

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRWOMAN JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Political Programming and Online Public File Requirements for Low Power Television Stations; Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Advance the Low Power Television, TV Translator and Class A Television Service*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MB Docket Nos. 24-147 and 24-148.

This month we celebrate the 90th birthday of the Federal Communications Commission. That means for nine decades this agency has had the responsibility to distribute broadcast licenses to support the development of local news and content.

From time to time, as technology and the marketplace changes, we update the way we do this. That is exactly what happened more than four decades ago, when the Commission authorized a new way to broadcast local video content: Low-Power Television, or LPTV.

In the intervening years, LPTV stations, with their more limited power levels and service areas, have grown to become an important part of our broadcasting system. Today there are more than 1,800 LPTV stations nationwide. These stations add to the diversity of voices on our airwaves and reach audiences that were previously unserved and underserved by full-power television stations.

So, just as we have before in our decades of work involving broadcasting, we think it is time to take a fresh look at modernizing our policies regarding LPTV. This is the reason we adopt this rulemaking today.

This effort starts with something very simple—transparency. These stations use public airwaves and it is a longstanding principle at this agency that the public is entitled to know by whom they are being persuaded. That is why we ask if LPTV stations affiliated with the top four networks—and there are many more of them now than there used to be—should be required to comply with the same online public file requirements that apply to other broadcasters. Again, this is about transparency—along with disclosure and common sense.

We also seek to clarify and update our rules where technological change requires it to ensure that LPTV stations are able to fully utilize their spectral resources to provide local television service. But as we do so, I believe we must be mindful that these stations often continue to have lesser reach and fewer resources. So if this were a Spiderman movie, you might say our approach is that “with lower power comes lower responsibility.” This strikes the right balance between the rights and responsibilities of these small but important licensees.