

WFCR, Amherst, Massachusetts

Issues/Programs List

October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

This report lists representative examples of reporting on local issues that aired in program segments reserved for local feature-length news reports, interviews and commentaries within *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered* and *Weekend Edition*. It is not a comprehensive list but rather is illustrative of the total programming broadcast.

This local programming includes ***The Short List***, typically broadcast on Fridays at 5:50 p.m. during *All Things Considered*, an eight-and-a-half minute roundtable discussion with a rotating panel of journalists and media professionals that analyzes the major issues in the news.

In addition to the feature-length reports listed here, local newscasts were broadcast immediately following national newscasts during *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, and *Weekend Edition*.

Finally, many reports and discussions on the same and related subjects were also included in the broadcasts of such national news and information programs as *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *Marketplace*, *Fresh Air*, *Weekend Edition* and *Living on Earth*.

Issues

Arts & Culture
Community Voices
Economic Development
Education
Energy/Environment
Justice, Law & Public Safety
Politics/Public Policy
Public Health
Science

Reports in Morning Edition, All Things Considered, and Weekend Edition

TOPIC	AIRDATE	NEWSCAST	LENGTH	STATE	SUMMARY
Arts & Culture	10/2/2020	6:45am 8:45am	4:56	MA	Northampton, Massachusetts author Tiffany Jewell's activity-driven book, titled "The Book Is Anti-Racist," is today's selection in our series Books For Young People. It's written for everyone middle-school age and up, and lays out the work kids need to do before a lifetime of bias is instilled in them. Jewell shared a key instance of racism she witnessed growing up.
Arts & Culture	10/9/2020	6:45am 8:45am	5:10	MA	The story of how thousands of rescued Yiddish books became the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts, has been told a few times---but not as an illustrated children's book, says author Sue Macy. Her book "The Book Rescuer: How A Mensch From Massachusetts Saved Yiddish Literature For Generations To Come" wraps up our Books For Young People series.
Arts & Culture	10/27/2020	6:34am 8:34am	4:54	MA	In Turners Falls, Massachusetts, a small park is undergoing renovation. Spinner Park was established in 1985 in honor of women who worked in the area's long-gone textile mills. The park's statue was removed for restoration---and one local artist saw its empty pedestal as a way to stage a new tribute to women and their tools.
Arts & Culture	11/3/2020	6:45am 8:45am	5:20	CT	The new movie "I've Got Issues"---now streaming---is described as an absurdist comedy about suffering. Connecticut filmmaker Steve Collins teaches film at Wesleyan, and he told NEPM's Jill Kaufman that he wrote this humorous meditation on despair in response to the 2016 election.
Arts & Culture	11/18/2020	7:51am	2:49	MA	A fire destroyed an important dance performance theater at Jacob's Pillow in Becket, Massachusetts, this week. As NEPM's Nancy Cohen reports, dancers, choreographers, and residents say it's a huge loss.

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Arts & Culture	11/20/2020	6:45am 8:45am	5:48	MA	Last month, the Native American playwright Larissa Fast Horse won a MacArthur Genius grant. Among her achievements is "The Thanksgiving Play"---which is now on virtual stage at WAM in Lenox, Massachusetts. The video went live last night and is up through the weekend, as NEPM's Jill Kaufman reports.
Arts & Culture	11/30/2020	7:45am	5:22	MA	Merriam-Webster has released its list of the most-looked-up words of 2020. Dictionary editors Peter Sokolowski and Emily Brewster say several words are connected to Covid, though that word itself is too new to qualify for this year's list. They spoke with NEPM's Kari Njiri.
Arts & Culture	12/2/2020	6:45am	6:35	MA	Robert Johnson might be the most famous blues musician of all time, but few details of his personal life have emerged since his untimely death in 1938. In a new book, Johnson's step-sister, who lives in Amherst, Massachusetts, sets the record straight.
Arts & Culture	12/4/2020	8:38am	6:12	MA	A prestigious show from the Smithsonian's National Art Gallery has made a stop at the Springfield Museums. The portrait exhibit "The Outwin" is in town until April, and it gave local curators the idea of installing a parallel exhibit of art created closer to home.
Arts & Culture	12/29/2020	5:51am 7:51am	5:38	MA	Eric Jay Dolin wanted to be the next Jacques Cousteau. Today, the historian and author lives near the sea in Marblehead, Massachusetts, and says he still has that strong connection to the ocean. His latest book is "A Furious Sky: The 500-Year History Of America's Hurricanes." He spoke about the 'Great Colonial Hurricane' of 1635 that affected New England.
Community Voices	10/29/2020	5:45am 7:45am	4:17	NH	Transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming voters in New Hampshire face difficulties ahead of this year's election. Many encounter misgendering at the polls, and they say this can make voting very stressful.

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Community Voices	11/4/2020	6:45am 8:45am	4:43	MA	Well over 3 million voters cast ballots in Massachusetts. NEPM had reporters at the polls in several Western Massachusetts communities. In addition to asking voters who they supported and why, we also asked them about the biggest challenges facing their communities and the country, as well as their hopes for the future.
Community Voices	11/6/2020	5:51am 7:51am	2:53	MA	On Tuesday, polling place workers across the country took time away from their lives to help voters cast their ballots. That effort included our commentator, Tinky Weisblat, who says she loves working at the polls in her hometown of Hawley, Massachusetts.
Community Voices	11/10/2020	5:51am 7:51am	2:50	MA	President-elect Joe Biden is known for his uncomplicated ways. That's what commentator Martha Ackmann discovered when she dove into the Atlantic with him one cold day.
Community Voices	11/17/2020	6:45am 8:45am	5:19	MA	For decades, democrats have relied on the growing Latino population, but the 2020 election showed that the Latino vote is deeply divided. President Trump gained some support in Massachusetts cities with significant Latino populations, such as Holyoke and Springfield. WBUR and "El Planeta" explored the shifting politics among the state's diverse Latino communities.
Community Voices	11/19/2020	6:45am 8:45am	3:32	MA	A grim milestone in the coronavirus pandemic was recently marked in Massachusetts: the state has lost more than ten thousand residents. Each was an individual who left memories with loved ones and family members. We now hear about 96-year-old Mildred Stopa.
Community Voices	11/25/2020	6:45am 8:45am	5:08	MA	A walking bridge in western Massachusetts was badly damaged in an October storm, but the town doesn't own the land under it. So residents have banded together to take on the project for practical and historical reasons.

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Community Voices	11/26/2020	6:45am 8:45am	2:09	MA	Mario Seide works at Boston's Logan Airport, where it's been a busy week for travel despite a downturn during the pandemic. Airport staff like Seide are in a tight spot---although he's glad not to have been laid off, it still feels risky to be working during the pandemic.
Community Voices	11/26/2020	6:45am 8:45am	2:44	CT	An iconic tree was recently cut down in commentator Johannes Evelein's neighborhood in West Hartford, Connecticut. Evelein says the town has lost a dear old friend.
Community Voices	12/3/2020	6:34am	7:39	MA	Since the pandemic began, more than 1.6-million Massachusetts residents have applied for unemployment benefits. Some were laid off, others furloughed, and there were some who made the tough choice to leave their jobs.
Community Voices	12/8/2020	6:45am	4:17	CT	Early in the pandemic, Xiomy De La Cruz was working at a fast-food restaurant and had her hours reduced. She's since opened a food pantry in her home to serve local families, many of whom are undocumented.
Community Voices	12/9/2020	6:45am 8:39am	5:33	MA	A long-time reporter and columnist in Worcester has said goodbye to his readers. Nick Kotsopoulos worked for local newspapers for 43 years, the last 39 of those on the city hall beat, and now at age 65 he says the time was right to accept a voluntary buyout. He looked back on his decades covering Worcester politics.
Community Voices	12/23/2020	6:45am 8:45am	2:59	MA	Dr. Anthony Fauci recently announced he'd been to the North Pole to vaccinate Santa Claus, so it would be perfectly safe for Santa to visit peoples' homes this year. Commentator Elizabeth Vozzola remembers being reassured about Santa about six decades ago.
Community Voices	12/23/2020	6:45am 8:45am	2:06	CT	The pandemic has disrupted holiday traditions...but some New Englanders are taking the opportunity to make new ones.

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Economic Development	10/6/2020	6:45am 8:45am	3:18	CT	Connecticut's Bradley Airport has seen a sharp drop in passenger volume since the start of the pandemic. But an airport official hopes a new covid-19 testing option will help bring people back.
Economic Development	10/28/2020	7:50am	5:13	MA	Many New England farms depend on migrant labor, but for immigrants who want to start their own farms, finding land can be close to impossible. NEPM's Ben James---a farmer himself---visited Northampton, where a family from Somalia is reclaiming their traditional connection to the soil.
Education	10/14/2020	6:45am 8:45am	4:18	NH	Among schools offering in-person classes this fall, classrooms have changed dramatically. Some of the biggest changes are in music class: gone are the days of belting out songs shoulder to shoulder, sharing music stands, and swapping instruments. Instead, as NHPR's Sarah Gibson reports, some schools are following new protocols to keep covid risk low.
Education	11/10/2020	5:51am 7:51am	5:43	MA	Westfield State University has had years of leadership crises. Now a new interim president has brought a more harmonious climate to the campus.
Education	11/20/2020	5:45am 7:45am	5:12	MA	The Daily Hampshire Gazette has sought release of all agreements that UMass-Amherst signs with private businesses to conduct many millions of dollars in sponsored research. Public documents obtained by the paper so far show that the research benefits the university's bottom line, while also raising questions of ethics and conflicts of interest. Gazette reporter Dusty Christiansen explains that this public-private research is not a new thing.
Energy & Environment	10/1/2020	7:45am	4:09	MA	The EPA's controversial plan to build a PCB disposal site in Berkshire County will be the subject of several proposals before Town Meeting in Lee, Massachusetts.

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Energy & Environment	10/30/2020	6:34am 8:34am	5:16	NH	Democrats describe themselves as the only party taking the threat of climate change seriously. And President Trump's continued denial of climate change hasn't made it easy for Republicans to change that in this election. But some New England conservatives think their candidates could be doing more to run---and win---on climate change.
Energy & Environment	11/18/2020	7:51am	5:05	MA	Coastal salt marshes are critical wildlife habitats; they also filter pollution and protect nearby homes from flooding. But they are threatened by sea-level rise. New England scientists are trying to save them with a new technique called "runneling."
Energy & Environment	11/27/2020	6:45am 8:45am	4:53	MA	More than half of US teenagers say they're extremely concerned about climate change, according to a survey last year. A group of Massachusetts teenagers wants to fundamentally change the way climate issues are taught in schools.
Energy & Environment	12/18/2020	6:45am 8:45am	6:10	MA	The E-P-A has approved a plan to clean up a stretch of the Housatonic River. For decades, General Electric's plant in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, dumped toxic P-C-B's into the Housatonic. This latest development coincides with the 10th anniversary of the completion of a detailed "sound map" of the Housatonic by composer Annea Lockwood, using microphones and hydrophones to listen underwater.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/7/2020	6:45am 8:45am	4:51	MA	Unchecked crime and corruption, weak laws, and ineffective enforcement are at the heart of a new release from Jennifer Taub. The Northampton, Massachusetts author and law professor says white-collar crime is on the rise in her new book, "Big Dirty Money: The Shocking Injustice And Unseen Cost Of White Collar Crime." She discusses what white-collar crime is, and isn't.

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Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/29/2020	6:45am 8:45am	4:02	MA	Associate Justice Kimberly Budd has been nominated as the new Chief Justice of the State Supreme Judicial Court. She was named yesterday by Gov. Baker to succeed the late Ralph Gants. If approved, Budd will be the first black woman to lead the state's high court.
Politics & Public Policy	10/2/2020	5:51pm	9:21	MA	TSL: Springfield City Council sues mayor over Police Commission; Springfield mayor fires longtime aide; Governor Baker eases covid restrictions for some communities.
Politics & Public Policy	10/5/2020	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	BH In 5: A look at what might replace the string of stop-gap state budgets; tax collections are on the rise; some covid restrictions on performance venues and other places are being relaxed; and in light of President Trump's treatment for covid-19, has there been talk among Massachusetts political candidates about the risks of campaigning?
Politics & Public Policy	10/16/2020	5:51pm	9:54	MA	TSL: Covid concerns; a look at the Great Barrington Declaration; the Springfield diocese's new bishop and his use of YouTube
Politics & Public Policy	10/23/2020	5:51pm	10:01	MA	TSL: State ballot question get out-of-state financial support; a check on fundraising in the 1st Congressional District race; Housatonic River cleanup update; rumors fly about Governor Baker being part of a Biden Administration
Politics & Public Policy	10/26/2020	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	BH In 5: A look at Gov. Baker's \$775-million package aimed at helping small businesses; Covid-19 numbers may lead to the administration walking back some recent reopening moves; and the popularity of mail-in voting may make it a permanent thing for future elections.
Politics & Public Policy	10/27/2020	6:34am 8:34am	2:52	MA	For the first time in over 3 decades the 7th Hampden District seat in the state house is up for grabs. Two contenders faced off recently in a debate.

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Politics & Public Policy	10/28/2020	7:50am	3:07	MA	In a postscript to September's Democrat primary in Massachusetts' First Congressional district, campaign finance records show a political action committee representing the owners of a Springfield TV station made a donation to the winner, incumbent Richard Neal---and the donation came right before a debate hosted by that station, WWLP.
Politics & Public Policy	10/30/2020	6:34am 8:34am	2:50	MA	In Massachusetts's 2nd Congressional district, there's a rematch from two years ago on the ballot, between incumbent Jim McGovern and challenger Tracy Lovvorn. In 2018 McGovern won by about a 2-to-1 margin.
Politics & Public Policy	10/30/2020	5:51pm	9:42	MA	TSL: preview of local elections; new Chief Justice nominated for Massachusetts' highest court; Connecticut and New York warn about travel to Massachusetts because of covid-19; a look at lessons learned in 2020.
Politics & Public Policy	10/30/2020	5:51pm	9:42	MA	TSL: Local election preview; new Chief Justice nominated to the state's highest court; Connecticut and New York warn about travel to Massachusetts over covid concerns
Politics & Public Policy	11/2/2020	7:34am	3:04	MA	In tomorrow's election, three candidates are on the ballot for the Fourth Hampden district in the state house, representing Westfield. And as NEPM's Alden Bourne reports, a write-in candidate has emerged.
Politics & Public Policy	11/2/2020	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	BH In 5: With over 2 million ballots already cast in Massachusetts, will this become a source of contention and legal challenges as has been the case in other states? Is the legislature likely to tinker with either of the two state ballot questions if voters approve them? And how effective is the Baker Administration making its case for getting kids back into school?

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Politics & Public Policy	11/6/2020	5:51pm	10:03	MA	TSL: Mass. ballot question results; 7th Hampden House race still unresolved; Mass. has its first Puerto Rican state senator; Massachusetts and Connecticut governors tighten covid-19 restrictions.
Politics & Public Policy	11/6/2020	5:51am 7:51am	4:49	MA	While America awaits ballot counts in a few swing states, results were much clearer in Massachusetts, where all incumbents in the state's congressional delegation who were seeking reelection won their races. Among them was Sen. Ed Markey, who easily defeated GOP challenger Kevin O'Connor. Markey spoke about divided government and what that means for his progressive goals.
Politics & Public Policy	11/9/2020	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	BH In 5: What might a Biden Administration mean for Massachusetts' relations with the federal government? Coronavirus metrics in the state seem headed in the wrong direction, and with a change in categories, there's been a drastic reduction in the number of communities deemed high-risk---how does Gov. Baker defend the change? What's next for cities and towns facing penalties for resisting in-person schooling? And what's the latest on the \$46-billion proposed state budget?
Politics & Public Policy	11/13/2020	5:51pm	9:34	MA	TSL: Governor Baker pushes for in-person learning despite pandemic; confusion over mask rules and medical exemptions; Springfield city councillors elected to the state legislature plan to keep both jobs
Politics & Public Policy	11/20/2020	5:51pm	9:38	MA	TSL: Federal officials report conditions in some Massachusetts prisons are unconstitutional; policing bill stalls in the legislature; Governor finishes appointing new state supreme court justices; a milder-than-normal winter is expected.

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Politics & Public Policy	11/23/2020	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	BH IN 5: A budget bill is now in a house/senate conference committee and Governor Baker wants it on his desk by Thanksgiving; police-reform legislation still hasn't been finalized; a look at current state Covid-related restrictions and how they might impact holiday gatherings; and the state senate has proposed creating a new ombudsman's office at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home in the wake of a widespread Covid outbreak there last spring.
Politics & Public Policy	11/30/2020	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	BH In 5: With six weeks left in their session, Beacon Hill lawmakers still have quite a stack of bills to work through, including a final budget; John Kerry has been tapped for a post in the Biden Administration---are there any other Massachusetts notables in line for a Washington job? And the Cannabis Control Commission's rules for marijuana delivery licenses have drawn criticism from retailers.
Politics & Public Policy	12/4/2020	5:51pm	10:43	MA	TSL: Policing bill passed by state legislature; Holyoke mayor won't seek another term; lawmakers push for more covid testing; Pittsfield nursing home suffers deadly covid outbreak; funding trouble for child care in Worcester.
Politics & Public Policy	12/7/2020	6:45am 8:39am	5:30	MA	BH In 5: The governor's options for action on the latest police reform bill; a look at Gov. Baker's influence on the makeup of the state's highest court; how the state plans to handle the covid vaccine.
Politics & Public Policy	12/11/2020	5:51pm	9:35	MA	TSL: Massachusetts Governor Baker rolls back covid-19 reopenings; Springfield schools face state pressure to reopen for students with disabilities; amendments offered to police reform bill.

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Politics & Public Policy	12/14/2020	6:45am 8:45am	5:38	MA	BH In 5: Covid restrictions are re-imposed, affecting indoor dining and some other businesses; the governor has sent long-awaited police-accountability legislation back to lawmakers for amendment, instead of vetoing it outright; details on the procedure for today's meeting of the state's presidential electors.
Politics & Public Policy	12/18/2020	5:51pm	9:33	MA	TSL: 2020 In Review; looking back at Covid-19 in the region, including the Holyoke Soldiers' Home outbreak; the year's racial justice and police reform protests; some underreported stories of 2020.
Politics & Public Policy	12/24/2020	6:34am 8:34am	7:22	MA	An eviction moratorium slated to expire at the end of the year may be extended through January as the pandemic has made a crisis of housing affordability worse. In western Massachusetts and elsewhere, growing numbers of people are in danger of being evicted, even with well-funded state assistance programs in place.
Politics & Public Policy	12/28/2020	6:34am 8:34am	7:27	MA	The legislative session on Beacon Hill draws to a close. Some representatives, such as Aaron Vega of Holyoke, are serving their final days in the House, and newcomers, among them Jake Oliveira of Ludlow's 7th District, will be sworn in next week. Vega reflected on his tenure in a talk with NEPM's Adam Frenier.
Public Health	10/6/2020	6:45am 8:45am	2:16	CT	An independent research firm finds that Connecticut health officials overlooked nursing homes during the first months of coronavirus response, according to a final report released last week.
Public Health	10/14/2020	7:45am	3:34	MA	Great Barrington, Massachusetts, recently hosted a meeting that's causing controversy in the scientific community---and caught the attention of the White House. Those who gathered proposed a new approach to dealing with covid-19 that they say would speed up what's know as herd immunity.

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Public Health	11/2/2020	7:34am	5:01	MA	Wearing a mask has become routine as we try to avoid the coronavirus. But masks can make it difficult to understand muffled voices---and the challenge is especially acute for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
Public Health	11/12/2020	6:21am 8:21am	6:41	MA	It used to be you could walk into a store and buy something---but with a highly infectious virus, things are more complicated. In Massachusetts, masks are required where the public gathers---like retail stores---unless mask-wearing poses a medical risk. But some retailers aren't letting *anyone* in without a mask.
Public Health	11/13/2020	6:45am 8:45am	4:50	MA	A Covid-19 diagnosis means staying separate from others, maybe holing up in one's room---but for folks without homes in Western Massachusetts, that's nothing like what they may have to go through this winter.
Public Health	12/3/2020	7:50am	2:53	MA	State legislators from western Massachusetts are turning up the pressure for more Covid-19 testing, but as NEPM's Karen Brown reports, they aren't in full agreement over specifics.
Public Health	12/10/2020	7:51 am	6:15	MA	The state's third-largest nursing home is battling a major coronavirus outbreak. Dozens of staff and three-quarters of patients at the Hillcrest Commons Nursing Home in Pittsfield are affected.
Public Health	12/15/2020	6:45am 8:45am	4:58	MA	To help alleviate long lines at Covid-19 test sites, Massachusetts this week opened several new centers, including some in the western part of the state. For those with little choice of sites, it's been a frustrating time trying to get tested.

TOPIC	AIRDATE	NEWSCAST	LENGTH	STATE	SUMMARY
Public Health	12/22/2020	7:50am	8:26	MA	Public health officials have warned for months about risks to kids' social and emotional well-being during remote schooling. Now doctors in Springfield are increasingly concerned as youth mental health cases rise in clinics and emergency rooms. NEPM's Ben James reports on doctors, teachers, and the teenagers they're trying to help.
