

# YES on AB 470

All Californians Deserve Reliable, Fast, and Affordable Communications Options

Assembly Bill 470 (McKinnor) is a responsible, balanced approach to modernizing California's communications network. AB 470 will move California forward while protecting consumers, preserving access to essential voice services, strengthening public safety and preparing the state for the future.



AS AMENDED 6/19/25

## DISCUSSIONS WITH LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP & STAKEHOLDERS RESULTED IN:

- ***The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the Urban Counties of California (UCC) have removed their opposition.***
- ***The modernization process will be overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) with strong guidelines and guardrails set by the Legislature*** to ensure any transition protects consumers and remains timely.
- ***California's modern communications expansion efforts will be strengthened***, as any provider seeking amended Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) status must build out advanced fiber optic networks to more residential locations, including in areas that are not "well-served." This ramp up of modern networks will directly connect more Californians to advanced communications technologies.

## WHAT AB 470 WILL DO:

### Modernize Infrastructure Over Time – No Californian Left Behind

- ✓ **AB 470 ensures a careful, phased-in, multi-year modernization process that protects all Californians during the transition to a next-generation communications network.**
  - Before any changes occur, AB 470 requires the CPUC to designate geographic areas classified as "well-served." Modernization will only be permitted in areas that are unpopulated and without customers, or designated as "well-served," meaning:
    - At least three alternative voice services are available, including:
      - At least one alternative must be a wireline provider,
      - At least one alternative must participate in the discounted California LifeLine program,
      - An alternative is available to all broadband-serviceable locations in the area.
  - **In populated areas not identified as "well-served," nothing changes, and current law remains in effect.**
- ✓ AB 470 also specifies that if all alternative service providers exit the market, leaving the area with no alternatives, the prior COLR must return and provide voice service to affected customers.
- ✓ Ultimately, the CPUC will have authority and responsibility to approve amended status requests based on the criteria set out in AB 470, ensuring rigorous regulatory oversight as the state transitions to a more modern communications network.

## Provide Robust Consumer Protections

- ✓ **AB 470 clearly directs the CPUC** to conduct a thorough process to verify access to alternative services and ensure consumers are protected.
- ✓ **AB 470 establishes multiple consumer challenge opportunities**, including allowing anyone to dispute a COLR change request, and requires the CPUC to create a public notice process.

## Strengthen Public Safety

- ✓ **AB 470 incorporates the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)** in the CPUC proceeding to set detailed COLR reform processes for applicants.
- ✓ **AB 470 ensures no impact on Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems** used by first responders.
- ✓ **AB 470 will provide transition assistance funding for public safety agencies** as they migrate to modern network infrastructure.
  - This includes funding for Tribal nations, local governments and community-based organizations to be used on outreach and awareness, with a focus on residents in high-risk areas to help them prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.
- ✓ To the extent feasible, AB 470 requires that a replacement voice service must be offered that is compatible with home alarm systems, medical alert devices, and point-of-sale terminals.

## Ensure Voice Services Remain Affordable

- ✓ Providers must ensure customers have access to voice services at prices comparable to traditional landline service.
- ✓ Providers are required to offer an affordable broadband plan to eligible customers.
- ✓ The definition of "well-served" includes a requirement that at least one of the alternative providers participates in California's LifeLine program.

## Prepare California for the Future

- ✓ **AB 470 helps position the state for long-term connectivity and workforce readiness**, including requiring providers to:
  - Expand modern communications access for hundreds of thousands of residential customers in California,
  - Fund labor development, skills training, and community-based digital literacy programs.
- ✓ **AB 470 also legally binds providers to fulfill commitments and empowers the CPUC to oversee compliance.**
  - If a provider fails to meet any obligation, the commission has the authority to force remedy.