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New Broadband Council to meet Nov. 15 in BR

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By **KEVIN BLANCHARD**
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The newly formed Broadband Advisory Council will meet for the first time Nov. 15 in Baton Rouge.

The council was formed by the Legislature earlier this year to come up with recommendations on how to increase the availability of high-speed Internet service in rural areas.



Gov. Kathleen Blanco, who appoints 16 of the 24 council members, announced her appointments Friday.



The council is charged with presenting the commissioner of administration with a "strategic plan" by March.



The council is to "serve as the central broadband planning body" for the state.



The council will have the power to recommend incentives to private business to increase usage of broadband, particularly in rural areas.



The council represents a cross-section of the telecommunications industry in government, including Lafayette Utilities System Director Terry Huval.



LUS is pursuing a plan to provide fiber-optics based telecommunications services to its customers in Lafayette.



The council also includes BellSouth official Tommy Williams.



The council members and who they represent are:

- David Young, Governor's Office.

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- Ty Bromell, Governor's Office of Rural Development.
- State Sen. Noble Ellington, D-Winnsboro.
- Alan Doesher, deputy chief information officer.
- State Rep. Francis Thompson, D-Delhi.
- Mike Abbiatti, Board of Regents.
- Dale Sittig, Public Service Commission.
- Dave Elder, Department of Education.
- Sylvia Goldman, Department of Economic Development.
- Terry Huval, LUS
- Bob Manuel, Evangeline Parish Police Jury.
- Emile Cordaro, AEP SWEPCO.
- Tommy Williams, BellSouth.
- Larry Henning, Louisiana Telephone Association.
- Gene Dry, NewPhone.
- Ted Miller, Auto Comm Engineering Corp.
- Sherman Tate, ALLTEL.
- Cheryl McCormick, Louisiana Cable Telephone Association.
- George Mack, Cameron Communications.
- Gordon Polozola, Kean, Miller, Hawthorne, D'Armond, McCowan and Jarmon.
- John Pat Bullock, Infinity Solutions.
- Carlo McDonald, CamSoft Data Systems.
- Roger Stouff, rural private business.
- Judy Brown, rural private business.

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
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

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