

What are the Information Needs of Communities & Citizens? I live out in the country where we don't have access to cable. Most people don't have high speed internet unless they have a satellite set up. We have one newspaper in town that is owned by a conservative corporation. Since broadcast TV has gone digital we have lost several of the local stations including PBS. In terms of local media all we can get over the public airways is conservative news and religious programming. Why are we being discriminated against? Because the population density is such that the big companies that hold "the public trust" can't make a buck out here. We need more than one point of view. Do our rights stop at the bottom line?

How is Commercial Media Serving Your Community?

Public policy could improve commercial media by demanding they make it available to all. That cable companies that hold monopolies cover the whole area, not just high density population centers. That broadcasters boost their digital signals so that they cover rural areas as well as Seattle. Policy should be that one corporation cannot own all of the newspapers in an area. That reporting not be biased with terms like "liberal candidate so-and-so", some sort of standards should be set in areas where one corporation holds a monopoly on the printed media.

What is the State of Noncommercial, Nonprofit, and Public Media?

It really doesn't matter how nonprofit media covers issues if people don't have access to that media.

What is the Impact of the Internet and Mobile Information?

We don't have affordable, high speed Internet for the most part in this area. Most mobile devices don't work that well out here because the companies that offer services haven't invested in the infrastructure to cover us.

I'll say it again- Issues don't matter if you don't have access to gain information about them.