

Wheeler confirmed as head of FCC

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The Federal Communications Commission has a chairman and four commissioners for the first time in months.



Core Capital Partners Managing Director Tom Wheeler. Tom Wheeler, a venture capitalist and longtime industry operative, will be tapped to lead the FCC.(Photo: HO).....

The U.S. Senate on Tuesday confirmed venture capitalist Thomas Wheeler to head the [FCC](#) and, as a commissioner, Mike O'Rielly, who had been an advisor to Senate Minority Whip John Cornyn, R-Tex. President Obama nominated Wheeler in April after then-FCC chairman Julius Genachowski announced that he would step down in June.....

Wheeler is currently the managing director at Core Capital Partners, a venture-capital firm based in Washington, D.C. **He has also been a top lobbyist for the wireless and cable industries. From 1979 to 1984, he served as president of the National Cable Television Association and before that he was CEO of the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association.**

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) had blocked the nomination vote until Tuesday after talking with Wheeler about the FCC attempting to adopt new political TV ad disclosure rules. "He explicitly stated that doing so was 'not a priority,'" Cruz said in a statement. "Based on those representations, I have lifted my hold on his nomination, and I look forward to working with him on the FCC to expand jobs and economic growth."

After Wheeler's confirmation, Senate Commerce Committee chairman Jay Rockefeller, D-W.V., said that Wheeler "will be a strong advocate for consumers and the public interest at a time when the FCC is facing decisions that will shape the future of our nation's telephone network and the wireless, broadband, and video industries."

Technology consumer advocacy organization [Public Knowledge](#) "looks forward to working with Chairman Wheeler," said CEO Gigi Sohn in a statement. "We expect that he will work to preserve a strong FCC that will ensure an open, universally accessible and affordable communications system that serves all Americans. We also expect that he will carry out the President's communications policy agenda, which includes robust open Internet requirements, vigorous broadband competition, affordable broadband access, diversity of voices and serious consumer protections, all backed by vigorous agency enforcement. "