



Republican Attorneys General Challenge \$6.2 Billion Local TV Merger

Description

Five more states have joined a federal antitrust lawsuit against the merger of Nexstar and Tegna, aiming to prevent what would become the largest local television station operator in the United States. This move is significant as it highlights concerns over media consolidation and its impact on local journalism.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who is leading the challenge, announced that Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Vermont are now part of the lawsuit, making it a bipartisan effort. Bonta stated that the merger is illegal and could lead to increased prices, job cuts for journalists, and reduced media diversity.

The additional states support a group of plaintiffs that includes attorneys general from Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, and Virginia. They filed an amended complaint on Thursday. While most of the states backing the lawsuit are led by Democrats, Indiana and Kansas have Republican attorneys general.

Two weeks ago, U.S. District Judge Troy L. Nunley issued a preliminary injunction to pause the merger while the case is ongoing. Bonta described this decision as a "critical win" for their case.

Recently, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Justice Department approved the merger, supported by President Donald Trump. The FCC waived a rule that prevents a company from owning stations reaching over 39% of U.S. households. Estimates suggest that the merged entity would reach as much as 80% of households.

Next steps in the case will be closely monitored as the legal proceedings continue.

Vocabulary List:

1. **antitrust** //,æn.ti'trʌst// (adjective): laws against unfair control of businesses
2. **merger** //'mɜːdʒə// (noun): when two companies join to become one
3. **consolidation** //kən,sələ'deɪʃən// (noun): when several companies or groups join into one
4. **injunction** //ɪn'dʒʌŋkʃən// (noun): a court order that stops something immediately
5. **bipartisan** //,baɪ'pɑːtɪzən// (adjective): supported by members of two political parties
6. **plaintiffs** //'pleɪntɪfs// (noun): people who bring a case to court

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Which states joined the federal antitrust lawsuit against the merger of Nexstar and Tegna?
Option: California, Texas, Florida
Option: Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Vermont
Option: New York, Illinois, Virginia
Option: Oregon, Connecticut, North Carolina
2. Who is leading the antitrust challenge against the merger?
Option: President Donald Trump
Option: U.S. District Judge Troy L. Nunley
Option: California Attorney General Rob Bonta
Option: Federal Communications Commission
3. What is the main concern regarding the merger of Nexstar and Tegna?
Option: Increased competition
Option: Media consolidation and its impact on local journalism
Option: Expansion of media diversity
Option: Job creation in journalism
4. Which two states have Republican attorneys general among those backing the lawsuit?
Option: California and Vermont
Option: Indiana and Kansas
Option: Massachusetts and Pennsylvania
Option: North Carolina and Oregon
5. What did U.S. District Judge Troy L. Nunley issue regarding the merger?
Option: A final judgment
Option: A preliminary injunction
Option: A settlement agreement
Option: A public statement
6. Which federal body approved the merger along with the Justice Department?
Option: Federal Trade Commission
Option: Federal Communications Commission
Option: National Broadcasting Association
Option: Department of Media Affairs



True-False

- 7. The merger would create the largest local television station operator in the United States.
- 8. All states supporting the lawsuit are led by Democratic attorneys general.
- 9. The FCC denied the merger to protect media diversity.
- 10. The lawsuit against the merger is a bipartisan effort.
- 11. Bonta described the preliminary injunction as a loss for their case.
- 12. Estimates suggest the merged entity would reach up to 80% of U.S. households.

Gap-Fill

- 13. California Attorney General Rob Bonta is leading the challenge against the merger of Nexstar and Tegna, which includes _____ states.
- 14. The lawsuit against the merger has support from attorneys general from Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, and _____ state.
- 15. U.S. District Judge Troy L. Nunley issued a preliminary injunction to _____ the merger while the case is ongoing.
- 16. Bonta described the preliminary injunction as a 'critical _____' for their case.
- 17. The Federal Communications Commission approved the merger and waived a rule preventing a company from owning stations reaching over _____ % of U.S. households.
- 18. The lawsuit raises concerns about increased prices, job cuts for journalists, and reduced _____ diversity.



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Vermont 2. California Attorney General Rob Bonta 3. Media consolidation and its impact on local journalism 4. Indiana and Kansas 5. A preliminary injunction 6. Federal Communications Commission

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. five 14. New York 15. pause 16. win 17. 39 18. media

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL4

POST TAG

1. attorneys general
2. B2
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. lawsuit
6. Level 4
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