

WAIC, Springfield, Massachusetts

Issues/Programs List

April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.

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.

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	4/15/2022	6:34am 8:34am	7:08	MA	The Barre, Massachusetts Museum Association voted this week to start the process of returning objects that once belonged to indigenous people. The vote comes after native leaders from South Dakota visited the museum to lay claim to their ancestors' belongings.
Arts & Culture	5/3/2022	4:50pm	3:24	NH	A new exhibition at the Currier Museum in New Hampshire features vivid, dreamlike paintings and sculptures by an Iranian artist now based in Connecticut. It's her first solo museum show, and a major honor.
Arts & Culture	5/4/2022	7:45am	3:24	NH	A new exhibition at the Currier Museum in New Hampshire features vivid, dreamlike paintings and sculptures by an Iranian artist now based in Connecticut. It's her first solo museum show, and a major honor.
Arts & Culture	5/13/2022	6:45am 8:45am	3:58	MA	A photo can tell quite a story, and for the photographer it's a way to talk about something without words. Photos can even be used as a way to do community development. As NEPM's Jill Kaufman reports, one college student recently set out to get a photo project going in western Massachusetts---in a city she was surprised she didn't know much about.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Arts & Culture	5/31/2022	8:34am	8:07	MA	For some artists, the murder of George Floyd by a police officer two years ago this month---and the ensuing protests---have been sources for paintings and writings. But racial injustice in the US has long provided an unwanted artistic inspiration.
Arts & Culture	6/2/2022	6:34am 8:34am	5:33	MA	The NBA finals begin tonight as the Boston Celtics play the Golden State Warriors in San Francisco. It's the Celtics' first trip to the finals since 2010. Reporter Brian Robb, who covers the Celtics for MassLive, offers a preview.
Arts & Culture	6/3/2022	4:44pm	4:33	MA	The Springfield Thunderbirds continue their run in the American Hockey League playoffs tomorrow night, hosting the Laval Rocket in the Eastern Conference finals. It's not bad for a franchise making its first playoff appearance, and a city that nearly lost professional hockey in 2016.
Arts & Culture	6/7/2022	6:34am 8:34am	8:21	MA	The covid pandemic has rewritten the rules for so many industries that rely on people gathering in public. That includes musicians who perform live---and have had to reconsider how to make a living. NEPM's Karen Brown spoke with three performers based in western Massachusetts about what has changed---and where to go from here.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Arts & Culture	6/9/2022	4:50pm	8:48	MA	This weekend in Florence, Massachusetts, a premiere concert performance will be held featuring music composed by jazz saxophonist Tiyo Attalah Salah-El. Tiyo---born David Riley Jones---was also an author, scholar, and activist who died in Pennsylvania prison in June 2018 at age 85, after serving nearly 50 years of a life sentence for a murder he always denied.
Arts & Culture	6/10/2022	7:34am	8:48	MA	This weekend in Florence, Massachusetts, a premiere concert performance will be held featuring music composed by jazz saxophonist Tiyo Attalah Salah-El. Tiyo---born David Riley Jones---was also an author, scholar, and activist who died in Pennsylvania prison in June 2018 at age 85, after serving nearly 50 years of a life sentence for a murder he always denied.
Arts & Culture	6/23/2022	5:21am 7:50am	4:05	CT	A Vietnamese Catholic priest wanted to help Connecticut's Asian community find comfort through familiar foods and music. So he decided to recreate Asian night markets on weekends throughout the summer. CPR's Catherine Shen was at opening night in West Hartford.
Community Voices	4/1/2022	6:45am 8:45am	4:35	MA	Massachusetts could soon become the latest state to ban hair discrimination. Slightly different proposals have unanimously passed both the house and senate. NEPM's Nirvani Williams spoke with black residents in Springfield about the legislation and what it means for the community.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Community Voices	4/19/2022	6:45am 8:45am	6:03	MA	Many people gathered in person for Easter this year, some for the first time since 2019. Passover and Ramadan meals continue too. But not everyone is able to attend, including Jacob Speaks, who again this year is using a video platform to take part in Passover seders. A spinal cord disease means Speaks spend most of his time lying down. NEPM's Jill Kaufman asked him about the implications of this holiday and other events and meetings returning to an in-person basis.
Community Voices	5/12/2022	6:34am 8:34am	7:58	MA	Some states are moving to restrict the rights of LGBTQ people, including in sports, education, and health care. But many transgender people have already felt poorly served by mainstream medicine, even in relatively liberal states. Some providers in western Massachusetts have begun to focus on the population, including one clinic that almost exclusively serves transgender patients.
Community Voices	5/24/2022	4:50pm	8:03	MA	In the late spring of 2020, many racial-justice protests were organized around the country---including in western Massachusetts---after a Minneapolis police officer murdered George Floyd. Protest organizers spent a lot of time and energy bringing people together to voice their anger and frustrations. NEPM's Nirvani Williams followed up with some organizers two years later, for their views on what's been accomplished and what hasn't.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Community Voices	5/25/2022	7:34am	8:03	MA	In the late spring of 2020, many racial-justice protests were organized around the country---including in western Massachusetts---after a Minneapolis police officer murdered George Floyd. Protest organizers spent a lot of time and energy bringing people together to voice their anger and frustrations. NEPM's Nirvani Williams followed up with some organizers two years later, for their views on what's been accomplished and what hasn't.
Community Voices	6/2/2022	6:34am 8:34am	2:48	MA	Long before basketball superstars were defined by their sneaker preferences, one player was best known for the size of his feet. Commentator Robert Chipkin takes a look back at his childhood and recalls his serious case of foot envy.
Community Voices	6/6/2022	5:45am 7:45am	3:20	MA	Springfield, Mass.' first pride parade was this weekend. Organizers say they pitched the idea to the city two years ago but the pandemic intervened.
Community Voices	6/9/2022	6:20am 8:20am	2:39	MA	Judy Garland would have turned 100 this Friday, had she lived. Garland died of a barbiturate overdose at the age of 47. Commentator Tinky Weisblat saw The Wizard Of Oz when she was a little girl, and has adored Garland ever since.
Community Voices	6/15/2022	6:34am 8:34am	2:32	MA	One of commentator Mac Godinez' first jobs was behind the counter at a burger joint. He was sixteen at the time and already wondering about what kind of future he could have if he lived life as the transgender person he knew himself to be.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Community Voices	6/23/2022	5:21am 7:50am	2:43	MA	Today marks the 50th anniversary of Title IX, federal legislation that requires gender equity in education, including sports. Commentator Martha Ackmann reflects on the legacy of that landmark ruling---and one woman who changed the game.
Economic Development	4/28/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:52	MA	In 2019, online furniture giant Wayfair opened a call center in Berkshire County and benefited from \$31 million in state tax credits with the aim of creating 3300 jobs. But Wayfair has not hired nearly enough people in western Massachusetts to fulfill its promise. Greg Ryan of the Boston Business Journal says the company may be held accountable for missing its hiring targets.
Economic Development	5/24/2022	6:21am 8:21am	7:03	MA	People trying to buy a house in Massachusetts face increasing competition from corporations paying cash. Corporate purchases of single-family homes are helping to drive up home prices and rents across the state. Ten percent of single family homes sold last year were bought by corporations, nearly double the rate of a decade ago.
Economic Development	6/28/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:38	MA	Western Massachusetts is home to acres of farmland and vegetable stands---as well as many neighborhoods that are considered "food deserts." As food prices rise, government programs are supporting efforts to offer more affordable, healthy food, including at one longtime grocery store in Chicopee. The new owners have made it a mission to become a fresh-food resource, against considerable odds.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Education	4/4/2022	5:45am 7:45am	6:51	MA	Contract mediation continues for the Springfield Public Schools and the union representing its paraprofessionals---the instructional assistants, health aides, nurses and physical therapists. Among the lowest paid are paras who teach.
Education	4/29/2022	4:50pm	5:03	MA	A heated controversy continues in Easthampton, Massachusetts, over remarks made by Mayor Nicole LaChappelle to a group of high school students. While offering advice for a class on public speaking, LaChappelle was heard commenting to one student, "You don't talk like a white person." She has repeatedly apologized for the remarks. Reporter Emily Thurlow has followed the story for the Daily Hampshire Gazette and she spoke with NEPM's Adam Frenier.
Education	5/11/2022	6:45am 8:45am	2:39	MA	At least two school districts in western Massachusetts have reinstated mask mandates in light of increasing covid rates, and some parents are angry about it.
Education	5/11/2022	6:45am 8:45am	3:19	MA	A UMass-Amherst survey finds that 26 percent of black students report feeling like they do not belong on campus, compared to 8 percent of white students. Just a few days after the results were made public, some black students received a racist email, highlighting issues raised in the survey.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Education	5/17/2022	5:44pm	4:44	MA	School district takeovers by a state---or receivership--- haven't worked, according to an analysis of data by the Boston Globe, examining districts in Massachusetts where the state manages schools. The study looked at test scores, graduation rates, and college enrollment across the districts already in receivership: Holyoke, Lawrence, and Southbridge.
Energy & Environment	5/19/2022	6:21am 8:21am	6:18	MA	River fishing has been a documented part of indigenous and European traditions in New England for centuries, providing an important source of food and commerce. In his new book, "Managing The River Commons," historian Erik Reardon explains how the protection of migratory fish on rivers such as the Connecticut has been a longstanding effort.
Energy & Environment	6/1/2022	6:34am 8:34am	7:55	MA	This time of year, wildlife officials advise the public that if you see a baby wild animal, let it be---its mother is likely nearby. But there are instances when animals are orphaned and wildlife rehabilitators raise them. As NEPM's Nancy Cohen reports, that's the case with a bear cub whose mother and siblings were killed in western Massachusetts.
Energy & Environment	6/9/2022	6:20am 8:20am	3:34	CT	Removing dams from rivers can help restore migration routes for many fish that return from the ocean to fresh water to spawn. Connecticut Public Radios' Patrick Skahill and a biologist waded into a river, upstream from a recently removed dam, and looked for migrating fish.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Energy & Environment	6/15/2022	6:34am 8:34am	6:21	MA	You've probably noticed that your mornings have gotten louder---as migrating birds make their way back to New England after wintering as far south as the tip of South America. Ornithologists call that morning blast of birdsong "the dawn chorus." But that chorus is getting quieter. A landmark study in the journal "Science" finds North America has lost about 30 percent of its bird life since 1970. Now there's a new audio project that's trying to re-create what we've lost.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	4/5/2022	6:34am 8:34am	5:50	MA	It's common practice for many elected officials, including district attorneys, to have a staff member focused on communication with the public and press. But one D-A in western Massachusetts also hired an outside public relations firm.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	6/2/2022	4:50pm	7:55	MA	The Massachusetts agency charged with investigating discrimination has been struggling to keep up with complaints. Some cases have taken well over a decade to complete, and during the pandemic, more and more old complaints have piled up.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	6/3/2022	7:51am	7:55	MA	The Massachusetts agency charged with investigating discrimination has been struggling to keep up with complaints. Some cases have taken well over a decade to complete, and during the pandemic, more and more old complaints have piled up.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Politics & Public Policy	4/1/2022	5:45am 7:45am	5:53	MA	The Berkshires are in a housing crisis. That's according to a report released this week by a working group that looked closely at the critical housing issues in the county. The executive director of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission said that while he was not surprised by the findings, one thing did stand out.
Politics & Public Policy	4/4/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: gubernatorial candidate Sonia Chang-Diaz wants three debates with her opponent, Maura Healey, before the party's convention; legislators are expected to address social-equity issues and host community agreements involving the cannabis industry; it was a bit of a surprise that the mid-year budget went to the governor without going through the conference-committee process.
Politics & Public Policy	4/5/2022	6:34am 8:34am	2:48	CT	Several Democrats and an Independent running for the open seat of Connecticut Secretary of State are divided on how far the state should expand access to voting.
Politics & Public Policy	4/6/2022	7:45am 4:44pm	3:47	MA	A recent study by Harvard University suggests that public policies aiming to reduce the harms of poverty may actually lead to larger brains in children. Scientists say that underscores the need for a strong social safety net.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Politics & Public Policy	4/11/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: an overview of efforts to unionize Massachusetts Senate staffers, with an interesting twist in that Senate President Karen Spilka, a longtime labor law mediator, has not been out front on this; two hearings on the governor's climate proposals were postponed last week, with a July 1 deadline looming for some plans.
Politics & Public Policy	4/18/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: The proposed \$49.6-billion state budget in the House closely mirrors the governor's version---but some significant differences remain, and rising inflation could add complicate the budget process; and with the state Republican convention four weeks away, there may be some fallout from the decision by both Gov. Baker and Lt. Gov. Polito to skip the event.
Politics & Public Policy	4/25/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: as House lawmakers consider their \$49.6-billion budget proposal and about 1500 pending amendments, one big difference between their version and the Governor's concerns tax relief; any legislative matters besides the budget will need to be addressed before the session ends on July 31; and with the state parole board approving Gov. Baker's second commutation, can more acts of clemency be expected before he leaves office?

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Politics & Public Policy	4/27/2022	6:45am 8:45am	6:01	MA	The decision by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karen Polito not to seek reelection has created wide-open contests to succeed them, especially in Polito's case. More people are in the running to be the next Lieutenant Governor than for any other statewide office. WBUR's Anthony Brooks reports on why so many want a position with so little power.
Politics & Public Policy	5/2/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: the state senate this week will take up a bill to give immigrants without legal status a pathway to obtaining driver's licenses; senators have passed their version of a sports-gambling bill that made it through the House last summer, with twist: Sen. Eric Lesser of Longmeadow sought a roll-call vote, only to withdraw that request, and the measure passed on a voice vote.
Politics & Public Policy	5/3/2022	4:50pm	4:06	MA	A congressional delegation traveled to Ukraine over the weekend to meet with President Volodymyr Zelensky. The visit came as Congress prepares to consider an aid package proposed by President Biden. Among the delegation was Massachusetts Congressman Jim McGovern, who spoke about the trip with NEPM's Kari Njiri.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Politics & Public Policy	5/9/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: the state senate passed a measure to expand driver's-license access for undocumented immigrants but it's not a done deal yet; two senators tested positive last week for covid---what's the sentiment among state house staffers about working in the building among rising case numbers? And abortion advocates say more could be done by the legislature to accommodate women seeking reproductive health services if abortions are banned in neighboring states---what's the governor's view on this?
Politics & Public Policy	5/16/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: A \$56-million class action settlement will benefit families who lost loved ones in the covid outbreak at the Holyoke Soldiers Home; Gov. Baker in 2020 vetoed legislation to expand abortion access in the state, saying it went too far, but he says he open to discussing protections for providers offering abortion care to women from other states where abortion could become illegal should Roe v Wade be overturned; state lawmakers allocated \$10-million to help resettlement agencies handle an expected influx of refugees from the war in Ukraine, but many weeks later, disagreement and confusion persist over how the money can be used.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Politics & Public Policy	5/23/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: A preview of the GOP primary matchup following the state party's convention in Springfield, where an underdog candidate for governor secured a spot on the ballot; covid tests rates are rising and there have been calls from some public health experts for a return to intervention measures; the Senate begins debate this week on a nearly \$50-billion budget, and plenty of amendments and cuts are on the table.
Politics & Public Policy	5/30/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: Governor Baker vetoed a bill to grant drivers' license privileges to undocumented immigrants, and the measure will now be reconsidered by the legislature with an eye to overriding the veto; the senate's version of a new state budget comes in at \$49 billion and will join the house proposal in the reconciliation process; and a tax relief package is among bills the legislature is likely to act on before its summer recess.
Politics & Public Policy	6/6/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: assessing results from the state Democratic Party convention held over the weekend; pending judicial approval, the state will pay \$14 million to settle a class-action lawsuit stemming from the state drug-lab scandal; Governor Baker urged fast action from the legislature on east-west rail last March, yet three months later there has been no progress.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Politics & Public Policy	6/13/2022	6:20am 8:20am	7:03	MA	Within the next few weeks, the US Supreme Court is expected to overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 case that made it a constitutional right to have an abortion. Then it will be up to each state to determine whether abortion is legal. States like Connecticut and Massachusetts that have abortion rights baked into state law would still feel the effects of his epic change.
Politics & Public Policy	6/13/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: Budget negotiations continue and the two legislative chambers and the governor still have differing ideas about unrestricted local aid for cities and towns; a senate bill would provide about \$350 million for much-needed road and bridge repair; and with a new law in place allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers' licenses, the focus now turns to regulations and implementation.
Politics & Public Policy	6/20/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: the House speaker has hinted that he will not necessarily fast-track the proposed east-west rail project; the governor's \$56-million bill to fund the class action settlement in the Holyoke Soldiers' Home case is expected to win legislative approval, but the projected timeline in the case remains unclear; and House and Senate versions of a mental-health-care access bill will need reconciliation.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Politics & Public Policy	6/22/2022	6:45am 8:38am	4:41	MA	The U-S Supreme Court is expected to issue a major decision on abortion as early as this week. A draft opinion leaked in May suggested that the court may overturn Roe v Wade and give states more leeway to restrict or ban abortion. Massachusetts lawmakers are already working on a response.
Politics & Public Policy	6/27/2022	6:45am 8:45am	6:10	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: Gov. Baker issued an executive order protecting abortion providers in Massachusetts from repercussions for serving people from other states---will the legislature take further action? Front-runners for the GOP and Democratic gubernatorial nominations Geoff Diehl and Maura Healey have opposing views on the Supreme Court's abortion ruling; will the Court's ruling on New York's gun laws lead to any changes in Massachusetts?
Public Health	4/29/2022	6:45am 8:45am	5:27	MA	Some residents of the Housatonic village in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, are questioning whether something in the water could be causing cancer. Reporter Heather Bellow of the Berkshire Eagle has been covering the story.