MEDIA BUREAU ANNOUNCES JUNE 30, 2021 EFFECTIVE DATE OF REINSTATED MEDIA OWNERSHIP RULES

(MB Docket Nos. 14-50, 09-182, 07-294, 04-256, 17-289)

AND COMMENT AND REPLY COMMENT DEADLINES TO UPDATE THE RECORD IN THE 2018 QUADRENNIAL REVIEW

(MB Docket No. 18-349)

On June 4, 2021, the Media Bureau released an Order, consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in FCC v. Prometheus Radio Project, reinstating the rule changes previously adopted by the Commission in its media ownership proceedings but then vacated and remanded by the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals in 2019. As such, the Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership Rule, the Radio/Television Cross-Ownership Rule, and the Television Joint Sales Agreement Attribution Rule were eliminated, and the Local Television Ownership Rule and Local Radio Ownership Rule were reinstated as adopted in the Commission's 2017 Order on Reconsideration. In addition, the eligible entity standard and its application to regulatory measures as set forth in the Commission's 2016 Second Report and Order were reinstated. Finally, the regulatory measures adopted in the Commission's 2018 Incubator Order were reinstated.


3 See Prometheus Radio Project v. FCC, 939 F.3d 567 (3rd Cir. 2019).


By this Public Notice, the Media Bureau announces that summary of the Order was published in the Federal Register and the effective date for modified section 73.3555 is June 30, 2021.7

In addition, on June 4, 2021, the Media Bureau also released a Public Notice8 (Comment Public Notice) seeking to update the record in the 2018 Quadrennial Review proceeding, in which the Commission has sought comment, pursuant to its obligation under Section 202(h) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, on whether its media ownership rules remain “necessary in the public interest as the result of competition.”9 The Media Bureau opened a new comment window to encourage the submission of new or additional information to update the 2018 quadrennial record, given the passage of time since the prior comment period ended, as well as the subsequent litigation culminating with the Supreme Court’s decision in FCC v. Prometheus Radio Project.

By this Public Notice, the Media Bureau announces that summary of the Comment Public Notice, including notice of the deadlines for filing comments and reply comments to update the 2018 quadrennial record, was published in the Federal Register on July 1, 2021.10 Accordingly, the deadline for filing comments is August 2, 2021, and the deadline for filing reply comments is August 30, 2021.

For additional information on these proceedings, contact Ty Bream, Ty.Bream@fcc.gov, of the Media Bureau, Industry Analysis Division. Press inquiries should be directed to Janice Wise, Janice.Wise@fcc.gov, (202) 418-8165.

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