

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

CATEGORY: Administration	CODE NUMBER: AC-1-18
TITLE: Policy Establishing Procedures and Regulations for the Lee County Broadcast Facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Televised Board Meetings • County Television Programming Policies • Televised Political Debates 	ADOPTED: 08/25/93
	AMENDED: 11/06/96; 08/09/05
	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Public Resources

PURPOSE/SCOPE:

To establish procedures and regulations for use of the Lee County Broadcast Facilities, which shall be limited to government purposes only. It shall be further limited to the availability of the meeting rooms and county staff.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

A. Televised Meetings Held By The Board Of Lee County Commissioners

1. All meetings consisting of a quorum of County Commissioners including; regular meetings, Management and Planning meetings, public hearings, special meetings and workshops held in the Commission Chambers will be video achieved and televised externally on the County's government access channels.
2. Exceptions to this policy require a majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners.

B. County Television Programming Policies

1. Lee County Government access channel "LeeTV" provides a wide range of quality civic programming including live government meetings, information on governmental services, events, County and public safety issues; and may include cultural programs such as documentaries and performing arts. The majority of programming will serve to identify, explain, and encourage the use of government services.
2. Military, State and federal government bodies and agencies for use in connection with their official government activities that are of interest of the citizens of Lee County will be considered for broadcast.
3. Programming Priorities
 - A. Emergency broadcasting and public safety announcements
 - B. Live County Commission meetings
 - C. Live, tape delayed, or other video programs produced for or by Lee County Government
 - D. Approved programs as set forth in Public Resource's broadcasting guidelines submitted by other local government agencies or departments

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E. Approved civic and cultural programs including state or federal government agency programming providing information related to Lee County or of interest to residents.

4. Programming restrictions

- A. Any advertising of a commercial product or of a service nature
- B. Any information concerning any lottery, gift enterprise, or similar promotion offering prizes based in whole or in part upon lot or chance
- C. Any direct solicitation of funds
- D. Any material that would violate any federal, state, county, or city statute or law
- E. Any material that promotes religious beliefs or religious philosophies
- F. Any obscene, indecent, or defamatory material
- G. Appearances by or on behalf of any candidate who has made known their intent to seek public office, either by filing for said office or via a public announcement of same.
(Excluding any current members of the Board of County Commissioners)

5. Use of government cable channel equipment

The use of video production equipment shall be restricted to county departments and related agencies under the supervision and/or approval of the Lee County Public Resources staff. Lending of equipment for personal use is not authorized.

6. Lee County is solely responsible for programming the government access channel and reserves the right to accept or deny any requests for broadcasts that are determined to be, or not to be in the best interests of the majority of the citizens of Lee County. Public Resources will be responsible for keeping current, programming guidelines and broadcasting quality assurances.

C. Televised Political Debates

- 1. Lee County as an entity, including the County Commissioners and County staff, shall not be construed as a sponsor of any political debate emanating from the Lee County government broadcasting facilities. In addition, they will not be held responsible for any inequities, perceived or real, regarding candidates' presentations.
- 2. Debate sponsor(s) shall agree to County broadcasting guidelines and send written requests to the Division of Public Resources for consideration.
- 3. The sponsor(s) of any political debate shall comply with federal law affording equal opportunities to all candidates or a specific political office.
- 4. Programming will be restricted to one debate per seat "sponsor". Candidates running only for offices on county, regional, state or national levels will be considered for live or delayed broadcasting.
Pending approval, the Division of Public Resources will reserve the room and provide the technical expertise required to broadcast the debate and will work in the planning stages with the sponsor(s)
- 5. The County will not be held responsible for live broadcasting of inappropriate behavior or language. All participants are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. No signs, banners, food or drink shall be permitted in the Commission Chambers. Sponsor(s) may wish to hire a deputy sheriff to provide security for the debate.
- 6. Prior to the date of the debate, the sponsor(s) shall pay to the County a fee of \$75.00 for a maximum of a 90-minute debate, for staff assistance and broadcasting equipment set-up. In the event the debate exceeds allotted time additional charges will be assessed \$25.00 for each half hour. If the event is cancelled at least 10 days prior to the scheduled date, the \$75.00 will be refunded.

Only sponsor(s) recognized as impartial by the County will be considered for sponsorship. Any organization representing political views, opinions, positions or candidates will not be permitted.