

Dear Federal Communications Commission:

Regarding space on the dial for LPFM

I'm writing on behalf of Voice of Vashon, an organization dedicated to local media on Vashon Island, WA. Voice of Vashon will apply for an LPFM license in order to serve our unique community. We are located in a largely rural area but we are close to both Seattle and Tacoma, WA and so there are many large commercial and other radio stations in the area. Under the current FCC rules, it may be difficult for unique local communities like ours to obtain a frequency due to the nearby urban stations. LPFM should be made available for communities like ours that are not part of the nearby urban areas.

Last year, Congress passed the Local Community Radio Act, directing the FCC to expand community radio and authorizing the FCC to grant special waivers allowing LPFM stations in more locations, as long as these stations don't cause interference to neighboring stations. As we understand it, many larger FM stations are permitted to operate in second adjacencies to other stations. In fairness to community LPFM license applications, and because this is obviously feasible, the FCC should liberally permit second adjacent frequency waivers for LPFM stations. There is no good reason to apply more onerous adjacency standards to LPFM stations than other FM radio services have used for years. Using these modern engineering rules would open up many channels for community radio across the country. Most important for us on Vashon Island, it would give us a fair chance to have our own local community FM station to serve our community and not the interests of larger stations or the urban communities that are near us.

Please establish the ability of LPFM stations to be in a second adjacency. Incumbent broadcasters should not be allowed to keep communities off the dial by demanding that LPFM stations play by different rules than their own stations enjoy. As long as new stations won't cause interference, all LPFM applicants should be able to use second adjacent frequency waivers.

Thank you. Voice of Vashon

Respectfully,
John Midgley
Vashon WA