

WAIC, Springfield, Massachusetts

Issues/Programs List

April 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

During this period, WAIC broadcast programming about local issues that aired during program segments reserved for local feature-length reports, interviews and commentaries, Monday through Friday at (typically) 5:51 a.m., 6:22 a.m., 6:45 a.m., 7:22 a.m., 7:45 a.m., 7:51 a.m., 8:22 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 4:44 p.m., 5:44p.m. and 5:50 p.m. or similar times within the morning and afternoon news programs.

In addition, local newscasts were broadcast immediately following national newscasts on the hour from 6:00 a.m. through 8:00 a.m. inclusive, and 4:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m. inclusive.

Many reports on the same and related subjects were broadcast daily and weekly through WAIC's broadcast of such national news programs as *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *Marketplace*, *Here & Now*, *Fresh Air*, *Weekend Edition* and others.

Issues

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

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

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Arts & Culture	4/14/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:46	MA	The Northampton Jazz Workshop's Tuesday night jam session has been a staple of the Valley music scene for well over a decade. Its newest location is The Drake in Amherst, Massachusetts, where the sessions feature a more ambitious and younger crowd of musicians than ever before.
Arts & Culture	5/24/2023	6:21am 8:21am	6:41	MA	The remains of dozens of native people dug up from their graves in central and western Massachusetts are still on museum shelves. That's despite a more than 30-year-old federal law designed to return them to their communities. As NEPM's Nancy Cohen reports, proposed changes to regulations would require museums to speed up the process.
Arts & Culture	6/13/2023	6:22am 8:22am	6:38	MA	A collection of works by the late artist and educator Nelson Stevens is on exhibit at the Springfield Museums. The collection, called "Color Rapping," features more than 60 pieces. NEPM's Kari Njiri reports that Nelson spent more than half of his six-decade career in western Massachusetts.
Arts & Culture	6/22/2023	6:34am 8:34am	5:42	MA	Three years ago, when covid shut down much of the live music industry, many musicians took to the internet. They live-streamed concerts from home and solicited audience donations. Musicians are now back on the road doing live shows. But some have continued the livestreams, for the income and the community.
Community Voices	4/21/2023	6:34am 8:34am	2:28	MA	With Earth Day approaching, 16-year-old Ollie Perreault is doing her part as a climate activist. She is often asked why she chose to focus the climate crisis among all the issues affecting people around the world. In a commentary, she says that witnessing first-hand the effects of climate change on her family's western Massachusetts farm is what inspired her to take action.
Community Voices	5/18/2023	6:34am 8:34am	2:44	MA	Commentator Michael Carolan read a recent "New Yorker" article documenting America's tradition of mail-order seed catalogs. But he noticed that the article did not mention one publication that created a stir in western Massachusetts and beyond in the late 19th century, gaining fame for the small village of Dwight.

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Community Voices	6/6/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:15	MA	In the last few weeks, Russian air strikes on the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv have increased. For more than a year, Sergei Isapov, who lives in Cummington, has watched the war from afar. His mother and brother live in Kyiv. Art is the thread that connects them, as he told NEPM's Jill Kaufman.
Community Voices	6/22/2023	6:34am 8:34am	2:02	MA	75 years ago this month there was a crucial milestone in the history of modern cardiac surgery. Before a Philadelphia surgeon's daring experiment, no one had successfully operated inside a beating heart. Commentator and surgeon Andrew Lam thinks it's important to pay homage to this remarkable breakthrough.
Economic Development	4/21/2023	6:34am 8:34am	5:37	MA	There's currently an Amtrak route with service once daily, each way, across Massachusetts. Faster and more frequent trains have long been a dream for many residents in the western part of the state. The idea is inching closer to reality as more political leaders in Boston go on record with their support.
Education	5/2/2023	6:22am	6:57	MA	State lawmakers will hear testimony on a bill to change the culture of sports in public schools. The proposal would amend Massachusetts' anti-bullying law. Among its advocates is Khari Roulhac, dean of students at Newton North High School, who explains that the goal is to see coaches be trained and held accountable like other licensed school professionals.
Education	5/26/2023	6:45am 8:45am	4:21	MA	The school committee in Ludlow, Massachusetts, is scheduled to vote next month on a controversial proposal that could significantly alter the types of books and media allowed in the district's libraries. It could also take significant decision-making power away from librarians. At a school committee meeting this week, parents and educators spoke their minds about the proposal---with speakers from two sides seeking to protect their children, their beliefs, and their freedom of speech.
Energy & Environment	4/5/2023	6:34am 8:34am	7:21	MA	When Maura Healey was running for Massachusetts governor, she called for a moratorium on commercial tree-cutting in state forests. It was meant as a pause, while the state figures out how forests can help address climate change. Since taking office, Healey has stayed quiet on the matter...but loggers say a moratorium is essentially already in effect. Both supporters and opponents of Healey's pledge want details.

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Energy & Environment	4/17/2023	6:45am 8:45am	3:57	MA	Every day in New England, homes are built, remodeled, or demolished. In the process the EPA estimates the country produces roughly 600 million tons of construction and demolition debris yearly. Two women on Cape Cod are trying to help...one home at a time.
Energy & Environment	4/18/2023	6:45am 8:45am	4:20	MA	On hot summer days, the electricity that powers air conditioners typically comes from fossil fuels. But a new project in Beverly, Massachusetts, is using the batteries of electric buses to store energy and release it at the time the grid needs it most.
Energy & Environment	4/19/2023	6:45am 8:45am	4:34	NH	Across New England, communities are re-thinking traditional utility companies as a way to save money and as part of the solution to climate change. Reporter Mara Hoplamazian has a story on community power programs soon to be launched in New Hampshire.
Energy & Environment	4/20/2023	6:45am 8:45am	4:46	VT	Dozens of cemeteries across New England have started offering natural burials without the use of embalming fluids or vaults, and interest is growing as more people consider the climate and environmental benefits. Reporter Lexi Krupp visited a cemetery in Montpelier that's working to keep up with demand.
Energy & Environment	4/21/2023	5:45am 7:45am	4:25	CT	One of the top climate change solutions in agriculture is not a new idea, but it is just starting to gain momentum in New England. "Silvopasture" integrates trees and pasture into one system, and farmers says the system is better for them and their animals.
Energy & Environment	5/4/2023	6:34am 8:34am	1:31	NH	In New England, it's seal pupping season, meaning baby seals may be seen at the shore. But as NHPR's Olivia Richardson reports, those pups are better left alone.
Energy & Environment	5/12/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:06	VT	A few weeks ago, temperatures in Vermont---like other parts of New England---soared into the 80s. That state's biggest city set a new heat record for April. It's a trend the region is poised to see more of with climate change. All that spelled trouble for tulips at one farm in Waitsfield, Vermont.
Energy & Environment	5/15/2023	5:45am 7:45am	5:53	MA	In Massachusetts, people can choose to buy electricity from a utility or from a third party known as a 'competitive supplier.' When lawmakers set up this system in the late 1990s, the assumption was that a competitive marketplace would result in lower prices for consumers. But for the most part, the opposite has happened---and state data show that low-income residents are harmed the most.

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Energy & Environment	5/16/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:05	MA	You've probably gotten mailers or seen online ads for "100-percent renewable energy plans." They say it's easy to help fight climate change---all you have to do is switch your electric provider. But what do these plans actually offer, and are they effective in reducing greenhouse gas emissions?
Energy & Environment	6/7/2023	6:45am 8:45am	3:50	MA	People fighting for decades to clean up the Housatonic River in Massachusetts and Connecticut finally had their day in federal court. Two environmental groups are appealing the EPA's cleanup plan, which is backed by General Electric and a committee representing towns along the river.
Energy & Environment	6/28/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:40	NH	It's natural at this time of year for young black bears, about a year and a half old, to leave their mothers. This behavior is mimicked by the Kilham Bear Center in Lyme, New Hampshire, which raises orphaned bears. The center releases rehabbed bears into the wild in May, June, and July. NEPM's Nancy Cohen reports on the recent release of 137 bears, including two from western Massachusetts.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	4/25/2023	6:20am 8:20am	7:16	MA	For the musically inclined, taking guitar lessons seems like a pretty regular thing to do. But some dedicated music students are practicing their songs and scales while locked up in the county jail in Greenfield, Massachusetts. As NEPM's Jill Kaufman explains, advocates for educating people while in prison say the payoff is evident---inside and outside the jail.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	5/30/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:19	MA	Safe Passage, a nonprofit based in Northampton, Massachusetts, will no longer operate their local domestic violence emergency shelter. Instead, they'll embrace a community-based survivors program focused on housing and economic development. Executive Director Marianne Winters defends it as both a budgetary and a strategic move for the organization.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	6/30/2023	6:45am 8:45am	4:25	MA	A Massachusetts law taking effect July 1 grants a new right to people who have entered the country illegally. Massachusetts RMVs will begin booking appointments for unauthorized immigrants to get driver's licenses. But as NEPM's Nirvani Williams reports, it's going to take some time before many can drive legally.

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Politics & Public Policy	4/3/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: assessing state GOP leaders' reaction to the Trump indictment; some lawmakers express frustration with Governor Healey's tax proposals; the new housing secretary shares some disturbing statistics on the state's population decline.
Politics & Public Policy	4/10/2023	5:44pm	3:29	MA	Massachusetts governor Maura Healey's approval rating stands at 57% as she nears the 100-day mark of her administration. That's the result of a new poll from UMass Amherst and WCVB. It also looked at issues voters are most concerned about, and where they stand on parts of Healey's platform. Tatishe Nteta, director of UMass polling, spoke with NEPM's Kari Njiri.
Politics & Public Policy	4/10/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: a new poll finds Massachusetts residents want surplus state revenue to be used for tax relief; families receiving SNAP benefits have gotten the first of three "off-ramp" payments the state is making after the federal Covid-era boost expired; discussions continue over the governor's proposal to make community college free for those over 25.
Politics & Public Policy	4/11/2023	7:45am	3:29	MA	Massachusetts governor Maura Healey's approval rating stands at 57% as she nears the 100-day mark of her administration. That's the result of a new poll from UMass Amherst and WCVB. It also looked at issues voters are most concerned about, and where they stand on parts of Healey's platform. Tatishe Nteta, director of UMass polling, spoke with NEPM's Kari Njiri.
Politics & Public Policy	4/12/2023	6:45am 8:45am	4:12	MA	Among the political agenda issues cited by the public as needing attention in Governor Healey's first year in office is the plight of caregivers for loved ones with special health or developmental needs---and advocates, elected officials, and caregivers themselves are all voicing their ideas.
Politics & Public Policy	4/24/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: A look at the upcoming budget discussions in the House; the state continues to consider an online lottery and anticipates as much as \$200 million in revenue from it; a jury's verdict means that the long-stalled New England Clean Energy Connect project can now move ahead, building a corridor to bring Canadian hydropower to the state.

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Politics & Public Policy	5/1/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: the House budget proposal passed last week on a unanimous vote after a 3-day debate and now the budget ball is in the senate's court as critics point to a lack of transparency in the deliberations; the state's top court has revived a criminal neglect case against official who ran the Holyoke Soldiers Home during the early days of the covid pandemic.
Politics & Public Policy	5/4/2023	6:34am 8:34am	6:02	MA	Massachusetts has a lack of day programs for people with developmental disabilities, in part because of a staff shortage. This poses a huge challenge for families.
Politics & Public Policy	5/8/2023	6:45am 8:45am	4:58	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: an update on the state senate's budget proposals; concern over a downturn in tax collections may lead to lowered expectations among lawmakers; a new report says pollutants, including lead, continue to be found in public-school drinking water across the state.
Politics & Public Policy	5/15/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: The state senate's \$55.8-billion budget plan has been added to consideration alongside proposals from the house and the governor; a look at some of Governor Healey's early initiatives that might be dropped in any budget compromise; checking results from the May 10 constitutional convention.
Politics & Public Policy	5/22/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: In the wake of State House protests demanding a halt to new fossil fuel projects, lawmakers are discussing zero-carbon goals to be implemented by mid-century; a look at potential political fallout from the resignation of US Attorney Rachael Rollins amid an ethics investigation; the new state housing secretary takes office soon and is expected to address the housing affordability crisis.
Politics & Public Policy	5/29/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: the state senate ponders congestion pricing for driving at peak times on busier roads; the \$56-billion senate budget plan now moves to a joint house/senate committee to work out a final version; lawmakers have voiced concerns over residents leaving the state; will Governor Healey need to submit a supplemental budget to cover expired federal education funding?

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Politics & Public Policy	6/2/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:46	MA	While Ukrainians and Afghans arrived in the U-S through special immigration programs, migrants from Haiti don't have that. So it was a big relief when the Biden Administration extended federal protections, allowing them to stay in the country without fear of deportation. But as NEPM's Nirvani Williams reports, some Haitian migrants in Agawam, Massachusetts, are still waiting for these protections.
Politics & Public Policy	6/5/2023	6:45am 8:45am	2:54	MA	Massachusetts now has a cabinet-level department focused on housing. Housing officials and advocates in western Massachusetts say they're optimistic that the new housing secretary will address the region's unique needs.
Politics & Public Policy	6/12/2023	6:45am 8:45am	4:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: State officials admit that the process of checking MassHealth eligibility and re-enrolling 2.4 million residents is not going smoothly; details are emerging about the senate's tax-relief plan and the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance and others have expressed some dismay; the state may be on the hook for over two billion dollars in reimbursement to the U-S government for improperly allocated pandemic-era federal funds.
Politics & Public Policy	6/19/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: Governor Healey takes the unusual step of discussing pardons at a press conference; negotiations continue on a major tax relief bill; the federal government has told carmakers to disregard Massachusetts' "right to repair" law; reaction on Beacon Hill to the death last week of former House Speaker David Bartley.
Politics & Public Policy	6/26/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: checking the status of the state's stopgap budget, made necessary when legislators could not finalize a regular budget by the fiscal year deadline; school superintendents across the state push for free lunch program extension; PFAS compliance rules for businesses are under consideration.
Public Health	5/9/2023	6:22am 8:22am	4:39	MA	The hard, stressful and unpredictable work of farming is taking a toll on the mental health of farmers in Massachusetts. The state has launched a program to train farmers how to recognize when someone is under stress, and how to connect them with support resources.

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Public Health	5/18/2023	6:34am 8:34am	6:37	MA	As Massachusetts attorney general, Maura Healey earned a reputation for being tough on opioid manufacturers. And during her campaign for governor she promised to continue to address opioid addiction. Statewide, the overdose rate fell slightly in 2022 but still claims around 2000 people a year. Now that Healey is governor, some stakeholders say they're still waiting to learn her plans for addressing the crisis.