

# **ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: IMPACT ON PUBLIC BROADCASTING**



**Board Presentation**

January 26, 2009

# Uncharted Territory



*Ships of Christopher Columbus at sea.*

N.C. Wyeth, 1927.

[Source: Library of Congress]

# Agenda

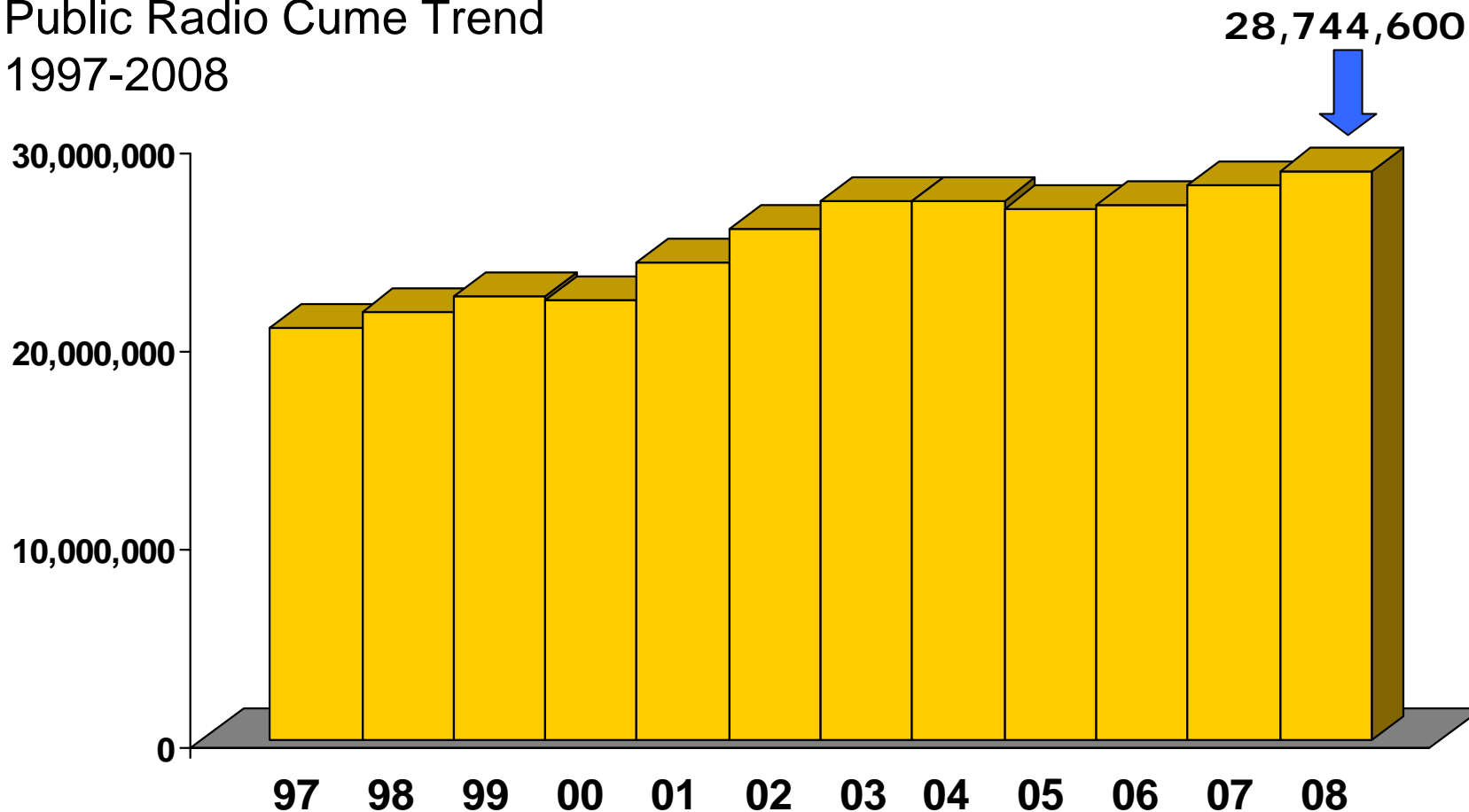
- Media Landscape
- Station Data
- Potential Impact
- Outcomes

# Media Landscape



# Total public radio audience at all-time high

Public Radio Cume Trend  
1997-2008




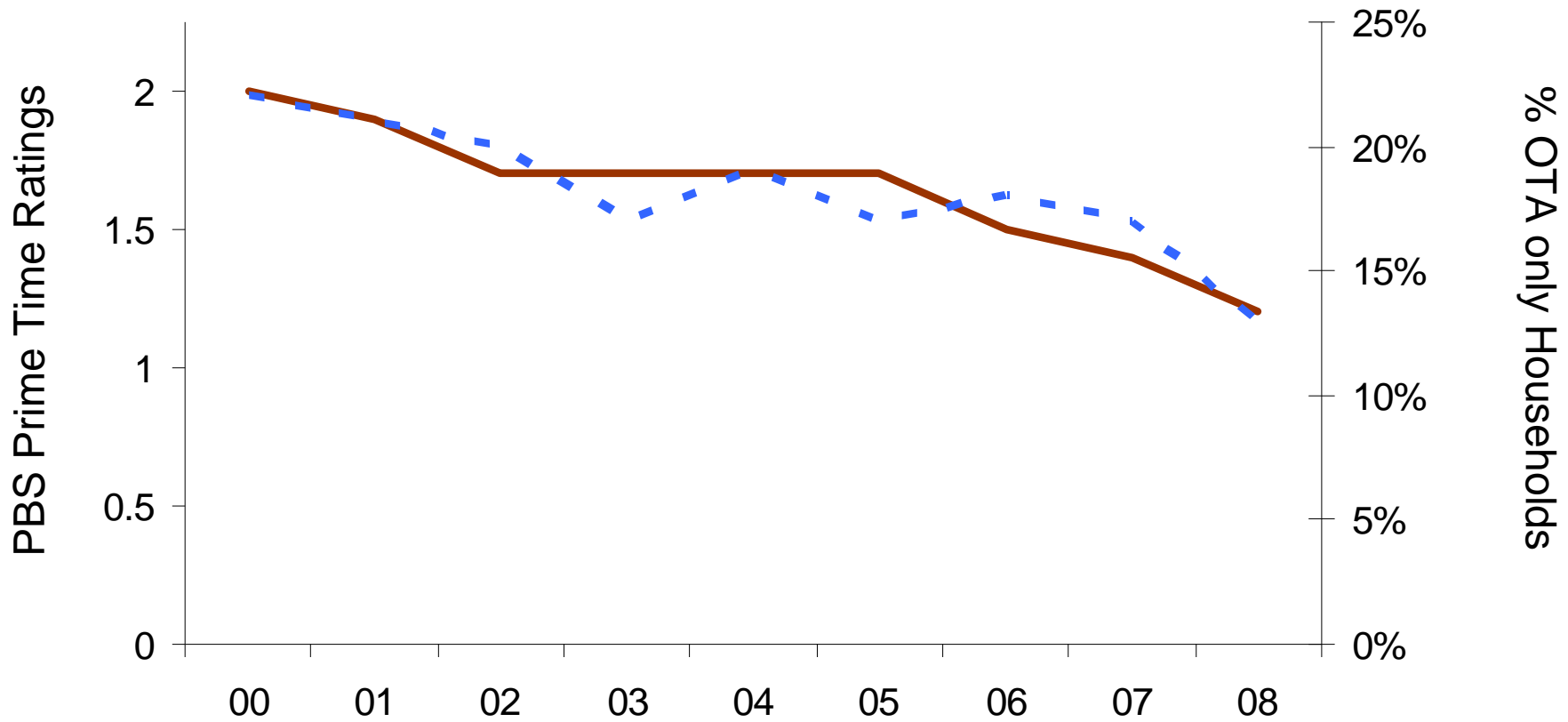
Source:  
Audience Research Analysis, Inc.  
and Arbitron



# The decline in PTV ratings and OTA only households have similar trends

PBS Prime Time Ratings vs.  
% OTA only Households

-  PBS PT Rating
-  % OTA only HH



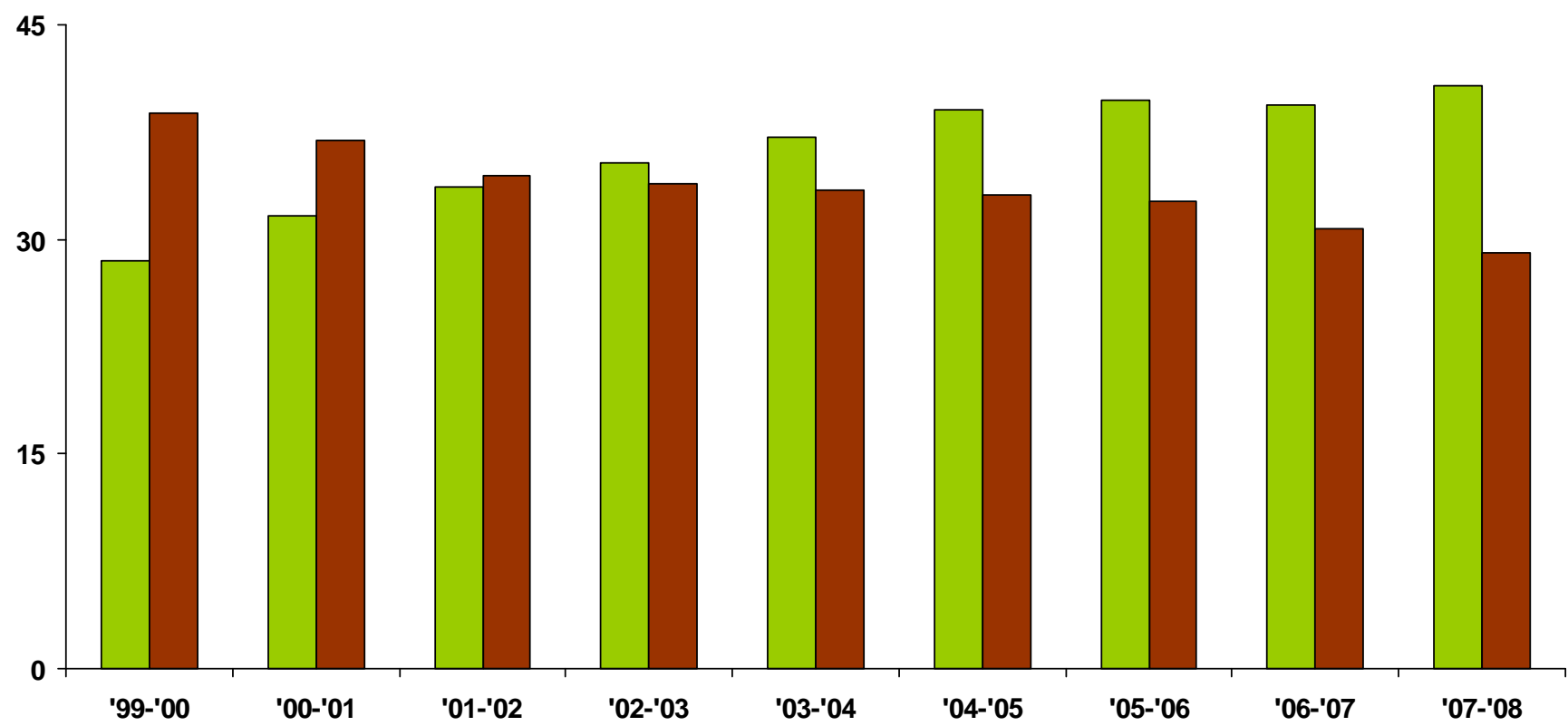
Source: Nielsen, Knowledge Network



# More people watch cable programming and fewer watch broadcast TV programming each year

## Share of Primetime TV Households

- Cable Network
- Broadcast Network



Source: Nielsen

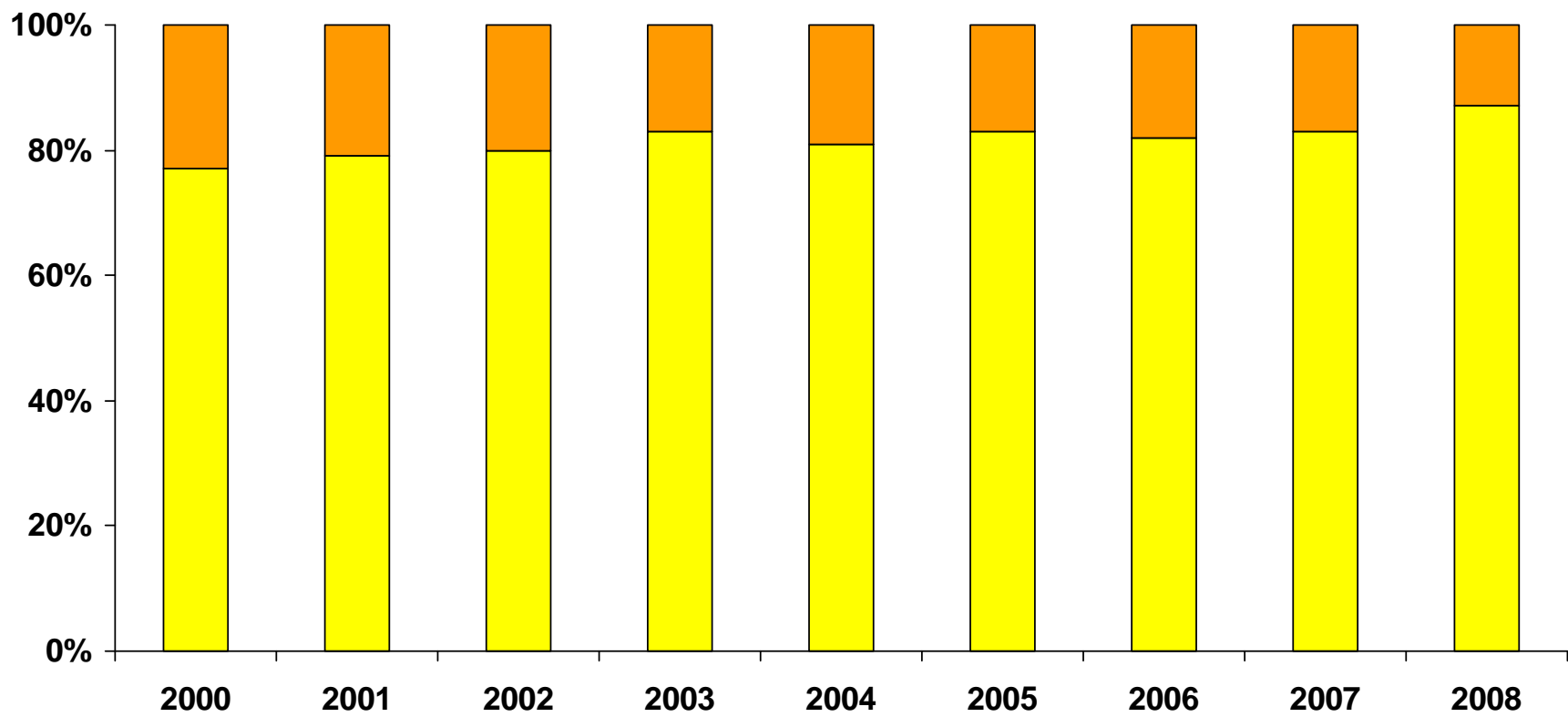
\*compounded annual growth rate



# The percent of OTA only households was nearly cut in half between 2000 and 2008

% of TV households that are cable/satellite subscribers or OTA only

- OTA Only HH
- Cable/Sat Subscribers

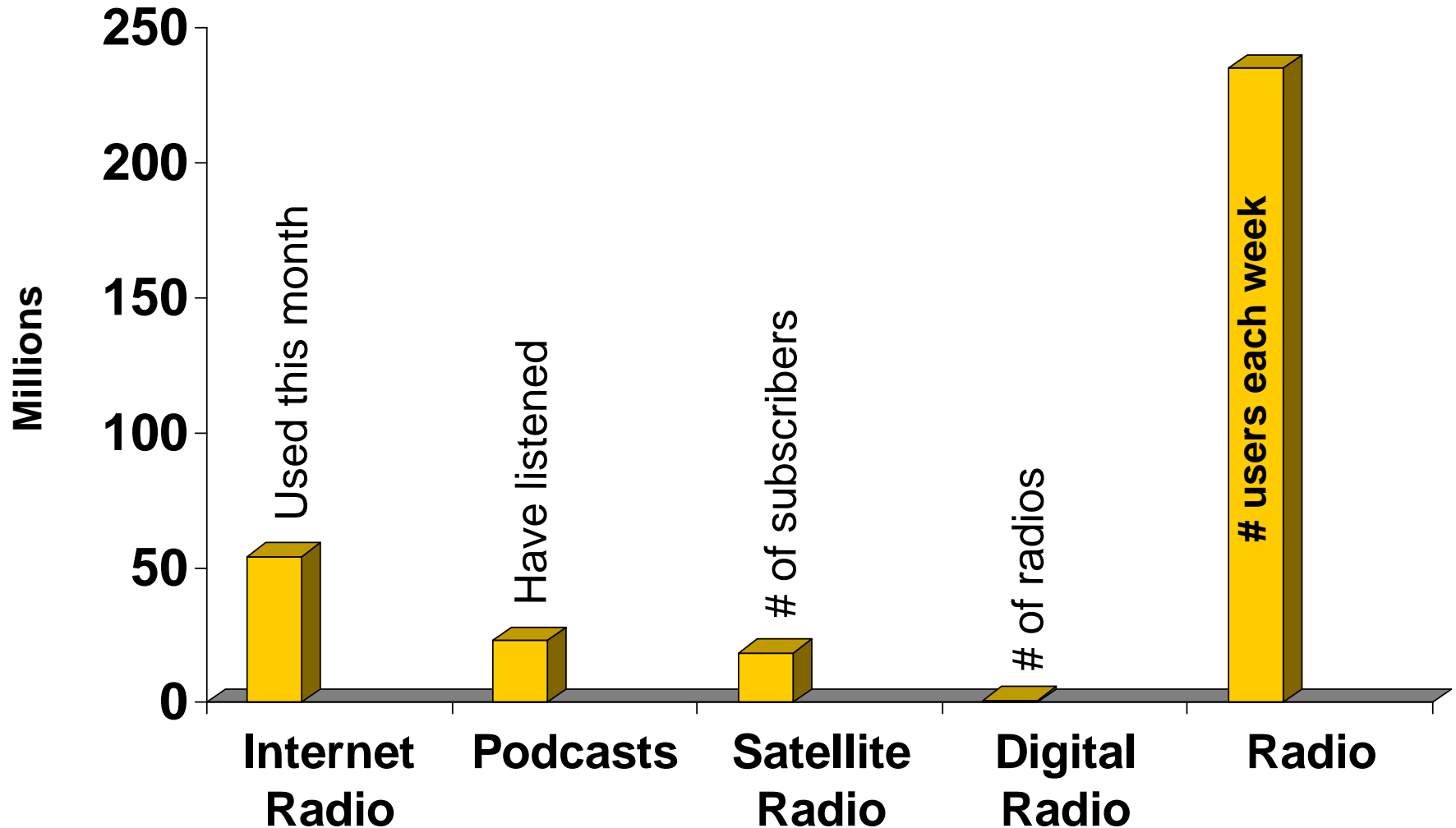


Source: Nielsen, Knowledge Network

\*compounded annual growth rate



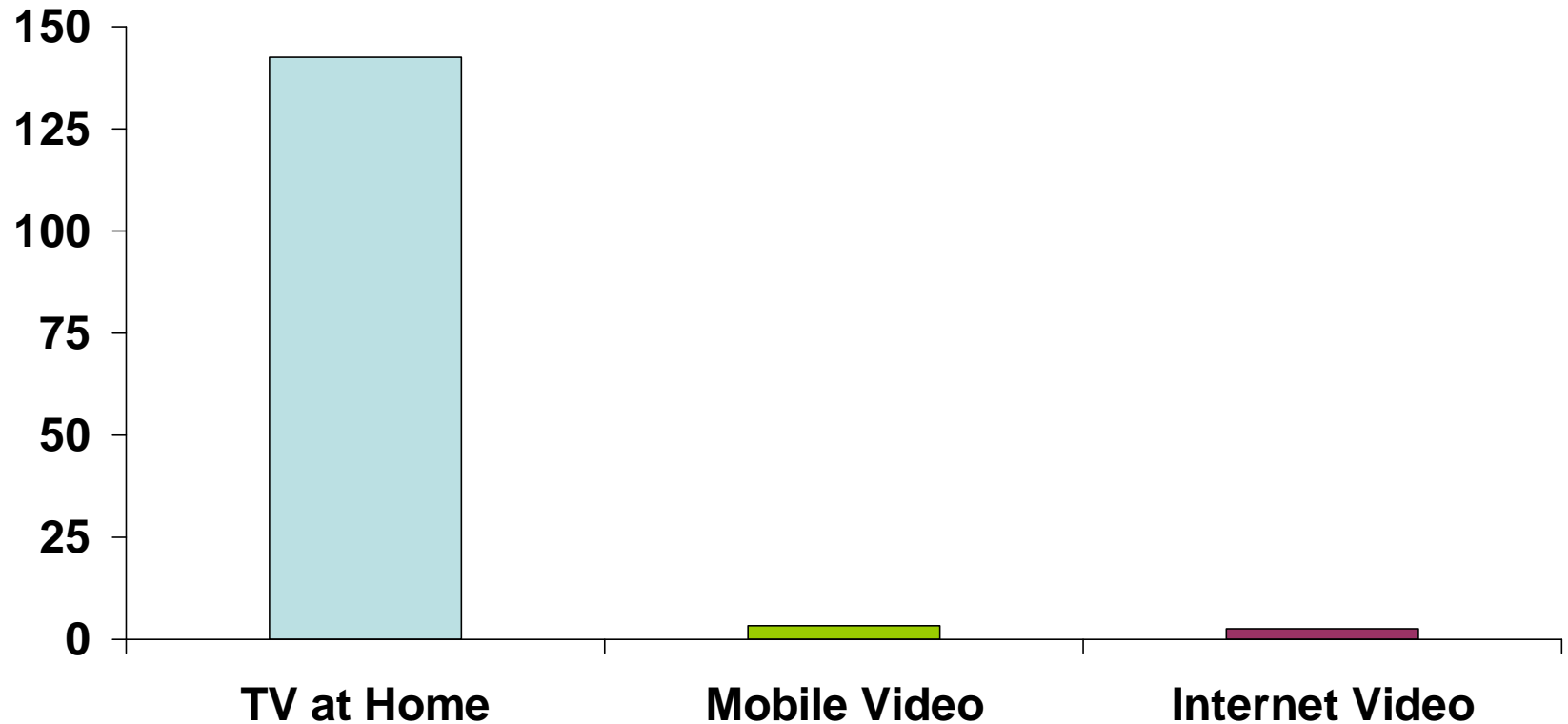
# New technologies are emerging but radio remains strong





# Watching TV at home is still predominant platform for viewing

Number of hours spent viewing TV/video per user



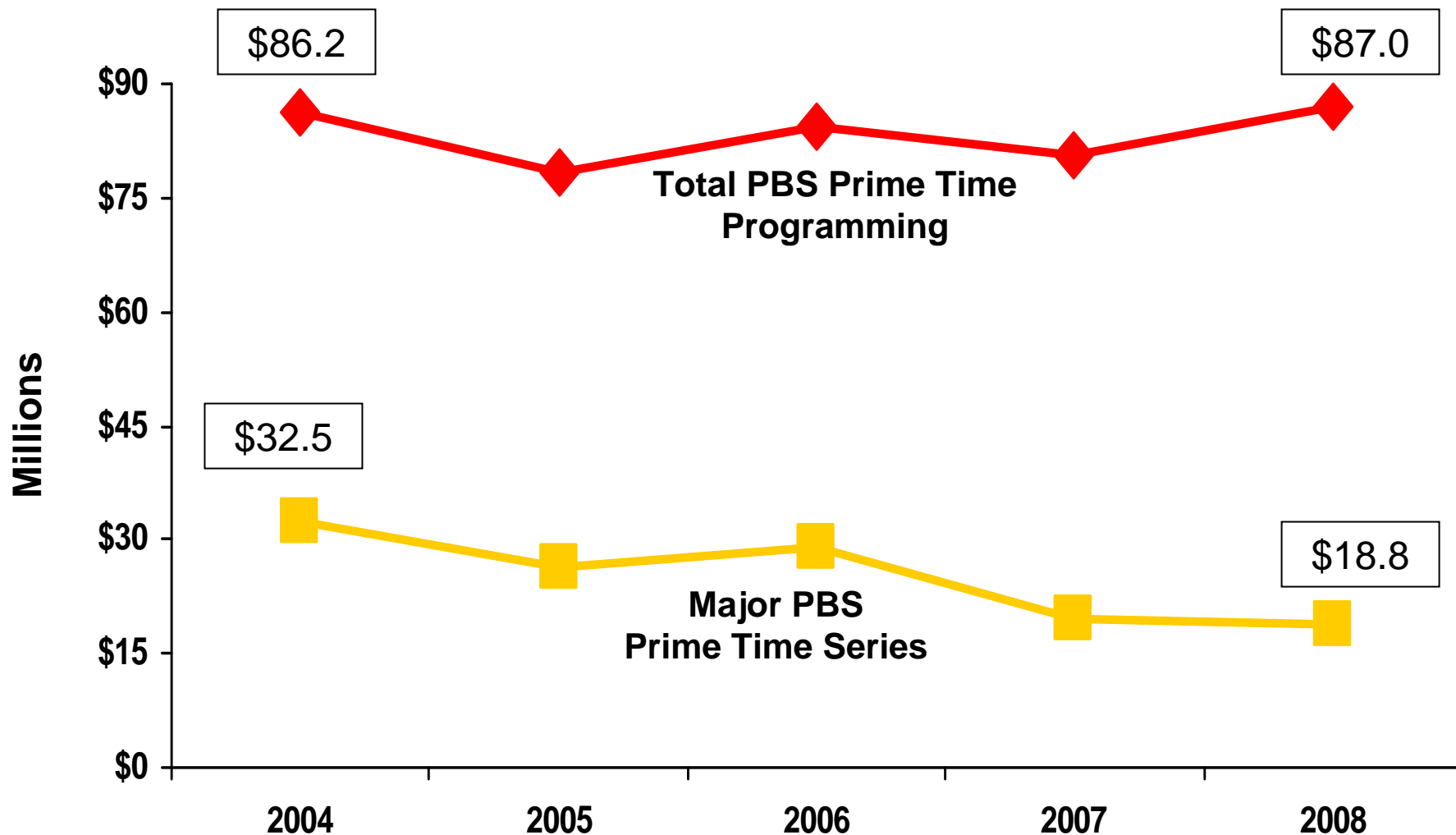
Source: Nielsen



# Expected Downturn in Commercial Advertising Revenue in 2009

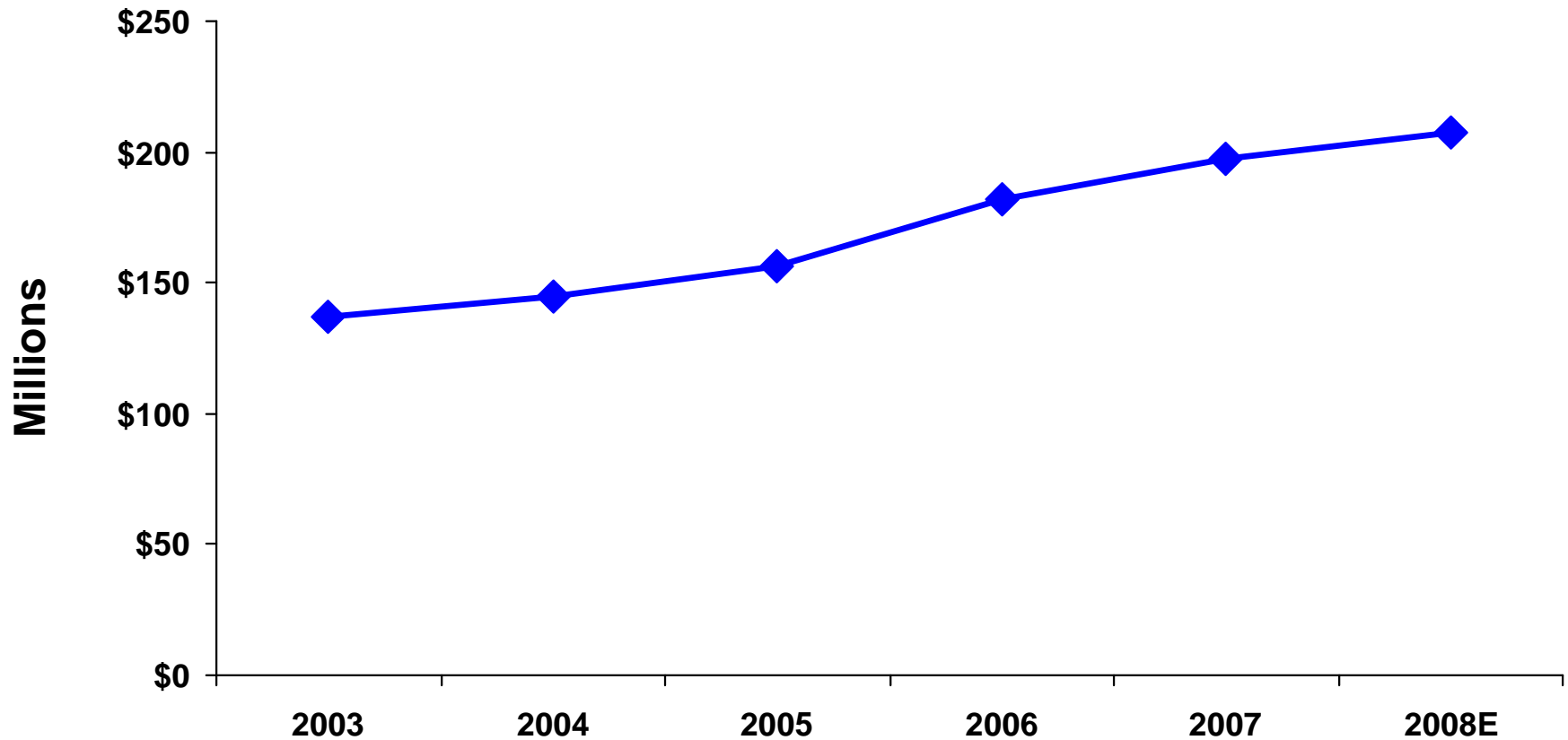
- Newspaper down 17%
- Magazine down 15%
- Radio down 13%
- Broadcast TV networks down 10%
- Cable networks down 3%
- Internet *up* 6.1% (down from 16% over previous 5 years)

# PBS prime time national underwriting flat but major PBS series underwriting down





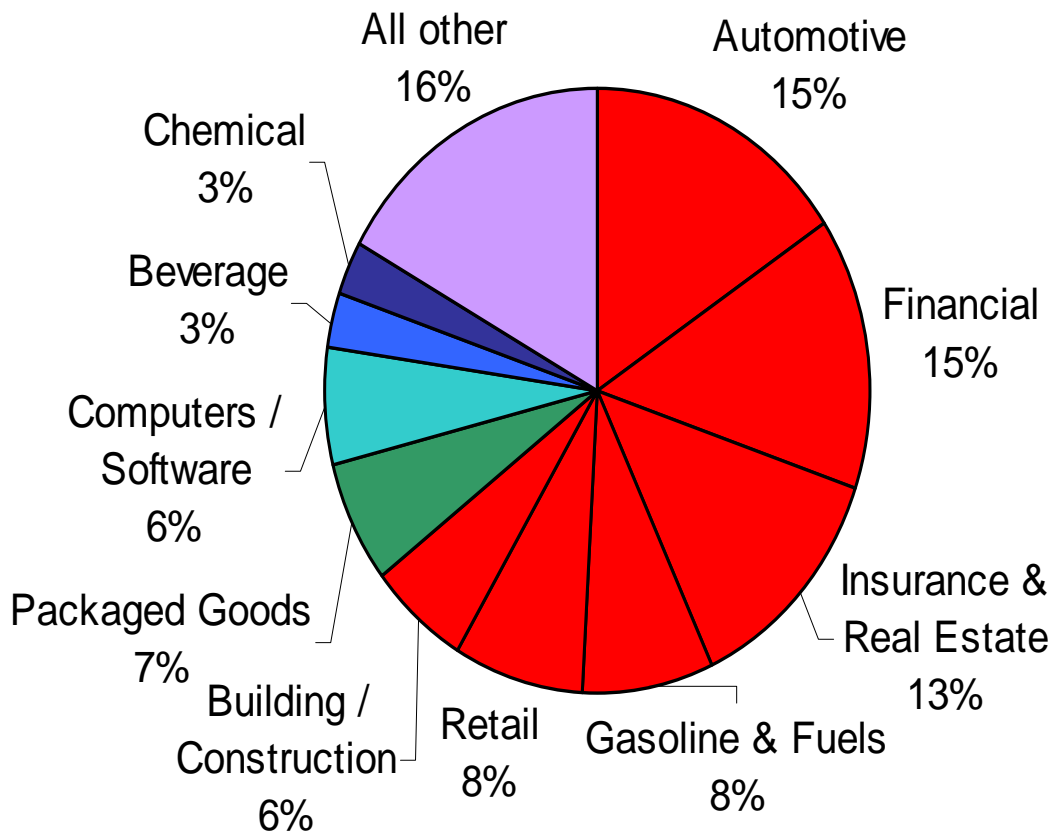
# Public radio station-generated underwriting has been consistently trending upwards



Source: AFR

# National sponsorship relies on several hard-hit sectors

## PBS program funding by sector, FY2008\*



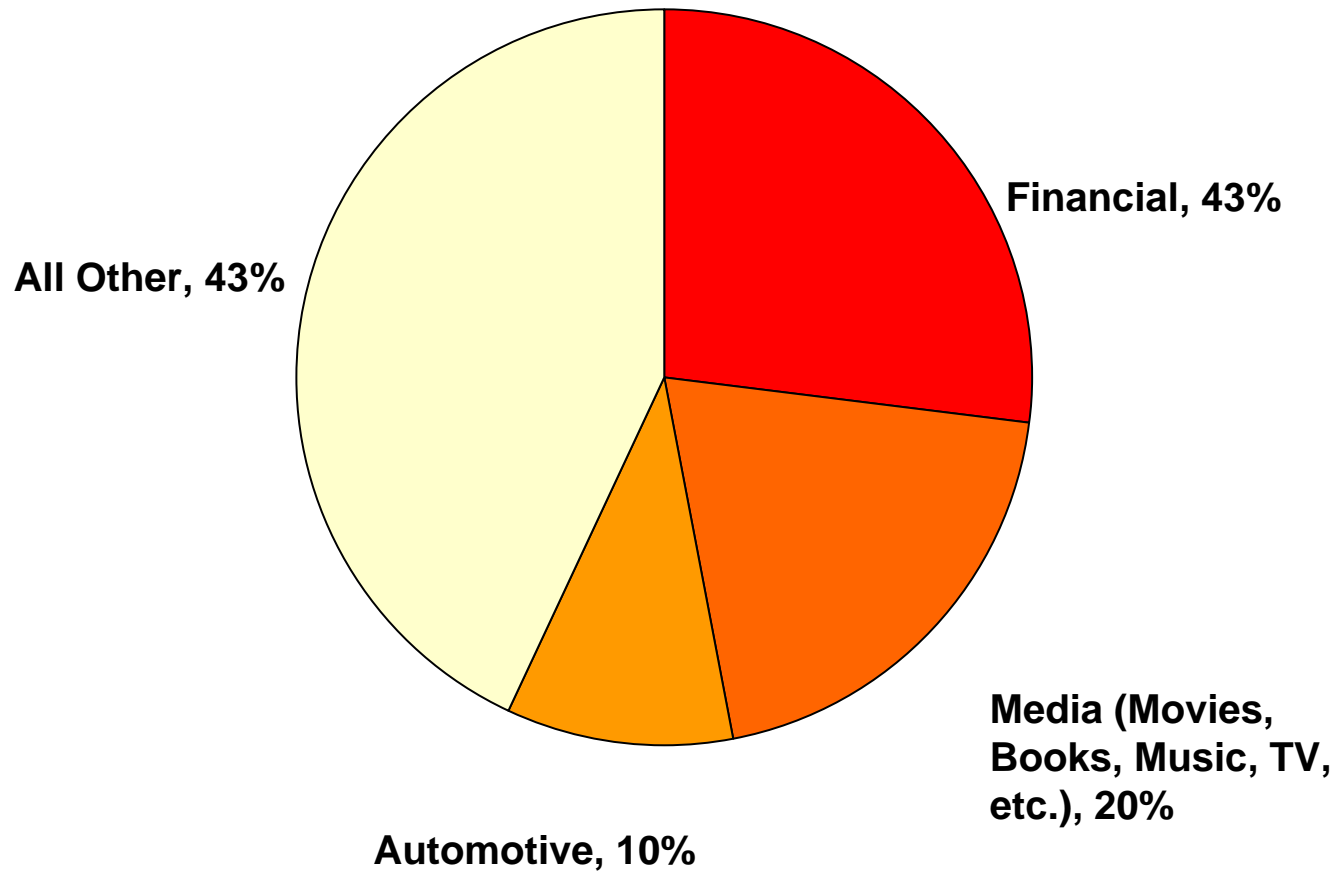
Source: PBS

\* General Audiences Programming





# NPR Sponsorship Revenue by Major Category FY2008



Source: NPR

# Station Data

# PTV Financial Assessment Goals

- To identify public television licensees affected by economic downturn
- To determine common causes and trends



# PTV Financial Assessment Process

- Analyzed financial risk factors:
  - Current Ratio
  - Debt Ratio
  - Operating Results Ratio
- Utilized 2007 & 2008 audited financial data



# PTV Financial Assessment Findings

Good	Univ.=18 Com.=10 State=1	Com.=11 Univ.=11 State=4	Com.=8 Univ.=8 State=5	Com.=4 Univ.=3 State=3
	Com.=14 Univ.=5 State=0	Univ.=7 Com.=5 State=0	Com.=6 Univ.=3 State=3	State=5 Com.=3 Univ.=0
	Com.=11 Univ.=1 State=0	Com.=5 Univ.=5 State=1	Com.=1 Univ.=1 State=0	Com.=4 Univ.=1 State=0

\$0-\$5

\$5-\$10

\$10-\$25

Over \$25

Total Station Revenue in Millions



# PTV Key Non-Federal Support

- Membership
- State
- Underwriting

# Public Radio Revenue Under Stress

- Radio not immune to economic downturn
- Underwriting down
  - National level
  - Local level
- Membership flat or down
- State & University licensees support down
- Endowment & investment revenue down

# Potential Impact

# Potential Revenue Declines

Potential 16% decline in Public TV revenue for FY09  
(\$292 M)

Potential 13% decline in Public Radio revenue for FY09  
(\$126 M)

**Potential total revenue decline of  
\$418 M for FY09**

# Potential TV Revenue Declines

\$ In Millions

Revenue Source	FY08*	Forecast Change	FY09	Revenue Change
CPB/Federal	\$371	1%	\$377	\$5
State/Local	\$391	-15%	\$333	(\$59)
Universities	\$161	-15%	\$136	(\$24)
Foundations	\$106	-10%	\$95	(\$11)
Corporate Underwriting	\$302	-25%	\$226	(\$75)
Members	\$443	-20%	\$354	(\$89)
All Other	\$98	-40%	\$59	(\$39)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,873</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>\$1,581</b>	<b>(\$292)</b>

\*Projected revenue

Source: AFR

# Potential Radio Revenue Declines

\$ In Millions

Revenue Source	FY08*	Forecast Change	FY09	Revenue Change
CPB/Federal	\$105	1%	\$107	\$2
State/Local	\$48	-15%	\$41	(\$7)
Universities	\$131	-15%	\$112	(\$20)
Foundations	\$101	-10%	\$91	(\$10)
Corporate Underwriting	\$207	-15%	\$176	(\$31)
Members	\$319	-10%	\$287	(\$32)
All Other	\$68	-40%	\$41	(\$27)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$981</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>\$855</b>	<b>(\$126)</b>

\*Projected revenue

Source: AFR



# Potential Impact

- Service reduction
- Budget tightening
  - staff reductions &/or hiring freezes
  - cut/reduce local programs
  - cut some national programs
- Regional station networks under stress
  - fuel/fixed costs (transmitter/tower leases, utilities, interconnection & maintenance)
- A few small to mid-sized institutional licensees decide to stop station subsidy
  - sell or outsource station (LMA; merger)
- National organizations
- Associations



# Public Service Outcomes

- Preserve universal service
  - Less overhead & infrastructure where possible
- Support operational efficiencies
  - Promote greater efficiency thru combined operations
  - Combined backend, engineering, membership, on-line
- Preserve public service spectrum
  - Where existing licensee goes dark
- Promote diverse services in multi-station markets
  - Promote a higher level of use, greater diversity of service

# Outcomes