

Contrary to the erroneous assertions of the National Association of Broadcasters, these records are not duplicative of information maintained by the Federal Election Commission.<sup>3</sup> The Federal Election Commission only collects data on “federal election” spending. It does not track political issue ad spending and does not track spending on races for state office, or other local elections and issues. Under the existing FCC rules, broadcasters must collect information on all of the political advertising time they sell, including for presidential and congressional races, elections for governor and state legislature, state ballot initiatives, as well as national and local issue advertisements, and regardless of whether ad time is purchased by a candidate, campaign, or third party group. Thus, the political advertising information that Congress and the FCC currently require broadcasters to maintain as part of their political files provides unique information about how local television stations are selling access to the public airwaves for political advertising purposes.