



Republican Attorneys General Challenge \$6.2 Billion TV Merger

Description

Five additional states have joined a federal antitrust lawsuit aimed at halting the merger between Nexstar and Tegna. This merger, if completed, would result in the largest operator of local television stations in the United States, raising significant concerns about media ownership concentration.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who is leading the legal challenge, announced on Thursday that Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Vermont have signed on as plaintiffs. This move has created a bipartisan coalition against the proposed merger. Bonta asserted that the merger is unlawful, stating it could empower Nexstar and Tegna to manipulate prices, reduce journalistic staff, and monopolise the media environment.

Nexstar responded by describing the state attorneys general as “misguided” and accused them of undermining local journalism with their actions. The company also argued that local broadcasters need to consolidate to effectively compete against major technological platforms. Nexstar claimed that rejecting the merger would not lead to more independent outlets but rather the decline of local broadcasting.

Tegna did not provide comments in response to this development.

The new plaintiffs join an existing group of state attorneys general from Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, and Virginia, bringing the total to thirteen. The attorneys general from Indiana, Kansas, and Pennsylvania are Republicans, while the rest are Democrats.

U.S. District Judge Troy L. Nunley recently issued a preliminary injunction to pause the merger while the case continues. Previously, Bonta’s office hailed this ruling as a crucial victory.

Despite this legal setback, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Justice Department approved the merger last month, with the FCC waiving a rule that limits any single company's ownership of stations reaching more than 39% of U.S. households. The combined entity is projected to own 264 TV stations, reaching up to 80% of households nationwide. The FCC's decision faces its own legal challenges from a diverse group of plaintiffs, including the conservative channel Newsmax and various progressive advocacy organisations.

Vocabulary List:

1. **antitrust** //ˈæn.taɪ.trʌst// (noun): laws to stop big companies from unfair control
2. **merger** //ˈmɜːdʒər// (noun): when two companies join to become one
3. **concentration** //,kən.sənˈtreɪ.ʃən// (noun): most power or ownership in few hands
4. **plaintiffs** //ˈpleɪn.tɪfs// (noun): people or groups who start a legal case
5. **bipartisan** //,baɪ.pɑːˈtɪ.zən// (adjective): involving members of two political parties



6. **injunction** //ɪnˈdʒʌŋk.tʃən// (noun): a court order to stop something immediately

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. How many states have joined the federal antitrust lawsuit against the merger?

Option: Five

Option: Thirteen

Option: Ten

Option: Seventeen

2. Who is the California Attorney General leading the legal challenge?

Option: Troy L. Nunley

Option: Rob Bonta

Option: Diane Feinstein

Option: Gavin Newsom

3. What percentage of U.S. households is the combined entity projected to reach?

Option: 70%

Option: 50%

Option: 80%

Option: 90%

4. Which organization approved the merger last month?

Option: Federal Bureau of Investigation

Option: Federal Trade Commission

Option: Federal Communications Commission

Option: Department of Justice

5. What is one of the concerns raised about the proposed merger?

Option: Increase in independent outlets

Option: Concentration of media ownership

Option: More jobs in journalism

Option: Better competition

6. What did Nexstar accuse the state attorneys general of?



- Option: Supporting local journalism
- Option: Undermining local journalism
- Option: Manipulating prices
- Option: Reducing their staff

True-False

7. The merger between Nexstar and Tegna is expected to reduce the number of TV stations owned by local broadcasters.
8. The total number of plaintiffs in the lawsuit is thirteen.
9. Tegna provided comments in response to the recent development.
10. The merger has received approval from both the FCC and the Justice Department.
11. Bonta stated that the merger could help local broadcasters thrive.
12. The attorneys general from Indiana, Kansas, and Pennsylvania are all Democrats.

Gap-Fill

13. The new plaintiffs include five states, among them Indiana, Kansas, and _____.
14. A preliminary injunction was issued by U.S. District Judge Troy L. _____.
15. The combined entity is projected to own _____ TV stations nationwide.
16. Rob Bonta has described the merger as _____.
17. The lawsuit raises concerns about the concentration of media _____.
18. Nexstar claims that rejecting the merger would not lead to more independent outlets but rather the _____ of local broadcasting.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Five 2. Rob Bonta 3. 80% 4. Federal Communications Commission 5. Concentration of media ownership



6. Undermining local journalism

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

Gap-Fill: 13. Pennsylvania 14. Nunley 15. 264 16. unlawful 17. ownership 18. decline

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL6

POST TAG

1. ESL learning
2. esl news
3. Level 6
4. local TV merger
5. Republican
6. state attorneys general

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