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[**Oregon Gov. Kate Brown**](#) (D) signed a bill Monday withholding state business from internet providers who throttle traffic, making the state the second to finalize a proposal aimed at thwarting moves by federal regulators to relax net neutrality requirements.

The bill stops short of actually putting new requirements on internet service providers in the state, but blocks the state from doing business with providers that offer preferential treatment to some internet content or apps, starting in 2019. The move follows a December vote by the Federal Communications Commission repealing Obama-era rules that prohibited such preferential treatment, referred to generally as throttling, by providers like AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon. "When the federal government repealed net neutrality it took a giant step backward," Brown said before signing the measure at a Portland-area school.

Brown's signature makes the state the second to enact such legislation, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. It also stakes out the state's claim to a moderate approach, compared to others: Five weeks to the day before Brown, Washington State Gov. Jay Inslee signed a bill in his state to directly regulate providers there. Critics of the federal change say it could lead to the division of the internet into tiers, with high-quality information reaching only those willing to pay extra and controversial views or outlets relegated to slower channels.

But states looking to create their own standards face potential federal opposition. In February, the FCC said it would use its power to pre-empt the laws of any states that try to directly regulate providers, and set an April 23 deadline for the new, more relaxed rules to take effect. At the Oregon signing, state House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson echoed statements from Democratic legislators there that using the power of the state's checkbook would influence providers while stopping short of actually imposing regulations on providers themselves.

The prohibition, which restricts with whom the state may contract for internet services, applies to cities and counties, but exempts areas with only a single provider. Democratic legislators had also cited the deadline in support of taking immediate action. Republican lawmakers said they were worried that even the hands-off approach could draw scrutiny from the federal government.

Legislators in more than half the states have introduced net neutrality legislation, including both outright bans and purchasing prohibitions like Oregon's, but most have yet to pass, according to a report from the NCSL. Governors in five – Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, Montana, Vermont – have signed executive orders on the subject. Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum also joined a coalition of 22 states and the District of Columbia in filing legal challenges in February to block the federal rules from taking effect. – **Associated Press**

A record number of women have filed paperwork nationally to run for Congress, including nearly two dozen in Pennsylvania. Those candidates could change the face of the state's 18-member delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives, which has not had a woman since the 2015 retirement of Rep. Allyson Schwartz of Montgomery County.

A tally by the Associated Press released Thursday found 309 women from the two major parties have filed papers to run for the House this year. That tops the previous record of 298 in 2012, with additional filing deadlines to come in other states. Four out of every five members of the U.S. House are men. And male candidates still outnumber female contenders by a wide margin.

But in Pennsylvania and elsewhere, there are women running in areas like the Lehigh Valley that have never had a female member of Congress. Former Allentown solicitor Susan Wild is running in the new 7th District, which includes all of Lehigh and Northampton counties and part of southern Monroe County. Wild drew an endorsement from the D.C.-based Emily's List, which

backs Democratic women who support abortion rights. Several of her male primary opponents have emphasized support from women, while the activists who took part last year in local and national women's marches review their candidate options.

Allentown pastor Greg Edwards has been endorsed by Women's March Pennsylvania, and Northampton County District Attorney John Morganelli has highlighted both his support from state Sen. Lisa Boscola and his efforts to increase the number of female prosecutors in the office. Wild is one of 23 female candidates who filed paperwork to run for Congress in Pennsylvania, covering 13 of the 18 districts, according to [a list compiled by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University](#). It's not clear if that's a record number of female candidates for the state, but it's a significant increase over recent cycles. Data from the Rutgers center shows [seven female U.S. House candidates from Pennsylvania in 2016](#), and [10 in 2014](#).

Only seven women have ever been elected to the state's U.S. House delegation, and of those seven, three were elected in special elections after their husbands' deaths, according to Emerge Pennsylvania, which recruits and trains women to run for office. "After years of lamenting the lack of significant growth in the number of women candidates, this is a welcome breakthrough," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Rutgers center that's tracking female candidates. "However, the road to seeing an increase in the number of women serving in 2019 is made steeper by the fact that a large proportion of these candidates are running as challengers," Walsh said. "In addition, 13 of the 83 women currently serving in the House are not running for re-election."

The exact number of those running in Pennsylvania has shrunk slightly since candidate petitions were due to the Department of State. In two districts — the Montgomery County-based 4th District and the Delaware County-based 5th District — where there are multiple female candidates, women have dropped their bids to endorse other women. Democrat Beth Tarasi has [ended her bid in western Pennsylvania's 17th District and will be supporting U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb](#). (His special election victory was in the 18th, but he's running in the 17th due to redistricting.) All but one of the female congressional contenders in Pennsylvania are running as Democrats. Republican Pearl Kim is running in the 5th District.

Pennsylvania saw a number of retirements among the House delegation this year, and several of those retirements are in districts that are expected to flip parties. Those seats include the Delaware County seat and its neighboring Chester County district, where Chrissy Houlahan is the only Democrat running and will face a rookie Republican candidate after incumbent Ryan Costello decided against seeking re-election.

Pennsylvania also has never had a female governor, and has one contender in the three-person Republican field: Laura Ellsworth, a Pittsburgh-area lawyer who has avoided an increasingly nasty ad war between her two male opponents. Forty women are running so far in governors' races across the country, according to the AP, surpassing the previous record of 34 in 1994. One area where

Pennsylvania voters won't have an option to elect the first woman is in the U.S. Senate race. Democratic U.S. Sen. Bob Casey's two Republican challengers are both men. – *Allentown Morning Call*

Young YouTube watchers might be surprised to learn they aren't old enough to use the video-playing website. "If you are under 13 years of age, then please do not use the Service," the site's terms of use say. "There are lots of other great web sites for you."

Millions of kids around the world who visit YouTube to watch cartoons, music videos or toy unboxings either don't know about the rule or ignore it. In a complaint filed Monday, child advocates and consumer groups asked the Federal Trade Commission to investigate and fine the site's owner, Google, for allegedly violating children's online privacy and letting ads target them. "Google profits handsomely from selling advertising to kid-directed programs that it packages," said Jeff Chester, director of the Center for Digital Democracy, one of the groups that drafted the complaint.

YouTube tracks search history and other data about users so it can tailor ads to them. But the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) bans Internet companies from collecting personal data from kids younger than 13 without their parents' consent. The coalition accuses YouTube of violating COPPA and deliberately profiting off luring children into what Chester calls an "ad-filled digital playground" where commercials for toys, theme parks and sneakers can surface alongside kid-oriented videos. YouTube said in an emailed statement that it "will read the complaint thoroughly and evaluate if there are things we can do to improve." – *Associated Press*



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