



AUGUST 2025 ADVOCATE RECESS GUIDE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

In July 2025, Congress approved the Rescissions Act, eliminating \$1.1 billion in previously approved federal funding for local public media stations.

In response, widespread viewer and listener outreach can open a potential path to restore that funding through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 appropriations process. We will be working hard in the months ahead to build support for this critical funding. Congress is expected to take action on government spending in September, and lawmakers must either pass a short-term funding measure or finalize the FY 2026 appropriations bills by September 30, the end of the current fiscal year.

August is a critical moment to show your support. Lawmakers are back in their home states and districts for recess, and when they return to Washington in September, final decisions will be made.

Here's how you can take action now in your community and online.

ATTEND A TOWN HALL MEETING

Many lawmakers hold public events – in-person and online – during recess to hear from constituents. You can find these events on your lawmakers' websites (.gov), social media platforms, or newsletters. If your Senators or Representative are holding a town hall meeting, show up and speak up for public media.

What to do:

- Express your disappointment in the passage of the Rescissions Act, which canceled previously approved public media funding. Encourage your Members of Congress to support restoring this funding through the annual appropriations process.
- Focus your message on your local station, which will feel the impact of these cuts most directly
- Share why your local station matters to your community, region, or state – whether it's for news, education, emergency alerts, or cultural programming.

- Keep your comments nonpartisan, respectful, and constructive – your voice is most effective when it's calm and clear.
- Invite a friend or neighbor who also values public media to join you in speaking up.

GROW THE PROTECT MY PUBLIC MEDIA ACTION NETWORK

SHARE A MESSAGE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Lawmakers must pass either a short-term funding measure or finalize the FY 2026 appropriations bills by September 30, the end of the current fiscal year. Now is the time to grow this movement. Encourage others to join Protect My Public Media on social media before the next push to restore public media funding begins. Scroll down to download corresponding social graphics.

In your social media posts, please tag us on [Instagram](#) and [X](#) (@mypublicmedia) and [Facebook](#) (@ProtectMyPublicMedia). #ProtectMyPublicMedia

SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA SCRIPTS

- Public media has been defunded, but there's still a chance to restore it. I just signed up for updates from Protect My Public Media, so I'll know exactly when and how to take action. Join me: <https://bit.ly/45puWl4>
- If you care about your local public media station, now's the time to get involved. Congress could consider restoring public media funding. Sign up with Protect My Public Media and stay informed: <https://bit.ly/45puWl4>
- Want to protect your local public media station's future? Join the campaign that's fighting to restore federal funding: <https://bit.ly/45puWl4>

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SEND EMAILS TO YOUR NETWORK

You can copy and paste the message below to your friends and family who support public media and urge them to get involved with Protect My Public Media.

SAMPLE EMAIL SCRIPT

Subject: Public media needs us now more than ever

Hi [Name],

I know you value public media as much as I do, so I wanted to make sure you saw this: Congress recently voted to rescind federal funding for local public media stations. Now, lawmakers could decide whether to restore that funding through the Fiscal Year 2026 government spending process.

These stations keep our communities informed, educated, connected, and safe. Without restored federal support, all stations will face deep cuts to local programming and services, and many rural and Tribal stations could be forced off the air entirely.

There's still a chance to reverse this, but we need as many people as possible ready to speak out.

I just joined the Protect My Public Media campaign to get alerts on when and how to take action. If you care about your local stations, I hope you'll sign up, too, at ProtectMyPublicMedia.org.

The campaign will notify you when it's time to call or email your lawmakers, especially as key decisions approach in September.

Thanks for standing with public media.

STAY CONNECTED

Let us know how you're engaging with your Members of Congress or community this August!

Contact us: info@protectmypublicmedia.org