

Quarterly Issues File
Apr. - June 2015
WSNN-FM WPDM-AM
(ALL Programs Simulcast)

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

4/3/15 WAMC's Alan Chartock talks with Ken Lovett, Albany Bureau Chief for *The New York Daily News*. Lovett talks about the 142 million dollar state budget and what is in and what is out. They also spoke of school reforms, more standardized testing, new evaluations of teachers and the governor's ethics reform proposals. Campaign finance reform and Citizens United.

4/10/15 WAMC's Alan Chartock talks with Blair Horner, Legislative Director for the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). The two spoke about the growth of NYPIRG and the role of the non-profit political watchdog and its advocacy for open-government. They talk at length about Governor Andrew Cuomo's recent biography. Horner's criticism of Cuomo's time as Governor.

4/17/15 WAMC's Alan Chartock interviews Casey Seiler, State Editor and Capital Bureau Chief for the *Albany Times Union*. They talk about how much residents really care about state politics. More discussion on the autobiography of Andrew Cuomo and the governor's life in politics. Cuomo's and George Pataki's possible runs for president in the future.

4/24/15 WAMC's Alan Chartock interviews E.J. MacMahon, President of the Empire Center for Public Policy. The two talked about the recent corruption arrests among high-ranking officials in the New York state legislature. Holding politicians accountable for their actions and where legislative oversight is needed. Rent control in NYC.

5/1/15 WAMC's Alan Chartock interviews Karen Scharff, Co-Chair of the Working Families Party and Executive Director of Citizens Action. Talked about the Working Families Political Convention and Zephyr Teachout. The governor's creation of a Women's Party that is similar to Working Families Party's agenda. Loopholes in laws, including in rent control. Abuse of campaign contributions.

5/8/15 WAMC's Alan Chartock interviews Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick. Talked about being the first mayor of color in the history of the City of Ithaca. Has been Mayor for four years. Mayor Myrick is an anti-hunger activist, and talks about one in five people in this country are hungry. Gives back to food banks because of the experience as a poor kid living on food stamps. Local governments need direct help from Governor and state aid for municipalities. The Tax Cap hurt local government.

5/15/15 WAMC's Alan Chartock talks with Ken Lovett, Albany Bureau Chief for The New York Daily News. Talks about the appointment of John Flanagan as NYS senate majority leader. He has a close relationship with Dean Skelos. In Republican Party, there are divisions between upstate and downstate, pro-gun control vs. anti-gun control, pro common core and anti-common core. Real Estate LLCs have become a political factor with donations to politicians. No recent campaign finance reform in Albany lately to deter this. Tom Dinapoli reports on the ineffectiveness of the Start Up NY campaign, calling it a waste of money.

5/22/15 WAMC's Alan Chartock talks with Ed Cox, Chairman of the New York State Republican Party. Talks started with the audit of Gov. Cuomo's Start UP NY plan that benefits SUNY schools, \$250 spent for feel good ads that did not work. Cox said it only produced 86 jobs. What did the ads do? Cox says they played during the election season and helped Cuomo win election, especially in NYC where the program worked better, but, did help in elections in Upstate NY? Cuomo spent millions dollars for one company and one owner for Buffalo to make Western NY feel good. Weak economy has hurt Cuomo according to Cox, and real property tax cap and high property taxes are not friendly, driving jobs and people out of NYS. 15 dollar minimum wage hurts small business, and people who are looking for a first job. Cox also supports tax credit for going to a private school instead of a public school. Teacher's evaluations have teachers railing against Cuomo.

5/29/15 WAMC's Alan Chartock talks with Robert Freeman, Executive Director of the NYS Committee on Open Government. One function of office is holding Government accountable and making sure elected officials make available to the public their finances and income, and that appointment book could be considered public knowledge if it pertains to the job. Interpretation of the Open Meeting Law: a majority of elected officials in a boardroom to conduct official business is considered a public meeting under the law. Policy of destroying e-mails after 90 days....it is out of date....state archives set retention schedules.....state employees now have choice as long as it of value too them. Open Meeting Law as an exemption on political caucuses...changed in 1985.....anyone serving in state or local government body can meet in closed door session to talk about anything, even public business. Public disclosure should be part of political process according to Freeman. Amendment to Open Meeting law says...records of meeting notes be made available on line if possible to public beforehand.

6/12/15 Alan Chartock is joined by New York State Assembly leader Brian Kolb who represents the 31st District. The two sit down and talk about how they can draw their own district. How do we sent our kids away to fight for democracies when get to draw our own district? They formed a quote on quote redistricting committee.

6/5/15 WAMC'S Alan Chartock is joined by New York State Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb. Elected State Assembly Politicians in NYS are allowed to draw their own district lines....An independent committee is soon to form to change that. State passes Pension forfeiture Bill - any public official if convicted of felony, forfeits state pension...assembly. Dems pull it off table....propose new one....Dems took out public employees out of bill. The court has power to reinstate pension on case by case basis. Kolb is in favor of property tax cap legislation...it work on worked so far school boards do not have control of budgets because of high cost of teacher pensions and health costs....Governor attack on teachers is wrong....still have not fixed common core....board of regents has been a disaster. Should be overview of prison facilities in light of Dannemora break out....there are always new ways for criminals to bring in materials to help in break out
Start Up NY should be shut down....because he has created less 100 jobs....it is not getting return despite TV advertising...businesses run into state agencies that make it hard for business to conduct business.

6/19/15 WAMC's Alan Chartock talks with Ken Lovett, Albany Bureau Chief for *The New York Daily News*. Governor Maro Cuomo is getting a lot of good credit on something he did, by passing the bill about sexual assaults on private colleges which SUNY and CUNY their own. It means yes means yes and talks about you must have consented to the acts.

Also touches on how to report and who can investigate. The bill states the student can ask for an outside person to investigate. It sets a bill of rights to the students.

6/26/15 WAMC's Alan Chartock talks with New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli. Asks who the states of things in New York? Are we fiscally in trouble or are we ok? His answer was that we just put out our most recent cash report and from a budget and revenue prospect we are in good shape as the numbers come in we are on a timely good frame.

Saying that what has helped a little is some of the money coming in from law suit that we have been hearing about has helped generate more cash flow.

Things can change if the stock market take a hit. But as far as right now things seem to be on the positive side.