

Sumner Ford

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WAIC, Springfield, Massachusetts

Issues/Programs List

January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017

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
Commentary
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	1/3	7:51 a.m.	5:32	CT	Matt Farelly might be one of the most prolific recording artists of all time. He's not a household name. But he's got thousands of songs scattered across digital music services like Spotify and iTunes. WSHU's David Dunavin reports Farelly's music may sound strange, but he's figured out a formula to success in the era of streaming music.
Arts & Culture	1/11	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	5:17	MA	Two hundred hopefuls and thrill seekers descended on Princeton's Wachusett Mountain ski area to show off on the luge. That dangerous looking ice sled famous from the Winter Olympics. Some young participants hoped to earn invitations for further training and maybe an eventual tryout for an Olympic team. WBUR's Shira Springer was there, and has this report.
Arts & Culture	1/13	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:54	MA	It's been just over 6 months since a gunman opened fire in a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people. In the months since, theaters around the country have been hosting performances to reflect on the tragic event. Now that theater production comes to Western Massachusetts.
Arts & Culture	1/19	5:44 p.m.	3:52	MA	The New England Patriots have had what seems like an annual spot in the AFC Championship game over the past decade. They're back at it again on Sunday against Pittsburgh. Boston Globe sports writer Ben Volin says one of the Pat's strengths this year - is depth.

Arts & Culture	1/28	8:35 a.m. 10:35 a.m.	4:04	MA	Greenfield, Massachusetts author Serena Burdick's "Girl in The Afternoon" takes you to 1870s Paris - right in the middle of a family drama set in the art world. The book features a female impressionist painter, whose life intertwines with that of Edouard Manet.
Arts & Culture	2/2	5:44 p.m.	3:47	MA	This weekend's Super Bowl will be the seventh joint appearance for the Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and coach Bill Belichick. And even though the Pats can be the NFLs team-to-hate... New England fans call that just plain old envy. Boston Globe sports writer Ben Volin says fans won't be disappointed on Sunday.
Arts & Culture	2/17	7:51 a.m.	5:45	MA	Leontyne Price, the revered American Opera singer, turned 90 last week. Springfield Symphony Orchestra conductor Kevin Rhodes has been itching to find a way to celebrate her brilliant career. Tomorrow evening, Rhodes and soprano Othalie Graham will offer a tribute to price - called "A Life in Opera."
Arts & Culture	3/2 3/3	7:22 a.m. 4:48 a.m.	6:23	MA	More than a million Vietnamese came to the U.S. as refugees in the years after their Civil War ended. More than 65 thousand Vietnamese make New England home. Now another massive wave - dislocated Syrians - are seeking safety. It is unclear just how many will be allowed into the U.S. under the Trump administration. These two very different cultures share a common experience. One Vietnamese refugee who grew up in Hartford is making his experience universal - through poetry.
Arts & Culture	3/3	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	4:47	MA	A new exhibition in Northampton at the Smith College Museum of Art focuses on the ancient site of Oplontis, destroyed during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD.

Arts & Culture	3/3	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	3:27	MA	The tornado that touched down in Goshen and Conway, Massachusetts Saturday night destroyed buildings and personal belongings. At a fundraiser at the "Conway Inn" the other night, someone anonymously dropped a cashier's check for \$50,000 into a collection can. As NEPR's Jill Kaufman reporter - another donation came in, after a story we aired earlier this week.
Arts & Culture	3/8	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	6:34	MA	Five years ago, at 23, Andrew Forsthoefel decided to walk 4,000 miles across America with a handmade sign that said "Walking to Listen." Along the way he recorded dozens of stories from the people he met. Now settled in Western Massachusetts, Forsthoefel has a new book about his journey. NEPR's Karen Brown recently joined him for a much shorter stroll.
Arts & Culture	3/18	8:35 a.m. 10:35 a.m.	3:58	MA	Reading groups are a long standing tradition at many local libraries. But there's a new variety - welcome cookbook clubs. It's part book club, and part potluck gathering. NEPR's Carrie Healy visited a meeting of the library cookbook club in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.
Arts & Culture	3/30	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:07	MA	The remains of an army medic mission in action and declared dead during the Korean War finally returned home to Western Massachusetts yesterday.
Commentary	1/25	7:51 a.m.	2:37	MA	The day before President Donald Trump was inaugurated, commentator and art historian Paul Staiti was passing through an airport in Los Angeles when he noticed Barack Obama's photograph greeting every arriving passenger. Staiti found himself contemplating that image, and its imminent disappearance. Paul Staiti teaches Art History at Mount Holyoke College.

Commentary	1/27	7:51 a.m.	2:40	MA	Tomorrow marks the lunar new year, or what used to be called the Chinese New Year. For commentator Grace Lin, it's a holiday that comes with baggage. Grace Lin is the author and illustrator of more than a dozen children's books, including the national book award finalist, "When the Sea Turned to Silver." She lives in Florence Massachusetts.
Commentary	1/31	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	2:34	MA	All her life, commentator Naomi Shulman has been cautioned by foreign-born relatives; "don't forget. Democracy is fragile." It's advice that's somehow been easy to dismiss. Until now, she says.
Commentary	2/9	7:51 a.m.	2:46	CT	Commentator Julia Pistell moved to Hartford years ago on a compromise. Her not-yet-husband had a job in insurance in Hartford, so Pistell packed up her books and sublet her South Bronx apartment. She's been here ever since, and is happy about what the city has asked of her. She wants others in the region to recognize it's asking things of them too.
Commentary	2/28	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:18	MA	Commentator and journalist Shaheen Pasha has a rule in her house. Her kids are never allowed to tell each other to shut up. It's not just a matter of politeness, she says. Shutting people up can be dangerous.
Commentary	3/3	7:22 a.m.	2:22	MA	Commentator and Amherst College law professor Austin Sarat is nervous. He says federal judges' rulings to block President Trump's executive order on immigration were stirring victories for the rule of law. But, he says, no one should be resting on their laurels.

Commentary	3/9	6:22 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	2:32	MA	Lego recently announced it would release a new line of toys immortalizing the women of NASA. The new set will feature astronauts Sally Ride and Mae Jemison among others. Commentator and author Martha Ackmann says Lego shouldn't stop there.
Commentary	3/16	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:24	MA	The Trump Administration recently announced it was rescinding protections for transgender students established by President Obama. The decision comes at a tough time for our commentator and high school student Jay, who's known since childhood that he was a boy. The hard part... has been trying to convince others that's who he is.
Commentary	3/31	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	2:21	MA	Commentator and College Senior Anjelica Jarrett says her fellow students are jumping at ways to resist President Trump's policies related to science, health care and immigration. Jarrett says she's also passionate about these issues. But don't expect to see her at any protests.
Economic Development	1/6	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:19	VT	This week, the last remaining dairy herd is leaving Weatherfield, Vermont - a town once dotted with small milking farms. This is a growing trend in the changing dairy industry across New England and beyond. Vermont Public Radio's Rebecca Sananes reports.
Economic Development	1/25	7:51 a.m.	5:11	MA	Entering the job market out of college can be fraught - and require some creative gumption. NEPR's Karen Brown learned about one entry level job that seems unlikely for a bright eyed newbie.

Economic Development	2/3	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	7:00	MA	Later this year, the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority will be in new hands. Administrator Mary MacInnes is stepping down later this spring. She's led the agency since 2006 - overseeing public transit in Hampden and Hampshire Counties. The previous administrator was ousted after the PVTA's offices were raided by federal investigators in a bid-rigging scandal. MacInnes tells us where the agency is now, compared to when she took charge.
Economic Development	2/9	7:51 a.m.	5:22	MA	The Dunbar Community Center has been a hub of culture, sports and social activities for Springfield's African-American community for over one hundred years. But it was almost shut down last year due to a mortgage dispute. The center now appears to be getting a new lease on life.
Economic Development	2/14	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:57	MA	Winter tends to be a low point in blood donations, as many people are sick or away during the holidays. But the industry has always been able to weather those sorts of fluctuations. Now, health economists are pointing to a more recent and serious trend that runs the risk of upending the nation's blood economy - and with it, the emergency blood supply.

Economic Development	2/24	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	5:06	MA	For decades, the three counties of Massachusetts along the Connecticut River - Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden - have been collectively known as the Pioneer Valley. But some boosters of the region decided the moniker is old-fashioned and confusing. The Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts spent \$80,000 to hire a consultant from Oklahoma to re-brand this region. "West Mass" was launched with a two-minute video, and it's been met with criticism and mockery on social media. Greg Chiecko is director of sales for the Big E, and a board member of the visitors' bureau. He tells us why the brand is necessary.
Economic Development	3/1	5:44 p.m.	3:53	CT	Two federally recognized tribes in Connecticut this week announced they've chosen a site in East Windsor for a third casino. The next step is getting approval from the legislature. But, another proposal aims to open the door for others to get in on the casino action. Hartford Courant reporter Ken Gosselin describes the project as a "satellite casino."
Economic Development	3/2	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	6:54	MA	This week, Connecticut's two federally recognized Native American tribes picked East Windsor as the site of a third casino in the state. The gambling complex would be just 13 miles from the MGM Casino that's under construction in Springfield - and that's not an accident. The Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes are looking to fend off the new competition. NEPR's Henry Epp spoke to the first selectman of East Windsor - Bob Maynard.

Economic Development	3/16	7:45 a.m.	4:57	MA	Over the next few months, workers at the Springfield Armory will be digging a lot of dirt. They're restructuring parts of the armory's grounds - to recreate the landscape of the national historic site to what it looked like in the 1950s. They'll even plant specific trees to match that era - which was the last time the armory was really in business - building and developing weapons for the U.S. military. Armory Superintendent James Woolsey shows how crews have begun turning a field into a sloping hill.
Education	1/17	7:51 a.m.	5:28	MA	With visas in hand, about 85,000 undergraduate and graduate students from overseas are pursuing their higher education degrees in schools around New England. That's out of more than a million who come to study every year in the U.S. Graduate students in particular are big business for colleges, but President-elect Donald Trump's many anti-immigration stances have brought uncertainty into the classroom.
Education	1/17 1/18	4:44 p.m. 7:45 a.m.	3:20	MA	Next week, Republicans will have a firm grip on power in Washington. But on traditionally liberal college campuses in New England - Republican students say they feel more frozen out of the political conversation than ever. Sean Teehan has the story.
Education	1/27	7:51 a.m.	4:50	MA	The population of Berkshire County is dropping - and continues to drop. And this trend is taking school enrollment down with it. A recent study finds school funding and course offerings are declining in many schools around the Berkshires. Now a group of administrators, elected officials and community members are trying to come up with ways to change the education landscape in the Berkshires.

Education	2/2	7:50 a.m.	6:51	MA	With a few dozen students from Universities in Massachusetts stuck overseas, because of President Trump's order that keeps them from returning... schools are trying to figure out how to help. They're also looking into the needs of students already here. WBUR's Fred Thys has this report.
Education	2/22	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	5:43	MA	In a time when the President calls some news media, "The Enemy of the American People," some schools are trying to help students figure out which news sources are reliable. UMass Amherst offers a course on "News Literacy," and as WBUR's Fred Thys reports, it's something that faculty and students find especially needed this year.
Education	2/25	8:35 a.m. 10:35 a.m.	3:55	MA	The arrival of the Trump Administration in Washington brought with it a huge volume of phone calls and emails. Congressional offices have said they've never seen so much correspondence from constituents - many who are opposed to Trump's cabinet nominees and early policy announcements. But new research finds this might not be the best way to influence your representatives - at least in state legislatures. UMass Lowell political scientist John Cluverius looked into this and explains his results.

Education	3/1	7:51 a.m.	6:10	VT	Many small towns in New England are eager to welcome refugees from the war in Syria, but that does not seem likely under President Trump's shifting immigration policy. One prep school in Vermont has found a way around that. They're offering scholarships to refugees already living in the U.S. As part of our series "Facing Change," WSHU's Cassandra Basler follows one family from Shoreline Connecticut to the snowy north, as they try to make sure their children can study in New England.
Education	3/8	5:41 p.m.	4:17	MA	Sleep scientists say data back up the case for moving high school start times to about an hour later. A new study co-authored by Pamela McKeever from Central Connecticut State University looked at high schools in seven states that've made the change and found graduation and attendance rates improved. McKeever told NEPR's Susan Kaplan that making the change is a hard sell... she acknowledges that obstacles remain, but she'd like to tackle them.
Education	3/9	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	6:03	MA	In his revised executive order, President Trump has cut the number of refugees allowed into the U.S. by more than half. But since the fall of last year, nearly 1,800 refugees have already re-settled in New England. More than a third of them are teens. As part of our Facing Change series, NEPR's Nancy Cohen reports on the challenges facing these students in school... and how educators are addressing them.

Energy /Environment	2/8	7:51 a.m.	5:32	MA	Last year, Massachusetts' highest court ruled in favor of environmental groups - who argued the state hasn't been doing enough to reach its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Those goals were put into law in 2008. The law calls for the state to reduce emissions to 25 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2020. The Supreme Judicial Court ordered the Massachusetts' department of Environmental Protection to come up with new regulations to ensure the state meets that mark. David Abel is a reporter for the Boston Globe and has been covering those new rules, which are up for public hearings today in Worcester and Springfield.
Energy /Environment	3/30 3/31	5:50 p.m. 7:51 a.m.	7:50	MA	General Electric and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are battling over the last stretch of the PCB cleanup of the Housatonic River in Massachusetts from Pittsfield through Great Barrington. GE is appealing the Government's cleanup plan. One big issue is where to put the toxic PCB's that are dug up from the river.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	1/3	7:51 a.m.	2:40	MA	In November, voters approved a ballot question that allows adults over 21 to possess and grow small amounts of marijuana in Massachusetts. But it's still illegal for individuals to sell it. New England Public Radio's Nancy Cohen reports on a salesperson who is openly trying to work around the new law.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	1/16	5:54 p.m.	3:08	CT	State officials say about 2-thousand people pay for child prostitutes in Connecticut every year. But no one in the state has been charged with soliciting child prostitutes under a felony level law that took effect in 2013. WSHU's Davis Dunavin reports.

Justice, Law & Public Safety	1/23	5:44 p.m.	3:43	MA	A prison watchdog group in Massachusetts is investigating a recent disturbance at Souza Baranowski Correctional Center in Shirley. The incident resulted in the lock-down of the entire facility and involved 47 prisoners. Leslie Walker is executive director of Prisoners' legal services, a non-profit based in Boston. Her group is still trying to nail down exactly what happened during that lock down. Walker says in her 15 years working with the group, conditions in state prisons have declined.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	1/30	7:51 a.m.	3:47	MA	Now we'll hear about a Western Massachusetts city that was getting ready to welcome dozens of refugees. After more than a year of preparation - there's a lot of uncertainty now in Northampton - following President Donald Trump's executive order and a weekend of court action. Yesterday afternoon residents gathered to learn what the order means and what they can do about it, as NEPR's Nancy Cohen reports.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	1/31	7:45 a.m.	3:24	MA	A UMass Amherst student remains unable to enter the United States. Mohsen Hosseini had returned to Iran over the winter break to get married. NEPR's Jill Kaufman has this update.

Justice, Law & Public Safety	1/31	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	4:36	MA	President Donald Trump's executive action last week on immigration and refugees has sent shocks around the world - including the agencies and volunteers helping resettle refugees in Western Massachusetts. Mohammed Najeeb runs the New Americans program for the western Mass. chapter of Ascentria Care Alliance. That organization has publicly opposed Trump's order. Najeeb says his office was planning to take in 346 individual refugees this fiscal year, which ends in October. Now, he says there's confusion about what comes next - and he says refugees that are already here are feeling uneasy.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	2/6	7:45 a.m.	4:39	MA	When the city of Northampton, Massachusetts decided more than a year ago to welcome refugees to their community... many groups engaged in the planning process, including the public schools. As NEPR's Nancy Cohen reports, school children continue to prepare despite president Trump's attempt to suspend the refugee program.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	2/7	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:02	MA	Mohsen Hosseini, and Iranian UMass Amherst student, was among those stuck overseas when President Trump signed the executive order restricting immigration. NEPR's Jill Kaufman has been following Hosseini's story, and this week he's returned to the United States.

Justice, Law & Public Safety	2/7	5:44 p.m.	3:58	MA	When is a person an adult? That's at the heart of one proposal Massachusetts lawmakers are considering to reform the state's criminal justice system. It would raise the age of most offenders sent to juvenile court from 18 to 21. Massachusetts would be the first state in the country to do so. Reporter Shira Shoenberg is covering this story for the Springfield Republican. She says the bill comes after lawmakers four years ago raised the juvenile court age from 17 to 18... but advocates claim that didn't go far enough.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	2/11	10:35 a.m.	3:57	NH	Yesterday a family of Syrian refugees landed at the airport in Manchester, New Hampshire, completing a journey that almost never happened. The Mahmoud family was originally scheduled to arrive only days after President Trump signed his executive order on immigration. The temporary ban stopped travel for people from seven predominantly Muslim countries - and indefinitely banned Syrian refugees from entering the U.S. With the nationwide stay on Trump's order upheld last week by a federal appeals court, the family boarded a plane in Turkey - headed for their new home in Lowell. WBUR's Shannon Dooling has their story.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	2/15	7:45 a.m.	3:10	MA	Massachusetts highest court is now considering the fate of a needle exchange program on Cape Cod. As WBUR's Deborah Becker reports, the case could have statewide implications.

Justice, Law & Public Safety	2/15	5:44 p.m.	3:59	MA	In his essay published by the Massachusetts Review, J. Malcom Garcia tells the story of four honorable discharged United States veterans. Legal immigrants, they were welcomed into the U.S. Military. But after their service, the vets got into trouble. A 1996 law mandates deportation for non-citizens convicted on a wide range of felonies - regardless of military service. Garcia conceded that some of the deported vets committed offenses like murder and rape, but says many others got into trouble for DUIs or drugs.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	2/27	5:44 p.m.	4:01	MA	In the small Franklin County town of Conway, crews continue to clean up after a tornado wreaked havoc Saturday night, blowing roofs off, and wrapping metal roofing material around trees.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	3/3	7:22 a.m.	4:11	VT	As increasing numbers of migrants are fleeing the United States to apply for asylum in Canada, many are crossing illegally at a popular country road in upstate New York. And to complete the last leg of the journey to the U.S.-Canada border, they're taking a cab. But there's a catch: some of those cabbies are coordinating with U.S. Border patrol. Vermont Public Radio's Kathleen Masterson reports.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	3/6	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	4:01	MA	There's no confirmation yet on what caused a Saturday morning fire that nearly wiped out a family in rural western Massachusetts. Investigators say the fire - in the single family home in Warwick could have started at a wood stove in the kitchen. Yesterday, residents turned out to mourn the loss of a mother active in town... and her four children.

Justice, Law & Public Safety	3/22	7:51 a.m.	5:30	VT	Many recent immigrants living in the U.S. are scared that their claims for asylum won't have a fair hearing by the Trump administration. That includes people who could be killed if they're deported back to their home countries. Hundreds of those people are fleeing to Canada - and some have taken drastic measures to get there. That's because of an agreement between the U.S. and Canada that inadvertently encourages people to cross illegally in the woods. Vermont Public Radio's Kathleen Masterson spoke with one man who nearly froze to death trying to flee the U.S.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	3/23	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	5:14	MA	The verdicts were mixed for the former co-owner of a Framingham, Massachusetts compounding pharmacy. The New England Compounding Center prepared medicine linked to a fungal meningitis outbreak in 2012. 64 people died, and hundreds around the country were injured and sickened. WBUR's Steve Brown was in Boston Federal Court when the verdicts were read yesterday.
Politics /Public Policy	1/2	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:58	MA	Last week Massachusetts lawmakers rushed through a bill to delay parts of the state's new recreational marijuana law - including when retail pot stores can open. Governor Charlie Baker has signed that bill. And there are more steps the legislature could take to change the measure that voters approved in November. State House News Service reporter Matt Murphy says the legislature's next target could be marijuana taxes.

Politics /Public Policy	1/4	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:49	CT	The new legislative session begins today in Connecticut. It will open with a speech from democratic governor Dannel Malloy. The session will likely be dominated by a steep budget deficit for the next fiscal year - more than 1 billion dollars. Capitol Bureau Chief for the Hartford Courant, Chris Keating, tells us what solutions legislative leaders and Governor Malloy are proposing to fix the budget gap.
Politics /Public Policy	1/6	5:50 p.m.	7:54	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Craigslist Marijuana sales, Sheriff wants inmates to build Mexico wall, millennials in the legislature, Education funding reform, state revenue streams.
Politics /Public Policy	1/9	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:37	MA	A new two year legislative session is underway in Massachusetts. Lawmakers took their oaths last week, but otherwise, things are off to a slow start. The legislature still needs to adopt rules and leaders of the House and Senate need to make committee appointments. Reporter Matt Murphy of the State House News Service tells us how soon we'll see the legislature laid that legislative groundwork.
Politics /Public Policy	1/13	5:50 p.m.	8:10	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Mike Dobbs of the Reminder and Rick Hurst of the African American Point of View discuss the issues of the week. Elizabeth Warren on Ben Carson Housing Secretary confirmation hearing, proposed time change for Massachusetts, and the forgotten stories: MLK Day Monday & following up on the exploited at local massage parlors.

Politics /Public Policy	1/16	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:52	MA	Later this week, Donald Trump will be sworn in as President. Throughout the campaign, Massachusetts Republican Governor Charlie Baker opposed Trump, but Baker is planning to attend the inauguration in Washington. Matt Murphy of the Statehouse News Service tells us whether Baker's supporters are disappointed the Governor will be attending Trump's inauguration.
Politics /Public Policy	1/20	8:45 a.m.	3:46	MA	This weekend, a few thousand people from Western New England will travel to the national women's march in Washington DC. It's planned for the day after Donald Trump's inauguration. Their goal: to show support for racial tolerance, women's rights, and other issues organizers say the incoming administration falls way short on.
Politics /Public Policy	1/20	9:45 a.m.	4:16	MA	President Barack Obama leaves office just a few hours from now. It was a presidency many Americans - and many New Englanders - thought impossible just a few years earlier. Even some of his early supporters from the area had their doubts.
Politics /Public Policy	1/20	6:33 a.m. 7:51 a.m.	7:32	MA	Later today, Republican Donald Trump will become President of the United States. In last year's election, every county in Massachusetts went for Democrat Hillary Clinton. But still, more than a million Bay Staters voted for Trump. Ahead of his inauguration, we wanted to hear from some western Mass. Trump supporters - on their hopes and expectations for his presidency.

Politics /Public Policy	1/23	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:46	MA	President Donald Trump's first full week in office begins today, and we still know little about the magnitude of the cuts and changes he'll make to measures passed under the Obama Administration. State House News Service reporter Matt Murphy tells us whether the changes could make a big difference to the budget Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker will lay out this week.
Politics /Public Policy	1/25	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:36	MA	"The State of the Commonwealth is Strong." That's the overall assessment from Governor Charlie Baker. He delivered his annual state of the commonwealth address last night on Beacon Hill. The Governor highlighted accomplishments of his first two years in office, and set some goals for the coming year.
Politics /Public Policy	1/26	7:45 a.m.	4:41	MA	As President Donald Trump launches the crack-down he promised on immigrants living illegally in this country, some mayors are promising to stand up to the President. They say they know about the threat of losing federal funding... but are ready to fight. WBUR's Shannon Dooling reports.
Politics /Public Policy	1/26	8:45 a.m.	3:38	MA	Amidst uncertainty about the future of the Affordable Care Act, Governor Charlie Baker is proposing new steps to curb the cost of health coverage in Massachusetts. They're part of the Governor's budget proposal for the coming year. It would be the state's largest budget ever. WBUR state house reporter Steve Brown has the details.

Politics /Public Policy	1/27	5:50 p.m.	7:46	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Ron Chimelis of the Springfield Republican and Natalia Munoz of WHMP's Vaya Con Munoz discuss the week's news. The Massachusetts legislature overwhelmingly passed a bill giving themselves, judges and other state workers, including the governor, a big hike in pay. President Trump, has signed an executive order instructing federal agencies to cut grants for so-called "sanctuary cities." Cambridge, Somerville, Boston, Northampton, Holyoke and Amherst are among those included. Senator Elizabeth Warren voted for Ben Carson to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
Politics /Public Policy	1/30	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:49	MA	Massachusetts lawmakers pushed through their first major piece of legislation of the new session last week - a pay raise for themselves. The bill also boosts pay for the governor, judges and other elected officials. Governor Charlie Baker vetoed the measure, but Democrats in the legislature seem to have enough votes to override that veto. Matt Murphy, a reporter with the State House News Service, tells us if we can expect lawmakers to take that override vote soon.
Politics /Public Policy	2/3	5:50 p.m.	7:39	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Ron Chimelis of the Springfield Republican and Greenfield Recorder columnist Chris Collins discuss the issues of the week. Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni will not pursue charges against police officers accused of beating four men outside a bar in Springfield. President Trump's executive order last Friday led to public outcry and legal action. We get predictions from our panel on Super Bowl Sunday, and talk about the few die-hard Patriot's fans are chagrined that Brady, Belichick and Kraft are friendly with President Trump.

Politics /Public Policy	2/6	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:22	MA	Last week, the legislature overrode Governor Charlie Baker's veto of a pay-raise bill. It's estimated to cost the state an extra 18 million dollars each year. State House News Service reporter Matt Murphy says the bill took effect immediately, so state officials should see the extra money very soon.
Politics /Public Policy	2/10	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:56	MA	A meeting of the Massachusetts Governor's council got heated this week. The council is an 8 member panel, elected by voters, which primarily approves judicial nominees from the Governor. On Wednesday, it devolved into a shouting match. The argument stemmed from a vote on a nominee for a superior court seat. Some councilors said the decision to hold a vote was rushed. Democrat Mary Hurley is the newly elected Governor's councilor representing the 4 western counties of the state. She's a former judge and mayor of Springfield.
Politics /Public Policy	2/10	5:50 p.m.	7:47	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Matt Szafranski of Western Mass Politics & Insight and the Reminder newspapers' Mike Dobbs discuss the issues of the week. Local refugee flap, Warren and Sessions and Baker and Coretta Scott King, Blumenthal and Trump's Supreme Court pick.
Politics /Public Policy	2/13	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:15	MA	Things are off to a pretty slow start on Beacon Hill. Five weeks into the legislative session. State House News Service reporter Matt Murphy brings us more.
Politics /Public Policy	2/17	5:50 p.m.	7:35	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Turners Falls Mascot change, MGM Half way mark, immigrant concerns.

Politics /Public Policy	2/23	5:44 p.m.	3:59	MA	There's no one in Massachusetts more in President Donald Trump's corner than state representative Geoff Diehl. The Republican from Whitman was the only state elected official to endorse Trump. Now that the new administration is about a month old... we checking in with Diehld, and asked him to grade the President's early moves.
Politics /Public Policy	2/24	5:50 p.m.	7:49	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Ron Chimelis of the Springfield Republican and Matt Szafranski of the Western Mass Politics & Insight blog discuss the issues of the week. Geoff Diehld and the 2018 election, West Mass ad campaign, Northampton police-school relations.
Politics /Public Policy	2/27	5:45 a.m. 7:45 a.m.	5:04	MA	Muslims in America are the subject of heated political debate... but they account for a small share of elected politicians in New England. As part of the series, "Facing Change" - examining the shifting demographics of the region - we look at a Cambridge, Massachusetts based nonprofit that is encouraging American Muslims to run for political office. As WBUR's Shannon Dooling reports, the group call "Jetpac" will train potential candidates regardless of party affiliation.
Politics /Public Policy	2/27	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:26	MA	Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker will meet with President Donald Trump this morning in Washington D.C., along with other governors, who are in the nation's capital for the winter meeting of the National Governor's Association. Matt Murphy, a reporter with the Statehouse News Service is in DC covering the Governor's Association meetings. He tells us whether Baker has spoken to the President about his opposition to some of the administration's first moves.

Politics /Public Policy	2/28	7:51 a.m.	5:41	ME	Muslim immigrants have become an increasingly large part of the fabric of New England in recent years. But they don't hold much political power in the region, yet. Maine Public Radio's Fred Bever introduces us to a Muslim immigrant who is steadily working his way into the power structure in a practical way - by getting out the vote.
Politics /Public Policy	3/3	5:48 p.m.	7:59	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Natalia Munoz from WHMP's Vaya Con Munoz and Mike Dobbs of the Reminder newspaper discuss the issues of the week. Grading local members of Congress six weeks into the Trump Administration. The Mashantucket Pequots and Mohegan tribes hope to run a gambling facility in East Windsor, but that decision's still pending. Hasbro announced it's going to start manufacturing some made-in-America Play-Doh again, in East Longmeadow.
Politics /Public Policy	3/6	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	4:42	MA	This week, the State Healthy Policy commission in Massachusetts will meet to set the official health care cost benchmark. This system was put into play a number of years ago, to keep a close watch on rising health care costs. State House News Service reporter Matt Murphy unpacks the issue.

Politics /Public Policy	3/10	5:47 p.m.	7:39	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Matt Szfranski from Western Mass Politics & Insight and Chris Collins, a columnist for the Greenfield Recorder discuss the issues of the week. A fire in Warwick, Mass., last weekend killed a mother and four of her children. We discuss the complications of rural firefighting and the irony that it often takes a tragedy to get attention on fire safety. State lawmakers introduced legislation to restrict the release of information collected at the toll gantries on the Massachusetts Turnpike. A new study found that high schools pushing their start times back an hour benefit from better attendance and graduation rates
Politics /Public Policy	3/13	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:08	MA	Key budget leaders in the Massachusetts House have said no new "broad-based" taxes are needed for the next state budget - even though tax revenues for the current fiscal year keep coming up short. State House News Service reporter Matt Murphy explains that when lawmakers say they're not raising "broad-based" taxes, that doesn't mean no new taxes at all.
Politics /Public Policy	3/14	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	6:53	MA	Although we think of Massachusetts as a solidly "blue" state, more than a million bay state residents voted for Donald Trump last November. In Central Mass, you can actually drive from the New Hampshire border south to the Connecticut line, and pass through a solid line of towns - which all voted for trump. WBUR's Anthony Brooks now takes us to Winchendon, a Worcester County town with a population of 10,000 - in an occasional series we're calling, "One Million: Red Voters in a Blue State."

Politics /Public Policy	3/15	7:51 a.m.	7:55	MA	The first weeks of the Trump Administration have been marked by controversy, including a court battle over the president's executive orders on immigration, unsubstantiated accusations against a former president - and numerous presidential "tweet storm." But supporters of the president say he's delivering exactly what he promised. In part two our series "One Million: Red Voters in a Blue State," WBUR's Anthony Brooks picks up our story in the town of Ware.
Politics /Public Policy	3/17	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:53	MA	At least half a million Massachusetts residents are among the 14 million Americans a federal agency says would lose health insurance next year under the new Republican plan to repeal and replace Obamacare. The plan's key architect, House Speaker Paul Ryan, says many of those Americans would be choosing to end coverage they don't want forced on them. But for many Massachusetts residents, there is no choice. The "American Health Care Act" would price health insurance out of reach. WBUR's Martha Bebinger reports.
Politics /Public Policy	3/17	7:45 a.m.	4:22	MA	President Donald Trump's new "Hard Power Budget" outline includes the elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts. The NEA contributes millions of dollars to both large and small cultural organizations across Massachusetts. WBUR's Andrea Shea reports on how the proposed cut could affect them.
Politics /Public Policy	3/17	5:50 p.m.	7:56	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Vets and gambling, fake service animals, winter storm naming and road bans.

Politics /Public Policy	3/20	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:39	MA	Last November, Massachusetts voters legalized recreational marijuana. There's a long way to go before pot shops open in the state, but lawmakers will move one step closer today - as the legislature's new marijuana committee holds its first public hearing at the state house. Reporter Matt Murphy with the State House News Service tells us what we can expect from today's hearing.
Politics /Public Policy	3/21	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:34	MA	Hate groups are on the rise in the U.S. - and they increasingly see college campuses as prime recruiting ground. UMass Amherst and Holyoke Community College are just two of dozens of college campuses to have been targeted by white nationalist propaganda in recent months. As Katherine Davis Young reports, finding the right way to respond to these groups can present a challenge to college administrators.
Politics /Public Policy	3/24	5:50 p.m.	7:48	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Mike Dobbs of The Reminder newspapers and Matt Szafranski of Western Mass Politics & Insight discuss the issues of the week. Warren's local press blitz; local control on pot shops; UMass basketball coach salaries and contract buyouts.
Politics /Public Policy	3/27	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:27	MA	The failure in Washington last week of Republican healthcare legislation was welcome news to Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker... who said the bill would've cost the state about a billion dollars a year. Matt Murphy of the State House News Service says that even with the failure of federal healthcare changes... Baker's healthcare headache remains.

Politics /Public Policy	3/29	5:44 p.m.	3:40	MA	Massachusetts lawmakers this week met in West Springfield to take testimony about marijuana. Voters approved the recreational use of the drug in November. The legislature and Governor have already delayed parts of the law - and they're poised to make more changes. According to Lawrence Dicara - a lawyer and former president of the Boston City Council who wrote about this in Commonwealth Magazine - that's nothing new.
Politics /Public Policy	3/31	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	4:25	MA	Although Republicans pulled their healthcare bill last week, they are preparing for another push to repeal Obamacare. And since the Congressional Budget Office predicted the recent GOP plan would take health insurance away from up to 24 million people, many of the newly insured are worried. That includes one Western Massachusetts resident who was once a high profile skeptic of health reform.
Politics /Public Policy	3/31	5:50 p.m.	8:04	MA	THE SHORT LIST: An older Western Massachusetts (census and impacts), Baker with a little boost for early education funding, marijuana tastings and talking to your kids about pot.
Public Health	1/5	5:44 p.m.	3:43	MA	A group of clergy from across Massachusetts met in Northampton recently to grapple with how the opioid epidemic is affecting their congregations. They were also trained in how to administer the overdose reversal drug - Narcan. The reverend Sarah Buteux is an associate pastor at First Churches. She says in the past year she's presided over two funerals, children of congregants - who died from overdoses.

Public Health	1/25 1/26	5:44 p.m. 6:45 a.m.	3:56	MA	An alternative medical trend is trying to break through in Western Massachusetts. "Floatation therapy" is when a person floats in a tank of skin-temperature, highly concentrated salt water - most often in the dark. While it's frequently promoted as a treatment for everything from insomnia to addiction, New England Public Radio's Casey Gilman reports float science hasn't caught up with the hype.
Public Health	2/28	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:20	CT	The state of Connecticut is proposing to relocate a drug and alcohol detox program in Hartford to Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown. The move could save the state 2 million dollars over the next two years, as officials grapple with a budget deficit. But some advocates say moving the clinic will take services away from one of the cities hit hardest by the state's opioid epidemic. WNPR's Ryan Caron King reports.
Public Health	3/14	4:52 p.m.	4:41	MA	A new "government accountability office" report recommends the military begin screening for potential gambling issues. This is all the more important in Massachusetts - which opened its first slots parlor in 2015 and has two resort casinos under construction. Sean Murphy has covered this story for the Boston Globe, and says military officials don't think gambling's a problem among service members.