

no time to siesta, it's time to

Fiesta

WTA SPRING EDUCATIONAL FORUM

CELEBRATING



YEARS 2004-2024

APRIL 14-17, 2024 | SAN ANTONIO, TX



ADVOCATES FOR RURAL BROADBAND

Public Policy Committee

Operations



- “The Public Policy Committee develops the legislative and regulatory positions of the Association.”
- Committee meetings held every other Monday from 3:00 – 4:00 pm Eastern
- Open to all WTA Telco Members
- Everyone encouraged to openly participate in the discussions
- Telco representatives are strongly encouraged to participate in WTA’s DC Advocacy efforts
- Nine Member Steering Committee/Voting Members – primary responsibility to move issues to WTA Board of Directors if consensus can’t be reached among the Committee Members
- Evelyn Jerden, LICT (co-chair) and Mark Gailey, Totah Communications (co-chair)
- WTA Staff: Derrick Owens (derrick@w-t-a.org); Eric Keber (eric@w-t-a.org); and Gerry Duffy (gerry@w-t-a.org)

Public Policy Committee

Political Scene



■ Presidential Election Year

- Approx. 50-55 legislative days left before election

■ Congressional Inaction

- 218 Republicans, 213 Democrats, 4 vacancies in House
- 48 Democrats + 3 Independents, 49 Republicans in Senate

■ FCC Back to Full Strength

Public Policy Committee

USF Distribution

- CAF-BLS
 - Budget Control Mechanism
- ACAM I & II
 - Funding term ends: Dec. 2026 and 2028
- Enhanced ACAM
 - Funding term extended to 2038
- Alaska Connect Plan
 - Funding term ends: Dec. 2026
- RDOF
 - Amnesty Relief?



Public Policy Committee

USF Contributions



■ FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel's Letter to Senate: Assumptions

	Assessable Revenue	Factor %	Average Customer Fees	With ACP
Broadband Revenue	\$220 billion	3.3%	\$4.00	\$9.00
Edge Provider Revenue	\$2.3 trillion	.4%	\$.03	\$.07
Digital Ad Revenue	\$250 billion	3.3%	\$.30	\$.70

■ Consumer Research Council Court Challenges

Public Policy Committee

USF Contributions



- Contribution Factor for 2Q - 32.8%, down from 1Q (34.6%)
- USF Working Group
 - Lowering Broadband Cost for Consumers Act (S. 3321) – Sens. Mullin/Kelly
 - Reforming Broadband Connectivity Act (S. 975) – Sens. Klobuchar/Thune
 - Fair Contributions Act (S. 856) – Sens. Lujan/Wicker
- FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel’s Letter to Senate
- Consumer Research Council Court Challenges

Public Policy Committee

Miscellaneous Issues

- Open Internet Order and Forbearance
- Future of ACP
- Farm Bill Reauthorization
- Permitting
- Broadband Grant Taxation
- Cybersecurity/Data Breach
- Broadband Labels

