

## TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX  
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL  
Quarter ending: December 31, 2019

ISSUE/description: 1. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS. President Trump; Governor DeSantis; Florida legislature and politics; local political issues; extreme partisan politics; 2020 Presidential election.

How Issue was treated (Program, PSA, etc.):

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time/Duration</u>	<u>Program type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. Full Measure with Sharyl Attkisson	10/06/19	12:30PM/5 min.	Public Affairs	*

\* A disturbing study shows that a surprising number of state laws aren't written by the people you elect, or even their staff. This week, we talked with Gordon Witkin, Executive Editor at the Center for Public Integrity, discussed evidence his group found in a joint investigation with *USA Today* and *The Arizona Republic*. They found that thousands of bills in most state legislatures were "copycat bills", actually written by corporations or special interest groups of various kinds and spread from state to state. The concern is that citizens expect legislators to be working for them in the public interest, but many are working on behalf of the special interest groups with little or no regard to the effect on their constituents, and most of the public has no idea that this system exists.

2. Armstrong Williams Show	11/03/19	12:00PM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	**
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\*\* Armstrong profiled former South Carolina Governor and Republican Presidential candidate Mark Sanford.

3. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	11/06/19	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	***
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\*\*\* Should recreational marijuana be legal in the Sunshine State? Some say it's nothing more than a pipe dream. Others are taking the future of marijuana into their own hands with a petition drive. The goal of this petition is to get a recreational marijuana question on the ballot. According to the Florida Division of Elections, there are currently about 57,000 valid signatures submitted statewide so far. But organizers have a long way to go; they need almost 800,000. Melinda Redden of Boynton Beach is a medical marijuana patient. Redden---a widow and former restaurant cook---hopes Florida legalizes recreational marijuana. "Oh, I think it would be great for the state's income," she said. Redden feels it will bring in tax dollars and attract more tourists. About 71 percent of Florida voters approved medical pot in 2016 and dispensaries sell it in various forms, such as whole flower as well as creams, capsules, drops and pre-rolled joints. The head of Fluent, which has 16 dispensaries around the state, believes it's not a matter of if Florida will legalize recreational marijuana, but when. CEO of Fluent Cannabis Care, Jose Hidalgo, says people will no longer have to buy it on the black market, so they'll get safer marijuana. Jeff Kadel, executive director of Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition, a nonprofit that works to combat substance abuse, says legalized recreational marijuana in Florida would have negative consequences. "We know that short-term and long-term brain development can be affected. We know that early use often leads to a higher rate of addiction," he said. Once all the signatures have been collected and verified, the State Supreme court will review it. Then if it makes it to the ballot next November, at least 60 percent of Florida voters would have to approve it before recreational marijuana would be legal. Governor Ron DeSantis has said he's adamantly against the idea.

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4. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	11/18/19	09:00PM/1.1 minutes	News	****

\*\*\*\* People for and against the impeachment of President Donald Trump took to the streets of downtown Pensacola to demonstrate on Sunday. Most held signs and chanted either, "Four more years," or "No more years." Channel 3 News spoke with protesters on both sides: "We want likeminded people to know this isn't Trump country. I don't think we're going to get anybody that supports Trump to change their minds. That isn't why we're out here, but we do have a lot of people like myself - former Republican A-political - who are concerned about what he is doing. We're going to end up with a monarchy, or even worse," said Betsy Shepherd, founder of the Northwest Florida Bipartisan Impeachment Removal. "A lot of us out here are just patriots – true, hardcore patriots - that believe in Donald Trump as our president and what he has done for this country and is doing, and we just know what he could do if they would just work with the man. We're the strongest this country has ever been, military and financially, and we're far against socialism and what the left is thinking," said Randy Liston with the Minority Coalition. The anti-Trump group says it's planning to stage another protest after the impeachment hearings end; just before the U.S. House votes on the matter. Supporters of the president say they'll return at that time too.

5. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	11/18/19	09:00PM/1.2 minutes	News	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* A federal court ruling could change up the order candidates appear on Florida ballots. Republicans have been listed first for the last two decades because they've controlled the Governor's Mansion, but Democrats argued it's put them at a disadvantage because of something called the primacy effect, which is the tendency for people to choose something that appears first. Former Leon County Supervisor of Elections Ion Sancho said appearing first has a measurable advantage. "When you have a law that gives one party a one-and-a-half to five percent advantage in every election, at some point you have to say that's not fair," said Sancho. Evan Power, who serves as the Chair of Chairs for the Republican Party of Florida, believes the advantage is exaggerated. Power called the ruling partisan. "It was a good policy. It was passed by Democrats 70 years ago and hasn't posed a problem until now that the Democrats have become very litigious on every election point," said Power. The judge didn't tell the state how to fix the problem. That falls on the Florida Legislature. The Governor's Office has confirmed it will appeal the ruling, which means Republicans will likely still appear first on the ballot in 2020. The federal judge gave Florida's Secretary of State three weeks to come up with a new plan, but the state will likely attempt to have the ruling put on hold before then.

6. Full Measure with Sharyl Attkisson	12/01/19	12:30PM/16 min.	Public Affairs	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* President Trump is part of a political trend that is dividing voters around the world. We traveled across Europe to find the causes behind this wave of populism, and how these same trends are affecting America. Then we talked with Carter Page about Inspector General Horowitz's report that heightens suspicions that our own government spied on U.S. citizens.

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7. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/05/19	09:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	*****

\*\*\*\*\* On Thursday night, Escambia County commissioners voted to make the Bob Sikes Bridge cashless. They're hoping to reduce traffic as people drive to Pensacola Beach. The commission voted 4-0 to approve this move despite many residents voicing their concerns. Opponents wanted to keep the cash option available for people who don't have bank accounts or credit cards. Some even called for a town hall to talk about this issue further. Commissioner Bender said moving to cash-free options, like SunPass, Toll-By-Plate or E-Pass, will dramatically reduce the time it takes to drive to Pensacola Beach. The commission approved nearly \$25,000 to pay for the design of this project. Commissioner Bender said it will take about one month to design and then about two months for implementation. He believes that will give drivers enough time to adjust to the changes.

8. Full Measure with Sharyl Attkisson	12/22/19	12:30AM/4 min.	Public Affairs	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* Senator Chuck Grassley explained the Congressional procedure of the "secret hold", a political maneuver often used to prevent a bill from becoming law or stalling a nomination, while withholding the identity of the congressman from the public. Senator Grassley has been fighting for years to end these "secret holds", so that the public will know who is holding up the process. But even today, Senators are still ignoring the rules against the "secret holds".