

WRAL-HD2, Raleigh, NC (101.5 HD2)  
QUARTERLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ISSUES  
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS  
**THIRD QUARTER 2022**

The following is a list of issues and concerns for THIRD QUARTER 2022 (July-September) and addressed in Public Affairs Programming, Public Service Announcements, and special programming on WRAL-HD2.

- 1. CRIME/GUN VIOLENCE**
- 2. ECONOMY/ECONOMIC SUPPORT**
- 3. EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT**
- 4. ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL DISASTERS**
- 5. HEALTHCARE/MENTAL HEALTH/WOMEN'S HEALTH**
- 6. POLITICS**

This report was placed in the Public Inspection file on October 10, 2022

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS**

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS**

WRAL-HD2 aired 6.5 hours of Public Affairs Programming

**ON THE RECORD:** Produced by WRAL-TV, ON THE RECORD is a 30-minute local interview program discussing issues of concern in the Triangle and State. It airs Sundays 6-6:30 AM.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR (What's Happening):** A recorded 60-second community calendar segment rotates throughout the broadcast week .

### **THIRD QUARTER ISSUES:**

Issues are extrapolated from statements by local community leaders, including government, civic, church, and other organizations. Additionally, we monitor local news (TV, Radio, Newspaper, and the Internet) for comments/opinions of community leaders, in the effort to ascertain and prioritize community concerns.

#### **CORONAVIRUS**

As COVID-19 variants linger, most prominently the high-transmittable Omicron, new boosters were recommended and approved for most people over age 18 in September 2022. Infections are expected to increase in colder months, but hospitalizations continue to decline and more therapeutics are available.

#### **CRIME/GUN VIOLENCE**

Fueled by gun violence, cities across the U.S. broke all-time homicide records in 2021. As a result of a mass shooting that killed 19 children and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas, the Senate passed a modest gun safety bill in June. The bill enhances background checks for gun buyers under age 21, provides incentives for states to pass “red flag” laws that allow guns to be confiscated from people legally judged dangerous to own them, and tightens federal bans on domestic abusers. Locally, Durham is experiencing record levels of gun violence.

#### **ECONOMY/ECONOMIC SUPPORT**

The Coronavirus, supply chain issues, and staggering inflation in 2021 hindered economic growth and continue to be the story of 2022. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the resulting sanctions sent oil prices soaring, which further impacted worldwide economic recovery. The Fed continues to raise interest rates to slow inflation.

#### **EDUCATION/SCHOOLS**

On-going Issues: Retaining and recruiting high-quality teachers, addressing the social and emotional learning needs of our kids, and adequately funding our schools. Regulation of school curriculums divides state board of education members, educators, and parents.

#### **EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT**

Unemployment is low in North Carolina as companies continue to struggle with fewer candidates available for hire. As predicted by economists, job growth slowed as the economy came down from last year’s boom and as higher borrowing costs make it harder for businesses to expand.

#### **ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL DISASTERS**

The EPA announced the establishment of an office designed to address the impacts faced by those living in underserved communities overburdened by pollution. Recent cases of contaminated water in North Carolina and Mississippi highlighted the problem. The EPA also announced initiatives to better understand PFAs/forever chemicals in drinking water.

Hurricane season runs June- November, Hurricane Ian affected North Carolina at the end of September.

#### **EQUALITY / HUMAN RIGHTS**

Systemic racism, LGBTQ, and gender continued to be debated in matters of law enforcement, employment, and education. The continued immigration crisis at the Mexico border as citizens of neighboring countries continue to seek asylum in the United States highlight the country’s need for immigration reform.

#### **HEALTHCARE/MENTAL HEALTH/WOMEN’S HEALTH**

A Kaiser study confirmed some of their concerns: About half of Americans, 51%, say they've put off or gone without some form of medical service in the past year because of its costs. A bill for Medicaid expansion, which would bring government health insurance to hundreds of thousands North Carolina residents, has stalled. Mental health discussions related to COVID lockdowns, crime, social media, and celebrities calling attention to their struggles continue to dominate headlines.

Women’s reproductive health was pushed to the forefront with the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Rowe vs. Wade*.

## **POLITICS/VOTING RIGHTS**

Political gerrymandering is in national news with several state legislatures enacting maps designed to rig electoral outcomes and disenfranchise voters of color. In October, the NC Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a case in which Republican lawmakers contend they should be allowed to draw maps however they choose.

## **POVERTY/FOOD INSECURITY/HOMELESSNESS**

As food prices surge during a time of record inflation, many Americans found their household budgets stretched thin at the supermarket. Food banks and pantries also struggled with the increase in operational costs and a decrease in donations.

A poll from Impact Genome and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that 23% of Americans say they have not been able to get enough to eat or the kinds of foods they want. Most of those facing food challenges enrolled in a government or nonprofit food assistance program in the past year, but 58% still had difficulty accessing at least one service.

## **RELIGION/FAITH/ COMMUNITY**

The global pandemic accelerated the move to remote church services. However, the churches' roles elevated beyond their congregations. Churches have played an essential role in hosting COVID vaccinations, forums on social issues, and remote learning spaces over the past two years.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE/ REGULATION**

Six people in North Carolina die every day from Opioid overdoses. North Carolina was involved in reaching the proposed \$26 billion opioid crisis settlement with distributors McKesson, Cardinal Health, and Amerisource Bergen Drug as well as manufacturer Johnson & Johnson. Fentanyl killed more than 3,000 North Carolinians last year and the threat is growing. Rainbow Fentanyl is of concern for its resemblance to candy.

The NC Senate passed a bill to legalize medical marijuana, but it went nowhere in the House of Representatives.

## **TERRORISM/HOMELAND SECURITY/MILITARY**

Russia's invasion of Ukraine could have wide-ranging consequences: The financial impact, the humanitarian crisis, threats of nuclear strikes, and cyberattacks on financial institutions and power grids. The U.S. Army says it's working to recruit more young people to join the military as the pool of eligible Americans dwindles. Research from the U.S. Department of Defense shows only 2% of Americans ages 17 to 21 are eligible to serve in the military.

## **THIRD QUARTER PROGRAMS**

### **CRIME/GUN VIOLENCE**

#### **ON THE RECORD 8/21/22**

**NC Sheriffs Talk Openly About Inherent Dangers in Law Enforcement:** NC Sheriffs have raw conversation with WRAL News about safety after string of deputy shootings

### **ECONOMY/ECONOMIC SUPPORT**

#### **ON THE RECORD 7/3/22**

##### **Experts Explain The Why of Inflation and When We Could See Relief**

The gas you use to travel. The home you're eager to buy. And the groceries you want to fill your pantries and refrigerators -- all are now impacted by that 9-letter word: Inflation.

#### **ON THE RECORD 7/17/22**

##### **NC Ranked #1 for Business**

The results are in and North Carolina is #1. CNBC names our state the best in the country for business.

#### **ON THE RECORD 7/10/22**

##### **Senate President Pro Tem, minority leader talks legislative session**

North Carolina's annual legislative session wrapped up a week ago with lawmakers passing a new state budget but leaving a number of other major issues unresolved, including the Republican Party's newfound support for Medicaid expansion in North Carolina

### **EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT**

#### **ON THE RECORD 7/31/22**

##### **Dwindling Childcare Options Put Parents in a Bind**

In the early days of the pandemic -- school and daycare closures stopped moms from being able to return to the labor force. Today, like much else, the problem is supply and demand.

### **ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL DISASTERS**

#### **ON THE RECORD 7/24/22**

##### **Scorching Temperatures Across the US and Western Europe**

This week, you can't escape the heat. Not the scorching temperatures, not the conversation about what this heatwave means for the state, the country and the globe.

### **HEALTHCARE/MENTAL HEALTH**

#### **ON THE RECORD 7/10/22**

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#### **ON THE RECORD 8/7/22**

##### **Abortion on the Ballot, Kansas Voters Preserve Abortion Rights**

In Kansas, voters overwhelmingly chose to preserve abortion rights in their state constitution.

## **POLITICS**

### **ON THE RECORD 9/4/22**

**The Wake County Sheriff's Race:** Republican Donnie Harrison and Democrat Willie Rowe will go head-to-head in the Nov. 8 election.

### **ON THE RECORD 9/18/22**

**The Candidates Vying for Two NC Supreme Court Seats:** Republicans Trey Allen and Richard Dietz and Democrats Sam Ervin IV and Lucy Inman are vying for two seats on the North Carolina Supreme Court.