

WAIC, Springfield, Massachusetts

Issues/Programs List

July 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016

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*, *On Point*, *The Takeaway* and others.

Issues

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

Reports on <i>Morning Edition</i>, <i>All Things Considered</i>, and <i>Weekend Edition</i>					
Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Arts & Culture	7/1	7:51 a.m.	3:35	MA	Diva's nightclub in Northampton, Massachusetts, will hold a drag show and fundraiser for one of the victims of last month's mass shooting in Orlando, Florida. KJ Morris was killed at the Pulse nightclub, where she worked as a bouncer. Morris was a Connecticut native who'd lived for years in Western Massachusetts. She performed as a drag king at Diva's under the name "Daddy K." Krystle Melanson is one of the organizers of Saturday's event. She says Morris' death has had a drastic impact on the local drag community.
Arts & Culture	7/1	7:51 a.m.	3:25	MA	"A new merry-go-round is opening..." is not something you hear much anymore. But in Pittsfield today, the Berkshire carousel swings into action for the first time. The volunteers behind this old fashioned amusement say it'll be a hit in today's world of fear-inducing roller coasters.
Arts & Culture	7/1	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:55	MA	"Arkwright" is the science fiction novel by Allen Steele of Whately, Massachusetts. The book follows a renowned writer, Nathan Arkwright, who dedicates his fortune to the creation of a starship - which he hopes will establish a human colony on a distant planet. Allen Steele is a longtime author of "hard" science fiction.

Arts & Culture	7/8	7:45 a.m.	4:36	MA	On the night of July 9th, 1946 a B-17 military aircraft circled over Holyoke, Massachusetts, preparing to land at Westover Airfield. It carried 25 people most of them service members returning from overseas duty. It was dark and rainy. As the plane descended, it crashed into the side of Mount Tom, killing everyone on board. Family and Friends will mark the 70th anniversary of that crash tomorrow.
Arts & Culture	7/8	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:52	MA	Part murder mystery, part ghost story, "All Things Cease to Appear" tells the tale of two struggling families in the fictitious town of Chosen, New York, a down on its luck farming community in Columbia County, just over the state line from the Berkshires. Author Elizabeth Brundage tells NEPR's Adam Frenier that there's a personal story behind the book's setting.
Arts & Culture	7/15	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:51	MA	The unusual book "Camouflage Country" is made up of 158 poems or stories - many only a few lines long. Easthampton, Massachusetts writer Mel Bosworth is a co-author, and he says the writing process with co-author Ryan Ridge was unconventional.
Arts & Culture	7/15	7:33 a.m.	7:10	MA	On a small island like Martha's Vineyard the political is always personal. Especially when it's local. A New documentary about one local filmmaker's crusade against sprawling "trophy homes" is sparking controversy - and has been even before anyone saw it. WBUR's Andrea Shea visited Chilmark for "One Big Home's" Vineyard premiere... to find out why it's hitting so close to home.
Arts & Culture	7/15	4:44 p.m.	3:42	MA	There's being active for a cause and then there's riding a bike cross country 4,000 miles for the cause. UMass Amherst physician Pierre Rouzier is about mid-way. He's biking across the country to promote a book he wrote called "Henry Gets Moving" - - a story dedicated to educating children and adults about how to avoid childhood obesity.

Arts & Culture	7/22	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:54	MA	Our imagination plays tricks on us. That's explored in a new volume of poems by Lawrence Raab - who teaches at Williams College. "Mistaking Each Other for Ghosts" is the latest pick in our summer fiction series. NEPR's Tema Silk spoke with Raab at his home in Williamstown, Massachusetts - and he described the format of the book - his eighth collection of poems.
Arts & Culture	7/27	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	2:13	MA	As Democrats yesterday formally nominated their candidate, a new contender for the presidency stepped into the race... paw first. Dr. Seuss' "Cat in the Hat" is making a run for president.
Arts & Culture	7/29	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:42	MA	"In This Strange Soil" is a book by Florence, Massachusetts based author Jillian Hensley. Set in the early 18th century, it's based on actual Native American raids on two Massachusetts settlements, including Deerfield. The book is narrated by a French Jesuit priest... who recalls his interaction with a boy captured in a raid. Hensley spoke about her book with NEPR's Kari Njiri.
Arts & Culture	8/5	7:45 a.m.	5:07	CT	The opening ceremony of the Rio Olympics is now just hours away. Among the hundreds of athletes on the US Olympics team is canoeist Devin McEwan, a native of Salisbury, Connecticut. On Monday, he'll compete in his first ever Olympic event - men's doubles canoe slalom... not exactly the most well-known sport, so McEwan explains how it works.
Arts & Culture	8/5	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	7:20	MA	Another series of author interviews, for a younger crowd - kids and teens who will soon head back to school. In a young adult novel called "local girl swept away," Ellen Wittlinger writes about a tight-knit group of high school friends heading towards their senior year.

Arts & Culture	8/6	8:35 a.m.	3:29	MA	Peter Benes has devoted the last thirty years to tracing the history of early American traveling entertainers. Benes says it started in 1686 in Boston, with these entertainers traveling to Hartford, Springfield and right on up the Pioneer Valley. They brought with them "pop culture," or some early form of it. "For A Short Time Only" is his new book, named after a popular catch phrase used by performers to advertise their shows.
Arts & Culture	8/11	4:44 p.m.	3:33	MA	The Red Sox hope to win the three game series against the Yankees by taking tonight's rubber match at Fenway. The Yankees last night beat Boston 9 to 4, made even worse when sox star David Ortiz limped off in the ninth inning after fouling a pitch off his right shin. Jen McCaffrey covers the red sox for Mass Live and The Springfield Republican. She describes fans expectations at this point in the season.
Arts & Culture	8/12	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	5:05	MA	The next pick in our back to school book series. Amherst, Massachusetts writer Cammie McGovern wants young people to think differently about their peers with disabilities. Her latest young adult novel, "A Step Toward Falling," is narrated in large part by a cognitively impaired high school student - who happens to be obsessed with the BBC miniseries "Pride and Prejudice" and its star, Colin Firth. In a conversation with NEPR's Karen Brown, McGovern starts by reading her character's declaration of love.
Arts & Culture	8/19	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:21	MA	The next pick in our back to school series: a picture book about a boy named Gus, and his seventeen sheep, written by an author who is widely known for her young adult novels. Jeanne Birdsall of Northampton, Massachusetts, explains where she found inspiration for her new picture book.

Arts & Culture	8/23	7:45 a.m. 4:35 p.m.	2:36	MA	A new opera company in Berkshire County is getting ready for its first ever performance. And the company has turned to some young people with an interest in theatrical production for help. They're getting their hands dirty as they prepare for a production of Madame Butterfly.
Arts & Culture	8/26	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	4:13	MA	The next pick in our back to school book series. Leverett, Massachusetts author Micha Archer's new picture book "Daniel Finds a Poem" is her first foray into illustrating and writing. The book follows a young boy as he talks to animals in his local park, asking them "what is poetry?"
Arts & Culture	9/2	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	7:16	MA	First, a look at a nonprofit based in Hampden Massachusetts, that each year gets tens of thousands of books into young hands. The group has no paid staff and even relies on kids to volunteer as NEPR's Nancy Cohen reports.//Return is the eagerly awaited final installment in Aaron Becker's picture book trilogy. NEPR's Susan Kaplan met with Becker in the Amherst Gallery where his book launch takes place this month. He showed her drawings, beginning with a cityscape from the first book, "Journey."
Arts & Culture	9/9	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:57	MA	Amherst, Massachusetts children's book author Angela DiTerlizzi is slowly building an encyclopedia of animals. She started with the very small - releasing the book "Some Bugs" a few years ago. Now, a sequel of sorts - "Some Pets" - is the latest pick in our Back to School book series.
Arts & Culture	9/10	8:35 a.m.	4:15	MA	Children's author and illustrator Mari Betts Bartlett has found a way to mark the occasion of 9/11. Sunday will be 15 years since the attacks. The Leydey, Massachusetts resident has come out with a book -- Poppy's Purpose.

Arts & Culture	9/16	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:43	MA	Another pick in our Back to School Book series: in children's picture books, true collaborations between authors and illustrators are uncommon. But Hatfield, Massachusetts author Jane Yolen and Easthampton Illustrator Bob Marstall are two old friends. Their work together on the picture book "on bird hill" all began with a doodle.
Arts & Culture	9/16	4:44 p.m.	3:51	MA	Boston Globe sports reporter Jim McBride gives us a preview on what to expect from the Patriot's this season, as they look to play the Miami Dolphins in Foxboro on Sunday.
Arts & Culture	9/23	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:52	MA	"Wax" by Gina Damico is the next selection in our back to school book series. 16 year old Poppy Palladino visits a candle factory in Vermont, and stumbles upon a sinister plot by its owners to take over the town.
Arts & Culture	9/27	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	4:44	MA	Fourteen years ago, Northampton writer Cathi Hanauer edited a bestselling book of essays that got as much attention for its provocative title as its actual contents. "The Bitch in The House," was written by 26 women grappling with modern life, relationships and expectations. A decade and a half later, a sequel to that book - called "The Bitch is Back" - includes many of the same writers but at a new stage in life.
Arts & Culture	9/29	4:50 p.m.	4:31	CT	The world premiere of "Queens for a year" is kicking off Hartford Stage's season. The drama by TD Mitchell shines an intense light on the military and personal consequences of a Marine who goes to bat for a victim of military sexual trauma.
Arts & Culture	9/30	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	5:25	MA	Author and Illustrator Grace Lin of Florence, Massachusetts is out with the fourth book in her early reader series about Chinese-American twins. "Ling and Tine: Together in all Weather" follows their adventures and misadventures through the seasons.

Arts & Culture	9/30	7:33 a.m.	4:34	MA	At Fenway park tonight and throughout the weekend, the Red Sox will honor retiring slugger David Ortiz, during the team's final regular season series. "Big Papi" has spent 14 seasons in a Red Sox uniform and is the only player on all three of the team's most recent world series teams. WBUR's Dan Guzman looks back at Big Papi's time in Boston.
Community Voices	7/19	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	2:24	MA	Massachusetts House and Senate lawmakers continue to negotiate the details of major energy legislation. The final bill could require utility companies to repair more gas leaks. This issue hits close to home for our commentator, Michele Wick.
Community Voices	7/21	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:34	MA	Commentator Tess Poe has two decades of research and consulting experience. A few years ago, she launched a new venture: a retail company in Northampton, Massachusetts. Working behind the counter has been her hardest job to date.
Community Voices	7/26	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	2:38	MA	Commentator Grace Lin first dreamed of becoming an illustrator. Then she realized she wanted to write books too. Now she does both, and is identified as a "multi-cultural" children's book author/illustrator. For Lin, that extra adjective - multi-cultural - was a surprise at first.
Economic Development	7/21	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:33	MA	If you want to take a train from Springfield to Boston, there's only one a day... and it's notoriously slow. But as NEPR's Nancy Cohen reports, a new federally funded study looks at the costs and benefits of expanding train service to Boston -- and Montreal.
Economic Development	8/2	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:53	MA	Pittsfield city officials are trying to figure out their next step with the city's trash incinerator poised to shut down in March. Covanta, the operator of the waste to energy facility, says economic conditions are causing them to close the plant. This news has been met with applause by environmentalists and has sent at least one business scrambling.

Economic Development	8/24	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	4:58	MA	In the Northeast, about 175 thousand farms produce more than 21 billion dollars a year in food, hay and flowers. Not this year. Many fields are bone dry, with extreme drought conditions in parts of Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. As NEPR's Jill Kaufman reports, the climate - and how it's changing - has many farmers thinking about how to manage their land, their animals, and available water.
Economic Development	9/21	7:51 a.m.	7:21	MA	The economy is a central issue in this year's presidential election. Candidates talk about doing more for the people and places still reeling from the great recession. Today, we visit two of Massachusetts Gateway Cities - where communities are hoping to create their own economic booms. WBUR's Shannon Dooling reports.
Economic Development	9/24	8:35 a.m.	4:16	MA	Two big issues in this election are immigration and the economy. A new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine looks at the intersection of these issues. It finds that immigration has an overall positive impact on long-term economic growth in the U.S. But this varies tremendously from state to state, as WBUR's Shannon Dooling reports.
Education	8/18	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:13	CT	The US Secretary of Education stopped by Hartford yesterday to talk about the importance of school diversity - in a city whose schools remain mostly segregated. WNPR's David Deroches reports.
Education	9/5 9/6	5:44 p.m. 7:45 a.m.	3:40	MA	College students are returning to campuses across the country this week. In New England, a demographic shift has some public colleges and universities trying to fill seats by luring students from neighboring states.

Energy /Environment	7/2	8:35 a.m. 10:35 a.m.	4:12	MA	Red Oak stands along route 116 in Amherst as well as areas in Palmer, Monson, Longmeadow and Belchertown are seeing the return of Gypsy Moths. To learn more about the invasive species, NEPR's Carrie Healy spoke with specialist Joe Elkinton at a UMass lab where gypsy moths were studied extensively about thirty years ago.
Energy /Environment	7/26	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	4:08	CT	Each year, thousands of deer are killed on New England roads and highways. Those collisions can lead to costly insurance claims, injuries and deaths. Now as WNPR's Patrick Skahill reports - a new study is exploring what would happen to deer - and to us - if an elusive carnivore came back to the northeast: the mountain lion.
Energy /Environment	8/22	5:53 p.m.	4:02	MA	Researchers at UMass Amherst want to study places that fare better during climate change than the rest of the world. In a new report, they say the date could help predict, protect and even forestall climate change's effects on some animals and plants. Researchers Toni-Lynn Morelli has dubbed these special places climate change "refugia."
Energy /Environment	8/30	5:44 p.m.	3:53	MA	Traffic cops in Katmandu routinely wear industry standard face masks called N-95, to protect themselves from the heavily polluted air. UMass Amherst Professor Rick Peltier says this is a pretty unusual move by law enforcement, but perfect for environmental health scientists looking to study the mask's effectiveness. In Amherst, Peltier had his students study the cloth masks, and their first set of results -- not good.
Energy /Environment	8/31	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:46	VT	This year the Northern Forest Canoe Trail marked the tenth anniversary of its official opening. From its western end in Old Forge, New York, the trail snakes steadily northeast into Vermont, briefly into Québec, then across New Hampshire and Maine. Vermont Public Radio's Steve Zind has this look at where the trail stands a decade after it was established.

Energy /Environment	9/7	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:47	MA	Nearly a quarter of Massachusetts is now in an extreme drought. But, Many towns in the state have yet to enact so much as a voluntary water restriction. WBUR's Shannon Dooling has this report on drought divisions at town lines.
Energy /Environment	9/12	7:45 a.m.	5:01	VT	New England now gets nearly 10 percent of its energy from renewable sources - with more on the way. But that change is posing challenges for the region's electric grid. The New England News Collaborative energy series, "The Big Switch," looks at this transformative moment for how the region powers itself. We start in Vermont, where solar power is booming. John Dillon from VPR visited a small, member owned utility.
Energy /Environment	9/12	4:50 p.m.	6:09	RI	Even with the boom in renewable power, New England still gets about half its energy from natural gas - that's a huge jump from a few years ago. The fracking boom in the US meant a big investment in gas-fired plants. But many environmentalists are pushing back, worried about spending money on fossil-fuel infrastructure, just as renewable like wind and solar are taking off. Rhode Island Public Radio's Ambar Espinoza looks at the controversy over whether to build another gas fired plant in a small Rhode Island town.
Energy /Environment	9/13	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:34	CT	Connecticut doesn't have a lot of wind or a lot of available space - and only recently lifted a ban on wind turbine projects. WNPR's Ryan Caron King goes to Colebrook, Connecticut to find out why wind power hasn't taken off yet, and whether another natural resource - water reservoirs - might be the solution.

Energy /Environment	9/13	4:22 p.m.	5:32	ME	A major transformation in the way energy is made, delivered and used - is disrupting the business model of utility companies. In the past, they built big infrastructure projects to transmit electricity. But a startup company is trying to save by making energy locally. Maine public radio's Fred Bever reports.
Energy /Environment	9/14	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:50	VT	Renewable energy has grown to nearly 10 percent of New England's energy mix. But here's the problem: we can't control when the sun shines and the wind blows. That means sometimes extra renewable energy gets dumped, or a wind plant is told to power down. Vermont Public Radio's Kathleen Masterson reports on a company that's hoping it can use a humble appliance in your basement - your water heater - as a storage device for electricity.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	7/13	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:36	CT	Colonial postmen once rode horses along the Boston Post road to deliver the country's first newspapers between New York and Boston. Today, the road's called US-1. It runs along the East Coast with up to 6 lanes of traffic and few sidewalks. For the New England News Collaborative... WSHU's Cassandra Basler followed a 75 year old advocate as he walked US-1 through Connecticut, drawing attention to the state's most dangerous road for pedestrians.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	7/14	7:45 a.m.	3:44	MA	Spirited testimony on Beacon Hill yesterday for and against a pair of bills seeking to make the crime of assault and battery on a police office a felony. It would carry a mandatory minimum sentence of one year in prison. WBUR's Steve Brown says the hearing comes amid calls for increased police safety, as well as concern the proposed law might be used to suppress the viewpoints of protesters.

Justice, Law & Public Safety	7/28	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	2:31	MA	The state of Massachusetts collected more than 30 million dollars in criminal fines and fees in the last fiscal year. As WBUR's Deborah Becker reports... some lawmakers question whether the state has become overly dependent on that money... and whether people are going to jail just because they can't pay.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	8/11	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:34	MA	The one time leader of the New England Mafia is back behind bars. Despite a deal that allowed him to remain free after admitting to eight murders, Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme could spend the rest of his life there. WBUR's David Boeri reports on the new murder charge that led to Salemme's arrest yesterday.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	8/17	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:23	MA	An officer-involved fatal shooting and subsequent violent protests have brought Milwaukee's police department to the national spotlight. The force has been led for the past eight years by Ed Flynn, who has ties to Massachusetts including a brief stint in Springfield.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	8/30	7:50 a.m.	8:25	MA	The Disability Law Center says it's worried about oversight of private special education schools in Massachusetts. That follows a report chronicling neglect and abuse at the Chamberlain International School in Middleborough. So just how widespread is the problem? WBUR's Shannon Dooling has the story.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	9/22	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:54	MA	Several Chinese restaurants in Hampshire county, Massachusetts, are paying some immigrant workers significantly less than the minimum wage. Workers often get connected to these restaurants through employment agencies based in New York's Chinatown. Those are some of the findings of an investigative series out today by Daily Hampshire Gazette reporter Amanda Drane. She spoke to NEPR's Henry Epp and said the practice is not unique to Western Mass.

Politics /Public Policy	7/1	5:50 p.m.	7:37	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Matt Szafranski from the Western Mass Politics and Insight blog and The Reminder newspaper's Mike Dobbs discuss the issues of the week. ProPublica has just released new data on hospitals taking gifts or payments from pharmaceutical companies. While Massachusetts has one of the lowest rates overall, two Western Massachusetts hospitals top the list within the state. A Massachusetts law requires school districts to be more transparent about the number of kids that get suspended. An Adams, Massachusetts man is now facing federal terrorism charges.
Politics /Public Policy	7/4	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:17	MA	Massachusetts' budget for the new fiscal year is officially on Governor Charlie Baker's desk. Members of the legislature quickly passed the plan last week, after cutting over 400 million dollars in spending. That followed surprise projections last month that the state's revenue will be up to 950 million dollars less than anticipated. State House reporter Matt Murphy tells us if he expects the Governor to veto any more state funding.
Politics /Public Policy	7/8	5:50 p.m.	7:34	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Natalia Munoz from Vaya Con Munoz on WHMP and Rick Hurst, publisher of the newspaper African American Point of View discuss the issues of the week. Are those of us experiencing the latest police violence from a distance bystanders or witnesses? A conversation about race, law enforcement, civil rights movements and what might be done in our cities and towns to make communities safer.
Politics /Public Policy	7/11	7:45 a.m.	4:33	MA	Late last week Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker put his signature on two big pieces of legislation: a bill expanding public accommodation rights to transgender individuals and the next state budget. For more we check in with State House News reporter Matt Murphy.

Politics /Public Policy	7/14	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	7:17	MA	Next week, Republicans will gather in Cleveland, where they're expected to formally nominate Donald Trump for President. Among the delegates from Massachusetts will be Kevin Jourdain - President of the Holyoke City Council. This is his fifth convention - and he's a delegate for Trump.
Politics /Public Policy	7/15	6:20 p.m.	8:01	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Matt Szafranski of the Western Mass Politics and Insight Blog and The Reminder's Mike Dobbs discuss the issues of the week. Western Massachusetts officials say they're surprised governor Charlie Baker vetoed 300-thousand dollars to fund Franklin County's Opioid Task Force another year. A Massachusetts legislative committee heard testimony this week on a pair of bills, making it a felony to commit assault and battery on a police officer. For the second year in a row tuition at UMass is going up. Last year it rose 5 percent this year 5.8 percent.
Politics /Public Policy	7/19	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	4:35	MA	The Republican National Convention enters its second day today in Cleveland... after addressing a lot of routine business on day one. That included approving part of a platform that pulls the GOP to the far right on several issues. But as WBUR's Anthony Brooks reports, delegates from Massachusetts believe the platform is no true concern.
Politics /Public Policy	7/21	7:51 a.m.	7:11	MA	The Republican Convention in Cleveland concludes tonight with Donald Trump formally accepting the nomination for president. Democratic delegate Nicole Lachappelle of Easthampton, Massachusetts, heads to her party's convention next week in Philadelphia. A Hillary Clinton supporter - she says she expects the vibe will be quite different from the first convention she attended... four years ago.

Politics /Public Policy	7/25	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:52	MA	The Massachusetts Legislature restored millions in spending to the state budget during a rare Saturday session, over the objections of Governor Charlie Baker. State House Reporter Matt Murphy says lawmakers squeezed in some work over the weekend in between national party conventions, as they face a July 31st deadline to wrap up formal sessions.
Politics /Public Policy	7/27	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	2:26	MA	Members of the Massachusetts delegation at the Democratic National convention are taking pride in their small role making history. Votes from Massachusetts helped Hillary Clinton yesterday become the first woman nominated by a major party to be president of the United States. WBUR's Anthony Brooks was on the convention floor with the Bay State's delegates as they cast those votes.
Politics /Public Policy	7/27	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	2:24	MA	There's largely unity on stage at the Democratic National Convention, but at other gatherings... hard feelings remain among some backers of Bernie Sanders. WBUR's Fred Thys reports on the push-back former Massachusetts Congressman Barnie Frank encountered at the party's LGBT caucus.
Politics /Public Policy	7/28	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	4:19	MA	Much has been said already about the speeches at the DNC, the Sanders supporters walking out, the musical acts. But not much has been said about climate change - one of the many issues in the 51 page democratic party platform. Some say it is the number one priority for the next president of the united states.
Politics /Public Policy	7/29	7:45 a.m.	4:01	MA	What's it like to be Muslim, American and politically engaged right now? At the Democratic National Conference in Philadelphia, WBUR's Shannon Dooling met with a few delegates from Massachusetts and has this report.

Politics /Public Policy	7/29	6:20 p.m.	7:36	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Larry Parness of the Daily Hampshire Gazette and “Vaya Con Muñoz” radio host and marketing consultant, Natalia Muñoz discuss the issues of the week. Massachusetts lawmakers will act on bills this weekend, as Sunday marks the end of the formal legislative session until January, 2017. Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey stands behind her move to ban so called “copycat” assault weapons. Peter Pan Bus Company’s owner pushes back on expanded East-West rail service.
Politics /Public Policy	8/1	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:48	MA	Members of the Massachusetts legislature worked late into the night last night as they went down to the midnight deadline to end their two year formal session. There was a still lot of work left to do in the final hours. State House News Service reporter Matt Murphy gives us the details.
Politics /Public Policy	8/5	5:50 p.m.	7:52	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Cynthia Simison, managing editor of the Springfield Republican newspaper and Western Mass Politics and Insight editor Matt Szafranski discuss the issues of the week. Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse supports the marijuana legalization ballot question. We look at Zika, and the opioid crisis, in terms of funding. And we put a spotlight on economic development in Chicopee.
Politics /Public Policy	8/8	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:45	MA	Massachusetts lawmakers facing primary elections are getting in serious campaign mode; they face voters exactly a month from today. Governor Charlie Baker - who's not on the ballot - still has a pile of work on his desk - bills the legislature passed at the last minute before adjourning a week ago. Among them - a bill that would make the state's utilities purchase more hydro and wind power.

Politics /Public Policy	8/9	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:40	VT	Today, voters in Vermont and Connecticut go to the polls for state primary elections. In Connecticut, twelve state legislative districts are contested. And in Vermont, both Republicans and Democrats will make their picks to replace outgoing Democratic governor Peter Shumlin. Reporter Peter Hirschfeld says on the GOP side, Lieutenant Governor Phill Scott - the most prominent elected Republican in a very blue state - is looking to take Vermont's corner office.
Politics /Public Policy	8/12	7:45 a.m.	3:56	MA	For the first time in a decade, the State Senate Seat that covers much of Western Massachusetts is up for grabs. Three democratic candidates vying for the seat met in Pittsfield last night for a debate. Rinaldo Del Gallo, Andrea Harrington and Adam Hinds are looking to replace Senator Ben Downing, who is not running for re-election.
Politics /Public Policy	8/12	5:50 p.m.	7:58	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Natalia Muñoz of WHMP's Vaya con Munoz and Mike Dobbs of the Reminder Newspaper discuss the issues of the week. Governor's council election, mob arrests and innuendo, Olympics.
Politics /Public Policy	8/15	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:05	MA	This Friday is the deadline to register to vote in the September 8th state primary in Massachusetts. There are several races around western Massachusetts, especially in state legislative districts where incumbents aren't seeking re-election. But overall, not many lawmakers are facing primaries. We check in now with State House News Service reporter Matt Murphy to tell us why there are so few contested primaries this year.
Politics /Public Policy	8/17	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:36	MA	Berkshire County has just one contested state representative race on September's primary ballot. Vying for the seat that covers almost all of Pittsfield, Democratic incumbent Tricia Farley-Bouvier faces a challenge from Michael Bloomberg - a cousin of the former NYC Mayor.

Politics /Public Policy	8/18	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:20	MA	With Hampden County Sheriff Michael Ashe set to retire after 42 years in office, he held his 39th and final annual clambake yesterday. The clambake is considered a must-attend event for politicians, aspiring candidates and law enforcement officials.
Politics /Public Policy	8/19	7:45 a.m.	4:54	MA	From its announcement in January, the proposal for a Muslim cemetery in Dudley has met with intense opposition. But now, the town's denial of a permit for the cemetery has triggered a federal investigation. The office of U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz says it wants to determine if Dudley officials violated the Muslim applicants' right to practice their religion. WBUR's David Boeri looks at the latest development in the heated and drawn out controversy.
Politics /Public Policy	8/19	5:50 p.m.	8:02	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Matt Szafranski of the western mass politics and insight blog and Mike Dobbs of the reminder newspapers discuss the issues of the week. Sheriff Michael Ashe retires, community corrections, drought and conservation.
Politics /Public Policy	8/22	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:48	MA	The deadline has passed to register to vote or change party affiliation ahead of the Massachusetts primary election. That's only two and a half weeks away... and it's made for quiet times in the legislature. But as TSNS reporter Matt Murphy tells us, there's still quite a bit of action outside the statehouse.
Politics /Public Policy	8/23	7:45 a.m. 4:35 p.m.	8:49	CT	Over pot luck dinners in fellowship halls... and over coffee on Sunday mornings... in synagogues and nearby mosques, Muslims, Christians and Jews from greater Hartford have been collaborating since last fall. Their project - to bring refugee families to the region.

Politics /Public Policy	8/29	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:41	MA	Today is the annual conference of New England governors and eastern Canadian premiers. The event alternates between the US and Canada, and this year it's taking place in Boston. Matt Murphy of the State House News Service tells us state and provincial leaders arrived for a reception last night and today they'll get down to business.
Politics /Public Policy	9/1	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:34	MA	Next week, voters in Hampshire county will begin the process of selecting their first new sheriff in 32 years. The democratic campaign has focused on resumes, legacies and a gentler kind of corrections.
Politics /Public Policy	9/2	7:51 a.m.	7:16	MA	This election season, there are two open seats from Western Massachusetts in the state house of representatives. With no incumbents on the ballot... each race has attracted a large field of democratic candidates.
Politics /Public Policy	9/2	5:50 p.m.	7:58	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Matt Szafranski of Western Mass Politics and Insight and Larry Parnass of the Daily Hampshire Gazette discuss the issues of the week. Massachusetts primaries are this coming Thursday. There are no contested races on the Republican side in western Mass. But Democrats have fights over a state Senate district and three state House seats — not to mention two sheriffs' posts and a spot on the Governor's Council. The <i>Daily Hampshire Gazette</i> has fought back after a candidate for Hampshire Sheriff accused the paper of bias when it pointed out holes in his resume.
Politics /Public Policy	9/6	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	5:04	MA	One of the most heated primary elections in Western Massachusetts this Thursday is the democratic race for Hampden County Sheriff. Three candidates are vying for the nomination. Reporter Stephanie Barry covers the Hampden County Sheriff's race for the Springfield Republican Newspaper. She tells us why it's so important in Hampden County.

Politics /Public Policy	9/7	7:51 a.m.	8:04	MA	Tomorrow is state primary day in Massachusetts. There are two democratic races for sheriff in our region - both are open seats after the longtime incumbents decided to retire. Michael Majchrowicz covers the race for the daily Hampshire Gazette. And we speak with State House News Service reporter Matt Muprhy on tomorrow's primary elections from beacon hill. Most incumbent state legislators do not face primary challenges, we asked him why that is.
Politics /Public Policy	9/9	7:45 a.m.	5:05	MA	Although yesterday's primary didn't have a big turnout, one race that pulled people in was for Hampden County Sheriff. NEPR's Nancy Cohen reports, voters decided they're not looking for change. And Adam Frenier reports on Adam Hind's victory in the three way primary for the Massachusetts state senate seat that covers parts of the four western most counties.
Politics /Public Policy	9/9	5:50 p.m.	7:43	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Matt Szafranski of western mass politics and insight, and Mike Dobbs of the reminder newspapers discuss the issues of the week. A debrief of yesterday's Massachusetts' primary. One race was for Hampden county sheriff. The winner there-- longtime jail employee Nick Cocchi. Amherst resident Solomon Goldstein-Rose will fill the house seat left vacant by retiring State Rep. Ellen Story. And, a look ahead to general election.
Politics /Public Policy	9/12	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:52	MA	Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker meets with leaders of the state Legislature today. These meetings were happening nearly every week - until the legislative session ended in July. Since then, they've been more sporadic. In the meantime, state revenues for the first two months of the new fiscal year have come in, and they're falling short. We check in with Statehouse Reporter Matt Murphy, who tells us shortfalls raise questions about whether Massachusetts' budge can stay in balance.

Politics /Public Policy	9/16	5:50 p.m.	7:57	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Matt Szafranski of the Western Mass Politics and Insight blog, and Natalia Munoz of WHMP's Vaya Con Munoz discuss the issues of the week. Ballot questions - marijuana legalization, more charter schools, banning sale of products from animals in small cages, approving another slots parlor//under-reported stories - Turners Falls high school mascot debate, Springfield city council's fight over residency requirement and deputy fire chiefs' contract.
Politics /Public Policy	9/19	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:40	MA	There's a shakeup coming in the leadership of Massachusetts' democratic party. The party's chair, state senator Tom McGee, announced last week that he will step down from the post after the November election. Matt Murphy of the State House News Service tells us how the race to be the democratic party's next leader is shaping up.
Public Health	9/20	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:17	NH	In the last couple years, millions of people across the country have learned their drinking water contains high levels of the contaminants known as PFCs. These are used to make non-stick things like Teflon and pizza boxes. And for those with illnesses that are linked to the contaminant, that knowledge can be helpful - and incredibly frustrating. NHPRs Emily Corwin reports.
Politics /Public Policy	9/23	5:50 p.m.	7:20	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Matt Szafranski of the Western Mass Politics and Insight blog, and Mike Dobbs of the Reminder Newspapers discuss the issues of the week. Early voting the faults and the promise, Hampshire Gazette's investigation into illegal wages in some local restaurants and what can law enforcement do to increase trust with citizens?

Politics /Public Policy	9/26	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:01	MA	Two cases of possible ethical issues in Massachusetts' Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs have cropped up in the past few months. That includes allegations that surfaced last week that an administration member retaliated against a staffer whose fiancé is running against an incumbent Republican lawmaker in Western Massachusetts. Andy Metzger of the State House News Service tells us about the fallout so far from those allegations.
Politics /Public Policy	9/30	5:50 p.m.	7:20	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Ron Chimelis of the Springfield Republican, and Mike Dobbs of the Reminder Newspapers discuss the issues of the week. Massachusetts Department of Transportation held hearings for western Mass. drivers to give input on the new toll system and to give input about where toll money will go. Recent FBI data shows that in Holyoke, for example, the 2015 violent crime rate is the second lowest since 1997. But the number is still higher than national averages for comparably sized communities. Playoffs start next week in baseball . Do the Red Sox have what it takes to go all the way this year?
Public Health	7/18	7:51 a.m. 4:50 p.m.	7:29	MA	The department of veteran's affairs estimates up to 30 percent of former service members - - from the Vietnam War to Iraq and Afghanistan -- have post-traumatic stress disorder. They don't all seek treatment - but among those who do, the VA says twenty to forty percent don't get better with the standard regimen of therapy, medication, or both. Increasingly veterans are seeking out alternative mental health care - and much of it untested.
Public Health	8/16	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:19	MA	It's standard medical care: newborn babies are routinely given a shot of vitamin K to help clot their blood. But some parents are declining the shots, in a move that some doctors disagree with. WBUR's Carey Goldberg reports.

Public Health	9/15	5:44 p.m.	3:56	MA	Hospitals can be noisy places. And that can make it difficult for patients to sleep. Some hospitals - acknowledging the relationship between quality rest and healing - are taking a different approach. In a recent article, Connecticut Health Investigative Team reporter Karen Weintraub looked at attempts to make sleeping in hospitals easier.
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