

WBK WILKINSON BARKER KNAUER LLP

WBK BRIEFING · AMERICA 250

America's Digital Future

Policy, Politics, and the Path Ahead for Telecom

Presented by Adam Jorde & Travis Litman

PRESENTERS

About Us



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FIRM OVERVIEW

Who Is WBK?

A top communications law firm representing the industry from Washington, DC, Denver, and Austin.



Wireless & Spectrum

Counsel on spectrum policy, licensing, and the wireless ecosystem.



Broadband & Infrastructure

Federal and state broadband funding, deployment, and infrastructure.



FCC Regulatory & Compliance

Rulemakings, enforcement, and day-to-day regulatory strategy.



Transactions & Appellate Litigation

Deals, financings, and high-stakes appellate litigation.

THE MAIN EVENT



ANOTHER FIGHT

The Upcoming Midterms



Democratic Momentum

Voter frustration over high prices, Iran, and the broader climate is building energy on the left.



Generic Ballot

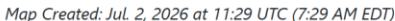
"If the election were today, would you vote for a generic Republican or Democrat?" **R 43% / D 49%**



The Gerrymandering Fight

Mid-decade redistricting battles have reshaped the map before a single vote is cast.

Senate Midterm Outlook



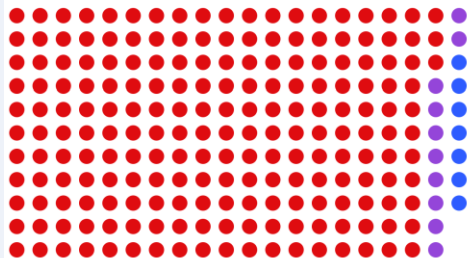
Less Likely

A favorable map for the GOP makes a flip a steeper climb.

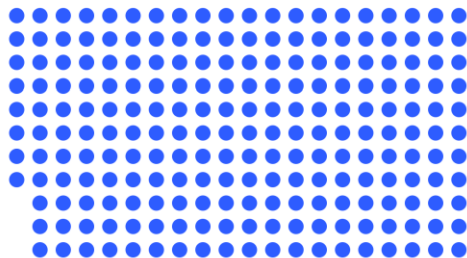
MIDTERM OUTLOOK

House Midterm Outlook

84% chance **Democrats**
take the House



207 REPUBLICAN HOUSE SEATS ⓘ



228 DEMOCRAT HOUSE SEATS ⓘ

Trade \$100 → \$119

+0% past 7d · \$8M vol

Likelihood the House flips to Democrats

More Likely

Net seats needed for Dems to Win: 5

A narrow majority and historical headwinds favor a change in control.

*Polymarket Predictions 7/2/26

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Record Fireworks Display in DC

IF DEMOCRATS TAKE THE HOUSE, SENATE, OR BOTH

More Fireworks to Ensnue?



Oversight

Aggressive investigations, hearings, and subpoenas across agencies.



Funding Fights

Appropriations battles and renewed shutdown brinkmanship.



New Initiatives

Fresh legislative pushes on connectivity, competition, and consumers.



Farm Bill

Rural broadband and a long-overdue Farm Bill back in play.

What Could Change Post-Midterms?



FCC

New oversight environment, Senate makeup could impact FCC



NTIA

New oversight environment, direction of broadband programs



**White House &
Beyond**

Lame-duck President, unitary executive focused on Administration priorities

Regulatory Pressure Points

01

USF Reform

Contribution reform and program sustainability under the microscope.

02

BEAD Implementation

States moving from planning to deployment under revised rules.

03

Permitting

Pole attachments, siting, and permitting reform to speed builds.

The Future of USF

Reform pressure is mounting on how universal service is funded and delivered.



Legal Footing

Litigation could impact the certainty of the USF Program going forward.



Contribution Reform

Broadening the base beyond legacy voice revenues. Factor: 38.8%



Program Modernization

“Top to bottom review” of USF including high-cost, Lifeline, and E-Rate.

BEAD Non-Deployment Funding

What happens to remaining BEAD Dollars once deployment obligations are met?

REMAINING BEAD DOLLARS

Where will Funds Flow?

NTIA Restructuring Policy Notice, rescinded approval of non-deployment activities.



Unclear deadline for guidance



Guidance anticipated in the coming months



Could be shaped by mid-term elections



AMERICA 250

IndyCar Comes to the National Mall

A street race through the heart of DC this August.

Winning the AI Race Requires Fiber



Building Power Generation

Enough reliable generation to feed surging electricity demand.



Building Fiber Infrastructure

High-capacity fiber connects the data centers powering AI.



Building Data Centers

Compute capacity is the foundation of American AI leadership.

SECURING THE NETWORK

Cybersecurity



Evolving Threats

Nation-state and supply-chain risks targeting critical networks.

PERIMETER



Compliance Pressure

New rules and reporting obligations raising the bar.

POLICY



Resilience

Building defense-in-depth across the communications stack.

CORE



AMERICA 250

Landing on the Moon — Again

American ambition, reaching beyond the horizon once more.

BEYOND THE GROUND

The Network Space Race



Return to Moon & Mars

Renewed space ambition is accelerating investment in orbital networks.

DEEP SPACE



LEO Satellite Systems

Low-earth-orbit constellations expanding global coverage.

LOW-EARTH ORBIT



Direct-to-Device

Satellite-to-phone technology erasing dead zones.

GROUND LINK

LOOKING AHEAD

Evolution in the Industry



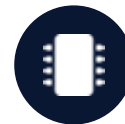
Convergence

Wireless, fiber, and satellite
blending into one connectivity
fabric.



Consolidation

Scale, capital, and deals reshaping
the competitive landscape.



Intelligence

AI moving into the network itself —
operations and the edge.

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Navigating the Changing Landscape

Let's chart your path through America's digital future, together.

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