

Updates to the State Constitution Supporting Local Broadband Expansion

Vote YES to Amendment 2 on November 8, 2022

Over the past several years, Alabama leaders have worked diligently to expand essential broadband services across our largely rural state. Unprecedented global events have heightened the necessity for internet access and made it glaringly evident that Alabama still has much ground to cover to effectively reach the underserved areas of our state. Considering the enormity of this feat, it is important that local leaders join the state in putting forth a concerted, collaborative effort to expand broadband services.

Broadband providers are often hesitant to install broadband infrastructure in rural areas because of low subscription rates from consumers. Broadband expansion usually involves governmental entities providing incentives to these providers to install the requisite infrastructure in rural areas. Under the Alabama Constitution, local governments are largely prohibited from giving a “thing of value” to a public or private entity. Amendment 2, therefore, proposes to authorize the state, a county, or a municipality to grant federal award funds or any other source of funding designated for broadband infrastructure by state law to any public or private entity for the purpose of providing or expanding broadband infrastructure.

To clear the way for local governments to work in unison with the state and use American Rescue Plan funds for broadband expansion, ACCA encourages Alabamians to vote YES on Amendment 2 on the General Election ballot on November 8, 2022.