

# TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WEAR-TV  
Location: Pensacola, FL  
Quarter ending: December 31, 2014

ISSUE/description: 1. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS. The continuing effects of the latest Presidential election, and now speculation on the 2016 election; Florida's controversial Governor and state elections this year; local and state political issues; partisan politics.

## How Issue was treated (Program, PSA, etc.):

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time/Duration</u>	<u>Program type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. Channel 3 News at 10PM	10/08/14	10:01PM/2 minutes	News	*

\* We reported on the Santa Rosa County ballot initiative to approve a new one-cent sales tax to build a new judicial center. The old courthouse in Milton is suffering from lack of space and security issues. County Administrator Hunter Walker said a new courthouse is the only solution ... there is no less expensive or easier way. Donald Spencer, S.R. County Clerk of Court, said he and his offices moved into modular unit additions in 2009, but it has very expensive upkeep. Voters will also rate the three choices for location of the new center.

2. Facing Florida	10/12/14	02:06AM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	**
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\*\* Pete Dunbar, former Chief of Staff to Governor Bob Martinez, and Screven Watson, former Executive Director for the Florida Democratic Party discussed the latest polls in the state, analyzing what they really mean in relation to the races and issues on the Florida ballot. They also critiqued some of the recent ads for Governor, and discussed Amendments 1 and 2.

3. Channel 3 News 1 <sup>st</sup> at Four "Your Three Cents"	10/13/14	04:19PM/3 minutes	Public Affairs	***
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\*\*\* This is our regular segment where we present a current issue and solicit viewer input of their opinions on that issue. Today's issue was: "Do you think a political candidate can win an election without using negative ads?" With just a few weeks to go before the general elections, the war chests of political candidates everywhere will be emptied and spent on last minute messages to voters. That means a barrage of negative ads are about to assault your television, radio, computer and newspaper. We say we hate them, but the consensus is... they work, and are a virtual must for a political campaign. That may be because we tend to remember negative stuff better... and longer... than positive stuff. Political campaigns are counting on that when they attack an opponent. A new Rasmussen Reports survey finds that 63% of regular television viewers think most political advertising on TV attacks the opposing candidate. It also found that 56% of American adults believe it is possible for a candidate to win an election without criticizing their opponent.

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4. Channel 3 News 1 <sup>st</sup> at Four "Your Three Cents"	10/14/14	04:20PM/2 minutes	Public Affairs	****

\*\*\*\* Today's issue was: "Do you support or oppose Amendment #3 on the Florida ballot, to change how judges are appointed?" One of the constitutional amendments Florida voters will decide on in November could have major political and legal implications for the state. Amendment #3 will ask voters to let a governor make judicial appointments, before the job is actually vacant. The Constitution now states a sitting governor makes appointments after a sitting judge steps down ... either by age limits, losing an election, or failing in a retention vote. If the amendment passes with at least 60-percent voter approval, an outgoing governor could make judicial appointments, instead of the new governor. Supporters say the amendment 'removes confusion from the process'. Opponents say there is no confusion, and never has been. Former State Supreme Court Justice Harry Anstead says the amendment is simply a ploy to grab political power, and if it passes, it would remove any public accountability on the outgoing governor for his appointments. Anstead says the amendment is the legislature's response to their failed attempt to remove three justices from the state Supreme Court with public retention votes in 2012. The amendment is the only one of three on the ballot to be placed there by the legislature.

5. Channel 3 News 1 <sup>st</sup> at Four "Your Three Cents"	10/16/14	04:21PM/2 minutes	Public Affairs	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* Today's issue was: "Do you support or oppose Amendment #1 on the Florida ballot, to dedicate money for environmental conservation?" One of the constitutional amendments Florida voters will be deciding on in November would create a dedicated funding source for the purchase of environmentally sensitive land. Amendment #1 would dedicate 33 percent of net revenue from the existing excise tax on documents to the land acquisition trust fund, originally designed to purchase lands for parks and recreation. Funding for the trust has been decimated in past years. Amendment One would provide a new revenue source for the trust fund, which would use the money to buy and improve conservation easements, wildlife management areas, wetlands, forests, fish and wildlife habitats, beaches, recreational trails and parks, and much more. Supporters say the environmental protection is needed to keep tourists coming to the state, and protect the drinking water and recreational opportunities for residents. Opponents' chief argument is that this is not something that should be in the constitution ... and would remove any flexibility with the money.

6. Progress + Promise	10/19/14	10:30AM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* Host Shannon Nickinson and guest, Santa Rosa County Commissioner Lane Lynchard, discussed the one-cent sales tax proposal that is on the November ballot. The 5-year tax will fund construction of a new judicial center to replace the county courthouse in Milton that was built in 1927 and is woefully outdated. Voters will also be asked to rank 3 possible locations for the new judicial center.

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7. Facing Florida	10/26/14	02:06AM/10 minutes	Public Affairs	*****

\*\*\*\*\* The most costly Gubernatorial race in the country is about to get an infusion of cash from Rick Scott. Political reporter Bill Cotterell discussed Scott's self-funding campaign to win reelection.

8. Channel 3 News at 6PM	10/29/14	06:03PM/2 minutes	News	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* We profiled Amendment 3 on next Tuesday's election. It would allow the outgoing Governor to make State Supreme Court judicial appointments, instead of waiting for the incoming Governor to make those appointments. We interviewed former Governor Bob Graham and retired Justice Harry Lee Anstead, both of whom are opposed to the amendment.

9. Channel 3 News 1 <sup>st</sup> at Four "Your Three Cents"	10/31/14	04:22PM/2 minutes	Public Affairs	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* Today's issue was: "Should your voter registration information and voting history be public information?" A political mailer showing up in Florida mailboxes this week is making people angry. The flier is from a political action committee called "Citizens for a Better Florida"... and essentially tries to shame people into voting. The flier includes your name, address, and the names and addresses of your neighbors. Plus... it shows whether you and your neighbors have voted in elections dating back to 2010... and whether you and your neighbors have voted yet this year. The message says..." Why haven't you voted yet?" And, "Your neighbors will know." It does not include information on how you voted. The mailing has touched off numerous complaints around the state from people who see it as an invasion of privacy, and an outright threat to vote. The PAC is based in Orlando, chaired by a Richard Darling. It's funded by "The Realtors PAC", "Florida Realtors PAC", and "The National Association of Realtors." State records show 'Citizens for a Better Florida' spent half a million dollars in postage on October 21st to send the fliers. The PAC has previously sent out fliers in support of Governor Rick Scott. Voter registration information is public information in Florida. Under some circumstances, you can have the Department of State keep your information private.

10. 2014: Your Voice Your Vote	11/04/14	09:00PM/1 hour	News/Public Affairs	*10
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\*10 ABC aired election results for the entire country, with discussion of the impact of today's voting on national issues.

11. Channel 3 News at 10PM	11/04/14	10:00PM/63 minutes	News/Public Affairs	*11
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\*11 We presented the results of all local and state races, with interviews of winning candidates, and expert analysis of the voting on the races and amendments.

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12. ABC News Special Report:	11/05/14	01:55PM/77 minutes	News/Public Affairs	*12
*12 President Obama held a press conference to discuss the results of Tuesday's elections, and his plans for working with the new Republican majority on pending legislative issues.				
13. Channel 3 News at 10PM	11/06/14	10:04PM/2 minutes	News	*13
*13 Nearly 56% of Santa Rosa voters said "no" to a one-cent sales tax designed to fund construction of a new judicial center, so now county commissioners and Administrator Hunter Walker are going back to work on other plans for funding the project. Some residents we interviewed weren't even aware that the old courthouse was still in use ... others simply did not want to be taxed any more.				
14. Facing Florida	11/09/14	02:06AM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	*14
*14 Pete Dunbar, former Chief of Staff to Governor Bob Martinez, and Screven Watson, former Executive Director for the Florida Democratic Party discussed the outcome of last Tuesday's election, from Governor Scott's reelection to the failure of the Amendment to legalize medical Marijuana, and all races and issues in between.				
15. Facing Florida	11/23/14	02:06AM/10 minutes	Public Affairs	*15
*15 John Kennedy from the Palm Beach Post discussed what a supermajority will mean for Florida's Republican lawmakers.				
16. Facing Florida	12/07/14	02:06AM/10 minutes	Public Affairs	*16
*16 Kevin Cate, a Democratic consultant, was the first person to float the idea of moving Florida's Gubernatorial elections back to Presidential election years. He discussed the concept, saying it would boost turnout for the Democrats.				
17. Facing Florida	12/14/14	02:06AM/15 minutes	Public Affairs	*17
*17 Screven Watson, former Executive Director for the Florida Democratic Party discussed the need for Democrats to regroup and present a positive message for their Florida constituents. He also talked about the hottest sleeper issues facing the 2015 legislative session.				

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18. Channel 3 News 1 <sup>st</sup> at Four "Your Three Cents"	12/16/14	04:20PM/2 minutes	Public Affairs	*18

\*18 Today's issue was: "Does the U.S. need more restrictions on political contributions?" If you think American politics and government are controlled primarily by the rich, you have new evidence to support the idea. A controversial provision inserted into the 2015 federal spending bill allows wealthy donors to give much bigger chunks of money to national political parties. The new campaign finance rules would enable someone to give eight times as much to national parties. Instead of the current cap of \$97-thousand, donors would be able to give over \$777-thousand each year to funds and committees run by the parties or their campaigns. That means individuals could give \$1.6 million dollars in a two-year election cycle. The proposal was slipped into the \$1.1 trillion dollar government spending bill and is the latest blow to reign in campaign finances. Some reform advocates say it would allow millionaires and billionaires to buy influence through big contributions. In April, the Supreme Court struck down limits on the overall campaign contributions individual donors can make to candidates, political parties and political action committees. That decision followed the court's 2010 Citizens United ruling that the First Amendment allowed unlimited independent political expenditures by corporations, labor unions and certain nonprofit groups.

19. Facing Florida	12/28/14	02:06AM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	*19
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\*19 Pete Dunbar, former Chief of Staff to Governor Bob Martinez, and Screven Watson, former Executive Director for the Florida Democratic Party discussed what they think will be the surprise issues of the coming years for our state.