



# Cable code amendments

Department of Information Technology

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# What is the cable code?

- ▶ Sets forth the general rules for all cable franchises (currently Comcast and Wave) granted in the City of Seattle.
- ▶ Outlines procedures for the granting renewal, transfer and termination of franchises.
- ▶ Contains consumer protection standards relating to services that apply to all cable operators.



# Why make the changes?

- ▶ Modernize the code
- ▶ Correct inaccuracies
- ▶ Ensure consistency with federal law
- ▶ Clarify and streamline new franchise process
- ▶ Make it more user-friendly



# Proposed changes to the code

Purpose	Example
Correct inaccuracies	In some sections the code refers to Departments that no longer exist.
Modernize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-The Code contains antiquated provisions like requiring cable operators to provide signals in color.</li><li>-Include new methods for informing the public</li></ul>
Ensure consistency with applicable law	Some areas such as rate regulation have mostly been preempted by Federal law.
Ensure consistency with current City practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Franchises are awarded for 10 years</li><li>-updated Risk Management and Insurance requirements</li></ul>
Streamline procedures	Granting and renewing franchises
Reorganize	Placed sections such as application, granting, renewal, transfer and termination of franchises together and in logical order.



# Substantive changes to the code

- ▶ Eliminating Cable Franchise Districts
- ▶ Allowing more flexible build out terms
- ▶ Codifying restrictions on long term exclusive contracts in condominium and apartments buildings
- ▶ Enhancing call answering standards and reporting
- ▶ Reserving the City's rights in a fluid regulatory environment

Questions?

