



Video Broadcasting Policy

Carroll County Government

Definition of Government-access television

Government-access television (GATV) is a type of specialty television channel created by government entities (generally local governments) and broadcast over cable TV systems or, in some cases, over-the-air broadcast television stations. GATV programming generally deals with public affairs, board meetings (i.e. city council, county commission, and school board), explanation of government services, and other public-service related programming such as public service announcements and longer public information films.

Programming Statement

Cable Channel 24 (“CCG24”) provides information to Carroll County (“the County”) citizens concerning the functions, activities, and programs of Carroll County Government. The mission of CCG24 is:

1. To expand and enhance public participation in the governmental process by (a) broadcasting meetings of governmental bodies, public hearings, and other related governmental events; (b) creating and presenting programs that expand citizen awareness of County government, its organizations and functions and its decision-making processes; and, (c) facilitating communication between citizens and government officials;
2. To expand and enhance citizen access to County programs and services by bringing comprehensive information on those services, programs, and resources to citizens via cable television; and,
3. To enhance emergency communications in the County.

Programming Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed on CCG 24 may not necessarily reflect those of the Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County Government, or any employees of the Carroll County Government.

Programming Restrictions / Prohibited Content

Carroll County Government recognizes programming content restrictions imposed on CCG24 by the Federal Communications Commission, by prevailing community standards, and by applicable Federal, state, and local laws. Programming containing any of the following will not be broadcast on CCG 24:

- information concerning any lottery, gift, enterprise or similar scheme, offering prizes dependent in whole or in part, upon lot or chance, or any prizes drawn or awarded by means of any such lottery, gift, enterprise, or scheme, whether the information describes any part or all of such prizes;
- material which is intended to defraud the viewer or designed to obtain money by false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises;
- obscene or indecent matter;
- libelous or slanderous matter as defined by law;
- copyrighted material, unless appropriate advance clearances have been obtained and written proof of such clearance can be presented;
- advertising materials whose primary purpose is to promote the sale of commercial products, trade, or services. This prohibition does not apply to promotion of governmental materials and services for which a fee may be charged.
- audio or visual references to any business, service, or product for which any economic consideration was received in exchange for the display, announcement, and/or reference to such business, service, or product. However, brief audio and video credit may be given at the end of a program where special materials or assistance have been donated by a commercial or charitable enterprise.
- political programming by individual candidates after the public announcement of candidacy or filing for office, political party representatives, or supporters and opponents of any candidate designed to campaign or otherwise solicit public support.

Political programming exception: “Debates” where all competing candidates are given equal time to explain their views and advocate their election and “open forums” where elected officials and/or candidates/advocates appear to discuss issues in a public meeting place, without campaigning for their election, are permitted.

The following are not considered political programming and are also thus permitted: (a) statements by persons who receive incidental air time as part of a public meeting being broadcast on CCG24; (b) statements made in public meetings as part of the normal debate preceding official action; and (c) statements made in response to reporters' questions in a news broadcast dealing with public policy issues.

Being a government access channel Carroll County does not broadcast any type of programming that is not government sponsored by an affiliated agency.

Further, the County is committed to programming that helps citizens learn about Carroll County initiatives, services, events, activities, and about important issues facing the area in general.

Programming Priorities / Permitted Programming Content

CCG 24 programming priorities are as follows:

1. Announcements of an emergency nature affecting public health or safety.
2. Live and repeat broadcasts of sessions of governmental bodies including the Board of County Commissioners public hearings and work sessions or meetings of Commissioner appointed Boards and Commissions.
3. Press conferences.
4. Local origination public affairs programming and informational programming about the governmental process such as “Issues and Insights”.
5. Local origination programs about County Government services that are currently in development.
6. Coverage of special events, e.g., dedication ceremonies marking the opening of new or renovated County facilities, swearing in of a newly elected Board of County Commissioners, and any other applicable ceremony involving county officials.
7. Acquired programming deemed to be beneficial to Carroll County citizens.
8. Character generated material (“bulletin board”)

Accountability

The programming priorities enumerated above should be followed when making programming decisions. County departments and agencies using CCG24 services are responsible for the content of the finished video project and must review the end product with CCG24 staff before the project is added to the playback schedule. It is CCG24’s responsibility to ensure that all program adhere to the programming statement provided above and are technically sound.

CCG staff are to consult the following persons, in the order indicated, when questions arise regarding broadcasting content:

1. Media Production Specialist, Audio/Video Production of Carroll County Government
2. Chief of Staff