

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter

Program: Perspective

Air Date: January 8

Run Time: Approximately 30 minutes

Guest: Governor Andy Beshear  
(D) Commonwealth of Kentucky

Topic: State of the Commonwealth: 'Strong, If We Stay The Course'

Tuesday--the newly-elected and enhance Super-Majority Kentucky General Assembly came in for what the Commonwealth's Constitution mandates and Senators and Representative characterize as the 'short session; thirty days--but stretched through the end of March.

But short--rarely is simple.

This year--Governor Andy Beshear fights for Re-election, with no shortage of Republicans fighting to be the nominee-to try to deny him that second term.

As his State of the Commonwealth makes clear: he's couching his campaign on jobs and growth: what's been created on his watch--

and what he says--Kentucky must capitalize on-- to keep it strong.

All while battling over whether to cut taxes again--or which taxes--how to fix a broken juvenile Justice system,--and whether the Senate will deliver what the House has passed--twice: sports betting, and medical marijuana.

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add One

Program: Perspective

Air Date: January 15

Run Time: Approximately 30 minutes

Guests: Jeff Herron  
Office of Homelessness Prevention & Intervention  
Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

Governor Andy Beshear  
(D) Commonwealth of Kentucky

Topics: Counting the Homeless, Fixing Juvenile Justice

As we begin our fourth full week of CALENDAR winter--we're reminded of our neighbors that we know by their presence--if not their numbers.

The homeless--for whom the streets, the underpasses, are preferable--even to some of the shelters Lexington offers to ensure their safety from the elements, both natural and predatory.

Lexington's Office of Homeless Prevention and Intervention is looking for volunteers to help count the uncounted--not only to assess the need, but whether it's growing.

No one would argue that Kentucky's Juvenile Justice System is anything but broken.

Late last year--a series of incidents at the Adair County holding facility prompted Governor Andy Beshear to make radical changes in which children and teenagers are held where.

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add Two

Program: Perspective

Air Date: January 22

Run Time: Approximately 30 minutes

Guests: U.S. Rep. James Comer  
®Kentucky-First District

Gov. Andy Beshear  
(D) Commonwealth of Kentucky

Topics: Legislative Agendas

For lack of 84 votes in the Republican primary eight years ago, James Comer might well have become Kentucky's Governor.

That's the margin, plus one by which he lost to Matt Bevin--who won that General Election to become the Commonwealth's 54th Chief Executive.

But Comer far from faded.

Within a year--he'd win the House seat to represent Kentucky's First District in Congress.

And since Republicans took control of the lower chamber this year--he's taken the reins of one of its more powerful committees: Oversight and Investigations.

Perspective examines the 'close scrutiny' and unblinking eye he's promised the Biden White House.

Kentucky lawmakers return in two and a half weeks for the Second Half of their Odd Year Short-Session. Governor Andy Beshear vowed he'll get them to re-open the two year budget to give teachers a raise, establish statewide pre-school and reform the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system.

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add Three

Program: Perspective

Air Date: January 29

Run Time: Approximately 30 minutes

Guests: Ms. Ricki Pryor  
Reporter, The Richmond Register  
Richmond, KY

Ms. Debbie Long  
Owner, Dudley's Restaurant  
Lexington, KY

Topics: Of Alcohol & Asphalt

Restaurants, taverns --all parts of the hospitality industry tend to be reliable bell-  
weathers of the economy.

Tougher times reflected in empty tables and lighter tips.

So owners look for an edge --or at least, a way to counter-act new developments that  
could make even deeper cuts to the bottom line.

This week's Perspective looks at the push--by petition -put a Wet-Dry vote on the Ballot  
in Madison County.

Madison County--outside city limits--has been dry since the days of Prohibition.

And given the timing--WOMEN never have had a chance to vote on it.

In Lexington--the push-back is a spike in the price to park downtown.  
Some long-tenured restaurateurs saying the compromise--doesn't nearly go far enough.

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add Four

Program: Perspective

Air Date: February 5

Run Time: Approximately 28 minutes

Guest: Dr. Demetrus Liggins  
Superintendent  
Fayette County Public Schools

Topic: Kentucky Public Education: All In?

Kentucky lawmakers return in two days for the 'meat' portion of their odd-numbered year short-session.

And Public Education--figuratively, is straddling the fence.

Governor Andy Beshear --facing re-election --has pushed hard to spend part of the Commonwealth's record two-billion-plus dollars surplus -- one-time money --to expand pre-school statewide and to give teachers a five-percent, over-and-above what individual school Districts have promised and/or provided.

He describes the situation as dire: Kentucky, 11-thousand teachers short--in part because only six states pay worse.

Lawmakers--reluctant to re-open the Budget Midway through a two-year cycle--and to take on new ongoing costs with one-time money, all the while trying to cut income tax rates, without reducing revenue.

Caught in the middle of all this: Dr. Demetrus Liggins --a year-and-a-half into his tenure as Superintendent of Fayette County Schools--which itself has raised property taxes to cover more than half a billion dollars' worth of new programs, new buildings--and long-deferred maintenance.

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add Five

Program: Perspective

Air Date: February 12

Run Time: Approximately 30 Minutes

Guests: Sen. Stephen West  
® Chair: Education Committee

Sen. Max Wise  
® Bill Sponsor

Sen. Reginald Thomas  
(D) Committee Member

Sen. Shelley Frommeyer  
® Committee Member

Sen. Danny Carroll  
® Committee Member

Sen. Lindsey Tichenor  
® Committee Member

Sen. Robert Stivers  
® Chamber President & Committee Member

Chris Hartman  
Executive Director: Fairness Coalition

Dr. Lori Grimes  
Pediatric Psychologist

Myles Joiner  
Trans-Man, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Brenda Roe  
Social Worker

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add Six

Program: Perspective (contd)

Topic: Senate Bill #150: Parents' Rights or Students Suppressed?

Though Republican hold Super-Majorities of four-to-one or greater in Kentucky's House & Senate -- leadership leaves little to chance when considering which bills to advance, let alone pass.

In Committees-virtually no bill hears unless the Chair wants it and knows it will clear.

Likewise--in the respective upper and lower chambers: no passage assured? No vote.

It's why Senate Education Bill 150 has drawn both inspiration--and ire.

This week's Perspective: the Committee review of the sweeping measure supporters call a step forward for parents rights and District Independence--and opponents call Kentucky's Anti-woke and don't say Gay Bill that targets LGBTQ Children.

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add Seven

Program: Perspective

Air Date: February 19

Run Time: Approximately 30 minutes

Guests: John Hicks  
Budget Director  
Commonwealth of Kentucky

Vicki Reed  
Commissioner of Juvenile Justice  
Commonwealth of Kentucky

Rep. Patrick Flannary  
® Judiciary Sub-Committee Chair

Governor Andy Beshear  
(D) Commonwealth of Kentucky

Sen. Max Wise  
® Campbellsville: Bill Sponsor

Sen. Karen Berg, MD  
(D) Louisville

Sen. Reginald Thomas  
(D) Lexington

Topics: Juvenile Justice, LGBTQ Children, Abortion Rights

Children dominating the Agenda as Kentucky lawmakers wrap up the 13th day of their 30-day odd-year short session in Frankfort.

Tuesday--Budget Director John Hicks and Juvenile Justice Commissioner Vicki Reed lobbied for Governor Andy Beshear's call to spend \$45 million trying to shore up staffing shortages with pay raises, training and security equipment -- even calls to build or re-open two detention centers to handle the load.

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add Eight

Topics (contd)

Kentucky's Senate--taking the first steps toward what sponsor--Max Wise calls a step forward for parents and teachers rights regarding LGBTQ children.  
His bill allows teachers the option--NOT to address children by a gender pronoun if it happens NOT to be the gender to which they were born.

The decisions--sparking outrage and anguish from Louisville Senator Doctor Karen Berg--whose adult transgender son--took his own life last year.  
And from Lexington's Reginald Thomas--who argues it denies parent's rights--to have their children addressed in the way they feel most comfortable.

Thursday--what could be a major setback for supporters of a right to abortion in the Commonwealth.

Kentucky's Supreme Court refusing to re-instate a ban on two highly-restrictive laws, while a lower court decides whether our State's Constitution provides a RIGHT to abortion, by guaranteeing a right to Medical Privacy.

The Court ruled that two abortion providers have no standing to sue as a third party. Kentucky's laws allow abortion only to save the life of the Mother--or to prevent permanent damage to one of her life-sustaining organs.

Jefferson County Circuit Court has given no indication as to when it will rule as to whether Kentucky's abortion laws are constitutional.

In November--voters rejected amending the Constitution--such that it would provide No guaranteed right to abortion.

One State Senator--wants lawmakers to put that Amendment BACK on the Ballot.

A state Representative wants State Prosecutors to be able to charge any mother who aborts a pregnancy illegally--to be charged with murder.

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add Nine

Program: Perspective

Air Date: February 26

RunTime: Approximately 30 minutes

Guests: Sen. Robbie Mills  
Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Bill Sponsor

Sen. Robin Webb  
(D) Grayson

Sen. Adrienne Southworth  
® Lawrenceburg

Sen. Karen Berg  
(D) Louisville

Topic: Hazing: Separate Crime & Penalty?

Tomorrow marks the 17th Day of Kentucky's odd-numbered year, short Legislative Session, and as you might imagine--a number of contentious issues remain unresolved.

One that is less so, could be Lofton's Law-- named in memory of UK freshman Lofton Hazelwood, who died almost a year and a half ago of alcohol poisoning, while pledging a fraternity.

Last Thursday--the Senate passed a bill that would make Hazing in and of itself--a crime.

Should hazing lead to injury or death--a felony.

One to five years in Prison.

Part One of this week's Perspective: the debate as to the message this law would send. And why some believe that the penalties--at least as the bill reads before the House considers it --might NOT be fair, depending upon one's role in the crime.

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add Ten

Program (contd)    Perspective

Guest:            Natalia Martinez  
                      Investigative Reporter  
                      WAVE-TV Channel 3  
                      Louisville, KY

Topic:            The 'Bluegrass Conspiracy' behind 'Cocaine Bear'

By now--you're aware of 'Cocaine Bear' -- the horror-comedy now in theaters--  
purporting to be based on a true story.  
The word's 'cocaine and bear' are where the facts begin and end.

The bear is the tie to the so-called Bluegrass Conspiracy--a tangle-tale of Bluegrass  
Bluebloods turned drug-smugglers and gun-runners,  
culminating with Andrew Thornton's fall to his death in a driveway south of Knoxville--a  
dufflebag of coke strapped to his back.

Part #2 of Perspective: another Kentucky reporters--search to answer  
Who was the true Drew Thornton?

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add Eleven

Program: Perspective  
Air Date: March 5  
Run Time: Approximately 30 Minutes  
Guests: Rep. Jennifer Decker  
R-Waddy/Bill Sponsor

Rep. Tina Bojanowski  
D-Louisville

Rep. Josie Raymond  
D-Louisville

Rep. Chad Aull  
D-Lexington

Gov. Andy Beshear  
D-Commonwealth of Kentucky

Topic: House Bill #470 Protecting Children or Denial of Rights?

As Kentucky's Odd-Year Session of the General Assembly enters the far turn - its lower chamber has taken a far turn with a bill that the Republican Supermajority maintains will protect children --but that most Democrats and the LGBTQ community see as discrimination--and a rejection of their rights to Equal Protection under the law.

The bill limits medical services for children and teenagers trying to gender transition.

Medical professionals could lose their licenses for providing such services-- be they puberty-blocking hormones--gender change surgery or counseling.

The full House passed it within hours of it clearing committee--sparking outrage among the hundreds of trans-youth and their supporters—who came to Frankfort in hopes of stopping it.

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add Twelve

Program: Perspective

Air Date: March 12

Run Time: Approximately 30 minutes

Guests: Daniel Lowery  
Public Information Officer  
Kentucky Utilities

COL Jeremy Slenker  
Kentucky Emergency Management

Whitney Elliott Baxter  
Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council

Topics: Nature's Fury: How'd We Do?

March has more than roared its way into the Commonwealth.

Nine days ago--winds delivered what Emergency Responders and Utility companies agree was the third largest challenge the past twenty years.  
At peak --more than half a million homes and businesses without power--statewide.

Between a fifth and a quarter in Lexington-Fayette County.  
A few--out for as long as six days.  
But most back within four.

It came-though--with so much warning--Governor Andy Beshear declared a state of emergency even as the winds crossed the state line.  
But how did we really do?

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add Thirteen

Program: Perspective

Air Date: March 19

Run Time: Approximately 30 minutes

Guests: Rep. Keturah Heron  
D-Louisville

Rep. David Osborne  
R-House Speaker

Rep. Rachel Roberts  
D-Newport/Minority Whip

Rep. Lindsey Burke  
D-Lexington

Rep. Lisa Wilner  
D-Louisville

Rep. David Meade  
R-Bill Sponsor/Speaker Pro Tem

Rep. Nima Kulkarni  
D-Louisville

Rep. Josie Raymond  
D-Louisville

Governor Andy Beshear  
D-Commonwealth of Kentucky

Topic: Child Protection or Targeting the LGBTQ Community?

(see next)

Public Affairs Programming  
2023 First Quarter  
Add Fourteen

Topic: Child Protection or LGBTQ Targeting?

In ten days, Kentucky lawmakers return from the veto break to wrap up their odd-year short session.

And odd only begins to describe it.

'At odds' may be more like it.

Especially given the sweeping bill, expanded literally in a five-minute meeting of the House Education Committee that all but bans most medical care targeted to children and teenagers seeking to change genders.

Provisions tacked onto the Senate bill give teachers the option not to use a child's preferred pronouns--requires schools to tell parents about coursework in sexuality and allows them to review and/or opt their children out of their coursework.

This week's Perspective: a cross section of the heated party-line debate that followed in the House; the Majority of the Republican Super-majority maintains it protects parents' rights and students' health.

Democrats decry it as bigoted--and cruel.

Governor Andy Beshear has all but promised a veto

Public Affairs Programming  
First Quarter-Add Fifteen

Program: Perspective

Air Date: March 26

Run Time: Approximately 26 minutes

Guests: Mike Harmon  
Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts

Dr. Ronald Johnson  
Interim President  
Kentucky State University

Topic: Kentucky State University: Checks Unbalanced

Not quite two years ago--Christopher Brown the second resigned abruptly --as President of Kentucky State University -- amid questions of spending irregularities and his conduct with students.

Soon after--the Board of Regents learned Kentucky State's financial straits were dire beyond the President's Office.

So much so that last year--lawmakers okayed spending 23 million dollars--simply to get the University through the end of the last budget year in June.

But that spending had a caveat.

A top to bottom review from State Auditor Mike Harmon--the results of which we learned this past Wednesday.

Harmon explains how his team had to reconstruct how millions were spent or mis-spent--in many cases--with no paper trail.



