

To set the stage, we moved to Franklin County, GA in 2010. Our farm home is 7 miles from the nearest cable television service. The only option for decent television reception and service is satellite and we chose Direct TV. For local news, weather and sports, we receive Greenville, SC (WGGS), Spartanburg, SC (WSPA), and Ashville, NC (WLOS). We receive NO local news, weather or sports pertaining to Georgia – our state of residence!

We are disenfranchised citizens! The reasons we are disenfranchised are the bureaucratic, arcane governmental regulations imposed upon us by the Federal Communications Commission. FCC rules and regulations are immensely complicated. This is the realm of bureaucrats and high paid lawyers.

Perhaps two examples are best.

On May 22 and July 24, the citizens of Georgia had an opportunity to vote in primary and runoff elections.

During that cycle because we are classified as an “orphaned” county bound by FCC’s onerous rules, we never had the opportunity to be informed voters. No public debates, no advertisements, no editorial comments from Georgia television broadcast companies – the FCC rules kept us from the most cherished obligation which is to be informed voters. A Federal agency should not deny us the fundamental right!

As a second example the FCC rules prevent us from receiving basic personal safety information!

We are systematically denied – due to FCC regulations – weather information that directly relates to and impacts our county of residence – Franklin County, GA. The vast majority of weather information begins at the Savannah River and almost exclusively deals with South Carolina or North Carolina forecasts. It is a regular occurrence to see the weather announcer with their back turn to the State of Georgia as they offer severe storm/tornado/ hurricane warnings to South and North Carolina viewer.

In a related note, Neilson ratings are a poor fall back position because subscribers/viewers are never given the option to indicate a preference for Atlanta or Augusta, GA television outlets.

We cannot know the details of thousands and thousands of pages of FCC rules and regulations and we cannot compete nor afford high priced lawyer to plead our case.

Your placing us in an “orphaned” status does, though, jeopardize our physical safety and well being as well as disenfranchise us from being an informed voter in the State of Georgia.

Be assured given the option among satellite subscribers in Elbert, Hart, Franklin, and Stephens counties, they would choose the option to receive an appropriate Georgia television station.

Why should Georgia citizens be forced to watch South and North Carolina television stations for basic news, weather and sports that don't pertain to them? This should not be mandated from the FCC in Washington, DC!

Think the techies at Direct TV could make this happen in a hurry!

Sincerely,

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