

COUNTY OF MARION, ILLINOIS
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-35

**A Resolution Supporting Broadband Internet Access for All
Residents and Areas of Marion County, Illinois**

ADOPTED BY THE
MARION COUNTY BOARD
THE 25 DAY OF JUNE, 2023

PUBLISHED IN PAMPHLET FORM BY AUTHORITY
OF THE MARION COUNTY BOARD
COUNTY OF MARION
THE 25 DAY OF JUNE, 2023

COUNTY OF MARION, ILLINOIS
RESOLUTION NO. 2023- 35

**A Resolution Supporting Broadband Internet Access for All
Residents and Areas of Marion County, Illinois**

WHEREAS, the Marion County Board (“Board”) recognizes the importance of affordable, reliable, and state-of-the-art high-speed internet access with speeds at or above 100 megabytes per second (mbs) download and 10 mbs upload in order for citizens to function in an increasingly technologically interconnected world; and

WHEREAS, Marion County, being a rural county, has through its Board investigated the needs of its residents and has identified that nearly one-quarter of the county’s residents have been identified as wholly lacking any internet access or are classified as unserved (defined by the Broadband Advisory Council Act, 220 ILCS 80/10, as having no access to broadband internet service at speeds lower than 25 mbs download and 3 mbs upload; and

WHEREAS, with the establishment of the Connect Illinois program and the Illinois Broadband Lab by the Illinois General Assembly under the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Board has created a permanent five-person committee consisting of Board members to engage stakeholders in maximizing state and federal funding for broadband internet service providers to serve and expand broadband access to Marion County residents so that broadband internet is available to one-hundred percent of Marion County residents; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many businesses, schools, government agencies, and organizations hastened in the creation of ways to remotely interact and invested in digital alternatives to replace in-person, paper-based methods of conducting business and learning; and

WHEREAS, broadband internet remains critically essential to rural communities like those found in Marion County since the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the challenges of: rural communities and businesses struggling to remain vibrant, children accessing virtual school from remote and other digitally underserved locations, and individuals seeking to access telehealth care, each of which have become standard practice for citizens; and

WHEREAS, Marion County’s economy is largely dependent on agriculture and there are many parts of the County that have been identified as unserved. Access to broadband is continuing to be critical in maintaining and upgrading interconnected equipment that increases agricultural productivity in this important segment of our economy; and

WHEREAS, innovations in agriculture and the ability to retain residents by helping maintain standards of living is severely hampered if these locations lack access to broadband to conduct daily affairs; and

WHEREAS, high-quality internet access is essential to the future of all Americans to work, learn, and communicate with one another, and it is therefore important to have the goal of

assisting the Illinois Broadband Lab to accomplish the goal of Illinois to have one-hundred percent broadband access brought to unserved areas of Marion County; and

WHEREAS, one of the most vital needs of Marion County is a long term modern and durable broadband infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Marion County, Illinois hereby declares its support for expanding broadband internet access and the availability of reliable, high-performing, high-speed, affordable broadband to all areas and residents of Marion County for the promotion of educational, economic, and information opportunities.

PASSED BY THE COUNTY BOARD this 25 day of July, 2023.

AYES: 12

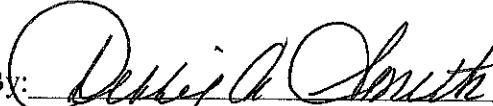
NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 3

ABSTAINED: 0

ATTEST:

COUNTY OF MARION, ILLINOIS

By: 
Debbie A. Smith, chairwoman


Steven A. Fox, County Clerk



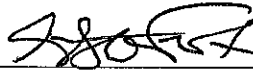
STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF MARION)

ss.

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

I, **Steven A. Fox**, County Clerk of the **County of Marion, Illinois**, do hereby certify that the attached Resolution, published by authority of the County Board was duly passed by the County Board of the **County of Marion, Illinois**, approved by the Chairwoman and published according to law on this date, and that this resolution is a true and perfect copy of the resolution, as passed, approved and now of record and on file in my office as provided by law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the **County of Marion, Illinois**, this ___ day of _____, 2023.



STEVEN A. FOX
COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF MARION, ILLINOIS

