

Time to grill Fox's My9

Posted by [atwinsto](#) November 26, 2007 10:57AM

Ben Franklin famously said about New Jersey that it is a keg tapped at both ends. He was referring to the domination by New York and Philadelphia over the small state. Today, Franklin's words still ring true when viewers watch television looking for news about the Garden State. Short of a gubernatorial resignation, an indictment or occasionally around election time, there is little coverage of public affairs in New Jersey by the Philadelphia and New York stations.

That's why WWOR-TV (Channel 9) has been such a massive disappointment. Despite its base of operations in Secaucus, the Fox affiliate is in all practical ways a New York station. Even though Congress mandated that the Federal Communications Commission issue a license to the station so long as it operates in New Jersey for the benefit of the people of the state, it simply hasn't worked out that way.

According to a grassroots coalition called Voice for New Jersey, since 1999, the station has covered less than one story about New Jersey every two days and in 2006 provided fewer than 1.5 hours of public affair programming each month. This paltry attention to New Jersey certainly cannot be what the FCC had in mind when it granted this license in 1982.

Now, change might occur. Through the efforts of Voice for New Jersey, the FCC has scheduled a public hearing for this Wednesday, November 28 from 4-6pm at the Rutgers Newark Robeson Center. This is the chance to force the station to live up to its commitments and provide meaningful coverage about New Jersey.

Hopefully the FCC - and Fox - will be listening to the pile of complaints sure to be raised.

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Comments

essen says...

Why can't Verizon Cable TV viewers get NJ Channel 12 news? I don't understand the Ledger's "only on cable, never on satellite" policy. A broadcaster generally tries to get a bigger audience and you don't get a bigger audience by limiting access. And besides, fiber optics isn't satellite.

Posted on 11/26/07 at 12:34PM

shotini says...

I'm glad to see that the FCC has decided to take an interest in hearing what folks from NJ really think about the station that is supposed to be serving them. Residents of NJ should be able to turn to channel 9 to get news about NJ issues and politics - after all, channel 9 is licensed to serve NJ - not NY.

Posted on 11/26/07 at 1:52PM

choicesnj says...

NJ deserves a station that represents our state. The only choice today is Cablevision-News12 which is a subscriber solution.

We finally have competition in the local communities between Verizon and Cablevision. However, the choice is limited if you want NJ News. Cablevision is the only choice.

WWOR should perform as licensed and represent NJ.

Posted on 11/26/07 at 3:52PM

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Posted on 11/26/07 at 3:52PM

WSHAW961 says...

Comcast also has NEWS 12 NEW JERSEY on there cable.Cabevision isn't the only one to have that station.

Posted on 11/28/07 at 8:14PM

wshaw961 says...

Comcast cable also carries News 12 New Jersey,so Cablevision isn't the onlt one to carrie it.

Posted on 11/28/07 at 8:18PM

Footer