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President Trump is renominating Ajit Pai for another term at the FCC, giving a boost to the FCC chairman seven weeks after elevating him to the top post at the agency, according to industry sources.

"I am deeply honored to have been nominated by President Trump to serve a second term on the Federal Communications Commission," Pai said in a statement. "If I am fortunate to be confirmed by the Senate, I will continue to work with my colleagues to connect all Americans with digital opportunity, foster innovation, protect consumers, promote public safety, and make the FCC more open and transparent to the American people."

Trump and Pai met at the White House on Monday for a meeting that was closed to the press, although an FCC official said that no pending business before the agency was discussed. The speculation, though, was the topic of Pai's reappointment was on the agenda. Pai was confirmed to serve as an FCC commissioner in 2012, and [Trump elevated him to chair](#) the agency in January.

But Pai's tenure on the commission was set to expire later this year. With his renomination, he will now face Senate confirmation for another 5-year term. The FCC currently has a 2-1 split, with Republicans commanding a majority. Pai in his first weeks has carried out an agenda of [rolling back some Obama-era regulations](#), including aspects of privacy rules. He also has expressed his dislike of net neutrality rules passed in 2015, although he has yet to unveil any plan toward repealing it. Pai has said that he is not opposed to any regulation when it comes to the open internet, but has characterized the current approach as heavy handed. In a speech last week, he called the FCC's current rules a "mistake."

Word of Pai's renomination drew praise from industry representatives. "Charter congratulates Chairman Pai on his renomination to the FCC. As Chairman, he has already put points on the board on behalf of consumers including by increasing regulatory transparency and prioritizing rural broadband deployment," said Catherine Bohigian, executive vice president of government affairs for Charter Communications. "Chairman Pai understands that regulatory stability allows businesses to grow and create jobs, spurs innovation and strengthens our economy all in the public interest."

Michael Powell, president and CEO of NCTA — The Internet and Television Assn., said, "In just a few short months, Chairman Pai has embarked on a thoughtful, pro-consumer agenda that focuses on promoting Internet freedom and expanding the benefits of broadband to all Americans." Powell is a

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former chairman of the FCC under President George W. Bush. Pai is scheduled to appear on Wednesday before House and Senate committees with oversight over the FCC.



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Schatz (D-Hawaii), ranking member of the Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet, said that they are "still waiting for the renomination of Commissioner Rosenworcel, and that will determine how I and other Democrats on the committee are likely to handle all nominations including Chairman Pai's."

Rosenworcel served on the FCC since 2012, but was forced to vacate her position at the end of 2016 after Senate Republican leadership failed to move her renomination to the floor. In his last weeks in office, President Barack Obama sent her nomination to the Senate again, but Trump rescinded that last week. No more than three commissioners from the same party can serve on the FCC. — *Variety*, **ACA**

In November, Missourians voted to pass Constitutional Amendment 6, paving the way for common-sense voter ID, by a margin of 63 percent to 37 percent. The Missouri secretary of state's office is responsible for the implementation of the new photo ID law, set to take effect June 1, 2017. Now what?

First, and most importantly, we will make certain every eligible registered voter can still request an absentee ballot or go to his or her polling place and vote on Election Day. Second, the secretary of

"ACA congratulates FCC Chairman Pai on being renominated by President Trump to a new five-year term," said Matt Polka, ACA President and CEO. "Chairman Pai has proven over the years that he has the expertise and commitment to guide the FCC at such a pivotal time. Most especially, Chairman Pai's has shown that he understands that by applying light-touch regulations and removing barriers to deployment, broadband providers will accelerate their investments in their networks and provide consumers with the bandwidth they need to prosper in a connected economy. Chairman Pai also has demonstrated that he is committed to closing the digital divide by using efficient mechanisms to bring robust broadband service to unserved areas and to provide service to people who otherwise cannot afford it. ACA members stand ready to work with him to achieve these goals. ACA encourages the Senate to confirm Chairman Pai's renomination promptly."

Trump still has two vacancies to fill, and that may be an issue when it comes to Democratic support for Pai's renomination. Sen. Brian

state's office will begin a public information campaign about the new photo ID requirements and assist those individuals who do not have photo identification in order to vote.

In order to properly fund the implementation of photo voter ID, we are working with the Legislature to appropriate \$1.4 million, which is necessary to comply with the law's requirements. These requirements were largely put in place at the request of the measure's opponents to ensure adequate notice of the law was given to voters. As responsible stewards of your tax dollars, we have developed a budget according to the law's requirements. The previous administration provided a bloated budget estimate, including millions in wasteful spending, such as offering to provide free IDs to individuals who already have one. These frivolous expenses would have cost taxpayers an additional \$3.85 million.

Our budget allocates \$1.3 million to comply with the law's requirements to "provide advance notice of the personal identification requirements ... in a manner calculated to inform the public ... such advance notice shall include, at a minimum, the use of advertisements and public service announcements in print, broadcast television, radio, cable," and \$100,000 to cover "any individual seeking documents ... in order to vote may request the secretary of state to facilitate the acquisition of such documents."

On June 1, 2017, we plan to begin the public information campaign. We will work to develop public service announcements and advertising placement. We plan to run media advertisements weekly leading up to future elections and distribute posters and pamphlets to clearly articulate the new requirements. We will also notify every person who files as a candidate for office, making easy-to-understand information available to ensure their own supporters can satisfy the photo ID requirements. The first elections under the new voter ID law will be August 2017.

Our office has worked and will continue to work closely with the governor, members of both the State House and Senate, other administration departments and local election authorities to ensure the successful implementation of the new photo voter ID law.

The people of Missouri have spoken and we've been tasked with the responsibility of implementing this common-sense voter ID law. Your secretary of state's office will remain steadfast in the promise of ensuring every eligible registered Missouri voter has the right opportunity to vote in every election. – **Op-ed by Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft (R) in *St. Louis Post-Dispatch***



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