

Next TV
[Comcast Touts 3.8 Million Xfinity Flex Deployments](#)

Fierce Video
[Charter details 'modern' linear/streaming deal with ViacomCBS](#)

Fierce Wireless
[Cable MVNOs add 550,000 wireless subs in Q2](#)

Bloomberg
[Fast internet everywhere could add \\$160 billion to US economy](#)

Greater New Milford Spectrum (Danbury, CT)
[What is Section 230? An expert on internet law and regulation explains the legislation that paved the way for Facebook, Google and Twitter](#)

New York Times
[How Local Media Spreads Misinformation From Vaccine Skeptics](#)

Fierce Video
[Hulu + Live TV adds NFL Network, \\$9.99/month sports add-on](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer
[Op-ed: Our chances of closing Philadelphia's digital divide improved with the pandemic](#)

Charter Communications added 400,000 residential and business broadband subscribers in Q2, beating analysts' consensus estimates by about 125,000 subscribers and indicating that the expected slowdown in broadband growth may not be as dramatic as first expected. Charter's 400,000 total broadband additions was well ahead of consensus estimates of 275,000 adds, and was driven in part by lower churn. That lower churn rate also was evident on the video service side, where Charter lost 63,000 customers, again besting consensus estimates of a loss of about 160,000 customers.

Officially, Charter added 365,000 residential broadband customers (consensus estimates were for 250,000 additions) and 35,000 business broadband adds. Mobile customers rose by 265,000, slightly less than expectations of around 290,000 additions. Charter ended the period with about 2.9 million mobile customers. Those gains helped drive overall revenue up 9.5% to \$12.8 billion and cash flow increased 11.8% to \$5 billion.

Charter's performance mirrored that of its closest peer -- No. 1 cable operator Comcast -- which added 354,000 broadband customers in Q2, well ahead of consensus estimates. "Our operating strategy continues to deliver strong customer and financial growth despite an operating environment that has yet to return to normal," Charter chairman and CEO Tom Rutledge said in a press release. "And the opportunity at Charter is what it has always been — to continue to create customer relationships with our high-quality connectivity services, delivering value for consumers and our shareholders over time." — **Next TV**

Over 150 people attended the largest picnic ever for the Elk County Republican Party on Saturday at the Big Trout Inn in Weedville. Besides the amazing all-you-can-eat ribs prepared by the Big Trout Inn owners, the Rosenfeld's. The energized members of the Elk County Republican Party came out to hear all of the local candidates. Representatives and Senators speak about current political issues, the fall election, and plans for 2022 and beyond.

Once the bluest of blue counties in PA, the massive change in the electorate that has taken place over the last six years in Elk County includes a huge numerical advantage for the Republicans both locally, statewide, and nationally in the North and Western regions of Pennsylvania. PA Congressman Glenn "G.T." Thompson thanked the voters of Elk County for all their support, which has allowed him to become the minority chair of the US. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee, where the strong voices of rural Americans are heard most clearly. Many of the ideas and bills being advanced in the Ag Committee come from him and his fellow rural Republicans. "As a descendent of dairy farmers, I am proud to be an active member of the House Agriculture Committee. Previously, I served as Vice Chairman of the Committee and currently serve as Ranking Member of the General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee."

"G.T." Thompson (PA-15) and Congressman Salud Carbajal (CA-24) introduced the Plugging Orphan Wells and Environmental Restoration (POWER) Act. The POWER Act (H.R. 4781) reauthorizes the federal orphan well remediation program under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 for five years at \$50 million per year. In addition, the bill would establish a new grant program for environmental restoration and reclamation of orphaned wells on state, private, and tribal lands and authorizes \$400 million per year for this purpose for five years. "Nationally, there are an estimated 560,000 orphaned wells and more than 8,700 in Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth's oil and gas sites ushered in the modern petroleum industry, which led the United States to become a global power and, today, energy independent. The POWER Act will help accelerate environmental restoration while providing an economic benefit throughout oil and gas producing regions," said Congressman Thompson. "This is good policy for both the environment and jobs in Pennsylvania."

"G.T." is also pushing through a bill of which he is the primary sponsor and hopes to close the "digital divide" between rural and urban America. The legislation (Broadband for Rural America) would close that divide by encouraging broadband development. Specifically, the bipartisan bill, which Thompson said currently has 40 co-sponsors, "will focus on people who are the hardest to get connectivity to," and he is hoping to get more Democrats aboard with the idea. According to Thompson, President Joe Biden's White House staff has provided positive feedback about the bill, which still is in committee, calling it the right type of bill for a critical need. "Before the pandemic, we knew there was a digital divide in this country. That divide is more prominent in rural America," Thompson said during an interview at the newspaper's offices on Tuesday while on a stop in Venango County to speak with various elected officials. "People trying to use teleeducation, telehealth, or people who work from home have had problems," he said. "If we truly want to grow rural America, we need to have access to reliable high-speed broadband universally."

And now that he's the top Republican on the House Agriculture Committee, "G.T." continues to work on getting whole milk back into schools. "I think most folks in Washington, including (Ag Secretary) Tom Vilsack, know my goal of restoring whole milk in our school districts," said Thompson. "G.T." has re-introduced his signature bill, called the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, which would restore the whole milk option in public schools. Currently, school districts that participate in the federal School Lunch Program, that is, most districts are only allowed to offer skim or 1% milk. "We've lost almost an entire generation of milk drinkers since whole milk was demonized back in 2010," he said. "Michelle Obama gets a lot of blame, but she had nothing to do with taking whole milk out of schools," Thompson said. "That was Congress, and we can fix it too!"

State Senator Cris Dush was next to speak and is pushing hard on Election Integrity in Pennsylvania and strongly supports Title 25, Pa. Stat. § 3031.13 (a) "which clearly puts a stop to the acceptance of ballots "As soon as the polls have been closed and the last elector has voted in districts..." and absolutely does not permit the acceptance and counting of ballots which have come in after the closing of the polls." "The PA Supreme Court edict (it cannot be called a law) presumed to add something new to the law which the Legislature and the Governor, acting in accordance with the Constitution, did not put in

the law. Yet the Secretary of State and county election officials around the Commonwealth wrongly acted as though the edict was law."

"I've confronted Legal Beagles from the Democrat Senate Caucus and others who've made hundreds of excuses why the edicts should have been followed; but none, absolutely none, have answered the first question which must be answered in the affirmative before every governmental action: did the governing body (in this case the Supreme Court) have the authority to act?"

"Since 1791, no change to the Pennsylvania Constitution has occurred without the consent of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Never, since 1791, have the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granted authority to the Supreme Court to create law." Dush went on to speak about the workforce shortage in PA. "Pennsylvania is facing a serious workforce crisis that is threatening our employers and slowing our economic recovery. Businesses across the Commonwealth have been forced to curtail their hours of operation or even close because of a workforce shortage."

Dush spoke about a recent Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee panel. The panel heard from the PA Chamber of Business and Industry, local employers, and the PA Restaurant and Lodging Association to fully identify the employers' needs and the role the General Assembly can play in creating an environment for economic growth and job creation. "When Pennsylvania voters chose overwhelmingly this year to amend the state Constitution and limit the length of a governor's unchecked emergency powers, they weighed in on ballot questions created through Senate legislation."

Other measures passed by the Senate this year to safely respond to the COVID-19 pandemic include Act 1 of 2021, amending the state Fiscal Code to allocate \$569.8 million for Rental and Utility Assistance, \$197 million for education programs, and \$145 million to support Pennsylvania's struggling restaurants and taverns as they cope with the devastation created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the governor's mandated closings and restrictions. Act 21 of 2021 ensuring all waivers previously effective under the COVID-19 emergency will remain in effect until Sept. 30, 2021, unless sooner terminated by the authority which initially authorized the waiver.

Act 67 of 2021 allowing family members to safely visit long-term care facilities during a pandemic as essential caregivers. Senate Resolution 90 extending the emergency temporary rules adopted to maintain continuity of operations of the Senate during the COVID-19 disaster emergency. House Resolution 106 terminating the pandemic emergency declaration and ending the governor's power to close employers, limit occupancy, suspend state statutes or issue stay-at-home orders due to COVID-19.

Representative Mike Armanini was next up to speak and spoke first about voter identification.

"With public opinion strongly in support of requiring voters to present identification each time they vote, Gov. Tom Wolf now says he is open to the idea. It was just one month ago that he vetoed our comprehensive election reform measure, House Bill 1300, citing expanded voter ID requirements at the top of his list of concerns about the bill". "In today's world, we need ID to do just about everything. It only seems appropriate and perfectly reasonable that something as important as voting would

require citizens to verify their identity. To be sure a lack of ID would not present a barrier to voting, the bill would have required counties and the Department of State to provide specific voter identification cards to all registered voters."

Armanini went on to speak of recent news of "taxpayer money mismanagement by the Wolf administration, some of which has been happening for years and will cost taxpayers an exorbitant amount of money, the House State Government Committee held a hearing on wasteful government spending and improper payments." Recently, the House took steps to address the issues when it passed three bills, all of which are now in the Senate for consideration.

House Bill 104 would require state agencies to review their programs and expenditures, assess how susceptible they may be to an improper payment, and address any risks to prevent such payments ultimately. The Office of the Budget would then be required to maintain this information on a publicly accessible website. House Bill 108 would create a "do-not-pay" initiative to monitor improper payments across Commonwealth agencies. Specifically, any agency that makes payments by expending federal funds would be required to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the United States Treasury Department to join the federal do-not-pay program.

When improper payments do occur, House Bill 39 will help ensure we get that money back. It would require the Secretary of the Budget to establish a review schedule of a Commonwealth agency that has \$50 million or more in payments to individuals, vendors, or entities for improper payments and payment recovery by contracting with an auditor to perform a recovery audit. Elk County District Attorney Thomas GG Coppolo also spoke briefly to the crowd but quickly turned the stage over to Deputy Sheriff Martin Rosenfeld, who spoke of his run for the US Senate in 2022.

"I would like to represent the rational voice of the people of the United States and especially Pennsylvania. Seeing the unraveling checks and balance system currently being dismantled, I know with my life's knowledge, I can be very instrumental in continuing to keep the American Constitution Sacred for all future generations." "My support of Law Enforcement and the Second Amendment is my strongest concern now as I continue to watch our ability to do our sworn duties slowly being stripped away properly." "As a family man with seven grandchildren, I would like to see them grow up in a safe environment with the core values the has made America so great." PA Gubernatorial candidate Charlie Gerow also spoke to the assembled Republicans on Saturday. – **Ridgway (Elk Co.) Record**

