

Town Meeting 2018



“Shall the Town of **East Montpelier** enter into a communications union district to be known as Central Vermont Internet, under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. Ch. 82?”

Q: What is this?

A: About a dozen towns in Central Vermont are building a community-owned Internet Service Provider to provide up to gigabit speeds.

Q: Why do we need this?

A: Vermont ranks 43rd in the nation for Internet speeds. Businesses and families benefit from better Internet access, but the existing service providers won't provide it because we're too rural. CVI can do this because our goal is providing access, not profits for shareholders.

Q: How much will my taxes go up?

A: Zero. If you decide to subscribe to CVI, you will pay a monthly rate for Internet service. If not, there is no cost to you or the town.

Q: Who owns the infrastructure and takes on the debt?

A: CVI, the new municipal district. Towns are not liable for debt and are not responsible for maintaining the infrastructure.

Q: Can this actually work? Is Vermont dense enough?

A: Yes! Just to the south of us, another district called EC Fiber is providing extremely high speed Internet service to 24 member towns. As long as the district has around 6 subscribers per mile of fiber optic cable, it's financially feasible.

Q: How much does this service cost and how fast is it?

A: We don't know for sure, but hope to get near EC Fiber's monthly rates, which starts with a dedicated fiber connection for \$66. This means that your connection speed of at least 17 Mbps will not decrease during peak times like you may experience with your current provider.

Q: Will CVI respect Net Neutrality and user privacy?

A: We will never block or throttle traffic or sell your user data.

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