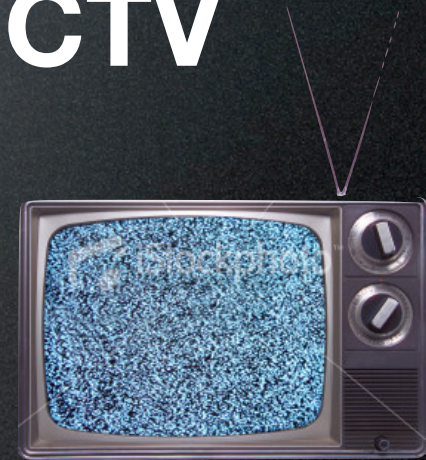


It's Time to Fix MCTV



It's Time to Fix MCTV

- The County Civil Grand Jury says MCTV needs attention
- What is MCTV and how is it organized?
- MCTV is closed to the community
- MCTV's problem is governance
- How to fix MCTV



Grand Jury Recommendations

- MCTV should improve programming and bylaws
- MCTV should seek and foster new programming
- MCTV should seek more community funding
- MCTV should invite the public to participate in its board meetings

What is MCTV?

- Private corporation
- 501c3 nonprofit
- Operates Channel 6 as a PEG (Public, Educational and Governmental) station under an agreement with the county
- Allowed to use El Granada Comcast offices under agreement with the county

MCTV is funded by cable fees and taxes

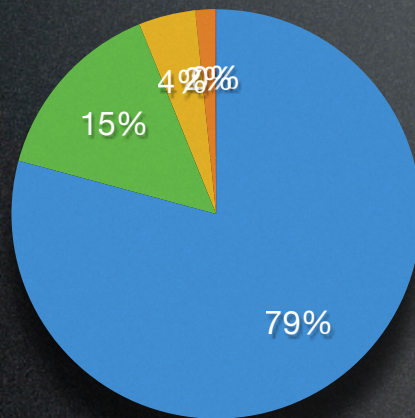
- Comcast adds franchise fee to cable bills
- Money is paid to the county and city
- County and city pass this on to MCTV
- But, this pass-along is not required

Charge details	
Previous balance	\$0.00
Comcast Cable Television	\$47.99
1/23 - 2/22 Standard Cable	47.99
Includes: Limited Basic and Expanded Basic Service.	
Cable Television monthly charges	\$47.99
Taxes, surcharges and fees	\$2.90
Cable Television	
Franchise Fee	2.84
FCC Regulatory Fee	0.06
Total due by 02/05/07	\$50.89

MCTV Budget Year Ending June, 2008

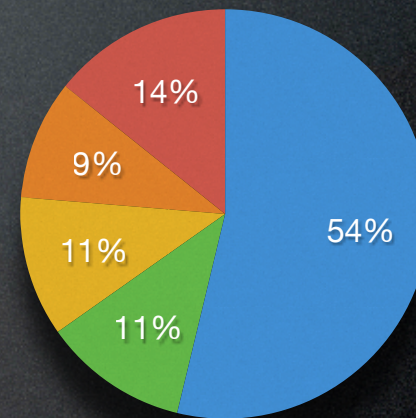
Income \$112,000

- Government grants
- Contributions
- other
- Government contracts
- Membership dues



Expenses \$122,000

- Executive director
- Volunteers
- Professional services
- Supplies
- Other



Source: MCTV tax filings, does not include depreciation

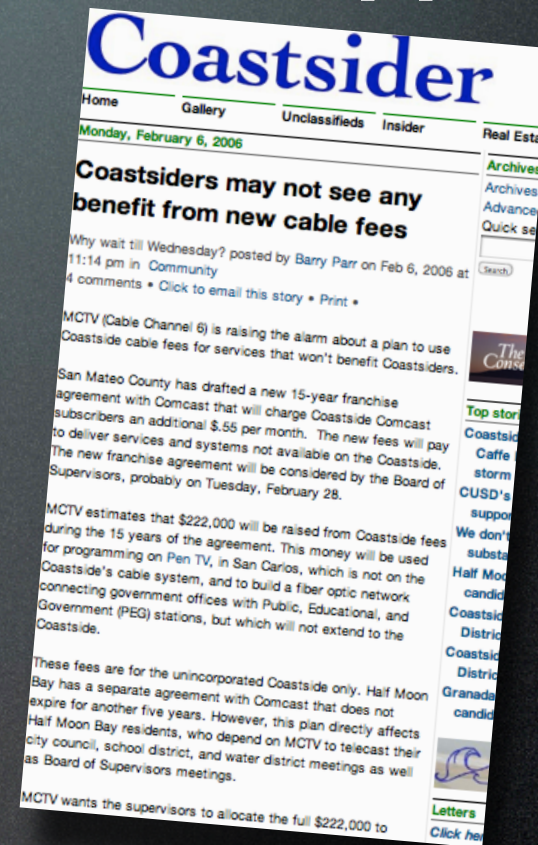
I started as an MCTV supporter

- Photographed MCTV's anniversary



I started as an MCTV supporter

- Supported MCTV's county funding
- Prepared a grant application for MCTV
- Then, MCTV claimed copyright on publicly-financed recordings of public meetings.
- I could only get MCTV's Station Manager to return my calls after calling MCTV's directors



MCTV board 2008 election

Week 1

- SAT April 12: I receive a copy of bylaws
 - Following months of requests
 - Deadline for board nominations is Friday
- SUN: I put together a slate
- MON: I tell the station I'm running for their board
 - I begin recruiting new members
- TUES: MCTV's attorney calls, asking "what I want"
- TUES: MCTV blocks their mail slot and tells Comcast to say Station Manager is "out of town"
- FRI: Nominations close
- SAT: MCTV mails ballots without candidate statements
 - This allows them to close membership rolls



MCTV board 2008 election

Week 2

- SUN: MCTV announces a new copyright policy
 - When did the board meet?
 - MCTV refuses to provide minutes of board meetings
 - MCTV refuses to provide electronic membership list
- MON: Members receive ballots
 - There are no candidates' statements
 - There are new bylaws
 - Eliminate some independent board seats
 - Lower standards for conflicts of interest
 - MCTV refuses to provide a list of changes
- FRI: Candidate statements received by most members

No surprises in the election results

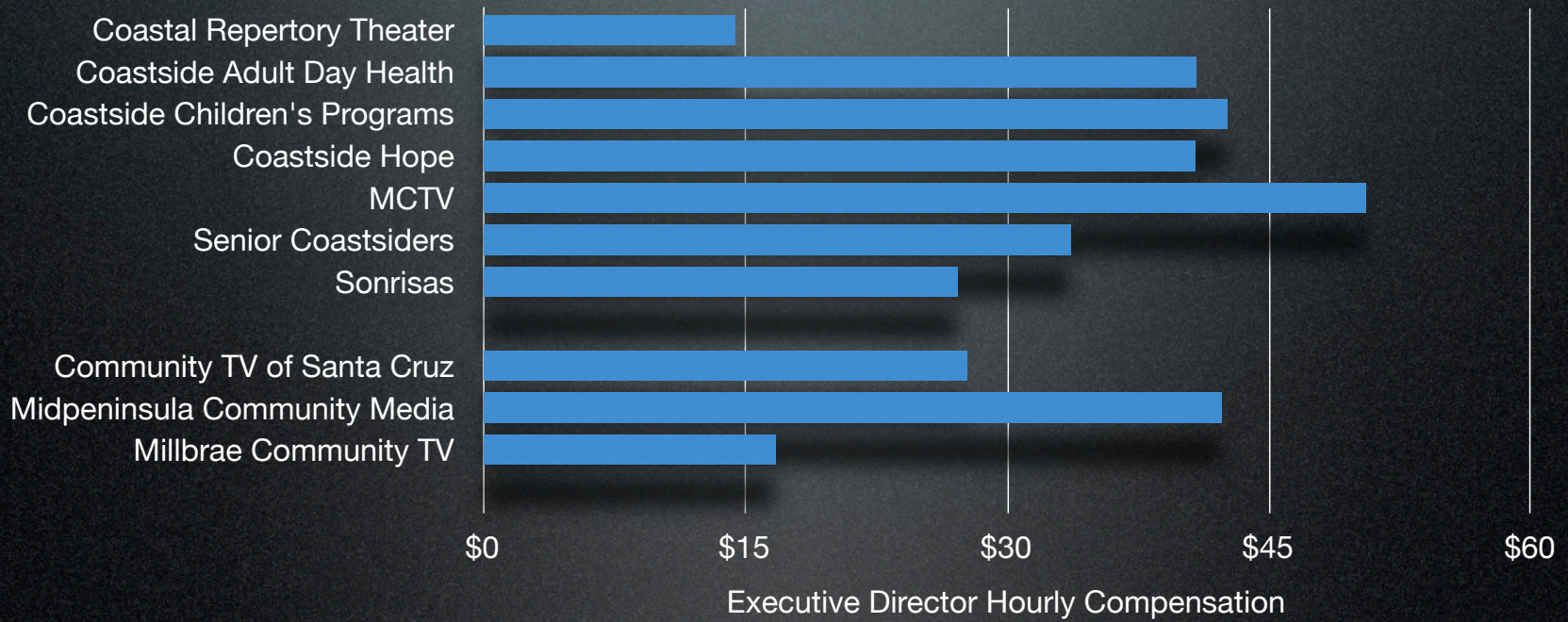
- Board-nominated candidates are elected
- New bylaws approved
- MCTV's new board includes a resident of Pacifica



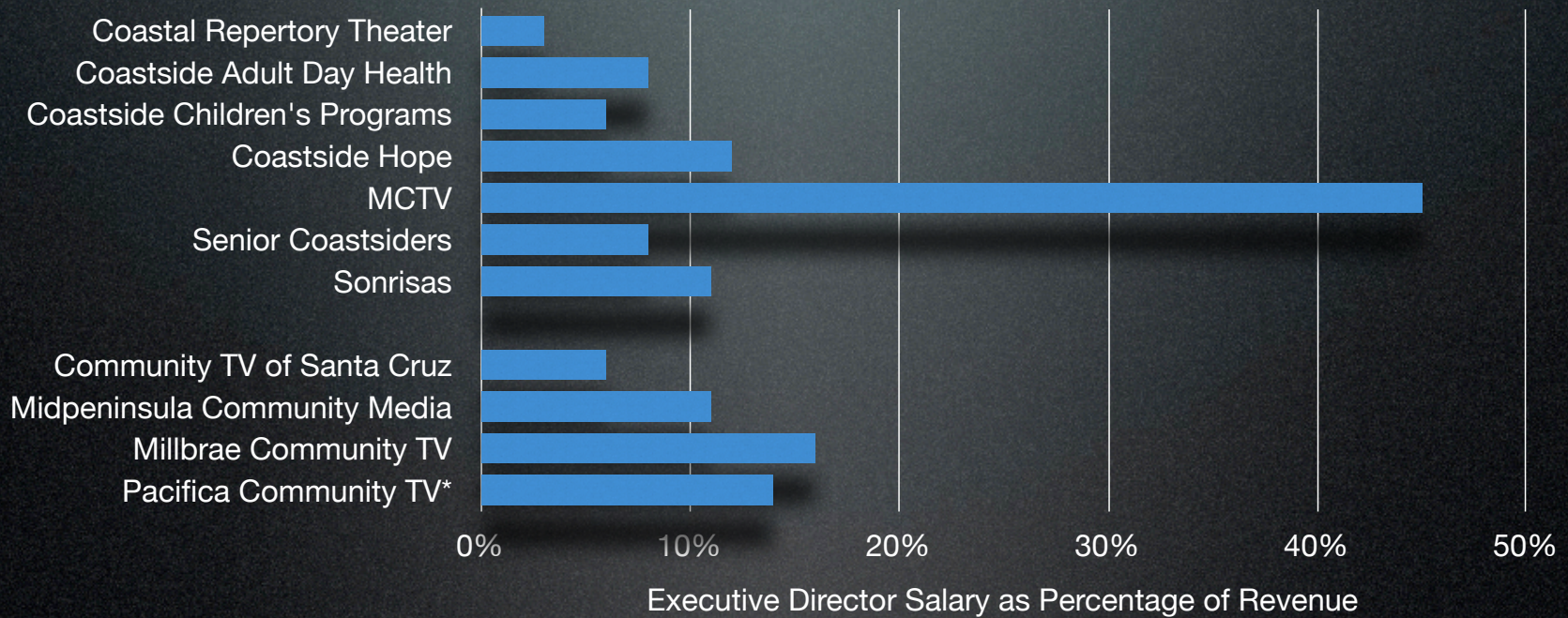
MCTV eliminates members in 2009

- MCTV had an another board election coming up in 2009
- This year, the board submitted a yet another new set of bylaws
 - Eliminated memberships
 - Made the board self-nominating
 - Closed memberships while announcing proposed bylaws
- Clearly MCTV wasn't planning this change in 2008
 - Otherwise, why rewrite the bylaws last year?
- Is MCTV afraid of an open election of directors from the community?

Why an independent board?



Why an independent board?



What can be done?

- MCTV is private, so we can't change its bylaws
- The county should require that whoever runs Channel 6:
 - Be a membership organization
 - Have a member-elected board
 - Open its office and phones to the public
 - Raise revenue from the community
 - Openly solicit programming

