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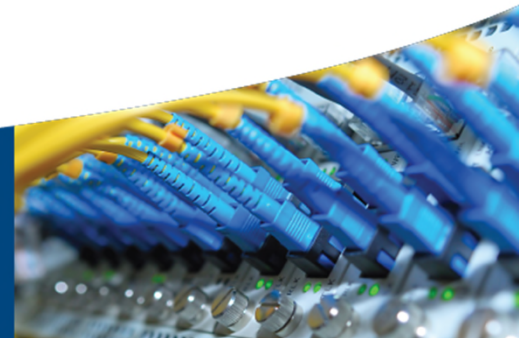
# Franchise Renewals, Transfers and Cable Regulation in the Digital World

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Telecommunications Law



# ANSWER

- The laws of renewal, transfer and regulation of cable have not changed. So the legal aspects of franchise renewals, franchise transfers and cable regulation you learned in the analog era are the same as in the digital era.
  - Caveat – not saying that is good or bad
  - Recognize that there were tweaks in FCC interpretations of what is and is not grounds for denial



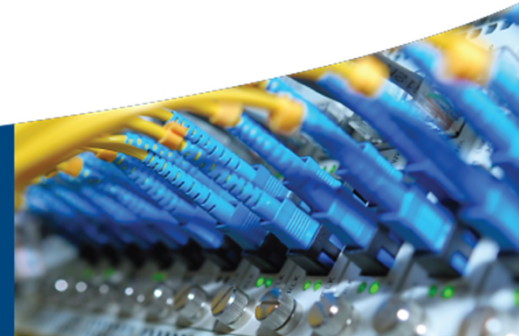
# TOOLS



- [RENEWAL](#)
  - See BB&K handout
  - See also handouts and NATOA papers in past from BB&K, Miller & Van Eaton and others.



- [TRANSFER](#)



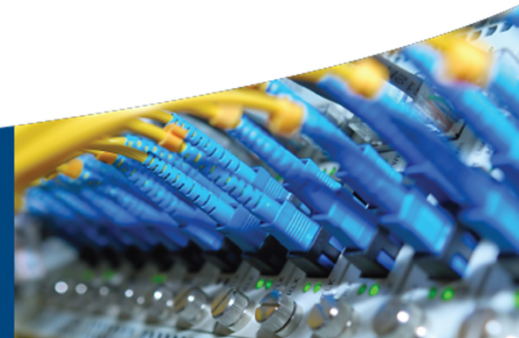
# Basic Rules

- Federal law reserves a local government's right to determine if a transfer can be transferred and/or renewed.
- Federal (and some state laws) provide specific rules and time tables to govern renewals and transfers. Local governments must abide by these rules and timeframes or risk the loss of it's rights to determine it's cable partner.



# Basic Rules

- Renewals and Transfers forgive all past sins unless specifically reserved.
- The renewal window starts 3 years before the franchise expires and federal rules provide 120 days to review a transfer application.



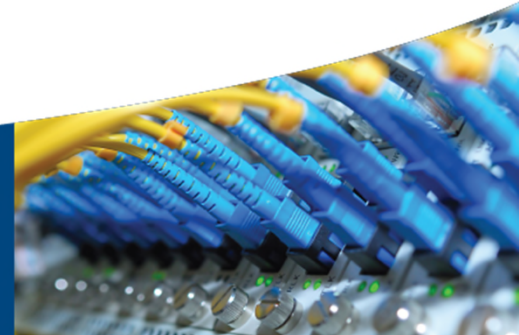
# Multiple Rules Can Apply At Once



A Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping light blue circles. The left circle is labeled 'Renewals' and the right circle is labeled 'Transfers'. The overlapping area in the center is a darker shade of blue, representing the intersection of the two concepts.

Renewals

Transfers





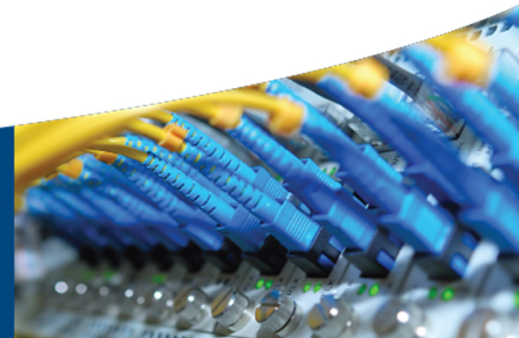
# Read More About It

## Transfers

- 47 U.S.C. 547 (sales of cable system)
- 47 U.S.C. 533 (ownership restrictions)
- 47 U.S.C. 555a (local franchising authority immunity from damages suits)
- FCC Rules 47 C.F.R. 76.502

## Renewals

- 47 U.S.C. 546
- 47 C.F.R. 76.1 et seq.





# Contact Information



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