

VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS INC

Form 424B5

May 08, 2018

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Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)  
Registration No. 333-213439

**The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the attached prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where an offer or sale is prohibited.**

**Subject to completion, dated May 7, 2018**

**Prospectus Supplement**

**(To Prospectus Dated September 1, 2016)**

\$

**Verizon Communications Inc.**

**Floating Rate Notes due 20**

We are offering \$ of our floating rate notes due 20 (the notes ). The notes will bear interest at a rate equal to LIBOR plus %, to be reset quarterly.

Interest on the notes is payable quarterly on each , , and , commencing , 2018. The notes will mature on , 20 . We may redeem the notes, in whole or in part, at par, using the procedures described in this prospectus supplement under Description of the Notes Redemption.

The notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and will rank equally with all of our unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Investing in the notes involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-1 of this prospectus supplement and the risks discussed elsewhere in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents and reports we file with the SEC that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

|       | Public<br>Offering<br>Price <sup>(1)</sup> | Underwriting<br>Discount <sup>(2)</sup> | Proceeds to Verizon<br>Communications Inc.<br>(before<br>expenses) |
|-------|--|---|--|
| Notes | %  | %                                       | %  |
| Total | \$   | \$                                      | \$   |

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, to the date of delivery.

(2) Before reimbursement of expenses in connection with this offering and other associated expenses, which the underwriters have agreed to make to us. See Underwriting.

The underwriters are severally underwriting the notes being offered. The underwriters expect to deliver the notes in book-entry form only through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company ( DTC ) and its participants, including Euroclear, S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System ( Euroclear ), and Clearstream Banking, S.A. ( Clearstream ), against payment in New York, New York on or about \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

*Joint Book-Running Managers*

**Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC**

**Morgan Stanley**

**Mizuho Securities**  
May , 2018

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

You should read this prospectus supplement along with the accompanying prospectus carefully before you invest. Both documents contain important information you should consider when making your investment decision. This prospectus supplement contains information about the specific notes being offered, and the accompanying prospectus contains information about our debt securities generally. This prospectus supplement may add, update or change information in the accompanying prospectus. You should rely only on the information provided or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any related free writing prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, which are accurate as of their respective dates. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information.

To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus supplement, on the one hand, and the information contained in the accompanying prospectus, on the other hand, the information contained in this prospectus supplement shall control. If any statement in this prospectus supplement conflicts with any statement in a

document which we have incorporated by reference, then you should consider only the statement in the more recent document.

In this prospectus supplement, we, our, us and Verizon refer to Verizon Communications Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

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**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any of these documents at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus supplement, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the following documents we have filed with the SEC and the future filings we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) (excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 on any Current Report on Form 8-K):

Verizon's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017;

Verizon's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2018;

Verizon's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 17, 2018 (as to Item 8.01 only), March 7, 2018 and May 1, 2018; and

the description of Verizon's Common Stock contained in the registration statement on Form 8-A filed on March 12, 2010, under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating that description.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by contacting us at:

Investor Relations

Verizon Communications Inc.

One Verizon Way

Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920

Telephone: (212) 395-1525

Internet Site: [www.verizon.com/about/investors](http://www.verizon.com/about/investors)

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus, any supplement or any pricing supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with different information. The information on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.



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**RISK FACTORS**

*An investment in the notes involves risks. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the risk factors set forth in the documents and reports filed with the SEC that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Our business, financial condition, operating results and cashflows can be impacted by these factors, any one of which could cause our actual results to vary materially from recent results or from our anticipated future results.*

**Risks Related to the Notes**

*Uncertainty relating to the LIBOR calculation method and potential phasing out of LIBOR after 2021 may adversely affect the value of the notes.*

The notes will bear interest at a rate based on LIBOR. On July 27, 2017, the U.K. Financial Conduct Authority (the FCA ), which regulates LIBOR, announced that it will no longer persuade or compel banks to submit rates for the calculation of LIBOR rates after 2021. As a result, LIBOR may be discontinued by 2021. In addition, actions by the FCA, other regulators or law enforcement agencies may result in changes to the method by which LIBOR is calculated. At this time, it is not possible to predict the effect of any such discontinuation, changes or any other reforms to LIBOR that may be enacted in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. Uncertainty as to the nature of such potential changes may adversely affect the trading market for LIBOR-based securities, including the notes, as well as the value of the notes.

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**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the notes for general corporate purposes, which may include, depending on market and other conditions, the repayment of outstanding indebtedness.

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**Table of Contents****RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following table shows our ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated:

| <b>Three Months<br/>Ended</b> | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |             |             |             |             |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>March 31, 2018</b>         | <b>2017</b>                    | <b>2016</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2013</b> |
| 4.48                          | 4.04                           | 4.28        | 5.27        | 3.15        | 7.69        |

For these ratios, earnings have been calculated by adding income before (provision) benefit for income taxes, equity in losses (earnings) of unconsolidated businesses, dividends from unconsolidated businesses, interest expense, amortization of capitalized interest and the portion of rent expense representing interest. Fixed charges are comprised of interest expense, capitalized interest and the portion of rent expense representing interest. We classify interest expense recognized on uncertain tax positions as income tax expense, and therefore such interest expense is not included in the ratios of earnings to fixed charges.

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**Table of Contents****DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES****Principal Amount, Maturity and Interest for the Notes**

We are offering \$ \_\_\_\_\_ of our notes which will mature on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

We will pay interest on the notes at a rate per annum equal to LIBOR plus \_\_\_\_\_%, which rate will be reset quarterly as described below. The interest rate on the notes will in no event be lower than zero. We will pay interest on the notes quarterly in arrears on each \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, beginning \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, each an interest payment date.

If any interest payment date falls on a day that is not a business day, as defined below, we will make the interest payment on the next succeeding business day unless that business day is in the next succeeding calendar month, in which case (other than in the case of the interest payment date on the maturity date) we will make the interest payment on the immediately preceding business day. If an interest payment is made on the next succeeding business day, no interest will accrue as a result of the delay in payment. Interest on the notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year and the actual number of days elapsed.

Interest on the notes will accrue from, and including, \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, to, but excluding, the first interest payment date and then from, and including, the immediately preceding interest payment date to which interest has been paid or duly provided for to, but excluding, the next interest payment date or the maturity date, as the case may be. We refer to each of these periods as an interest period. The amount of accrued interest that we will pay for any interest period can be calculated by multiplying the face amount of the notes by an accrued interest factor. This accrued interest factor is computed by adding the interest factor calculated for each day from \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, or from the last interest payment date to which interest has been paid or duly provided for, to the date for which accrued interest is being calculated. The interest factor for each day is computed by dividing the interest rate applicable to that day by 360. If the maturity date of the notes falls on a day that is not a business day, we will pay principal and interest on the next succeeding business day, but we will consider that payment as being made on the date that the payment was due. Accordingly, no interest will accrue on the payment for the period from and after the maturity date to the date we make the payment on the next succeeding business day. Interest on the notes on any interest payment date, subject to certain exceptions, will be paid to the person in whose name the notes are registered at the close of business on the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, as applicable, whether or not a business day, immediately preceding the interest payment date. However, interest that we pay on the maturity date will be payable to the person to whom the principal will be payable.

When we use the term business day with respect to the notes, we mean any day, other than a Saturday or a Sunday, that is neither a legal holiday nor a day on which commercial banks are authorized or required by law, regulation or executive order to close in The City of New York; provided that such day is also a London business day. London business day means any day on which commercial banks are open for business, including dealings in U.S. dollars, in London.

The interest rate on the notes will be calculated by the calculation agent, which will be an independent investment banking or commercial banking institution of international standing appointed by us, and will be equal to LIBOR plus \_\_\_\_\_%, except that the interest rate in effect for the period from, and including, \_\_\_\_\_, 2018 to, but excluding, \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, the initial interest reset date, as defined below, will be established by us as the rate for deposits in U.S. dollars having a maturity of three months commencing \_\_\_\_\_, 2018 that appears on the Reuters Screen LIBOR01 Page, as defined below, as of 11:00 a.m., London time, on \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, plus \_\_\_\_\_% (such rate, the initial interest rate). The calculation agent will reset the interest rate on each interest payment date, each of which we

refer to as an interest reset date. The second London business day preceding an interest reset date will be the interest determination date for that interest reset date. The interest rate in effect on each day that is not an interest reset date will be the interest rate determined as of the interest determination date pertaining to the immediately preceding interest reset date, except that the interest rate in

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effect for the period from, and including, \_\_\_\_\_, 2018 to, but excluding, the initial interest reset date will be the initial interest rate. The interest rate in effect on any day that is an interest reset date will be the interest rate determined as of the interest determination date pertaining to that interest reset date.

LIBOR will be determined by the calculation agent in accordance with the following provisions:

- (1) With respect to any interest determination date, LIBOR will be the rate for deposits in U.S. dollars having a maturity of three months commencing on the first day of the applicable interest period that appears on the Reuters Screen LIBOR01 Page as of 11:00 a.m., London time, on that interest determination date. If no such rate appears, then LIBOR, in respect to that interest determination date, will be determined in accordance with the provisions described in clauses (2) and (3) below.
- (2) With respect to an interest determination date on which no rate appears on the Reuters Screen LIBOR01 Page, as specified in clause (1) above, unless clause (3) below applies, the calculation agent will request the principal London offices of each of four major reference banks in the London interbank market, as selected by the calculation agent, to provide the calculation agent with its offered quotation for deposits in U.S. dollars for the period of three months, commencing on the first day of the applicable interest period, to prime banks in the London interbank market at approximately 11:00 a.m., London time, on that interest determination date and in a principal amount that is representative for a single transaction in U.S. dollars in that market at that time. If at least two quotations are provided, then LIBOR on that interest determination date will be the arithmetic mean of those quotations. If fewer than two quotations are provided, then LIBOR on the interest determination date will be the arithmetic mean of the rates quoted at approximately 11:00 a.m., in The City of New York, on the interest determination date by three major banks in The City of New York selected by the calculation agent for loans in U.S. dollars to leading European banks, having a three-month maturity and in a principal amount that is representative for a single transaction in U.S. dollars in that market at that time; provided, however, that if the banks selected by the calculation agent are not providing quotations in the manner described in this sentence, LIBOR determined as of that interest determination date will be LIBOR in effect on that interest determination date.
- (3) Notwithstanding clause (2) above, if we, in our sole discretion, or the calculation agent, in its sole discretion, determine that LIBOR has been permanently discontinued and we or the calculation agent have notified the other of such determination, the calculation agent will use, as a substitute for LIBOR (the Alternative Rate) for each interest determination date thereafter, the reference rate selected as an alternative to LIBOR by the central bank, reserve bank, monetary authority or any similar institution (including any committee or working group thereof) that is consistent with accepted market practice regarding the selection and use of a substitute for LIBOR. As part of such substitution, the calculation agent will, after consultation with us, make such adjustments ( Adjustments ) to the Alternative Rate or the spread thereon, as well as the business day convention, interest determination dates and related provisions and definitions, in each case that are consistent with accepted market practice for the use of such Alternative Rate for the notes. If the calculation agent determines, following consultation with us, that there is no clear market consensus as to whether any rate has replaced LIBOR in customary market usage, (i) U.S. Bank National Association shall have the right to resign as calculation agent in respect of the notes and (ii) we will appoint, in our sole discretion, a new calculation agent to replace U.S. Bank National Association, solely in its role as calculation agent in respect of the notes, determine the Alternative Rate and make any Adjustments thereto, and the determinations of

such calculation agent will be binding on us, the trustee and the holders of the notes. If, however, U.S. Bank National Association or any subsequent calculation agent determines that LIBOR has been discontinued, but for any reason an Alternative Rate has not been determined, LIBOR will be equal to such rate on the interest determination date when LIBOR was last available on the Reuters Screen LIBOR01 Page, as determined by U.S. Bank National Association or any subsequent calculation agent.

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The Reuters Screen LIBOR01 Page means the display designated on page LIBOR01 on Reuters (or such other page as may replace the LIBOR01 page on that service or any successor service for the purpose of displaying London interbank offered rates for United States dollar deposits of major banks).

We may issue additional notes in the future.

## **Form and Denomination**

The notes will be issued in book-entry only form, which means that the notes will be represented by one or more permanent global certificates registered in the name of DTC, or its nominee. You may hold interests in the notes directly through DTC, Euroclear or Clearstream, if you are a participant in any of these clearing systems, or indirectly through organizations which are participants in these systems. Links have been established among DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear to facilitate the issuance of the notes and cross-market transfers of the notes associated with secondary market trading. DTC is linked indirectly to Clearstream and Euroclear through the depository accounts of their respective U.S. depositories. Beneficial interests in the notes may be held in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess of \$2,000. Notes in book-entry form that can be exchanged for definitive notes under the circumstances described in the accompanying prospectus under the caption Clearing and Settlement will be exchanged only for definitive notes issued in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess of \$2,000.

## **Redemption**

We have the option to redeem the notes on not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice, in whole or in part, on or after \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ (two months prior to the maturity date of the notes) at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest to the date of redemption.

In addition, we may at any time purchase all or part of the notes by tender, in the open market or by private agreement, subject to applicable law.

## **Additional Information**

See Description of the Debt Securities in the accompanying prospectus for additional important information about the notes. That information includes:

additional information about the terms of the notes;

general information about the indenture and the trustee;

a description of certain restrictions; and

a description of events of default under the indenture.



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**CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

The following is a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of the notes by U.S. Holders and Non-U.S. Holders (each as defined below) that purchase the notes at their issue price (generally the first price at which a substantial amount of the notes is sold, excluding sales to bond houses, brokers or similar persons or organizations acting in the capacity of underwriters, placement agents or wholesalers) pursuant to this offering and hold such notes as capital assets. This discussion is based on the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), U.S. Treasury regulations promulgated or proposed thereunder and administrative and judicial interpretations thereof, all as in effect on the date hereof, and all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect, or to different interpretation. This discussion does not address all of the U.S. federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to specific holders in light of their particular circumstances or to holders subject to special treatment under U.S. federal income tax law (such as banks, insurance companies, dealers in securities or other holders that generally mark their securities to market for U.S. federal income tax purposes, tax-exempt entities, retirement plans, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, certain former citizens or residents of the United States, holders that hold a note as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion or other integrated transaction, U.S. Holders that have a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar, or partnerships (or other entities or arrangements treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes)). This discussion does not address any U.S. state or local or non-U.S. tax considerations or any U.S. federal estate, gift, alternative minimum tax or Medicare tax on net investment income considerations.

As used in this discussion, the term U.S. Holder means a beneficial owner of a note that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is (i) an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia, (iii) an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source or (iv) a trust with respect to which a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions or that has in effect a valid election under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

As used in this discussion, the term Non-U.S. Holder means a beneficial owner of a note that is neither a U.S. Holder nor a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and the term Holder means a U.S. Holder or a Non-U.S. Holder.

If an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes invests in a note, the U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to such investment will depend in part upon the status and activities of such entity and the particular partner. Any such entity should consult its own tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to it and its partners relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of a note.

Under recently enacted legislation, U.S. Holders that use an accrual method of accounting for tax purposes generally will be required to include certain amounts in income no later than the time such amounts are reflected on certain financial statements. The application of this rule thus may require the accrual of income earlier than would be the case under the general tax rules described below, although the precise application of this rule is unclear at this time. This rule generally will be effective for tax years beginning after December 31, 2017 or, for debt instruments issued with original issue discount (OID), for tax years beginning after December 31, 2018. U.S. Holders that use an accrual method of accounting should consult with their tax advisors regarding the potential applicability of this legislation to their particular situation.

**EACH PERSON CONSIDERING AN INVESTMENT IN THE NOTES SHOULD CONSULT ITS OWN TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE U.S. FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AND NON-U.S. INCOME, ESTATE AND**

OTHER TAX CONSIDERATIONS RELATING TO THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF THE NOTES IN LIGHT OF ITS PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

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**Table of Contents****U.S. Holders*****Interest on the Notes***

In general, interest payable on a note will be taxable to a U.S. Holder as ordinary interest income when it is received or accrued, in accordance with such U.S. Holder's regular method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The notes are not expected to be issued with more than de minimis OID. However, if the notes are issued with more than de minimis OID, each U.S. Holder of a note generally will be required to include OID in income (as interest) as it accrues, before such U.S. Holder receives any payment attributable to such income. The amount of OID accrual would be determined, regardless of such U.S. Holder's regular method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes, using a constant yield method based on the value of the interest rate as of the issue date. The remainder of this discussion assumes that the notes are not issued with more than de minimis OID.

***Sale, Exchange, Retirement or Other Disposition of the Notes***

Upon the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of a note, a U.S. Holder generally will recognize a gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized on such sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition (other than any amount attributable to accrued interest, which, if not previously included in such U.S. Holder's income, will be taxable as interest income to such U.S. Holder) and such U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in such note. A U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in a note generally will be equal to the amount that the U.S. Holder paid for the note. Any gain or loss so recognized generally will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if such U.S. Holder has held such note for more than one year at the time of such sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition. Net long-term capital gain of certain non-corporate U.S. Holders generally is subject to preferential rates of tax. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

***Information Reporting and Backup Withholding***

Information reporting generally will apply to payments to a U.S. Holder of interest on, or proceeds from the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of, a note, unless such U.S. Holder is an entity that is exempt from information reporting and, when required, demonstrates this fact. Any such payment to a U.S. Holder that is subject to information reporting generally will also be subject to backup withholding, unless such U.S. Holder provides the appropriate documentation (generally, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form W-9) to the applicable withholding agent certifying that, among other things, its taxpayer identification number (which for an individual would be his or her Social Security number) is correct, or otherwise establishes an exemption.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules generally will be allowed as a refund or a credit against a U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability if the required information is furnished by such U.S. Holder on a timely basis to the IRS.

**Non-U.S. Holders**

Subject to the discussion below concerning backup withholding and FATCA:

- (1) payments of principal, interest and premium (if any) with respect to a note owned by a Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax; provided that, in the case of amounts treated as payments of interest, (i) such amounts are not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business

in the United States by such Non-U.S. Holder; (ii) such Non-U.S. Holder does not own, actually or constructively, 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote; (iii) such Non-U.S. Holder is not a controlled foreign corporation described in section 957(a) of the Code that is related to us through stock ownership; (iv) such Non-U.S. Holder is not a bank whose receipt of such amounts is described in section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Code; and (v) the certification requirements described below are satisfied; and

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- (2) a Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on any gain recognized on the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of a note, unless (i) such gain is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States by such Non-U.S. Holder, in which event such gain generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in the manner described below, or (ii) such Non-U.S. Holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year of such sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition and certain other conditions are met, in which event such gain (net of certain U.S. source losses) generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30% (except as provided by an applicable tax treaty).

The certification requirements referred to in clause (1)(v) above generally will be satisfied if the Non-U.S. Holder provides the applicable withholding agent with a statement (generally on IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8BEN-E), signed under penalties of perjury, stating, among other things, that such Non-U.S. Holder is not a U.S. person. U.S. Treasury regulations provide additional rules for a note held through one or more intermediaries or pass-through entities.

If the requirements set forth in clause (1) above are not satisfied with respect to a Non-U.S. Holder, amounts treated as payments of interest generally will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a rate of 30%, unless another exemption is applicable. For example, an applicable tax treaty may reduce or eliminate this withholding tax if such Non-U.S. Holder provides the appropriate documentation (generally, IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8BEN-E) to the applicable withholding agent.

If a Non-U.S. Holder is engaged in the conduct of a trade or business in the United States, and if amounts treated as interest on a note or gain recognized on the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of a note are effectively connected with such trade or business, such Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax on such amounts; provided that, in the case of amounts treated as interest, such Non-U.S. Holder provides the appropriate documentation (generally, IRS Form W-8ECI) to the applicable withholding agent. Instead, such Non-U.S. Holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on such amounts in substantially the same manner as a U.S. Holder (except as provided by an applicable tax treaty). In addition, a Non-U.S. Holder that is treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes may be subject to a branch profits tax at a rate of 30% (or a lower rate if provided by an applicable tax treaty) on its effectively connected income for the taxable year, subject to certain adjustments.

## **Information Reporting and Backup Withholding**

Information reporting generally will apply to payments of principal of, and interest on, notes, and to proceeds from the sale, exchange, retirement or other taxable disposition of notes within the United States, or by a U.S. payor or U.S. middleman, to a U.S. Holder (other than an exempt recipient that, if required, demonstrates this fact). Backup withholding may be required on reportable payments if the holder fails to furnish its correct taxpayer identification number or otherwise fails to comply with, or establish an exemption from, backup withholding. Non-U.S. Holders generally will be required to comply with applicable certification procedures to establish that they are not U.S. Holders in order to avoid the application of information reporting and backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. A holder of notes generally will be entitled to credit any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules against its U.S. federal income tax liability or to obtain a refund of the amounts withheld provided the required information is furnished to the IRS in a timely manner.

## **FATCA Withholding**

Sections 1471 to 1474 of the Code and Treasury regulations thereunder (provisions commonly referred to as FATCA ) impose a U.S. federal withholding tax of 30% on certain payments (including principal) on, and the gross proceeds

from the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of, obligations that produce U.S. source interest to foreign financial institutions and certain other non-U.S. entities that fail to comply with specified

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certification and information reporting requirements. The obligation to withhold under FATCA applies to (i) payments of U.S. source interest and (ii) on or after January 1, 2019, gross proceeds from the taxable disposition of, and payments of principal on, obligations that produce U.S. source interest.

Because the notes will produce U.S. source interest, payments on, and the gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, notes held by or through certain foreign entities could become subject to the FATCA withholding tax. Holders should consult their own tax advisors on how these rules may apply to their investment in the notes. In the event any withholding under FATCA is imposed with respect to any payments on the notes, we will not be under any obligation to compensate for the withheld amount.

The above description is not intended to constitute a complete analysis of all tax consequences relating to the ownership of the notes. Prospective purchasers of notes should consult their own tax advisors concerning the tax consequences of their particular situations.

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**Table of Contents****UNDERWRITING**

Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC and Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC are acting as representatives of the several underwriters for the notes.

Subject to the terms and conditions stated in the purchase agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, each underwriter named below has severally agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to that underwriter, the principal amount of notes set forth opposite the underwriter's name.

| <b>Underwriters</b>       | <b>Principal<br/>amount of notes</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC   |                                      |
| Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC  |                                      |
| Mizuho Securities USA LLC |                                      |
| <br>Total                 | <br>\$                               |

The purchase agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the notes included in this offering are subject to approval of legal matters by counsel and to other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all of the notes if they purchase any of the notes.

The underwriters propose to offer some of the notes directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and some of such notes to dealers at the public offering price less a concession not to exceed  $\quad\quad\quad\%$  of the principal amount of the notes. The underwriters may allow, and dealers may reallow, a concession not to exceed  $\quad\quad\quad\%$  of the principal amount of the notes on sales to other dealers. After the initial offering of the notes to the public, the representatives, on behalf of the underwriters, may change the public offering price and other selling terms.

We will pay an underwriting discount of  $\quad\quad\quad\%$  (expressed as a percentage of the principal amount of the notes) in connection with this offering.

The notes will constitute a new issue of securities with no established trading market. The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange or on any automated dealer quotation system. The underwriters have advised us that they currently intend to make a market in the notes. However, they are not obligated to do so and they may discontinue market-making activities with respect to the notes at any time without notice. Accordingly, we cannot assure you as to the liquidity of, or the trading market for, the notes.

In connection with this offering, the representatives, on behalf of the underwriters, may over-allot notes or effect transactions with a view to supporting the market price of the notes at a level higher than that which might otherwise prevail. However, there is no assurance that the representatives, on behalf of the underwriters, will undertake any stabilization action. Any stabilization action may begin on or after the date on which adequate public disclosure of the final terms of the offer of the notes is made, and, if begun, may be ended at any time, but it must end no later than the earlier of 30 days after the issue date of the relevant notes and 60 days after the date of the allotment of the relevant notes. Any stabilization action or over-allotment must be conducted by the representatives, on behalf of the underwriters, in accordance with all applicable laws and rules.

Over-allotment involves syndicate sales of the notes in excess of the principal amount of notes to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchase of the notes in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases of notes made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the notes while the offering is in progress.

The representatives, on behalf of the underwriters, also may impose a penalty bid. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the representatives, in covering syndicate short positions or making stabilizing purchases, repurchase notes originally sold by that syndicate member.

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Any of these activities may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the notes. They may also cause the price of the notes to be higher than the price that otherwise would exist in the open market in the absence of these transactions. The underwriters may conduct these transactions in the over-the-counter market or otherwise. If the underwriters commence any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time.

We estimate that our total expenses for this offering (not including the underwriting discount) will be approximately \$ . The underwriters have agreed to reimburse a portion of these expenses in connection with this offering.

We have agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities in connection with this offering, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make because of any of these liabilities.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. Certain of the underwriters have performed commercial banking, investment banking or advisory services for us from time to time for which they have received customary fees and reimbursement of expenses. The underwriters may, from time to time, engage in transactions with and perform services for us in the ordinary course of their business for which they may receive customary fees and reimbursement of expenses. In addition, certain underwriters or their affiliates may provide credit to us as lenders. If any of the underwriters or their affiliates provide credit to us, certain of those underwriters or their affiliates routinely hedge, certain other of those underwriters or their affiliates have hedged and are likely to continue to hedge and certain other of those underwriters or their affiliates may hedge, their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, these underwriters and their affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities, including potentially the notes offered hereby. Any such credit default swaps or short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the notes offered hereby. In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve our securities or instruments. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long or short positions in such securities and instruments. In addition, the underwriters purchase telecommunications services from us in the ordinary course of business. All sales of securities in the U.S. will be made by or through U.S.-registered broker-dealers.

We expect that the delivery of the notes will be made to investors on or about , 2018, which will be the fifth U.S. business day following the date of this prospectus supplement (such settlement being referred to as T+5 ). Under Rule 15c6-1 under the Exchange Act, trades in the secondary market are required to settle in two business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade the notes prior to the second U.S. business day before the settlement date will be required, by virtue of the fact that the notes initially settle in T+5, to specify an alternate settlement arrangement at the time of any such trade to prevent a failed settlement. Purchasers of the notes who wish to trade the notes prior to the second U.S. business day before the settlement date should consult their advisors.

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**Selling Restrictions**

***Canada***

*Resale Restrictions.* The distribution of the notes in Canada is being made only in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia on a private placement basis exempt from the requirement that we prepare and file a prospectus with the securities regulatory authorities in each province where trades of these securities are made. Any resale of the notes in Canada must be made under applicable securities laws which may vary depending on the relevant jurisdiction, and which may require resales to be made under available statutory exemptions or under a discretionary exemption granted by the applicable Canadian securities regulatory authority. Purchasers are advised to seek legal advice prior to any resale of the securities.

*Representations of Canadian Purchasers.* By purchasing notes in Canada and accepting delivery of a purchase confirmation, a purchaser in Canada is representing to us and the dealer from whom the purchase confirmation is received that:

the purchaser is entitled under applicable provincial securities laws to purchase notes without the benefit of a prospectus qualified under those securities laws as it is an accredited investor as defined under National Instrument 45-106 *Prospectus Exemptions* or subsection 73.3(1) of the Securities Act (Ontario),

the purchaser is a permitted client as defined in National Instrument 31-103 *Registration Requirements, Exemptions and Ongoing Registrant Obligations*,

where required by law, the purchaser is purchasing as principal and not as agent, and

the purchaser has reviewed the text above.

*Conflicts of Interest.* Canadian purchasers are hereby notified that the underwriters are relying on the exemption set out in section 3A.3 or 3A.4, if applicable, of National Instrument 33-105 *Underwriting Conflicts* from having to provide certain conflict of interest disclosure in this document.

*Statutory Rights of Action.* Securities legislation in certain provinces or territories of Canada may provide a purchaser with remedies for rescission or damages if this prospectus supplement (including any amendment thereto) contains a misrepresentation, provided that the remedies for rescission or damages are exercised by the purchaser within the time limit prescribed by the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory. The purchaser of the notes in Canada should refer to any applicable provisions of the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory for particulars of these rights or consult with a legal advisor.

***European Economic Area***

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that it will not offer, sell or otherwise make available any notes to any retail investor in the European Economic Area. Consequently no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 (as amended, the PRIIPs Regulation ) for offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to retail investors in the European Economic Area has been prepared and therefore offering or selling the

notes or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in the European Economic Area may be unlawful under the PRIIPs Regulation. For the purposes of this provision: (i) the expression retail investor means a person who is one (or more) of the following: (A) a retail client as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU (as amended, MiFID II ); or (B) a customer within the meaning of Directive 2002/92/EC, where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II; or (C) not a qualified investor as defined in Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended) (the Prospectus Directive ); (ii) the expression offer includes the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes; and (iii) the countries comprising the European Economic Area are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland,

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France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

This prospectus supplement has been prepared on the basis that any offer of notes in any member state of the European Economic Area will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Prospectus Directive from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of the notes. This prospectus supplement is not a prospectus for the purposes of the Prospectus Directive.

***United Kingdom***

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended (the FSMA )) in connection with the issue or sale of the notes, to persons that are qualified investors within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive, and where such invitation or such inducement to engage has been received by it in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to us, and

it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA and of the Financial Services Act of 2012 with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

***Switzerland***

Neither this prospectus supplement nor any other offering or marketing material relating to the notes constitutes a prospectus as such term is understood pursuant to article 652a or article 1156 of the Swiss Code of Obligations or a listing prospectus within the meaning of the listing rules of the SIX Swiss Exchange or any other regulated trading facility in Switzerland, and neither this prospectus supplement nor any other offering or marketing material relating to the notes may be publicly distributed or otherwise made publicly available in Switzerland.

***Hong Kong***

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been approved by or registered with the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong or the Registrar of Companies of Hong Kong. Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

the notes have not and will not be offered or sold in Hong Kong, by means of any document, other than (a) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong and any rules made under that Ordinance; or (b) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies Ordinance (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of that Ordinance; and

no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) has been issued or had in its possession for the purposes of issue, or will be issued or will be in its possession for the purposes of issue, in Hong Kong or elsewhere other than with respect to notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance and any rules made under that Ordinance.

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***Singapore***

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, each underwriter has represented and agreed that this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act (Chapter 289) (the "SFA"), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1) of the SFA, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A) of the SFA, and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA. Each underwriter has acknowledged that where the notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor) (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, then securities, debentures and units of securities and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest in that trust shall not be transferable for 6 months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the notes under Section 275 except: (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) or Section 276(4)(i)(B) of the SFA; (ii) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer; (iii) where the transfer is by operation of law; (iv) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA; or (v) as specified in Regulation 32 of the Securities and Futures (Offers and Investments)(Shares and Debentures) Regulations 2005 of Singapore.

***Japan***

The securities have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (the "Financial Instruments and Exchange Law") and each underwriter has agreed that it will not offer or sell any securities, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

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**LEGAL MATTERS**

William L. Horton, Jr., Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Verizon, is passing upon the validity of the notes for us. As of May 2, 2018, Mr. Horton beneficially owned 11,507 shares of Verizon common stock.

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP of New York, New York will issue an opinion on certain legal matters for the underwriters. Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP from time to time represents Verizon and its affiliates in connection with matters unrelated to the offering of the securities.

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**PROSPECTUS**

**Verizon Communications Inc.**

**Common Stock**

**Preferred Stock**

**Debt Securities**

Verizon Communications Inc. may offer at one or more times common stock, preferred stock and debt securities. To the extent provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the preferred stock and the debt securities may be convertible into, or exchangeable for, shares of any class or classes of stock, or securities or property, of Verizon Communications Inc. We will provide the specific terms of any securities to be offered in a supplement to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

Verizon Communications Inc. may offer and sell these securities on a continuous or delayed basis directly, through agents, dealers or underwriters as designated from time to time, or through a combination of these methods. The names of any underwriters, dealers or agents involved in the sale of any securities and any applicable commissions or discounts will be set forth in the prospectus supplement covering the sales of those securities.

The common stock of Verizon Communications Inc. is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol VZ.

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

**September 1, 2016**

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf process, we may, from time to time, sell any combination of the common stock, preferred stock or debt securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement and, in some cases, a pricing supplement, that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement or pricing supplement may also add, update or change information in this prospectus. The information in this prospectus is accurate as of the date of this prospectus. Please carefully read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any pricing supplement together with additional information described under the heading **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**. Unless otherwise specified in this prospectus, the terms **we**, **us**, **our** and **Verizon Communications** refer to Verizon Communications Inc.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any of these documents at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public on the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the following documents we have filed with the SEC and the future filings we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the **Exchange Act**) (excluding any information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 on any Current Report on Form 8-K):

Verizon Communications Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015;

Verizon Communications Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016;

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Verizon Communications Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on April 1, 2016, May 11, 2016, June 9, 2016, July 25, 2016, July 29, 2016, August 1, 2016 and September 1, 2016 and amended Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed on June 2, 2016; and

the description of Verizon Communications Common Stock contained in the registration statement on Form 8-A filed on March 12, 2010, under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act