

Comments of the Center for Responsive Politics Re: OMB Control Number: 3060-0214.

As the nation's premier research group tracking money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy, the Center for Responsive Politics is pleased to support FCC rules mandating electronic access to political files currently maintained by local broadcasters. The information contained in these files is a critical public resource - in some cases the only source for information about who is attempting to influence the electoral process via broadcast advertising.

It is important to note that this rule makes no changes to the information stations are required to collect or the manner in which they collect it. The only change is to the mechanism by which the records are disseminated to the public in ways that will have the effect of reducing the burden on both the stations and those who seek access. Instead of individual members of the public physically going to stations one at a time and consuming station staff time and other resources to obtain these public records, this system will provide access to those same documents electronically.

This represents an excellent example of using technology to improve the efficacy of important public policies while also improving the efficiency of regulatory processes.

Sincerely,

Sheila Krumholz
Executive Director
Center for Responsive Politics