

WAIC, Springfield, Massachusetts

Issues/Programs List

October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

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* and *Living on Earth*.

Issues

Arts & Culture
Community Voices
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	10/2/20 19	6:45am 8:45am	4:28	MA	For artist Beckie Kravetz, no matter the material or scale or her sculptures, even if they're abstract---the faces are stunningly human. From her studio in Western Massachusetts, she makes art large-as- life and small enough to fit in your hand. And sometimes her canvas is a real human face.
Arts & Culture	10/24/20 19	6:45am 8:45am	5:17	MA	An Easthampton, Mass. couple runs a renowned restaurant, and now they're releasing a new cookbook titled 'Curry & Kimchi.'
Arts & Culture	11/14/20 19	6:45am 8:45am	5:10	MA	A program that can search digitized Yiddish books is about to be unveiled. The software developer is a French engineer whose interest in family history led him to the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts.
Arts & Culture	11/21/20 19	6:22am 8:22am	8:07	MA	To mark the 400th anniversary of slavery's introduction to the Americas, jazz composer Avery Sharpe has written what he calls "an African-American musical portrait." This week he and his ensemble premiere "400" on stage.
Arts & Culture	12/5/20 19	6:34am 8:34am	4:19	MA	In a new book about slavery in New England, author Jared Ross Hardesty highlights how embedded slavery was in the economy of the region's colonial towns. And to tell that history, Ross says he's had to push past some myths.
Arts & Culture	12/10/20 19	6:34am	2:42	MA	Emily Dickinson was born on this date in 1830. Commentator Martha Ackmann has written a new book about the poet, and says what she learned about Dickinson may surprise you.
Arts & Culture	12/10/20 19	6:34am	4:14	MA	The Merriam-Webster Dictionary, based in Springfield, has announced "they" as its Word Of The Year. Lexicographer Emily Brewster says this is the first time a pronoun has had that honor.

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Arts & Culture	12/13/2019	6:45am 8:45am	5:16 MA A new exhibit at the Eric Carle Museum Of Picture Book Art shows drawings made by illustrators when they were kids. A preview with co-curators and illustrators Jarrett Krosoczka and Grace Lin.
Community Voices	10/1/2019	6:45am 8:45am	2:47 MA Playoff baseball begins tonight, and this post-season marks the 100th anniversary of the infamous Black Sox scandal in which 8 players from the Chicago White Sox conspired with gamblers to deliberately lose the World Series. Commentator Andrew Varnon says the scandal has a lesson for Americans today.
Community Voices	10/8/2019	5:50pm	2:09 MA As a child, commentator Tinky Weisblat was filled with dread about getting older. Decades later---exactly how many, she will not reveal---Weisblat says she's coming to terms with the idea that time marches on
Community Voices	12/2/2019	7:22am	2:03 MA When commentator Robert Chipkin gets the urge to watch the PBS home renovation series "This Old House," he doesn't bother to turn on the tv---he just looks out his window.
Community Voices	12/5/2019	6:34am 8:34am	2:40 MA The holidays can be difficult when you've lost someone you cherish. But commentator Cara McDonough has had to admit to herself that---in at least one way---there's actually something easier about *not* having her father around for Christmas and birthdays anymore.
Community Voices	12/12/2019	4:50pm 6:20pm	5:41 MA In 2012, Laurie Loisel's father Paul took his own life in a violent act, using a gun. Two years later Loisel's friend Lee Hawkins, at 89, planned a gentler end to her life, surrounded by family and friends. Loisel, a former reporter in Northampton, Massachusetts, pulls the two stories together in a new memoir, "On Their Own Terms."

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Economic Development	10/8/2019	4:35pm	9:29	MA	G-E's announcement that some 20-thousand salaried employees will stop accruing pension benefits does not affect current retirees, many of whom live in the Pittsfield area where G-E once dominated the economy. NEPR's Nancy Cohen has the first in a 2-part series on G- E's legacy in the Berkshires.
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Economic Development	10/9/2019	5:20pm	7:58	MA	Online furniture giant Wayfair opens a call center this week in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, with plans for 300 employees. Many tout it as a win for the region's economy but not as big as the 14- thousand jobs that once existed at the former G-E plant. Yet those working for a new economy in the Berkshires say they're not looking for another General Electric.
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Economic Development	10/23/2019	6:34am 8:34am	4:26	VT	Hemp farming has expanded in Vermont after the 2018 Farm Bill relaxed some restrictions. Hemp farmers hoped access to the CBD product market would mean a big paycheck, but that's not been the case.

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Economic Development	10/31/2019	4:20pm 6:20pm	8:23	CT	This month marks the 40th anniversary of an F4 tornado that struck Windsor Locks and surrounding communities, killing 3 and leaving 500 injured. It caused \$400 million in property damage, including almost half of the planes on display at the Bradley Air Museum.
Economic Development	11/8/2019	5:51am 7:22am	5:47	VT	Peak foliage has now passed in Vermont, and with ski season approaching, the state's low unemployment rate and aging population can make it hard for ski area to find workers. That's led some resorts to offer generous benefits even for entry-level positions.
Economic Development	11/20/2019	6:22am 8:22am	6:10	MA	One year ago today, the first retail recreational marijuana stores opened in Massachusetts. The state hoped to reduce the black market in cannabis, but illegal sales continue and licensed stores are having trouble meeting demand.
Education	10/1/2019	6:45am 8:45am	2:46	MA	The Berkshire County District Attorney's office will no longer provide direct services to students in county schools, such as teaching classes to help young people avoid substance abuse.
Education	10/22/2019	6:34am 8:34am	4:10	MA	Westfield State University has seen a fair amount of leadership drama in recent years, from the 2013 departure of President Evan Dobbelle amid accusation of improper spending to a no-confidence vote in his successor Ramon Torrecilha. Faculty now await an official evaluation of Torrecilha's leadership.
Education	11/6/2019	7:21am	6:24	MA	Elizabeth Warren arrived as a new professor in the fall of 1992 as Harvard Law School found itself in the throes of change, with students protesting a lack of diversity among the faculty.
Education	11/26/2019	6:45am 8:45am	5:17	MA	The U-Mass football team finished with a 1-11 record, and since jumping to the FBS it's racked up a record of 19 wins and 77 losses. Boston Globe columnist Dan Shaughnessy wrote about the program lately and calls it an embarrassment.

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Education	12/6/2019	6:34am 8:34am	6:57 MA	Colleges face a mental-health crisis. Over the past ten years, the rate of anxiety and depression among college-aged students has doubled, according to researchers. And a recent survey of counselling centers found just over half the students they serve have severe psychological problems.
Energy & Environment	11/5/2019	6:45am 8:45am	5:23 MA	New research on black bears in Massachusetts shows that they are becoming more 'suburbanized' as their expanding population brings them into closer contact with people. Kathy Zeller is a conservation researcher at UMass-Amherst.
Energy & Environment	11/13/2019	6:45am 8:45am	4:05 CT	When a World War 2-era bomber crashed last month at Bradley International Airport, the fire was fought with a special type of foam...and now new details are emerging about the chemicals in that foam and the risks they may pose to people and the environment.
Energy & Environment	12/18/2019	6:45am 8:45am	4:13 MA	Massachusetts faces a big push-and-pull between green building codes and affordable housing. Commonwealth Magazine's Andy Metzger recently wrote about the move towards a net-zero building code.
Energy & Environment	12/19/2019	7:34am	4:29 VT	Lake Champlain has had a bad year with potentially toxic blue-green algae pollution. Tourism was impacted, and residents also complain of declining water quality---and are blaming big dairy farms.
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Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/16/2019	5:44pm	2:23	MA	With shark sightings and even attacks becoming more common, public safety and tourism officials, along with the environmental consulting organization The Woods Hole Group, say that while there are steps that can be taken to improve safety, there are no guarantees for those venturing into Cape Cod waters.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/18/2019	6:45am 8:45am	4:09	MA	The Collings Foundation, the Massachusetts non-profit that owned the World War 2-era bomber involved in a fatal crash in Connecticut earlier this month, is seeking renewal of a permit to fly vintage aircraft.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/30/2019	5:44pm	4:00	MA	Adolfo's Restaurant is apparently closed for good. It was one of two downtown Springfield establishments raided by the FBI on October 23. The restaurant was owned by Victor Bruno and named for his father, Adolfo "Big Al" Bruno, a Genovese crime family boss gunned down by rivals in 2003. Stephanie Barry is a reporter for the Republican newspaper who covers organized crime.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	11/6/2019	5:20pm	7:57	MA	The Springfield Police Department has gone through some high-profile scandals in the last few years. But while investigators have focused on police misconduct on the job, one claim has not made the same headlines. A document released earlier this year suggests a culture of drinking alcohol at police headquarters.
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Justice, Law & Public Safety	11/15/2019	6:45am 8:45am	5:02 MA	After years of public pressure, lawsuits, and new legislation, seven Massachusetts jails now supply addiction-treatment drugs to inmates. Among them is a western Massachusetts jail that is the first in the country to become a licensed methadone provider.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	12/13/2019	5:45am 7:45am	3:42 MA	A 3-judge panel on the First Circuit Court Of Appeals heard arguments this week concerning possible jury bias in the case of convicted Boston Marathon bomber Jahar Tsarnaev. The judges could call for a new trial, order a revised sentence, or let the death penalty stand.
Politics & Public Policy	10/4/2019	5:50pm	9:20 MA	TSL: Local reaction to executive order on refugee resettlement; lack of debate in Springfield mayoral election; backlash from the Massachusetts vape ban.
Politics & Public Policy	10/11/2019	5:50pm	9:40 MA	TSL: Springfield police commissioner open to indicted officers eventually returning to the force; Neal, Morse trade barbs in US House campaign; thoughts on home marijuana delivery in Massachusetts; Great Barrington turns Columbus Day into Indigenous Peoples Day.
Politics & Public Policy	10/18/2019	5:50pm	9:14 MA	TSL: Greenfield mayoral race; PFAS problems in Connecticut; is low casino revenue actually a good thing?; Hampshire College takes 'untraditional' to a whole new level.
Politics & Public Policy	10/21/2019	6:45am 8:45am	5:50 MA	BH In 5: The Senate's 7-year, \$1.5-billion education bill heads to the House; Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa complains she was on her feet but was not recognized by the Speaker; lawmakers decide to pad the rainy day fund while Governor Baker has other ideas, asking for \$175 million for an expanded tax deduction.
Politics & Public Policy	10/22/2019	6:34am 8:34am	2:15 MA	Our series on western Mass. Mayoral elections begins with a look at Greenfield, where incumbent Bill Martin is not seeking re-election. Roxanne Wedegartner, winner of the September primary, faces runner-up Sheila Gilmour as well as write-in candidate Brickett Allis.

Topic	Airdate		Duration		Summary
Politics & Public Policy	10/23/2019	6:34am 8:34am	2:43	MA	Two established politicians are seeking the mayor's office in Pittsfield, Mass. City councillor Melissa Mazzeo faces incumbent Linda Tyer.
Politics & Public Policy	10/25/2019	5:50 pm	9:15	MA	TSL: Education bill passes in Mass. House; Pittsfield mayoral race; medical marijuana causing trouble for some college students; a look at Western Mass. Home prices.
Politics & Public Policy	10/28/2019	6:45am 8:45am	5:28	MA	BH In 5: October 31 deadline approaches for resolving budget differences---how will conference committee resolve the \$50 million gap? Senate President has a list of bills she wants addressed before formal session ends in November; House Speaker presses for vaping legislation.
Politics & Public Policy	10/29/2019	6:45am 8:45am	2:42	MA	The Chicopee mayoral contest is an open one, incumbent Richard Kos having announced that he will not seek another term after serving for a dozen years in two stints.
Politics & Public Policy	10/29/2019	6:45am 8:45am	2:46	MA	A look at western Massachusetts mayoral races continues...we go next to North Adams where incumbent Tom Bernard is running for re-election for the first time since taking office in 2018. Opponent Rachel Branch, a vocational school committee member, says she is trying to keep the campaign trail clean.
Politics & Public Policy	11/1/2019	6:45am 8:45am	3:21	MA	Voters in a dozen western Massachusetts communities head to the polls Tuesday. Six cities have contested mayoral races. NEPR's Sam Hudzik looks at the Springfield contest.
Politics & Public Policy	11/1/2019	6:45am 8:45am	2:29	MA	Westfield Mayor Brian Sullivan is not seeking a third term. A look at the two candidates hoping to succeed him: State Senator Don Humason and police captain Michael McCabe.

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Politics & Public Policy	11/1/20 19	5:50pm	9:40	MA	TSL: the Massachusetts vape ban's impact on the marijuana industry; mayoral campaign spending; Springfield city council candidate faces accusations of making controversial online comments; will local elections be moved to coincide with state/local elections?
Politics & Public Policy	11/6/20 19	6:21am 8:21am	6:43	MA	A multi-city roundup of yesterday's mayoral elections in Western Massachusetts.
Politics & Public Policy	11/8/20 19	5:50pm	9:33	MA	TSL: Westfield, Greenfield and Springfield election roundups; drinking alcohol at Springfield police headquarters; Rep. Neal and the east-west rail issue.
Politics & Public Policy	11/11/20 19	6:45am 8:45am	6:33	MA	BH In 5: Massachusetts will launch an online housing search tool to address the shortage of affordable housing; with a multi-week break approaching, will lawmakers make much of a dent in their pile of unfinished business?; will impeachment hearings in Washington prove a distraction on Beacon Hill?
Politics & Public Policy	11/15/20 19	5:50pm	9:23	MA	TSL: Deval Patrick runs for President; tolls and transportation woes in Connecticut; little diversity among Mass. State officials; Mass. legislators take up a menthol cigarette ban.
Politics & Public Policy	11/18/20 19	6:45am 8:45am	5:15	MA	BH In 5: Legislators consider a menthol cigarette ban; not much progress on the transportation-improvement debate, which may include a hike in the state's 24-cent-a-gallon gas tax; other business remains to be addressed on Beacon Hill before the holiday break.
Politics & Public Policy	11/22/20 19	6:45am 8:45am	3:12	MA	The city clerk of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, says she expects a recount of the mayoral race to take place next week. The recount request came from city councillor Melissa Mazzeo after she lost to incumbent Linda Tyler by more than 500 votes.

Politics & Public Policy	11/25/2019	6:45am 8:45am	5:15	MA	BH In 5: Massachusetts lawmakers wrapped up some items before Thanksgiving recess, among them a long-awaited education funding compromise and a distracted-driving bill, but the branches could not agree on a bill to close the books for the last fiscal year.
Politics & Public Policy	12/2/2019	6:45am 8:45am	3:59	MA	It costs \$725 for green card holders to apply for US citizenship. A Boston-based nonprofit helps low-income immigrants apply for fee waivers---but as of today, those waivers will be harder to obtain.
Politics & Public Policy	12/3/2019	7:50am	4:45	NH	Throughout the presidential primary campaign, voters in New Hampshire have said climate change is one of their top priorities. Candidates are emphasizing it as well, but many voters aren't reassured.
Politics & Public Policy	12/9/2019	6:45am 8:45am	5:47	MA	BH In 5: A possible hike in the state's gas tax is among several transportation issues under discussion; John Kerry endorses Joe Biden: fallout for the state Democrat party and candidates Deval Patrick and Elizabeth Warren?
Politics & Public Policy	12/16/2019	6:45 am 8:45am	5:28	MA	BH In 5: Could the media influence ballot access in Massachusetts? Some controversy surrounds the choice of a March 3 date for elections to fill state senate vacancies; The recent budget deal included \$32 million for the MBTA and focused more attention on the transportation revenue debate---will the western counties get any attention in those discussions? And will lingering House/Senate friction over the spending bill spill over into other issues?
Politics & Public Policy	12/23/2019	6:45am 8:45am	4:46	MA	BH In 5: Massachusetts income tax rates will decline in 2020 after decades of wrangling; state lawmakers will have some big issues to tackle in coming months---will sports betting be among them?

Politics & Public Policy	12/24/2019	7:51am	4:36	MA	When Roxann Wedegartner takes office January 2 as the new mayor of Greenfield, Massachusetts, it will not be as a newcomer to city government. Her planning board and school committee stints give her broad experience in economic development and education.
Public Health	11/19/2019	6:34am 8:34am	6:39	MA	A year after the first one opened, Massachusetts now has 33 recreational-use marijuana stores, with more than 200 provisional and final licenses having been issued. Facilities must be inspected periodically by Cannabis Control Commission staff.
Public Health	11/26/2019	5:44pm	3:10	MA	As part of the state casino roll-out, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health hired researchers to look at whether there's enough treatment for problem gambling in the state, and they recently presented their latest findings.
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Public Health	12/4/2019	7:51am	7:13	RI	A Rhode Island doctor's discovery that many patients arriving at an E-R by ambulance had misplaced breathing tubes has raised alarms about the state's controversial practice of allowing emergency medical technicians to perform intubations.
