



FREE PRESS:  
**A YEAR IN  
MEDIA REFORM**



**Free Press** is a national, nonpartisan organization working to reform the media. Through education, organizing and advocacy, we promote diverse and independent media ownership, strong public media, and universal access to communications. For more information, [visit www.freepress.net](http://www.freepress.net).

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# A YEAR IN MEDIA REFORM

**OCTOBER 18, 2007**  
**FCC ANNOUNCES PLAN TO ALLOW MORE MEDIA CONSOLIDATION**

Free Press' StopBigMedia.com coalition mobilizes in response to the FCC's announcement of a December 18 vote to lift rules protecting local communities from media monopolies.



**OCTOBER 24, 2007**  
**FREE PRESS RESEARCH SHOWS CONSOLIDATION DEVASTATES RADIO DIVERSITY**

Free Press Research Director S. Derek Turner testifies before the Senate that media consolidation wipes out diverse and local radio ownership.

**OCTOBER 31, 2007**  
**PUBLIC RALLIES TO STOP BIG MEDIA: "NO TRICKS TODAY!"**

Free Press activists rally at the FCC in protest of agency's plan to allow more media consolidation. The StopBigMedia.com coalition packs the FCC hearing.



**JANUARY 14, 2008**  
**FREE PRESS'S COMPLAINT AGAINST COMCAST SPARKS FCC INVESTIGATION**

Responding to a petition by Free Press, the FCC announces an investigation into Comcast's interference with users' access to legal Web content.

**FEBRUARY 8, 2008**  
**FREE PRESS LAUNCHES OPEN INTERNET WEEK TO MARK HOUSE'S INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNET FREEDOM PRESERVATION ACT**

Free Press hosts a series of briefings, press conferences, online grassroots events and petition drops, earning coverage in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*. Our online videos go viral.



**MARCH 28, 2008**  
**NET NEUTRALITY'S QUIET CRUSADER**

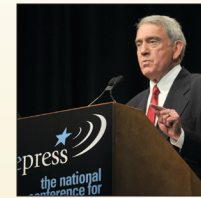
The *Washington Post* profiles Free Press Policy Director Ben Scott on the front page of the business section.

**MAY 6, 2008**  
**FREE PRESS TESTIFIES BEFORE THE HOUSE ON INTERNET FREEDOM**

Policy Director Ben Scott testifies before a House subcommittee, urging lawmakers to protect consumers from Internet blocking by telephone and cable companies.

**JUNE 6-8, 2008**  
**FREE PRESS HOSTS FOURTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR MEDIA REFORM**

More than 3,500 people converge upon Minneapolis for the media reform movement's central gathering. Speakers include Bill Moyers, Dan Rather, Arianna Huffington, Amy Goodman, Naomi Klein and Phil Donahue.

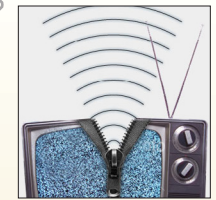


**JUNE 23, 2008**  
**FREE PRESS LAUNCHES INTERNETFOREVERYONE.ORG**

Free Press launches InternetforEveryone.org — a groundbreaking initiative to bring fast, affordable and open Internet to all Americans.

**JULY 21, 2008**  
**FCC DISCUSSES DIGITAL FUTURE AT PITTSBURGH HEARING**

Hundreds of activists testify before the FCC about the importance of broadband and America's digital future at a hearing at Carnegie Mellon University.



**NOVEMBER 4, 2008**  
**THE FCC VOTES TO OPEN UP "WHITE SPACES"**

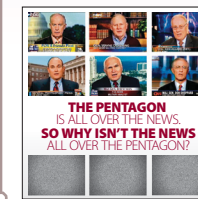
In a landslide vote, the FCC approves the unlicensed use of white spaces — unused portions of the TV spectrum — to provide high-speed Internet access nationwide. The decision is major victory for the public interest.

**AUGUST 1, 2008**  
**FCC PUNISHES COMCAST FOR BLOCKING THE OPEN INTERNET**

Acting on a complaint by Free Press, the FCC votes to punish Comcast for blocking users' access to the open Internet. The ruling is a major victory for the American public.

**JUNE 19, 2008**  
**INVESTIGATION UNCOVERS WEB SITE 'WIREFAPS'**

A landmark Free Press study explains how Internet service providers are partnering with online marketers to spy on customers' online communications. Congress launches an inquiry and, within months, all companies have put the practice on hold.



**MAY 23, 2008**  
**HOUSE VOTES TO OUTLAW PENTAGON PROPAGANDA**

When a secret Pentagon program to spread pro-war propaganda by recruiting and planting military analysts in national newscasts is exposed, Free Press activists and allies respond with more than 100,000 letters to Congress demanding an investigation.

**MAY 15, 2008**  
**SENATE CASTS NEAR-UNANIMOUS VOTE TO NULLIFY FCC OWNERSHIP RULE CHANGES**

The Senate votes overwhelmingly to reject the FCC's proposed changes to media ownership rules. The Bush administration vows to veto the measure.

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2008**  
**FREE PRESS LAUNCHES 'RATE THE DEBATES'**

In this campaign for better election coverage, thousands of citizens from the left and right weigh in on the media's performance during the presidential and vice presidential debates.

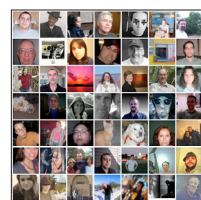


**SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**  
**JOURNALISTS ARRESTED AT RNC; CHARGES DROPPED AFTER PUBLIC OUTCRY**

Free Press leads a national campaign to protect journalists after the arrests of Amy Goodman and others at the Republican National Convention. More than 60,000 people sign our petition to drop all charges against journalists. Less than six weeks later, all charges are dropped.

**DECEMBER 18, 2007**  
**FCC VOTES TO REMOVE "NEWSPAPER/BROADCAST CROSS-OWNERSHIP" RULE**

Despite overwhelming public opposition, the FCC votes to lift media ownership rules. The next day, Free Press allies in the Senate and House introduce legislation to overturn the disastrous decision.

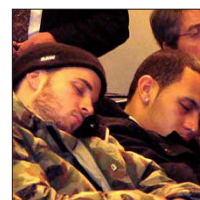


**DECEMBER 17, 2007**  
**ON EVE OF OWNERSHIP VOTE, FCC FACES PUBLIC OUTCRY**

More than 100,000 Free Press activists contact Congress and the FCC via the StopBigMedia.com Web site. Thousands more post their pictures on a virtual 'wall of protest.'

**APRIL 17, 2008**  
**FREE PRESS HELPS ORGANIZE FCC HEARING AT STANFORD**

Free Press Policy Director Ben Scott testifies at an FCC hearing at Stanford University about the need for an open Internet.



**FEBRUARY 25, 2008**  
**COMCAST BLOCKS PUBLIC AT FCC HEARING AT HARVARD**

Free Press catches Comcast packing a public FCC hearing on the company's Internet blocking practices with paid seat fillers. The story makes national headlines and drives tens of thousands to contact Congress and the FCC in support of Net Neutrality.

**NOVEMBER 1, 2007**  
**FREE PRESS TAKES LEGAL ACTION TO STOP COMCAST FROM BLOCKING THE INTERNET**

After Comcast is exposed for blocking legal Internet traffic, Free Press files a complaint with the FCC seeking a formal sanction and fines.

**OCTOBER 30, 2007**  
**KEY SENATE COMMITTEE VOTES TO PROTECT COMMUNITY INTERNET AND EXPAND LOW-POWER RADIO**

Free Press leads efforts to win passage of the Community Broadband Act and the Local Community Radio Act in the Senate Commerce Committee.

