents include the following?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Message Type</th>
<th>Very Helpful/Helpful</th>
<th>Very Frequent/Frequent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information about the impact the bill would have on the district or state</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constituent’s reasons for supporting/opposing the bill or issue</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific request or “ask”</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal story related to the bill or issue</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [Citizen-Centric Advocacy](#), Congressional Management Foundation, 2015
Top Ten Tips for Lobbying

4. Be on time for meetings – but call the office if you are running late
5. Stay concise & keep your legislator on topic (politely!)
6. Always be respectful, even when you disagree
7. Staff meetings are just as valuable as member meetings

8. Take photos and share on social media/local outlets with your legislators tagged
9. Always follow up afterwards with staff
10. Wear comfortable shoes!
QUESTIONS? GET IN TOUCH.

Angelina Panettieri
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