

## **FCC Public Issues & Programs List: First Quarter 2020**

### Contents:

- (A) Legend/map key for abbreviations
- (B) Summary of major news stories, features, interviews, forums and debates regarding state, area and local issues\* for

**JANUARY 2020**  
**FEBRUARY 2020**  
**MARCH 2020**

\*Enclosed is a listing of some of the significant issues to which Kansas Public Radio (KANU-Lawrence 91.5 FM, KANH-Emporia 89.7 FM, KANV-Olsburg/Junction City 91.3 FM, and KANQ-Chanute 90.3 FM) responded, along with some of the most significant programming treatments of those issues for the period of time specified. This listing is by no means exhaustive, and a more complete, detailed listing can be found in the official KANU news archives. The order in which the issues appear has no significance, and does not reflect any particular priority for these stories.

**TOPIC CODE**

**AG** – Agriculture

**AR** – Arts & Entertainment

**CR** – Crime

**ECO** – Economy & Business

**ED** – Education

**ENV** – Environment

**HE** – Health

**HI** -- History

**HS** – Human Sexuality

**KU** – University of Kansas-related story

**MI** – Military-related story

**POL** – Kansas Government & Politics

**RE** – Religion

**RR** – Race Relations

**SP** – Sports

**WX** – Weather-related story

## **FORMAT CODE**

**R** – Report

**C** – Commentary

## **PROGRAM CODE**

**ME** – Morning Edition

**ATC** – All Things Considered

**WE** -- Weekend Edition

## **KANU NEWS SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 2020**

1. Nomin Ujyediin of the Kansas News Service reported on a program offering substantial cash incentives for people to move to Topeka and work for a local company. The city says it's gotten more than a thousand applications and requests for information from all over the country.

(NU-TOPEKA.wav) – aired 01-02-20 – ATC/R – length: 3:52 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 4:44pm

**ECO**

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2. Celia Llopis-Jepsen reported that research suggests Kansans are especially vulnerable to so-called “surprise billing.” These bills come from charges that fall outside a patient’s health insurance networks, even when they think they’ve chosen in-network care. It’s a problem that’s gaining national attention.

(KNS-SURPRISE.wav) – aired 01-07-20 – ATC/R – length: 4:04 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

**HE/ECO**

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3. Governor Laura Kelly announced that she wants to merge the state of Kansas agencies in charge of child welfare, social services and juvenile justice. She announced her executive order making the changes at a news conference, but the move needs approval from the legislature before it can take effect in July.

(HOWARD-MERGER.wav) – aired 01-08-20 – ATC newscasts – length: 50 seconds – airtimes: 3:30pm, 5:30pm

(KELLY-MERGER.wav) – aired 01-08-20 – ATC newscasts – length: 55 seconds – airtimes: 4:30pm, 6:30pm

**POL/HE**

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4. Jim McLean reported on the push for expanding Medicaid in Kansas. Lawmakers and governors have been arguing about the move for nearly a decade. But in 2020, expansion advocates could be on their way to winning the fight, with a new bipartisan negotiation effort including Governor Laura Kelly and a top Republican lawmaker.

(JM-MEDXPAND20.wav) – aired 01-14-20 – ATC/R – length: 4:01 – airtimes: 4:44pm, 5:44pm

**POL/ECO/HE**

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5. Stephen Koranda reported on the 2020 Kansas State of the State address and the beginning of the Kansas legislative session. Kelly announced her priorities for the coming year, including Medicaid expansion, increased school funding, a restoration of the funds that have been drained in recent years from the state highway fund, and a fix for a shortfall in the state public employees’ retirement program.

(SK-XGEPRIORIT.wav) – aired 01-16-20 – ME/R – length: 3:59 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

**POL/ECO**

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6. Dana Cronin of Harvest Public Media reported on the rollout of legal hemp cultivation in the Midwest. Individual states have adopted their own regulations for the crop, and that has made the process complicated. Many farmers, now wrapping up their first year with hemp as a cash crop, say things have not unfolded as smoothly as they had hoped.

(HPM-HEMPYEAR.wav) – aired 01-20-20 – ME/R – length: 3:58 – airtimes: 7:45am, 8:45am

**AG/ECO**

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7. Brian Grimmatt reported that owners of private wells in Kansas are exempted from the federal regulations requiring drinking water to be regularly tested for a long list of possible contaminants. Experts say this exemption is placing the health of more than 150,000 Kansans at risk.

(BG-WELLS.wav) – aired 01-21-20 – ATC/R – length: 3:56 – airtimes: 3:44 pm, 5:44pm

**HE/POL/ENV**

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8. A brawl erupted at the end of the annual in-state rivalry basketball game between KU and K-State. The game was all but over when the fight, which involved players and coaches from both teams, broke out. Greg Echlin reported on what happened, and how the coaches, school administrators, and national commentators responded.

(GE-LONGFIGHTCLUB.wav) – aired 01-22-20 – ME/R newscasts – length: 1:20 – airtimes: 6:30am, 7:30am, 8:30am

**SP/CR**

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9. Celia Llopis-Jepsen reported on a possible ballot question in Kansas that could change the language in the state constitution. That language could render a Kansas Supreme Court decision stating that women are guaranteed a right to privacy...and thus, the right to an abortion...moot. Activists on both sides of the issue are gearing up for a fight.

(CLJ-ABORAMEND.wav) – aired 01-28-20—ATC/R – length: 3:35 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

**POL/HE/HS/HI/RE**

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10. Greg Echlin provided a profile of the first woman to coach in the Super Bowl: Katie Sowers, who grew up in Hesston, Kansas. She has deep roots in Kansas and the Kansas City area...she even has an image of the Kansas City skyline tattooed on her arm. Sowers is one of just three women coaches in the NFL, and the first to be on the sidelines during a Super Bowl.

(GE-SOWERS.wav) – aired 01-30-20 – ME/R – length: 4:08 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

**SP**

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## **KPR NEWS SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 2020**

1. Jim McLean, Stephen Koranda and Erica Hunzinger discussed the prior week's events at the Kansas Legislature. Lawmakers are nearing some decisions on big issues, including Medicaid expansion and a proposed constitutional amendment that would specify that in Kansas, the right to privacy does not cover the right to an abortion.  
(KNS-LRGRND-2.wav) – aired 02-03-20 – ME/R – length: 4:00 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

**POL**

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2. Jim McLean and Stephen Koranda discussed the latest news from the Kansas Statehouse, where Republicans failed to get a constitutional amendment on abortion through the House. GOP House leaders are gearing up for another try, though.  
(KNS-LEGRND-3.wav) – aired 02-10-20 – ME/R – length: 3:54 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

**POL**

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3. Corinne Boyer reported on a move toward the increased use of telemedicine by small-city hospitals. They often lack specialists to handle major events like strokes, heart attacks, and major trauma following vehicle accidents or gunshots. That means treatment options are limited for patients, and usually leads to transfers to hospitals in larger cities, sometimes hours away. Now, through telemedicine, these smaller hospitals can connect through video hookup to neurologists or cardiologists who can deliver critical care. That practice, however, is still facing obstacles.  
(CB-TELEMED.wav) – aired 02-11-20 – ATC/R – length: 4:02 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

**HE/ECO**

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4. Kansas Governor Laura Kelly unveiled a new 10-year, \$10 billion transportation plan aimed more at repairing and improving existing highways than building new ones. The state's transportation secretary says that's a response to years of budget cuts to the highway fund that forced the agency to cut back on basic maintenance.  
(LORENZ-TRANSPLAN.wav) – aired 02-12-20 – ATC/R/newscast – length: :50 – airtimes: 3:30pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm

**ECO/POL**

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5. Greg Echlin provided a profile of John Sherman, the new owner of the Kansas City Royals baseball club. For many years, Sherman's primary sports love was football. He was a quarterback at Ottawa University in the 1970s. But he became a successful entrepreneur, based in Kansas City, and ended up with a minority stake in the Cleveland Indians baseball team. He went on to head up a group that purchased the Royals in a \$1 billion deal. He's very connected to the Kansas City area, and is a trustee of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and the National World War I Museum.

(GE-SHERMAN.wav) – aired 02-12-20 – ATC/R – length: 3:53 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm

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**ECO/SP**

6. Jim McLean, Stephen Koranda and Celia Llopis-Jepsen discussed the week in legislative action at the Kansas Statehouse. Lawmakers remain deadlocked on the issues of abortion rights and Medicaid expansion, but they have made progress on a proposal aimed at curbing e-cigarette use among young Kansans.

(JM-LEGRND-4.wav) – aired 02-17-20 – ME/R – length: 4:05 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

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**POL/HE**

7. Jim McLean provided the details on Governor Laura Kelly's proposed transportation plan, in which she says lawmakers can allocate money to repair roadways and revive some highway construction projects without raising taxes.

(JM-KSHIWAYS.wav) – aired 02-18-20 – ME/R – length: 3:48 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

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**POL/ECO**

8. Greg Echlin profiled a former Kansas State University football lineman who could become the first openly gay player in the NFL. Scott Frantz is being pursued by several NFL teams because of his skill on the field, and says he's prepared to both answer questions about his sexuality and become an ambassador for gay inclusion in the world of professional sports.

(GE-LGBTNFL.wav) – aired 02-19-20 – ME/R – length: 3:52 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

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**SP/HS**

9. Jim McLean and Stephen Koranda provided a wrapup of the week's events at the Kansas Legislature, where conservative lawmakers are raising the stakes in a tense standoff over abortion rights and Medicaid expansion. The dispute is slowing progress on other important legislative issues.

(JM-XGRRND-5.wav) – aired 02-24-20 – ME/R – length: 4:03 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

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**POL/ECO/HE**

10. KPR News Director J. Schafer reported on a program called JAG, or Jobs for America's Graduates. It's a non-profit, school-based program designed to help students succeed by ensuring that they graduate from high school and then helping them land a job. Alumni of the JAG program in Kansas, JAG-K, gathered in Topeka to tell lawmakers about how the program has improved their lives. Schafer interviewed a current JAG-K participant, who told the story of how the program not only helped her succeed, but may have helped save her life.

(JS-JAGK.wav) – aired 02-25-20 – ATC/R – length: 6:11 – airtimes: 4:50pm, 5:50pm

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**ED/ECO**



## **KANU NEWS SUMMARY FOR MARCH 2020**

1. KPR's Kaye McIntyre spoke with Chad Omitt, Warning Coordinator for the National Weather Service, about National Severe Weather Awareness Week, which is an annual event focused on getting people prepared to deal with severe weather and disaster preparedness.  
(KMD-CHAD-WX.wav) – aired 03-20-20 – ATC/R – length: 3:38 – airtimes: 3:44 pm, 5:44 pm  

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**ENV/HE/ECO**
  
2. Jim McLean of the Kansas News Service and KPR's Stephen Koranda discussed the reasons the Kansas Legislature is still locked in a stalemate over Medicaid expansion and a constitutional amendment on abortion access. The legislators are, however, making progress on measures to legalize sports betting and rising property taxes.  
(JM-XGRRND-6.wav) – aired 03-02-20 – ATC/R – length: 4:04 – airtimes: 4:44pm, 6:44 pm  

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**POL/HE/ECO**
  
3. Brian Grimmett reported on a new app developed by paleontologists at the University of Kansas designed to help amateurs find and identify fossils.  
(BG-FOSSILS.wav) – aired 03-03-20 – ATC/R – length: 3:54 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:44pm  

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**HI/KU/ED**
  
4. One of the overlooked but basic functions of city government is to provide and maintain streetlights. Stephan Bisaha reports that while some cities have found a much cheaper way to keep the lights on, others have missed their chance to shift over to LED lighting.  
(SB-LEDFEAT.wav) – aired 03-05-20 – ME/R – length: 3:37 – airtimes: 6:35am, 7:35am  

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**ECO/CR**
  
5. Jim McLean spoke with Kansas Department of Health and Environment secretary Dr. Lee Norman about the state's preparations for arrival of the coronavirus, and some of the public health challenges the virus will pose.  
(JM-KDHEDIR.wav) – aired 03-10-20 – ME/R – length: 4:12 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am  

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**HE/ED/ECO**

6. The state of Kansas has taken the lead in a multi-state project to track cattle diseases. Corinne Boyer reported on how ten states are now working to create a standard system to track where cattle diseases appear and how they move through the beef market in general.

(KNS-CATTLETRACE.wav) – aired 03-11-20 – ATC/R -- length: 3:35 – airtimes: 3:44pm, 5:54 pm

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**AG/HE/ECO**

7. Jim McLean and Stephen Koranda held their weekly legislative news roundtable. The coronavirus is threatening to shorten the Kansas legislative session, while advocates for Medicaid expansion are trying to disrupt it...and the stalemate over abortion continued, as well.

(JM-XGRUPDAT-8.wav) – aired 03-16-20 – ME/R – length: 4:05 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

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**POL/ECO/HE**

8. Jim McLean of the Kansas News Service spoke with Kansas Governor Laura Kelly about the state's response to coronavirus and COVID-19. Kelly closed K-12 schools for the remainder of the academic year, and she has issued several other executive orders designed to slow the disease's spread. Some Republicans aren't pleased with the Democratic governor's actions, but she says everything she's enacted has been appropriate and necessary.

(JM-KELLYVIEW.wav) – aired 03-19-20 – ME/R – length: 4:00 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

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**HE/ED/POL/ECO**

9. Stephen Koranda reported on how the Kansas Legislature scrambled to approve a state budget before adjourning for an early spring break. Medicaid expansion and a proposed constitutional amendment pertaining to abortion will have to wait a few weeks. The politicians were in a hurry to get back to their constituents as concern about the spread of COVID-19 grew statewide.

(SK-BUDGFEAT.wav) – aired 03-20-20 – ME/R – length: 3:47 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

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**POL/HE/ED/ECO**

10. Greg Echlin reported on the NAIA, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, which was scheduled to hold the title game of its men's basketball tournament in Kansas City. The tournament was cancelled as a precaution because of the coronavirus epidemic. He examined what the future might hold for the organization, which is based in Kansas City, Missouri.

(GE-NONAIA.wav) – aired 03-24-20 – ME/R – length: 3:55 – airtimes: 7:45am, 8:45am

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**SP/ED**

11. Jim McLean reported on the upcoming Republican primary to choose a candidate to compete for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Pat Roberts. The party appears to be uncharacteristically nervous about holding onto the seat, despite having held it since the Great Depression. The nominee is likely to come from the conservative wing of the party, but the candidates are arguing publicly about who's got the best chance of winning in the November general election.  
(JM-RACE4SENATE.wav) – aired 03-26-20 – ME/R – length: 4:05 – airtimes: 6:45am, 7:45am

**POL**

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