

## Small Businesses Oppose Repeal of Net Neutrality

In December 2017, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to repeal rules enforcing net neutrality for internet service providers (ISPs). The rules were previously enacted to prevent ISPs from slowing down or blocking certain content, or requiring customers to pay extra fees to access some content. Repealing this rule opens the door for ISPs to charge different rates for certain internet speeds or access to certain content. This rule change threatens America's small business owners who rely on access to an open and fast, reliable internet to process orders, market their products, contact customers and many other activities involved in running their businesses. New scientific opinion polling finds that small business owners are firmly opposed to these rule changes.

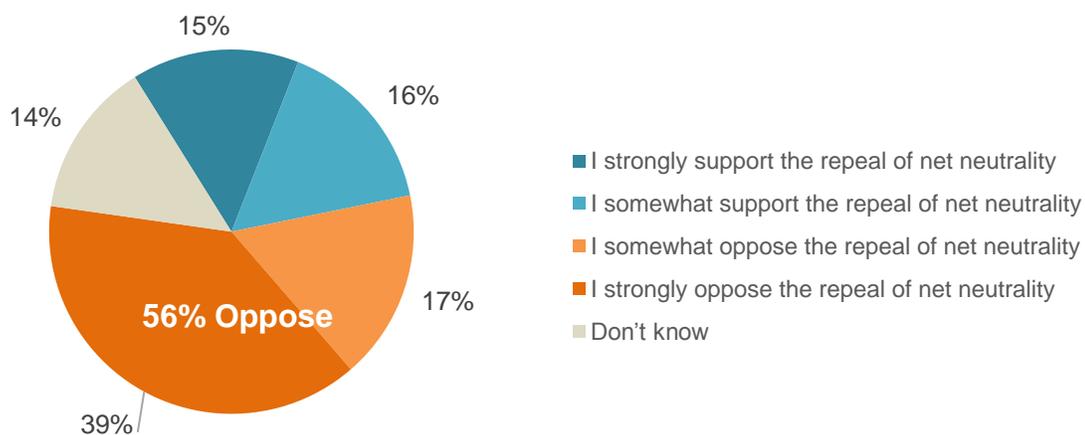
The survey, conducted by Chesapeake Beach Consulting for Small Business Majority, **revealed that a majority of small businesses (56%) oppose the FCC's repeal of net neutrality**, with roughly 4 in 10 (39%) strongly opposing the repeal of net neutrality. The poll was an online survey of 500 small business owners nationwide conducted between March 5 and 11, 2018.

Small businesses are increasingly turning to the internet to sell their services and products online and to manage many of the administrative tasks required to run their small business. It's not surprising then that a plurality of businesses say the principle of net neutrality is important to the operation of their business. Nearly half of small businesses (49%) say it is important, compared to 41% who say it is not important. One in four small businesses say it is **very important** to the operation of their business. Unsurprisingly, small business owners in the IT sector said net neutrality was very important to their business by a 4:1 ratio.

The poll also found small business owners overwhelmingly feel that they are at a disadvantage compared to large corporations due to their size and market power, with 70% agreeing with this statement.

Small business owners already feel that they compete on an uneven playing field with large corporations. If some businesses are able to pay to speed up or prioritize their services, it will hurt small businesses and start-ups that don't have the resources to pay for such an advantage. Small business owners clearly disagree with the recent rule changes from the FCC and believe a fair and open internet is important to operating their businesses.

### A majority of small businesses oppose the FCC's repeal of net neutrality



## Methodology

This poll reflects an Internet survey of 500 small business owners nationwide with 1-100 employees. The poll was conducted by Chesapeake Beach Consulting for Small Business Majority between March 5-11, 2018. The margin of error is +/-4.4%.

## Toplines

500 Small Business Owners Nationwide (Online)  
1-100 Employees  
March 2018

1. Please indicate your gender

Male ..... 60%  
Female ..... 40%

2. What state is your business in?

West ..... 22%  
Midwest ..... 25%  
South ..... 38%  
Northeast ..... 16%

3. Do you own your own for-profit business?

Yes ..... 100%

4. How many people do you employ including yourself? (*Cap at 25% self-employed*)

One ..... 25%  
2 to 9 ..... 56%  
10 to 19 ..... 9%  
20 to 49 ..... 6%  
50 to 100 ..... 4%

5. How long have you been in business?

Less than one year ..... 2%  
One to three years ..... 11%  
Four to six years ..... 13%  
Seven to 10 years ..... 14%  
More than 10 years ..... 60%  
Don't know ..... 0%  
Refused ..... 0%

6. As a small business, I am at a disadvantage compared to large corporations due to their size and market power.

Strongly agree ..... 39%  
Somewhat agree ..... 31%  
Somewhat disagree ..... 18%  
Strongly disagree ..... 8%  
Don't know ..... 5%  
Refused ..... <1%  
**AGREE ..... 70%**  
**DISAGREE ..... 25%**

As you may know, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to repeal net neutrality in December 2017. Net neutrality is the principle that Internet service providers should provide access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and without favoring or blocking particular products or websites.

7. Do you support or oppose the FCC’s repeal of net neutrality?

I strongly support the repeal of net neutrality.....	15%
I somewhat support the repeal of net neutrality .....	16%
I somewhat oppose the repeal of net neutrality .....	17%
I strongly oppose the repeal of net neutrality.....	39%
Don’t know .....	14%
Refused.....	0%
<b>SUPPORT REPEAL OF NET NEUTRALITY .....</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>OPPOSE REPEAL OF NET NEUTRALITY .....</b>	<b>56%</b>

8. How important is the principle of net neutrality to the operation of your business?

Very important.....	25%
Somewhat important.....	24%
Not very important.....	24%
Not important at all.....	17%
Don’t know.....	10%
Refused.....	0%
<b>IMPORTANT .....</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>NOT IMPORTANT .....</b>	<b>41%</b>

Now, I have just a few questions for statistical purposes...

9. How would you categorize your business?

Retail .....	17%
Financial, insurance or legal services .....	9%
Construction .....	8%
Real estate .....	6%
Information technology .....	5%
Agriculture.....	4%
Manufacturing.....	3%
Medical or dental .....	3%
Restaurant or food service .....	3%
Other non-retail services .....	9%
Wholesale trade .....	3%
Other .....	29%
Not sure/Refused to answer .....	1%

10. In what year were you born?

18-29.....	3%
30-44 .....	19%
45-54.....	20%
55-64.....	32%
65+.....	25%

11. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

Democrat .....	26%
Independent .....	33%
Republican.....	35%
Other.....	3%
Don't know .....	1%
Refused.....	<1%

11a. IF INDEPENDENT, OTHER OR DON'T KNOW, ASK: Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic Party?..... **N=189**

Closer to Democrats .....	32%
Closer to Republicans.....	26%
Neither.....	39%
Don't know .....	2%
Refused.....	1%

12. Again, just for statistical purposes what was the gross revenue of your business in 2017?

Less than \$100,000.....	39%
Between \$100,000 and \$250,000 .....	16%
Between \$250,001 and \$500,000.....	13%
Between \$500,001 and \$1 million.....	12%
Between \$1 million and \$2 million.....	8%
Between \$2 million and \$5 million .....	4%
More than \$5 million.....	2%
Don't know .....	1%
Refused.....	6%

13. What is your race?

White .....	82%
African American or Black.....	5%
Hispanic or Chicano .....	4%
Asian or Pacific Islander.....	4%
American Indian.....	1%
Other.....	1%
Biracial or multiracial.....	1%
Don't know .....	0%
Refused.....	1%