SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Full Committee
Nomination Hearing
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DEMOCRATIC QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

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COVER PAGE

RANKING MEMBER MARIA CANTWELL (D-WA)

FCC Bipartisanship and Pairing. It is Senate tradition and common practice to pair Republican and Democratic nominees when there are vacancies at commissions. Currently, at the FCC, there is a Democratic vacancy, and the lone Democrat, Commissioner Anna Gomez, has had her term expire. I strongly believe the President should renominate Commissioner Gomez and nominate another Democrat to bring the FCC to full power.

Question 1: Do you agree? Yes or no.

Answer: **I would defer to the President and the Senate, consistent with their respective Constitutional roles regarding the appointment of federal officials. However, my track record demonstrates my desire and ability to work with both Democrats and Republicans to reach consensus and advance policies that serve the public interest.**

Question 2: Is the FCC a bipartisan agency?

Answer: **According to the Communications Act, the maximum number of commissioners who may be members of the same political party shall be a number equal to the least number of commissioners which constitutes a majority of the full membership of the Commission. While the Communications Act explicitly limits the number of commissioners that may be of the same political party, it contains no provision requiring a minimum number of commissioners that may be of the same party.**

Question 3: Do you believe Commissioner nominations—including your own—should be paired with a member of the other party when such vacancies exist? Why or why not?

Answer: **I would defer to the Senate regarding the decision of pairing. However, I hope that my nomination is reviewed on the merits based on my restated commitment to make decisions based on the facts, the precedent, and the law.**

Question 4: Please provide an example of a time when you improved your thinking by testing it against someone who disagreed with you? Even if you kept your opinion, do you find hearing other points of view valuable? Do you believe a decision is better when someone has tried to identify flaws or omissions?

Answer: **Yes, hearing other viewpoints is a valuable part of policymaking which is why we base our decisions in robust records. If confirmed, I would consider all viewpoints on their merits regardless of the advancing person's political party or affiliation. I would strive to reach consensus to carry out the FCC's statutory missions.**

Question 5: Do you believe the Commission makes better decisions viewpoints are heard and debated vigorously across the political spectrum? Are the Commission's decisions more credible when a commissioner who might see the facts differently has weighed in?

Answer: **I believe that there is value in having different perspectives represented on and before the Commission and that the FCC works best when it is operating in the best**

interest of the public without regard to partisan politics. As stated above, the Commission's decisions should be based on the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law.

Question 6: Does an FCC with both Democrats and Republicans serve the public interest better than a purely partisan one?

Answer: **I believe all commissioners should work diligently to serve the public interest regardless of political party and should make their decisions with integrity and respect for the law.**

Question 7: Would you support the President's firing of an FCC Commissioner due solely to their political affiliation?

Answer: **To my knowledge, commissioners have no authority to determine the composition of the Commission. As I would lack the authority to make such decisions, I would defer to the President, the Senate, and the Courts regarding the firing of a commissioner.**

Question 8: Discuss the benefits of a bipartisan FCC.

Answer: **As stated above, the FCC works best when it is operating in the interest of the public without regard to partisan politics.**

Question 9: In 2009, 2012, 2013, 2017, and 2019, the Senate confirmed a Democrat and a Republican together, under presidents and Senates of both parties. Majority Leader Thune has said he has urged the White House to nominate Democrats to bodies like the FCC. Do you agree with Leader Thune?

Answer: **Pursuant to the Constitution, federal officials are nominated by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Neither the Constitution nor the Communications Act requires a nomination to the commission of a person of a certain party be paired with a nomination of a person from another party. Further, neither the Constitution nor the Communications Act grants commissioners authority to make determinations with respect to the nomination process.**

No Independence from Brendan Carr. Congress established the Federal Communications Commission as an independent, bipartisan agency nearly 100 years ago to govern the public airwaves on behalf of the American people.

Yet under Chairman Carr, the FCC has become a politicized weapon against the First Amendment protections of President Trump's enemies. He has opened frivolous investigations against broadcasters for their editorial decisions. Threatened action against media companies at the President's behest. And paved the way for even more media consolidation in an already shrinking marketplace.

Question 1: During the hearing, you were asked by Senator Luján whether you could identify any instance in which you publicly disagreed with or disapproved of any actions Brendan Carr has taken in his role as FCC Commissioner and now FCC Chair. You could not identify one during the hearing. If there is any example, please provide that example now.

Answer: **As a legal advisor and senior counsel to the FCC Chairman, my primary role has been to provide advice and counsel to the Chairman. All such advice was provided to the FCC Chairman directly and was not made publicly, even where I may have disagreed. As legal counsel to the Chairman, my role is to provide advice to the Chairman with respect to relevant legal and regulatory matters and the Chairman is free to consider, follow or disregard that advice at his discretion. I believe that voicing public disapproval in the event that the Chairman exercises such discretion to disregard such advice would be unprofessional and contrary to my ethical obligations as an attorney. However, the role of a commissioner differs significantly from that of legal counsel to the Chairman as do the duties and obligations that come with that role. If confirmed, I would have an independent statutory responsibility to make my decisions based on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law.**

Question 2: If confirmed, will you commit to voting on the facts and law, even if that means parting from Chairman Carr's position?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 3: If confirmed, do you commit to carrying out your duties independently?

Answer: **Yes**

FCC Censorship and the First Amendment. President Trump has publicly called for Jimmy Kimmel to be fired multiple times. On September 17, 2025, Jimmy Kimmel made comments about Charlie Kirk's assassination, and, in response, Chairman Carr stated, "We can do this the easy way or the hard way. These companies can find ways to change conduct to take actions, frankly on Kimmel, or there's going to be additional work for the FCC ahead." Two days later, Chairman Cruz called that statement "unbelievably dangerous" to "threaten to take you off the air if we don't like what you're saying."

Question 1: Do you agree with Chairman Cruz and others that Chairman Carr threatened Jimmy Kimmel and his network when he made those comments?

Answer: **I would refer you to Chairman Carr for information about his positions and statements. I cannot speak to the intent behind the Chairman's statement.**

Question 2: Will you commit to never threatening to revoke a broadcast license over protected speech or editorial discretion?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 3: The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution preserves freedom of speech—so that our country can be based on debate from all points of view. Do you agree that hearing all points of view on important issues is fundamental to better policymaking and democratic discourse?

Answer: **Yes**

FCC Weaponization. In December 2025, President Trump stated, "If Network NEWSCASTS, and their Late Night Shows, are almost 100% Negative to President Donald J. Trump, MAGA, and the Republican Party, shouldn't their very valuable Broadcast Licenses be terminated? I say, YES!"

Chairman Carr has taken President Trump's direction to threaten cancelling broadcast licenses by misrepresenting the FCC's seldom-used "news distortion" and "public interest" standards.

Question 1: Do you agree or disagree with President Trump that broadcast licenses should be terminated if news or late-night shows are negative toward President Trump, MAGA, or the Republican Party?

Answer: **The FCC cannot take action against any broadcasters for engaging in protected speech outside of the context of lawfully regulated conduct. Broadcasters are entitled to First Amendment protections and the FCC must be mindful of those protections where implicated.**

Question 2: Former FCC Chair Ajit Pai famously said, "The government has no place in the newsroom." In 2017, when President Trump attacked NBC for what he described as "fake news," Ajit Pai, as his sitting chair, said: "I believe in the First Amendment, the FCC under my leadership will stand for the First Amendment, and under the law the FCC does not have the authority to revoke the license of a broadcast station based on the content of a particular newscast." Chairman Carr has taken a very different approach to broadcasters and the First Amendment. Do you agree with Chairman Pai or Chairman Carr?

Answer: **As noted above, I believe that the FCC cannot take action against any broadcaster for protected speech.**

Equal Time. Contrary to longstanding precedent, on January 21, 2026, the FCC issued new guidance on the "equal time" rule, which requires broadcast stations to provide legally qualified candidates with equal opportunity to use its facilities, though *bona fide* news interview programs are excepted. The guidance stated a program "motivated by partisan purposes" did not qualify as *bona fide* news, and the FCC had no "evidence that the interview portion of any late night or daytime television talk show program on air presently" would qualify for an exemption.

Question 1: Do you agree with the FCC's new guidance that a late night or daytime television talk show program may not qualify as *bona fide* news if "motivated by partisan purposes"? Yes or no?

Answer: **Yes, the FCC's Public Notice is based in longstanding precedent which has been cited in the document.**

ABC has frequently drawn the President Trump's ire because of jokes on programs he dislikes, coverage of his political opponents, and, overall, simply for existing as a network that platforms dissenting views. The recent proceeding against ABC-owned KTRK is more evidence of these attempts to censor the press, and the cancellation of Senator-elect James Talarico's interview on *The View* is just one example of the chilling effect this will have.

Question 2: In the Enforcement Bureau's letter to KTRK, it states that the station's opinion that *The View* qualifies for the *bona fide* news interview program exception to the Equal Opportunities provision "is not a position uniformly held by the broadcasters that air the program." Do you agree with this statement?

Answer: **The FCC has the authority to rule whether a show is eligible for an exemption as a *bona fide* news interview based on a fact-specific review.**

Question 3: Yes or no, did the FCC contact the 19 other Texas ABC affiliates to direct them to submit Equal Opportunities notices and to tell them that there would be no penalties for the late filings?

Answer: **I did not work on this matter and do not have the relevant facts. I would refer you to the Chairman for additional information.**

Question 4: Do you think these actions were appropriate?

Answer: **See above.**

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. President Trump's FCC Chair has initiated a startling display of agency overreach by sending letters to three regulated companies—Comcast-NBCUniversal, Verizon, and Disney/ABC—informing them of investigations into their DEI practices. These letters, which cite concerns about each company's compliance with the FCC's equal employment opportunities rules, target policies that the Chair labels as "invidious forms of DEI discrimination" when they are in fact focused on encouraging and cultivating business opportunities for a diverse and qualified workforce.

Question 1: Do you agree that a private company should be able to make a business decision to prioritize diversity free from FCC interference and second-guessing?

Answer: **Private companies can make business decisions as long as those decisions are consistent with the law. Entities regulated by the FCC are required to follow all laws and regulations including laws prohibiting discrimination.**

Question 2: In your role as Senior Counsel to Chairman Carr, or in your prior role as Legal Advisor to then-Commissioner Carr, have you managed, overseen, or engaged on decisions or actions that the FCC has taken to target DEI policies of regulated companies?

Answer: **During my time at the Commission, I have provided advice and counsel related to the FCC's authority and obligation to prevent unlawful discrimination.**

Local Journalism. I believe journalism is more important than ever, as are the local broadcast stations that serve their communities with access to trusted, on-the-ground news and reporting. The public deserves relevant, authentic local news that tells them what is happening in their communities.

Our democracy relies on open debate, and no government official should use their authority to stifle reporting, interfere with editorial decisions, or undermine constitutional rights. To ensure that the public continues to have access to trusted, non-partisan information, we need to find ways to help broadcasters serve their communities free from government intimidation.

Question 1: How can the Federal Communications Commission promote local journalism?

Answer: **I agree that we should identify more ways to promote local journalism. Broadcasters face increasing competition from nontraditional and unregulated news sources, including Big Tech. The FCC should modernize its rules to more accurately reflect the marketplace and allow local broadcasters and radio stations to compete on a more level playing field.**

Question 2: Would modernizing FCC regulations like the treatment of virtual multichannel video programming distributors (vMVPDs) help level the playing field for local journalism?

Answer: **The FCC's existing rules should not hinder the ability of vMVPDs to compete with large technology companies. It is important that the agency make its decisions with the goal of promoting local journalism in mind. If confirmed, I would be happy to further discuss this issue with you and your office and identify ways the FCC could foster greater competition within the bounds of its existing legal authority.**

Local Consolidation. Historically, both the FCC and antitrust law restricted the ability of one station group to own multiple stations in the same market. In the Nexstar-TEGNA merger, the FCC approved a transaction that seeks to create duopolies in more than 30 additional markets. The large affiliate groups have all expressed their intention to seek more local consolidation.

Question 1: In the absence of an explicit duopoly rule, do you recognize any limiting principle to protect the public interest from excessive broadcaster consolidation?

Answer: **The FCC has the ability to review transactions in order to determine whether the transfer of a license is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Transactions are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and many different factors are considered in determining whether the transaction satisfies the public interest standard.**

Question 2: If not, what would limit approvals of mergers that could create a quadropoly in any market, where one station group owns the ABC, CBS, Fox, and NBC stations, all working from a single newsroom?

Answer: **The Communications Act prohibits the FCC from approving any license transfer or transaction that does not serve the public interest.**

Retaliatory Investigations. The FCC has opened investigations into several major broadcasters, with particular fury aimed at ABC. For the first time ever, the FCC has punished a broadcast company from several angles on the basis of its content, including requirements to file broadcast license renewal applications early and an inquiry on the equal time rule for political candidates. In turn, ABC has sued the FCC and accused the administration of waging an unconstitutional "retaliatory campaign."

Question 1: Does the FCC have the authority to wield its investigative powers on the basis of a broadcaster's content? Do such actions violate the First Amendment?

Answer: **The FCC has the authority to enforce the public interest standard to which broadcasters are subject, but such enforcement authority is limited by the protections granted by the First Amendment. The FCC should not take action against broadcasters for engaging in protected speech outside of the context of lawfully regulated conduct.**

Covered List. Congress passed the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 to strengthen our critical communications infrastructure and safeguard our networks from equipment and services produced by foreign adversaries. Yet under Chairman Brendan Carr, this administration has improperly expanded the scope of the law to prohibit all foreign-made equipment and services—including those produced or provided by our allies. The result is an onerous process to whitelist necessary broadband equipment like routers, which has caused confusion and chaos for industry and consumers alike. This list – the "Covered List" – has drastically expanded from individually named entities to include whole categories of products such as "uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) and UAS critical components produced in a foreign country," "routers produced in a foreign country," "foreign-produced power inverters" and "foreign-produced advanced robotics devices."

Question 1: Do you agree with the FCC's new interpretation of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act?

Answer: **I agree with the FCC's longstanding interpretation of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, which is also consistent with the rules the agency adopted in 2019.**

Question 2: Does the FCC have the authority to place entire categories of foreign-made equipment and services on the Covered List?

Answer: **The Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act authorizes and requires the FCC to update the Covered List with the "communications equipment and services"**

that are subject to "specific determinations" by sources enumerated in the Act. Nothing limits those sources from making determinations about categories of equipment and services.

Question 3: How does a router, power inverter, robot, or drone produced in an allied country pose the same threat as one produced in a foreign adversary country?

Answer: **The national security determinations at issue were made by an interagency body with appropriate national security expertise and the national security agencies that comprised it. Questions about the content of the determinations are best directed towards the appropriate national security agencies.**

Question 4: In your opinion, speaking as a nominee to become commissioner, what is the unacceptable risk to national security for devices produced in foreign countries that are long-time allies of the United States?

Answer: **Under the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, the FCC's role is ministerial. The FCC is required to defer to the national security determinations of the sources enumerated in the Act.**

Question 5: Has the FCC and its national security agency advisors calculated the risk of reciprocal treatment from U.S. allies toward U.S. developed and designed digital products and services? What is the assessed market impact, and what effect might this have on U.S. national security?

Answer: **Questions about the content of the determinations are best directed towards the appropriate national security agencies, as the FCC plays no role in making them.**

In each of these new updates to the Covered List covering entire sectors, the Commission has not provided notice or an opportunity for comment on the national security determination to the public or impacted entities, including regarding the scope and timing of the prohibition. Instead, these prohibitions have been made effective upon their announcement. These updates are announced via Public Notice by the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau on delegated authority, which the FCC has long argued is not a "final action" by the Commission and therefore does not provide standing for a challenge outside the Commission. This has left companies scrambling to adjust supply chains and put customers and partners in uncertain positions as the Administration subsequently revises the scope of the prohibition with updated national security determinations (as it did for robotics and power inverters) and removes the products of individual companies via conditional approvals.

Question 5: Please identify the provision(s) of the Secure Networks Act or the Secure Equipment Act that provide authority for "foreign produced" listings, including such listings via an unnamed and unsigned national security determination.

Answer: **Section 2 of the Secure Networks Act broadly requires the Commission to "place on the list any communications equipment or service that poses an unacceptable risk to the**

national security of the United States or the security and safety of United States persons based" on a "specific determination made by any executive branch interagency body with appropriate national security expertise."

Question 6: How can the FCC make the national security criteria and interagency processes for making determinations for class-based listings more clear and less disruptive to existing supply chains?

Answer: **I believe that the FCC can increase transparency and engagement with regulated industry and consumers and continue to publicize its actions and the relevant legal documents.**

Question 7: If you are confirmed as an FCC Commissioner, what steps would you encourage the Commission to take to provide clarity and predictability to the market to ensure a robust competitive market that serves Americans' technology needs?

Answer: **If confirmed, I believe the FCC should provide as much transparency as possible so that the market has certainty about the rules that apply. The FCC should also resolve issues in a timely manner and avoid any unnecessary regulatory uncertainty. Ultimately, the FCC must create an environment where companies can make long-term investments with confidence.**

Question 8: Should the Department of Defense be a gatekeeper to the U.S. market for consumer products such as home routers, connected toys, robotic vacuums, etc. via "conditional approvals"? If so, what is the statutory basis for this role?

Answer: **This question relates to specific determinations that the FCC has received and is best directed at the source of the determination. The statutory basis is the broad authority granted to these sources to reach determinations as to equipment and services in the Secure Networks Act.**

Wi-Fi and Affordability. Wi-Fi is an important affordability tool. It carries a significant amount of the data on Americans' phones through use of unlicensed spectrum. A household can connect dozens of devices, from laptops and TVs to thermostats and doorbell cameras because it all rides over the broadband they already have.

Question 1: If confirmed, will you commit to protecting the 6 GHz band so American families can keep counting on affordable Wi-Fi for years to come?

Answer: **I agree that the 6 GHz band has seen tremendous investment for Wi-Fi purposes and is producing massive consumer benefits. If confirmed, I would remain open to evaluating the need of spectrum users and ensure spectrum is put to its best use, but would also take into consideration this massive investment in the band.**

6 GHz, Global Leadership, Competition with China. America pioneered unlicensed 6 GHz, and our Wi-Fi leadership grows stronger every time another country follows our lead. It powers Wi-

Fi 7, and soon Wi-Fi 8, in our homes, schools, and businesses. In January, the Commission voted on a bipartisan basis to authorize geofenced variable power devices, which let Wi-Fi run at higher power, indoors and out. China wants to undermine that leadership by using the country footnote process at WRC-27 to relitigate what it lost at WRC-23 and to pull more nations toward licensed mobile use of the upper 6 GHz band.

Question 1: If confirmed, will you work with NTIA and the State Department to push back on that effort and defend the 6 GHz band for unlicensed use around the world?

Answer: **If confirmed, I would work with NTIA and the State Department to protect American leadership in the 6 GHz band and advance a unified position at WRC-27. I am also happy to work with you or your office on this issue.**

Question 2: If confirmed, will you commit to keeping all the 6 GHz band open for unlicensed use?

Answer: **If confirmed, I would commit to keeping the 6 GHz band open for unlicensed use as long as that remains the highest and best use for this spectrum band.**

Question 3: Do you agree that keeping the full 6 GHz band available for unlicensed use helps preserve America's competitive advantage over China?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 4: Will you support preserving the full 6 GHz band for unlicensed use to help Americans benefit from the next generation of AI applications?

Answer: **Yes, as long as it remains the highest and best use of the band.**

Universal Service Fund. Promoting universal access to telecommunications services is one of the FCC's core principles. In Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, Congress directed the FCC to advance universal access to telecommunications services that are essential to education, public health, or public safety, and that are consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Yet the Universal Service Fund (USF) is at risk due to legal challenges to the FCC's ability to administer the Fund, and to Congress's right to direct the FCC to advance the goals of universal service. Moreover, Republican and Democratic members of this Committee have been working to ensure that the FCC can continue in its mission to offer connectivity to modern communications for all.

Question 1: Yes or no: Will you support the Commission's efforts to advance universal service, consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, for services essential to education, public health, and public safety?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 2: Do you believe that Section 254 and the USF are legal?

Answer: **Yes**

E-Rate. According to the 2024 Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 6.7% of U.S. households have no internet subscription at home, and among the 93% that do, 12.6 % rely on a cellular data plan. Low-income households are more likely to lack an internet subscription: 19.3% of households with annual incomes under $20,000 are without an internet subscription at home, compared to only 2.6% of households with annual incomes of $75,000 or more. As such, libraries and schools are a key means for U.S. households to obtain access to the internet.

I am concerned that the FCC has issued a notice that proposes potentially ending the E-Rate program, which is outside of the authority of the FCC. Section 254(h) of the Communications Act directs support for schools and libraries and does not authorize the FCC to terminate the program.

The FCC's E-Rate Notice of Proposed Rulemaking asks questions about how the FCC should determine whether screen use is appropriate under the E-Rate program, but Section 254(l)(2) says no federal agency may establish criteria for deciding what is inappropriate for minors. That law mandates that those decisions are made at the local level. And the U.S. Department of Education says screen-use decisions are best made by states and communities.

Question 1: Do you agree that internet access at libraries and schools is important?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 2: Will you promise to follow the law? Will you promise to follow Congress' direction with respect to E-Rate?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 3: Do you acknowledge that the FCC has no authority to end the E-Rate program?

Answer: **The FCC is currently in the process of evaluating the E-Rate program, including the scope of its legal authority. It would not be appropriate for me to prejudge the outcome of that proceeding. However, if confirmed, I would make my decisions based on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law.**

Question 4: Do you believe the FCC has more expertise than a local school board or a librarian on how much screen time a child should have?

Answer: **The FCC has a responsibility to make its decisions based on the facts in the record, including data and analysis provided by medical professionals where appropriate.**

Question 5: The E-Rate program is a critical tool libraries can use to increase internet speeds, but only 52.3% of libraries apply. A significant reason that libraries do not apply relates to the

complexity of the application process—for rural libraries, this is the number one reason. What steps will you take to reduce the burden of the application process?

Answer: **As part of the Commission's top-to-bottom review of its existing Universal Service Programs, the Commission has asked for comments on how administrative burdens could be reduced. I believe that it is important for the FCC to ease such burdens and ensure any Universal Service dollars are going towards their intended recipients.**

Affordable Broadband. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) helped 23 million households pay for essential broadband service before it ran out of funding in 2024. I have long been concerned that we do not have the right strategy to make broadband affordable for all Americans.

Question 1: Where does affordable broadband fall on your list of priorities? Is it your number one priority?

Answer: **Affordability is a top concern for Americans and one that I share, especially with respect to broadband services. Ensuring the affordability of services would be a consideration underlying all of my decisions as a Commissioner.**

Question 2: How will you ensure affordable broadband for all Americans in your role as an FCC Commissioner?

Answer: **I believe that competition is the primary driver of affordability. Where an affordability gap remains, I believe that appropriately tailored and efficiently administered affordability programs can help bridge this gap.**

Question 3: Do you believe that the ACP should be renewed?

Answer: **I defer to Congress on whether the ACP should be funded. If funded, I would work to ensure that the program is administered effectively and efficiently by the FCC.**

Tariffs. President Trump's tariffs are raising the cost of living, crashing the stock market, and causing uncertainty for our business community. A study last year by Price Waterhouse Coopers found that these tariffs could raise costs in the telecom and technology sectors by $126 billion.

Question 1: Yes or no: Do you think that these tariffs will make broadband less affordable?

Answer: **The decision to impose tariffs considers a cost-benefit analysis undertaken by government officials outside of the FCC. However, to the extent that tariffs result in any increased costs, effective policymaking can help offset these costs. This is evidenced by the decrease in home broadband prices over the last year, as an example.**

Question 2: Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will make broadband more expensive to deploy?

Answer: **See above. The decision to impose tariffs considers a cost-benefit analysis undertaken outside of the FCC, but effective policymaking can help offset increased costs, if any.**

Question 3: Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating in the USF's High-Cost program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs?

Answer: **See above.**

Question 4: Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating in the USF's E-Rate program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs?

Answer: **See above.**

Question 5: Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating in the USF's Lifeline program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs?

Answer: **See above.**

Question 6: Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating in the Universal Service Fund's Rural Health Care program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs?

Answer: **See above.**

Question 7: Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating in the FCC's Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs?

Answer: **See above.**

Tribal Coordination and Outreach. Washington State is home to 29 federally recognized Tribes, each with their own Tribal government working to preserve culture, protect resources, and improve the lives of those in their communities. Accessing modern communications like broadband is an essential tool for advancing these goals and requires coordination at the local, state, and federal level.

Question 1: Yes or no: Do you commit to working with Tribal governments on broadband connectivity and deployment issues relevant to their communities?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 2: If confirmed, will you advance policies at the FCC that recognize the sovereignty of Tribal governments and encourage coordination with Tribal representatives?

Answer: **Yes. I am also happy to work with you or your office on this issue.**

Question 3: Recently, the Commission has invested in targeted outreach efforts to increase participation of Tribal libraries in the E-Rate program. If confirmed, what steps will you commit to continuing to prioritize support for Tribal libraries? What steps will you take to ensure such outreach continues, and what recommendations will you make to improve the Commission's efforts?

Answer: **Tribal consultation remains critically important. If confirmed, I would work with my colleagues and staff to ensure that we are productively engaging with Tribal libraries on a routine basis. I am also happy to work with you or your office on this issue.**

Spectrum. During the first Trump Administration, there were failures to coordinate on Federal and commercial spectrum policy.

I believe we must create a coordinated approach to domestic spectrum policy, where agencies such as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Defense (DoD), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) work together with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and FCC – cooperatively – on spectrum.

Question 1: How should the FCC coordinate spectrum auctions with federal agencies to ensure that critical federal systems and capabilities are not compromised or diminished?

Answer: **Early coordination is vital to ensure that critical federal systems and capabilities are not compromised or diminished. If confirmed, I would work with my colleagues and other agencies to meet these priorities.**

Question 2: Yes or no: Do you agree that we cannot put our national security and public safety at risk to free up spectrum for sale to the commercial sector?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 3: Yes or no: Do you agree that proper coordination of spectrum use is vital?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 4: Do you think it is wise to auction Federal spectrum before technical studies are finished to determine the viability of relocating Federal systems?

Answer: **The FCC should base its spectrum decisions in the facts as well as expert analysis, including technical studies where such studies are necessary.**

Question 5: If confirmed, will you commit to collaborating on a spectrum policy that engages stakeholders from NTIA and the Department of Commerce, DoD, DOT, and industry, to work towards resolution to restore U.S. leadership in innovation?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 6: Do you agree that if the DoD is required to surrender use of a band of frequencies for which the DoD is the primary user that the NTIA must make available, if necessary, an alternative band of frequencies as replacement for the band being surrendered as described in Section 1062(b)(1)(B) of the 2000 NDAA?

Answer: **I am not familiar with this practice, but I understand NTIA routinely considers comparable capability and other issues as part of its spectrum studies, with the input of relevant federal users. And I agree that this description appears to align with the 2000 NDAA.**

Question 7: Do you agree that the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff must jointly certify to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives that the alternative band that is made available to the DoD provides comparable technical characteristics to restore essential military capability that will be lost as a result of the band of frequencies to be so surrendered as described in Section 1062(b)(1)(B) of the 2000 NDAA?

Answer: **See above. I am not familiar with this practice, but I understand NTIA routinely considers comparable capability and other issues as part of its spectrum studies, with the input of relevant federal users. And I agree that this description appears to align with the 2000 NDAA.**

Question 8: Did this process occur in advance of FCC Auction 110 of the 3.45 to 3.55 GHz Band where the DoD was the primary user?

Answer: **Although I was not involved with FCC Auction 110, considering that the process went through interagency coordination, FCC notice and comment procedures, and resulted in a successful auction, I believe that all necessary and appropriate measures were taken.**

Question 9: Will you commit to me that you will follow the law and not vote to auction a band of frequencies where the DoD is the primary user unless and until the process as described in Section 1062(b)(1)(B) of the 2000 NDAA is completed?

Answer: **I commit to working with my colleagues to ensure that there is robust interagency coordination and also commit to following the law.**

C-Band Spectrum. The FCC is planning to commence an auction of the Upper C-Band in April of next year in order to meet deadlines imposed by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. I am deeply concerned that this auction could cause massive disruptions and put the flying public at risk. Former FAA officials and NTIA, in its comments to the FCC, have warned that new civilian and military altimeters need to be installed on likely all aircraft before cell companies can start using this band. Those new altimeters are still under development, and the standards are not even slated to be finished by 2027 – the year this process is supposed to conclude. Given the previous C-

Band auction nearly grounded air travel in the United States to a halt, I am deeply concerned that we are about to see the same story unfold, but with far more dire consequences.

Question 1: If confirmed, will you commit to coordinating with the Department of Defense, NTIA, and the FAA to ensure that safety is paramount?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 2: If confirmed, would you vote to delay or postpone the auction if safety concerns warrant such action?

Answer: **If confirmed, I would make any decision based on the merits including any safety concerns raised.**

Question 3: As military and federal civilian aircraft radio altimeters must be upgraded to address interference from any expansion of wireless service, do you commit to providing the aviation and defense industry the necessary time and space to safely retrofit the fleet operating within the United States?

Answer: **If confirmed, I commit to work with all stakeholders as the FCC advances efforts to meet the deadlines imposed by the Working Families Tax Cuts Act.**

Question 4: Are you concerned that this process will negatively impact military readiness, given that the Chinese are anticipated to attack Taiwan in 2027?

Answer: **If confirmed, I would advance priorities that protect America's security and safety as well as its military readiness.**

Question 5: Who is going to pay for upgrades to altimeters on federal aircraft, and how long will that process take?

Answer: **The FCC's Upper C-Band order addressed this important issue and observed that federal agencies cannot be paid directly for altimeter upgrades under fiscal laws like the Antideficiency and Miscellaneous Receipts Act. Any gap could be addressed through Congressional action or appropriation and I would be happy to work with your office on this issue.**

Content Regulation. A bipartisan group of former FCC officials who served presidents from Reagan to Obama, including five Republican former FCC commissioners and chairs, have called on the FCC to rescind its news distortion policy. The Wall Street Journal editorial board agreed with them that "The vast scope and vague language of the news distortion policy cast an omnipresent shadow over broadcasters' freedom of expression while leaving the policy open to partisan weaponization."

Question 1: Do you disagree with the Wall Street Journal editorial board? Why?

Answer: **If confirmed and presented with this question, I would base my decision in the law, the facts in the record, and precedent.**

Question 2: Is it your view that the news distortion policy is consistent with the First Amendment?

Answer: **Broadcasters are subject to the FCC's public interest standard, including the news distortion policy. However, broadcasters are also entitled to First Amendment protections. If confirmed, any news distortion policy decision would be based in the law and would thoughtfully consider the First Amendment.**

Question 3: If so, how would you ensure it is not used in a way that chills speech and journalism?

Answer: **Enforcement of the FCC's news distortion policy requires thoughtful consideration of the facts in the record, precedent, and the law including the First Amendment protections to which broadcasters are entitled.**

Question 4: The Wall Street Journal editorial board wrote that "the best move here would be for Mr. Carr to repeal the FCC's [news distortion] policy. If he won't do it, then maybe a free-speech caucus of Republicans and Democrats in Congress will." Would you support a bipartisan effort from this Congress to repeal the news distortion policy in order to remove the threat of government censorship it poses?

Answer: **I defer to Congress on this decision.**

Question 5: FCC regulations provide that the "Commission has delegated authority to its staff to act on matters which are minor or routine or settled in nature." They also provide that the Chief of the Media Bureau "shall … refer[] to the Commission en banc for disposition … [m]atters that present novel questions of law, fact or policy that cannot be resolved under existing precedents and guidelines." Do you agree that a Commission vote is necessary when the Commission would take an action that is not "minor or routine or settled in nature?"

Answer: **The FCC's rules define and delineate matters that can be acted on by the Bureaus under delegated authority and the FCC should act consistently with those rules.**

Question 6: Are there any incidents in the last two years in which staff have made decisions that ought to have been referred to the Commission?

Answer: **As the Supreme Court recently confirmed, staff decisions are generally not final and are subject to Commission review and vote. I think the Commission should take up and vote on staff decisions where such review is requested.**

Question 7: Would having the Commission investigate KCBS on the basis of its reporting on ICE raids present no novel question of law, fact, or policy?

Answer: **I have not worked on this matter and have not reviewed the details of this investigation. I am therefore unable to opine on whether there are novel questions of law, fact, or policy presented.**

Question 8: Would having the Commission require ABC to file early license renewals for its owned and operated stations present no novel question of law, fact, or policy? Even though no such order had been issued in fifty years, and never on this ground or for multiple stations simultaneously?

Answer: **I have not worked on this matter and have not reviewed the details of this investigation. I am therefore unable to opine on whether there are novel questions of law, fact, or policy presented.**

Question 9: As you know, on January 16, 2025, then-Chair Rosenworcel dismissed pending complaints against affiliates of ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox, in a docket entitled "Preserving the First Amendment." Of the complaints, Chair Rosenworcel said, "They come from all corners—right and left—but what they have in common is they ask the FCC to penalize broadcast television stations because they dislike station behavior, content, or coverage." Do you have any objection to the Commission providing this Committee with all of your documents relating to these four complaints?

Answer: **I have not worked on this matter and have no documents relating to these complaints.**

Question 10: Do you share the view that the FCC should not be used to "penalize broadcast television stations because [someone] dislike[s] station behavior, content, or coverage?"

Answer: **Yes**

Question 11: Do you commit to never voting to penalize broadcast television stations because you or anyone else dislikes station behavior, content, or coverage?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 12: The Commission has reiterated for more than fifty years that the First Amendment and the anti-censorship provision of the Communications Act prevent it from regulating the reporting of polling or election results. Is it your view that licensees can violate their public interest obligations by airing good-faith reporting on election-related polling?

Answer: **The good-faith reporting of any publicly available information is unlikely to violate the public interest standard or constitute any sort of prohibited conduct.**

Question 13: Do you commit to voting against any FCC action against broadcasters based on the good-faith airing of polling or election results?

Answer: **As stated above, good-faith reporting on any matter is unlikely to violate the public interest standard. The FCC should not pursue any action against a broadcaster for engaging in protected speech.**

Merger Review. When the FCC approved the Paramount-Skydance merger, Brendan Carr said Paramount had committed to "unbiased" reporting by CBS News, and that he'd take a "trust but verify" posture in monitoring compliance.

Question 1: Do you think this was appropriate?

Answer: **I would refer you to Chairman Carr for information about his positions and his statements. The FCC has the authority to monitor compliance with and enforce any conditions imposed pursuant to a transaction or license transfer.**

Question 2: Chairman Carr has said there are "lots of mechanisms" in place to confirm compliance. What are those mechanisms? How does the FCC go about "verifying" a lack of bias, both practically speaking and as a matter of compliance with constitutional law?

Answer: **I would refer you to Chairman Carr for information about his positions and his statements. The FCC regularly imposes conditions on license transfers and the agency should enforce those consistent with the law, precedent, and the facts in the record, particularly mindful of the First Amendment where it is implicated.**

Question 3: Chairman Carr has said if CBS does not comply, they would be guilty of making misrepresentations to a federal agency. What would the consequences be for such a representation?

Answer: **The FCC has the authority to monitor compliance with and enforce any conditions imposed pursuant to a transaction or license transfer.**

Question 4: Do you believe it is appropriate for the FCC to punish CBS News for lying to a federal agency if the FCC decides that CBS's coverage is biased?

Answer: **The FCC has the authority to monitor compliance with and enforce any conditions imposed pursuant to a transaction or license transfer.**

Question 5: Are you aware of any plans to extract similar commitments to unbiased reporting from any other licensees?

Answer: **No**

Question 6: Chairman Carr had a meeting with Paramount where he extracted the concessions we discussed after Trump settled his defamation lawsuit against CBS News over its editing of an interview with Kamala Harris. The FCC approved the merger two days after Trump announced he received his settlement check. What was your role at the FCC during this time?

Answer: **I was serving as Senior Counsel to the Chairman on matters before the Wireline Competition, Public Safety and Homeland Security, and Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureaus.**

Question 7: Did you have any conversations with Chairman Carr about this?

Answer: **No**

Question 8: Did you work on, engage with FCC staff, or have conversations with Paramount, CBS, or Skydance related to the merger?

Answer: **Where there are dockets or matters that cut across sectors I sometimes work on the cross-cutting issues. This may include reviewing documents or filings in a matter outside of my designated portfolio. However, I did not have any conversations with Paramount, CBS, or Skydance related to the merger.**

Question 9: Why did the FCC wait until Trump had his private lawsuit settled to approve this merger?

Answer: **I have not worked on this matter and am unable to speak to the specific facts on this issue.**

Question 10: Other than the settlement, what else changed during that period that made it finally time to move forward?

Answer: **I have not worked on this matter and am unable to speak to the specific facts on this issue.**

Question 11: Were you aware of widespread reporting at the time that CBS and Paramount officials believed they could not get the merger through the FCC until they had settled the lawsuit?

Answer: **I have not worked on this matter and am unable to speak to the specific facts on this issue.**

Question 12: If those officials were correct that the FCC withheld approval of the merger until Trump got paid in a private lawsuit, would that be improper in your view? Would that amount to facilitating bribery?

Answer: **I have not worked on this matter and am unable to speak to the specific facts on this issue.**

Question 13: Do you agree that the FCC could have diminished talk about this kind of impropriety if it just approved or disapproved the transaction before the lawsuit was settled? Was there any discussion of doing that? Did you personally propose approving or disapproving the transaction before the lawsuit was settled? Why or why not?

Answer: **I have not worked on this matter and was not involved in any related discussions.**

Question 14: Other than the meeting where the "unbiased" commitment was extracted, have you been party to or aware of any communications oral or written between Chairman Carr and/or other FCC staff with the following individuals: David Ellison, Larry Ellison, Bari Weiss, and/or Ken Weinstein? Describe each communication.

Answer: **I was not party to or aware of any such communications.**

Media Diversity. Newsmax previously argued that, "loosening current rules [on the 39% ownership cap] would stifle media diversity, diminish local news coverage, and consolidate political power over information distribution in the hands of a few major corporate players." Newsmax also said, "Americans of every political persuasion, demographic, and location would be harmed by any weakening of the current national television multiple ownership limit." The FCC nonetheless voted to replace the Congressionally-dictated 39% ownership cap with case-by-case review.

Question 1: Would you have voted to approve that change?

Answer: **Republicans and Democrats have both expressed support for the FCC changing the national ownership cap. If confirmed, in any decision that comes before the FCC, I would make my decision based on the facts in the record and the law.**

Question 2: Do you believe that Congress alone has the authority to modify or eliminate the broadcast ownership cap?

Answer: **There is a legitimate legal debate about the FCC's authority to change the cap. I will not prejudge a legal question that may come before the Commission again, but I commit to basing any future decision in the record and relevant precedent.**

Question 3: How does allowing fewer companies to own more market share of the U.S. media landscape help maintain the vibrant media ecosystem that serves different communities around the country?

Answer: **I agree that a vibrant media ecosystem is important and, if confirmed, would make decisions with this priority in mind. The FCC reviews license transfers on a case-by-case basis and should evaluate each merger on its merits. There may be instances where consolidation allows for greater investment in local newsrooms.**

Question 4: With larger, national media companies owning a larger share of the media landscape, the American people will necessarily have less access to locally-owned media that understands and reflects their own communities. Does this concern you? Why or why not?

Answer: **I believe localism is incredibly important and should be a central focus of the FCC's decision-making when it comes to media ownership. Local stations foster a more**

informed citizenry by providing information about what is happening at a local level. They also create accountability in communities by ensuring residents have the information they need about local officials and businesses.

Question 5: There are several pending petitions to stay the change pending judicial review– are you aware of the status of those petitions?

Answer: **No**

988. In recent years, the FCC has played an integral role in expanding access to 988 – The Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. The FCC designated a three-digit number to make it easier for those in crisis to reach help, supported texting to 988, and most recently it implemented geo-routing to route callers to their closest 988 call center. Yet the Trump Administration's cuts to the federal workforce, including massive cuts at the Department of Health and Human Services, threaten to cripple support and staffing resources for 988, cutting off access to critical mental health services, including for the LGBTQIA+ community, veterans, and Spanish speakers.

Question 1: If confirmed, will you support policies at the FCC that will continue to promote and expand access to 988 for all who need it, regardless of background, sex, gender, race, or creed?

Answer: **Yes**

Robocalls and Robotexts. Washingtonians receive tens of millions of robocalls each month, and one study in 2024 suggests that Washington consumers are among those who receive the most spam calls in the country. Unwanted text messages are also a growing nuisance.

Question 1: How will you work to reduce the number of unwanted, and often fraudulent, robocalls for all Americans, including consumers in Washington State?

Answer: **If confirmed, I would work with my colleagues to pursue an aggressive and all-of-the-above approach to combatting illegal robocalls. The FCC has been tackling this problem at each point of a call's lifecycle. As part of this new approach, the FCC has kicked off numerous rulemakings that would tighten access to numbering resources, strengthen Know Your Customer and Know Your Upstream Provider rules, implement new ways to deter illegal robocalls that originate abroad, improve call blocking tools for providers, and improve the effectiveness of the Robocall Mitigation Database. The FCC has also been taking aggressive enforcement action, and working to educate consumers, especially those consumers that are particularly vulnerable, about the types of fraud and scams being carried out over phone and text. If confirmed, I would ensure that this work continues as scammers continue to evolve and become more sophisticated. I am also happy to work with you or your office on this issue.**

Question 2: Do you support regulations that work to reduce the number of spam text messages?

Answer: **Yes**

Cybersecurity. The United States has been under increasing cyber-attacks by hostile foreign powers, notably China and Russia. In 2024, Chinese hackers, as part of the Salt Typhoon attack, hacked into U.S. telecom networks and monitored phone calls and text messages, targeting prominent figures, including Vice President J.D. Vance. However, in 2025, the FCC rolled back its ruling to hold telecommunications carriers responsible for securing their networks.

Question 1: Are Chinese hackers still in America's telecommunications networks?

Answer: **The FCC must always be vigilant, must always be taking action, and must always be strengthening monitoring, and remediating any threats that may exist to our networks.**

Question 2: How is the FCC verifying that telecom providers are taking basic steps to secure their network, like installing patches to vulnerabilities that were discovered 7 years ago? How are you going to do that if the FCC has rolled back the very rules that allow verification?

Answer: **It is important that the FCC and its national security partners continue to engage with telecom providers regarding their cybersecurity practices.**

Public Media. Public media provides a vital community service by offering local content, breaking news, and weather. But public television and radio stations are under attack by the Trump FCC, where the current Chair has initiated sham investigations to intimidate public media organizations that the President has deemed unfavorable.

Question 1: If confirmed, will you support policies that promote and preserve public media in communities across the country?

Answer: **Yes**

Section 230. Congress passed Section 230 in 1996 to provide a liability shield for the then-nascent internet industry. While there have been discussions in Congress about updating the law, the FCC has rejected the idea that it has the authority to enforce Section 230 since it was passed nearly 30 years ago. But the current FCC Chairman has talked about attempting to interpret the law to say that the FCC can police what is said online, and that they will do so to favor conservative voices online.

Question 1: Do you agree that it is Congress's role, not the FCC's, to update Section 230?

Answer: **Only Congress has the authority to change the text of Section 230.**

Question 2: Do you believe that online platforms have First Amendment rights?

Answer: **Yes**

Mapping. It is critical that we have the best data to make important decisions about where to expend taxpayer funds for broadband deployment. While the FCC has improved its broadband maps over the last few years, more remains to be done. I am particularly concerned that the

current maps wholly rely on providers' assertions about the speed and availability of their service.

Question 1: Will you commit to working with me and this Committee to continue to improve the FCC's broadband maps?

Answer: **Yes**

Broadband Affordability. The Commission annually assesses whether broadband "is being deployed to Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion," as required by Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. For many Americans, the cost of broadband services is a greater barrier to closing the digital divide than the lack of availability.

Question 1: After the demise of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, do you think the FCC should consider affordability in its annual review of broadband deployment in the United States?

Answer: **Section 706 requires the FCC to assess whether broadband is being deployed to Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion and does not require the FCC to assess the affordability of such services. However, if Congress were to require such reporting, I would faithfully adhere to the law.**

Merger Commitments. Traditionally, FCC merger conditions relate directly to the company's ability to serve the public – such as requiring expanded coverage, infrastructure investments, or service obligations. But the FCC has recently used merger review to extract concessions and leverage companies to change their internal hiring policies.

Question 1: What specific language in the Communications Act authorizes the FCC to regulate a company's human resources or hiring practices through merger conditions?

Answer: **Under Section 310, the FCC determines whether the transfer of a license is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Transactions are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and many different factors are considered in determining whether the transaction satisfies the public interest standard, including whether the parties to a transaction are following the law and the FCC's regulations.**

AI. The Trump Administration and Republicans have repeatedly sought a moratorium on state AI laws without a federal standard. First, they attempted to put a moratorium in the reconciliation bill, and we stripped it out by a 99-1 vote. Then, they tried to attach it to the NDAA. Now, the Administration is directing agencies like the FCC to attempt to preempt state laws through an Executive Order.

Question 1: Yes or no, does the FCC have the authority to preempt state AI laws under Title I the Communications Act?

Answer: **The FCC's authority to preempt is narrow and limited by the text of the Communications Act.**

Question 2: Yes or no, does the FCC have the authority to preempt state or local regulation of AI data centers under Section 253 of the Communications Act?

Answer: **The FCC's authority to preempt is narrow and limited by the text of the Communications Act.**

Question 3: Is that what Congress intended when it rewrote a portion of the Communications Act in 1996, 25 years before ChatGPT was released?

Answer: **The FCC's authority to preempt is narrow and limited by the text of the Communications Act.**

IPCS. At a time when the country is reeling from an affordability crisis, the FCC's own analysis shows that your recent order on implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act would cost families approximately $50 million in higher phone rates.

Question 1: This decision just increases costs for families trying to stay in touch with their loved ones. Does this concern you? What will you do to address this issue if confirmed.

Answer: **If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that the Martha Wright-Reed Act is fully implemented and that a permanent framework balances the dual goals of ensuring just and reasonable rates as well as fair compensation for providers.**

Preemption. As Senior Counsel to Chairman Carr, did you take part in drafting or advising on the March 2026 Network Modernization Order (FCC 26-19) or the draft California preemption order? Please describe your role.

Question 1: What analysis did you undertake or review regarding the public safety implications of allowing carriers to retire copper networks, particularly in rural and disaster-prone communities?

Answer: **As Senior Counsel to the Chairman on matters before the Wireline Competition Bureau, I have worked with FCC staff on these efforts and provided legal and policy counsel to the Chairman on both items. It is critically important that consumers do not lose access to essential communications services, especially 911, during any emergency. This is especially important in rural and disaster-prone communities. At the same time, legacy copper networks present their own reliability challenges. The FCC must ensure that the transition considers all of these factors and is conducted responsibly. If confirmed, I would continue to focus on public safety and resiliency issues, including 911 reliability, when it comes to the FCC's network modernization proceedings.**

Question 2: Did you review any independently verified data concerning the reliability of replacement services, including their performance during power outages and natural disasters? If so, please identify the data and describe how it informed your recommendations.

Answer: **As Senior Counsel to the Chairman, I have worked with FCC staff on these efforts, including their review of the reliability of replacement services as part of these proceedings. I believe that the performance of replacement services during power outages and natural disasters is a very important consideration and one I would be glad to discuss more with you or your staff.**

Verifying Service Quality. *Question 1:* Do you believe a carrier should have to show, with independently verified data, that its replacement service provides reliable indoor coverage before retiring copper in high fire threat areas? Yes or no.

Answer: **I believe that carriers should have to demonstrate that qualifying replacement services are genuinely available and capable of meeting consumers' needs before legacy service is retired. That is an important purpose of the FCC's Consolidated Technology Transition Discontinuance Rule and its replacement service eligibility framework. I also recognize that indoor coverage is important to consumers, especially in high fire threat areas. I would not want to prejudge any application or set of circumstances, but public safety and reliable access to communications must be fully considered and I would be glad to discuss this issue with you or your staff.**

Question 2: If no, what showing should be required? If yes, are you aware of any data sources that track indoor wireless signal propagation?

Answer: **The FCC's Consolidated Technology Transition Discontinuance Rule provides providers with more flexibility in evaluating the availability of replacement services, including by allowing reliance on the information reflected in the National Broadband Map. But where the map does not resolve a site-specific concern, particularly with respect to indoor coverage, concerns should be brought to the FCC's attention.**

Question 3: Do you agree that demonstrating wireless coverage under normal operating conditions does not necessarily establish that a network will remain reliable during a wildfire, extended power outage or other natural disaster? Yes or no.

Answer: **Yes, normal operating conditions for communications services are not always an indicator of operations during a wildfire, extended power outage, or natural disaster. However, outdated, aging copper facilities have increasingly posed reliability and resiliency challenges that modern technologies are better equipped to address. As legacy networks age, they can become more difficult and costly to maintain, while remaining vulnerable to service disruptions during times of disaster.**

Wireless Reliability. Many wireless services stop functioning when the power goes out.

Question 1: Will you commit to supporting backup power requirements for replacement services in disaster-prone areas to give customers the ability to call 911 during outages? Yes or no.

Answer: **I commit to working with all stakeholders to ensure that customers have access to important 911 services at all times. I am also happy to work with you or your office on this issue.**

Question 2: If your nomination is confirmed, will you commit to responding in a timely manner to requests for information from members of Congress of both parties, including requests about copper retirement and its effects on public safety? Yes or no.

Answer: **Yes**

Role of State Public Utilities Commission.

Question 1: In your opinion, what role do state utilities commissions play in the ongoing regulation of telecommunications and broadband services? Please describe specific areas of regulation and identify issues that could lead to additional partnerships between the FCC and state governments?

Answer: **I believe that there is an opportunity for the FCC and state commissions to continue to work together on issues such as broadband deployment, 911, network reliability, robocalls and scams, and the transition away from legacy networks as part of the IP transition. Better coordination can help ensure that consumers are protected while avoiding duplicative or inconsistent requirements.**

Question 2: What role do state utility commissions play in protecting consumers and ensuring the reliability of essential communications services?

Answer: **I believe that state commissions play an important role in consumer protection and promoting public safety. The state-level perspective can be particularly helpful when it comes to reliability and outages. However, I also think that the FCC and state commissions should work together to ensure that any regulatory requirements are complementary and not duplicative.**

SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR (D-MN)

The FCC regularly considers significant broadcast mergers.

- How will you consider the impact on an independent press when evaluating these proposed mergers under the FCC's public interest standard?

I agree that a strong and independent press is an important part of a healthy media marketplace. Local journalism plays a valuable role in keeping Americans informed and creating accountability in communities. At the same time, the FCC reviews transactions on a case-by-case basis and should evaluate each merger on its merits. If confirmed, I would look carefully at whether a transaction could weaken the ability of local journalists to provide coverage of issues in their communities. I would also carefully look at whether the transaction could allow for greater investment in local newsrooms or otherwise expand the resources available to stations in any given market.

I am concerned about the FCC's proposed changes to the E-Rate program, including proposed changes that would sunset the program entirely. In your testimony you stated that you believe the E-Rate program has been effective in its goal of providing connectivity to schools and libraries.

- Will you commit to protecting E-Rate and opposing any efforts to sunset the program?

I do believe that the E-Rate program has been effective in its goal of providing connectivity to schools and libraries. As part of the FCC's open proceeding, the agency is evaluating the scope of its legal authority to sunset or change the program. I cannot prejudge this proceeding without reviewing the record that has developed in full. However, if confirmed, I would make my decisions based on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law.

SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ (D-HI)

Safe Connections Act

My *Safe Connections Act* became law in 2022 to support survivors of domestic violence by ensuring they have access to their cell phones when they leave an abuser. The FCC is responsible for the law's implementation, including the requirement to create a database of hotlines and numbers that must be removed from consumer-facing call logs.

1. Please describe the remaining steps that the FCC must take to fully implement the bill, including the requirement to establish the hotline database and ensure the removal of these sensitive numbers from call logs.

The Safe Connections Act required the Commission to consider whether to establish a database. The Commission subsequently decided to establish a database via Commission order and has been working on development and specifications since late 2024. The agency has informed providers that they would receive at least six months' notice before any compliance obligations begin. I would be glad to discuss and work on this matter with you or your team.

2. How is the FCC publicizing the *Safe Connections Act* to ensure that survivors are aware of their rights?
    a. What partnerships with carriers exist to ensure public and customer awareness about the law?
    b. If none, please explain why.

The Commission has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Domestic Violence Hotline that focuses on education materials and cross-training of staff. Commission staff meet with staff of NDVH on a regular basis to discuss cooperation and coordination.

When a consumer submits a complaint via the FCC's Consumer Complaints Center that indicates a concern about a domestic violence line separation, the complaint is sent to a select group of Commission staff and managers. Through this process, the Commission monitors compliance by voice service providers and identifies problematic trends in application of the Safe Connections Act. When the Commission has identified problem areas in the past, it has worked with NDVH to confirm the fact pattern and with a prominent trade association to encourage education for voice service providers.

The Commission's website includes consumer education materials, which have been coordinated with NDVH, on the Safe Connections Act. The materials include: A consumer guide with an easy-to-find vanity URL. A consumer guide on Lifeline that includes information on an additional discount available to victims under the Safe Connections Act. An application instructions card that clearly and succinctly sets forth a checklist for victims to use in applying for the Safe Connections Act line separation and a list of documents victims may need to support the application. The Commission has also promoted the Safe Connections Act during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is observed in October.

3. Do you commit to working with the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to prioritize the expeditious and full implementation of the *Safe Connections Act*? **Yes**
4. Do you commit to working with the Committee to identify additional opportunities for Congress and the FCC to support victims of domestic and dating violence? **Yes**

First Amendment Protections

1. How will you assure local broadcasters that they can report the news independently without fear of regulatory retribution? **If confirmed, I would make clear through my words and actions that I believe the FCC should encourage a wide-open and robust exchange of information. The agency should support broadcasters and encourage the independent reporting of news.**
2. Do you believe that the FCC has the authority to withdraw licenses or file for early license renewals because of speech it does not agree with? **FCC rules allow for the early renewal of licenses when doing so is essential to the proper conduct of an investigation. Disagreeing with speech does not provide a basis for the FCC to take action.**
3. Please describe your interpretation of the FCC's news distortion policy. What is the FCC's standard for making evaluations about satire, comedy, and opinion under this policy? **The FCC has long had a policy against news distortion. In deference to the First Amendment, however, as well as the prohibition on censorship in the Communications Act, the FCC also has held that licensees have broad editorial discretion, particularly in news coverage. For this reason, the FCC has historically conditioned investigations of claims of news distortion on its receipt of extrinsic evidence of rigging or slanting.**
4. Does the FCC have the authority to police the speech of comedians or satirists? **No, the FCC does not have the authority to police speech and cannot take action against broadcasters for engaging in protected speech outside of the context of conduct lawfully regulated.**

SENATOR EDWARD MARKEY (D-MA)

<u>E-Rate</u>

Question 1: You testified that E-Rate has been a successful program. Will you commit to voting against a proposal to end it?

Answer: **I believe that the E-Rate program has been successful. I will not prejudge the outcome of the proceeding, but I commit to basing my decision in the facts in the record and Section 254 of the Communications Act.**

Question 2: Will you commit to voting against a proposal that takes E-Rate support away from otherwise eligible schools and libraries simply because they are not in rural areas?

Answer: **I will not prejudge the outcome of the proceeding, but I commit to basing my decision in the facts in the record and Section 254 of the Communications Act.**

Lifeline

Question 1: The Congressional Research Service estimates that only 22% of eligible low-income households use the Lifeline benefit. What steps would you take to increase the Lifeline participation rate?

Answer: **I believe that the Lifeline program has been successful and should continue to be utilized to close the existing affordability gap. The FCC should take measured actions to eliminate any waste, fraud, and abuse in the program, and to improve verification of Lifeline participants. Program integrity is critical to its success. At the same time, we should ensure that eligible Americans know that the program exists and can easily determine whether they qualify. The FCC should continue to work with states, community organizations, and providers to improve outreach and enrollment.**

Legacy Network Retirement

Network operators are in the process of retiring legacy copper-based telecommunications services, including plain old telephone service (POTS), across the country. The FCC's "Network Modernization Order" significantly lessened the requirements these operators must meet to obtain streamlined approval to discontinue legacy voice services.

Question 1: Do you agree that ensuring consumers and businesses impacted by copper retirement have readily available, reliable, and affordable replacement service options is paramount to protecting public safety and bridging the digital divide?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 2: Do you agree that the FCC is responsible for intervening when network operators cannot affirmatively prove that adequate replacement services are available to all consumers and businesses impacted by copper retirement?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 3: Do you agree that the FCC must hold network operators to transparent and consistent quality of service standards for adequate replacement services, including and especially in the context of wireless-based replacement services and the ability of those services to match the reliability of copper-based services?

Answer: **Yes**

Jimmy Kimmel and Threats Against ABC

On September 17, 2025, Chairman Brendan Carr discussed potential FCC action against ABC and Disney over Jimmy Kimmel's monologue and said, "We can do this the easy way or the hard way." ABC suspended Kimmel's show later that day.

Question 1: Do you agree with Chairman Carr's September 17, 2025 statement that ABC and Disney could address Jimmy Kimmel's remarks "the easy way or the hard way"?

Answer: **I would refer you to Chairman Carr for information about his positions and statements. The above quotation is not my own and I cannot speak to the intent behind it.**

Question 2: Do you believe Kimmel's September 15, 2025 monologue provided a lawful basis for FCC enforcement action against a station airing it?

Answer: **To the best of my knowledge, the monologue is not the basis for any pending enforcement action.**

Question 3: Do you agree that the FCC may not threaten regulatory consequences to induce a broadcaster to suspend a comedian because of constitutionally protected political commentary, even if the Chairman considers that commentary offensive or misleading?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 4: Did you help prepare, review, approve, or advise on Chairman Carr's September 17, 2025 remarks about Kimmel or participate in any related communication with Disney, ABC, Nexstar, or Sinclair? Identify your role and the dates and participants in any such communications.

Answer: **No**

<u>ABC's Early License-Renewal Order</u>

On April 28, 2026, the FCC ordered Disney's ABC-owned television stations to file early license-renewal applications within 30 days. The order cited an investigation into possible statutory and regulatory violations, including unlawful discrimination. It followed President Trump's April 27 public demand that ABC fire Jimmy Kimmel.

Question 1: Do you support the FCC's April 28, 2026 decision to require early renewal applications from Disney's ABC-owned stations?

Answer: **The FCC's rules allow for the early renewal of licenses when doing so is essential to the proper conduct of an investigation. The FCC's Media Bureau made the determination that doing so was essential in this case. If I am called upon to vote on or review that Media Bureau decision, I would do so based on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law.**

Question 2: Do you agree that an ongoing discrimination investigation would not excuse using an early-renewal order to retaliate against constitutionally protected programming?

Answer: **The FCC should not retaliate against broadcasters.**

Question 3: Will you commit not to support accelerating a station's license-renewal process to pressure its owner to fire a host, cancel a program, or change constitutionally protected editorial content?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 4: Did you participate, in any way, in developing, reviewing, recommending, or approving the April 28, 2026 order?

Answer: **No**

Chairman Carr's Warning over Iran War Coverage

On March 14, 2026, Chairman Carr posted on X above a screenshot of President Trump's criticism of coverage of the Iran war. Carr warned broadcasters he accused of airing hoaxes and distortions to "correct course before their license renewals come up" and said broadcasters that fail to operate in the public interest would lose their licenses.

Question 1: Do you agree with Chairman Carr's March 14, 2026 warning to broadcasters in the context of President Trump's criticism of Iran-war coverage?

Answer: **I would refer you to Chairman Carr for information about his positions and statements. The above quotation is not my own and I cannot speak to the intent behind it.**

Question 2: Do you believe Carr's March 14 post identified a specific broadcast and sufficient evidence to justify threatening license consequences?

Answer: **I would refer you to Chairman Carr for information about his positions and statements. The above quotation is not my own and I cannot speak to its motivations or basis.**

Question 3: Do you agree that reporting which challenges the President's account of a military operation does not, for that reason, constitute actionable news distortion or a failure to serve the public interest?

Answer: **See above.**

Question 4: Will you commit not to support conditioning a station's license renewal on favorable coverage of a war, deference to the administration's account of that war, or exclusion of criticism of United States military policy?

Answer: **If confirmed, I commit to basing any license renewal decisions on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law.**

Question 5: Did you draft, review, approve, or provide advice, in any way, concerning Carr's March 14 post or any proposed FCC response to the coverage it addressed?

Answer: **No**

President Trump's Demands for License Revocations

On September 18, 2025, President Trump complained to reporters about negative television coverage and said, "maybe their license should be taken away." He added, "It will be up to Brendan Carr." That statement is one of many times that President Trump called on the FCC to revoke broadcasters' licenses over their coverage.

Question 1: Do you agree with President Trump that television outlets should face license revocation because they give him overwhelmingly negative coverage?

Answer: **If confirmed, I commit to basing any license renewal decisions on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law, regardless of the position taken by any President.**

Question 2: Does the proportion of favorable or unfavorable coverage of the President establish that a station has failed to serve the public interest?

Answer: **No**

Question 3: Will you commit to rejecting any request from President Trump or his representatives to use FCC authority to punish a broadcaster for constitutionally protected criticism of the President?

Answer: **If confirmed, I commit to basing any license renewal decisions on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law, regardless of the position taken by any President.**

Question 4: Do you agree that the President's public demand for action against a news outlet is not itself evidence of a Communications Act or FCC rule violation, and cannot substitute for the agency's independent assessment of the evidence?

Answer: **I agree that the FCC has an obligation to base its decisions in the facts and the law and that all FCC actions should be consistent with the Communications Act and the First Amendment.**

<u>CBS, 60 Minutes, and the News Distortion Investigation</u>

In February 2025, the FCC obtained and released the unedited transcript and video of the 60 Minutes interview with then-Vice President Kamala Harris and opened a public-comment docket on a news-distortion complaint involving WCBS. FCC precedent distinguishes deliberate distortion from disagreements about accuracy or legitimate editorial choices and requires supporting extrinsic evidence.

Question 1: Do you agree with the decision to pursue the news-distortion investigation concerning the 60 Minutes interview with then-Vice President Harris?

Answer: **I have not worked on this matter and am not familiar with the details of the investigation. But if I am asked in the future to vote on this matter, I would base my decisions on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law.**

Question 2: Do you agree that airing different excerpts of a longer answer in different programs does not, standing alone, establish deliberate news distortion?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 3: Do you agree that the FCC may not demand unaired footage, reporters' notes, or confidential source information solely because an official dislikes a news organization's coverage? If you disagree, identify the legal authority you believe permits such a demand.

Answer: **The FCC has the authority to request information as part of an ongoing investigation into whether or not a broadcaster has violated one or more FCC rules.**

Question 4: Did you advise Chairman Carr or other FCC personnel on the CBS investigation, the demand for unedited material, or its public release?

Answer: **No**

Paramount-Skydance Merger

The FCC's July 24, 2025 Paramount-Skydance approval recognized commitments concerning political and ideological viewpoint diversity in programming, fair and unbiased reporting, and a CBS ombudsman who would report to the President of New Paramount. The order made its public-interest finding subject to the commitments described in the order.

Question 1: Do you agree with the FCC's decision to incorporate commitments about CBS's editorial practices and an ombudsman into its Paramount-Skydance approval?

Answer: **The FCC has the authority to include in an approval of a license transfer any commitments made by parties to serve the public interest.**

Question 2: Do you agree that the FCC may not condition, delay, or expedite merger approval to induce a company to settle the President's personal litigation over its news coverage?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 3: Will you commit not to use merger-review authority to pressure a company to cancel a program, fire a journalist or host, or change constitutionally protected editorial positions?

Answer: **Yes**

Equal-Opportunities Rule

On January 21, 2026, the FCC's Media Bureau issued guidance on the equal-opportunities requirement and bona fide news exemptions for television talk shows. It stated that the agency had not been presented with evidence that any then-current late-night or daytime television talk show's interview portion qualified for the exemption, while emphasizing partisan purposes as a disqualifying consideration.

Question 1: Do you agree with the January 21, 2026 guidance's statement concerning the absence of evidence that any then-current late-night or daytime television talk show's interview portion qualified for the bona fide news exemption?

Answer: **The FCC's Public Notice is based in longstanding precedent which has been cited in the document.**

Question 2: Do you agree that a host's criticism of President Trump, standing alone, does not establish that the program's candidate interviews are designed to advance or harm a particular candidacy and therefore ineligible for a bona fide news exemption?

Answer: **The FCC has the authority to rule whether a show is eligible for an exemption as a *bona fide* news interview based on a fact specific review. If asked to vote on such a ruling, I would base my decision on the law and the facts in the record.**

Question 3: Will you commit to applying the same statutory criteria for bona fide news exemptions to similarly situated programs regardless of whether their hosts support or oppose President Trump, including television and radio programs?

Answer: **Yes**

KCBS and Reporting on Immigration Enforcement

In February 2025, Chairman Carr announced an FCC investigation after KCBS radio reported on immigration enforcement activity in San Jose, including agents' locations and vehicle descriptions. Carr questioned whether the reporting was consistent with the station's public-interest obligations.[1]

Question 1: Do you agree with Chairman Carr's decision to investigate KCBS over this reporting?

Answer: **I am not aware of the basis for Chairman Carr's decision to open an investigation into KCBS and cannot speak to his motivations or basis. However, the FCC should not pursue any investigations against any broadcasters for engaging in protected speech outside of the context of conduct that is lawfully regulated.**

Question 2: Does the FCC have authority to prohibit a broadcaster from reporting the location of publicly observable immigration enforcement activity?

Answer: **Reporting publicly available information in good faith would not likely constitute any sort of prohibited conduct. If confirmed, I would want to encourage the open and robust exchange of information. There may be certain circumstances relevant to the FCC's analysis. But my view is that the FCC should support broadcasters that are doing their jobs.**

Public Interest Standard

[1] KQED, FCC Investigates SF Radio Station for ICE Reporting, Sparking Press Freedom Fears (Feb. 6, 2025) (quoting Chairman Carr announcing the investigation).

Section 326 of the Communications Act denies the FCC censorship authority and prohibits regulations or conditions that interfere with free speech by radio communication.

Question 1: Please define the public interest standard.

Answer: **The public interest standard is the requirement that Congress established through the Communications Act for broadcast licensees to operate in the "public interest, convenience, and necessity."**

Question 2: Do you agree that the public-interest standard does not override the First Amendment or Section 326, and does not authorize the FCC to punish a station because of the political viewpoint of its protected programming?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 3: Do you agree that an FCC official's communication can constitute unlawful coercion even without an explicit threat to revoke a license or the issuance of a formal enforcement order?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 4: Do you agree that a retaliatory investigation can chill protected speech even if the agency never imposes a fine or revokes a license?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 5: Will you commit not to threaten adverse action against a broadcaster's parent company, affiliates, advertisers, or other business partners to induce suppression of the broadcaster's constitutionally protected speech?

Answer: **Yes**

<u>Independent Judgment</u>

Question 1: Do you agree that the President cannot lawfully direct an FCC commissioner to retaliate against constitutionally protected speech?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 2: Will you vote against an FCC action that you conclude violates the First Amendment even if Chairman Carr and President Trump support it, and publicly explain the constitutional basis for your vote?

Answer: **Yes**

Question 3: Do you disagree with any of the statements or actions by Chairman Carr or President Trump identified in these questions on First Amendment grounds? Identify each one and explain your disagreement. If you do not disagree with any of them on First Amendment grounds, please state that expressly.

Answer: **President Trump and Chairman Carr have First Amendment rights to express themselves. Those rights are protected by the Constitution. I would refer to them for statements that were made by them and not by me. If a party challenges official government action on First Amendment grounds, the question often comes down to whether the challenged conduct constitutes unlawful coercion.**

6 GHz Band

Americans increasingly use Wi-Fi to connect to applications in their homes and workplaces. The 6 GHz band enables wider Wi-Fi channels that increase capacity and improve performance, helping position Wi-Fi to support those emerging demands.

Question 1: Will you support preserving the full 6 GHz band for unlicensed use?

Answer: **The 6 GHz band has seen tremendous investment for Wi-Fi purposes and is producing massive consumer benefits. If confirmed, I would support preserving the full 6 GHz band for unlicensed use, as long as the spectrum is being put to efficient use.**

Question 2: America pioneered unlicensed 6 GHz, and our Wi-Fi leadership grows stronger every time another country follows our lead. China wants to undermine that leadership by using the country footnote process at WRC-27 and to pull more nations toward licensed mobile use of the upper 6 GHz band. If confirmed, will you work with NTIA and the State Department to push back on that effort, and defend the 6 GHz band for unlicensed use around the world?

Answer: **If confirmed, I would work with NTIA and the State Department to protect American leadership in the 6 GHz band and advance a unified position at WRC-27. I am also happy to work with you or your office on this issue.**

SENATOR TAMMY BALDWIN (D-WI)

1. Professional sports broadcasting has changed dramatically in recent years, with games increasingly spread across traditional television, cable networks, and streaming services. As a result, fans can find themselves in an expensive and confusing web of paying for multiple subscriptions just to follow their favorite teams.

   As the sports broadcasting marketplace continues to evolve, what role do you believe the FCC should play in ensuring that consumers have affordable and reliable access to live sporting events, particularly games involving their local teams? **I agree that it is frustrating for consumers to have to navigate a complex web of streaming services and platforms to access the sporting content that they want to receive. If confirmed,**

I would look carefully at whether FCC policies within its jurisdiction continue to serve consumers as the marketplace continues to change.

2. I have introduced the For the Fans Act to improve access for fans of professional sports broadcasts by requiring free viewing access for local fans and ending blackouts on league-owned streaming services.

   If enacted, do you commit to enforcing the For the Fans Act requirement that covered leagues provide free access to local fans? **Yes**

3. Rural communities across Wisconsin have raised significant concerns regarding the retirement of legacy copper networks and whether residents will maintain access to immediate, adequate, and reliable replacement service, particularly for emergency communications. Earlier this year, Verizon's Section 214 application affecting Wisconsin was placed on the FCC's streamlined review track and was automatically granted after the Commission did not intervene during the 31-day automatic-grant period.

   If confirmed, do you commit to ensuring that all future Section 214 applications involving the retirement of copper facilities are thoroughly and thoughtfully reviewed by the Commission prior to taking effect? **In the event that legitimate concerns are raised in the record regarding any Section 214 application, the FCC should thoughtfully and thoroughly review the application.**

4. Last fall, I joined several of my colleagues in condemning the actions of the FCC Chairman by stating, "The FCC's role in overseeing the public airwaves does not give it the power to act as a roving press censor, targeting broadcasters base on their political commentary." Unfortunately, this FCC has chosen to escalate tensions rather than evenhandedly apply the law. How will you ensure that the FCC does not stray from its obligation under Section 326 of the Communications Act, which strictly forbids the Commission from exercising the power of censorship or interfering with free speech? **The FCC should not censor or interfere with any protected speech. If confirmed, I would ensure that the agency adheres to the law, including Section 326 and the First Amendment.**

5. Do you believe the FCC should eliminate or substantially restrict the E-Rate program? **If confirmed, I would make all decisions on the E-Rate program based on the facts in the record and the law.**

6. If confirmed, will you commit to exercising independent judgement and opposing any attempt to use the FCC's authority for political retaliation? **Yes**

SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH (D-IL)

Broadcast Licensing

At your November 10 confirmation hearing, when I asked if the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should revoke broadcasters' licenses because the President does not like their coverage, you responded that the FCC has a responsibility to investigate any complaint put before it.

1. Did President Trump file a formal complaint with the FCC against ABC or Disney for the on-air joke Jimmy Kimmel made about the First Lady on April 23, 2026?

I am not aware of any such complaint.

2. Did President Trump file a formal complaint with the FCC against ABC or Disney for declining to broadcast his July 16, 2026, election security speech live on the ABC broadcast network?

I am not aware of any such complaint.

Local Broadcasting

Local broadcasters in Illinois and across the country do the essential work of covering local news and keeping their communities informed when severe weather hits. Yet they face economic challenges that threaten their ability to continue providing robust local news coverage. As more viewers watch their local stations through streaming platforms rather than traditional cable or satellite, local stations lose leverage in a marketplace that no longer resembles the one the current framework was built under. In October 2023, I joined 19 colleagues in a letter urging the FCC to examine the video marketplace and consider how it can ensure the viability of local broadcast stations and promote localism.

1. What is your view of how the local broadcast marketplace is functioning today? **I believe the local broadcast market is under economic pressure as a result of increased competition from other news sources, such as cable, streaming services, social media, and a host of other sources of news, music, and entertainment. Furthermore, producing high-quality local news is also expensive. However, local broadcasters continue to play a very important role in communities.**
2. Separate from ownership deregulation, identify three concrete actions the Commission could take under existing authority to improve the economics of locally produced news, and state whether you would support each. **First, I think the FCC should look to eliminate unnecessary regulatory barriers to innovative new offerings including ATSC 3.0 which will give broadcasters more ways to reach communities and generate revenue. Second, I think the FCC should conduct a review of the retransmission consent framework with the goal of encouraging good-faith negotiations and more transparency. Third, I think the FCC should conduct a review of its affiliate rules and identify ways to ensure that legacy arrangements are not limiting a station's ability to invest in programming.**

Public Law No. 117-338

In July 2024, after more than a decade of proceedings and clear congressional direction in the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–338), which I authored with Senator Portman, the Commission voted 5–0—with then-Commissioner Carr approving in part and concurring in part—to adopt just and reasonable rate caps for incarcerated people's communications services. On June 30, 2025, the Wireline Competition Bureau, acting on delegated authority and effective immediately, suspended compliance with the Commission's rate cap, site commission, and per-minute pricing rules until April 1, 2027. On October 28, 2025, over Commissioner Gomez's dissent, the Commission replaced the 2024 caps with higher interim caps and a 2-cent-per-minute facility cost additive, which took effect April 6, 2026. As I wrote to Chairman Carr with 12 of my colleagues that day, section 3 of the Act required the Commission to promulgate implementing regulations no later than January 5, 2025.

1. Since January 2025 you have served as Chairman Carr's senior counsel for matters before the Wireline Competition Bureau. What role did you play in advising the Chairman on the June 30, 2025, waiver and the October 28, 2025, order? **Since January 2025, I have served as Senior Counsel to Chairman Carr on matters within the Wireline Competition Bureau, including the IPCS proceeding. I provided legal and policy advice to the Chairman on the June 2025 waiver and subsequent October 2025 order.**
2. Do you agree that section 3 of the Act required implementing regulations to be in place by January 5, 2025, and that a Bureau-level waiver suspending those regulations for nearly two years is inconsistent with that mandate? If not, why not? **Yes, I agree that Section 3 required implementing regulations to be in place by January 5, 2025 and that the Commission satisfied that requirement through its 2024 IPCS order. The waiver did not repeal those rules and only temporarily extended them until the Commission could address concerns that had developed in the record.**
3. The Act permits the Commission to consider the costs of safety and security measures necessary to provide these services. Do you believe it permits the Commission to require incarcerated people and their families to pay, through rates or a separate additive, for correctional facility costs unrelated to providing the calls themselves? **I believe it is important that the Commission draw a line between the costs necessary to provide IPCS and the costs that are not. The FCC should carefully review the record and the data submitted pursuant to the ongoing data collection before establishing the permanent framework.**
4. If confirmed, will you support restoring the 2024 rate caps? If not, what record evidence would lead you to vote to make the higher interim caps permanent? **I cannot prejudge the proceeding. However, if confirmed, I commit to carefully reviewing the record and ensuring that the FCC balances the dual goals of Martha Wright Reed—ensuring that rates are just and reasonable and ensuring that providers are fairly compensated.**
5. Under 47 CFR 0.291(a)(2), the Bureau may not act on matters presenting novel questions of law or policy. Do you believe a Bureau acting on delegated authority should be permitted to suspend, effective immediately and for nearly two years, a set of Commission-adopted rules implementing a statute? Would you have voted to grant the waiver had it come before the full Commission? **Limits on delegated authority should be taken seriously and I would advocate for votes on anything new or novel to be**

done at the Commission level. In this case, WCB used its delegated authority to temporarily waive specific rule deadlines while the FCC considered additional action in the proceeding.

6. Will you commit to seeking a vote of the full Commission within 30 days on any Bureau-level order that suspends enforcement of rules implementing a statutory mandate, and to supporting prompt Commission action on any application for review of such an order? **If confirmed, I would commit to taking seriously any Bureau-level action that raises questions concerning implementation of a statute. I would also commit to supporting prompt review and careful consideration of any application for review filed at the agency.**

SENATOR BEN RAY LUJÁN (D-NM)

(1) At your confirmation hearing on November 10, 2026, you testified that your current title is "Senior Counsel for Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs for Chairman Carr" and that you "have not worked with the Chairman on any media related issue."

(a) Please define what you meant by "worked on." Does that include reviewing, editing, commenting on, approving, or deciding how documents, as well as those related to media issues, within the Commission and from external parties are sent to and approved by Chairman Carr's office?

As Senior Counsel to the Chairman, I have primarily worked on matters before the Wireline, Consumer and Governmental Affairs, and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureaus. If there are dockets that cut across multiple portfolios, for instance regulatory fees or EEO discrimination, I may work on the cross-cutting issues. But I am not advising and working on matters generally that are media specific.

(b) Please define what you meant by "media related issues." Does that include issues related to merger approvals or diversity, equity, and inclusion practices at media companies such as Paramount and Skydance?

As noted above, the Chairman's media advisors and Media Bureau Staff work on media matters. That includes the Paramount and Skydance merger, the Disney/ABC license renewal proceeding, the *bona fide* news proceeding, and any news distortion efforts, among others. If there are dockets that cut across sectors, for instance regulatory fees or EEO discrimination, I may work on the cross-cutting issues. But I am not advising and working on matters generally that are media specific.

(2) On July 15, 2025, Skydance CEO and counsel met with Chairman Carr, his Chief of Staff, and a Media Bureau special counsel. An *ex parte* notice of that meeting filed on July 17, 2025, in MB Docket No. 24-275 states that Skydance noted its "commitment to

promoting non-discrimination and equal employment opportunity at New Paramount, ensuring the company would be compliant with the law." On July 22, 2025, Skydance filed its letter with the Commission directed at Chairman Carr stating that the letter was "in connection with out pending application seeking approval for the transfer of control of Paramount Global (Paramount)….to confirm the elimination of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives that were in place at Paramount." The letter went on to state that "Skydance, for its part, does not have DEI programs in place today and will not establish initiatives." The Paramount Skydance merger was then approved by the Commission on July 24, 2025.

(a) Was a draft of the July 22, 2025, letter presented, discussed, or referenced at or around that *ex parte* meeting that took place on July 15, 2025?

I was not in that ex parte meeting.

(b) Did the Chairman, directly or through another staff member, ask you to review the Paramount/Skydance letter before it was filed on July 22, 2025?

As indicated above, where there are dockets or matters that cut across sectors I sometimes work on the cross-cutting issues. This may include reviewing documents or filings in a matter outside of my designated portfolio.

(c) Did you receive or review any draft of the letter Paramount/Skydance filed in MB Docket No. 24-275? Did you provide edits or redlines to that letter? If so, please provide a copy of your redlines.

See above.

(d) Are all drafts of the July 22, 2025, letter and all communications with Paramount/Skydance about the terms of the letter part of the public record in MB Docket No. 24-275? If not, explain how this is consistent with the Commission's permit-but-disclose rules.

See above regarding the letter filed with the FCC. I am not aware of any meetings or communications that may have occurred prior to July 22, 2025 and was not in any meetings with Paramount/Skydance.

(3) Please list every subject you advised Chairman Carr on as Senior Counsel, including any matters outside of your formally assigned bureaus. Describe your role in detail for any media issues related to broadcast content complaints, transactions, or letters and investigations related to companies' diversity, equity and inclusion practices.

See above. As Senior Counsel to the Chairman, I have primarily worked on matters before the Wireline, Consumer and Governmental Affairs, and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureaus. However, if there are dockets that cut across multiple portfolios, I may work on the cross-cutting issues.

(4) Since January 2025, have you received materials from individuals assigned to the Media Bureau related to their portfolio, including but not limited to any briefing materials, list of pending matters, or status updates? For each instance, identify who sent it, when, whether it was in response to a request from the Chairman, and your role following that interaction.

No

(5) How many times have you been asked by the Chairman, directly or through another staff member, to review documents outside of the Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs portfolio? Give specific examples.

As indicated above, I have primarily worked on matters before the Wireline, Consumer and Governmental Affairs, and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureaus. If there are dockets that cut across multiple portfolios, for instance regulatory fees or EEO discrimination, I may work on the cross-cutting issues.

(6) How many times have you ever reviewed, edited, redlined, or commented on a draft letter or other document regarding a company's diversity, equity, and inclusion policies or practices before it was finalized, sent, or filed at the Commission? For each, identify the company, the date, who asked you to review it, and the substance of your edits. Please also provide the finalized letter(s) and document(s).

With respect to all letters filed with the FCC, those are available on the FCC website in the record for the relevant proceeding. Consistent with agency practice and precedent, FCC staff and officials regularly communicate with regulated businesses. This includes communications regarding commitments that regulated businesses are making.

(7) Is it the practice of the Chairman's office for staff to review or edit drafts of filings from parties to pending proceedings before they are filed? Who authorizes this, and how is it reflected in the record?

See above.

(8) On January 16, 2025, then-Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel dismissed pending complaints against affiliates of ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox, in a docket entitled "Preserving the First Amendment." Of the complaints, Chairwoman Rosenworcel said, "They come from all corners—right and left—but what they have in common is they ask the FCC to penalize broadcast television stations because they dislike station behavior, content, or coverage."

(a) Do you share the view that the FCC should not be used to "penalize broadcast television stations because [someone] dislike[s] station behavior, content, or coverage?" **Yes**

(b) Do you commit to never voting to penalize broadcast television stations because you or anyone else dislikes station behavior, content, or coverage? **Yes**

(c) Describe your involvement with Chairman Carr's orders rescinding the rejections of three of the four news complaints that Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel had dismissed on First Amendment grounds? **I had no involvement with these orders.**

(d) Did you review the three draft orders prior to their release? **No**

(e) Do you have any First Amendment concerns with the Chairman's decision to restore those previously dismissed complaints? **I have not worked on these matters and have no documents relating to these complaints.**

(f) Please provide any of your documents relating to the reinstatement of three of the four complaints. **I have no documents relating to the reinstatement of these complaints.**

(9) Did you have any involvement in the decision to establish a docket on CBS/60 minutes news distortion in February 2025? **No**

(a) Have you ever directed, requested or approved language that the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) staff used to respond to consumers who complained about news programming? Identify the news program, the date, and who you consulted before approving the final language.

I have routinely discussed complaints issues with CGB staff, including how the agency should respond to complaints filed to ensure the response properly directs consumers or gives them correct and timely information.

(b) Did you direct CGB to draft language prompting consumers that complained through the Commission's consumer informal complaint portal to resubmit their complaint into an ECFS docket? Identify the docket and explain your role in approving that language.

I have routinely discussed complaints issues with CGB staff, including how the agency should respond to complaints filed to ensure the response properly directs consumers or gives them correct and timely information.

(c) Is it appropriate for the Commission to encourage the public to file complaints in a proceeding that targets specific programming?

The agency regularly directs complainants to file their complaints in an open proceeding when those comments should be considered as part of a record. This is consistent with past practice and precedent.

(9) Did you approve CGB's assignment and/or referral of informal complaints about broadcaster's news or entertainment to the FCC's Enforcement of Media Bureaus? List each complaint.

No

(10) At your nomination hearing you indicated that you did not advise Chairman Carr on matters involving Jimmy Kimmel. Did you receive, review or take any action on any complaint concerning *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* in your role as Senior Counsel? Describe each complaint and your role.

In response to a question from CGB staff, I discussed protocol with CGB staff regarding written complaints so that all complaints were logged and shared with appropriate career personnel who were monitoring an increase in potentially violent or threatening language towards FCC officials. I did not review or take other action on the complaints.

(11) Did you receive a notice of any complaint filed by the Center for American Rights (CAR)? Were you provided access to such documents? If so, please indicate who provided that notice and your role in that proceeding.

I received notification from CGB staff that a complaint had been filed consistent with past practice and usual protocol.

(12)A bipartisan group of former FCC officials who served presidents from Reagan to Obama, including five Republican former FCC commissioners and chairs, have called on the FCC to rescind its news distortion policy. *The Wall Street Journal* editorial board agreed with them that "The vast scope and vague language of the news distortion policy cast an omnipresent shadow over broadcasters' freedom of expression while leaving the policy open to partisan weaponization."

(a) Do you disagree with the Wall Street Journal editorial board? Why or why not?
If confirmed and presented with this question, I would base my decision in the law, the facts in the record, and precedent.

(b) Is it your view that the news distortion policy is consistent with the First Amendment?
Broadcasters are subject to the FCC's public interest standard, including the news distortion policy. However, broadcasters are also entitled to First Amendment protections. If confirmed, any news distortion policy decision would be based in the law and would thoughtfully consider established precedent including where broadcasters have been afforded such protections. As stated above, the FCC should not pursue action against broadcasters for engaging in protected speech.

(c) If so, how would you ensure it is not used in a way that chills speech and journalism?
Enforcement of the FCC's news distortion policy requires thoughtful consideration of the facts in the record, precedent, and the law including the First Amendment protections to which broadcasters are entitled.

(d) Would you support a bipartisan effort from this Congress to repeal the news distortion policy in order to remove the threat of government censorship it poses?
I would defer to Congress on this decision.

(13)FCC regulations provide that the "Commission has delegated authority to its staff to act on matters which *are minor or routine or settled in nature*." They also provide that the Chief of the Media Bureau "shall … refer[] to the Commission en banc for disposition … [m]atters that present novel questions of law, fact or policy that cannot be resolved under existing precedents and guidelines."

(a) Do you agree a Commission vote is necessary when the Commission would take an action that is not "minor or routine or settled in nature?" **If confirmed, I would seek the opportunity to vote on any actions that are new or novel.**

(b) Are there any decisions since January 2025 in which bureau-level staff have made decisions that should have been referred to the Commission? Please be specific. **The FCC's rules define and delineate matters that can be acted on by the Bureaus under delegated authority and the FCC should act consistently with those rules. As the Supreme Court recently confirmed, staff decisions are generally not final and are subject to Commission review and vote. I think the Commission should take up and vote on staff decisions where such review is requested.**

(c) Do you agree with the Commission's decision requiring ABC to file early license renewals for its owned and operated stations, although no such order had been issued in fifty years, and never on this ground or for multiple stations simultaneously? **As noted above, if confirmed, I would seek the opportunity to vote on any actions that are new or novel. Because I have not worked on this matter, I am unable to speak to the specific facts or express an opinion on the FCC's decision.**

(14)The Commission has reiterated for more than fifty years that the First Amendment and the anti-censorship provision of the Communications Act prevent it from regulating the reporting of polling or election results.

(a)Is it your view that licensees can violate their public interest obligations by airing good-faith reporting on election-related polling?

As stated above, the good-faith reporting of any publicly available information is unlikely to violate the public interest standard or constitute any sort of prohibited conduct.

(b) Do you commit to voting against any FCC action against broadcasters based on the good-faith airing of polling or election results?

As stated above, the good-faith reporting of any publicly available information is unlikely to violate the public interest standard or constitute any sort of prohibited conduct. If confirmed, I commit to basing all of my decisions on the facts in the record, precedent and the law.

(15)The FCC voted on August 6, 2026, to replace the Congressionally-dictated 39% ownership cap with case-by-case review.

(a) Would you have voted to approve that change? **Republicans and Democrats have both expressed support for the FCC changing the national ownership**

cap. If confirmed, in any decision that comes before the FCC, I would make my decision based on the facts in the record and the law.

(b) Did the FCC exceed its statutory authority by replacing the 39% ownership cap with a case-by-case review process? **There is a legitimate legal debate about the FCC's authority to change the cap. I will not prejudge a legal question that may come before the Commission again, but I commit to basing any future decision in the record and relevant precedent.**

(c) Explain how allowing fewer companies to own more market share of the U.S. media landscape help maintain the vibrant media ecosystem that serves different communities around the country. **I agree that a vibrant media ecosystem is important and, if confirmed, would make decisions with this priority in mind. The FCC reviews license transfers on a case-by-case basis and should evaluate each merger on its merits. There may be instances where consolidation allows for greater investment in local newsrooms.**

(d) Explain how this decision supports locally owned media that understands and reflects their own communities. **See above. I agree that localism is incredibly important and should be a central focus of the FCC's decision-making when it comes to media ownership. There may be instances where consolidation allows for greater investment in local newsrooms and, in turn, greater localism. However, if confirmed, I would base my decision regarding any media ownership issues on the facts and the law.**

(16) The Commission has issued a notice that proposes to potentially end the E-Rate program, which is outside of the statutory authority of the FCC. Section 254(h) of the Communications Act directs support for schools and libraries and does not authorize the FCC to terminate the program.

(a) Do you acknowledge that the FCC has no statutory authority to end the E-Rate program? **The FCC has asked whether or not it has the authority to sunset the program in an open proceeding. I will not prejudge that proceeding, but will commit to making my decision based on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law including Section 254(h).**

(b) Will you commit to follow Congress' direction with respect to E-Rate? **Yes**

(17) The FCC's E-Rate notice also asks questions about how the FCC should determine whether screen use is appropriate under the E-Rate program, but Section 254(l)(2) says no federal agency may establish criteria for deciding what is inappropriate for minors. That law mandates those decisions are made at the local level. And the U.S. Department of Education says screen-use decisions are best made by states and communities. Does the Commission have the statutory authority to determine whether screen use is appropriate through the E-Rate program? **The FCC has asked whether or not it has the authority to make determinations about screen time in its open proceeding. I will not prejudge that proceeding, but will commit to making my decision based on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law including Section 254(l)(2).**

(18)Recently, the Commission has invested in targeted outreach efforts to increase participation of tribal libraries in the E-Rate program.

(a) If confirmed, what steps will you commit to continuing to prioritize support for tribal libraries? **If confirmed, I would support outreach to ensure tribal libraries are aware of E-Rate and have information on how to navigate the application and compliance processes. I also think the FCC should create more opportunities for staff to engage directly with tribal communities on USF programs, whether it's through listening sessions, workshops, or other in-person opportunities.**

(b) What steps will you take to ensure such outreach continues and what recommendations will you make to improve the Commission's efforts? **In addition to the above efforts, I would encourage the Commission to proactively reach out to tribal libraries where feasible to provide information and resources.**

(19)The Commission's various reports on deployment on voice and broadband services throughout the nation consistently show our Tribal lands, especially rural Tribal lands, lagging in both broadband availability and affordability.

(a) Do you agree that the Commission must do more to ensure that citizens living on rural Tribal lands have access to reasonably comparable broadband, both in quality and price, compared to our nation's urban/suburban areas? **Yes, Americans on tribal lands should have access to reasonably comparable broadband, both in quality and price. The FCC should continue to facilitate such access through its universal service programs as well as through its spectrum and deployment policies.**

(b) Do you agree that one of the biggest impediments to broadband access on remote Tribal lands is insufficient universal service support to carriers attempting to build, operate, and upgrade networks on those lands? **I believe insufficient support could be an impediment to deployment in extremely remote areas such as tribal lands. But there may be other significant impediments, including the cost of deployment due to terrain, spectrum availability, and even a lack of demand.**

(c) Do you agree that fiber to remote towers would greatly improve the availability of 5G Broadband and fixed wireless, a viable alternative to extending lines? **I think this is an interesting idea and one that I would be glad to discuss with you or your staff. Fiber backhaul can be a way to improve capacity and reliability in remote areas.**

(d) Do you agree that mobile terrestrial networks are critical to delivering high-quality broadband to rural/remote Tribal lands that improve health, safety, and economic development? **Yes, mobile terrestrial networks not only provide broadband but important access to emergency services, education, telehealth and more.**

(e) What steps would you take to improve mobile broadband access on rural/remote Tribal lands? **If confirmed, I would focus on making more spectrum available for commercial use as well as reducing unnecessary barriers to**

infrastructure deployment. I would also focus on making sure the FCC's universal service programs are modernized to support sustainable deployment where such support makes sense. Furthermore, I would want the FCC to make sure its maps and data are as accurate as possible so limited dollars go to the communities with the greatest need.

(f) Would you recommend that citizens living in rural/remote areas (not just Tribal) be limited to having access to broadband only through satellite infrastructure. **No. Satellite is an excellent broadband option, but my goal would be to facilitate connectivity through many different means.**

(20) SpaceX has advocated that the Commission should sunset the High-Cost program and improve its Lifeline program to increase the amount of support available to low-income households.

(a) Do you agree with SpaceX's advocacy on Lifeline? **The FCC's Lifeline program has served an important role in addressing the affordability gap that exists for communications services. The FCC's High Cost program has served an important but different role of supporting the deployment of networks in hard-to-reach areas of the country. While the FCC's open proceeding explores the relationship between these two universal service programs, I don't believe that an expansion of Lifeline would solve the challenges created by eliminating the High Cost program. But if confirmed, I would be happy to work with you or your office on this issue.**

(b) If so, how would you improve the Lifeline program to reach more low-income households? **I believe that the Lifeline program has been successful and should continue to be utilized to close the existing affordability gap. The FCC should take measured actions to eliminate any waste, fraud, and abuse in the program, and to improve verification of Lifeline participants. By taking such actions, the FCC can ensure that limited taxpayer dollars are being directed towards intended program recipients. Program integrity is critical to its success. At the same time, we should ensure that eligible Americans know that the program exists and can easily determine whether they qualify. The FCC should continue to work with states, community organizations, and providers to improve outreach and enrollment.**

(c) Do you agree with SpaceX that the High-Cost program should be discontinued? **I believe that the High Cost program has been successful and will continue to play an important role in areas that have been costly to serve. The FCC has an open proceeding evaluating the future of the program and if confirmed I would base my decisions on the program on the facts in the record and the law.**

(d) Do you think SpaceX should contribute to the universal service fund? If not, why not? **Section 254 requires "every telecommunications carrier that provides interstate telecommunications services" to contribute, on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to the universal service fund. I defer to Congress on any changes to contributions to the universal service fund.**

(21) CRS estimates that only 22% of eligible low-income households use the Lifeline benefit. What steps would you take to increase participation in the Lifeline program? **As stated above, I believe that the Lifeline program has been successful and should continue to be utilized to close the existing affordability gap. The FCC should take measured actions to eliminate any waste, fraud, and abuse in the program, and to improve verification of Lifeline participants. Program integrity is critical to its success. At the same time, we should ensure that eligible Americans know that the program exists and can easily determine whether they qualify. The FCC should continue to work with states, community organizations, and providers to improve outreach and enrollment.**

(22) Large edge providers are responsible for enormous downloads of Internet traffic to end users, amounts that continue to increase at a high rate. Edge providers reap hundreds of billions in profits from advertising and subscription revenues. Small wireless carriers in particular are burdened by having to invest to increase capacity to meet their customers' increasing data usage.

(a) Do you agree that improving mobile broadband networks' coverage and throughput speeds will increase the attractiveness of edge provider services, increasing traffic and edge provider revenues? **I agree that there is a very close correlation between the desire to have faster, better networks and the desire to consume the content being made available by edge providers.**

(b) Do you agree that since the large edge providers are "cost causers," they should be required to contribute to the cost of maintaining and upgrading the networks they depend on and profit from? **I defer to Congress on any changes to contributions to the universal service fund but would be happy to work with you and your office on this issue.**

(c) Do you agree that a small contribution by edge providers would reduce the universal service contribution burden on end users? **I defer to Congress on any changes to contributions to the universal service fund but would be happy to work with you and your office on this issue.**

(d) How would you define the edge in a sustainable way? **I defer to Congress on any changes to contributions to the universal service fund but would be happy to work with you and your office on this issue.**

(23) Do you believe the Commission makes better decisions when different viewpoints are heard and debated vigorously? Are the Commission's decisions more credible when a commissioner who might see the facts differently has weighed in? Do you believe a decision is better when someone has tried to identify flaws or omissions?

I believe that there is value in having different perspectives represented on the Commission and that the FCC works best when it is operating in the best interest of the public without regard to partisan politics. After all, the Commission's decisions should be based on the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law. If confirmed, I would consider all viewpoints and strive to reach consensus with my colleagues regardless of where they are on the political spectrum.

(24) In 2009, 2012, 2013, 2017 and 2019 the Senate confirmed a Democrat and a Republican together, under presidents and Senates of both parties. Majority Leader Thune has said he has urged the White House to nominate Democrats to bodies like the FCC. Do you agree with Leader Thune? Do you believe the Commission's decisions are more credible when they have support, or at least have been thoroughly debated, across party lines?

This is not a matter for me to decide. Pursuant to the Constitution, federal officials are nominated by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(25) Combating robocalls is an area of strong bipartisan agreement in Congress. I would like to see better enforcement against robocall violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) and authored the FCC Legal Enforcement Act to give the Commission more authority to do so. However, I am aware of concerns about some of the robocall-related proposals being considered by the FCC that would require telecom providers to collect and verify Personally Identifiable Information (PII) for all customers. This would impose the types of "Know Your Customer" (KYC) rules that exist for the banking sector for all Americans who just want to make phone calls. Do you agree that the FCC should focus on better enforcement against robocall violations before adopting new KYC requirements that could have significant privacy risks for consumers?

If confirmed, I would work with my colleagues to pursue an aggressive and all-of-the-above approach to combatting illegal robocalls. The FCC's open proceeding on its KYC rules is focused on companies or individuals that generate high call volumes in an attempt to use U.S. voice service providers to originate illegal calls. The proposal clearly makes distinctions between potential rules for high-volume callers and what might make sense for individual and family accounts. I think that enforcement can also be a very useful tool in protecting consumers against illegal robocalls.

(26) In New Mexico, utilities use the 900 MHz band for smart meters and grid sensors. Oil and gas operators in the Permian Basin use it for pipeline monitoring and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems. Firefighters, alarm companies, and families across the state rely on it every day, often in rural and tribal communities where there is no backup. Currently, the Commission is considering a petition from NextNav that would reconfigure this band. If confirmed, will you commit to protect the public safety and utility systems that rural communities depend on?

If confirmed, I commit to review the record in full and make my decision based on that record. I am aware of the public safety and security concerns that have been raised by certain stakeholders in the proceeding and would carefully review and consider those concerns before making a decision on the petition.

(27) Who won the 2020 presidential election?

Joe Biden was certified by Congress and served as President.

(28) If you are confirmed, do you plan to live in D.C. or the surrounding metropolitan area full-time? Will you work at the FCC in-person?

Serving as a commissioner would be an incredible honor and privilege. If confirmed, I would spend as much time in Washington as necessary to fulfill my duties and obligations and serve the public.

SENATOR LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER (D-DE)

Question 1: FCC Independence
The Federal Communications Commission is an independent agency established by Congress. As a commissioner, you would have a responsibility to exercise independent judgment in implementing the Communications Act, including when your conclusions differ from those of the President or the FCC Chairman.

- **Q:** Can you identify a specific FCC policy or decision with which you have disagreed with Chairman Carr? Please explain the basis of that disagreement. **As a legal advisor and senior counsel to the FCC Chairman, my primary role has been to provide advice and counsel to the Chairman. All such advice was provided to the FCC Chairman directly and was not made publicly, even where I may have disagreed. As legal counsel to the Chairman, my role is to provide advice to the Chairman with respect to relevant legal and regulatory matters and the Chairman is free to consider, follow or disregard that advice at his discretion. I believe that voicing public disapproval in the event that the Chairman exercises such discretion to disregard such advice would be unprofessional and contrary to my ethical obligations as an attorney. However, the role of a commissioner differs significantly from that of legal counsel to the Chairman as do the duties and obligations that come with that role. If confirmed, I would have an independent statutory responsibility to make my decisions based on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law.**
- **Q:** If the White House or Chairman Carr urged you to support an enforcement action or licensing decision that you believed was unsupported by the factual record or inconsistent with the law, what specific steps would you take? **If confirmed, my obligation would be to the American public and to the law. I would exercise independent judgment and base my decision on the facts in the record, precedent, and law.**
- **Q:** Will you commit to exercising independent judgment on matters before the Commission, including when doing so would require you to publicly disagree with Chairman Carr or the White House? **Yes**

Question 2: Bipartisan Representation
In 2009, 2012, 2013, 2017, and 2019, the Senate confirmed a Democrat and a Republican together, under presidents and Senates of both parties. This longstanding bipartisan tradition helps preserve the Commission's independence and ensures that differing perspectives are

represented in its decision-making. Majority Leader Thune has said he has urged the White House to nominate Democrats to bodies like the FCC.

- **Q:** Do you agree with Leader Thune that the White House should nominate Democrats to serve on the FCC?

This is not a matter for me to decide. Pursuant to the Constitution, federal officials are nominated by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

- **Q:** Do you believe the FCC can function as an effective independent regulator without any commissioners from the Democratic Party?

The Commission's decisions should be based on the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law. If confirmed, I would consider all viewpoints and strive to reach consensus with my colleagues regardless of where they are on the political spectrum.

- **Q:** Do you support the renomination of Commissioner Anna Gomez and the nomination of a qualified Democrat to fill the Commission's remaining vacancy?

This is not a matter for me to decide. Pursuant to the Constitution, federal officials are nominated by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. However, I believe all commissioners should work diligently to serve the public interest regardless of political party and should make their decisions with integrity and respect for the law. I would work with any colleague that shares these values, regardless of political party.

Question 3: ABC/WPVI Early License Renewal
In July, I signed a letter of support for the license renewal of WPVI-TV, 6abc — the local television station that has faithfully served the Delaware Valley for nearly eighty years.

The FCC chose to accelerate the license review process for WPVI very close in time to the President's displeasure with statements from Jimmy Kimmel. WPVI's next renewal filing deadline would have been March 2031.

- **Q:** Do you think it was appropriate for the FCC to advance review of a TV license by five years and to single out one network for retaliation?

I have not worked on this matter and have no documents relating to this license renewal. I will not prejudge the outcome of any open investigation or enforcement matter, but, if confirmed, I would base my decisions on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law.

Question 4: Broadband Affordability
Affordable broadband access is essential for Americans to participate in the modern economy, access health care and government services, and stay connected with their communities. Yet affordability remains a significant barrier, particularly for low-income households, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

The FCC's Lifeline program provides eligible low-income households with a monthly discount of up to $9.25 on qualifying communications services. In 2026, the Commission proposed

changes to the program's eligibility and enrollment requirements that could make it more difficult for eligible households to receive assistance.

- **Q:** Do you support the FCC's proposed changes to Lifeline eligibility and enrollment requirements? If so, what evidence demonstrates that these changes are necessary?

As a good steward of taxpayer dollars, it is prudent that the FCC routinely revisit its eligibility and enrollment requirements to ensure that limited subsidies are spent in a smart, targeted way. If confirmed, I would make any decision on the FCC's open Lifeline proceeding based on the facts in the record. Any changes to the program must be supported by evidence in the record.

- **Q:** How would you ensure that efforts to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse do not unnecessarily prevent eligible low-income households from accessing Lifeline benefits?

Targeted changes to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse can be achieved without discouraging participation in the program. I agree that it is important that any measures the FCC takes need to avoid needlessly burdening program participants.

- **Q:** What additional actions would you support, within the FCC's existing statutory authority, to make broadband service more affordable for low-income Americans?

I would support reducing unnecessary regulatory and deployment costs that ultimately get passed on to consumers, promoting competition so consumers have more affordable choices, and exploring ways to make it easier for eligible households to access benefits. The FCC should ensure that benefits are targeted to the households that need it most and that every dollar of support is spent effectively.

Question 5: E-Rate
The E-Rate program has helped schools and libraries across the country obtain affordable internet access. As educational institutions increasingly rely on digital learning platforms and AI-enabled tools, reliable connectivity remains essential to ensuring that students have equitable educational opportunities.

In 2026, the FCC initiated a rulemaking seeking comment on proposals to limit or sunset the E-Rate program, including restricting support to rural areas or communities served by only one broadband provider.

- **Q:** As Commissioner, would you vote to eliminate the E-Rate program? Please answer yes or no, and explain your reasoning.

The FCC is currently in the process of evaluating the E-Rate program, including the scope of its legal authority to sunset or change the program. It would not be appropriate for me to pre-judge the outcome of that proceeding. However, if confirmed, I would make my decisions based on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law.

- **Q:** What provision of the Communications Act would authorize the FCC to eliminate or substantially restrict E-Rate support for otherwise eligible schools and libraries?

The FCC is currently in the process of evaluating the E-Rate program, including the scope of its legal authority to sunset or change the program. It would not be appropriate for me to pre-judge the outcome of that proceeding. However, if confirmed, I would make my decisions based on the facts in the record, precedent, and the law.

- **Q:** What changes, if any, would you support to the E-Rate program, and how would you ensure that those changes do not undermine access to affordable broadband for schools and libraries serving low-income communities?

If confirmed, I would work with my colleagues to ensure that any changes to the program do not conflict with the FCC's statutory responsibility to ensure that all schools and libraries have access to affordable broadband.