



LIVERPOOL-FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY RADIO CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

ABN 58 832 839 936

Political Disclosure and Access Policy

Introduction

In order to comply with the Community Broadcasting Codes of Practice and Broadcasting Law the policy sets out the requirements for presenters during the lead up to Federal, State and Local Government elections. It also sets out the requirement to be unbiased and fair when addressing political matters.

The Broadcasting Services Act (1992) as a condition of 2GLF's Broadcasting License, requires that the laws on media coverage of Federal, State and Local elections are strictly adhered to.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline requirements relating to the Broadcasting and communication of political and election matter so that 2GLF complies with all rules relating to political broadcasting. This policy addresses pre-election considerations that may have an impact on programs during the political broadcasting period.

Policy

- Presenters must declare if they are a member of a political party and if so agree not to conduct any political interviews
- Non-party affiliated presenters may conduct political interviews, but must ensure questions are their own and fair and unbiased
- The reason for broadcasting political matter is to inform 2GLF listeners of the options open to them
- A register of all political interviews must be kept by the Presenter for filing by the board at the completion of each election. This is so questions or complaints can have accurate responses
- Monitoring of programs will take place and failure to abide by this policy can result in the loss of airtime

The reason for preventing active members of a political party from broadcasting political material is to protect 2GLF from anyone using their program as a platform for promoting their political views. This could be very damaging for the station.



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The following must be adhered to:

Clause 3 of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Services Act requires that if a presenter during the election period broadcasts any election matter, then the presenter must give all parties contesting the election a reasonable opportunity to have election matter broadcast during the election period.

e.g., All candidates in an electorate should be given the opportunity to have election matter broadcast. They may not avail themselves of the opportunity, but they must be asked. If another party is invited but has declined the invitation this should be mentioned on air.

A register of proposed interviews shall be presented to the board for approval in the form of the following:

- Program
- Date
- Presenter
- Candidate
- Political Part
- Duration of interview

Equal airtime should be given.

Requests for the broadcast of political material must be kept by presenters and directed to the board. A record of broadcast political material is to be kept for six weeks from the date of the broadcast. ACMA and/ or the Board may request that records are kept for a longer period.

- Programs should keep any emails sent or received offering airtime
- A paper trail is important when dealing with complaints.

Political Advertising

Clause 3A of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act requires that political advertising must cease three days prior to polling day. If an election takes place on Saturday, advertising must cease at the end of the preceding Wednesday and only re-commence after the polls are closed on Saturday.

- 2GLF must announce the details of the party that has authorized and sponsored the political advertisement
- The political advertisement must be tagged e.g. "This political announcement was sponsored and authorized by the XXXXXX party."
- If 2GLF broadcasts the political advertising of a political party, the opportunity of advertising must be available to competing political parties.



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Political Material

2GLF may broadcast political content (news, statements, commentary or discussion) during the entire election period provided reasonable opportunities are given for all parties contesting the election.

- As a condition of 2GLF's license all programs are logged.
- ACMA may request audio logs or details of any political or current affairs material that is broadcast by 2GLF.

Options for dealing with Political Material

In the past 2GLF has organized an election week special/forums where discussions were held to inform listeners of the political issues being raised for Liverpool-and Fairfield electorates/ward. Such events ensure equal time is offered. The board reserves the right to address political broadcasting in this way and to limit political broadcasting for individual programs.

- If in doubt as to what is required presenters must consult the board
- Presenters who do not present accurate records of their political material broadcasting will be subject to the loss of airtime.

A Message to Presenters

Politicians are often very experienced and know how to use the media to their advantage. If you are not well informed on political matters you would be well advised to leave such content out of your program. "When in doubt leave it out."

References

The Broadcasting Services Act (1992)

ACMA Fact Sheet - Broadcasting and communication of political election matter.

CBA - 4 Things to Remember When You cover the NSW State Election.

Version	Prepared by	Effective date
Version 2.0 Revised	Chris Sparrow	March 2022