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WAIC, Springfield, Massachusetts

Issues/Programs List

October 1, 2017 through December 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* 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	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Arts & Culture	10/6	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:51	MA	This weekend, Springfield's minor league hockey team will open the season on the road against the Providence Bruins. The Thunderbirds are about to start their second year in Springfield, as an affiliate of the Florida Panthers. So I sat down with Conor Ryan, a sports reporter for MassLive. He explains how crucial this season is for the team - and how they measure success.
Arts & Culture	10/12	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:55	MA	The Springfield Armory played a key role in making the rifles and other weapons used by the three and a half million American soldiers who fought in World War I. In order to supply all those weapons to the front lines a hundred years ago, thousands of Springfield-area factory workers were needed. And to keep the production up, the Armory called on its workers to "Push The Green Hand Ahead." That's also the name of the exhibit now at the Springfield Armory National Historic Site. For an explanation of what that means, I turned to curator Alex MacKenzie.
Arts & Culture	10/20	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:52	MA	Gabriel Kahane is a composer who thrives on big concepts. His last album, "The Ambassador", is a sort of history of Los Angeles told through ten of its buildings. His newest work is based on the nearly nine-thousand mile train trip he took around the country last November, starting the day after Donald Trump was elected President. Kahane has been in North Adams, Massachusetts the past two weeks working on the material. He'll perform it at Mass Moca today before its official world premiere next month. New England Public Radio's Jeremy Goodwin has more.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Arts & Culture	11/1	7:53 a.m. 5:41 p.m.	6:14	MA	After the last election, many people felt inspired to mend the country's deep divisions. So when a group of liberal activists in Leverett, Massachusetts learned that a more conservative community in Letcher County, Kentucky was open to a cultural exchange, they started to organize. New England Public Radio's Karen Brown reports on the first half of their collaboration.
Arts & Culture	11/23	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:57	MA	Thanksgiving dinner came a little early for a Somali refugee family in Massachusetts. This is the first Thanksgiving in this country for the Ahmed family that just settled in Lowell. With the help of some friends, they got into the holiday spirit. WBUR's Shannon Dooling was there for the festivities.
Arts & Culture	12/12	4:44 p.m.	3:57	NE	Feminism is not a new word, but it is Merriam Webster 2017 Word of the Year. Peter Sokolowski, who when he's not a jazz host at New England Public Radio, is Merriam Webster's editor-at-large, is here with me to discuss how the dictionary defines feminism and some of the reasons how and why it's the word of the year.
Arts & Culture	12/22	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:36	MA	Florence, Massachusetts, author and illustrator Grace Lin has been outspoken about diversity in children's books. And this year she put together a list for parents looking to expand their children's book collections. You can find that list at NEPR.net. I sat down this week with Lin, and asked her why she's so passionate about this.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Arts & Culture	12/26	7:51 a.m.	5:55	MA	Across the country in recent months, monuments to the confederacy became sites of renewed controversy and confrontation. The confederate flag sparked demonstrations in state capitals -- and Pioneer Valley schools. But not all acts of confrontation and reconciliation occur in public. In Springfield, Massachusetts, an African American woman brought Aunt Jemima into her home. Reporter Ben James takes us there.
Arts & Culture	12/28	6:36 a.m. 8:36 a.m.	4:19	MA	For the last twenty years, a cultural movement and industry based on "happiness" has gained considerable traction in the United States. Book authors, corporate consultants and motivational speakers -- who claim to understand the secrets of happiness -- often show up in TED talks. A new book by Smith College historian Daniel Horowitz -- called "Happier?" -- chronicles the rise of this field, known as "positive psychology". Horowitz tells me it's a mix of neuroscience, eastern religion, evolutionary biology and behavioral economics.
Community Voices	10/5	6:47 a.m. 8:47 a.m.	2:16	CT	Words wield power, says author and commentator Lucy Ferriss. In discussions about recent episodes of extreme weather, the world "resilience" has suddenly taken on a life of its own and she's not down with it.
Community Voices	10/11	6:47 a.m. 8:47 a.m.	2:16	MA	The Doctor Seuss Museum in Springfield has acknowledged a change is needed, as pressure mounted for it to deal with the author's mixed record on issues of race and prejudice. Children's book author and illustrator Grace Lin has a suggestion for what that change should look like.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Community Voices	10/18	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	2:19	MA	Poet Richard Wilbur died Saturday at age 96. For many years, he lived in Western Massachusetts, and taught at Amherst College, his alma mater. Commentator Martha Ackmann remembers teaching one of her favorite Wilbur poems.
Community Voices	10/24	7:54 a.m.	2:23	MA	This time of year, we start to feel a longing for light. While we're pulling out the heavier coats, some feel an inner darkness arising. Commentator Bruce Watson says there's an ancient reason for that.
Community Voices	10/31	7:56 a.m.	2:19	CT	Foraging for food is as old as mankind. As agriculture gradually took over, it became less and less necessary. But for commentator Connie Borodenko, this old quest is in her blood, passed on for generations -- an enjoyable pastime, with tasty rewards.
Community Voices	11/1 11/2	5:39 p.m. 7:56 a.m.	2:09	CT	The World Series wraps up tonight with Game 7. It's caught the attention of baseball fans from LA to Houston and, even Hartford. Connecticut's capitol city celebrated minor league baseball's return this past spring. Commentator and Hartford resident Jamil Ragland says there're dozens of other projects more worthy of public money. So really enjoying himself at a game gave him pause. Briefly.
Community Voices	11/16	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	1:57	CT	When commentator Erin Valentino realized she was a lesbian, she quickly became outspoken about it, even though it was hard at times. She says it was as though her very existence depended on letting people know. Valentino is far more conflicted...about talking openly about an illness she's been living with for over a decade.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Community Voices	11/21 11/22	5:55 p.m. 7:56 a.m.	2:14	MA	When a baby's on the way, parents often have pre-conceived notions and hopes about who that baby will be. Commentator - - and midwife -- Evelyn Resh is concerned about those expectations. Especially ones about the baby's gender.
Community Voices	12/4 12/5	4:53 p.m. 7:37 a.m.	2:25	CT	As a nation, we are currently shining the spotlight on sexual abuse of adult women. Commentator Susan Campbell says this is also the golden hour to examine why sexual abuse of children is so routine. And why, when those crimes come to light, some people still attack the victims.
Community Voices	12/14	6:25 a.m. 8:25 a.m.	2:21	CT	Commentator Julia Pistell recently set out to write her grandfather's obituary. He had died peacefully, his family by his side, about two weeks earlier. But Pistell's writing plans were majorly interrupted.
Community Voices	12/19	7:55 a.m.	2:23	MA	For years, there's been controversy about political correctness and Christmas. But in the childhood home of commentator Julia Cafritz, the controversy was not about Christmas. It was about the tree.
Economic Development	11/10	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:50	MA	Worcester is sharpening its bid to lure the Pawtucket Red Sox to Central Massachusetts. The Paw-Sox are the triple-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox. The Telegram and Gazette newspaper reports nearly 20 other locations have also pitched redevelopment proposals to the team. But there are some Rhode Islanders who want to keep them in the Ocean State. Ian Donniss has been covering all this for Rhode Island Public Radio. I asked him why the Paw-Sox are considering a move.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Economic Development	11/24	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	7:28	NH	Think bagpipes, and you likely think: Scotland. But one of the world's largest bagpipe manufacturers happens to call New England home. As New Hampshire Public Radio's Todd Bookman reports, the company is facing an unexpected, "wee" kink in its international supply chain.
Economic Development	12/21	7:51 a.m.	3:59 3:35	MA	As the Christmas shopping season winds down, economists will be taking stock of the country's retail health. A report by Credit Suisse projected that more than 8000 brick-and-mortar stores would close in 2017 -- that's even more than during the recent financial crisis -- with suburban malls taking the biggest hits. New England Public Radio's Karen Brown spent time in Northampton, Massachusetts, to see how one quintessential New England main street is faring.
Energy/ Environment	10/4	7:51 a.m.	6:32	VT	Vermont regulators and anti-nuclear activists are unified against the latest plan for the decommissioning of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in Vernon. To catch us up on the current plan to turn much of the site into rubble, we turn to reporter Mike Faher who has been covering this story for VT Digger.
Energy/ Environment	10/17	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	4:06	MA	New England electricity consumers paid billions of dollars more than necessary over a three-year period, according to a national environmental group. Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healy says she is "reviewing" the report. But, as the New England News Collaborative's Fred Bever reports, one utility named in the report is calling it an outright fabrication.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Energy/ Environment	10/18	6:36 a.m. 8:36 a.m.	3:59	CT	Since Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico last month, the island has been working to reconnect basic infrastructure. Meanwhile, many New England residents with ties to the island have been working just as hard to reconnect broken family ties. WNPR's Jeff Cohen is in Puerto Rico, and he has this story of one man's effort to bring his children home to Hartford.
Energy/ Environment	10/19 10/20	5:53 p.m. 7:53 a.m.	5:15 4:44	ME	Deadly, fast-moving wildfires in Northern California have been burning for days now. Seventy years ago, on the East Coast this same time of year, wildfires burned over hundreds of miles in Maine, wiping out towns and forever changing the landscape. New England Public Radio's Jill Kaufman reports.
Energy/ Environment	10/24	5:51 a.m. 7:51 a.m.	3:26	NE	Pine forests in New England could soon be at the mercy of an incredibly destructive insect. As WNPR's Patrick Skahill reports, the Southern Pine Beetle is making its way north. And a new study says climate change could speed up its migration.
Energy/ Environment	10/31	5:53 a.m. 7:53 a.m.	2:38	CT	Oily and smelly -- Atlantic menhaden are one of the least sexy fish imaginable. But this humble fish -- also called "bunker" or "pogie" -- has deep roots off the coast of New England. It's believed Native Americans taught the pilgrims to fertilize their crops with the fish. And for decades, millions of tons of menhaden were pulled out of the ocean. Now, there's a movement to preserve this vital species. Not just for the fishermen who catch it...but for animals that eat it. WNPR's Patrick Skahill met up with some fishermen in Long Island Sound to learn more.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Energy/ Environment	11/14	6:47 a.m. 8:47 a.m.	1:36	CT	It's breeding time for deer in New England. And as WNPR's Patrick Skahill reports, that means biologists and hunters in Connecticut are paying close attention to two things -- car collisions and acorns.
Energy/ Environment	11/21 11/22	5:50 p.m. 7:51 a.m.	4:48	NE	There is an "Elm Street" in almost every city in America, but not many surviving elm trees. In the mid-20th Century -- Dutch Elm Disease killed off millions of the species -- many were old established trees. Towns and forests were notably changed. As New England Public Radio's Jill Kaufman reports, decades later, new invasive pests and disease are killing off other species of trees. Watching this, ecologists have been engineering a comeback for the American elm.
Energy/ Environment	11/22	4:54 p.m.	4:08	CT	Old Wethersfield might be best known as the site of the first European settlement in Connecticut...but a new resident has been stealing the limelight. His name is Kevin and he...is a wild turkey. WNPR's David Desroches brings us a story about a bird that first brought a town together, but now has it divided.
Energy/ Environment	12/14	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	3:55	CT	It's been five years to the day since the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut. Catherine Violet Hubbard was one of 20 children killed, along with six educators. Her family has spent the past three years planning an animal sanctuary in her memory. WSHU's Davis Dunavin visited the land in Newton that will serve as the grounds for the sanctuary.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Energy/ Environment	12/19	7:50 a.m.	5:00	NH	There's fresh powder across New England, after the first few snowfalls of the season, and skiers are hitting the slopes. In New Hampshire, one man recently stumbled across an appropriately timed, ski-season mystery in the remains of an old, falling down house. NHPR's Britta Greene went to investigate and has this report.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/2	5:44 p.m.	3:32	MA	Justices of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court are reviewing some complex questions about how courts deal with addiction. WBUR's Deborah Becker reports on arguments today about whether courts can require someone with a substance abuse disorder...to remain drug-free.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/13	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	6:30	VT	US Border Patrol agents are dedicated to protecting the border 24 hours a day...monitoring for things like drug smuggling and human trafficking. But their jurisdiction also extends significantly inland. Within 100 miles of the border and the coastline they have broad authority to stop cars for immigration questions. And civil rights advocates say they're concerned about recent stops in Northern New England. Vermont Public Radio's Kathleen Masterson recently went on a ride-along with the border patrol.

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Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/18	7:51 a.m.	6:51	NH	There's a doctor in New London, New Hampshire who ended her decades-long practice this past Friday. She's nearly 85 but her retirement is not voluntary. She says she was forced to shut down by a system that no longer values the type of patient-centered medicine that she practices. But the New Hampshire Board of Medicine has a different take. They challenged her medical decision-making and other aspects of her work. NHPR's Britta Greene reports.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/19	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:28	MA	In her day job, Chicopee, Massachusetts attorney Tahirah Amatul Wadud does family law -- divorce, custody, child support. But on her own time, she's filed civil rights lawsuits on behalf of Muslim communities who feel threatened, especially African-American Muslims like herself. In recent years, as the rhetoric against Muslims has intensified, so has Wadud's activism. She's on the Board of the Council on American-Islamic relations and the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. Wadud -- a mother of seven -- told me she used to want people to see her as a lawyer first.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/19 10/20	5:50 p.m. 7:51 a.m.	2:02	MA	There could be far-reaching consequences now that prosecutors have dropped charges against a Western Massachusetts man who spent 30 years in prison for a rape he says he did not commit. New England Public Radio's Karen Brown reports.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/24	4:44 p.m.	3:10	MA	Two investigations are underway involving a Massachusetts court judge accused of sexual harassment. Judge Thomas Estes of Northampton was until recently the presiding justice of the Eastern Hampshire District Court in Belchertown. He also supervised a drug court program in Pittsfield. But in August, Estes was reassigned to administrative duties with the Holyoke District Court. The trial court is not directly connecting Estes' reassignment to a sexual harassment complaint filed with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. But Berkshire Eagle Investigative Editor Larry Parnass says the move follows allegations from a former worker at the Pittsfield Drug Court, with whom Estes had an affair.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/27	7:53 a.m.	5:40	MA	A hearing is scheduled next week in a Pittsfield courtroom over the Berkshire Museum's plan to sell off 40 pieces of art in order to fund renovations and boost its endowment. Two of the works were donated by the late Norman Rockwell when he lived in the Berkshires decades ago. Two lawsuits -- one involving some of Rockwell's children -- have been filed to stop the auction. But museum officials say it needs the money to survive. New England Public Radio's Adam Frenier reports.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Justice, Law & Public Safety	11/1	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	5:53	MA	<p>Leaders in the Massachusetts legislature are reviewing their policies toward sexual harassment after a Boston Globe column last week. It detailed claims by a dozen anonymous activists, staffers, lobbyists and legislators. House Speaker Bob DeLeo ordered his top lawyer to come back with a report by March. And Senate President Stan Rosenberg said a group of female senators met this week with his leadership team. Rosenberg is from Amherst -- as is former State Representative Ellen Story, who retired from the legislature in January. I met with Story this week, at her home, to discuss the allegations and her own experiences on Beacon Hill. Story explained to me that she herself was never sexually harassed.</p>
Justice, Law & Public Safety	11/8 11/9	4:44 p.m. 7:51 a.m.	3:59 3:07	MA	<p>A budget bill signed into law last week could open up jobs in the casino industry for thousands of Massachusetts residents who've had trouble with the law. The bill amends a section of the original casino law that sought to prevent any criminal connection to the state's new industry. It disqualified any individual with Cori, or criminal record, from working at a casino. But it also banned those with criminal histories from working in non-gaming jobs, such as in hotels, restaurants or stores. Steve Crosby is chairman of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. He tells me the amended law allows casinos, like MGM Springfield, to conduct their own background checks. And he says it gives the commission sole discretion to determine which jobs would be open to people with records.</p>

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Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Justice, Law & Public Safety	11/13 11/14	4:50 p.m. 7:52 a.m.	8:08 7:47	NH	This fall, the US Supreme Court will hear arguments in a free speech case out of Colorado, where a baker refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple. The baker's attorney says they're resting their argument on a precedent set decades ago in New Hampshire. NHPR's Lauren Chooljian has the story.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	11/16	6:47 a.m. 8:47 a.m.	2:18	MA	Berkshire Museum lawyers are asking the state appeals court to quickly decide whether it can auction off parts of its art collection -- including two paintings by Norman Rockwell. The court last week issued an injunction, halting the sale. One big question now -- Will the delay affect how much the art gets at auction...if there is one? New England Public Radio's Adam Frenier reports.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	11/27	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:57	NE	In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, hundreds of families from Puerto Rico have sought refuge with their relatives in New England. But as many displaced Puerto Ricans consider long-term residency on the mainland, finding housing can be a challenge. WNPR's Ryan Caron King reports.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	11/30	6:36 a.m. 8:36 a.m.	3:50	NE	In recent weeks, we've seen gunmen target churches in Texas and California. These deadly incidents at houses of worship have sparked a conversation about church security among clergy in New England. We get that story from New England Public Radio's Sean Teehan.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Justice, Law & Public Safety	12/6	6:35 a.m. 8:35 a.m.	4:18	NY	The Trump administration has ended a temporary residency program for almost 60-thousand Haitians allowed to legally enter the US following an earthquake in 2010. The Haitians will have to leave the US by 2019. The program has also ended for two thousand Nicaraguans and it's unclear if other groups will be allowed to remain. That's led to a continued flow of people crossing the border into Canada by foot. They take advantage of a Canadian law that says foot-crossers won't be turned back until their case is heard. The story from Lorne Matalon on the New York-Quebec border.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	12/12	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:59	CT	This week marks five years since the murders at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. 20 first graders and six adults were gunned down. Following the massacre, the state enacted some of the toughest gun laws in the nation. WNPR's Lori Mack reports on the impact these laws have had.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	12/29	7:35 a.m.	4:59	MA	One Massachusetts police officer has made it his mission to root out identity thieves -- what he calls "imposters". Saugus police officer James Scott created the so-called "impostor training" in 2011 and since then, he says he's trained nearly 1,000 law enforcement officials in New England. But some worry the training may be a ruse for racial profiling. WBUR's Shannon Dooling was at a recent session at the Bristol County House of Corrections and has this story.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Politics/ Public Policy	10/2	6:45 p.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:00	MA	A week after Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker announced he was courting the massive Amazon headquarters to come to Massachusetts, the joint committee on labor and workforce development will be addressing issues that could affect the giant retailer. One piece of legislation would require e-commerce warehouses and fulfillment centers to pay time-and-a-half on Sunday, just like brick and mortar retailers pay. Timing is everything...as we do most Mondays we turn to State House News Service reporter Matt Murphy, if this measure will scare Amazon away?
Politics/ Public Policy	10/5	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:02	MA	The Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission yesterday kicked off a listening tour in Holyoke. As New England Public Radio's Sean Teehan reports, people there advocated for everything from strict controls to lenient oversight.
Politics/ Public Policy	10/6	5:50 p.m.	8:00	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Banning bump stocks and other gun law moves, prosecutor declines to prosecute over noose at Amherst College, luring amazing to the region, MassDot fumbling new inspection system

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Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Politics/ Public Policy	10/9	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:57	MA	After the mass shooting in Las Vegas last week, some lawmakers began to push to restrict a modification device for rifles called a bump stock. It allows semi-automatic weapons to act like automatic ones. A number of bump stocks were found in the hotel room with the shooter who killed 58 people and wounded hundreds more. In Massachusetts, Governor Charlie Baker said he'd sign a bill banning bump stocks...and even gun rights advocates support some new restrictions. For an update, we check in -- as we do most Mondays -- with Matt Murphy of the State House News Service.
Politics/ Public Policy	10/13	5:50 p.m.	7:54	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Seuss controversy, Holyoke High mural and free speech/social media, Berkshire State House District special elec
Politics/ Public Policy	10/16	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:20	MA	Before the end of the month, leaders in the Massachusetts' senate are hoping to pass sweeping changes to the state's criminal justice laws. Senate Democrats held a rally for the bill last week...just a couple days after Governor Charlie Baker, a Republican, said parts of the legislation concern him. For more on this, we turn to Matt Murphy of the State House News Service, who joins us most Monday mornings. Matt tells New England Public Radio's Sam Hudzik the senate bill proposal goes into some uncomfortable areas for Baker.
Politics/ Public Policy	10/17	6:37 a.m. 8:37 a.m.	2:23	MA	A Western Massachusetts business owner faces a boycott of his stores after attending an event with President Trump last week. But he says he's being unfairly targeted. New England Public Radio's Alden Bourne reports.

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Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Politics/ Public Policy	10/20	5:50 p.m.	8:04	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Amherst Church immigration sanctuary, Berkshire art sale controversy, pet store owner's Trump regrets, cities aim for Amazon.
Politics/ Public Policy	10/23	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:18	MA	Tomorrow on Beacon Hill, lawmakers will hear from western Massachusetts residents who say the region needs to be connected to Boston and Worcester by high-speed rail. State Senator Eric Lesser has been trying to get the state to study such a proposal -- but he keeps coming up short. As we do most Mondays, we turn now to Statehouse reporter Matt Murphy. He tells New England Public Radio's Sam Hudzik that Lesser's bill has an interesting history in the legislature.
Politics/ Public Policy	10/26	6:45 a.m.	4:05	MA	The Massachusetts Senate today begins debate on a wide-ranging criminal justice bill. The Senate's plan would get rid of some mandatory minimum sentences, try to reduce the use of solitary confinement...and make it easier for defendants to pay bail. Some criminal justice advocates say the bill does not go far enough to overhaul the system. And some prosecutors say it goes too far. I talked with the Senate Chair of the Judiciary Committee...William Brownsberger, the bill's sponsor. While Massachusetts has one of the lowest incarceration rates in the country -- Brownsberger says the Bay State also has some troubling criminal justice numbers.
Politics/ Public Policy	10/27	7:51 a.m.	1:32	CT	Connecticut is no longer without a budget. State lawmakers yesterday finally passed a long overdue bipartisan state budget compromise with veto-proof margins in both houses of the general assembly. WSHU's Ebong Udoma reports.

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Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Politics/ Public Policy	10/27	5:50 p.m.	7:44	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Criminal justice bill passes Senate, Kentucky-Leverett political exchange, municipal elections, leaf peeping.
Politics/ Public Policy	10/30	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:56	MA	Lawmakers have no shortage of issues to tackle -- including how to respond to President Trump's decision to eliminate some health insurance subsidies. For more on that, we turn to Statehouse reporter Matt Murphy. Matt tells me Governor Charlie Baker has a plan.
Politics/ Public Policy	11/1	7:51 a.m.	1:32	CT	It's finally over. Four months into the new fiscal year -- Connecticut finally has a budget. Governor Dannel Malloy yesterday signed the bipartisan agreement passed by the state legislature last week. WSHU's Ebong Udoma reports.
Politics/ Public Policy	11/2	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:52	MA	On Tuesday, incumbent mayors in two Western Massachusetts cities will try to hold on to their jobs. We begin our coverage in Northampton, where candidates agree on most of the big issues -- from the harm of casinos to the value of being a sanctuary city -- but not many of the little issues. New England Public Radio's Karen Brown reports.
Politics/ Public Policy	11/3	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	6:38	MA	Yesterday we heard reports from a pair of western Massachusetts cities in which incumbent mayors face challengers in next Tuesday's election. Today, we're going to learn about three cities in the region with open races. The current mayors in Agawam, Easthampton and North Adams are not seeking re-election. In North Adams, that means the city will elect just its third mayor since 1984. That's where New England Public Radio's Adam Frenier begins our coverage.

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Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Politics/ Public Policy	11/3	5:50 p.m.	7:52	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Sexual harassment at the statehouse, police and security cameras, late state budgets, Berkshire art in court.
Politics/ Public Policy	11/6	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:33	MA	Today, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker returns to Beacon Hill from a vacation and lawmakers begin a countdown to the last day of their formal sessions in 2017. There are a number of measures hanging in the balance. As we do most Mondays, we turn to State House News Service reporter Matt Murphy. He says the legislature is scheduled to adjourn in just over a week, on November 15th.
Politics/ Public Policy	11/9	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:33	MA	Tens of thousands of people have left Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. One of the prime destinations is Holyoke, Massachusetts, where a non-profit is connecting Puerto Ricans with government services. WBUR's Simon Rios introduces us to one young family is trying to get its feet on the ground.
Politics/ Public Policy	11/10	5:50 p.m.	7:46	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Local mayoral election results, length of mayoral terms, militarized police, casino customers study, Dunkin' name change.
Politics/ Public Policy	11/13	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:38	MA	The Massachusetts Senate has already checked a criminal justice overhaul off its to-do list. And last week, the State House checked off a measure guaranteeing free birth control. But there's a lot left to do...with legislative deadlines looming. As we do most Mondays, we check in with State House News Service reporter Matt Murphy. Matt tells me the pressure is on for lawmakers to wrap things up.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Politics/ Public Policy	11/14	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:02	MA	Marijuana regulators in Massachusetts are trying to find a balance between getting pot stores open by next summer...and making sure all residents have a chance to get involved in the industry. That was the message during a meeting of a state advisory committee last night in Springfield. New England Public Radio's Sean Teehan reports. .
Politics/ Public Policy	11/17	5:50 p.m.	7:48	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Mass criminal justice debate, new state police head, local response to Puerto Rico
Politics/ Public Policy	11/20	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:15	MA	Massachusetts lawmakers have their work cut out for them as they try to negotiate a final criminal justice bill. Many months of writing and debate wrapped up last week as the state house passed its version of the bill. Leaders will now have to reconcile that bill with one passed last month by the Senate. As we do most Mondays, we're joined by Matt Murphy from the State House News Service. New England Public Radio's Sam Hudzik asked Matt to explain the differences between the criminal justice bills.
Politics/ Public Policy	11/21	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:03	MA	This Thanksgiving, when scooping ice cream on top of warm apple pie, some Massachusetts lawmakers' thoughts might turn to tax credits for dairy farmers. They would be expanded under a measure under consideration in the legislature. Given the state's fiscal situation, it isn't expected to become a law anytime soon. But with milk prices down, I headed to Hatfield, Massachusetts to check in with Lucinda and Darryl Williams at Luther Belden Farm -- which was founded about 350 years ago.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Politics/ Public Policy	11/29	6:36 a.m. 8:36 a.m.	3:41	MA	Speaking in Boston last night, former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton slammed the Republican tax plan moving through the Senate. Clinton was in town to talk about her book, <i>What Happened</i> , about the 2016 election that ended her political career and put Donald Trump in the White House. WBUR's Anthony Brooks has our story.
Politics/ Public Policy	12/1	5:46 p.m.	8:33	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Rosenberg's husband/sexual assault/Personal firewall, state drug lab scandal/Law enforcement, panhandling in Holyoke/Charitable giving
Politics/ Public Policy	12/8	5:45 p.m.	9:17	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Rosenberg's temporary stepdown, troubles at DCF, Berkshire art legal fight, voter turnout in Spfld
Politics/ Public Policy	12/11	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	3:50	MA	It's been quite a few weeks for the Massachusetts Senate. Last Friday, former state Senator Brian Joyce pleaded not guilty to charges that he used his Senate office to collect up to one million dollars in bribes and kickbacks. That went down while the senate was dealing with some internal confusion. A week ago, Amherst Democrat Stan Rosenberg temporarily resigned the senate presidency during an ethics investigation. His husband, Byron Hefner, is accused of sexual assault and harassment by four men, who also told the Boston Globe that Hefner promised he could influence legislative business. For an update on the situation, NEPR's Carrie Healy talked with State House News Service reporter Matt Murphy. Matt says, for the time being, Harriette Chandler of Worcester is the acting senate president.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Politics/ Public Policy	12/11	6:35 a.m. 8:35 a.m.	1:44	MA	Springfield congressman Richie Neal is one of five house democrats on the conference committee that's expected to iron out a final tax bill. Neal has sharply criticized many of the GOP's proposals. And like most members of congress, he's refused to release his tax returns. So we don't get to see how the legislation would benefit -- or hurt -- him personally. New England Public Radio's Sam Hudzik has more.
Politics/ Public Policy	12/15	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:06	VT	When a local sheriff in northern Vermont pulled over two Mexican farm workers last August for a traffic violation. He immediately called for the US Border Patrol. The two men will soon be deported. And immigrant rights advocates say more detentions and deportations are likely under a new Vermont policy that governs cooperation between state and federal law enforcement. Fueling the debate is body cam video of the August traffic stop, as John Dillon from Vermont Public Radio reports.
Politics/ Public Policy	12/15	5:53 p.m.	8:14	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission, Beacon Hill canceled chambers' holiday party, Berkshire County single county school district proposal, Massachusetts eggs and meats lawsuit
Politics/ Public Policy	12/18	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:20	MA	On most Mondays, we check in with State House News Service reporter Matt Murphy about the week ahead on Beacon Hill. But as we near the end of the year, I asked him for an update on the major issues the legislature faced in 2017. First up...criminal justice.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Politics/ Public Policy	12/22	5:50 p.m.	7:54	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Year in review -- Economic development, heroin epidemic, racial bias in journalism, voter turnout, Seuss museum, MGM casino troubles, trains to New Haven
Politics/ Public Policy	12/27	5:50 p.m.	7:15	MA	The new year will bring new mayors to three cities in western Massachusetts: Agawam, Easthampton and North Adams. In North Adams, Tom Bernard will replace Dick Alcombright, who decided not to run for re-election after eight years in office. I recently sat down with Alcombright and asked what he saw as his main accomplishments -- while mayor of Berkshire County's second largest community.
Public Health	10/11	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	1:48	CT	A potential new treatment for Alzheimer's disease is being tested on human patients for the first time. The idea, which has close ties to Connecticut, is different from every approach currently on the market for this still-incurable disease. WNPR's Harriet Jones reports.
Public Health	10/25	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:41	NE	Getting back to normal in Puerto Rico isn't easy. And even when there are volunteers willing to help the neediest people in the most remote areas, coordination and logistics can get in the way. WNPR's Jeff Cohen has this story about one group's effort to bring health services to a small town and the challenges they faced.
Public Health	11/1	5:36 p.m.	3:14	MA	The Massachusetts Health Connector website went live today for the hundreds of thousands of residents expected to shop for health insurance. But after a year packed with pledges to repeal the Affordable Care Act and recent funding cuts, what's left for many people is a lot of confusion. WBUR's Martha Bebinger tries to clear it up.

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

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Public Health	11/2	7:51 a.m.	3:48	NE	For immigrants in the country illegally, the fear of running into federal immigration agents has made some public places appear threatening. In the current environment, that can include a visit to the Emergency Room. For that reason -- a recent opinion piece in the Journal of the American Medical Association called for the establishment of so-called "sanctuary hospital" policies. But some New England health care providers say they only have so much power. WBUR's Shannon Dooling has our story.
Public Health	12/5	7:35 a.m.	1:54	CT	Connecticut is calculating the potential impact of the new mega-merger announced by health insurer Aetna and pharmacy chain CVS. WNPR's Harriet Jones reports.
Science	11/6 11/7	4:50 p.m. 7:51 a.m.	7:29	MA	Academics in Amherst, Massachusetts jumped on an unusual source of scientific...and existential...investigation -- a brainless amoeba known as slime mold. This fall, Hampshire College launched what it calls the first "Institute for Non-Human Scholars" and the organizers insist it's more than a gimmick. New England Public Radio's Karen Brown produced this story.
Science	11/29	7:22 a.m.	6:46	MA	Just what makes someone appear female? A transgender woman from Melrose, Massachusetts has spent 20 years and thousands of dollars trying to figure that out. Now at 71, Tami Goodhue is close to matching the way she looks with the way she feels inside. But taking the next step places her smack in the middle of a controversy about what it means to make a medical gender transition. WBUR's Martha Bebinger picks up the story.