

For Immediate Release

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NEXT CENTURY CITIES CONGRATULATES ACTING CHAIRWOMAN ROSENWORCEL AND GIGI SOHN ON THEIR NOMINATIONS TO THE FCC

Washington, D.C. (October 26, 2021) – Today, the Biden administration [nominated](#) Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel to lead the Federal Communications Commission. Additionally, the administration has nominated Gigi Sohn, current Distinguished Fellow at the Georgetown Law Institute for Technology Law & Policy and Benton Senior Fellow to fill the role of fifth commissioner. Both Rosenworcel and Sohn are longtime broadband advocates and have met with NCC member municipalities to discuss improving broadband outcomes in communities nationwide.

Francella Ochillo, Executive Director, at Next Century Cities offered the following remarks:

“It’s an exciting time to work on broadband, even more so when such a critical agency is stacked with extraordinary subject matter experts. Acting Chair Jessica Rosenworcel exemplifies grit and grace. For years, she has implored policy experts and the public to address the homework gap and other pain points that contribute to the digital divide. Gigi Sohn, Distinguished Fellow at the Georgetown Law Institute for Technology Law & Policy and Benton Senior Fellow, has led public interest advocates in a decade-long campaign for an open internet while inspiring countless organizations to support digital rights.

“Together, alongside Commissioners Brendan Carr, Geoffrey Starks, and Nathan Simington, the FCC is poised to deliver on its promise of universal connectivity at a time when we simply have no other choice. Next Century Cities and the local officials in our network stand ready as thought partners and agents of change. We are all united in a commitment to bring high-speed connectivity within reach for every resident in every community.”

Ryan Johnston, Policy Counsel for Federal Programs added:

“President Biden’s nominations of Jessica Rosenworcel and Gigi Sohn to permanent positions at the FCC signal a step towards bringing broadband within reach for every household regardless of zip code, geographic location, or income level. Both have been tireless advocates for high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband. Chairwoman Rosenworcel’s continued leadership and Gigi Sohn’s much-needed voice ensure that the hardest issues in tech and telecom policy will be faced head-on.

“Nearly 80 million people in the U.S. do not have adequate broadband at home, largely the poor. Only 48 percent of low-income households have a fixed broadband connection at home. 13 million Black people, 18 million Latinx people, and 13 million Indigenous people lack adequate home connectivity. The charge that lies ahead is enormous and requires the hard work of a full Commission to tackle long-term connectivity goals.”

Follow along with the [FCC's real-time updates](#) for additional information about the FCC Chair and Commissioner nominations.