

FirstNet Authority Reauthorization

The FirstNet Authority (FNA) oversees the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), commonly known as FirstNet, the country's only dedicated public safety broadband network for public safety and first responders.

BACKGROUND

Established in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, the FirstNet Authority is responsible for the **buildout, deployment and oversight of the operation of FirstNet** to ensure contractual compliance by its vendor partner.

Through a groundbreaking and rigorous competitive procurement process, the Authority secured a major wireless carrier—AT&T—to build out the network. **The FirstNet Authority-AT&T collaboration is one of the largest and most successful public-private partnerships ever.**

By February 2027, the FNA must be reauthorized by Congress to complete its contract and continue to support and advance this unique and critical network. As a February 2022 [U.S. Government Accountability Office report](#) stated, “without legislative action, the public-safety network will be at risk and first responders could lose service. Congress should consider reauthorizing FirstNet before the 2027 end date to ensure network continuity.”

ASK

Reauthorize the FirstNet Authority to protect the communications on which public safety depends.



TALKING POINTS

A Critical Network

- 29,000+ agencies depend on FirstNet to provide reliable, priority connections during and after a disaster, at large events and across rural, remote and dense urban centers.
- Emergency responders demanded a single, nationwide network; FirstNet delivers this.
- In an increasingly complex, technology-driven world, responders require a state-of-the-art communication platform.

A Highly Efficient, Effective Public-Private Partnership

- This first-of-its kind network was created on schedule and on budget. The FNA has never sought additional funds from Congress.
- Eliminating the FNA will not save money for the federal government. FirstNet is funded through lease fees paid by AT&T and has no federal appropriation.
- The FNA-AT&T collaboration is one of the largest, most successful public-private partnerships ever.

Oversight and Continuity Are Necessary

- If the FNA is not reauthorized ahead of the February 2027 sunset date, there is a real risk that first responders will lose service.
- FirstNet's most critical and fundamental commitment is to support public safety. This promise must never be weakened.