



**Georgia Public Broadcasting**  
**Quarterly Issues and Programs Report**

**Radio**

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2024**  
**January \* February \* March**

**Top 5 Issues Addressed:**

1. Interviews
2. Environment
3. Politics and Law
4. Mental Health and the Homeless
5. Voting

## Representative Programs That Addressed Issues:

### 1. [Interviews](#)

#### **Morning Edition**

GPB

February 19, 2024, aired between 7am and 9am

James Brown “taught us about our Blackness,” Director, Deborah Riley Draper remembers James Brown in a preview of her new TV documentary that examines the complex “*Godfather of Soul*.” The documentary delves into the legendary life of the international superstar who proudly called Augusta, Georgia his home.

#### **All Things Considered**

GPB

February 21, 2024, aired between 4pm and 7pm

Nails in the road? You know roads are full of unseen hazards. *Magnet Man* comes to the rescue. Host Peter Biello interviews the Atlanta *Magnet Man*, Alex Benigno about his quest to remove stray metal from Atlanta streets. Using a bike trailer equipped with magnets, he canvases Atlanta roads, picking up all manner of debris.

#### **Morning Edition**

GPB

February 29, 2024, aired between 7am and 9am

*Crossover Day*, Legislative Day, February 28th explained. *Crossover Day* is the day by which a bill must pass out of its originating legislative chamber to be considered by the other chamber before the end of Georgia’s Legislative Session. Host Pamela Kirkland sits down with *Lawmakers* host, Donna Lowry to explain and take inventory of bills in motion around *Crossover Day* at the Georgia Legislature.

#### **Morning Edition**

GPB

March 7, 2024, aired between 7am and 9am

Host Pamela Kirkland discusses 2024 Oscar Predictions with chief film critic for Silver Screen Capture, Stephen Brown. For Georgians, there are a couple of categories to watch as movies and actors from the Peach State are up for nominations.

#### **Morning Edition**

GPB

March 13 and 22, 2024, aired between 7am and 9am

GPB’s Classical Music Director, Sarah Zaslaw, previews the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and shares her conversation with Nathalie Stutzman, the symphony’s Music Director. Stutzman is the second woman in history to lead a major American orchestra and speaks about her second season with the orchestra and the airing of the television documentary *My Boléro*. *My Boléro* is the famous 1928 orchestral work by French composer, Maurice Ravel.

### **All Things Considered**

GPB

March 13, 2024, aired between 4pm and 7pm

“*Godfall*” Atlanta author, Van Jensen talks with GPB host, Peter Biello about his debut novel. “*Godfall*” blends elements of science fiction, mystery, and romance. The book has already been optioned for a TV series to be directed by Ron Howard.

### **Morning Edition**

GPB

April 3, 2024, aired between 7am and 9am

Sarah McCammon, a national correspondent for NPR and co-host of the NPR politics podcast is the author of a new book, “*The Exvangelicals: Loving, Living, and Leaving the White Evangelical Church.*” She spoke with GPB’s Pamela Kirkland. The book deals with the movement of millennial and GenX-age evangelicals moving away from the church.

## **2. Environment**

### **All Things Considered**

GPB

February 22, 2024, aired between 4pm and 7pm

Two endangered North Atlantic right whales have turned up dead off the east coast in the past two months, one of them off of Tybee Island. Scientists have been worried about the species. There are about 360 whales remaining. Boats, fishing gear and other hazards persist off the east coast says Julia Siner, a marine scientist with Oceana, an organization that is dedicated to protecting and restoring the world’s oceans.

### **All Things Considered**

GPB

March 12, 2024, aired between 4pm and 7pm

After a natural disaster renters receive less assistance than homeowners, based on a study by Georgia Tech’s Brian An. It is extremely hard for renters to prove their damages. The new study has found that it is harder for renters to relocate and to get help to move, especially with the squeeze of rising costs and when the available housing stock is low.

## **3. Politics and Law**

### **GPB News**

GPB

February 28, 2024

Georgia prisons are full and understaffed. There are now almost 51,000 people incarcerated by the state of Georgia – the highest number in 15 years. Meanwhile, the number of Georgia correctional officers is at its lowest this century, and reports of violence inside Georgia prisons have continued to spike since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. GPB’s Grant Blankenship reports that on Crossover Day at the Capitol advocates for family members of people in prison plan to go to the Capitol to get legislators to understand how they say the civil rights of the people they love are violated.

**All Things Considered***GPB*

March 21, 2024, aired between 4pm and 7pm

The Atlanta nonprofit Barred Business Foundation is suing Fulton County District Attorney, Fani Willis for allegedly failing to inform a judge when someone is held in jail on felony charges without being indicted for longer than 45 days. Julian Clark, an attorney with the ACLU, along with the ACLU of Georgia, is representing the nonprofit in its lawsuit spoke with GPB's Peter Biello.

**GPB News***GPB*

March 22, 2024

Georgia moves forward on a new way to tackle fentanyl overdoses – punishing dealers. As the fentanyl crisis grows, Georgia lawmakers have set their eyes on holding someone accountable, pushing forward a bill that will make it easier to charge drug dealers with murder if their supply causes an overdose. GPB's Sofia Gratas reports.

**All Things Considered***GPB*

March 27, 2024, aired between 4pm and 7pm

Georgia Senate Republicans passed a bill that requires transgender children to use the school restroom that is consistent with their sex at birth, not their gender identity. Kim Siders, mother of a trans child, spoke with GPB's Peter Biello about how the bill, if signed into law, would change her child's life.

**4. Mental Health and the Homeless****GPB News***GPB*

February 28, 2024

Forsyth County Commissioners are split on funding mental health care residents say is desperately needed. The Commissioners are split on whether to use federal COVID relief funds for mental health care now that the planned building costs exceed the budget by \$12 million. The plan is now up in the air, to the frustration of many residents. GPB's Ellen Eldridge reports more on next steps.

**GPB News***GPB*

February 29, 2024

In Macon, a new approach to the bi-annual census of the unsheltered homeless is adding up to a deeper look at the data. The first rough estimate of the 2024 number of unsheltered homeless in Macon is something like three times higher than the estimate from the 2022 count. *United to End Homelessness* is hiring a number of part-time social workers to keep these numbers fresh in between federally mandated counts.

## 5. Voting

### **Morning Edition**

*GPB*

March 22, 2024, aired between 7am and 9am

The U.S. Postal Service says its managers are aware of concerns that some Georgians have over mail delays and reports of undelivered mail, with a general primary coming up on May 21<sup>st</sup>. March 4<sup>th</sup> was the first date that voters could request an absentee ballot for the primary and requests must be returned by May 10<sup>th</sup>. Secretary of State, Brad Raffensperger spoke with GBP's Pamela Kirkland to share his thoughts about the problem and what actions voters should take to minimize delays.