

FCC ISSUES REPORT – 4th Quarter 2018
October – December 2018
KABC-TV

ABC7 -CORE ISSUES
4th Quarter 2018

CORE ISSUES

ABC7 gave significant coverage to the following community issues and concerns arising in the fourth quarter of 2018:

- 1. Wildfires/Weather**
- 2. Politics**
- 3. Health**
- 4. Immigration**
- 5. World Series**

The station's coverage of these core issues is detailed in the next section of this report.

WILDFIRES/WEATHER

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: October 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31. November 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29. December 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31.**

Total Coverage: 3 Days 2 Hours 29 Minutes

ABC7 Eyewitness News reported extensively on the numerous fires and the severe weather conditions that affected the station's viewing area in the fourth quarter of 2018. But the fires that warranted uninterrupted, live continuous coverage for more than forty hours were that of the Woolsey and Hill fires. Driven by extreme low humidity, tinder, dry brush and howling Santa Ana Winds, the fires burned nearly 97-thousand acres and more than 1,600 structures were lost. Three people lost their lives in the firestorm and more than a quarter million people were evacuated from the fire's path as it burned from the foothills of Ventura County Mountains all the way to the Pacific Ocean. The nonstop and lifesaving coverage of the two wildfires that raged from the night into the morning and over the few next days gave viewers a good understanding of just how destructive and dangerous the fires were. Helicopter reporter Chris Cristi flew in Air7 and used Skymap7 to show the areas where the fires were approaching and urged people to pack up and evacuate. Reporter Anabel Munoz was live in local neighborhoods as embers flew and lighting homes on fire. Anchor Jovana Lara reported live from a local neighborhood where extreme winds nearly knocked her over several times. Reporter Veronica Miracle covered a local neighborhood where homes were burning and firefighters were kicking in doors trying to make sure people had evacuated the neighborhood. Miracle took a burned cat from firefighters and rushed it to an emergency vet so that it could be treated and hopefully saved. By the morning for Friday, November 10th, more than three thousand firefighters were fighting the blaze. The fire sent tons of particulates into the atmosphere and neighborhoods many miles from the fires were suffering from thick choking smoke. The fire also burned down many power poles and many impacted areas were without power. KABC carried many hours of news conferences and relayed important information about evacuations underway, evacuation centers being set up, and where assistance for the housing of large animals were being made available. This year's wildfires are set to be the most expensive in California history. Insurance Commissioner Davy Jones released preliminary numbers on insurance claims and the cost of cleanup from this year's fires. Expected payouts to victims were estimated to blow past last year's record of \$11.8 billion dollars, following the fires that ripped through Northern California's wine country. State and Federal authorities estimate that it will cost at least \$3 billion dollars more to clear debris.

ABC7 also reported on the many communities affected by the aftermath of fires, from clean up to potential mudslides from severe rain in the burned areas. People in the Woolsey fire burn areas had been keeping a close eye on the hillsides, where a second straight day of rain had brought mudslides in Malibu, shutting down a portion of the Pacific Coast Highway.

POLITICS

***Eyewitness News*. Air Dates: October 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. November 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30. December 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31.**

Total Coverage: 12 Hours 51 Minutes

ABC7 Eyewitness News reported on a variety of political issues at the local level. Significant airtime was devoted to covering the midterm elections in November.

The station urged its viewers to register to vote, and they did. Californians registered to vote in record numbers ahead of the November mid-term election. New numbers from the Secretary of State's office show more than nineteen million registered Californians as of September 7th, nearly 76% of all eligible voters in the state. It represented the highest number of voters ahead of a mid-term election in state history.

The station reported on Democratic Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom's win over businessman and Republican challenger John Cox for the Governor's seat. Newsom was widely predicted to win in a state in which registered Democrats outnumber Republicans by about 3.8 million. Newsom is a former mayor of San Francisco who first gained national attention in 2004 when he ordered city officials to issue marriage licenses for same-sex couples before gay marriage was legal in the state.

ABC7 also covered the historic upset of challenger Alex Villanueva's win over incumbent Jim McDonnell in the race for Los Angeles County sheriff. Villanueva, a retired sheriff's lieutenant with no experience at the upper levels of law enforcement, managed to succeed by appealing to a heavily Democratic constituency, promising reforms like removing immigration agents out of the county's jails. The new sheriff is the first candidate to unseat a living L.A. County sheriff in over 100 years, according to a news release by the Sheriff's Department. He is the county's 33rd sheriff. Incumbent McDonnell, who was seeking his second term as sheriff, was initially leading in the elections, but Villanueva took the lead when additional mail-in and provisional ballots were counted.

ABC7 also informed viewers on but what appeared to be the end of an era in Orange County. Fifteen term incumbent Republican congressman Dana Rohrabacher was defeated by Democrat challenger Harley Rouda. Rohrabacher represented California's 48th Congressional District for nearly thirty years. He had been trailing his Democratic challenger in the week following the midterm elections, raising eyebrows about whether or not he could keep his long-held seat. Rohrabacher is viewed as a victim of California voters' distaste for Donald Trump.

HEALTH

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: October 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. November 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30. December 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.**

Total Coverage: 5 Hours 31 Minutes

ABC7 Eyewitness News reported on the various health topics that interest its Southern California audience. One such topic was the 34th annual Los Angeles AIDS Walk. About ten thousand people took over downtown Los Angeles for the event. Celebrities, musicians, city officials, activists and supporters all walked to end HIV and AIDS. Money raised goes to "APLA Health" and twenty other HIV/AIDS service organizations. The 10k walk started at Grand Park in downtown LA for the opening ceremony.

The station also covered the local story of the pregnant Southern California woman who was fighting for her own life just two weeks before she was scheduled to deliver twins. Thirty-six year old Susie Rabaca was pregnant and desperate for a life-saving bone marrow transplant to treat her leukemia. Susie and her family were on a mission to sign up as many people as possible for the transplant registry. Since her story aired, it had taken off online. Nearly forty thousand people around the world had registered with "Be the Match" -- a record-breaking weekend for the registry. "Be the Match" had a new goal of adding sixty thousand more people to the registry before Susie was to give birth in early December. ABC7 viewers got the good news that Susie had indeed found a much-needed bone marrow donor. She had also had her twins-- a boy and a girl - - born eight minutes apart.

IMMIGRATION

***Eyewitness News.* Air Dates: October 3, 4, 5, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31. November 1, 2, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30. December 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.**

Total Coverage: 3 Hours 20 Minutes

ABC7 Eyewitness News reported on the continuing controversy of the Trump administration's President Trump's immigration policy, including the migrant caravan situation.

ABC7 reported on how President Trump called the migrant caravan (a group of Central American asylum-seekers who have traveled through Mexico to seek safety in the United States) a national emergency, and blamed it on Democrats. He said that since many of them have declined asylum offered by the Mexican government, they are not true asylum seekers. The caravan has grown to more than seven thousand people after arriving in the southern state of Chiapas. The president promised to send troops to the US Border at Tijuana to stop them. He threatened to cut off aid to three Central American countries for failing to stop the caravan. He says Democrats are to blame for their failure to help enact immigration policy. Governor-elect Gavin Newsom met with

Mexican official. Newsom lead a delegation of officials in Mexico City before attending the inauguration of the country's next president. Newsom also met with advocates helping asylum seekers. He also spoke with officials to re-affirm and strengthen the economic and political relationship between California and Mexico.

WORLD SERIES

***Eyewitness News*. Air Dates: October 3, 4, 5, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31. November 1, 2, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30. December 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.**
Total Coverage: 3 Hours 20 Minutes

ABC7 Eyewitness News devoted noteworthy airtime on the Los Angeles Dodgers' road to the World Series for the second year in a row. The Dodgers started its bid to the World Series by clinching the National League Division Series against the Atlanta Braves in four games. It then took all seven games, but the Dodgers managed to defeat the Milwaukee Brewers for the National League Championship Series, which included a nail-biting win in a marathon game that went 18 innings and into the wee hours of the morning in Game 5.

Unfortunately, the Dodgers eventually lose to the Boston Red Sox in the World Series in Game 5. That did not stop 108-years-old Dodger fan Ruthie Tompson and her quest to see her boys in blue play a World Series. *Eyewitness News* covered the story of the former Disney animator who had spent the last sixty years rooting on her beloved Dodgers, ever since they moved here from Brooklyn. Caregivers at the Motion Picture and Television Fund Retirement Complex where she lives posted requests for tickets on social media, and someone came through! Ruthie got her wish and scored tickets to Game 4.