



**YES ON 1**  
**Better  
Internet**

**Andrew Butcher**  
Director of **Innovation & Resilience**  
Greater Portland Council of Governments  
+  
Maine **Broadband** Coalition

June 24, 2020  
Maine Technology Users Group  
@abutcherhere : @MEBroadband

# How we connect to each other matters

- Jobs, students, health care works, families - more dependant than ever on high speed internet (broadband)
- **83,000 households** in Maine lack connectivity
- 14% of Students without home internet
- Rural places are most affected
- High Speed Internet = the ability to contribute - not just consume



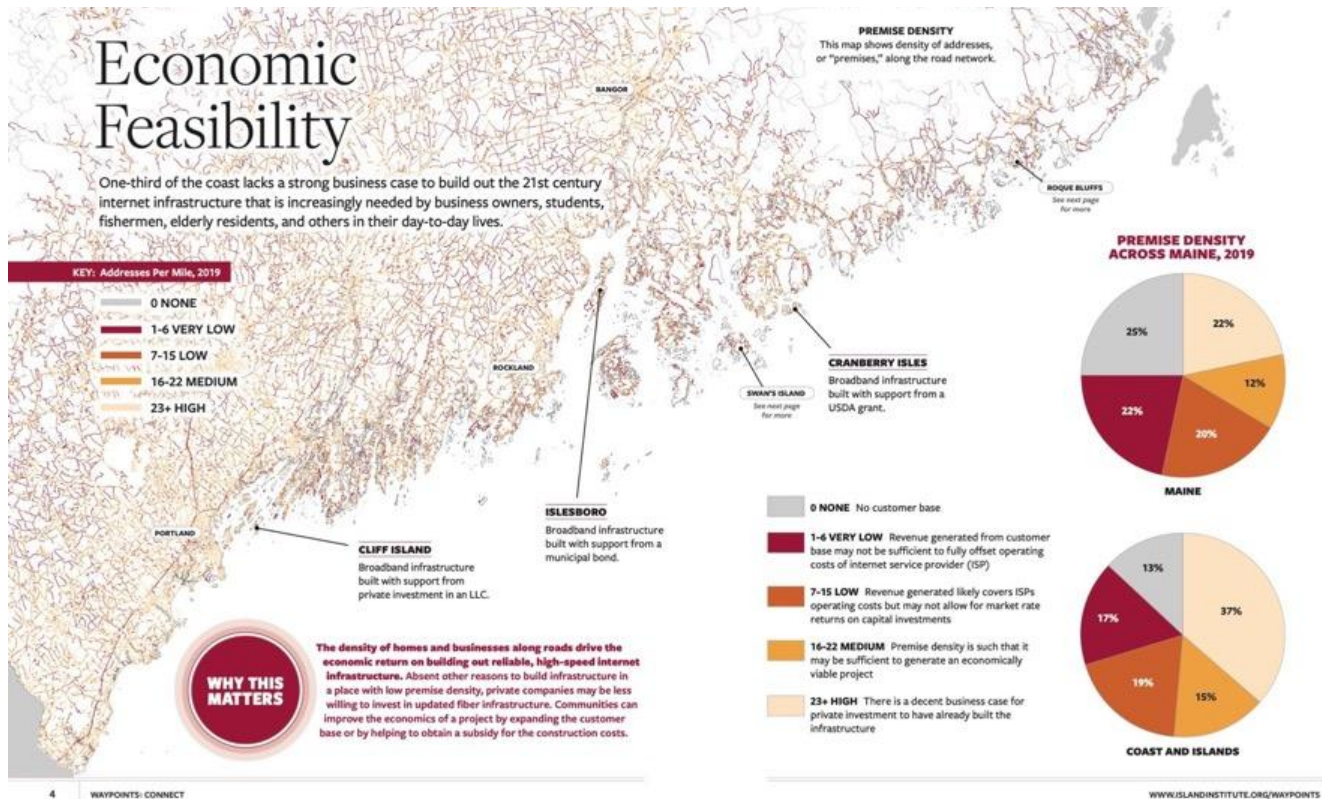
# Broadband Infrastructure is Place Based

Main street may have decent coverage but those who live in more rural areas might not have access to broadband infrastructure.

Premises per mile that take service is the primary economic driver for capital investment.

Low premise density means low return on investment potential.

Credit: Island Institute



# Access is not Equitable

- At least **83,000 homes** lack the physical ability to connect to the internet because the infrastructure doesn't go by their house
- A dramatic gap exists between urban and rural counties
- Information is accurate from a directional perspective and is aligned to what the FCC will use to make their decisions.

MAINE HOUSEHOLD DATA 25/3 MBPS			
County	Total households	Households with less than 25/3 Mbps	% of households with less than 25/3 Mbps
Maine	722,106	83,144	11.5
Piscataquis	7,572	5,826	76.94
Franklin	11,684	6,196	53.03
Hancock	23,748	8,290	34.91
Waldo	16,820	5,395	32.07
Washington	14,065	4,399	31.28
Oxford	20,723	5,498	26.53
Somerset	21,376	4,917	23.00
Aroostook	29,852	5,080	17.02
Lincoln	15,021	1,385	9.22
Penobscot	61,787	5,461	8.84
Sagadahoc	15,613	1,366	8.75
Knox	16,813	1,276	7.59
Kennebec	50,829	1,047	2.06
York	82,588	972	1.18
Cumberland	117,871	1,068	0.91
Androscoggin	44,747	318	0.71



# Why This Bond Matters Now

- State funding is necessary to make the business case in rural areas
- Connect Maine invests in community “readiness” - the key to “uptake”
- Uptake + Readiness = public private partnerships (\$45M)
- \$ + Readiness + Partnerships = Better

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*Jobs  
Health  
Learning  
Living  
Future...*



**8 of 10** *Voters support state incentives to expand high-speed internet service to underserved areas. (2019 Critical Insights Poll -AARP ME)*

**50% of all voters** *STRONGLY support such incentives.*

*(2020 Change Research: Island Institute)*





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# What will the bond do

\$15M for Connect Maine to **invest in unserved / underserved places**  
*(Service is less than 25Mbps/3Mbps or where 80% don't have access.)*

Enable federal and private funding for 3x investment (**\$45M**) which benefits infrastructure statewide

Incentivize demand aggregation (***Invest in community readiness***)  
*(Empower the ConnectMaine Action Plan)*

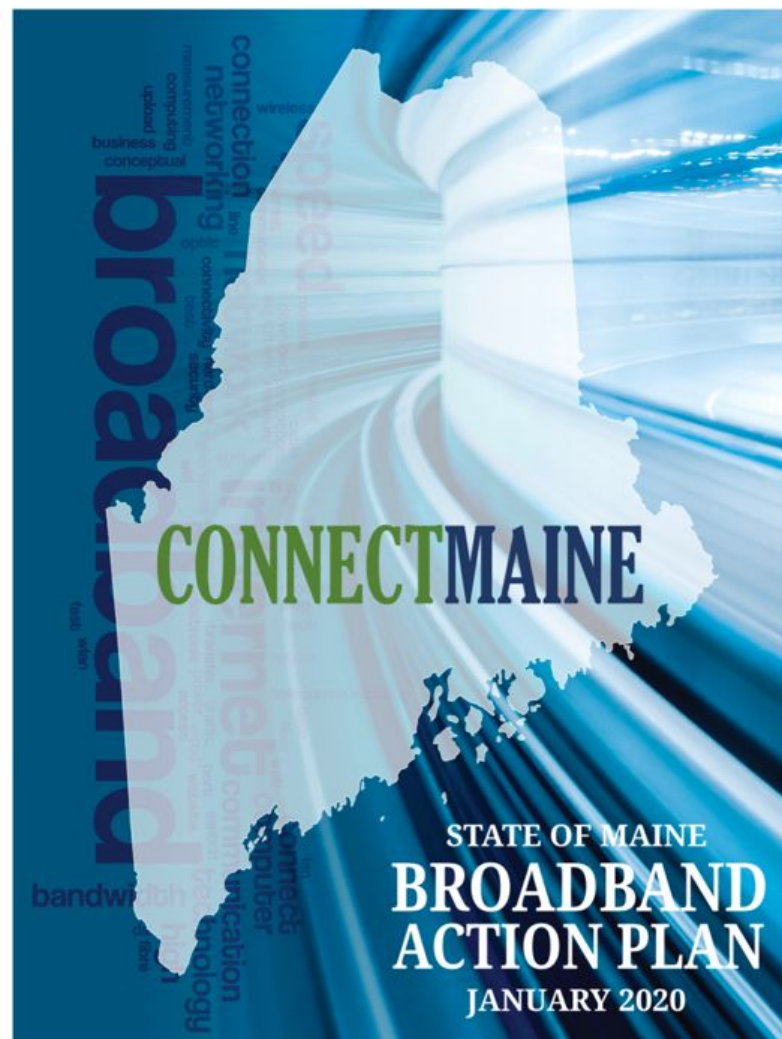
## The Connect Maine **Action Plan**

- Rewards communities that **proactively work** towards better internet
- Recognizes that **community readiness** can help entice private sector investment
- Stretches limited funding **through public-private partnerships** and matching requirements
- Prioritizes projects that build to “**future proof**” standards

<https://www.maine.gov/connectme/home>



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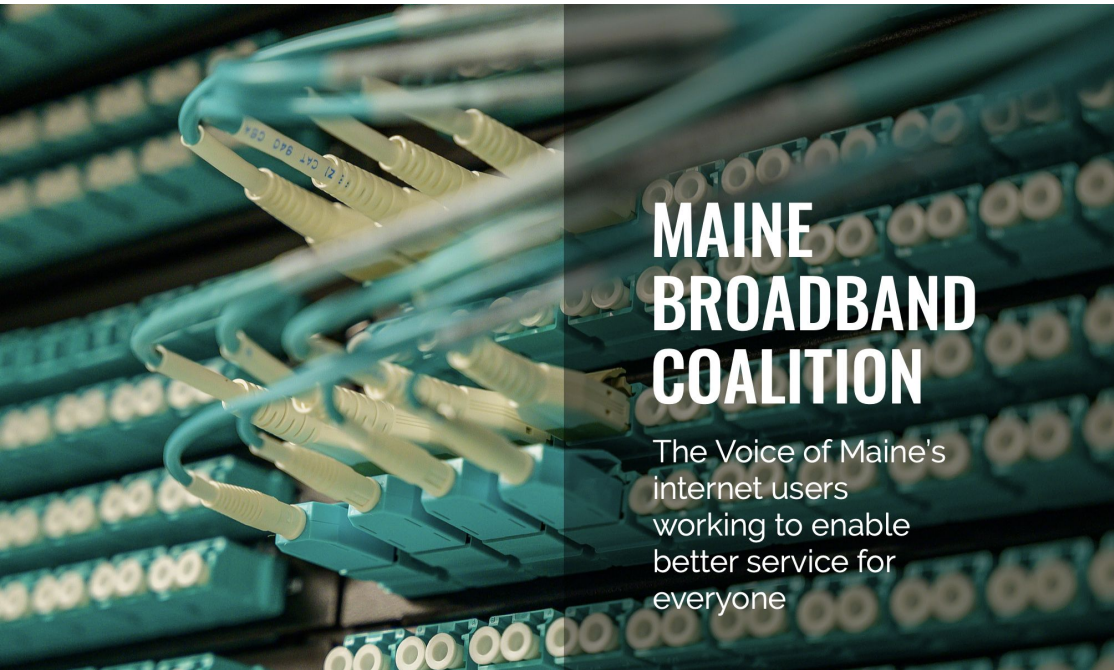
# What you can do

Vote. (Register & SEND absentee ballot) #VoteSafeVoteFromHome

Spread the word. [www.BetterInternetForMaine.org](http://www.BetterInternetForMaine.org) +  
[facebook/vote-yes-on-1-for-Better-Internet](https://facebook.com/vote-yes-on-1-for-Better-Internet)

Endorse the campaign. [www.BetterInternetForMaine.org/allies](http://www.BetterInternetForMaine.org/allies)

Get involved with MBC: [www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org](http://www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org)

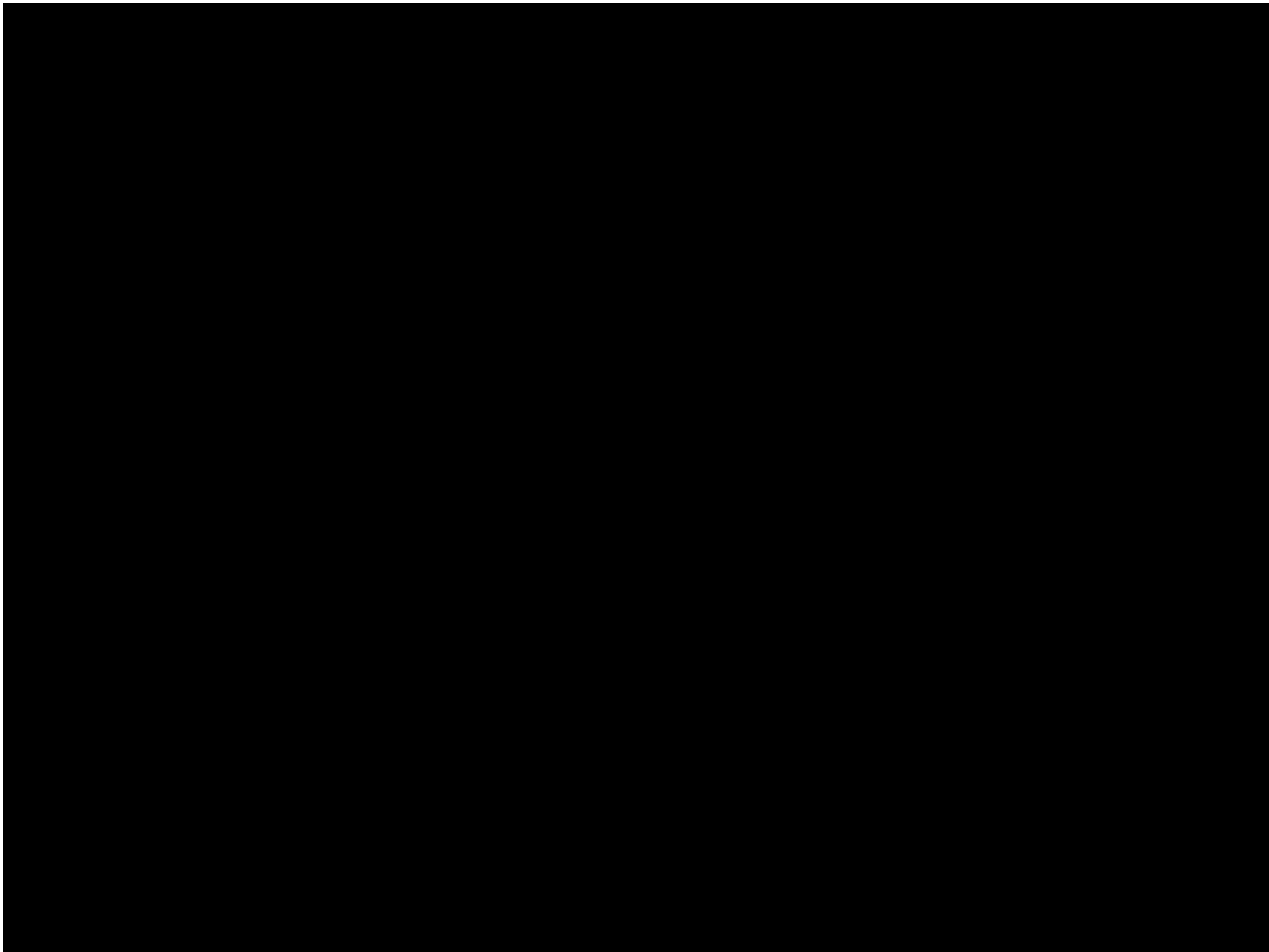
A close-up photograph of a network switch or patch panel. Numerous blue and yellow Ethernet cables are plugged into the ports, creating a dense, layered pattern of cables and connectors. The image is slightly blurred, emphasizing the depth and complexity of the network infrastructure.

## **MAINE BROADBAND COALITION**

The Voice of Maine's  
internet users  
working to enable  
better service for  
everyone

## **MBC in 2020**

- Representing the voice of internet users in statewide discussions
- Continued organizational development
- Building new partnerships for community readiness
- Supporting industry partnerships and financing development





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# TOMORROW:



**Register  
Here!**

## Maine Students Need Our Help: Equity and High Speed Internet

June 25th, 2020 at 10:00 am

Experts from across the education sector will show how important access to highspeed internet is for students of all ages. Panel discussion will be moderated by Jason Judd from EducateMaine and panelists include Rebecca Wyke, Janet Sortor, Val Peacock, and Marcela Carroll. Please join us on zoom on Thursday, June 25th at 10AM.

### Participants

Rebecca Wyke, University of Maine Augusta, President  
Janet Sortor, VP Academic Affairs, Maine Community College System  
Val Peacock, Rural Aspirations Project  
Marcela Carroll, 1 room school house teacher, Isle au Haut

### Co-Hosts

The Vote Yes on 1 Campaign  
EducateMaine

More events @ [betterinternetformaine.org/events](https://betterinternetformaine.org/events)



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**Vote Yes on 1 on July 14<sup>th</sup>**

**[BetterInternetForMaine.org](http://BetterInternetForMaine.org)**

- **Help us spread the word**
- **Join The Maine Broadband Coalition**  
[Mainebroadbandcoalition.org](http://Mainebroadbandcoalition.org) + [@MEbroadband](https://twitter.com/MEbroadband)
- **Donate**

**THANK YOU for your endorsement**

**[info@betterinternetformaine.org](mailto:info@betterinternetformaine.org)**