

Don't let House Bill 789 make Community High-speed Internet Illegal.
An expected amendment would ban cities from offering high-speed Internet access.

Saves rural jobs and small towns

High-speed Internet saves jobs in rural areas. Rural communities with no high-speed Internet access start projects to attract and retain businesses and residents.

Linden TX (pop. 2256) deployed a wireless network to give town businesses and residents broadband access where none was available before.

Granbury TX (pop. 6000) is deploys Wi-Fi network covering 10 square miles for public safety/public works and public access.

Dozens of other small towns with wireless projects include Atlanta, Belton, Brooks County, Denton, Flatonia, Fort Stockton, Garland, Greenville, Harlingen, Gun Barrel, Lockhart, Queen City, Sanderson, Taylor, Temple.

Drives city economic opportunity

Wireless city hotspots in businesses, parks and neighborhoods stimulate economic development, improve quality of life, and help bridge the "digital divide."

Houston's Technology For All project is a public-private partnership that provides broadband access to empower low-income and under resourced communities.

Dallas has a wireless hot zone blanketing the downtown convention district; planned expansion to business districts, as extension of public safety/public works network.

Corpus Christi is building a 147-square-mile citywide Wi-Fi network for use by city-owned utilities, public works and public safety agencies, as well as residents.

Austin Wireless City provides public access and a consistent look across city parks, libraries, city buildings, and private businesses, without relying on public funds.

Local control is needed for local needs

Cities make choices optimized for local needs:

City network for public safety/public works - deployed to residents via private ISP (Dallas, Corpus Christi)

City partners with nonprofit to bridge digital divide (Houston)

Fiber provides an open competitive market for private sector competitors (Harlingen)

Internet service add-on to public utility (Greenville)

Wireless on city water tower (Atlanta/Queen City)

US and Texas economic strength at risk

The US high-speed Internet has fallen from #3 in worldwide high-speed Internet adoption to #20, according to the Brookings Institute. In Texas, 16 counties have no high-speed Internet access, and 93 have no competition.

High-speed Internet access is necessary for a leading economy in the 21st century. Reducing choices for high-speed access will put the US and Texas further behind.

High-speed Internet drives IT innovation and growth.

High-speed networks enable growth in private-sector technologies that depend on network access. High-speed networks increase demand for high-tech products and services from companies like Dell, Intel and Texas Instruments. High-speed networks create new private-sector markets for services that require broadband, such as telemedicine, distance learning, telework, security monitoring, games, mapping, and others.

Broad adoption of high-speed Internet will add an estimated \$500 billion into the U.S. economy each year and generate as many as 1.2 million permanent new jobs

Community networks encourage competition.

High-speed Internet competition often comes to previously underserved areas after a community jumpstarts its own network and proves market viability.

Broadly opposed

Opponents of a ban on city-supported Internet include:

Technology industry: High-tech companies and trade groups Dell, Intel, Texas Instruments, Tropos Networks, TechNet Texas, AeA, High-Tech Broadband Coalition

Cities and Towns: Dozens of cities and towns with community networks, including Dallas, Houston, Corpus Christi, Austin, Taylor, Belton, Burleson Atlanta, Queen City, Harlingen, many others

Public Interest: Consumers Union, Common Cause, ACLU-Texas, EFF-Austin, NAACP, LULAC, MALDEF

More High-Speed Internet – Better for Texas