Public Attitudes Regarding the Federal Communications Commission’s Approach to Dealing with the Proposed Net Neutrality Issue

Key findings from a telephone survey among a nationwide cross section of 800 adults.*
Conducted February 13-15, 2015
by Hart Research Associates

* Margin of error: ±3.46 percentage points at the 95% confidence level
Methodology

- From February 13 to 15, 2015, Hart Research Associates conducted a nationwide survey on behalf of the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI). The survey was conducted by telephone (both landline and cell phone) among a cross section of 800 adults age 18 and over.

- The data’s margin of error is ±3.46 percentage points for 800 adults at the 95% confidence level. Sample tolerances for subgroups are larger.
One in four Americans is familiar with Net Neutrality.

Are you familiar with the term Net Neutrality and do you know what it refers to?

Not familiar 74%

Very familiar 11%

Somewhat familiar 14%

Very/somewhat familiar

All adults 25%

Men 37%

Women 14%

Income under $50K 13%

Income $50K to $75K 30%

Income over $75K 37%

High school grad/less 11%

Some college 24%

College grads 37%

Democrats 25%

Independents 25%

Republicans 27%
The large majority of Americans want greater disclosure of the details of the FCC’s Net Neutrality proposal.

Information prior to question: One principal concern raised by some people is that ONLY the five members of an unelected Federal Communications Commission, or FCC, will decide the future of the Internet without providing an opportunity for the public to see and understand the regulations prior to a vote. Opponents of the Internet regulation plan to seek public disclosure of the exact rules and specific regulations prior to the FCC’s official vote. These groups say that, given the importance of the Internet in the daily lives of Americans, the FCC should provide greater information about the proposal to regulate the Internet to better understand its costs and benefits.

**Do you think greater disclosure is needed or that the FCC should decide?**

**All adults nationwide**

**Greater disclosure of information by the FCC is necessary**

- 73%

**The proposal has been discussed/debated by all major parties and should be decided by the FCC**

- 17%

**Not sure**

- 10%

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Greater disclosure</th>
<th>FCC decide</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income under $50K</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income $50K to $75K</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income over $75K</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school grad/less</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>College grads</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Nearly eight in ten Americans favor public disclosure of the exact wording and details of the FCC’s Net Neutrality proposal before the FCC votes on it.

Would you favor or oppose that the exact wording and the details of the proposal to regulate the Internet be made public before the Federal Communications Commission is allowed to cast its final vote on the issue of Net Neutrality?

Favor | Oppose
--- | ---
Men | 81% | 12%
Women | 76% | 14%
Income under $50K | 76% | 16%
Income $50K to $75K | 77% | 9%
Income over $75K | 83% | 10%
High school grad/less | 76% | 14%
Some college | 77% | 16%
College grads | 84% | 8%
Democrats | 79% | 13%
Independents | 77% | 17%
Republicans | 82% | 8%
Only one in three Americans thinks that regulating the Internet like telephone service will be helpful.

Information prior to question: Over the past 22 years, the Internet has developed and grown into what we have today, with little government oversight, and has resulted in major private investment by the nation's wired and wireless providers in modern, high-speed broadband networks. President Obama is now proposing that the federal government regulate and oversee the Internet similar to how it oversees the electric or gas public utility industry. Specifically, President Obama proposes allowing the FCC, for the first time, to regulate the Internet with the same authority it has used in the past to regulate monopoly telephone service.

**What is your view of FCC regulation of the Internet?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>FCC regulation would be more helpful</th>
<th>FCC regulation would be more harmful</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familiar</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not familiar</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
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