

On The Verge of a Local Radio Renaissance

The following blog post was recently published by Free Press to SaveTheNews.org:

One of the most common complaints about radio is that no matter where you go on the dial, it all sounds the same. You can take a small step today to change that — dramatically.

We won big last year when [President Obama signed the Local Community Radio Act](#), which opened the door to a new era of Lower Power FM (LPFM) radio. Right now, the Federal Communications Commission is developing the rules that will govern these new community stations. And the agency's next move will determine whether just a handful of stations start broadcasting — or *thousands take to the airwaves*.

Here's what's at stake: Right now, the FCC requires a whole lot of empty space between radio stations on the dial. This requirement is designed to ensure that one station's signal does not interfere with another's. But today's technology allows stations to be a lot closer together on the dial without causing any interference. If the FCC allows LPFM stations to apply for waivers on what's called the "second adjacent channel," the number of community stations that will go on the air could more than double. For example, in the greater Atlanta region, waivers could put as many as 25 new stations on the air. In Denver, it could be as many as 23; in Houston, 18.