

FCC ISSUES REPORT – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019

Jan-Mar

KABC-TV

ABC7 -CORE ISSUES

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019

CORE ISSUES

ABC7 gave significant coverage to the following community issues and concerns arising in the first quarter of 2019:

- 1. Politics**
- 2. Weather**
- 3. Health**
- 4. Super Bowl**
- 5. Immigration**

The station's coverage of these core issues is detailed in the next section of this report.

## ABC7 - CORE ISSUES COVERAGE

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019

### **POLITICS**

**Eyewitness News. Air Dates:** January 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. February 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28. March 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. Total Coverage: 22 Hours 26 Minutes

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* reported on a variety of political issues at the local level. Significant airtime was devoted to covering the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) teachers' strike in early January.

ABC7 covered the first Los Angeles teachers' strike to hit the city since 1989. It lasted six days. Members of the teachers union marched from Grand Park in Downtown Los Angeles to LAUSD headquarters. More than 30,000 public-school teachers of the LAUSD were protesting low pay, large class sizes, inadequate support staffs of nurses and librarians, and the proliferation of charter schools. Schools remained open, with substitute teachers and administrative staff filling in for the striking teachers, but school attendance was estimated to have dropped to less than half during the strike. Teachers and their supporters also held rallies around the city, including at City Hall and LAUSD headquarters.

The station reported on the sticking points in the negotiations. Teachers wanted a six and a half percent raise, fewer standardized tests and fully staffed schools with more nurses, librarians and counselors added to the payrolls along with pledges to reduce class sizes. The LAUSD offered teachers a six percent raise spread over the first two years of a three year contract. The district later raised its offer to add a thousand more staff members to help reduce class sizes. In the end, the United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) and the school district reached a deal in late January, after an all-night negotiating session. The agreement included a 6 percent pay raise for teachers, a reduction in class size by 4 students per class for grades four through 12 over the course of three years, the removal of a provision that had previously allowed larger class sizes during times of economic hardship, and a "commitment to provide a full-time nurse in every school" as well as a librarian for every middle and high school.

## **WEATHER**

**Eyewitness News. Air Dates: January 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31. February 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 28. March 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 26, 31.**

**Total Coverage: 1 Day 4 Hours 12 Minutes**

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* reported extensively on severe weather conditions that affected the station's viewing area in the first quarter of 2019.

A series of major storms hit one right after the other in Southern California, warranting live continuous coverage for over thirteen hours at one point. The station's coverage including a tree toppling over and crushing a car. Luckily no one was hurt, but when emergency crews arrived they discovered the tree had also damaged a gas line on the property.

ABC7 covered the mud and debris slides that affected the people living in the Holy Fire burn areas. The fire charred the hillsides above Lake Elsinore. Mandatory evacuations were issued for people living in the Holy Fire burn area in Lake Elsinore, and voluntary evacuations were in effect for Country Club Drive in Burbank. An incredible group of volunteers spent two days helping to make sure homes were safe.

The station also reported on how a San Bernardino County Sheriff's helicopter, while dodging power lines, rescued an elderly man trapped in his car, with rushing water all around him. The sheriff's department says its desert patrol crew and a member of its swift water rescue team were able to pull the man to safety -- despite heavy rain and forty mile an hour winds! That man did suffer hypothermia, but is alive.

## HEALTH

**Eyewitness News. Air Dates:** January 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. February 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28. March 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. Total Coverage: 6 Hours 5 Minutes

ABC7 Eyewitness News reported on the various health topics that interest its Southern California audience. One such topic was the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual "Go Red for Women" luncheon in Irvine. The event in Southern California was as part of the national movement to end heart disease and stroke in women. This "Go Red" campaign is one of several luncheons that the American Heart Association holds throughout the year in various Southern California cities to spread awareness about the leading cause of death in women: cardiovascular disease.

The station also covered the story of how new restrictions on poultry were placed in Southern California because of the threat of Newcastle disease. The highly contagious viral diseases is usually fatal for chickens and other poultry. Under a modified quarantine, it is prohibited to move birds in all of Los Angeles county, as well as large sections of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Nearly one million birds have already been euthanized in the past ten months. There is no threat to humans, so long as eggs and meat are properly cooked.

## SUPER BOWL

**Eyewitness News. Air Dates:** 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31. February 1, 2, 3, 7.  
**Total Coverage:** 2 Hours 28 Minutes

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* devoted noteworthy airtime on the Los Angeles Rams' road to the Super Bowl 53. It was the first time in more than three decades that an NFL team from Los Angeles went to the Super Bowl, the fourth Super Bowl appearance for the Rams in franchise history, and the first appearance in the Super Bowl since moving back to Los Angeles in 2016.

Unfortunately, the Rams eventually lose to the New England Patriots by a score of 13-3, garnering the title of lowest-scoring Super Bowl in history, eclipsing the previous record of 14-7 held by Super Bowl 7, the lowest scoring NFL Championship game since the 1949 game, when the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Los Angeles Rams 14-0, and the first Super Bowl with no touchdowns scored by either team in the first three quarters.

The station also reported on the man accused in a Super Bowl ticket scam in Riverside. Ketan Shah was suspected of bilking hundreds of thousands of dollars from people after promising high-end Super Bowl tickets. Police say it started in Georgia. Authorities said Shah left town with the cash and turned up here in Temecula at the Pechanga Resort & Casino. Security worked with Riverside County Sheriff's to identify and arrest Shah. He faced one count of felony theft by conversion and faced extradition back to Georgia.

## **IMMIGRATION**

**Eyewitness News. Air Dates: January 1, 2, 3, 8, 16, 24, 25, 26. February 1, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28. March 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. Total Coverage: 1 Hour 53 Minutes**

*ABC7 Eyewitness News* reported on the continuing controversy of the Trump administration's President Trump's immigration policy, including the border wall situation.

ABC7 covered how California and fifteen other states filed a lawsuit challenging President Trump's border wall national emergency declaration. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra led the effort. The filing came on the same day protests of the president's emergency declaration happened around the nation. One of those protests was held at City Hall in downtown Los Angeles. Several Trump supporters showed up. One even confronted local Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration also faced a slew of suits from a variety of groups including the A-C-L-U. At the core of all of them is the argument that there is no emergency, and that the president is using the declaration to bypass Congress in order to fulfill his campaign promise to build a border wall.

The station also reported on how the Orange County Sheriff's Department vowed to end its contract with federal immigration officials. The department said it would no longer hold detainees for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE. Once that contract is formally terminated, ICE would have 120 days to relocate any detainees being held by the sheriff's department. The sheriff said it would help save the department 80 million dollars and allow for expanded mental health services.