



SHLB
SCHOOLS, HEALTH & LIBRARIES
BROADBAND COALITION

Presentation to KINBER Annual Conference

Broadband Public Policy Update

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John Windhausen
Executive Director
SHLB Coalition

Topics

- ▶ Digital Divide Overview
- ▶ FCC's Rural Health Care Update
- ▶ E-rate Update
- ▶ RUS \$600 M
- ▶ Broadband Mapping
- ▶ Mobile Now Act
- ▶ Connect America Fund Phase II auction
- ▶ EBS Reform
- ▶ Infrastructure Legislation prospects
- ▶ Broadband and the Election
- ▶ SHLB Update

Digital Divide Overview

(FCC Jan. 2018 Report)

- 24.7 M Americans still lack access to 25/3 at home. (7.7%) . Of these 19.3 M are in rural America (6%)
 - Particularly low are Alabama (83%), Alaska (79%), Arkansas (78%); Mississippi (72%) Missouri (83%) Montana (77%) New Mexico (81%) Oklahoma (77%) W. VA (82%) and Wyoming (78%)
- US ranks 10th in average download speeds in 2016 (better than 15th in 2014)
- 22 percent of school districts currently meet the long-term goal (1 gig per 1,000 students), which is up from just nine percent in 2015.

Rural Health Care Update retroactive rate increases (!)

Telecom Program

- ▶ Funding reduced by 15.5%
- ▶ Many applicants undergoing “enhanced review”.

Health Care Connect Fund

- ▶ Funding reduced by 25.5%
- ▶ Questions raised about funding for urban sites.

April 2018: SHLB Filed Emergency Waiver Petition to fully fund applications for FY 17 and until underlying rulemaking resolved.

E-rate Update

- ▶ Total demand for FY 2018 declined to \$2.77 B (down from \$2.99 B in FY 2017)
- ▶ Fiber applications encounter delays and confusion, but many approved.
- ▶ Drop-down menu denials could affect hundreds of E-rate applicants.
- ▶ Category 2 funding reverts to 2 in 5 rules in 2020.
 - ▶ Staff report due this summer.

Omnibus: RUS \$600 Million Pilot Program

- ▶ Authorizes a pilot program within RUS to issue broadband grants and loans.
- ▶ Ninety percent of the households served by any project must be unserved or underserved and cannot currently have 10/1 Mbps broadband access.
- No overbuilding an existing RUS borrower.
- No more than 4% of funds received through the program can be used towards administrative costs.

Omnibus: Broadband Mapping

- ▶ \$7.5 million for the National Telecommunications & Information Administration "to coordinate broadband mapping across the Federal government," with NTIA taking the lead (according to Rep. Walden)
- ▶ FCC must report to Congress on broadband availability on Indian territory in 1 year.
- ▶ Some States conducting their own mapping (PA, GA)



Omnibus: Mobile Now/RayBaum Act

- ▶ FCC must make more mid-band spectrum available for commercial use by 2020.
- ▶ Streamlines broadband infrastructure siting on federal lands.
- ▶ Allocates \$1 billion to the existing TV Broadcaster Relocation Fund.



Connect America Fund II Reverse Auction

- ▶ Reverse auction to start this summer.
 - ▶ For areas where the 10 price cap carriers refused model-based subsidy;
 - ▶ In areas where no 10/1 service is available;
 - ▶ 1 million homes and businesses in 48 states;
 - ▶ Will provide \$2 B in support over 10 years.



EBS Reform: FCC Proposal in May

- ▶ First, a window for existing licensees, allowing them to expand their service to the county boundaries;
- ▶ Second, a window for Tribal Nations located in rural areas;
- ▶ Third, a window for educational entities that do not currently hold any 2.5 GHz licenses.
- ▶ Fourth: Competitive bidding (auction)



Prospects for Broadband Infrastructure Legislation

- ▶ Omnibus was “Infrastructure Lite”
- ▶ House Democrats propose LIFT America Act (\$40 B)
 - ▶ Residences primary, anchors secondary
- ▶ Trump proposal calls for block grants to states (broadband is eligible but not required), but willing to negotiate with Congress.



2018 US House Election Forecast

How have chances of a Democratic House majority evolved over time?



TheCrosstab.com | @GElliottMorris

Current U.S. House: 237 R/193 D (5 vacancies)

Democrats need to pick up 24 seats.

Average pick-up when President's approval is less than 50%: 36 seats

Senate 2018 Outlook

Currently 51 R / 49 D + I

Potential D Pick-ups

- ▶ Arizona (Flake and/or McCain?)
- ▶ Nevada (Heller)
- ▶ Tennessee (Corker)

Potential R Pick-ups

- ▶ Florida (Nelson)
- ▶ Missouri (McCaskill)
- ▶ North Dakota (Heitkamp)
- ▶ Indiana (Donnelly)
- ▶ West Virginia (Manchin)

26 of 34 Senate Seats up for election are currently held by D's, 10 of these in states won by Trump

SHLB Update:

- ▶ Membership has grown in last 3 years from 38 to 131 members.
- ▶ Mission: Support programs and policies that enable anchor institutions and their communities obtain open, affordable, high-quality broadband connections to the Internet.



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**SHLB Coalition's 8th Annual
Conference**

Oct 10-12, 2018

Georgetown Marriott Hotel

Washington, D.C.

www.shlb.org