

Issues Programs List

4th Quarter 2023 Issues Programs List

Station: WALJ FM, WTUG 97.5FM, WTUG 110.9FM, WTBC FM, WTSK AM/FM, WFFN FM, WQRR FM

October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

Section I. Issues

The stations have identified the following topics as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

A. Water Quality Clean and safe drinking water is a human right but pollution from sewage, farming and coal ash continues to be a significant hazard across West Alabama.

B. Voting Rights. Alabama has long been at the center for minority voting rights. The fight over congressional redistricting in Alabama has sparked resurgence in the effort to promote equal ballot access, not only in Alabama, but in at least five other southern states.

C. Israel-Hamas War. The war between Israel and Hamas has the potential to have major impact on the world, even here in Alabama.

D. Game Day security. With more than 100,000 fans in town for UA home football weekends, security is an issue and the City of Tuscaloosa and UA have stepped up the program

E. Service for Disabled Children. More young people with Autism, Downs Syndrome and other disabilities need help than ever before.

F. Politics. The center of public policy and programs in Alabama is the legislature.

G. Historically Black Colleges & Universities. HBCUs are a critical and integral part of leveling the playing field for minorities and Tuscaloosa is home to one of the oldest.

H. Congress. The turmoil in congress impact everyone, in both parties and in all walks of life. Conducting congressional business is critical to every phase of our civic lives.

I. Healthcare. The pandemic exacerbated already serious problems in the state's healthcare systems, problems that continue to plague hospitals.

J. Impactful Events. 2023 included numerous events that had a direct impact on the lives and livelihoods of the people of West Alabama.

Section II. Responsive Programs

Date(s) Aired	Program Name	Description of Issue Discussed	Duration	Time
01 Oct 23	West Alabama on Point	Water Quality. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has filed a civil claim against the City of Tuscaloosa for chronic illegal discharge of dangerous pollutants into Cribbs Mill Creek and Black Warrior River. The storage of dangerous coal ash along West Alabama waterways presents a significant health issue. John Wathan of Black Warrior	30 minutes	6:00 AM

		RiverKeeper discusses actions being taken to deal with the two problems along with chemical leaching from farm lands.		
08 Oct 23	West Alabama on Point	Voting Rights. Equal access to voting and fairness in representation are at the heart of a 3-judge federal panel's selection of a court mandated 2 nd congressional district in which minorities have a fairer opportunity to elect candidates like them. AL 7 th District Rep. Terri Sewell led a forum sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus to discuss the issue and ways to counter opposition.	30 minutes	6:00 AM
15 Oct 23	West Alabama on Point	Water Quality. The City of Tuscaloosa answers lawsuits about chronic spillage of raw sewage into the Black Warrior River and its tributaries. Mayor Walt Maddox explains the contributing factors. Also, Cindy Lowery of Alabama Rivers Alliance explains the importance of clean water and the factors that make it difficult.	30 minutes	6:00 AM
22 Oct 23	West Alabama on Point	Israel-Hamas War. When Hamas rockets flew into Israel and terrorist attacked civilians in had an impact on Alabamians. First Tuscaloosa businessman Gene Poole who was there with his wife and friends. Secondly, a battle between Alabama Senior Senator Tommy Tuberville and the White House ensued over U.S. Middle East policy. Tuberville and Poole were guests.	30 minutes	6:00 AM
29 Oct 23	West Alabama on Point	Game Day Security. Huge crowds and security threats forced Tuscaloosa and UA to increase security on game day weekends. Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox, TPD Chief Brent Blankley and Tuscaloosa Fire Rescue Chief Randy Smith discuss the results. Service for Disable Children. The Rise Center in Tuscaloosa is nationally recognized for the free programs they provide for parents of disability children. The center's Director Andi Gillen discusses the importance of what they do Politics. The nominees in the special January District 16 discuss who they are and their plans, Halloween. The economic and social impact of this spooky holiday is discussed.	30 minutes	6:00 AM
05 Nov 23	West Alabama on Point	Veterans Day Issues. With a major VA Medical Center and a university with a large veterans' education program, Tuscaloosa is at the forefront of providing veteran services. The progress and shortfalls are discussed and a look at the advent of Veterans Day, founded in Alabama.	30 minutes	6:00 AM
12 Nov 23	West Alabama on Point	Veterans Day Issues. In part 2 of our feature on Veterans issues we talk with VA experts dealing with veteran homelessness from Veteran's Matter, a national organization. Israel-Hamas War. Tuscaloosa businessman Gene Poole was in Israel with the war with Hamas began with rocket attacks on October	30 minutes	6:00 AM

		7 th . As a former military commander, he describes what he saw and how events in the Middle East could impact the U.S. and the world. He also discusses his military duty with Special Forces.		
19 Nov 23	West Alabama on Point	Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Tuscaloosa is home to Stillman College, one of the nation's oldest HBCUs. After struggling through financial difficulties and facing potential closure, new leadership turned the school around. Now, a new president plans to build on that success long term. Dr. Yolanda Page discusses Stillman's past, present and future.	30 minutes	6:00 AM
26 Nov 23	West Alabama on Point	Congress. 7 th District Democrat Congresswoman Terri Sewell has a reputation for bringing home the bacon to West Alabama. Turmoil in congress and a divided nation is making that job more difficult	30 minutes	6:00 AM
3 Dec 23	West Alabama on Point	Healthcare. Alabama Hospital Association President and CEO Dr. Donald Williamson reflected on COVID19's impact on the state healthcare system and discussed chronic issues plaguing healthcare in Alabama. Politics. Discussed with Alabama GOP Chair John Wahl the Republican Presidential Debate at the University of Alabama Wednesday.	30 minutes	6:00 AM
10 Dec 23	West Alabama on Point	Politics. Tuscaloosa hosted Alabama 1 st Republican Presidential Debate this week. Mayor Walt Maddox discusses its impact on the city. Highlights of the comments of the four GOP candidates are dissected.	30 minutes	6:00 AM
17 Dec 23	West Alabama on Point	Politics. For 52 years the Kentuck Arts Festival has been located in Northport. Now Tuscaloosa is attempting to steal the nationally known festival that produces some \$5 million in annual revenue away. That is leading to tension and finger pointing between the across the river municipalities and the non-profit. The impact of the move on the economy and municipal relations is examined with Northport Council President Jeff Hogg, former Northport Mayor Bobby Herndon and Northport City Attorney Ron Davis.	30 minutes	6:00 AM
24 Dec 23	West Alabama on Point	Holiday Safety. Packed highways, airports, trains and cruises present a variety of safety issues at the holidays. Alabama Trooper Corporal Reginal King and AAA Alabama's Clay Ingram discuss tips for travel safety.	30 Minutes	6:00 AM
31 Dec 23	West Alabama on Point	Impactful Events. The year of 2023 new events in Tuscaloosa, Northport and West Alabama are reviewed by Tuscaloosa Thread Managing Editor Stephan Dethridge and Broadcast News Director Don Hartley.	30 minutes	6:00 AM