

# TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV  
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL  
Quarter ending: June 30, 2015

ISSUE/description: 5. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS. The continuing effects of the latest Presidential election, and now speculation on the 2016 election; Florida's controversial Governor and state elections this year; local and state political issues; partisan politics.

## 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. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	04/13/15	09:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	*

\* We reported on yesterday's official announcement by Hillary Clinton that she is indeed running for President. "I'm running for president," Clinton said in a video message posted to her new campaign website on Sunday. "Everyday Americans need a champion, and I want to be that champion." Clinton enters the race as the clear frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination. At this early stage in the campaign, Clinton also holds a clear lead over her potential Republican rivals.

2. Facing Florida	04/12/15	11:30AM/15 minutes	Public Affairs	**
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\*\* On today's program, with only three weeks remaining in the legislative session, our Political Analysts Pete Dunbar and Screven Watson discussed why it will be hard for lawmakers to finish their work on time.

3. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	04/13/15	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	***
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\*\*\* Hillary Clinton's economic proposals "will not help everyday Americans," Republican Sen. Marco Rubio said Monday announcing his 2016 presidential campaign. Rubio, who has represented Florida in the U.S. Senate for four-and-a-half years, sits on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence. He has been critical of the Obama administration's recent efforts to normalize relations with Cuba. He said his pitch to voters will focus on the future, which will help in a possible general election contest against Clinton.

4. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	04/13/15	09:00PM/3.5 minutes	News	****
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\*\*\*\* Florida Senator Marco Rubio launched his campaign from Miami's Freedom Tower, a long-time symbol for Cuban Americans entering the county. Alfred Cuzan, a political science professor at the University of West Florida, is Cuban and understands the significance of the venue. "The Freedom Tower in Miami is for Cubans like Ellis Island in New York for immigrants that came from Europe," Cuzan explained. He said Rubio's story will be a big asset in a potentially crowded field of candidates. Rubio is the son of working class Cuban immigrants. Grace McCaffery is with Latino Media Gulf Coast. She doesn't think Hispanics will be united in the way they vote, but believes many will take some pride in seeing a Hispanic in the presidential race. Cuzan points out a lot will happen between now and the primaries, but points out that Rubio has been in tough political fights before. "People may underestimate him, he may turn out to do better than people think," Cuzan said.

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5. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	04/16/15	09:00PM/3.5 minutes	News	*****
***** Meg McNamara reported from outside the Escambia County Jail that thirteen injured jail employees are in jeopardy of losing their jobs if they don't return to work by May 15th. They were hurt on April 30, last year. Investigators said rising flood waters caused gas dryers to pull loose from their fittings. As the water went down, the basement filled with natural gas. It sparked an explosion that killed two inmates, and injured 184 inmates and staff. Earlier this week, Chief corrections officer Michael Tidwell told them they either need to be back at work full time by May 15th or they'll receive medical separation, which means they can either come back to work or they'll will be terminated. He explained the norm for compensation in work related injuries is six months and considering that the explosion happened eleven months ago, they have no choice but to move forward. Those receiving workers compensation...that will continue even after employment is terminated. Those who can't return to work by May 15th, but recover within 12 months, can return to the job. County Commissioner Grover Robinson said he hopes to extend that to two years. The challenge right now is that they can't keep paying the salaries of 13 people who aren't working. We contacted the police union to see if there is anything the injured officers could do from a legal standpoint, and they said what the county is doing is perfectly legal. But not from a moral standpoint, considering the extremely special circumstances the employees were injured under.				
6. Facing Florida	04/19/15	11:30AM/15 minutes	Public Affairs	*****
***** Today's program profiled the battle of Jeb Bush vs. Marco Rubio for the hearts and minds (and votes) of Florida Republicans. Our guest was Politico's Marc Caputo.				
7. Facing Florida	04/26/15	11:00AM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	*****
***** Once again, Pete Dunbar, former chief of Staff for Governor Bob Martinez and former Chairman of the Florida Ethics Commission, and Screven Watson, former Executive Director of the Florida Democratic Party, discussed what went wrong in the Florida Legislature and why it is such a mess.				
8. Channel 3 News at 9PM On WFGX	05/01/15	09:00PM/1 minute	News	*****
***** We reported that Democrats in the Florida Senate are suing the Florida House over the abrupt end of this year's annual session. The House adjourned earlier in the week due to a disagreement with the Senate over health care spending and Medicaid expansion. The session was scheduled to end Friday. The constitution reads that neither chamber can adjourn for more than 72 hours without an agreement between the House and Senate. State legislators are ending their regular session without passing a new state budget. Senate President Andy Gardiner has proposed legislators return in June.				

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9. Facing Florida	05/03/15	11:30AM/20 minutes	Public Affairs	*****

\*\*\*\*\* This week, the 60-day Florida Legislative Session abruptly ended 3 days early, and legislators left for home without passing a state budget and with a civil war going on over health care. We talked with veteran journalist Bill Cotterell about how it got this way, and the likely outcome.

10. Facing Florida	05/10/15	11:00AM/15 minutes	Public Affairs	*10
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\*10 On this week's program, we go in-depth with Florida Senate President Andy Gardiner on the legislative meltdown that began when the Florida House went home 3½ days early. The showdown faces a shutdown of state government on July 1<sup>st</sup> if there's not a budget.

11. Facing Florida	05/31/15	11:00AM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	*11
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\*11 We discussed Amendment 1 funding ... what voters thought they approved, and what the lawmakers are doing. Then we talked with journalist Bill Cotterell about the uncertainties surrounding Special Session "A".

12. Facing Florida	06/07/15	11:00AM/10 minutes	Public Affairs	*12
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\*12 After more than 40 years in the legislative process, including 10 as a member of the Florida House, Political Analyst Pete Dunbar shared his insight into the workings of this Special Session of the Florida legislature.

13. Facing Florida	06/14/15	11:00AM/20 minutes	Public Affairs	*13
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\*13 Our guest on this segment was Blaise Ingogolia, the new Chairman of the Republican Party of Florida. He's also a member of the state legislature, which might complicate future races for Speaker. He discussed his plans for the 2016 elections and beyond.