



## CABLE ACADEMY 2019 • MAY 1 & 2 KALAHARI POCONOS RESORT

CONFIRM YOUR SPONSORSHIP, REGISTRATION AND EXHIBIT



February 11, 2019

**Washington Post**  
['There's going to be a fight here to weaken it': Inside the lobbying war over California's landmark privacy law](#)

The Senate will hold a hearing later this month on establishing federal internet privacy regulations, an early step towards the nation's first comprehensive consumer privacy law. Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), the chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, announced on Friday that the panel would hold a hearing titled "Policy Principles for a Federal Data Privacy Framework in the United States" on February 27.

**USA Today**  
[Sprint sues AT&T over the company's use of '5G E,' claims false advertising](#)

In a statement, Wicker said the hearing would be the first step towards bipartisan legislation. "In an age of rapid innovation in technology, consumers need transparency in how their data is collected and used," he said. "It is this committee's responsibility and obligation to develop a federal privacy standard to protect consumers without stifling innovation, investment, or competition." No witnesses have been announced for the hearing.

**Fierce Wireless**  
[Verizon prepares for 3.5 GHz tests in Boston, Phoenix](#)

Lawmakers of both parties have called for a new privacy bill following data scandals at major technology companies in the past year. And a major privacy law in California has industry lobbyists calling on Congress to pass a federal standard that would prevent states from implementing their own data laws. The committee held privacy hearings with both industry and consumer advocates last year, but the Feb. 27 meeting will be the first in the new Congress. — *The Hill*

**New York Post**  
[Baseball owners back MLB bid to buy Fox's regional sports networks](#)

---

After the news industry laid off some 2,100 workers from Vice, Gannett, McClatchy, BuzzFeed and the Huffington Post, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez blamed "tech monopolies" that have no "incentive to disseminate high-quality, true information." President Trump blames the press itself: "Fake News and bad journalism have caused a big downturn."

**Fierce Video**  
[Netflix finally adds smart download feature to iOS apps](#)

While these diagnoses of journalism's ills appear contradictory, both stem from the same root. Allowing a few platforms to control financing and distribution exacerbates the groupthink Mr. Trump rails against. More than two-thirds of Americans get news from social media. Google and Facebook control a large majority of the digital advertising market that used to be a major source of revenue for the news industry.

**Politico**  
[Jeff Bezos Can Sue the Pants Off the National Enquirer](#)

**Washington Post**  
[Does Jeff Bezos's behavior put Amazon at risk?](#)

Tech companies have leveraged their control of news distribution to entrench their advertising dominance. Facebook's Instant Articles publishes the full text of an article in the platform and shares ad revenue with the publisher. Google punishes publications that raise revenue through subscriptions rather than advertising by downgrading

**Philadelphia Daily News**  
[Turmoil \(again\) for Pennsylvania's Supreme Court](#)

search results of paywalled sites that don't provide free clicks. Google loosened its restrictions after criticism from publishers and threats of European antitrust enforcement, but it also introduced a "Subscribe With Google" service.

Instant Articles and Subscribe With Google may be convenient, but they also give the duopoly more control over the media's revenue and data, further centralizing news distribution. Google and Facebook have gained editorial influence over the press. They enact content guidelines as a condition for participation in advertising services. Both companies consult with left-wing groups such as Media Matters to determine what sites to exclude.

Now Google and Facebook are offering journalism grants to try to make up for their impact on the news industry. Last March the Google News Initiative pledged \$300 million to aid publishers, and Facebook promised a similar amount last month. Charity from Big Tech makes the news industry more dependent.

The flow of funds also reflects the companies' Democratic tilt. In 2016 Google sponsored the "Electionland" initiatives with ProPublica, the New York Times, USA Today and Univision, among others, for the stated purpose of "ensuring all Americans could freely exercise their right to vote by shining a light on problems that might get in their way." In practice Electionland's scores of articles universally criticized then-candidate Donald Trump or reinforced the liberal position on issues like voter ID and voter fraud.

Arthur Schlesinger Jr. observed that power in America is control of the means of communication. Mr. Trump—who has also accused Google, Facebook and Twitter of political bias—should be more concerned about the concentrated power of Big Tech than any news outlet. While antitrust law focuses on economic effects, the Supreme Court said in "Red Lion Broadcasting v. Federal Communications Commission" (1969) that it also complements the First Amendment's "uninhibited marketplace of ideas," which does not "countenance monopolization of that market." The antidote to media bias isn't schadenfreude over a few publications' travails but antitrust policies to ensure news outlets across the political spectrum can be independent of Silicon Valley. – *Wall Street Journal*

