

New Survey: Conservatives Want a Free and Open Internet, Support Principles of Net Neutrality Rules

In Advance of Congressional Hearings Conservatives Strongly Support Chairman Wheeler's FCC Proposal and Express Concerns Over Influence of ISPs

Washington, D.C. - A new national survey sponsored by the Internet Freedom Business Alliance (IFBA) and conducted by Vox Populi Polling, found that 81 percent of all voters, including Republicans, support an open Internet, endorsing the key elements of net neutrality rules. According to the survey, conservative voters overwhelmingly believe that consumers need protections from large Internet service providers to ensure that they deliver the Internet fairly and without monopolization. Additionally, even the most conservative voters are very concerned about the possibility of Internet service providers having the power to "influence content."

When asked about FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler's statement that he plans "to propose rules that say that no blocking (is allowed), no throttling, no paid prioritization," his comments were met with wide support by voters. Republicans showed broad agreement with Chairman Wheeler's statement, with 80 percent either somewhat or strongly agreeing with him. The poll provides an informative backdrop to the hearings that will take place today in both the Senate Commerce Committee and the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on communications.

"This survey concludes that the vast majority of Americans, even the most conservative, support a free and open Internet," said Vox Populi Polling pollster Brent Seaborn. "Americans, across traditional political divides, are opposed to giving Internet service providers greater authority to discriminate against certain content providers. Conservatives also favored consumer protections from large Internet service providers in order to prevent monopolization and protect consumer choice."

"What Chairman Wheeler did at CES in Vegas, didn't stay in Vegas, it played well across the nation," said IFBA Executive Director Andrew Shore. "Unfortunately, the term net neutrality has become a political football in an intense partisan debate. What this polling shows is that if you move beyond the partisanship and focus on the issues at hand, net neutrality is about free markets, competition and enabling a level playing field for small businesses by keeping the cable giants and dominant telephone companies from monopolizing the Internet. We must have a free and open Internet, which is something all Americans can agree with."

For a memo on the survey results or to speak to someone at IFBA or Vox Populi Polling, please email press@blackrockgrp.com.

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