

WNIN Community Advisory Board Statement

Nature of the Community Advisory Board

The law provides that “the role of the board shall be solely advisory in nature.” It also stipulates that the board shall advise the governing body of the station and therefore must be distinct from and independent of the governing body. The purpose of the advisory board is to provide a vehicle for effective community input to the station’s governing body about station programming, community service and impact on the community from the stations’ major policy decisions. Congress believed that the establishment of community advisory boards would assist the stations to develop programs and policies that address the specific needs of the communities that they endeavor to serve.

The law is not intended to preclude stations from establishing and maintaining other types of advisory bodies.

Relationship of the Community Advisory Board to the Governing Board of the Station

The law segregates the management and operational functions of the governing board from the functions of the advisory board to ensure a clear demarcation between the governing board and the advisory board.

The advisory board is intended to provide the public the opportunity to be heard on station programming, community service, and impact on the community of major policy decisions. All stations are encouraged to establish whatever mechanisms will be most effective, under local circumstances, to accomplish this congressionally established goal.

Composition of Community Advisory Boards

The station may exercise a reasonable degree of discretion in selecting advisory board members. The board should be reasonably representative of the diverse needs and interests of the communities served by the station. No individual representative of any particular group has a legal right to membership on an advisory board. Nor does the law empower any person, court, or government agency to require a station to take or refrain from taking any action with respect to a station’s programming or policies. The composition of the community advisory board must reflect its independent role, and may not include members of the station staff or governing body in anything other than an ex officio or administrative capacity.

Minimum Compliance Requirements

- A. Each station that is not owned by a State, a political or special purpose subdivision of a State, or a public agency must do the following:
 - a. Establish a community advisory board that is independent of the community licensee's governing body.
 - b. Undertake good-faith efforts to assure that:
 - i. Its advisory board meets a regular intervals
 - ii. The members of the board regularly attend the meetings of the advisory board
 - iii. The composition of the community advisory board is reasonably representative of the diverse needs and interests of the communities served by the station
- B. In addition, each licensee required to have a community advisory board must also permit the community advisory board to perform the following activities:
 - i. Establish and follow its own schedule and agenda, within the scope of the community advisory board's statutory or delegated authority
 - ii. Review the programming goals established by the station
 - iii. Review the community service provided by the stations
 - iv. Review the impact on the community of the significant policy decisions rendered by the station, and
 - v. Advise the governing board of the station whether the programming and other significant policies of the station are meeting the specialized educational and cultural needs of the communities served by the station. The advisory board may make recommendations to the governing board to meet those specialized needs.
- C. The governing board of a licensee, if it desires, may delegate other responsibilities to the advisory board to assist the governing board or station personnel. However, the law states "In no case shall the community advisory board have any authority to exercise any control over the daily management or operation of the station."

Meetings

WNIN Community Advisory Board shall meet at least twice a year to discuss programming, community service, and policies for both WNIN TV and FM. All Community Advisory Board meetings are open meetings. Information on dates, times, and locations of meetings, and a list of board members, will be available at wnin.org. In compliance with the WNIN Open Meeting policy, WNIN TV and FM will provide reasonable notice of each meeting thru broadcast of announcements regarding meeting date, time, and location, at least 7 days prior to the meeting.