

= C @-@ SPAN =

C @-@ SPAN (/ ˈsiːspæn /), an acronym for Cable @-@ Satellite Public Affairs Network , is an American cable and satellite television network that was created in 1979 by the cable television industry as a public service . C @-@ SPAN televises many proceedings of the United States federal government , as well as other public affairs programming . The C @-@ SPAN network includes three television channels (C @-@ SPAN , C @-@ SPAN2 and C @-@ SPAN3) , one radio station (WCSP @-@ FM) and a group of websites that provide streaming media and archives of C @-@ SPAN programs . C @-@ SPAN 's television channels are available to approximately 100 million cable and satellite households within the United States , while WCSP @-@ FM , also called C @-@ SPAN Radio , is broadcast on FM radio in Washington , D.C. , and is available throughout the U.S. on XM Satellite Radio , via Internet streaming , and through apps for iOS , BlackBerry and Android devices .

The network televises U.S. political events , particularly live and " gavel @-@ to @-@ gavel " coverage of the U.S. Congress as well as occasional proceedings of the Canadian , Australian and British Parliaments and major events worldwide . Its coverage of political and policy events is unedited , thereby providing viewers (or listeners) with unfiltered information about politics and government . Non @-@ political coverage includes historical programming , programs dedicated to non @-@ fiction books , and interview programs with noteworthy individuals associated with public policy . C @-@ SPAN is a private , nonprofit organization , funded by a 6 ¢ per subscriber affiliate fee paid by its cable and satellite affiliates , and does not have advertisements on any of its networks , radio stations , or websites , nor does it ever solicit donations or pledges . The network operates independently , and neither the cable industry nor Congress has control of the content of its programming .

= = History = =

= = = Development = = =

Brian Lamb , C @-@ SPAN 's chairman and former chief executive officer , first conceived the concept of C @-@ SPAN in 1975 while working as the Washington , D.C. bureau chief of the cable industry trade magazine Cablevision . It was a time of rapid growth in the number of cable television channels available in the United States , and Lamb envisioned a cable @-@ industry financed nonprofit network for televising sessions of the U.S. Congress and other public affairs event and policy discussions . Lamb shared his idea with several cable executives , who helped him launch the network . Among them were Bob Rosencrans who provided \$ 25 @, @ 000 of initial funding in 1979 and John D. Evans who provided the wiring and access to the headend needed for the distribution of the C @-@ SPAN signal .

C @-@ SPAN was launched on March 19 , 1979 , in time for the first televised session made available by the House of Representatives , beginning with a speech by then @-@ Tennessee representative Al Gore . Upon its debut , only 3 @. @ 5 million homes were wired for C @-@ SPAN , and the network had just three employees . The second C @-@ SPAN channel , C @-@ SPAN2 , followed on June 2 , 1986 when the U.S. Senate permitted itself to be televised . C @-@ SPAN3 , the most recent expansion channel , began full @-@ time operations on January 22 , 2001 , and shows other public policy and government @-@ related live events on weekdays along with weekend historical programming . C @-@ SPAN3 is the successor of a digital channel called C @-@ SPAN Extra , which was launched in the Washington D.C. area in 1997 , and televised live and recorded political events from 9 : 00 a.m. to 6 : 00 p.m. Eastern Time Monday through Friday .

C @-@ SPAN Radio began operations on October 9 , 1997 , covering similar events as the television networks and often simulcasting their programming . The station broadcasts on WCSP (90 @. @ 1 FM) in Washington , D.C. , is also available on XM Satellite Radio channel 120 and is streamed live at c @-@ span.org. It was formerly available on Sirius Satellite Radio from 2002 to

2006 .

Lamb semi @-@ retired in March 2012 , coinciding with the channel 's 33rd anniversary , and gave executive control of the network to his two lieutenants , Rob Kennedy and Susan Swain .

= = = Anniversaries = = =

C @-@ SPAN celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1989 with a three @-@ hour retrospective , featuring Lamb recalling the development of the network . The 15th anniversary was commemorated in an unconventional manner as the network facilitated a series of re @-@ enactments of the seven historic Lincoln @-@ Douglas debates of 1858 , which were televised from August to October 1994 , and have been rebroadcast from time to time ever since . Five years later , the series American Presidents : Life Portraits , which won a Peabody Award , served as a year @-@ long observation of C @-@ SPAN 's 20th anniversary .

In 2004 , C @-@ SPAN celebrated its 25th anniversary , by which time the flagship network was viewed in 86 million homes , C @-@ SPAN2 was in 70 million homes and C @-@ SPAN3 was in eight million homes . On the anniversary date , C @-@ SPAN repeated the first televised hour of floor debate in the House of Representatives from 1979 and , throughout the month , 25th anniversary features included " then and now " segments with journalists who had appeared on C @-@ SPAN during its early years . Also included in the 25th anniversary was an essay contest for viewers to write in about how C @-@ SPAN has influenced their life regarding community service . For example , one essay contest winner wrote about how C @-@ SPAN 's non @-@ fiction book programming serves as a resource in his charitable mission to record non @-@ fiction audio books for people who are blind .

To commemorate 25 years of taking viewer telephone calls , in 2005 , C @-@ SPAN had a 25 @-@ hour " call @-@ in marathon " , from 8 : 00 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday , October 7 , concluding at 9 : 00 p.m. Eastern Time on Saturday , October 8 . The network also had a viewer essay contest , the winner of which was invited to host an hour of the broadcast from C @-@ SPAN 's Capitol Hill studios .

= = = Scope and limitations of coverage = = =

C @-@ SPAN continues to expand its coverage of government proceedings , with a history of requests to government officials for greater access , especially to the U.S. Supreme Court . In December 2009 , Lamb wrote to leaders in the House and Senate , requesting that negotiations for health care reform be televised by C @-@ SPAN . Committee meetings on health care were broadcast subsequently by C @-@ SPAN and may be viewed on the C @-@ SPAN website . In November 2010 , Lamb wrote to incoming House Speaker John Boehner requesting changes to restrictions on cameras in the House . In particular , C @-@ SPAN asked to add some of its own robotically operated cameras to the existing government @-@ controlled cameras in the House chamber . In February 2011 , Boehner denied the request . A previous request to Speaker Designate Nancy Pelosi in 2006 , to add C @-@ SPAN 's cameras in the House chamber to record floor proceedings , was also denied . Although C @-@ SPAN uses the congressional chamber feed cables , the cameras are owned and controlled by each respective body of Congress . Requests by C @-@ SPAN for camera access to non @-@ government events such as the annual dinner by the Gridiron Club have also been denied .

On June 22 and into June 23 , 2016 , C @-@ SPAN took video footage of the House floor from individual House representatives via streaming services Periscope and Facebook Live during a sit @-@ in by House Democrats asking for a vote on gun control measures after the 2016 Orlando nightclub shooting . This needed to be done because ? as the sit @-@ in was done out of formal session and while the House was in official recess ? the existing House cameras could not be utilized for coverage of the event by rule . Although the use of electronic devices to create the Periscope feeds by House Democrats violated House rules that prohibit their use on the floor , C @-@ SPAN did not state why it chose to broadcast those feeds . The network ran disclaimers on

@-@ air and on their official social media feeds noting the restrictions .

= = = Expansion and technology = = =

Since the late 1990s , C @-@ SPAN has significantly expanded its online presence . In January 1997 , C @-@ SPAN began real @-@ time streaming of C @-@ SPAN and C @-@ SPAN2 on its website , the first time that Congress had been live streamed online . To cover the Democratic and Republican conventions and the presidential debates of 2008 , C @-@ SPAN created two standalone websites : the Convention Hub and the Debate Hub . In addition to real @-@ time streams of C @-@ SPAN 's television networks online , c @-@ span.org features further live programming such as committee hearings and speeches that are broadcast later in the day , after the House and Senate have left .

C @-@ SPAN began promoting audience interaction early in its history , by the regular incorporation of viewer telephone calls in its programming . It has since expanded into social media . In March 2009 , viewers began submitting questions live via Twitter to guests on C @-@ SPAN 's morning call @-@ in show Washington Journal . The network also has a Facebook page to which it added occasional live streaming in January 2011 . The live stream is intended to show selected well @-@ publicized events of Congress . In June 2010 , C @-@ SPAN joined with the website Foursquare to provide users of the application with access to geotagged C @-@ SPAN content at various locations in Washington , D.C.

In 2010 , C @-@ SPAN began a transition to high definition telecasts , planned to take place over an 18 @-@ month period . The network provided C @-@ SPAN and C @-@ SPAN2 in high definition on June 1 , 2010 , and C @-@ SPAN3 in July 2010 .

= = Programming = =

= = = Senate and House of Representatives = = =

The C @-@ SPAN network 's core programming is live coverage of the U.S. House and Senate , with the C @-@ SPAN channel emphasizing the United States House of Representatives . Between 1979 and May 2011 , the network televised more than 24 @,@ 246 hours of floor action . C @-@ SPAN2 , the first of the C @-@ SPAN spin @-@ off networks , provides uninterrupted live coverage of the United States Senate . With coverage of the House and Senate , viewers can track legislation as it moves through both bodies of Congress . Important debates in Congress that C @-@ SPAN has covered live include the Persian Gulf conflict during 1991 , and the House impeachment vote and Senate trial of President Bill Clinton in 1998 and 1999 . When the House or Senate are not in session , C @-@ SPAN channels broadcast other public affairs programming .

= = = Public affairs = = =

The public affairs coverage on the C @-@ SPAN networks other than the House and Senate floor debates is wide @-@ ranging . C @-@ SPAN is considered a useful source of information for journalists , lobbyists , educators and government officials as well as casual viewers interested in politics , due to its unedited coverage of political events . C @-@ SPAN has been described by media observers as a " window into the world of Washington politics " and it characterizes its own mission as being " to provide public access to the political process " . The networks cover U.S. political campaigns , including the Republican , Democratic , and Libertarian presidential nominating conventions in their entirety . Coverage of presidential campaign events are provided during the duration of the campaign , both by a weekly television program , Road to the White House , and at its dedicated politics website . C @-@ SPAN also covers midterm elections .

All three channels televise events such as congressional hearings , White House press briefings and presidential speeches , as well as other government meetings including Federal

Communications Commission hearings and Pentagon press conferences . Other U.S. political coverage includes State of the Union speeches , and presidential press conferences . According to the results of a survey after the 1992 presidential election , 85 % of C @-@ SPAN viewers voted in that election . The results of a similar survey in 2013 found that 89 % of C @-@ SPAN viewers voted in the 2012 presidential election . In addition to this political coverage , the network broadcasts press conferences and meetings of various news media and nonprofit organizations , including those at the National Press Club , public policy seminars and the White House Correspondents ' Dinner . While C @-@ SPAN does not have video access to the Supreme Court , the network has used the Court 's audio recordings accompanied by still photographs of the justices and lawyers to cover the Court in session on significant cases , and has covered individual Supreme Court justices ' speaking engagements .

Occasionally , proceedings of the Parliament of Australia , Parliament of Canada , Parliament of the United Kingdom (usually Prime Minister 's Questions and the State Opening of Parliament) and other governments are shown on C @-@ SPAN when they discuss matters of importance to viewers in the U.S. Similarly , the networks will sometimes broadcast news reports from around the world when major events occur ? for instance , C @-@ SPAN broadcast CBC Television coverage of the September 11 attacks . C @-@ SPAN also covers lying in state in the Capitol Rotunda and funerals of former presidents and other notable individuals . In 2005 , C @-@ SPAN covered Hurricane Katrina through NBC affiliate WDSU in New Orleans , as well as coverage of Hurricane Ike via CBS affiliate KHOU in Houston . C @-@ SPAN also carries CBC coverage during events that affect Canadians , such as the Canadian federal elections , the death and state funeral of Pierre Trudeau , and the 2003 North America blackout . During early 2011 , C @-@ SPAN carried broadcasts by Al Jazeera to cover the events in Egypt , Tunisia , and other Arab nations . Additionally , C @-@ SPAN simulcasts NASA Space Shuttle mission launches and landings live , using video footage and audio sourced from NASA TV .

With its public affairs programming , C @-@ SPAN intends to offer different points of view , by allowing time for multiple opinions to be discussed on a given topic . For example , in 2004 C @-@ SPAN intended to televise a speech by Holocaust historian Deborah Lipstadt adjacent to a speech by Holocaust denier David Irving , who had unsuccessfully sued Lipstadt for libel in the United Kingdom four years earlier ; C @-@ SPAN was criticized for its use of the word " balance " to describe the plan to cover both Lipstadt and Irving . When Lipstadt ended media access to her speech , C @-@ SPAN canceled coverage of both .

The network strives for neutrality and a lack of bias ; in all programming when on @-@ camera hosts are present their role is simply to facilitate and explain proceedings to the viewer . Due to this policy , no C @-@ SPAN host has said his or her own name on television .

= = = C @-@ SPAN and C @-@ SPAN2 flagship programs = = =

While many hours of programming on C @-@ SPAN are dedicated to coverage of the House , the network 's daily programming begins with the political telephone call @-@ in and interview program Washington Journal every morning from 7 : 00 to 10 : 00 a.m. Eastern Time . Washington Journal premiered on January 4 , 1995 and has been broadcast every weekday morning since then , with guests including elected officials , government administrators , and journalists . The program covers current events , with guests answering questions on topics provided by the hosts as well as from members of the general public . On the weekend schedule , C @-@ SPAN 's main programs are : America and the Courts , which is shown each Saturday at 7 : 00 p.m. Eastern Time , Newsmakers , a Sunday morning interview program with newsworthy guests ; Q & A , a Sunday evening interview program hosted by Brian Lamb , with guests including journalists , politicians , authors , and other public figures ; and The Communicators , which features interviews with journalists , government officials , and businesspeople involved with the communications industry and related legislation .

On weekends C @-@ SPAN2 dedicates its schedule to Book TV , which is 48 hours of programming about non @-@ fiction books , book events , and authors . Book TV was first launched in September 1998 . Booknotes was originally broadcast from 1989 to 2004 , as a one @-@ hour

one @-@ on @-@ one interview of a non @-@ fiction author . Repeats of the interviews remain a regular part of the Book TV schedule with the title Encore Booknotes . Other Book TV programs feature political and historical books and biographies of public figures . These include In Depth , a live , monthly , three @-@ hour interview with a single author , and After Words , an author interview program featuring guest hosts interviewing authors on topics with which both are familiar . After Words was developed as a new type of author interview program after the end of production of Booknotes . Weekend programming on Book TV also includes coverage of book events such as panel discussions , book fairs , book signings , readings by authors and tours of bookstores around the U.S.

=== C @-@ SPAN3 ===

The programming on C @-@ SPAN3 from Monday through Friday features uninterrupted live public affairs events , in particular political events from Washington , D.C. Each weekend since January 8 , 2011 , the network has broadcast 48 hours of programming dedicated to the history of the United States , under the umbrella title American History TV . The programming covers the history of the U.S. from the founding of the nation through the late 20th century . Programs include American Artifacts , which is dedicated to exploring museums , archives and historical sites , and Lectures in History , featuring major university history professors giving lectures on U.S. history . In 2009 , C @-@ SPAN3 aired an eight @-@ installment series of interviews from the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas , which featured historian Richard Norton Smith and Vice President Walter Mondale , among other interviewees .

=== Special programming ===

C @-@ SPAN has occasionally produced spinoff programs from Booknotes focusing on specific topics . In 1994 , Booknotes collaborated with Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer to produce re @-@ creations of the seven Lincoln ? Douglas debates . Several years later , a similar series retraced the journey of Alexis de Tocqueville described in Democracy in America . Another special series was American Writers , a 38 @-@ week tour of the U.S. based on the works of 40 famous American writers .

During 2008 and 2009 , as part of programming specially commissioned for the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln , C @-@ SPAN produced a series titled Lincoln 200 Years , which featured episodes on a variety of topics relating to the life of Lincoln including his career , his homes and his opinions of slavery .

The network has also produced special feature documentaries of American institutions and historical landmarks , exploring their history to the present day . These programs include : The Capitol emphasizing the history , art , and architecture of the U.S. Capitol Building ; The White House , featuring film footage inside the White House and exploring the history of the building and its occupants ; The Supreme Court , focusing on the history and personalities of the court ; and Inside Blair House , an examination of the president 's guest house .

In 2013 , C @-@ SPAN introduced a new program , First Ladies : Influence & Image . 35 episodes profiling the First Ladies are planned for the series , which was created with support from the White House Historical Association .

=== Radio broadcasts ===

In addition to the three television networks , C @-@ SPAN also broadcasts via C @-@ SPAN Radio , which is carried on their owned @-@ and @-@ operated station WCSP (90 @.@ 1 FM) in the Washington , D.C. area with all three cable network feeds airing via HD Radio subchannels , and nationwide on XM Satellite Radio . Its programming is also livestreamed at c @-@ span.org and is available via apps for iPhone , BlackBerry and Android devices . C @-@ SPAN Radio has a selective policy regarding its broadcast content , rather than duplicating the television network

programming , although it does offer some audio simulcasts of programs such as Washington Journal . Unique programming on the radio station includes oral histories , and some committee meetings and press conferences not shown on television due to programming commitments . The station also compiles the Sunday morning talk shows for a same @-@ day rebroadcast without commercials , in rapid succession .

= = = Availability online = = =

C @-@ SPAN archival video is available through the C @-@ SPAN Video Library , maintained at the Purdue Research Park in West Lafayette , Indiana . First unveiled in August 2007 , the C @-@ SPAN Video Library contains all of the network 's programming since 1987 , totaling more than 160 @,@ 000 hours at its completion of digitization and public debut in March 2010 . Older C @-@ SPAN programming continues to be added to the library , dating back to the beginning of the network in 1979 , and some limited earlier footage from the National Archives , such as film clips of Richard Nixon 's 1972 trip to China , is available as well . Most of the recordings before 1987 (when the C @-@ SPAN Archive was established) were not saved , except for approximately 10 @,@ 000 hours of video which are slated to be made available online . As of June 2013 , the C @-@ SPAN Video Library held approximately 200 @,@ 000 hours of programming . Described by media commentators as a major educational service and a valuable resource for researchers of politics and history , the C @-@ SPAN Video Library has also had a major role in media and opposition research in several U.S. political campaigns . It won a Peabody Award in 2010 " for creating an enduring archive of the history of American policymaking , and for providing it as a free , user @-@ friendly public service . "

Prior to the initiation of the C @-@ SPAN Video Library , websites such as Metavid and voterwatch.org hosted House and Senate video records , however C @-@ SPAN contested Metavid 's usage of C @-@ SPAN copyrighted footage . The result was Metavid 's removal of portions of the archive produced with C @-@ SPAN 's cameras , while preserving its archive of government @-@ produced content . C @-@ SPAN also engaged in actions to stop parties from making unauthorized uses of its content online , including its video of House and Senate proceedings . Most notably , in May 2006 , C @-@ SPAN requested the removal of Stephen Colbert 's performance at the White House Correspondents ' Association Dinner from YouTube . After concerns by some webloggers , C @-@ SPAN gave permission for Google Video to host the full event . On March 7 , 2007 C @-@ SPAN liberalized its copyright policy for current , future , and past coverage of any official events sponsored by Congress and any federal agency and now allows for attributed non @-@ commercial copying , sharing , and posting of C @-@ SPAN video on the Internet , excluding re @-@ syndication of live video streams . The new policy did not affect the public 's right to use the public domain video coverage of the floor proceedings of the U.S. House and Senate .

In 2008 , C @-@ SPAN 's online political coverage was expanded just prior to the elections , with the introduction of three special pages on the C @-@ SPAN website : the C @-@ SPAN Convention Hubs and C @-@ SPAN Debate Hub , which offered video of major events as well as discussion from weblogs and social media about the major party conventions and candidate debates . C @-@ SPAN brought back the Convention Hub for the 2012 presidential election .

In addition to the programming available in the C @-@ SPAN Video Library , all C @-@ SPAN programming is available as a live feed streamed on its website in Flash Video format .

On July 29 , 2014 , C @-@ SPAN announced that it would begin restricting access to the live feeds of the main channel , C @-@ SPAN2 and C @-@ SPAN3 to subscribers of cable or satellite providers later that summer , citing concerns with the slow shift in viewing habits from cable television to the internet due to its reliance on carriage fees from cable and satellite providers . However , it will continue to allow all government meetings , hearings and conferences to be streamed live online and via archived on the C @-@ SPAN Video Library without requiring an authenticated login by a provider . The decision drew some criticism from public interest and government transparency advocates , citing the fact that C @-@ SPAN was designed as a public service .

== Organization and operations ==

C @-@ SPAN is operated by the National Cable Satellite Corporation , a nonprofit organization , the board of directors of which consists primarily of representatives of the largest cable companies . Early chairmen of C @-@ SPAN include Bob Rosencrans , John Saeman , Ed Allen and Gene Schneider . Funding for C @-@ SPAN does not derive from advertising ; instead , it receives nearly all of its funding from subscriber fees charged to cable and direct @-@ broadcast satellite (DBS) operators .

As of 2012 , C @-@ SPAN received 6 ¢ of each subscriber 's cable bill for an annual budget of \$ 60 million . As the network is an independent entity , neither the cable industry nor Congress controls the content of its programming .

As of January 2013 , the network has 282 employees . C @-@ SPAN is led by co @-@ CEOs Rob Kennedy and Susan Swain . Founder and former CEO Brian Lamb serves as the executive chairman of the board of directors . The majority of C @-@ SPAN 's employees are based at C @-@ SPAN 's headquarters located on Capitol Hill in Washington , D.C. , however in 2003 television studios were opened in New York and Denver , Colorado . These studios use digital equipment that can be controlled from Washington .

C @-@ SPAN also maintains archives in West Lafayette , Indiana at the Purdue Research Park under the direction of Dr. Robert X. Browning .

== Audience ==

The C @-@ SPAN networks are available in more than 100 million households as of 2010 , not including access to the C @-@ SPAN websites . More than 7 @, @ 000 telephone callers have participated with discussion on Washington Journal as of March 18 , 2009 . There are not any official viewing statistics for C @-@ SPAN because the network , which has no commercials or underwriting advertisements , does not use the Nielsen ratings . However , there have been a number of surveys providing estimates :

A 1994 survey found that 8 @. @ 6 % of the U.S. population regularly watched C @-@ SPAN .

In 2004 this figure increased to 12 % of the U.S. population , according to a Pew Research Center survey , while 31 % of the population was categorized as occasional viewers . More than 28 million people said they watched C @-@ SPAN programming each week .

A March 2009 Hart Research survey found that 20 % of homes with cable television watch C @-@ SPAN at least once a week , for an estimated 39 million Americans .

A 2010 poll conducted by C @-@ SPAN and Penn Schoen Berland estimates that 79 million adults in the U.S. watched C @-@ SPAN at some time from 2009 to 2010 .

In January 2013 , Hart Research conducted another survey which showed that 47 million adults , or 24 % of adults with access to cable television , watch C @-@ SPAN weekly . Of the 47 million regular C @-@ SPAN viewers , 51 % are male and 49 % female ; 26 % are liberal , 31 % conservative , and 39 % moderate . About half are college graduates . 28 % of 18 @-@ to @-@ 49 @-@ year @-@ olds report watching at least once a week , as do 19 % of 50- to 64 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 22 % of those over age 65 .

== Public and media opinion ==

A 2009 C @-@ SPAN survey of viewers found that the network 's most @-@ valued attribute was its balanced programming . The survey 's respondents were a mixed group , with 31 % describing themselves as " liberal , " while 28 % described themselves as " conservative " , and the survey found that C @-@ SPAN viewers are an equal mixture of men and women of all age groups .

C @-@ SPAN 's public service nature has been praised as an enduring contribution to national knowledge . In 1987 , Andrew Rosenthal wrote for The New York Times about C @-@ SPAN 's influence in political elections , arguing that C @-@ SPAN 's " blanket coverage " had expanded

television journalism " into areas once shielded from general view " . The network has received positive media coverage for providing public access to proceedings such as the Goldman Sachs Senate hearings , and the U.S. 2010 Healthcare Summit , while its everyday programming has been credited with providing the media and the general public with an intimate knowledge of U.S. political proceedings and people . The ability of C @-@ SPAN to provide this service without federal funding , advertising or soliciting viewer contributions has been remarked by local newspapers and online news services , with the Daily Beast terming C @-@ SPAN 's \$ 55 million annual budget (in 2009) , " an astounding bargain . " In an article on the 25th anniversary of the network , The Washington Post noted that C @-@ SPAN 's programming has been copied by television networks worldwide and credits the network with providing information about foreign politics to American viewers . According to The New York Times , C @-@ SPAN 's mission to record official events in Washington , D.C. makes it " one of a kind " , particularly in the creation of the C @-@ SPAN Video Library , which received significant press coverage .

Despite its stated commitment to providing politically balanced programming , C @-@ SPAN and its shows such as Washington Journal , Booknotes , Q & A , and After Words have been accused by some liberal organizations of having a conservative bias . In 2005 , the media criticism organization Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) released a study of C @-@ SPAN 's morning telephone call @-@ in show Washington Journal , showing that Republicans were favored as guests over Democrats by a two @-@ to @-@ one margin during a six @-@ month period that year , and that people of color are underrepresented . A 2007 survey released by the Center for Economic and Policy Research reported that C @-@ SPAN covered conservative think tanks more than left @-@ of @-@ center think tanks .

= = Must @-@ carry = =

In 1992 , Congress passed must @-@ carry regulations , which required cable carriers to allocate spectrum to local broadcasters . This affected the availability of C @-@ SPAN in some areas , in particular C @-@ SPAN2 , as some providers chose to discontinue carriage of the channel altogether . Between 1993 and 1994 , cable systems in 95 U.S. cities dropped or reduced broadcasts of C @-@ SPAN and C @-@ SPAN2 , following the implementation of the must @-@ carry regulations . Viewers protested these decisions , especially when the changes coincided with matters of local interest occurring in the House or Senate . Some communities , such as Eugene , Oregon and Alexandria , Virginia , were successful in restoring C @-@ SPAN availability . C @-@ SPAN availability was later restored as technological developments that resulted in the expansion of channel capacity on cable providers allowed for mandatory stations and the C @-@ SPAN networks both to be broadcast .

= = Other services = =

C @-@ SPAN offers a number of public services related to the network 's public affairs programming . C @-@ SPAN Classroom , a free membership service for teachers , began in July 1987 and offers help using C @-@ SPAN resources for classes or research . The C @-@ SPAN School Bus , introduced In November 1993 , traveled around the U.S. educating the public about government and politics using C @-@ SPAN resources , and served as a mobile television studio . The bus also recorded video footage of the places that it visited . A second bus was introduced in 1996 . The two original buses were retired in 2010 , and the C @-@ SPAN Digital Bus was inaugurated , introducing the public to C @-@ SPAN 's enhanced digital products . C @-@ SPAN has also equipped six Local Content Vehicles (LCVs) to travel the country and record unique political and historical stories , with each vehicle containing production and web @-@ based technologies to produce on @-@ the @-@ spot content .

C @-@ SPAN has published ten books based on its programming ; these contain original material and text taken from interview transcripts . The first C @-@ SPAN book , C @-@ SPAN : America 's Town Hall , was published in 1988 . Other C @-@ SPAN books include : Gavel to Gavel : A C @-@

SPAN Guide to Congress ; Who 's Buried in Grant 's Tomb ? , a guide to the grave sites of U.S. presidents ; Abraham Lincoln - Great American Historians On Our Sixteenth President , a collection of essays based on C @-@ SPAN interviews with American historians ; and The Supreme Court , which features biographies and interviews with past Supreme Court judges together with commentary from legal experts . Five books have been drawn from the former Booknotes program : Booknotes : Life Stories ; Booknotes : On American Character ; Booknotes : Stories from American History ; Booknotes : America 's Finest Authors on Reading , Writing and the Power of Ideas , the latter a compilation of short monologues taken from the transcripts of Lamb 's interviews ; and a companion book to the series on Tocqueville , Traveling Tocqueville 's America : A Tour Book .