

MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY MEDIA

PUBLIC TRUST AND ACCOUNTABILITY POLICY

Montgomery Community Media (MCM) is committed to serving the public with integrity, transparency, and accountability. Our work is grounded in our organizational values:

Be BOLD - Take risks and be open to new ideas.

Be FLEXIBLE - Embrace change.

Be INCLUSIVE - Respect all voices.

Act with INTEGRITY - Be honest and accountable.

These values guide how we serve our community, govern our organization, steward resources, and engage with the public.

Transparency and Public Access - MCM will make key organizational, governance, and financial information readily accessible to the public.

MCM will:

- **Provide advance notice and agendas for Board meetings.** Regular Board meetings are publicly announced in advance, including the date, time, location, information about how the public may attend, and opportunities for public participation.
- **Provide public access to Board meetings.** Regular Board meetings are open for public observation except when a closed session is warranted for personnel, legal, contractual, confidential business, security, or other matters requiring confidentiality.
- **Provide access to Board meeting minutes.** Approved minutes will be publicly available, subject to appropriate redactions for confidential or legally protected information.
- **Make governance information accessible.** MCM will make its bylaws, Board membership, and other key governance policies and documents available on its website.
- **Provide financial and funding transparency.** MCM will make appropriate financial information publicly accessible, including annual audited financial statements, as well as information about its funding and how resources support MCM's mission and services.
- **Maintain a process for information requests.** Members of the public may request information through an established process. MCM will respond within a reasonable timeframe unless a legitimate legal, privacy, confidentiality, contractual, personnel, or organizational reason warrants withholding or limiting access.

- **Provide opportunities for public engagement.** MCM will create opportunities for community members to provide feedback, raise concerns, and engage with the organization, including dedicated time on regular Board meeting agendas.

Editorial Independence - Transparency and accountability must coexist with editorial independence.

MCM maintains independent editorial judgment over its news coverage, reporting, programming, and other editorial activities. Decisions about what stories to cover, whom to interview, how stories are reported, and what content is published or broadcast are made by MCM's professional staff in accordance with the organization's journalistic standards and policies. These decisions are not made at the direction of the Board of Directors, elected officials, government agencies, funders, political candidates, or other outside interests.

Protecting editorial independence is an important component of MCM's accountability to the public and the trust placed in the organization.

Our Commitment - Public trust is earned through our work and how we conduct it. MCM will continually review and strengthen its practices to promote transparency, accountability, responsible stewardship, and public trust.