

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER  
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**BROADBAND MOTION**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed many issues with our infrastructure. Of the most pressing is access to high quality internet. During the pandemic, many workers and students were forced to work from home. The need for a strong broadband infrastructure was never more important.

However, the digital divide exposed many of the inadequacies of our broadband network. According to the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), large portions of Los Angeles County - mainly in Supervisorial Districts 1, 2, and 5 - have more than 20% of the population without reliable access to the internet. Furthermore, these areas are also in areas where there is a higher concentration of unemployment and where many communities of color reside.

Los Angeles County has begun to address this issue. Since 2020, the County has invested over \$30 million dollars to addressing the digital divide. The County has invested in Wi-Fi connectivity in LA County Library parking lots, school districts and equipment lending programs.

Despite these investments, the digital divide continues to persist. It is important that the County join the Broadband For All Funding Plan Coalition which includes: California State Association of Counties, California Forward Action Fund, California Hospital Association, California Association of School Business Officials, Urban Counties Caucus, and Rural County Representatives of California, to request a one-time, \$8 billion into addressing the digital divide.

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Specifically, we are requesting funding to address the following issues: build a fiber network that provides service to unserved buildings and houses, construct a statewide middle mile network with open access fiber, provide 100/10 Mbps fiber optics to locations currently without it, and programs to increase adoption.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Instruct the Los Angeles County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to support Broadband For All Funding Plan Coalition's budget proposal or similar broadband infrastructure investment budget proposals designed to address the digital divide.

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KB: jmb