

LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Government Serving Citizens

JERS COMMISSIONERS
John Meeks
Rock Meeks
Desiree Mills, Vice Chair
Tim Hodge
Matt Brooks, Chair

"Enter Date"

To whom it may concern,

Having access to affordable and reliable broadband has become one of the most critical infrastructure challenges of our time, just like electricity, transportation and roadways were in the past. Many communities across America lack adequate and affordable internet service or do not have access at all, creating a "digital divide" between those who live in cities and those who live in rural areas.

Access to technology, including high-speed internet has become essential for everyone in every sector. According to Broadbandnow.com only 34.5% of Levy County citizens have access to 25 mbps and 7.2% have access to 100 mbps. The pandemic has laid bare the importance of having a high-speed internet connection, as many Americans were forced to conduct their lives online. Yet, most of Levy County especially in the rural areas lack the kind of fast or reliable connection they need for things like work, school and telehealth.

Levy County residents and businesses alike have been identified as both unserved and underserved. Our county is mainly rural. Rural should not automatically mean unserved or underserved. Levy County encourages its residents to take the speed test provided by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Levy County encourages any company, to expand its coverage to allow more residents access to this critical need.

Respectfully,

John Meeks Local Technology Planning Team Chair