

VAB Voice | Monday, July 13, 2026



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FCC Adopts New CyberSecurity Rules



Federal
Communications
Commission

The FCC has adopted new requirements for broadcasters to secure their EAS (and their entire program chain) to prevent false emergency alerts. This will require new password security practices, regular technical updates of EAS systems, and putting the EAS equipment behind a firewall isolated from other office systems connected to the Internet.

The new rules will be effective 60 days from when the order adopting the new requirements is published in the Federal Register – which could occur at any time. So, stations should be warned to start their compliance efforts now to meet that deadline.

There are more details in an article published on this WBK Law blog:

<https://www.broadcastlawblog.com/2026/07/articles/fcc-adopts-order-to-secure-eas-system-broadcasters-program-chain-must-be-behind-firewall-soon/>

Jeff Welton with Nautel will host a free webinar Thursday, July 16th at 1:00 PM exploring the critical intersection of IT security, operational safety, and compliance for broadcast facilities. These new rules are bound to come up during the webinar, so all VAB members are invited to register free of charge at <https://members.michmab.com/ap/Events/Register/07FMmk4cxCwCR>. VAB members will need to use promo code **"NASBA26"** at checkout to make the balance due \$0.

Free LBS Webinar Tuesday, July 14th at 12PM



Local
Broadcast Sales

On-Demand Broadcast Training
And Revenue Development That Works!

2nd
LBS WEBINAR SERIES
TUESDAY

Local TV and Radio Stations Can Capture The Next Ten Years of Market Growth!

Streaming has fundamentally changed radio and television audiences, and by extension, how advertisers buy them. National platforms are moving quickly to capture local advertising dollars, but broadcasters still have the relationships, trust, and market presence to win. In fact, the broadcasters who adapt will not only win; we predict that they will capture the next decade of LOCAL growth!



July 14

12:00pm EDT

[REGISTER FOR FREE HERE](#)

Free IT Security, Safety & Compliance Webinar Thursday, July 16th

**2026
THIRD
THURSDAY
SESSIONS**

**IT Security: Safety
& Compliance**

Jeff Welton,
Impact

July 16, 2026
1:00 PM EST



"IT Security; Safety & Compliance"

**by Jeff Welton, Nautel
Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 1:00PM**

Explore the critical intersection of IT security, operational safety, and compliance for broadcast facilities. Learn what broadcasters need to know about protecting networks, transmitters, and connected devices from growing cybersecurity risks, including practical measures for hardening systems and educating staff. Gain insights into how to assess vulnerabilities, implement sensible safeguards, and align your station's practices with industry best practices to help keep your broadcast operations secure and compliant.

[REGISTER FOR FREE HERE](#)

Use promo code **"NASBA26"** to make the balance due \$0 at checkout.

Free Jacobs Digital Revenue Webinar July 16th

***"10 Things We Learned Helping
Radio Stations Build Digital Revenue"***

Thursday, July 16 | 2:00pm ET

Digital now drives most of the revenue growth in broadcast radio, and many stations are still figuring out how to capture it effectively.

Over the past two years, Jacobs Media's "**Jacobs D.R.**" has helped commercial, public, and Christian stations of every size and stage of development unlock their digital potential. On **Thursday, July 16 at 2:00 PM ET**, Paul Jacobs (VP/GM, Jacobs Media) and Chris Brunt (Director of Digital Revenue) will share the 10 biggest takeaways from that work in a fast-paced, free webinar for the industry.

REGISTER HERE

Political Advertising Refresher, PB-19 Forms & New VT Synthetic Media in Political Ads Law



With political advertising season getting underway, the VAB has three important items to share:

1. Unlimited use of the NAB PB-19 Forms for VAB Members:

We are excited to give you a new VAB member benefit that will likely save you money! The VAB has paid the NAB a fee to give all VAB members unlimited use of the NAB's proprietary PB-19 forms for political candidate ads as well as non-candidate/issue ads. Normally, to use these forms, it's \$40.46/station for NAB members or \$44.95/station for Non-NAB members. But thanks to the VAB, you have unlimited use of both forms for all of 2026!

**DOWNLOAD PB-19
CANDIDATE FORM**

**DOWNLOAD PB-19 NON-
CANDIDATE / ISSUE FORM**

2. Political Advertising Refresher Webinar Recording:

In November 2025, Washington D.C. attorney David Oxenford hosted a webinar refreshing broadcasters on FCC political advertising rules and how to be compliant. Watch the video below or copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xnC9BdAYbQ>

First, What's New?

- Generally, the rules have not changed in the last two years
- The FCC has changed
 - Bobby Baker, the head of the FCC's Office of Political Broadcasting for about 30 years, retired early this year along with one of his deputy
 - FCC Chairman is looking at many old broadcast policies through a different lens – so there is some uncertainty of the interpretation of some political policies – though hard to undo decades of precedent without formal proceedings which have not been initiated
- Political environment is much more adversarial – more challenges to trust of political ads – and more threats of litigation
- Digital and AI add new wrinkles to political ads – and states are getting more involved in regulation as federal government intervention lags

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Download David Oxenford's Political Refresher Slide Deck

3. New Vermont Law Requiring Synthetic Media Disclosures in Political Ads:

In March, the state legislature passed S23 and Gov. Scott signed it into law as Act 75. What this law says is, if a political candidate creates an ad or has an ad created by someone and it contains "deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media" and it airs 90 days before an election, it must have the following disclosure:

"This media has been manipulated or generated by digital technology and depicts speech or conduct that did not occur."

The VAB worked hard to ensure the new law included protections from liability and penalty for broadcasters who, because of FCC rules about equal time and censorship, have to air political ads they are given by the candidate making the ad buy.

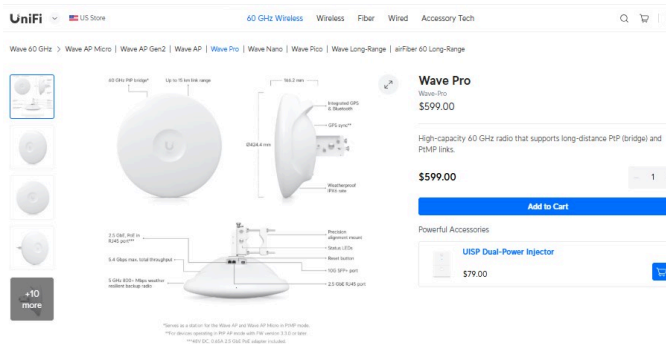
ADDITIONAL CAUTION FROM ATTORNEY DAVID OXFENFORD - PLEASE READ:

Although broadcasters are protected from liability and penalty under S.23, D.C. Media Attorney David Oxenford cautions stations that an ad that is not sponsored by a candidate that uses AI and misrepresents what a candidate said or did, which a broadcaster runs knowing that the ad is untrue, can still create liability for the broadcaster under traditional concepts of defamation. A broadcaster who knowingly runs an ad that makes defamatory claims about a recognizable individual (like a candidate) can be held liable for continuing to run the ad once they are on notice of its contents. This is true whether the untrue statements contain any image of the candidate being attacked or not, and could apply whether a false image or voice of a candidate was generated by AI or by traditional editing techniques. An ad sponsored by a legally qualified candidate and only run over the air does not raise these issues even if it contains AI that misrepresents another candidate because the broadcaster cannot, under FCC rules, censor an ad from the candidate themselves. But ads from PACs, political parties, and other interested groups can raise this issue. Stations should contact their own attorney to see if there may be any liability under defamation law or under other legal principles.

David wrote more about this concern in this blog article: <https://www.broadcastlawblog.com/2026/03/articles/ai-in-political-attack-ads-watch-state-laws-on-deep-fakes-and-synthetic-media-in-political-content/>. The discussion of defamation is in the second half of the article.

Ubiquiti Wave Pros For Sale @ 50% Retail Cost

VAB has a pair of brand new Ubiquiti Wave Pros for Sale for 50% of retail cost. They are still in their shipping boxes and have never been opened. If you were to buy them from the supplier, the pair would be \$1,200, but the VAB is selling the pair for \$600 and will deliver for free within Vermont. Call or email Wendy Mays at 802-233-0296 or wendy@vermontbroadcasters.org



Broadcast Job Openings Around Vermont



[Production Assistant, Digital Sales Manager, Photographer, Local News Producer, Account Executive \(Plattsburgh\), Account Executive \(South Burlington\)](#)

[Multimedia Journalist, Photographer/Director, Multi-Platform Account Executive](#)



[Media Executive, Technical Media Producer, Gray Media Training Program - Fall 2026, Assistant News Director, News Photographer, Videojournalist](#)

[Events & Marketing Coordinator, Philanthropic Operations & Engagement Officer, Senior Vice President of Development](#)



[Account Executive](#)

[Multimedia Sales Executive, Junior Account Executive, Digital Marketing Consultant](#)

This Week at the FCC



Every week, the attorneys at [Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP](#) in Washington D.C. provide a summary of the regulatory and legal actions of significance to broadcasters within the FCC. They also provide links to information about how these actions may affect your operations. Read this week's summary as well as summaries from past weeks at: vermontbroadcasters.org/this-week-at-the-fcc

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- ✓ \$20 million in grants funded
- ✓ Serving all US states & territories

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