



Wireless Communications Association International

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WCA Survey Finds Six Of 17 Presidential Candidates For 2008 So Far Have Announced Broadband Policies

WASHINGTON, DC (Oct. 5, 2007) – Six of the nation’s 17 declared U.S. 2008 Presidential candidates have so far announced a broadband policy, according to a survey announced today by the Wireless Communications Association International (WCA). At least six candidates have yet to make any statements regarding their policy positions on broadband, said WCA – the trade association for the broadband wireless industry

“How do the candidates differ?” commented WCA President Andrew Kreig. “Are they looking out for the public’s ability to benefit from the same advanced Internet applications that so many of their own campaigns increasingly rely upon? Just about everyone recognizes the importance of using broadband access in today’s economy. But making a difference for the public requires policy solutions.”

Presidential campaigns are increasingly relying upon Internet-based communications and fund-raising. Yet broadband access by the public has not matched the pace of such new applications that require high-bandwidth at reasonable cost.

“Bringing affordable broadband access to Rural America should be a major focus for the candidates,” said WCA Rural Broadband Committee Chairman Kelley Dunne, CEO of DigitalBridge Communications, a start-up Internet Service Provider launching Fourth Generation WiMAX-certified technology to small communities. “Customers, companies and voters alike are watching the candidates closely to see who is creating the most effective policies. New broadband technologies such as WiMAX represent exciting opportunities to reach people who previously had few or no broadband options. The time is now for lawmakers to define a clear path towards broadband access.”

Broadband technology is creating unprecedented productivity gains in vital sectors from education to health care. But the delivery timetables for affordable broadband connections for all Americans remain unclear. In June 2007, WCA launched its Thought Leaders Forum: U.S. Presidential Candidates Debate Broadband (www.wcai.com/taskforce/politics/index.php), a comprehensive website for news on broadband policy. This authoritative resource presents a neutral forum for comments by – and comparisons between – top U.S. policymakers regarding the pace and benefits of broadband deployments.

About Wireless Communications Association International

Founded in 1988, WCA is the Washington, DC-based trade association for the wireless broadband industry. Its 240 member companies on six continents represent the bulk of the sector's leading providers: www.wcai.com. ##