

QUARTERLY ISSUES FILE
WSNN-FM, WPDM-AM
JANUARY-MARCH 2014
(ALL PROGRAMS SIMULCAST)

Our issues-related programming consists of the “Capitol Connection,” produced by WAMC-Northeast Public Radio in Albany. The 30-minute program runs weekly at 5:00am each Sunday. The show is hosted by SUNY Albany Professor Emeritus Dr. Alan Chartok, and covers topics related to New York State Government. The content of each week's program this quarter was as follows:

1/5/14—*Albany Times-Union* Associate Editor Mike Spain says legislation recommending changes to the system of campaign finance—funding the process with public money—will be proposed early in the legislative session that begins later this month. Spain says public campaign financing would not be a factor in the 2014 Gubernatorial election because Andrew Cuomo has a “sizable war chest.”

1/12/14—*Albany Times-Union* Editorial Page Editor Jay Jochnowicz discusses the “State Of The State Address” by Governor Andrew Cuomo, setting the stage for his legislative agenda in this year's session. Jochnowicz tells host Alan Chartok Cuomo's gained more control over the Legislature than any of his predecessors have because he does not give the speech in either the Assembly or Senate Chamber...meaning he will not be subservient to either chamber or its leadership.

1/19/14—Alliance for Quality Education New York Executive Director Billy Easton says the Governor's Budget has to “get serious” with education, and put 1.9 billion dollars in previously-cut funds back into aid so there is more equity between wealthy downstate districts and poor rural districts.

1/26/14—State Republican Chairman Ed Cox told host Alan Chartok says Donald Trump is “serious” about running for Governor of New York; as evidence he says Trump is at the right age, 67; he is strong with Hispanics, and he has celebrity. Also, Rob Astorino is a strong candidate because he was able to win office in politically-diverse Westchester and has “earned” office, unlike incumbent Andrew Cuomo who “inherited” the office from his father, Mario Cuomo.

2/2/14—*New York Daily News* Columnist and Albany Bureau Chief Ken Lovett says Governor Andrew Cuomo's best chance to run for President of the United States would be in 2016, and he will not take it because he would not pit himself against Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination. Lovett also predicts Cuomo would not try for the Presidency in 2020, either.

2/9/14—State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli says “Fiscal Stress” numbers created by his office to give local governments is important to help communities stay out of a Comptroller's takeover if they go bankrupt. DiNapoli says the state cannot afford to take over troubled communities' finances. It's also a tool to empower taxpayers to make decisions in the electoral process if they wish.

2/16/14—Democratic Assembly Member Richard Gottfried; Chair of the Assembly Health Committee, says he supports legislation to implement medical marijuana based on a 1980's era law that controls who distributes the product and what it can be used for. Gottfried says “it can get done” and Governor Cuomo is willing to work with opponents to get a bill passed.

2/23/14—Republican Assemblyman James Tedisco says he supports medical marijuana if the program is structured properly—for example, children with epilepsy who are now suffering from seizures would

see a great benefit.

3/2/14—*Albany Times-Union* Editorial Page Editor Jay Jochnowicz tells host Alan Chartok if Saratoga County—the state's center for horse racing-related gambling--does not want a state-sponsored casino, there are places that would be better—such as the Catskills near the border with other states, and a shorter drive from the New York City-Metro area. He says it might revitalize the tourism and resort industry the Catskills saw decline in the late 20th Century.

3/9/14—Former State Assemblyman Jerry Kremer, now a lobbyist for the natural gas industry says it's ironic the same people who support the fueling of public transportation with natural gas, do not support the extraction of that fuel from the ground from hydrofracking.

3/16/14—*New York Daily News* Albany Bureau Chief and Columnist Ken Lovett tells host Alan Chartok the shocking piece of data from recent poll numbers is that New York City Mayor Bill DiBlasio, after only seven weeks in office, is still well-liked personally, but his job satisfaction number is incredibly low—just like Governor Andrew Cuomo went through.

3/23/14—New York Public Interest Research Group Executive Director Blair Horner says he is puzzled that Governor Andrew Cuomo did not put the “DREAM Act”--that gives children of undocumented aliens higher education aid—in his Executive Budget this year, opting to have the Democratically-controlled Assembly carry the legislation instead.

3/30/14—Republican Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb says he has “no problem” with medical marijuana for serious ailments; what he has a problem with is the panel charged with deciding what diseases it could be prescribed for—he wants a broader representation from the medical field. He also wants a provision in the bill that people who work in the medical marijuana industry may not have criminal records.