



# Ironton Global

Cloud communication: reliable, simple & affordable

*Providing communication services since 1909*

- Cable MSO
- Fiber to the Premise
- Unified Voice Services
- PBX Systems and Service
- Residential Voice
- Commercial Voice
- Carrier Solutions
- Text enable any number

Let us show you the reliability, flexibility and cost savings we can bring to your home, business or enterprise!

Visit us at [irontonglobal.com](http://irontonglobal.com)

or emails us at

[sales@irontonglobal.com](mailto:sales@irontonglobal.com)

**855-226-0530**



**BCAP**

**NewsClips**

June 2, 2020

**Allentown Morning  
Call**

"We must all do our part—discrimination against one of us is discrimination against all of us." Comcast chmn/ CEO Brian Roberts shared a message with

[Lehigh Valley customers see no disruption in service despite rural provider Frontier Communications' bankruptcy](#)

[Los Angeles Times Washington might take Silicon Valley down a notch](#)

**Politico**  
[FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr is Trump's unexpected ally in the fight against tech](#)

[Washington Post Mark Zuckerberg spoke with civil rights leaders about Trump's posts. It didn't go well.](#)

[New York Times Why the NBA Is Planning on Going to Disney World](#)

[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Officials receive complaints that some voters not 'social distancing'](#)

[Allentown Morning Call Pennsylvania's top election official pleads for patience, says expect later results in Tuesday's primary](#)

[Harrisburg Patriot-News Pa. lawmakers question Gov. Wolf's authority to extend mailed ballot deadline in 6 counties](#)

[Philadelphia Inquirer Biden fans and the Pa. Democratic establishment are taking a quiet primary victory lap:](#)

employees, denouncing racism, injustice and violence. "Yet we continue to be unable to make enough progress in this country — so at this moment it is critical to step back, face the hard subjects and try to reflect," Roberts wrote. "I have talked with employees and share their feelings of anger, frustration and outrage following the senseless killing of George Floyd, and other instances of violence against black people. These atrocities run counter to everything our company stands for." — *Cablefax Daily*

Voters in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and certain other parts of Pennsylvania will have an additional week for elections officials to receive their primary mail ballots if they are sent on Tuesday, officials said Monday. Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf initially suggested he had extended the deadline for the entire state.

The current deadline requires elections officials to have received mail ballots by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, when polls close. "The count will continue for seven days after tomorrow," Wolf said Monday, as days of civil unrest and violent clashes over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis had officials [scrambling to conduct Tuesday's election safely](#). "I can't do anything about the election day, but I am extending the time to actually get votes in," Wolf said at a news conference in Philadelphia. "So if you vote and the vote gets in by next Tuesday... it'll count. An extra seven days."

But Wolf apparently misspoke. His executive order, which allows mail ballots to be counted if they are postmarked by Tuesday and received within a week, will apply only to Philadelphia and Delaware, Montgomery, Allegheny, Dauphin, and Erie Counties. "The civil disturbances in these affected counties have created one or more barriers to voters returning their ballots," the order said, "including travel and public transportation disruptions, road closures and blockages, lack of access to ballot drop boxes, alteration of mobile ballot collection schedules, evacuations of buildings, and curfews."

Coming little more than 13 hours before polls open Tuesday, Wolf's surprise announcement — and its bungled delivery — led to major confusion. Elections officials in three of the six counties said they had no advance notice and learned of the news either from reporters or others calling with questions. Delaware County elections officials decided Monday not to mail 400 ballots out to voters "due to the timing and staffing constraints." But County Council member Christine Reuther, a Democrat, said they would have done so if they had known in advance about the governor's order. "If I'd known this was coming ... we would've found a way to keep printing our ballots," she said.

The county sent its final batch of 6,000 mail ballots Monday, to be delivered to voters Tuesday. But those ballots do not include return postage, Reuther said, because officials did not believe any of those voters would be able to mail them back. Now, with Wolf's order, those voters will be able to receive their ballots Tuesday and, if they return them immediately, have them postmarked and counted.

Reuther and a number of county elections officials across the state had warned that [thousands of voters would likely be disenfranchised](#) under the deadline set in state law, which does not allow postmarks to count. The existing deadline may work under normal circumstances, officials said, but the coronavirus pandemic and a change in state law led to [an unexpected flood of mail ballot requests](#) that county officials struggled to handle while also preparing an in-person election.

Wolf's order drew immediate criticism from Republicans, who said the Democratic governor had overreached and was violating the state and federal constitutions by changing election policies in only some counties. "I want the governor to explain to Pennsylvania how this is constitutional," said Matt Haverstick, a Philadelphia-based lawyer who has represented Republicans who control the state Senate in legal challenges involving the state's election law. "Specifically, how does what he's doing — treating voters differently

**'He's the guy to beat Trump'**

***Pittsburgh Post-Gazette***

**Editorial: Robocalls will be back – Fewer calls during pandemic, but that will change**



**Today is Primary Election Day in Pennsylvania. Polls will be open until 8:00 pm. For more information visit [VotesPA.com](https://www.votespa.com).**

depending on where they live — comport with the Free and Equal Elections Clause? I'd be fascinated to hear the answer."

The state Constitution guarantees that "elections shall be free and equal." Election lawyers generally warn that creating a patchwork system of election policies across a state runs the risk of violating the equal protection clause of the federal Constitution, as the U.S. Supreme Court said in *Bush v. Gore* would occur if recount policies differed across counties. "The facts on the ground may indeed differentiate some localities from others, but it is a statewide election, and it is always treacherous under Equal Protection principles to give some voters in the same election extra voting opportunities than other voters," said Edward B. Foley, who heads the election law program at Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law.

Lawrence Tabas, an election lawyer who heads the state Republican Party, put out a statement calling for Wolf "to immediately withdraw this invalid order and consult with the legislature." "The U.S. and Pennsylvania Constitutions clearly give the legislature the sole authority for the conduct and timelines of an election," he said, adding that both constitutions require "that all laws governing an election must be uniform throughout the state."

Every step of the vote-by-mail process has been delayed and complicated by the pandemic, county elections officials across the state said, and mail delivery has been uneven. As a result, they said, some voters would receive their ballots too close to election day to return. Bucks and Montgomery Counties put their last ballots in the mail Friday. Officials said they hoped those would arrive Monday. (Bucks and Chester Counties were not included in the governor's order.) Chester County's last ballots were mailed Wednesday morning. Philadelphia's went out Thursday. "I am thankful that this has come to fruition. As a result, there will now be thousands of voters whose votes will count which otherwise wouldn't have," said Lisa Deeley, chair of the Philadelphia Board of City Commissioners, the office which runs elections. She was among the first elections officials to call for an extension of the mail-ballot deadlines.

The mail ballot deadline **has been challenged in court several times**. There are two statewide lawsuits currently before state courts, both against the Pennsylvania Department of State and seeking one week mail-ballot deadline extensions for the entire state. The department, which oversees elections and is part of Wolf's administration, has defended the deadlines.

Separately, Montgomery and Bucks Counties have gone to their respective county courts to request deadline extensions. Montgomery County was denied and appealed before the governor's order. Bucks County's request will be heard in court Tuesday. "It's a little confusing" that Bucks was left out of the governor's order, said Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, chair of the county commissioners. She noted that Wolf's order cited the civil unrest as its justification. "I guess it was good that Bucks County went down and helped Philly, and we went over and helped Trenton, but we didn't have enough damage here," she said. Some Bucks County police officers were sent to Philadelphia and Trenton to assist Sunday night. — ***Philadelphia Inquirer***

Social media has become a central battleground for the **protests across the U.S.**, with tech platforms amplifying tensions while also providing a real-time chronicle of the riots and police responses that might not have otherwise gained widespread attention.

A lone video of the violent arrest that led to the death of George Floyd posted last Monday on Facebook by a bystander, Darnella Frazier, has been shared by 52,000 people there and found its way to Twitter, Instagram and other social platforms, widening awareness of the episode. Since then, those outlets have been a tool to spread dissent and anger by those upset at Mr. Floyd's death and those disturbed by the sometimes violent actions of both protesters and police in cities across the country.

Social media played a critical role in galvanizing the protesters through the quickly shared video around Mr. Floyd's arrest, said Alex Stamos, director of Stanford University's Internet Observatory. "It nationalizes local issues like this," he said, adding that "maybe 20 years ago this might have only been covered at the local press." The unrest also has fueled an online battle over how they are viewed, said Nathaniel Persily, a Stanford law professor and co-director of the California university's Cyber Policy Center, said the riots also have turned into an online battle of opposing viewpoints. "There is a fight on social media as to how to portray the events on the ground," he said.

In some cases, distortions are fanning the anger. One photo pairing widely shared last week purported to show Derek Chauvin, the police officer who knelt on Mr. Floyd's neck during the fatal arrest, having previously worn a red cap resembling those favored at President Trump's rallies but with the slogan "Make Whites Great Again." Twitter slapped a label saying "Manipulated media" on tweets containing the photos—including one from the rapper Ice Cube that has been liked more than 148,000 times—taking users to a post where it said several photos purporting to show Mr. Chauvin were of other people.

Gideon Blocq, chief executive officer of VineSight, a startup that tracks social-media activity and hunts for misinformation, said there have been competing narratives about who is behind looting and rioting in several cities, from those placing blame on far-left groups and those saying far-right groups and white supremacists have been the cause. President Trump on Sunday said the protests involved radical left anarchists and Antifa, which he said would be designated a terrorist organization. Minnesota officials Saturday said that white supremacists and perhaps organized drug cartels could be infiltrating protests. It often is difficult to establish with certainty who is behind some incendiary posts.

Over the weekend Twitter suspended an account named "ANTIFA America" that appeared to call for racially charged violence, saying it violated the platform's manipulation and spam policy, which prohibits the creation of fake accounts. Some users interpreted the tweet as a warning of actual violence, while others pointed out suspicious elements—for example, it includes a misspelled hashtag, "#BlacklivesMaters"—and said they thought it was planted to fuel anger at the protests.

Twitter, late Monday, said it found the account was linked to a white nationalist group called "Identity Evropa." Twitter said it has previously taken action against other fake accounts created by the group that the company said engaged in hateful conduct, principally focused on issues of race, religion, and sexual orientation. The competing viewpoints can help intensify conflict, said Hany Farid, a digital forensics expert at the University of California, Berkeley. "People are going into their same camps to tell their side of the story," he said. "That's the hard part about consuming news over social media."

The platforms not only can fuel the emotions underlying the protests, they can also shape on-the-ground tactics on both sides. Some of the protesters and their supporters appear to be using social media to avoid clashing with law enforcement, said Lorenzo Boyd, assistant provost for diversity and inclusion and director of the Center for Advanced Policing at the University of New Haven. These protesters are telling one another what areas to avoid and which ones are safe—and faster than police in many cases can react, he said. "Protesting in the time of social media is instantaneous," said Dr. Boyd. "You don't need a single leader to do this anymore."

People on Twitter said they were issuing alerts to protesters about police movements by using scanners to listen in to official communications. One user allegedly relaying L.A. police department activity warned that police were trying to lure protesters toward a certain area to conduct arrests, and urged followers to share the tweet. It was retweeted over 120,000 times and liked more than

240,000 times. The strategy has been used by law enforcement as well. The New York Police Department on Sunday said it was [monitoring social media](#) to track protesters.

Moments of upheaval have long defined social media. Twitter, then only five years old, became a central tool for protesters during the Arab Spring unrest in 2011. The #blacklivesmatter hashtag on Twitter began in connection with the 2012 shooting death of unarmed Florida teen Trayvon Martin and soon spread. Last year, footage of attacks on a pair of mosques that left 50 dead in New Zealand was streamed live on Facebook and posted on YouTube and Twitter. The social-media platforms [scrambled to remove them](#). The coronavirus pandemic has added to social media's reach. Twitter Inc. and Facebook Inc. both have seen big growth in user numbers during the health crisis as people looked for information on the disease and for ways to remain connected.

Discussion related to the George Floyd video and the ensuing protests now have overtaken the coronavirus as the hottest topic online, said Mr. Blocq of VineSight. He warned that bad actors have infiltrated online discussion over Mr. Floyd's death to heighten division. Many accounts tweeting content appear to be automated accounts known as bots, he said. Conspiracies that point to different political figures being behind the protests abound online, Mr. Blocq said.

Past moments of racial tensions have been used by foreign actors to try to foment divisions in the U.S. Workers behind [Russian-linked Facebook accounts](#) in 2016 sought to exploit social divisions after outrage swelled over fatal shootings in Dallas and Minneapolis. Facebook said it closed such accounts. A Twitter spokeswoman said the company was using existing teams and tools to police riot-related content on its site and was taking action on any coordinated attempts to disrupt the conversation around the issue. Nathaniel Gleicher, Facebook's head of cybersecurity policy, said the company is using tools to combat misinformation around the protests while trying to avoid hindering people's ability to share information.

What helped trigger the outrage over Mr. Floyd's death were several race-related events that were widely publicized before the video of his arrest, said Joan Donovan, director of a Harvard University project on technology and social change. Days earlier, Americans were wrestling with the shooting death of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old black man who was [pursued by armed white residents in Georgia](#). A video of the incident spread across social media. That video was followed by one of a white woman in New York's Central Park calling the police on a black man who had asked her to leash her dog. "It takes a special kind of moment for something like this to kick off," Dr. Donovan said.

As the reach of social-media companies has grown, they have faced increasing pressure to moderate some of their content. That debate is taking place within the companies and has [become a political flashpoint](#) for the nation. Twitter on Monday flagged a tweet from Matt Gaetz, a Republican congressman from Florida, that said "Now that we clearly see Antifa as terrorists, can we hunt them down like we do those in the Middle East?" Twitter left the post up but applied a label saying the tweet violates its rules about glorifying violence.

Twitter last week similarly flagged one of President Trump's tweets about the unrest in Minneapolis, where Mr. Floyd died, saying it glorified violence. That action kept Mr. Trump's tweet in place, but prevented his more than 80 million followers from commenting, retweeting or liking it. The same post remained on Facebook untouched. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said he had a "visceral negative reaction to this kind of divisive and inflammatory rhetoric," but wouldn't remove the post because Facebook wants to enable as much expression as possible.

Mr. Trump and his backers have attacked Twitter for its moves, which earlier included [placing a fact-check notice](#) on two of the president's tweets about voting by mail, saying the tweet violated its rules around voter misinformation. After Twitter applied its fact-check labels, Mr. Trump [signed an executive order](#) Thursday seeking to limit the broad legal protection that federal law currently provides to social-media and other online platforms. The move is expected to draw immediate court challenges. – *Wall Street Journal*

# Stay safe



**Broadband  
Cable Association  
of Pennsylvania**

127 State Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101  
717-214-2000 (t) 717-214-2020  
bcaps.com

First in Broadband.  
The Future of Broadband.®