

My local cable company is Cablevision. I subscribe to it for one reason only: to find out what's going on in the city of Yonkers and Westchester County where I live. I hardly watch any TV otherwise—the internet is an excellent source of information now, and I read and listened to radio. But there is a local public access program, “Meet the Leaders,” that helps me keep up with local current events. The interviewers are volunteers, but they've been doing this for years and know the city well. Also, the cable company is required by Yonkers to provide a station for local government.

I urge you to continue to allow municipalities to set up franchise contracts that require public access and government access television. It is one way to ensure that the information we receive in our communities is locally generated, relevant to our daily lives, and enables all citizens to participate in the political and cultural life of our communities. (This is a basic human right, in case you've forgotten.)

If public access is no longer required, I doubt I will continue to subscribe. The companies that think they'll make more money if they deny communities this service may be disappointed if you change the rules. If they are not required to provide locally generated local programming, there will be very little reason to subscribe to cable television services, for me at least.

Sincerely,

Julie weiner