

# QUARTERLY TOPICS REPORT

## issues and opinions

WGTE Public Media – FM 91

Toledo, OH

WGTE-FM 91.3 Toledo, OH  
WGLE-FM 90.7 Lima, OH  
WGBE-FM 90.9 Bryan, OH  
WGDE-FM 91.9 Defiance, OH

For the period **October 01, 2023** to **December 31, 2023**

The licensee of station WGTE Public Media has determined that the following issues were of importance to the Northwest Ohio/Southwest Michigan community during the past three months and has aired the following most significant programming to address those issues.

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# Topics

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*Sources: Ohio Statehouse News; The Blade; The Ohio Newsroom*

**All items aired during the local 4 minute newsbreaks in *Morning Edition* at 6:29 a.m., 7:29 a.m. and 8:29 a.m. on FM 91, and consisted of live-read material mixed with the occasional produced segment, as provided by the syndicated news sources listed above.**

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**WGTE FM 91 Quarterly Topics**

**ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT**

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**Title: Nearly \$6 Billion Wagered in First Year of Ohio Sports Betting**

**Date: 12/22/2023**

**Duration: 0'42"**

Sports betting started in Ohio almost a year ago.

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**WGTE FM 91 Quarterly Topics**

**BUSINESS, ECONOMICS AND  
FINANCE**

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**Title: Ohio Merchants Predict a Slight Increase in Holiday Spending**

**Date: 11/21/2023**

**Duration: 0'45"**

According to a 7,500 member council of Ohio retailers; merchants across the State are predicted to see a slight boost in spending over last year's holiday season.

**Title: National Group Retracts Claim about Organized Retail Crime**

**Date: 12/11/2023**

**Duration: 0'43"**

A national retail group has retracted a claim that organized retail crime makes up half the shopping industry's theft losses.

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**WGTE FM 91 Quarterly Topics**

**EDUCATION**



**Title: Possible Transfer of Powers from Ohio DoE to a New Body**

**Date: 10/23/2023**

**Duration: 0'44"**

A decision was reached on Friday as to the powers overseen by the *Ohio Department of Education* and the possible transfer to a new body.

**Title: Trustees from Ohio's Public Colleges and Universities Gather**

**Date: 10/24/2023**

**Duration: 0'46"**

Trustees from Ohio's public colleges and universities gathered at the Statehouse for the first ever statewide trustees symposium yesterday.

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**WGTE FM 91 Quarterly Topics**

**MEDICINE AND HEALTH**

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**Title: Health Officials Preparing for Winter Illnesses in Ohio**

**Date: 10/18/2023**

**Duration: 0'44"**

As the days get shorter and the nights get longer, Ohio health officials are preparing for what they are concerned may be a winter wave of illness.

**Title: State Health Department Issues Warning About Upcoming Holiday Gatherings**

**Date: 12/19/2023**

**Duration: 0'41"**

The Ohio Department of Health has issued an important and concerning message for upcoming holiday season gatherings – cases of respiratory illness are on the rise, and a substantial number of Ohioans aren't currently protected from them.

**Title: Medicaid for Dental Care—Some Ohioans Being Denied Coverage**

**Date: 12/27/2023**

**Duration: 0'45"**

Some Ohioans who rely on Medicaid coverage for dental care are running into difficulties – they are being denied coverage for that care because of their age.

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**WGTE FM 91 Quarterly Topics**

**POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT**

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**Title: Lawsuits Launched Opposing Ohio's Redistricting Maps**

**Date: 10/06/2023**

**Duration: 0'48"**

As they did last year, groups opposing Ohio's legislative redistricting maps that were adopted last week have launched lawsuits in the Ohio Supreme Court, saying the maps are unconstitutionally gerrymandered.

**Title: Ohio's AG Gives Legal Analysis for 2 Statewide Ballot Issues**

**Date: 10/06/2023**

**Duration: 0'45"**

In an unusual move, Ohio's attorney general is providing legal analyses of the two statewide issues on the fall ballot – Issue 1, dealing with reproductive rights and abortion access, and Issue 2, on the legalization of recreational marijuana.

**Title: Fines for Those Who Text While Driving**

**Date: 10/06/2023**

**Duration: 0'41"**

Ohioans who text and drive can now be fined for doing that.

**Title: Lawmakers to Consider Funding for Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund**

**Date: 10/09/2023**

**Duration: 0'50"**

State lawmakers are taking another crack at increasing local police department's contributions to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund... This follows a bill to do just that stalled in the last legislative session.

**Title: Ohio's U.S. Senators Divided on Additional Funding for Ukraine**

**Date: 10/10/2023**

**Duration: 0'43"**

A resolution to temporarily fund the federal government cleared Congress at the start of the month, without additional dollars for Ukraine -- and Ohio's two U.S. senators are still divided as to what specific role the U.S. should play in Russia's invasion of the country.

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**Title: Voter Registration Closed, Early Voting Begins for Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Election**

**Date: 10/11/2023**

**Duration: 0'42"**

Yesterday was the last day to register to vote in Ohio. Early voting begins this morning ahead of the November 7<sup>th</sup> election.

**Title: House Speaker Jason Stephens Responds to a Lawsuit Filed Against Him**

**Date: 10/12/2023**

**Duration: 0'48"**

Ohio House Speaker **Jason Stephens** says a lawsuit filed against him by three fellow Republican state representatives over alleged misuse of campaign funds is frivolous.

**Title: A Proposal as to Ohio Draws Redistricting Maps Moves Forward**

**Date: 10/13/2023**

**Duration: 0'48"**

A proposed constitutional amendment to overhaul how Ohio generates district maps for lawmakers cleared another hurdle yesterday in its process to being placed front of voters next year.

**Title: Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Ballot, Issue 1: Both Sides Debate Reproductive Rights and Abortion Access**

**Date: 10/16/2023**

**Duration: 0'45"**

Both sides on the reproductive rights and abortion access amendment that voters will see as Issue 1 on the Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> ballot met for a debate sponsored by the Ohio Debate Commission, Spectrum News, the Columbus Dispatch and the Cincinnati Enquirer.

**Title: More Debate about Issue 1 on the Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Ballot**

**Date: 10/17/2023**

**Duration: 0'48"**

Opponents of Issue 1 have stopped talking about a six-week abortion ban that many of them fought for & that now remains in legal limbo.

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**Title: Public Records Request Filed for Records Concerning Ohio’s SoS Office Move**

**Date: 10/19/2023**

**Duration: 0’43”**

Following concerns over possible impropriety, three people have filed public records requests for information pertaining to Republican Secretary of State **Frank LaRose’s** decision to move his office into a building that houses the law firm that filed paperwork for his US Senate campaign.

**Title: State House Bill to Change How Spousal Rape Is Treated Advances**

**Date: 10/19/2023**

**Duration: 0’45”**

Ohio remains one of only 11 states where spousal rape is still treated differently in the legal system, more than half a century after it was outlawed.

**Title: Testimony about the “Bathroom Bill,” How It Would Apply to Ohio Schools, Colleges and Universities**

**Date: 10/19/2023**

**Duration: 0’59”**

Ohio lawmakers heard more testimony about the so-called bathroom bill, legislation that mandates K-12 schools as well as public colleges and universities to require students to use bathrooms that correspond to the gender on their birth certificates.

**Title: Difficulty in Finding Enough Poll Workers for Recent Elections**

**Date: 10/20/2023**

**Duration: 0’41”**

Boards of elections throughout the State are saying it’s becoming more difficult to find enough poll workers to staff polling locations in recent elections.

**Title: Controversial Senate Bill 83 Will Not Soon Come to a Vote in the House**

**Date: 10/25/2023**

**Duration: 0’47”**

The Republican leader of the Ohio House of Representatives announced yesterday that the controversial Senate passed bill proposed to overhaul higher education in

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order to address concerns of conservatives legislators, will not be coming up for a vote in the near future.

**Title: Is a Death Certificate a Part of the Public Record? Ohio Supreme Court Is Asked to Decide**

**Date: 10/26/2023**

**Duration: 0'45"**

The Ohio Supreme Court is being asked to answer a question that has lingered since the pandemic – whether or not the information contained on a death certificate is part of the public record.

**Title: Relative Quiet about Campaign to Pass Issue 2 on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Ballot**

**Date: 10/26/2023**

**Duration: 0'50"**

The campaign to pass Issue 2, the law proposed on the November ballot to legalize marijuana sales and use for Ohioans over 21, has been relatively quiet when compared to the failed legalization attempt in 2015.

**Title: Another Attempt to Change the Process of Drawing Congressional and State Legislative District Maps**

**Date: 10/26/2023**

**Duration: 0'42"**

It's back to the drawing board once again for the group attempting to change the process of drawing congressional and state legislative district maps through a ballot issue next year.

**Title: House May Consider a Bill to Further Expand Gun Rights in Ohio**

**Date: 11/22/2023**

**Duration: 0'45"**

When state lawmakers return from the Thanksgiving break, the House could take up a bill that would further expand gun rights in Ohio, by permitting people to carry weapons into buildings that have courtrooms on the premises, however, not when court is in session.

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**Title: Ohio House Democrats Sponsor Bill to Protect Same-Sex and Interracial Marriage**

**Date: 11/28/2023**

**Duration: 0'45"**

More than half of Ohio House Democrats have signed onto a bill introduced before the Thanksgiving holiday to protect same-sex and interracial marriage.

**Title: Speaker Stephens Says Controversial Senate Bill 83 Does Not Have the Votes to Pass the House**

**Date: 11/29/2023**

**Duration: 0'45"**

A hearing is scheduled for today to address the controversial higher education bill backed by Republicans who say it is designed to stem what they see as liberal bias in Ohio's public universities.

**Title: Ohio's Recreational Marijuana Law to Take Effect Thursday.**

**Date: 12/01/2023**

**Duration: 0'46"**

Ohio's new recreational marijuana law passed by nearly 57% of voters this November is set to take effect next Thursday. Republican lawmakers have said they want to tweak the law before the start date.

**Title: Republican Senators Seek to Modify State's New Recreational Marijuana Program**

**Date: 12/05/2023**

**Duration: 0'41"**

With less than 48 hours until recreational marijuana is set to be legal in Ohio, Republican state senators are just now unveiling what they want to see modified about the state's soon-to-be program.

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**Title: Some Republican Lawmakers Seek Changes to State’s New Recreational Marijuana Program**

**Date: 12/06/2023**

**Duration: 0’42**

Some Republican lawmakers are looking to change the state’s recreational marijuana program before the first provisions under Issue 2 take effect tomorrow.

**Title: Ohioans Over 21 Can Possess and Use Marijuana from Today**

**Date: 12/07/2023**

**Duration: 4’30”**

As of today, Ohioans over 21 for the first time can purchase, possess, use and grow marijuana legally

**Title: Ohio Sues NCAA Over Its Transfer Eligibility Directives**

**Date: 12/08/2023**

**Duration: 0’46”**

Ohio and six other states are suing the National Collegiate Athletic Association over one of its transfer eligibility directives. The antitrust lawsuit filed yesterday targets a bylaw that prohibits some Division 1 student athletes who transfer from one institution to another from actually participating on the field or court for a year.

**Title: Proposed Changes to Voter-Approved Recreational Marijuana Law**

**Date: 12/12/2023**

**Duration: 0’43”**

A bill that makes changes in the voter-approved recreational marijuana law that went into effect last week could be finished up in the next few days.

**Title: Ohio’s Senate Democrats Say Now Is the Time to Pass Gun Safety**

**Provisions**

**Date: 12/13/2023**

**Duration: 0’46”**

Democrats in the Ohio Senate made it clear yesterday that the time is now for the state legislature to pass gun safety provisions – despite the Republican-dominated legislature consistently expanding gun rights for more than a decade.

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**Title: Transgender Youth’s Participation in School Athletics and Their Access to TG Medical Care—State Lawmakers Vote**

**Date: 12/14/2023**

**Duration: 0’48”**

Ohio lawmakers voted yesterday to both ban transgender youth from school athletics and limit their access to medical care related to their gender identity.

**Title: House Republicans Override a Veto of a Provision in the State Budget**

**Date: 12/14/2023**

**Duration: 0’45”**

After a weeks of wrangling for the needed 3/5 majority, Republicans in the House have overridden a veto on a provision in the state budget that would prohibit communities from banning sales of flavored tobacco, sending it now to the State Senate.

**Title: No Changes Yet to Voter-Approved Marijuana Law**

**Date: 12/14/2023**

**Duration: 0’44”**

The Ohio Legislature is set to go on holiday break without passing rules to implement the voter approved statute that legalizes marijuana.

**Title: Leader of Ohio House to Consider Abolishing Term Limits**

**Date: 12/15/2023**

**Duration: 0’47”**

The current leader of the Ohio House of Representatives has announced his intention of giving serious consideration to abolishing term limits.

**Title: Hamilton County Court to Rule on Ohio’s Six-Week Abortion Ban**

**Date: 12/18/2023**

**Duration: 0’48”**

The legality of the state’s six-week abortion ban now lies with the Hamilton County Court that first put it on hold.

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**Title: Last Major Candidate Files Paperwork for March Primary**

**Date: 12/20/2023**

**Duration: 0'49"**

The field is largely set for next year's Ohio U.S. Senate race.

**Title: Governor Grants Clemencies Using the Expedited Pardon Project**

**Date: 12/21/2023**

**Duration: 0'48"**

**Gov. Mike DeWine** has now granted clemency to more than 100 Ohioans with prior criminal convictions through a program that fast-tracks some pardons.

**Title: Gov. DeWine to Decide on Bill Affecting Transgender Youth and Students**

**Date: 12/28/2023**

**Duration: 0'46"**

**Gov. Mike DeWine** must make a decision by close of business tomorrow on what to do with a bill passed by Republican state lawmakers that would prevent trans students from playing in girls' sports and would subsequently prohibit trans teens from receiving certain medical treatments before they turn 18.

**Title: A Parent's Permission Needed for Ohio Teens to Join Social Media**

**Date: 12/29/2023**

**Duration: 0'46"**

Beginning this January, many teens in Ohio will have to get a parent's permission before they can join social media platforms like TikTok, Instagram, or YouTube.

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