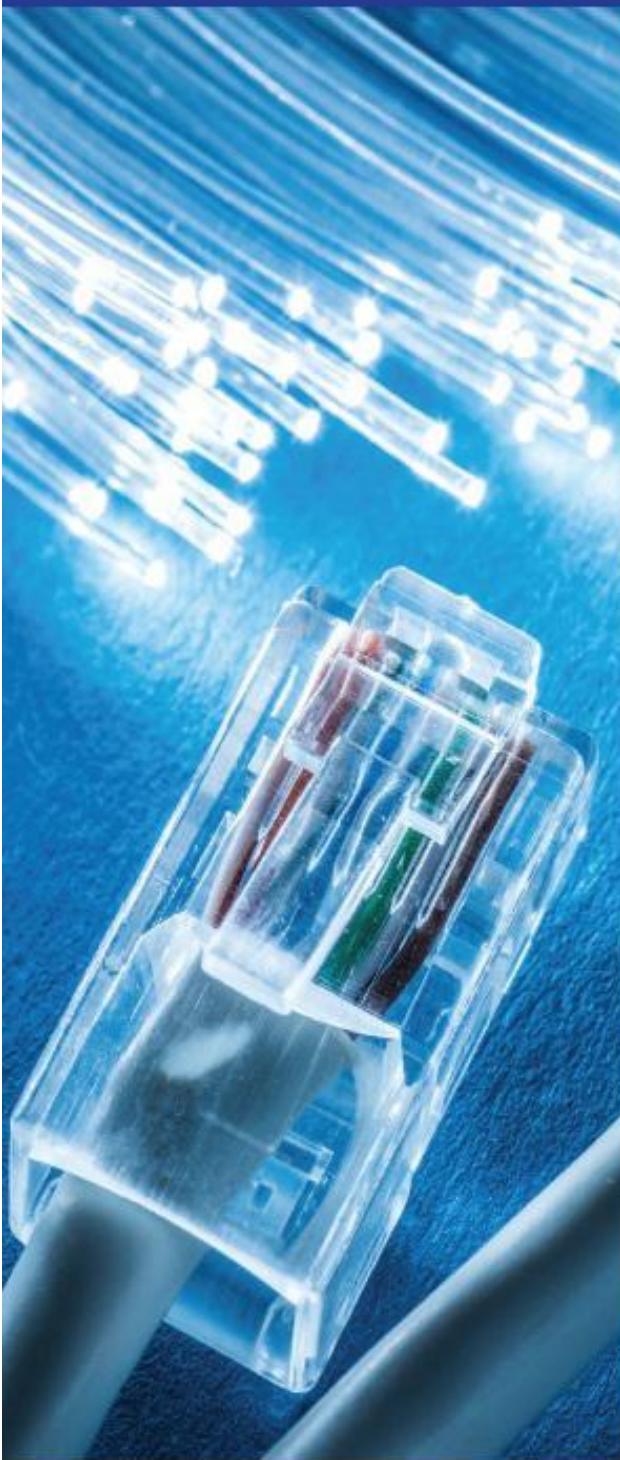


# PA Townships Value Relationship with Cable Industry



The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors salutes a longstanding working relationship with BCAP that has benefited millions of our commonwealth's citizens.

PSATS members have had successful partnerships with the commonwealth's cable companies for decades. The result has been a Pennsylvania-born technology that continues to provide entertainment, education, and communications services for generations of our state's citizens and businesses.

If there was ever a template for blending technology providers with local government, our 70-year-old working relationship with BCAP members is it.

PSATS looks forward to continuing and growing its partnership with broadband cable companies in the years ahead to deliver services to ALL Pennsylvanians!



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**Reuters**

[\*\*'Dozens of email accounts' were hacked at U.S. Treasury -Senator Wyden\*\*](#)

Compared to last year, state officials said they've seen an increase in Pennsylvanians who have not been able to pay their utility bills. In an unprecedented year such as this, there are ways that you can get help. "There are several layers in terms of protections for consumers that families can look at who may be struggling to pay their utility bills," said Gladys Brown Dutrieuile, PA Public Utility Commission Chair.

**Fierce Video Record sales expected for connected TV devices in Q4**

Dutrieuile said the public utility commission provides enhanced protections for customers who aren't able to pay their utility bills. She said that protection comes under the traditional winter shutoff moratorium to income qualified households. "Other assistance options like the utility payment plans to address past due balances, budget billing to help prevent large month to month swings in size of bills," she said.

**The Hill**  
[\*\*Amazon closes NJ warehouse days before Christmas after rise in asymptomatic coronavirus cases\*\*](#)

Last year, Dutrieuile said utilities across the state spent about \$391 million on PUC required customer service assistance programs. "Collectively these utility programs reach over 290,000 electric customers and approximately 160,000 natural gas customers reducing monthly energy bills," she said. If you are in need of this assistance, you should not wait until the last minute. Dutrieuile said you shouldn't wait for a past due bill or termination notice but you should call your utility company immediately. – **WJAC-TV, Johnstown**

**Harrisburg Patriot-News**  
[\*\*Twitter now puts label on Trump's tweets that Biden is now president every time he mentions election fraud\*\*](#)

After months of deliberation, congressional leaders reached a \$900 billion coronavirus relief deal on Sunday, including billions in funding for broadband internet access.

**AdWeek**  
[\*\*11 Top TV Execs on the Biggest Thing They Learned During the Pandemic\*\*](#)

Congress' latest relief measure provides \$7 billion in funding for broadband connectivity and infrastructure. That figure includes \$3.2 billion for a \$50-per-month emergency broadband benefit for people who are laid off or furloughed during the pandemic, according to a press release from Sen. Ron Wyden's (D-OR) office on Sunday. "Broadband connections are essential for Americans seeking to get new jobs, and to access school, health care and other government services," Wyden said in a statement Sunday night. "Ensuring working families can stay online will pay massive dividends for kids' education, helping people find jobs and jump starting the economic recovery next year."

**Harrisburg Patriot-News**  
[\*\*Pa. Senate GOP leader calls for a special committee to review 2020 election\*\*](#)

[\*\*Axios reported Sunday\*\*](#) that the coronavirus relief bill also includes \$1.9 billion to remove Huawei and ZTE equipment from US networks. In June, the Federal Communications Commission officially [\*\*designated Huawei and ZTE\*\*](#) as national security threats. In doing so, the FCC banned US companies from purchasing the equipment with government money. Earlier this month, the agency moved to require US telecom companies to "rip and replace" any Huawei or ZTE equipment currently deployed in their networks.

**Spotlight PA**  
[\*\*Pa. election officials are burnt out and leaving their jobs after 2020 'nightmare'\*\*](#)

The deal also includes \$1 billion in Tribal broadband grants, \$250 million toward telehealth, and \$65 million for broadband mapping improvements, [\*\*according to Axios\*\*](#). The US's broadband maps have been the [\*\*target of criticism for years\*\*](#). The FCC's current methodology declares an entire ZIP code as having broadband if just one home in that census block is served.

**Deadline.com**  
[\*\*Armed Protesters Break Into Oregon State Capitol Building, Break Windows, Assault Journalists, Hit Police With Chemical Agent\*\*](#)

The \$900 billion COVID relief bill includes a new round of direct payments, following the same requirements as the first round of stimulus checks earlier this year. This package provides stimulus checks of up to \$600 per person for people earning up to \$75,000 a year and another \$600 for their children, [\*\*according to The New York Times\*\*](#). – **The Verge**

AT&T's [attempt to unload DirecTV](#) has been thrown into doubt, as the telecom giant has signaled it's unhappy with the offers it has received for the struggling satellite TV service, The Post has learned. Earlier this month, AT&T pushed back a deadline for final bids for DirecTV into January — and told prospective bidders it may cancel the auction altogether if it doesn't get better offers, according to sources close to the situation.

On Dec. 9, the Wall Street Journal reported that a fresh round of bids came in at more than \$15 billion including debt. But insiders tell The Post that AT&T — dissatisfied with those offers — has invited private equity giant TPG Capital to study the books in hopes that it will make a binding offer that props up the price. Other participants include Apollo Global Management, which, according to sources, offered less than \$15 billion including debt; and investing tycoon Michael Klein's blank-check company Churchill Capital Corp. IV.

Indeed, AT&T's threat to cancel the auction appears to have surprised bidders, including Klein. Last week, Klein priced a second blank-check company, Churchill Capital Corp. V, at \$450 million, leading some to speculate he had been confident of closing the DirecTV deal this month. Now, Klein — who, according to one source, had voiced optimism about "good news" regarding DirecTV in the coming days — is in the unusual position of having two blank-check companies searching for deals.

Bidders are surprised by AT&T's threat to pack up and go home partly because its DirecTV business continues to shrink amid rising competition with video-streaming platforms like Netflix — and, more recently, AT&T's own [HBO Max service](#). Last week, a report by New Street Research predicted that DirecTV's EBITDA — or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, a key financial metric — will plunge to \$3 billion in 2022 from around \$4.5 billion this year.

Sources said buyout proposals in the \$15 billion range call for the purchaser to pay something close to \$3.75 billion in exchange for a 49 percent stake in the company, with AT&T keeping a slightly larger sum to maintain a majority interest. The remaining \$7.5 billion would be financed by new debt. AT&T, which didn't return a request for comment, could use the proceeds to participate in upcoming spectrum auctions, pay down debt or to pay dividends, sources said.

Nevertheless, that's a painful markdown for AT&T, whose former chief executive Randall Stephenson in 2015 shelled out \$49 billion for DirecTV plus a mountain of debt that brought the total to \$66 billion. The fact that bids didn't improve enough in the latest round appears to have rankled AT&T's new boss, John Stankey, who wants to retain a majority stake in the satellite TV unit while giving the winning bidder operating control of the company for tax reasons.

New Street Research believes AT&T also needs the proceeds to compete in upcoming auctions of cellular spectrum. DirecTV is still bleeding subscribers after offering promotions at discounts that were too steep, a source close to the auction said. In the third quarter, DirecTV lost 690,000 net customers, leaving it with 13.6 million, according to cable TV research consultant Bruce Leichtman.

Compared to last year, DirecTV's subscriber base has plummeted 19 percent versus a 3.8 percent drop at archrival Dish Network and a 6 percent drop at cable TV giant Comcast. While Leichtman believes the worst may be over for DirecTV, he said it likely will continue to lose more customers than its peers. "There will need to be more of a focus now on acquiring customers," Leichtman said. "If there is a different owner of DirecTV, that's going to diminish losses." — **New York Post**



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