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New research suggests many of those that haven't cut the cord don't plan to. Research firm GfK MRI found that 71% of all U.S. consumers say they have cable, satellite, or telco TV service and have no plans to drop it. This includes the majority of the 18-to-34 age group (58%), as well as 69% of people ages 35 to 49, and 80% of those 50 and over. Of these respondents, 97% said they have no plans to cut the cord. MRI's research is based on 24,000 in-person, in-home interviews.

Gov. Tom Wolf heading to Puerto Rico to survey remaining hurricane damage, build ties

Many respondents cited familiarity, reliability and access to live events as primary reasons for keeping traditional TV services. But that's not to say that many of those people aren't adding subscription video to the mix. According to the study, more than half (55%) of pay TV loyalists are stacking subscription streaming video on top of cable or satellite access. Among 18-to-34 loyalists, the figure rises to 76%. At the same time, 52% of pay TV loyalists in the 50-plus age group have never streamed and only access TV through traditional pay TV services.

"The fact is that pay TV services still account for most of the TV watching that happens in the US," said Amy Hunt, vice president of TVideo Media Sales at MRI, in a [statement](#). "Many of their subscribers simply cannot imagine a new way of doing things. But as younger generations more comfortable with streaming technologies set up households, cable and satellite companies need to find ways to remain attractive and relevant." – *Fierce Video*

A consulting firm has proposed to help Altoona market its utility poles, light standards, traffic signals and other infrastructure to telecommunications companies, so they develop better broadband and wireless services here — helping to draw businesses that need such services, providing better connections for residents and earning the city rental fees, which could go toward a city-owned fiber network.

City Council members who heard the presentation from a representative of SmartWorks Partners of Louisville, Ky., at a work session Monday showed interest but didn't commit. The company would map, lease and manage the city's "vertical assets," identify broadband service gaps, modernize ordinances relating to telecom installations, track legislative changes that affect municipal dealings with telecom firms and help the city deploy the fiber network, according to a company handout and its Marketing Director Dave George.

Such help is needed by municipalities to take full advantage of telecom firms' plans to develop 5G wireless networks, which will "dominate the future broadband landscape," and require "significantly more antenna locations, spaced closer together, to deliver an anticipated 20 gigabit per second wireless coverage," according to the handout from the company, which made the presentation on the invitation of Mayor Matt Pacifico.

There would be no initial charge, but the firm would take a 60 percent share of revenue generated by the changes it would make, until its estimated \$147,000 initial investment is paid off, at which point the percentages would reverse and the city would get 60 percent, George said. After 10 years, there would be a shift such that the city would get 65 percent, he said.

Would the city need to advertise for proposals for telecom consulting before it committing to SmartWorks, asked Councilman Bruce Kelley. Maybe not, if such consulting is considered a professional service, said City Manager Marla Marcinko. Solicitor Krystal Edwards said she could check on it.

It's important for municipalities' telecom future to track legislation for developments like a current State House proposal that would restrict the ability of municipalities to realize income from vertical asset rentals, George said. That proposal is unlikely to pass, however, George said. Among the advantages of signing a deal with SmartWorks would be the revision of zoning and other ordinances that restrict telecom access to vertical

structures, according to George. The marketing offered by the firm would be key, according to Pacifico. "It will let (telecom) providers know the city is open for business," he said.

Signing with the company could help fix problem spots downtown, where higher buildings diminish cell phone service to "one bar," Pacifico said. SmartWorks' services could lead to benefits like a public Wi-Fi network downtown and a robust-enough system to support autonomous vehicles and "smart" streetlights," for example, officials said. After the meeting, Councilman Dave Butterbaugh said, "I'm still mulling it over." He's OK with the firm's demand for 60 percent of revenue until it recoups its initial investment, but "40-60 on the back end seems a little steep," he said. –

Altoona Mirror

The post went up quietly on Facebook's internal message board last week. Titled "We Have a Problem With Political Diversity," it quickly took off inside the social network. "We are a political monoculture that's intolerant of different views," Brian Amerige, a senior Facebook engineer, wrote in the post, which was obtained by The New York Times. "We claim to welcome all perspectives, but are quick to attack — often in mobs — anyone who presents a view that appears to be in opposition to left-leaning ideology."

Since the post went up, more than 100 Facebook employees have joined Mr. Amerige to form an online group called FB'ers for Political Diversity, according to two people who viewed the group's page and who were not authorized to speak publicly. The aim of the initiative, according to Mr. Amerige's memo, is to create a space for ideological diversity within the company.

The new group has upset other Facebook employees, who said its online posts were offensive to minorities. One engineer, who declined to be identified for fear of retaliation, said several people had lodged complaints with their managers about FB'ers for Political Diversity and were told that it had not broken any company rules. Another employee said the group appeared to be constructive and inclusive of different political viewpoints. Mr. Amerige did not respond to requests for comment.

The activity is a rare sign of organized dissent within Facebook over the company's largely liberal workplace culture. While the new group is just a sliver of Facebook's work force of more than 25,000, the company's workers have in the past appeared less inclined than their peers at other tech companies to challenge leadership, and most have been loyalists to its chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg.

But over the past two years, Facebook has undergone a series of crises, including the [spread of misinformation by Russians](#) on its platform and the mishandling of users' data. Facebook has also been accused of stifling conservative speech by President Trump and Senator Ted Cruz, Republican of Texas, among others. This month, the social network [barred the far-right conspiracy theorist Alex Jones](#), a move that critics seized on as further evidence that the company harbors an anti-conservative bias.

Within Facebook, several employees said, people have argued over the decisions to ban certain accounts while allowing others. At staff meetings, they said, some workers have repeatedly asked for more guidance on what content the company disallows, and why. Others have said Facebook, out of fear of being seen as biased, has let too many right-wing groups flourish on the site.

The dispute over employees' political ideology arose a week before Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook's chief operating officer, is scheduled to testify at a Senate hearing about social media manipulation in elections. A team helping Ms. Sandberg get ready for the hearing next Wednesday has warned her that some Republican lawmakers may raise questions about Facebook and biases, according to two people involved in the preparations.

On Tuesday, Mr. Trump again **brought up the issue of bias** by tech companies with tweets attacking Google. In remarks later in the day, he widened his focus to include Twitter and Facebook. Those companies "better be careful because you can't do that to people," Mr. Trump said. "I think that Google, and Twitter and Facebook, they are really treading on very, very troubled territory and they have to be careful. It is not fair to large portions of the population."

Facebook has long been viewed as a predominantly liberal company. Mr. Zuckerberg and Ms. Sandberg have donated to Democratic politicians, for example, and have supported issues such as immigration reform. The social network has sometimes struggled to integrate conservatives into its leadership. Palmer Luckey, the founder of Oculus, the maker of virtual reality goggles that Facebook acquired, was **pressured to leave the company last year**, months after news spread that he had secretly donated to an organization dedicated to spreading anti-Hillary Clinton internet memes. And Peter Thiel, an **outspoken supporter of Mr. Trump**, has faced calls for his resignation from Facebook's board.

Mr. Zuckerberg publicly defended Mr. Thiel last year, saying that **he valued Mr. Thiel** and that it was important to maintain diversity on the board. In an appearance before Congress this year, Mr. Zuckerberg responded to a question about anticonservative bias by saying he wanted Facebook to "be a platform for all ideas." In May, Facebook announced that former Senator Jon Kyl, an Arizona Republican, would lead an **inquiry** into allegations of anticonservative bias on the social network. New employees also go through training that describes how to have respectful conversations about politics and diversity.

Other Silicon Valley companies, including Google, have also experienced a **wave of employee activism** over diversity. If tech companies are willing to adjust their workplaces to make underrepresented groups more welcome, some employees argue, they should extend the same regard to those who do not fit the liberal-leaning Silicon Valley mold. Mr. Amerige, who started working at Facebook in 2012, said on his personal website that he followed philosophical principles laid out by the philosopher and writer Ayn Rand. He posted the 527-word memo about political diversity at Facebook on Aug. 20.

On issues like diversity and immigration, he wrote, "you can either keep quiet or sacrifice your reputation and career." Mr. Amerige proposed that Facebook employees debate their political ideas in the new group — one of tens of thousands of internal groups that cover a range of topics — adding that this debate would better equip the company to host a variety of viewpoints on its platform. "We are entrusted by a great part of the world to be impartial and transparent carriers of people's stories, ideas and commentary," Mr. Amerige wrote. "Congress doesn't think we can do this. The president doesn't think we can do this. And like them or not, we deserve that criticism." — **New York Times**



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