



## **Quarterly Issues Programs Report**

**For**

**WKXW – New Jersey 101.5 FM, Trenton, NJ**

1st Quarter 2024

January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024

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**Issues Programs List**  
**Quarterly Issues Programs List**  
**Station: WKXW-FM, New Jersey 101.5**  
**January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024**

**Section I. Issues**

The station has identified the following topics as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

- A. **Immigration**: New Jersey's immigration policies moved to the forefront during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024 after busloads of migrants were dropped off at train stations in the state in an effort to circumvent a New York City policy restricting bus arrivals.
- B. **Education**: A number of educational issues were looked at during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter by WKXW.
- **New Jersey May Add Another Type of Excused Absence for Students** – A bill working its way through Trenton would award students one state-excused absence per academic year to attend civic events.
  - **College Degree Expense Causing Some to Rethink Higher Education Pursuit** – WKXW Talk Show Hosts Dennis Malloy and Judi Franco welcomed the opinions of their listeners during a one-hour conversation on whether getting a college degree is worth the financial hit that some people accrue.
  - **New Jersey Schools Scrapping President's Day to Make Up for Snow Closures** – Due to the number of weather-related closures New Jersey schools have taken, some school districts have altered their calendars to meet the state's 180-day requirement.
  - **New Jersey Adults Would Rather See Offensive Content Than Book Bans in School** – WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia examined a Rutgers-Eagleton poll that found the majority of New Jerseyans are worried about the implications book bans could have on the education of children.
  - **Four Years Later, New Jersey Colleges Still Feeling Impacts of COVID Lockdown** – WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia reported on a hearing before the Senate Higher Education Committee on March 4 in which educational officials of higher learning institutions said there continues to be big holes to fill when it comes to the academic achievement and mental health needs of students four years after the start of the COVID lockdown.
- C. **Population**: A discussion about a pair of reports that found New Jersey continued to see more outbound moves than inbound, a trend that has been growing over the last six years.
- D. **Public Safety**: During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, WKXW examined a number of public safety issues in New Jersey.
- **New Jersey Makes Progress in Lowering Shootings** – During a two-day period in January, the WKXW News Team reported on statistics released by the Murphy administration showing a decrease in shootings across the state.
  - **Pedestrian Error Plays Big Part in Fatal New Jersey Crashes** – Statistics by the New Jersey State Police finds that pedestrian-error played a role in more than 150 fatal crashes in the state in 2022.
  - **New Jersey Mandates 50 Practice Driving Hours for Teenagers** – New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy handed driving safety advocates a big win in January when he signed a measure into law that requires young permit holders to undergo at least 50 hours of certificated practice driving before being able to earn their license.

- **New Jersey Towns May Be Forced to Pay Their Volunteer Squads** – As volunteer first responders continue to dwindle in numbers across municipalities in New Jersey, a new report finds some towns may be pushed to merge services with neighboring towns or go to a paid model.
- **Secaucus to Erect Dozens of Cameras to Thwart Crime** – In an effort to combat a rise in auto theft, Secaucus planned to install \$500,000 worth of cameras and license plate readers at every entrance and exit to and from the city.
- **Poll Gauges How Safe New Jerseyans Feel in Their Neighborhood** – When it comes to neighborhood safety, New Jersey residents give positive ratings to the towns and neighborhoods in which they live, according to a poll released on February 6.
- **Federal Government Issues New Rules to Reduce Chemical Disaster Risk to Public** – Nearly 100 facilities in New Jersey could be expected to reduce the risk of chemical disasters to the public and on-site workers under updated rules issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Report Finds Drowsy Driving Kills Ten Times More People Than Reported** – A discussion about drowsy driving based off a report from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety that finds drowsy driving kills ten times more people than reported.
- **Traffic Fatalities Continue Downward Trend in 2023** – Preliminary numbers from the New Jersey State Police find that there were fewer fatalities on New Jersey’s roadways in 2023 compared to 2022.

E. **Weather:** Two separate storms in New Jersey during the month of January caused widespread commuting issues. On January 9, Governor Phil Murphy issued a state of emergency for all of New Jersey’s 21 counties, as a strong storm brought several inches of rain to the region, causing some areas to flood. On January 16, New Jersey saw its first significant statewide snowstorm in nearly two years.

F. **Public Health:** WKXW continued to report on public health challenges confronting New Jersey throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024.

- **Researchers Find Disturbing Level of Tiny Fragments in Bottled Water** – WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia looked at a study published on January 8 in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences regarding the amount of minuscule plastic fragments found in bottled water.
- **Cancer Cases on the Rise in New Jersey** – A report from the American Cancer Society published on January 17 finds that the projected number of new cancer diagnoses in the United States is expected to top two million.
- **New Jersey Receives Low Scores in Report on Tobacco Control** – An annual report shows New Jersey is not doing enough to curb the use of smoking.
- **Child Vaccinations in New Jersey Still Falling Short of Pre-COVID Numbers** – Routine immunizations for New Jersey children have not fully recovered since being impacted by the pandemic, according to the Association of Immunization Managers.
- **Primary Health Care Shortages Could be Blamed on Pay** – As the state continues to wrestle with a shortage of primary care physicians, a report by the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute finds that doctors are establishing their practices in other states because their earning potential in New Jersey is lower.
- **Common Material in New Jersey Schools Could be Damaging Children’s Organs** – A look at two separate bills that would address the problem of toxic flooring being installed in school districts across New Jersey since the 1960s.
- **China Floods New Jersey With Dangerous Products Banned in Their Own Country** – A retired assistant director of the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives sounded the alarm about non-regulated vape products.
- **New Jersey Legislature Looking at Allowing More Dentists, Hygienists from Other States** – New Jersey lawmakers are considering joining a multistate compact for dental professionals in an effort to expand the ranks of dental workers in the state.

- **Allergy Season Expected to be Worse One Yet** – One medical expert said due to the wet winter New Jersey experienced, this year’s spring allergy season is expected to see an increase in pollen production by over 10% from other years.
- G. **Crime:** In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024, the WKXW Programming and News departments covered a number of crime-related issues impacting New Jersey.
- **Auto Thefts Climb in 2023 in New Jersey** – In January 2024, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia interviewed New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin regarding an increase in auto thefts in 2023 from 2022.
  - **New Rights for New Jersey Domestic Violence Victims in 2024** – A series of bills aimed at reducing obstacles for the victims of domestic violence were signed into law by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy in January 2024.
  - **With New Law, New Jersey Drunk Drivers Get Break on Penalties** – Under a new law, drivers charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol can see the dollar amount of their penalties lessened by installing an interlock device before conviction.
  - **Car Thieves Employing New Methods for Stealing Cars** – A Middlesex County police department issued a warning about a new way car thieves are targeting luxury vehicles.
  - **Legislation Aims to Address Rise in Hate Crimes** – A package of bills aimed at curbing bias acts on college campuses, in schools, at houses of worship, and online was introduced in February by New Jersey Assemblyman Gary Schaer, the bills’ primary sponsor.
  - **Sending Nudes Could Become a Crime in New Jersey** – A proposed measure would criminalize the act of sending someone a nude photo, if the material is unwanted and unsolicited.
- H. **Environment:** From New Jersey’s single-use plastic bag ban to the Murphy administration’s aggressive plan to ban the sale of new gas-powered vehicles by 2035, the WKXW Programming and News departments continued to report on environment issues during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024.
- **New Jersey’s Groundbreaking Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban to Mark Two-Year Anniversary in May** – WKXW Talk Show Hosts Dennis Malloy and Judi Franco discussed New Jersey’s single-use plastic bag ban, asking their listeners if they thought the nearly 19-month-old ban has been successful.
  - **New Jersey Phasing Out Gas Cars, but Poll Shows Most Residents Are Against the Plan** – New Jerseyans clapped back against the Murphy administration’s aggressive and controversial plan to ban the sale of new gas-powered vehicles by 2035, with a poll showing that 50% are opposed to the plan.
- I. **Transgender Rights:** WKXW Talk Show Hosts Jeff Deminski and Bill Doyle discussed the ongoing controversy over parental and transgender rights in response to a lawsuit filed against a Hunterdon County school district.
- J. **New Jersey Affordability:** On January 25, WKXW hosted a one-hour town hall program titled “Securing Your Financial Future.” WKXW Town Hall Host and Moderator Eric Scott lead a program of experts to expel advice on homebuying, retiring, and education spending in New Jersey.
- K. **Taxes/Fees:** The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024 saw a significant amount of coverage from WKXW regarding increased tolls, rail and bus fares, and taxes.

- **Commuters, Advocates React to Possible NJ Transit Fare Increase** – NJ Transit officials are hoping to raise rail and bus fares by 15% in July to help cover a large budget deficit.
  - **Tolls to Increase in March on Parkway and Turnpike** – After initially rejecting them, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy approved 3% toll hikes for the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway.
  - **New Jersey Holding \$6.3 Billion in Unclaimed Funds** – From forgotten bank accounts to dividends, New Jersey has over \$6 billion in unclaimed funds it is looking to return.
  - **New Jersey Property Taxes Soar to An All-Time High** – Based on reporting by WKXW News Reporter Rick Rickman, WKXW Talk Show Hosts Dennis Malloy and Judi Franco discussed the increases in property tax bills most people saw in 2023, with an average tax increase of 3.2%.
  - **Gas Tax Plan Could Have Motorists Paying More** – WKXW Talk Show Hosts Jeff Deminski and Bill Doyle discussed a controversial plan by Democrats in the New Jersey Legislature that would raise the gas tax by 1.9 cents for the next five years, and implement a fee for the owners of electric vehicles.
  - **New Jersey Raises the Gas Tax, Implements Fee on Electric Vehicles** – Under legislation signed into law on March 26, New Jersey’s gas tax will increase by 1.9 cents annually to fund the state’s Transportation Trust Fund. Additionally, a \$250 fee on electric vehicles will also be implemented.
- L. **Marijuana**: A discussion by WKXW Talk Show Hosts Dennis Malloy and Judi Frano regarding a move by the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission to allow recreational marijuana consumption lounges.
- M. **Quality of Life**: The WKXW Programming and News departments reported on two separate polls during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter that focused on quality-of-life issues in New Jersey.
- N. **Elections**: During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, WKXW looked at three election-related issues impacting voters in the Garden State.
- **Most New Jersey Voters Unaware of Senate Candidates** – Voters are mostly unaware of the candidates running for the seat of U.S. Senator Bob Menendez, according to a Rutgers-Eagleton poll released on January 26.
  - **Proposal Would Give Voters More Polling Place Options** – A bill being considered by the New Jersey State Legislature would allow people to cast their vote at any polling place within their county.
  - **New Jersey May Roll Back New Law That Keeps Cops Away from Polling Places** – The New Jersey Legislature is considering a measure that would make adjustments to a current state law that prohibits police from being present at certain polling places.
- O. **School Safety**: WKXW Talk Show Hosts Eric Potts and Kyle Clark devoted a 60-minute portion of their program to discuss the issue of violence and bullying in New Jersey schools based on reporting by the WKXW News Team.
- P. **New Jersey Economy**: MetLife Stadium has been picked to host a handful of Federation internationale de Football Association World Cup matches, including the final, in 2026.
- Q. **New Jersey Consumers**: Throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024, WKXW examined a number of issues that directly impacted New Jersey consumers.
- **Big Electric Bill Rate Hikes Hitting Four Million New Jersey Customers** – The state’s four largest utility companies were given the stamp of approval to raise their rates by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

- **New Jersey's Auto Insurance Rates on the Rise** – For most New Jerseyans, auto insurance payments equate to about 2.65% of overall household income, a number that could be lowered if consumers looked for ways to save.
  - **New Jerseyans Frustrated by Growth in Tipping Requests** – A discussion by WKXW Talk Show Hosts Dennis Malloy and Judi Franco regarding the state of tipping culture in New Jersey.
- R. **Transportation:** During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024, the WKXW News Department looked at two transportation issues taken up by the New Jersey Legislature. One bill would require the owners of electric bikes and scooters to be insured and registered, while another would ban the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission from sharing driver information with other states.
- S. **Government/Politics:** In the 1st quarter, WKXW highlighted a number of issues related to politics and government in New Jersey.
- **On the Heels of Murphy's Budget Proposal, New Jerseyans Asked to Voice What They Want to See Fixed** – A day after New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy revealed some of the highlights of his \$55.9 billion budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025, WKXW Talk Show Host Bill Spadea asked his listeners what they wanted to see fixed in New Jersey.
  - **Monmouth County Launches System to Streamline Help for Struggling Residents** – During a press conference on February 28, Monmouth County officials announced a first-of-its-kind support system that county residents can connect with to find resources for mental health, addiction, housing, and other needs.
  - **Some Paterson Residents Getting Hundreds in Guaranteed Income** – The Guaranteed Income Pilot Program is giving some low-income residents in Paterson \$400 a month, money that can be used to cover expenses.
- T. **New Jersey Housing:** A measure being looked at by the New Jersey Legislature could pave the way for accessory dwelling units across the state.
- U. **Youth Sports:** From a bad sports call to legislation that aims to decrease negative behavior from spectators at sporting events, the WKXW Programming and News departments looked at a number of issues confronting young athletes today.
- **Bad Call at Basketball Game Divides New Jerseyans** – A bad judgement call from a team of referees cost the Manasquan High School boys basketball team a chance to advance to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Group 2 state boys basketball championship on March 9, dividing those on both sides of the issue.
  - **Town Hall Program: Young Athletes Confronting Unprecedented Pressures** – A one-hour program hosted by WKXW News Anchor Eric Scott looked at the number of issues confronting today's young athletes – from internal to external pressures.
  - **New Jersey 'Penalty Box' Bills Seek to Rein in Adult Behavior at Youth Sports** – A series of proposed laws being looked at by the New Jersey Legislature aims to rein in poor adult behavior during and after games.

## Section II. Responsive Programs

Date(s) Aired	Program Name	Description of Issue Discussed	Duration	Time and/or Frequency
1/2/24	Steve Trevelise	<p><b>Immigration: New Jersey Mayors Respond to Influx of Migrants Headed to New York City</b> – WKXW Talk Show Host Steve Trevelise devoted two hours of his program to discuss immigration policies in New Jersey in response to action by the governor of Texas. Since December 30, busloads of migrants have been arriving at New Jersey train stations throughout the state in an effort to circumvent an executive order signed by New York City Mayor Eric Adams. Under Adams’ order that took effect on December 29, buses transporting migrants are only allowed to arrive in New York City on weekdays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and noon. Additionally, a 32-hour notice must be given before the buses arrive. Texas Governor Greg Abbott is being accused of finding a loophole in Adams’ order by instead having the buses drop the migrants off at train stations in New Jersey where they are then put on trains headed for New York City. Multiple published reports indicate that nearly 400 migrants were bused to New Jersey on December 30 and dropped off at train stations in Fanwood, Trenton, Edison, and Secaucus. In order to stop an influx of migrants being bused to his city, Trenton Mayor Reed Gusciora plans to issue an executive order similar to Adams’ order. He told New Jersey 101.5 he was caught by surprise at the arrival of 160 migrants who came on several buses to the Trenton Transportation Center in the predawn hours of December 30. He said twenty of them stayed behind, claiming they had relatives in the city. "It's one thing if they have family members but the city itself does not have the capacity or the resources to absorb undocumented immigrants that are looking for shelter or other provisions. We just don't have that capacity or the resources," Gusciora said, adding that it could create a "humanitarian crisis" if they stay in the city. The Democrat planned to issue an executive order requiring a 32-hour</p>	120 minutes	7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

		<p>notice for the arrival of any bus carrying migrants to Trenton. The buses will be limited to discharges between 8:30 a.m. and noon. The mayors of Edison and Secaucus also expressed their concerns about the migrant buses and lack of resources to house hundreds of people. Trevelise asked his audience how they felt about migrants from the Texas and Mexico border coming to New Jersey as a way to sidestep the rule put in place by Adams. He wanted to know if they felt this should be happening.</p>		
1/3/24	WKKW Newscasts	<p><b>Education: New Jersey May Add Another Type of Excused Absence for Students</b> – A student should not be penalized for missing a school day to get more involved with politics. That is the message some high schoolers are sending to New Jersey lawmakers who are considering a bill that would add another type of absence that school districts would have to excuse. Under the legislation, older public school students would be awarded at least one state-excused absence per academic year in order to attend civic events. These events, sponsored by a government entity, a nonprofit, or a community-based organization, would address issues such as community health or the environment. It is this type of participation — without repercussions — that can make youth feel valued in the state's political process, students said. The bill requires one absence per student per year, but local boards of education would be permitted to excuse additional absences for this purpose. The legislation applies to students in grades sixth through 12. Schools statewide already award excused absences for a handful of reasons, including religious holiday observances, college visits, and Take Our Children to Work Day. The legislation last advanced on December 18, when it unanimously passed the Assembly State and Local Government Committee. The full Senate approved the bill in 2022. For his packages that aired on January 3, WKKW News Reporter Dino Flammia pulled comments made during the hearing before the Assembly State and Local Government Committee on December 18 from Eli Solomon, legislative director for New Jersey High School Republicans; Katie Mirne, chairwoman of the New Jersey High School Republicans; and Julien</p>	:35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.</p>



		Catalon; chairman of the New Jersey High School Democrats.		
1/4/24	Bill Spadea	<b>Population: Pair of Reports Shows More People Continue to Move From New Jersey</b> – A pair of reports show that New Jersey continues to be hotter than most other states for outbound moves in 2023, with many more people wanting out of New Jersey than in. In the 47th edition of the National Movers Study by United Van Lines, an interstate mover, New Jersey once again tops the list of "most moved from states." According to the report released on January 2, more residents moved out of New Jersey than into the state for the sixth consecutive year. Sixty-five percent of moves in New Jersey were outbound in 2023, and 35% were inbound, United Van Lines finds. New Jersey was one of fewer than 10 states that had more outbound moves than inbound moves last year, the study suggests. New York and Massachusetts were the only other Northeast states to post an outbound ratio of moves for 2023. The Bergen-Passaic and Monmouth-Ocean regions earned spots in the report's list of the metro areas with the highest ratios of outbound moves. According to a survey that accompanies the United Van Lines study, the top motivations for outbound moves from New Jersey in 2023 include retirement, lifestyle changes, and the cost of living. In a report released by U-Haul on January 2, New Jersey ranks 47th among the states for growth in 2023, based on one-way moves in and out of states. New Jersey ranked 45th in 2022. The number of one-way customers moving into New Jersey rose by nearly 9% percent from 2022, while departures rose by more than 10%, according to the U-Haul Growth Index. During a 60-minute portion of his program, WKXW Talk Show Host Bill Spadea asked his listeners if they are planning to move out of New Jersey. He encouraged those moving out to call his program to explain their reasons.	60 minutes	7 a.m. to 8 a.m.
1/4/24 and 1/5/24	WKXW Newscasts	<b>Public Safety: New Jersey Makes Progress in Lowering Shootings</b> – Over the course of two days, the WKXW News Team reported on statistics released by the Murphy administration showing a big drop in shootings. Comprehensive tracking only started 15 years ago, but for the first time,	:25 to :30 second packages on 1/4/24	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at:

		<p>New Jersey has recorded fewer than 1,000 shooting victims in a calendar year, according to an announcement from state officials. Across 2023, a total of 924 individuals were shot in the Garden State, officials said. That is down 13% from 2022. According to officials, tracking of such numbers began in 2009, when the count of shooting victims was recorded at 1,068. It hit a high of 1,562 in 2012. The number of shooting victims topped 1,400 in 2021, before falling to 1,059 in 2022, and a new low in 2023. "We have approximately 600,000 more residents today than we had in 2009 ... so it makes the achievement even more remarkable," Governor Phil Murphy said. Murphy recognized the milestone during a press conference at the New Jersey Regional Operations &amp; Intelligence Center in Ewing on January 4. Murphy referred to the latest gun violence statistics as a historic achievement for public safety in New Jersey, which he said is a direct result of nation-leading gun laws and continuing partnerships with law enforcement and community groups. Of the 924 people hit by gunfire last year, 191 lost their lives, a decrease of 8% from 2022. The number of shooting victims declined in many of New Jersey's largest cities, Attorney General Matthew Platkin said. The numbers also dropped in New Jersey's suburbs and rural areas. New Jersey officials set a specific goal to record a year of fewer than 1,000 shooting victims. Officials credited the Gun Violence Reduction Task Force for progress made in the fight against gun violence, as well as investment in prevention and intervention programs — getting in front of victims of crime to prevent further violence, and using outreach teams to de-escalate conflict in the community before violence occurs. On January 4, WKXW News Anchors ran comments from Murphy pulled from the January 4 press conference. On January 5, packages with WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia aired that included comments from Murphy and Platkin made during the January 4 press conference.</p>	:35 second packages on 1/5/24	<p>1/4/24 (:25 to :30 second packages) – 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., and 11 p.m.</p> <p>1/5/24 (:35 second packages) – 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 1:30 p.m., and 4 p.m.</p>
1/8/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Public Safety: Pedestrian Error Plays Big Part in Fatal New Jersey Crashes</b> – A wrong move by a pedestrian played a role in more than 150 fatal crashes in New Jersey in 2022, according to New</p>	:35 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5

		<p>Jersey State Police (NJSP) statistics released at the end of last year. Behind intoxication and driver inattention, "pedestrian violation" was the third-most cited contributing circumstance in fatal collisions on New Jersey's roads in 2022, the report shows. In total, 191 pedestrians lost their lives on New Jersey's roads in 2022. That is down from 217 in 2021. Eighty-five of the pedestrians who were killed had been crossing the street away from an intersection. Six were crossing at an unmarked crosswalk, and nine were traveling in the street, as opposed to a sidewalk, when the fatal crash occurred. Many pedestrians involved in fatal crashes were crossing the street at a marked crosswalk, but the report suggests they were not following the rules. The report does not indicate whether a pedestrian violation was the primary cause of a crash — a collision could be the result of multiple contributing circumstances. "What we all need to remember is that we are all pedestrians," said Tracy Noble, manager for public and government affairs for AAA Mid-Atlantic. "We're all walking somewhere at some point, even in a parking lot. And we need to be mindful of how we interact with vehicles when we are pedestrians." Of the pedestrians killed, 152 were tested for alcohol. Close to a third tested positive for alcohol consumption. In 2022, 646 fatal crashes resulted in 689 deaths in New Jersey, according to the NJSP report. Preliminary numbers suggest the number of fatal crashes dipped to 582 in 2023. For his packages that aired on January 8, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia ran comments pulled from an interview he conducted with Noble.</p>		<p>Newscasts at:  5:30 a.m.,  7:30 a.m.,  9 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 9 p.m.</p>
1/9/24	Deminski and Doyle	<p><b>Weather: Strong Storm System Set to Bring Heavy Rain, Wind</b> – On January 9, WKXW Talk Show Hosts Jeff Deminski and Bill Doyle devoted two hours of their program to discuss a day-long storm that is predicted to produce up to four inches of rain and wind gusts as high as 65 miles per hour. In less than a month, parts of North Jersey are expected to deal with flood waters from the Passaic River as a strong rain and wind storm wallops the state, with the worst of it happening between the hours of 6 p.m. and midnight on January 9. The storm has many residents fearful</p>	120 minutes	5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

		<p>that their homes could flood, especially in areas like Little Falls, Wayne, Paterson, and Denville that were hit with flood waters from a storm on December 17 and 18. In that storm, some areas saw nearly six inches of rain. During a press conference on January 8, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy declared a State of Emergency for all 21 counties, effective at 5 p.m. on January 9. He also urged motorists to stay off the roads, reminding people that cars were swept away during the remnants of Ida on August 31, 2021, a storm that cost thirty people their lives. In preparation of the storm, the state's three largest utility companies brought in additional line, forestry, and hazard crews to help with restoration as the strong winds were expected to cause tens of thousands of power outages. Deminski and Doyle asked people to tell them what the weather was like near them. Additionally, they also asked people to share their flooding stories.</p>		
1/10/23	WXXW Newscasts	<p><b>Public Health: Researchers Find Disturbing Level of Tiny Fragments in Bottled Water</b> – The amount of minuscule plastic fragments in bottled water may be up to 100 times greater than previously thought, researchers suggest in a study published on January 8 in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Using a technique that can detect nanoplastics — particles so small that they can pass through filters and one's lungs and intestines — researchers at Rutgers University and Columbia University found that on average, one liter of bottled water contained about 240,000 detectable water plastic fragments. In some samples, they spotted 370,000 particles in a liter — both nanoplastics and the more widely explored microplastics. Researchers tested three popular brands of bottled water that are sold in the United States. They combined two routine bottles of water to create the liters that were used for testing. "This technique is revolutionary in the field," said co-author Phoebe Stapleton, an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. "It not only allows us to detect nanoplastics, but also to identify the polymer type." Ninety percent of the particles found in each liter were nanoplastics. The</p>	:35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 8:30 p.m.</p>

		<p>rest were microplastics. Researchers could identify just 10% of the type of plastic they were dealing with — a common finding was the plastic used in water bottles and condiment packaging; another was polyamide, a type of nylon. Microplastics have been on scientists' radar for years, showing up in the mountains, in the ocean, and in drinking water, and food. But unlike microplastics, nanoplastics can travel through one's gastrointestinal system and lungs, and can travel to organs such as the heart and the brain, or a pregnant person's placenta. But questions remain as to the impact these microscopic particles have on one's overall health. For his packages that aired on January 10, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia pulled and ran comments from an interview he did with Stapleton.</p>		
1/11/23	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Crime: Auto Thefts Climb in 2023 in New Jersey</b> – More than 16,600 vehicles were stolen throughout New Jersey in 2023, according to preliminary data from the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. That is an increase of 4% from 2022. The statistics suggest that it is not only owners of luxury vehicles that need to make sure they are locking up. And New Jersey officials are calling out certain vehicle manufacturers for the year-over-year climb. Vehicles in the high-end category — brands such as Audi, BMW, Cadillac, Land Rover, Mercedes-Benz, Tesla, and more — accounted for just 3,367 automobile thefts in New Jersey last year. Compared to 2022, high-end car thefts were down 20% in 2023. "Outside of Kia and Hyundai, we're seeing a substantial reduction in auto thefts," Attorney General Matthew Platkin told New Jersey 101.5. "We're going to continue to drive that down because we know that auto thefts are not only a threat to the community themselves, but stolen cars are also often used in other crimes." If the state were to remove Kia and Hyundai vehicles from the equation, auto thefts in 2023 would have actually decreased by 10% from the year prior. The vehicle brands have been experiencing a spike in thefts in New Jersey and nationwide as a result of material shared on social media that shows individuals how to start the cars without a key in under a minute. Online posts have gone so far as to challenge users to steal Hyundais and Kias and</p>	:35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.</p>

		<p>upload videos of their exploits. "We have been all over the manufacturers to get them to provide the necessary updates for people," Platkin said. In 2023, Kia and Hyundai announced that they had developed theft deterrent software for their vehicles that "lack an immobilizer." It is being provided for free to vehicle owners who reach out for the fix. New Jersey's preliminary count of 16,605 vehicle thefts in 2023 — numbers shared with New Jersey 101.5 by Platkin's office — is up by about 700 from 2022. Between 2021 and 2022, the tally grew by more than 1,500. For his packages that aired on January 11, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia pulled comments from an interview he conducted with Platkin.</p>		
1/12/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Public Safety: New Jersey Mandates 50 Practice Driving Hours for Teenagers</b> – Advocates for road safety were delivered a big win at the start of 2024, when New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed a bill into law that requires young permit holders to undergo dozens of practice hours behind the wheel before being able to earn their license. Now the state has to get the rule up and running, and it will be up to teens' parents or guardians to prove that the required driving was actually performed. If parents or the young drivers are untruthful, it is the minor who would have to pay the price by having their driving privileges suspended. Under the legislation signed into law on January 8, individuals under the age of 21 with their permit need to complete at least 50 hours of certified practice driving, with a parent or other supervisor in the vehicle, in order to obtain a license. At least 20% of the practice driving has to occur during hours of darkness, the law says. The supervising drivers will be in charge of certifying that the permit holder has completed the required hours. The certification process is to be established by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC). When reached for comment, a spokesperson for the NJMVC said the agency will provide additional details closer to implementation of the law. Required practice hours are already in place in nearly every other state. In New York, guardians must keep a signed log of the practice hours that were handled by driving schools. When it is handed in, the guardian</p>	:30 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at:  5:30 a.m.,  6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m.</p>

		<p>must also certify that any practice hours not noted in the form were completed under the supervision of a licensed, older driver. As part of New Jersey's new law, a sample practice driving log will have to be included in informational brochures that are distributed to parents of beginning drivers under the age of 18. If a fraudulent certification is submitted, the NJMVC is able to suspend the driving privileges of a permit holder for six months, New Jersey's law says. The NJMVC has a while to solidify New Jersey's certification process. The bill notes that it would not take effect until the "first day of the 13th month after enactment," so mandatory practice hours will not kick in until 2025. For his packages that aired on January 12, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia pulled and ran comments from an interview he conducted with Tara Gill, senior director of state and federal government relations with Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety.</p>		
1/15/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Crime: New Rights for New Jersey Domestic Violence Victims in 2024</b> – Domestic violence victims in New Jersey are getting some new layers of protection in 2024. Legislation advanced by New Jersey lawmakers and signed this year by Governor Phil Murphy are either already in effect or will be in the coming months, aimed at reducing obstacles for individuals who want to ensure they never have to face their attacker again. Courts are now required to consider more factors when determining whether a final restraining order in domestic violence cases should be issued. Under a law signed by Murphy on January 8, less obvious signs of abuse — specifically, any pattern of coercive control — must be part of the equation. Noting that domestic violence takes many forms, the law says that the additional criteria can include monitoring the victim's communications and finances; threatening to make baseless reports to the police; isolating the victim from others; and other harmful actions. A law also signed on January 8 by Murphy and set to take effect in May, would require that restraining orders be prepared in other languages for those who are not proficient in English. "For a victim, they may not be understanding of their rights or the process, and for many, they may become deterred from</p>	:35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at:  5:30 a.m.,  6:30 a.m.,  7:30 a.m.,  8:30 a.m.,  9:30 a.m.,  11:30 a.m.,  12 p.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.</p>

		<p>even engaging in the process," said Nicole Morella, director of policy and education for the New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence. "For a defendant, it may mean that they don't know what is being required of them ... or what the consequences may be." The bill's language applies to temporary and final restraining orders, as well as to initial information that is disseminated to victims. Starting in April, pregnant victims of domestic violence who are seeking a restraining order against the perpetrator can have the order include their unborn child. Currently, these orders can include children and family that a victim lives with. But a pregnant victim would have to go back to the court to seek protection separately for their new child once it is born. On January 15, packages with WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia aired that included comments from Morella.</p>		
1/16/24	Bill Spadea	<p><b>Weather: New Jersey Sees First Statewide Snowfall in Nearly Two Years</b> – WKXW Talk Show Host Bill Spadea devoted almost his entire program to discussing New Jersey's first statewide winter storm. The 2023-2024 winter weather season is making up for the lackluster one in 2022-2023. After going nearly two years without seeing any statewide snowfall, New Jerseyans woke up to a winter wonderland on January 16. For about half the state, it was the first inch of snow in almost two years, with some areas seeing more than three inches. Due to the timing of the storm, the morning rush was sloppy, as warming temperatures forced a transition from straight snow to an icy mix of snow, sleet, and freezing rain. A Winter Weather Advisory remained in effect through the morning commute as snow and ice created slick roads and poor visibility. In anticipation of the storm, dozens of school districts opted for a delayed opening or outright closed on January 16. And for those who had to hit the road to get to work, the ride home was likely to be equally as tough as plummeting temperatures were expected to result in significant icing. From 6 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., Spadea opened the phone lines and encouraged people to call his program to discuss the conditions of New Jersey's roadways.</p>	210 minutes	6 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.



1/17/24	Dennis and Judi	<p><b>Environment: New Jersey’s Groundbreaking Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban to Mark Two-Year Anniversary in May</b> – May 4, 2024 will mark the two-year anniversary of New Jersey’s groundbreaking single-use plastic bag ban. In effect since May 4, 2022, the law prohibits retailers or food service providers from giving customers a single-use plastic bag when making purchases. The law also bans grocery stores measuring more than 2,500 square feet from providing or selling paper bags. And while some New Jerseyans might still be upset over the ban, there is no doubt it has been a big boost to the environment. One year into the ban, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia reported that it was estimated that New Jersey eliminated 8.4 billion single-use bags from being distributed to shoppers. For some consumers though, the ban has been challenging to adjust to, especially as they collect dozens of reusable bags. In a Monmouth University Poll released on September 5, 2023, 56% of New Jersey adults said they support the New Jersey law. Support dipped just five points since the poll last asked New Jerseyans in April 2022, right before the rule took effect. Republicans have not budged much in their opposition to the ban, the poll showed. In April 2022, 44% of Republicans indicated they support the bag ban. When the poll was done again in September 2023, support was down to 39%. Support also dropped among independents, down 10 points to 52%. Meanwhile, support among Democrats is at 72%, the same figure recorded in April of last year. During a one-hour portion of their program, WKXW Talk Show Hosts Dennis Malloy and Judi Franco asked their listeners if they feel the single-use plastic bag ban has been successful, encouraging their listeners to share their thoughts on the matter.</p>	60 minutes	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
1/18/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Public Health: Cancer Cases on the Rise in New Jersey</b> – Treatment of cancer has come a long way, but it is going to affect a lot more people over the next several months. In 2024, for the first time ever, the projected number of new diagnoses in the United States is expected to top two million, according to a report published on January 17 by the American Cancer Society (ACS). That includes</p>	:35 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8

	<p>57,740 estimated new cancer cases in the Garden State, where the disease is expected to kill more than 15,000 people this year alone, according to the report. Mortality related to cancer is declining, but there is increasing incidence for six of the top 10 cancers, the ACS report finds. And incidence of these cancers is rising at an even higher rate in New Jersey, according to Arnold Baskies, chair of the ACS Global Cancer Control Advisory Board. "The most disconcerting part of it is that we're seeing cancers in younger people," Baskies said. People under the age of 65 are making up a greater share of diagnoses in the U.S., the report finds. Middle-aged individuals, 50 to 64, represent 30% of diagnoses in 2019-2020, compared to 25% in 1995. At the same time, individuals aged 65 years and older are making up a smaller share of cases. Cancer incidence in children has leveled off following decades of rising numbers, but rates continue to increase among individuals aged 15 to 19, according to the report. Incidence of colorectal cancer is on the rise in people younger than 55, the report says. Colorectal cancer is now the leading cause of cancer death in men. It is the second leading cancer death in women under 50 years old. Twenty years ago, colorectal cancer was the fourth leading cause of cancer death among these demographics. New Jersey will record an estimated 4,240 new colorectal cancer cases in 2024, ACS predicts. Ahmedin Jemal, senior author of the study, says there has been an alarming continuous sharp increase in this type of cancer. In the face of rising cancer diagnoses, the nation has been improving one's ability to survive the disease. From 1991 to today, there has been a 33% decrease in mortality, according to ACS. That equates to more than four million fewer deaths over the past few decades. Genetic predisposition plays a role in one's likelihood to receive a cancer diagnose in their lifetime. But there are also several factors that one can control in order to limit their odds of becoming a future statistic. Forty-two percent of the cases that will be diagnosed in 2024 could have been avoided, Baskies said. Nineteen percent, he said, are caused by smoking, and around the same amount are directly related to excess body weight, alcohol</p>		<p>a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.</p>
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		consumption, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity. For his packages that aired on January 18, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia pulled comments from an interview he did with Baskies.		
1/19/24	Deminski and Doyle	<p><b>Transgender Rights: Dad Says New Jersey School Kept Child's Gender Transition a Secret</b> – WKXW Talk Show Hosts Jeff Deminski and Bill Doyle discussed parental and transgender rights in response to a lawsuit filing. A Hunterdon County high school kept a student's gender transition secret from a father and therapist and then doubled down citing guidance from the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, according to a lawsuit. It is the latest legal development in the ongoing battle over a state policy that prohibits New Jersey school districts from informing parents if their child undergoes a gender transition. The student, a freshman at Delaware Valley Regional High School in Frenchtown, was assigned female at birth, according to the lawsuit. Within the first few weeks of attending school, the child said to a school counselor that they wanted to be referred to as a male and use a different name, the lawsuit said. The child's father was never told about the transition and the change went against recommendations from the child's therapist, who was also not informed, according to the complaint filed on January 5 in U.S. District Court of New Jersey. Central Jersey Newswire was first to report on the lawsuit. The therapist had urged "caution" because of other underlying issues including depression and childhood trauma. The student first went to the school counselor after attending a school club called Students Advocating for Equality, according to the lawsuit. The counselor agreed to the student's request to identify as male at school. She then sent an email to district staff informing them about the change; it said that the student's father should not be informed about the change, according to the lawsuit. The father only learned about his child's transition in early December 2023 when another student addressed his child using the new male name. Once he learned about the social transition, the father sent a cease-and-desist letter to the district addressed to the superintendent demanding the school stop affirming the student's transition. In response, the</p>	60 minutes	2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

		<p>district said it would continue to inform teachers to refer to the student using the new chosen name. According to the lawsuit, the state's transgender guidance violates the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution because the policy substitutes the judgment of school staff for that of parents regarding a child's mental and physical health. Deminski and Doyle asked their audience what they thought about the overall situation, the lawsuit, and how the school handled the child's request.</p>		
1/22/24	WXXW Newscasts	<p><b>Public Safety: New Jersey Towns May Be Forced to Pay Their Volunteer Squads</b> – Increased calls for help, a grueling schedule of training, and shifting family dynamics are contributing to a continuing drop in the number of volunteer first responders in the Garden State, and some easy moves can be made to get more folks in the pipeline, according to a group charged with coming up with solutions. Not all municipalities have the demographics to attract a strong volunteer base, and in some cases, volunteer departments simply do not have the manpower to respond to people in need, said Joseph Hankins, chair of the Special Task Force on Volunteer Retention and Recruitment. "Something has to be done to try and entice more volunteers to come into the service, and if you can't do that, your municipality is going to have to go paid," Hankins said. Or, Hankins said, municipalities may be pushed to join forces with a neighboring town or towns. The task force's report — both the creation of the group and the issuance of a report were mandated with a state law signed in 2018 — cites a growing concern across New Jersey that volunteer organizations are unable to attract and keep members. Seventy percent of all firefighters in the nation are volunteers, according to the United States Fire Administration. But the number of volunteer firefighters has fallen from close to 900,000 in 1984 to less than 680,000. "Volunteer first responders are crucial for maintaining the safety and well-being of our communities," the report says. "Therefore, it is imperative to find solutions for recruiting and retaining volunteers while also maintaining the current standards for training and qualifications of volunteers." But</p>	:35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.</p>

		<p>training requirements can still be tweaked, according to the task force's list of recommendations for state officials. The most basic training for firefighters requires 280 hours of one's time, Hankins said. Training should be provided in a condensed version in order for it to be completed in fewer hours, the report says. And a virtual option should be offered for certain courses. And there should be more opportunities for younger individuals — in their teens — to receive phased-in training that can become more advanced once they turn 18, the report says. Volunteers are more in demand today than in years past, Hankins said — and that may be keeping some people from joining in the first place. A company that may have responded to hundreds of calls per year decades ago are now being called on up to 1,000 annually. For his packages that aired on January 22, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia ran comments from an interview he did with Hankins.</p>		
1/23/24	Steve Trevelise	<p><b>Immigration: New Jersey Lawmaker Wants to End State's Sanctuary Policies</b> – WKXW Talk Show Host Steve Trevelise discussed a plan by a New Jersey lawmaker to end the state's sanctuary policies. New Jersey officials have backed off from describing New Jersey as a sanctuary state for unauthorized immigrants, but upcoming legislation aims to make sure that the "sanctuary" designation is prohibited in any municipality. A legislative package announced on January 18 by New Jersey state Senator Michael Testa would also scrap a state directive that he said has been preventing local law enforcement officers from cooperating with federal immigration authorities. "The hard-working families of New Jersey deserve better policies, whole lot better policies than putting illegal immigrants before them," Testa told New Jersey 101.5. "New Jerseyans should come first." Testa's move comes in the wake of a battle between officials in New Jersey and leadership in Texas as busloads of migrants from Texas have been making drop-offs in New Jersey to reportedly get around New York City's executive order that limits drop-offs of migrants to certain times and locations. Testa's "New Jersey Comes First" legislative package would prohibit municipal</p>	60 minutes	7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

		<p>ordinances that create sanctuary cities. Declaring New Jersey as a sanctuary state was part of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's messaging during his initial campaign for governor, but in 2019, then-Attorney General Gurbir Grewal insisted that the "notion of sanctuary" is a "false narrative being put out there." A directive by Grewal from 2018 is another target of the bills that Tesla plans to introduce. Testa said one bill would seek to repeal the Immigrant Trust Directive, which limits the types of voluntary assistance that state and local officers can provide to federal immigrant authorities, including the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Under current rules, New Jersey officers cannot stop, question, or detain someone simply because they believe that the individual may be undocumented. Also, officers cannot ask someone about their immigration status, except in cases when it is relevant to a criminal investigation. According to Testa's office, the legislative package will also include a resolution that encourages President Joe Biden and Congress to enact immigration policies that "better serve the national interest." Trevelise asked his audience what they thought of Testa's legislative ideas and whether New Jersey should consider getting rid of its sanctuary laws.</p>		
1/24/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Public Health: New Jersey Receives Low Scores in Report on Tobacco Control</b> – Tobacco use takes the lives of more than 11,000 New Jersey residents each year. According to a report released on January 24, the Garden State is not doing enough to bring that number down. In the 2024 State of Tobacco Control report from the American Lung Association, New Jersey received two 'F' grades, one 'D,' one 'C,' and one 'B' for its rules and funding devoted to preventing and reducing tobacco use. Health care costs due to smoking amount to more than \$4 billion on a yearly basis, the report said. According to the latest figures, 10.4% of New Jersey adults are active smokers. The smoking rate among high-school students is 3.7%. In its report, the American Lung Association said New Jersey can make a number of moves in order to save lives. For starters, New Jersey should expand its smokefree law by including Atlantic City casinos. For nearly 18</p>	:35 to :40 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at:  5:30 a.m.,  6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.</p>

		<p>years, New Jersey has prohibited smoking at indoor public spaces and workplaces, but the law specifically carves out casinos. The group also wants to see New Jersey ban flavored tobacco products. Flavored vaping products are prohibited in New Jersey, but the state has not gone far enough to reduce the number of people who become hooked on smoking, according to the report. The American Lung Association is also calling on New Jersey to increase its tax on cigarettes by at least \$1 per pack, something the group said will reduce tobacco use. The group is also calling on lawmakers and the governor to significantly increase tobacco funding to help people quit. According to the report, New Jersey funds tobacco control efforts at about 10% of the level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For his packages that aired on January 24, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia ran comments from an interview he did with Seilback.</p>		
1/25/24	Town Hall Series: Securing Your Financial Future	<p><b>New Jersey Affordability: Town Hall Program: Securing Your Financial Future – WKXW</b> presented the latest in a series of Town Hall broadcasts on January 25 taking a look at the impact New Jersey’s high cost of living is having on some of life’s major milestones. From buying a house to retiring, some New Jerseyans are struggling to afford to stay in the state. According to a report released on January 22 by WalletHub, a personal finance company, New Jersey ranks as the second worst state to retire in. The report looked at a number of metrics, including quality-of-life, health care, and affordability, to determine the ranking. With the highest property taxes in the nation, New Jersey ranked as having the 49<sup>th</sup> worst affordability in the nation, according to the report. It also performed somewhat poorly in quality-of-life issues, coming in at 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation, according to WalletHub. And it is not just retirement that people have to worry about. With the median price of houses typically ahead of most other states, affording a house in New Jersey is no small feat. According to RedFin, the median price of a New Jersey home in December 2023 was \$484,700. During the 60-minute program, WKXW Town Hall Host and Moderator Eric Scott lead a</p>	60 minutes	7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

		<p>program of experts to expel advice on homebuying, retiring, and educational spending in New Jersey. The program's on-air panel included Chris Lester, president of Professional Planning Services; Leslie Beck, owner and principal of Compass Wealth Management; John Tillman, president of Ecliptic Financial Advisors; and Scott Lief, vice president of mortgage lending at Guaranteed Rate.</p>		
1/25/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Crime: With New Law, New Jersey Drunk Drivers Get Break on Penalties</b> – New Jersey residents who are caught driving drunk will soon have the option for some relief during the legal process, if they are willing to take a big step before their punishment is even handed down. A law signed by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy in January tweaks the rules related to the installation of ignition interlock devices, which only allow a vehicle to start after the driver has passed a breathalyzer test. With the new law, which takes effect in late February, individuals charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol can save big bucks by installing an interlock device before their conviction. A fine of \$250 to \$500 for a first offense would be waived if the driver gets the device installed on their primary vehicle before conviction and secures a special license from the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. A fine of \$500 to \$1,000 would be waived for a second offense, and a fine of \$1,000 would be waived for third and subsequent offenses. Leon Matchin, a defense attorney in Milltown, said the new law specifically applies to drunk-driving offenses, not cases involving driving while high on drugs. Matchin said it also does not apply to cases where people were seriously injured. In cases that involve a suspended license due to more extreme blood alcohol concentration, a driver can shave time off of that suspension with early installation of the device. For every two days that an offender has an interlock device installed in their vehicle prior to conviction, one day would be removed from their suspension period, Matchin said. The new law is set to expire at the beginning of 2029. Before then, it is anticipated that lawmakers will look at if or how the law benefited the public. On January 25, packages with WKXW News Reporter</p>	:35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at:  5:30 a.m.,  6:30 a.m.,  7:30 a.m.,  11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.</p>



		Dino Flammia aired that included comments from an interview he conducted with Matchin.		
1/25/24 and 1/26/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Taxes/Fees: Commuters, Advocates React to Possible NJ Transit Fare Increase</b> – It appears NJ Transit's nine-year streak of no fare increases is about to come to an end as the agency is proposing a fare increase to take effect on July 1. Facing an estimated \$119 million budget shortfall in Fiscal Year 2025, the agency, whose ridership shrunk significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, is calling for a systemwide "fare adjustment" of 15%. The agency is also calling for annual increases of 3%, effective July 1, 2025. Announced on January 24, the agency made its case for the "adjustment" on its website, citing a COVID-19 pandemic drop in ridership, increased operational costs, and the \$30 million cost of taking on routes and services abandoned by bus companies DeCamp, Coach USA, and A&amp;C. The public will have a chance to weigh in about the proposed increases with 10 scheduled public hearings in 10 New Jersey counties from March 4 through March 8. Reaction to the fare hikes has been mixed. While some NJ Transit rail riders recognize the need for the fare increases, most of them are disappointed with the agency's service and feel like it should be improved before fare hikes are considered. On January 25, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, a group devoted to promoting sustainable transportation, decried the fare hikes during a press conference at Newark Penn Station. They were joined by other groups in calling for adequate and sustainable funding for mass transit in New Jersey, saying that riders would not have to make up for major shortfalls if that was happening. The groups want sustainable investment in NJ Transit by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey Legislature. Trenton has not prioritized establishing a dedicated funding source for the transportation agency, the groups said. In May 2020, Murphy established an agreement with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority that devotes hundreds of millions of dollars to NJ Transit annually, in addition to funds allocated to the agency in the state's annual budget. But this agreement can be undone by any future governor, the groups noted.</p>	<p>:25 second reader on 1/25/24</p> <p>:25 to :35 second packages with comments from NJ Transit riders on 1/25/24 and 1/26/24</p> <p>:25 to :35 second packages with comments from Murphy on 1/26/24</p> <p>:35 second packages with comments from Cohen on 1/26/24</p>	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at:</p> <p>1/25/24 (:25 second reader) – 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>1/25/24 (:25 to :35 second packages with comments from NJ Transit riders) – 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.</p> <p>1/26/24 (:25 to :35 second packages with comments from NJ Transit rail riders) – 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>1/26/24 (:25 to :35 second packages with comments from Murphy) –</p>

		<p>Dedicated funding needs to be codified into statute, they said. "New Jersey is the only state that doesn't have dedicated, sustainable funding for its public transit system," said Jaqi Cohen, director of climate and equity policy for Tri-State Transportation Campaign. In his first public comments regarding the fare hikes, Murphy told News 12 New Jersey during his monthly "Ask Governor Murphy" program on January 25 that the agency is looking at a number of steps to reduce the budget shortfall, adding that he does not take the fare hikes "lightly." He said while he realizes no one wants to pay more, he also is not willing to "leave NJ Transit or the state in the irresponsible state that it was in when we got here." On January 25, WKXW News Anchors aired a reader about the fare hike and packages with NJ Transit riders reacting to the fare hike. On January 26, WKXW News Anchors aired comments from Murphy reacting to the fare hikes, as well as from NJ Transit riders. Additionally, packages from WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia also aired on January 26, with comments from an interview Flammia did with Cohen.</p>		<p>5:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.</p> <p>1/26/24 (:35 second packages with comments from Cohen) – 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.</p>
1/29/24	Dennis and Judi	<p><b>Marijuana: Rules for Marijuana Consumption Lounges Unveiled</b> – WKXW Talk Show Hosts Dennis Malloy and Judi Franco devoted a 60-minute portion of their program to discuss marijuana consumption loungers based on a report by WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia. New Jersey should soon give the final green light to consumption lounges, offering marijuana users a place to enjoy the drug in public. But with that approval comes a list of strict rules that must be followed. Rules approved in January by the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission (NJ-CRC) establish a framework for dispensary operators who want to add a cannabis consumption space to their property. According to the rules that have one more step of approval to complete, a consumption lounge must be attached to a dispensary. The facility has to be obscured from public view, and it needs to be equipped with a robust ventilation system to prevent the smoke or stench from affecting neighbors. The sale of food, beverages, and tobacco will be strictly prohibited, but patrons can bring or order their own food and</p>	60 minutes	11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

		<p>nonalcoholic beverages. Independent food trucks are permitted to sell food outside the lounge. Patients of New Jersey's medical marijuana program must be allowed to bring in their own cannabis from other licensed retailers, the rules say. Operators will have the option to prohibit adult-use patrons from bringing in their own product. "It's going to be tough for people in the short run, I really think, to make any kind of significant income from a consumption lounge," said Rob Mejia, a teaching specialist in Stockton University's cannabis studies program. But the main reason for lounges, Mejia said, is to give marijuana customers a place to use the product. "Unless you're a homeowner, you don't really have a place to consume cannabis," he said. "You can't do it in hotels, on the street, on the beach, in a federal park." Businesses will have flexibility with operating hours, and whether or not to charge a fee to individuals who want to enter the lounge. The rules advanced by the NJ-CRC on January 15 now need approval by the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law. The NJ-CRC expects that will happen by late February. Upon final approval, cannabis businesses can apply to have their consumption area approved, as long as the concept of consumption lounges has municipal approval. Dispensary operators will be limited to running one consumption area in the state, regardless of the number of dispensaries they own. Malloy and Franco asked their audience if they would consider going to a consumption lounge once they are up and running.</p>		
1/30/24	WXXW Newscasts	<p><b>Quality of Life: Positive Views on New Jersey Hit Worst Point in Over 10 Years</b> – New Jersey residents are more likely to say the state is headed in the wrong direction, and fewer residents are giving a positive rating to the state overall, according to a Rutgers-Eagleton poll released on January 26. Despite it being a new year, not a whole lot has changed when it comes to New Jerseyans' views on the state, the poll suggests. In the poll of more than 1,600 adults, 43% say the Garden State is headed in the right direction, while 47% say it is on the wrong track. Eleven percent are unsure. In the middle of last year, 50% of residents said the state is on the wrong track.</p>	:35 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 4

		<p>Residents' ratings of New Jersey have taken a small hit. Slightly more than half of the poll respondents view the Garden State as an excellent, 12%, or good, 40%, place to live. That is down slightly from when residents were last asked in 2022. Up slightly from two years ago is the share of residents who view New Jersey as an "only fair," 32%, or poor, 15%, place to live. "New Jersey's outlook on the state continues to be divided in these polarizing times, and positive views on quality of life here are at their lowest point in over a decade," said Ashley Koning, director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling. "Partisanship significantly colors perceptions of both the state's present and the future, as it does most issues these days, with Democrats in a much more optimistic mindset than either independents or Republicans." In the poll, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy records the same favorability rating as he did in November. Forty-six percent of respondents have a favorable impression of the Democratic governor, and the number of people who have an unfavorable impression of him has crept up six points, to 34%. Sixteen percent of respondents say they have no opinion of Murphy. Four percent say they do not even know who he is. For his packages that aired on January 29, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia ran comments from an interview he did with Koning.</p>		<p>p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., and 11 p.m.</p>
<p>1/30/24 and 1/31/24</p>	<p>WKXW Newscasts</p>	<p><b>Taxes/Fees: Tolls to Increase in March on Parkway and Turnpike</b> – The second time is the charm for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority to get its 2024 toll hike approved for the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway. The authority's Board of Commissioners first approved the toll hike in its \$2.62 billion 2024 budget in October 2023. The plan included a scheduled 3% toll increase, set to take effect on January 1, 2024. The Turnpike Authority has adopted an indexing system that allows yearly increases up to 3% without public hearings. New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy quickly vetoed the budget on October 26, tweeting that he was “not satisfied with the justification provided for the toll increases reflected in the budget and need more information for why the board is taking this step.”</p>	<p>:25 to :40 second readers on 1/30/24</p> <p>:20 to :30 second readers on 1/31/24</p> <p>:30 second voicer on 1/31/24</p>	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at:</p> <p>1/30/24 (:25 to :40 second readers) – 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 6 p.m.</p>

		<p>Flash forward to the January 30 meeting, which saw the board adopt its budget and the increase. The start date for the new tolls is March 1. According to a spokesperson for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the average Turnpike toll for a passenger vehicle will increase by 15 cents, and the average Parkway toll for a passenger vehicle will increase by 5 cents. "Governor Murphy will approve the New Jersey Turnpike Authority's 2024 annual budget. By responsibly investing in the maintenance of our state's highways and mass transit, we are continuing to prioritize the safety and mobility of all New Jersey residents and commuters," a spokesman for the governor said in a statement. Murphy did not address how the newly submitted budget addressed his earlier concerns. Some Republicans were quick to criticize the governor for allowing the hikes to go through when motorists are already being squeezed by increased transportation hikes. While these toll hikes have gone through, Murphy has been critical of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's congestion fee for drivers entering Manhattan below 60<sup>th</sup> Street. On January 30, WKXW News Anchors aired readers about the toll hike increases. On January 31, WKXW News Anchors aired either readers or a :30 second voicer from WKXW News Reporter Rick Rickman about the toll hike increases.</p>		<p>1/31/24 (:20 to :30 second readers) – 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m.</p> <p>1/31/24 (:30 second voicer) – 5:30 a.m., 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m., and 10:30 p.m.</p>
2/1/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Taxes/Fees: New Jersey Holding \$6.3 Billion in Unclaimed Funds</b> – The Garden State is safeguarding about \$6.3 billion in unclaimed money and property — and officials want the rightful owners to come forward. Property that has been abandoned or lost by New Jersey residents and businesses for at least three years is taken on by the state until the rightful owners come forward. Unclaimed property on the site includes utility deposits, insurance payouts, forgotten bank accounts, dividends, and more, along with physical property. The administration also handles items from an estate that never reach their intended beneficiaries. "The average claim is probably around \$500 to \$1,000," said Steven Harris, administrator of the Unclaimed Property Administration (UPA) within the New Jersey Department of the Treasury. In 2023 alone, the</p>	:30 to :35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m.,</p>

		<p>administration returned over \$240 million to more than 100,000 owners. "It was a record year for New Jersey," Harris said. The year prior, New Jersey returned \$203 million across 73,000 claims. The simplest way for someone to determine whether they are in line for some surprise funds is by using the UPA's website. It is free to search, free to make a claim, and free for people to receive their property. In many cases, as long as people have information such as their Social Security number, they will receive an email within an hour that details how much they are getting and when it will be sent. "We also pay interest, from the time we receive the property until the time we pay it," Harris said. If property goes unclaimed, it eventually benefits all citizens, Harris said. Under current rules, 75% of unclaimed property that is reported to the state can go to the general fund. But the UPA pays out far more than 25% of these funds annually. For his packages that aired on February 1, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia ran comments from an interview he conducted with Harris.</p>		p.m., and 10 p.m.
2/2/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Elections: Most New Jersey Voters Unaware of Senate Candidates</b> – With the primary race just a few months away, a new poll shows that many Garden State residents do not know much, if anything at all, about the Democrats going after the seat of the federally charged U.S. Senator Bob Menendez. This despite both having their names in the New Jersey political arena for years. In a Rutgers-Eagleton poll released on January 26, 45% of New Jersey adults said they are unaware of New Jersey Congressman Andy Kim, who is currently serving his third term for New Jersey in the U.S. House of Representatives. Another 23% said they are unsure of Kim. Thirty-eight percent of respondents said they are unaware of First Lady of New Jersey Tammy Murphy, the wife of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy. Twenty-four percent are unsure of her. "Both Andy Kim and Tammy Murphy will still have a long way to go in terms of name recognition, and they only have less than five months to do it," said Ashley Koning, director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Murphy announced her candidacy in November. Kim hinted at a run in</p>	:35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at:  5:30 a.m.,  6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., and 5:30 p.m.</p>

		<p>September, and formally announced his campaign on November 10. On November 15, Murphy officially announced her run. Murphy and Kim will have a chance to increase name recognition when they face off in their first debate on February 18. In the poll, Kim's favorability rating is at 23%. Ten percent of New Jerseyans have an unfavorable opinion of him. In just a couple months, both favorable and unfavorable impressions of Murphy have increased. Eighteen percent view her favorably and 20% view her unfavorably. Menendez, who is fighting multiple federal indictments, has not yet announced whether he will run for reelection. The Rutgers-Eagelton poll suggests he will not have much support if he were to make a run for a fourth term. Sixty percent of New Jerseyans have an unfavorable impression of Menendez. Nine percent have a favorable impression. The primary is June 4. For his packages that aired on February 2, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia included comments from an interview he did with Koning.</p>		
2/5/24	Eric Potts and Kyle Clark	<p><b>School Safety: Violence and Bullying Surge in New Jersey Schools</b> – WKXW Talk Show Hosts Eric Potts and Kyle Clark devoted a 60-minute portion of their program to discuss the issue of violence and bullying in New Jersey schools based off reporting by WKXW News Reporter Rick Rickman. Data from the New Jersey Department of Education highlights a concerning rise in violence and bullying during the 2021-2022 academic year. The report indicates a sharp rise in violence, with recorded incidents reaching 13,451, translating to a rate of 10.3 incidents per 1,000 students. This represents a nearly 9% increase from the most recent comparable year. Disturbingly, the police were called 2,687 times during the school year, and students were caught with weapons, mostly knives, on 1,372 occasions. This surge in violence occurred despite a decrease of over 2,700 students from the previous year, pointing to an alarming trend. The term "violent incidents" encompasses a range of activities, including fights, threats, assault, sexual contact or assault, and robbery. Along with the rise in violence, the state also grappled with a staggering number of bullying incidents. New Jersey schools reported over</p>	:60 minutes	8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

		30,500 bullying incidents during the 2021-2022 school year, making the state the fourth worst in the nation for bullying, according to a WalletHub study released in October. Potts and Clark asked their audience what could be done in New Jersey to make schools safer for students, teachers, and staff.		
2/6/24	Deminski and Doyle	<p><b>Public Safety: Secaucus to Erect Dozens of Cameras to Thwart Crime</b> – Efforts continue on the state and local level to reduce car thefts, but it remains a major issue driven by a sophisticated criminal enterprise that has shown no sign of letting up. One New Jersey municipality is taking the extreme approach of documenting every single vehicle that enters and leaves its borders. Secaucus Mayor Michael Gonnelli announced plans to install cameras and license plate readers at every entrance and exit point to and from the city on January 29. According to information about the program on the town’s website, the cameras will be “monitored solely by the police department,” and cost about \$500,000. “While the installation of cameras with license plate reader capability at every point of ingress and egress will not totally eliminate crime, these cameras will be used as a tool to assist the Secaucus Police Department in identifying vehicles wanted for their involvement in criminal activity,” Secaucus Police Chief Dennis Miller said in a statement. “I can assure Town residents the cameras will not be utilized to monitor their travels, rather they will be used to assist the Police Department in its fight to suppress the ongoing auto-theft problem plaguing New Jersey communities. The use of license plate reader technology to encircle the entire Town to support our crime fighting efforts is a major proactive measure by Mayor Gonnelli and his Town Council to safeguard Secaucus residents and their property.” For now, there is no timeframe for when the program will be up and running. In 2022, 23 cars were reported stolen in Secaucus. That increased to 39 in 2023. “Despite the fact that our town has one of the lowest levels of crime in Hudson County, we are continually looking for ways to enhance public safety. We ensure the highest quality of training and tools are available to our Police Department so they can deter crime</p>	60 minutes	3 p.m. to 4 p.m.



		and enhance the safety of the Town. I have no doubt the installation of cameras will benefit the police department as well as our residents and business community” said Gonnelli in his announcement of the plan. Reaction to the plan has led some residents to question whether the cameras could lead to invasion of privacy issues, with some people commenting on a public Facebook page about the matter. Deminski and Doyle asked their listeners what they think of the program and whether it is an invasion of privacy.		
2/7/24	WKXW Newscasts	<b><u>New Jersey Economy: New Jersey Expected to Get Big Boost Thanks to 2026 FIFA World Cup</u></b> – New Jersey businesses are already salivating over the prospect of summer 2026, when MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford will not only host a handful of Federation internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup matches, including the final — the holy grail of soccer matchups. According to the Murphy administration, hosting World Cup matches at MetLife, known as New York New Jersey Stadium for the tournament, including the last one on July 19, 2026, should generate over \$2 billion in economic impact for the region. The tournament is expected to bring over a million visitors to the region. Roughly half of them will be non-ticketholders. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Tom Bracken, president and CEO of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce. "If we do it right, we're going to benefit in so many ways." Conversations about how to benefit from the tournament have already started, Bracken said. And more than the Meadowlands region should feel the power of the World Cup pull. "With our infrastructure, our trains, our Turnpike, our Parkway — that makes venues even an hour away very attractive," Bracken said. World Cup matches will be played in Philadelphia as well, likely resulting in added business in New Jersey counties that are close to the city. Business leaders see the World Cup as an opportunity to showcase everything New Jersey has to offer. The Garden State will be in the international spotlight, potentially opening the door to more major events in the future. "We know preparing for this global event will be challenging but we look forward to ensuring our	:35 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., and 11 p.m.

		hotels, restaurants and overall tourism community is prepared to show the world how great it is in New Jersey," said Amanda Stone, director of government affairs for the New Jersey Restaurant & Hospitality Association. The global reach of the World Cup final in 2022 was 1.5 billion. For comparison, the last Super Bowl had about 153 million viewers worldwide. For his packages that aired on February 7, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia included comments from an interview he did with Bracken.		
2/8/24	Dennis and Judi	<b>Education: College Degree Expense Causing Some to Rethink Higher Education Pursuit</b> – As the cost of a college education continues to grow across New Jersey, some people are questioning whether getting a degree is worth the financial hit. With many six figure jobs not requiring a college degree, some high school students are rethinking a college degree, instead opting to pursue trade school, become a social media influencer, or start their own business. In 2023, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed an executive order directing the state’s Civil Service Commission to determine which jobs at the state level no longer require a college degree. During a statement released via a press release, the Murphy administration said hundreds of applicants are turned away each year from applying to certain positions due to the college degree requirement. Murphy said some of these positions pay upwards of \$120,000 a year. As more companies move toward a similar model that the state has proposed, some people might be wondering if a college degree is worth it especially given the cost. Information from College Tuition Compare finds that the average cost of a college education in New Jersey for in-state students is \$9,976. For out-of-state students, it averages \$18,969. These numbers reflect both tuition and fees for the 2022-2023 academic year. WKXW Talk Show Hosts Dennis Malloy and Judi Frano asked their listeners whether they thought getting a college degree was worth it, encouraging their listeners to share their stories and thoughts.	60 minutes	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
2/9/24	Eric Scott	<b>Public Safety: Poll Gauges How Safe New Jerseyans Feel in Their Neighborhood</b> – WKXW Talk Show Host Eric Scott, filling in for a vacationing Bill Spadea, spent an hour discussing neighborhood	60 minutes	7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

		<p>safety based on reporting by WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia. Overall, New Jersey residents give positive ratings to the towns and neighborhoods in which they live, according to a poll released on February 6. But the same poll finds those views vary drastically between groups. In the Rutgers-Eagelton poll, seven in 10 New Jersey adults say their town is either an "excellent" or "good" place to live. An even greater number say the same about their neighborhood. At the same time, residents overwhelmingly feel safe in their neighborhood at night and even safer during the day. "When we drill further down into the overall positive ratings of one's local area and feelings of safety, it looks like more of a tale of two New Jerseys," said Ashley Koning, director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers University. According to the poll, white residents are about 20 points more likely than Black residents and Hispanic residents to rate their towns or cities positively. And Black and Hispanic residents are less likely than white residents to say they feel "very safe" in their neighborhood, by double digits, according to the poll. Compared with 77% of white residents, 61% of Black individuals say they "feel safe" during the day. About a third of Hispanics feel "very safe" at night, along with 48% of Black residents, compared to 57% of whites. Views differ by more than race and ethnicity. Adults in the lowest income bracket, as well as those with a high school education or less, are less likely than their counterparts to view their municipalities and neighborhoods as "excellent" or "good" places to live. And residents living in urban areas of the state are less likely to offer positive ratings than those in other regions. When asked how crime today in their neighborhood compares to five years ago, 30% of New Jersey adults said it has gotten worse. Ten percent said it has gotten better. Folks in urban areas, those in lower income households, and younger residents are all more likely than their counterparts to say that they have seen improvement in crime in their area. At 42%, Republicans are the most likely partisans to say crime has gotten worse. Sixty-two percent of Democrats said crime has stayed the same over the past five years. Seven percent of New Jersey</p>		
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		residents are "very worried" that they will become a victim of a crime. Another 33% are "somewhat worried." Republicans, 52%, are more likely to say they are worried about being a victim of a crime than either independents or Democrats. Scott asked his listeners if they felt safe in their neighborhood, encouraging them to call the program to explain their reasons why or why not.		
2/12/24	WKXW Newscasts	<b>Public Health: Child Vaccinations in New Jersey Still Falling Short of Pre-COVID Numbers –</b> Routine immunizations for children have not fully rebounded since being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Professionals are urging parents to get their kids back on track — at a certain age, a kid's stockpile of vaccines will determine whether or not they can attend public school. For the 2022-2023 school year, 92.8% of children in New Jersey had met all immunization requirements for school attendance. The gap is filled by those with medical and religious exemptions, and families that would not comply with the state's rules. In the academic year heading into 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic began impacting New Jersey, compliance was at 94.4%. "Children are not vaccinated as they used to be," said Michelle Fiscus, chief medical officer for the Association of Immunization Managers. "That leaves the opportunity for really highly infectious diseases like measles to get into our communities." During the pandemic, non-emergency visits to the doctor took a back seat as families were told to stay home and parents feared exposing their healthy children to other kids who may be sick. Vaccination for children should be covered under any standard health insurance policy. COVID-19 protection is covered as well, although it is not required for children in order for them to be allowed to attend school. Children who are uninsured or underinsured can get access to free vaccinations with the federally funded program Vaccines for Children. For his packages that aired on February 12, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia pulled comments from an interview he did with Fiscus.	:35 to :40 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 8 p.m.
2/12/24 and 2/13/24	WKXW Newscasts	<b>New Jersey Consumers: Big Electric Bill Rate Hikes Hitting Four Million New Jersey Customers –</b> The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)	:20 to :25 second readers	During New Jersey 101.5

		<p>has approved rate increases for the state's four largest electric utilities. Over four million customers in New Jersey will see increases in their monthly bills. The NJBPU approved the increases on February 9. The increases will affect customers for Atlantic City Electric (ACE), Jersey Central Power &amp; Light Company (JCP&amp;L), Public Service Electric &amp; Gas Company (PSE&amp;G), and Rockland Electric Company (RECO). The increases are all greater than the rate hikes customers experienced last year. At the time, officials downplayed the higher costs and said the rate increases were generally lower than inflation. Around four million ratepayers will experience a "moderate increase" to their energy bills, said Christine Guhl-Sadovy, president of the NJBPU. "Our primary goal remains to do what is in the best interest of ratepayers across New Jersey," said Guhl-Sadovy. How much rates go up is based on the results of an annual Basic Generation Service electricity auction. RECO, a subsidiary of Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc., serves around 70,000 customers in North Jersey. RECO customers will see their average bill increase by 3.6% to \$135.27. Around 2.3 million electric customers use PSE&amp;G as of February 2023. For PSE&amp;G customers, the average increase will be \$8.22 a month. JCP&amp;L serves 1.1 million customers in Central and North Jersey, according to its website. JCP&amp;L customers can expect to see bills hike by 8.6%, pushing the average bill up by \$8.34 more per month. ACE has around 556,000 customers throughout South Jersey. Bills are expected to hike by 4.8% per month, pushing bills to \$161.62 per month from \$154.28. On February 12, WKXW News Anchors ran readers about the rate hikes. On February 13, WKXW News Anchors ran readers or a voicer by WKXW News Reporter Rick Rickman about the rate hikes.</p>	<p>on 2/12/24  :15 to :30 second readers on 2/13/24  :25 second voicer on 2/13/24</p>	<p>Newscasts at:  2/12/24 (:20 to :25 second readers) – 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.  2/13/24 (:15 to :30 second readers) – 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.  2/13/24 (:25 second voicer) – 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 8:30 p.m., and 10:30 p.m.</p>
2/14/24	Deminski and Doyle	<p><b>Crime: Car Thieves Employing New Methods for Stealing Cars</b> – Based off a report by WKXW News Reporter Rick Rickman, WKXW Talk Show Hosts Jeff Deminski and Bill Doyle discussed the issue of car thefts in New Jersey. There is a new, convenient way for aspiring car thieves to figure out that your car is ripe for the taking. Motor vehicle thefts are on the rise in New Jersey. More</p>	60 minutes	6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

		<p>than 16,600 vehicles were stolen in 2023, according to preliminary data shared with New Jersey 101.5 in January by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. That is a 4% increase over 2022. Many car thieves take vehicles to commit more crimes, according to a flyer shared by the South Brunswick police. Other thieves resell the car as a whole or as parts, and some cars are stolen just for joyrides. Regardless of their motives, car thieves are looking for vulnerable targets. Now car thieves have figured out that a feature on many luxury vehicles can tell them whether or not it is unlocked. Side mirrors that fold in when the vehicle is locked are making law-abiding citizens vulnerable, the Fair Lawn police said in an advisory to the public. "Some high-end motor vehicle side view mirrors automatically push in when the vehicle is locked. Thieves are aware of this option on vehicles and makes them very easily recognizable when they are locked." Many vehicles allow owners to disable the automatic fold-in feature, though how this is done may vary between manufacturers. The South Brunswick and Lyndhurst police shared vital tips for vehicle owners who want to avoid becoming victims. Cars left unlocked or with their windows down are prime targets for car thieves. Owners who leave their keys inside their vehicles, especially in plain view, and also more likely to have their cars taken. Parking in well-lit areas can also be a deterrent. Even car owners who do everything right can have their cars stolen. Deminski and Doyle asked their audience if they have ever been the victim of a car theft, encouraging them to share their experiences.</p>		
2/15/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Education: New Jersey Schools Scrapping President's Day to Make Up for Snow Closures</b> – President's Day in 2024 will act as a regular school day for a number of school districts in New Jersey as officials adjust their academic calendars to accommodate some brutal weather so far this winter. Most school districts have snow days built in to their calendars — if they are not used, the year can end earlier than expected. But for the first time in a couple winters, weather is actually impacting school calendars. Districts that had two or three days built in for the 2023-2024 school</p>	:30 to :35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1</p>

		<p>year have already exhausted them, so they need to make up for that time elsewhere in order to meet the state's 180-day requirement. "There may be times where they would add days back in during spring recess," said Richard Bozza, executive director of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators. Typically, Bozza said, schools would not just add days to the end of the school year in June. That could get in the way of timely events at the secondary level, such as graduation. After many districts were forced to issue a snow day due to inclement weather on February 13, several districts had decided that President's Day would no longer be a day off for students and staff. They are bringing students in, for either a full- or half-day. According to the New Jersey Schools Boards Association, teachers are not required to work on public holidays. But staff may choose to do so in order to avoid cutting in to summer or spring break. New Jersey schools must be in session for 180 days to continue receiving state aid. A session counts as at least four hours of instruction. Schools cannot opt for remote learning days because under current law, they would not count towards the 180-day rule. "There's certainly a desire that we get legislation passed that would allow for remote learning on certain days that we might have to close," Bozza said. Right now, remote instruction would only count in New Jersey if it occurs because a school has to close for multiple days due to a declared emergency. On February 15, packages with WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia ran with comments from an interview he did with Bozza.</p>		<p>p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., and 11 p.m.</p>
2/16/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Public Health: Primary Health Care Shortages Could be Blamed on Pay</b> – A report suggests that money may be a major reason why it is getting harder in New Jersey to make an appointment with a primary doctor. According to a report released in January by the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, primary care doctors are not earning as much as they would like in New Jersey, so they are opting to set up shop elsewhere. The report said a shortage of these doctors is endangering New Jersey residents. The Garden State is near the bottom nationally for its ratio of primary care doctors to residents, and New Jersey</p>	:35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 4</p>

		<p>ranks 48th out of 50 in primary care spending. "Existing patients often wait months; others struggle to find a doctor who's even taking new patients," said Alfred Tallia, a contributor to the report and chair of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. "Lots of people get no care until small problems grow into emergencies." Tallia, a family physician, considers primary care doctors to be the "quarterback" in the health care system, but says they make way less than specialists across the United States. Doctors do not control how they are paid, and that pay differs from state-to-state. The report notes that New Jersey Medicaid pays primary care doctors half of what Medicare pays. And commercial insurers pay an average of 93% of Medicare rates in New Jersey, while reimbursement averages out at 120% nationwide. According to 2023 data analyzed by the report, New Jersey has about 5,300 doctors in the primary care fields, such as family medicine and general internal medicine. Just half of them work full-time. "We've got a primary care crisis that's been years in the making," Tallia said. "We've got to fix it." For his packages that aired on February 16, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia ran comments from an interview he conducted with Tallia.</p>		p.m., and 5 p.m.
2/19/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Transportation: Bill Would Require Electric Bikes and Scooters be Insured and Registered</b> – A number of groups are pushing back against a proposed New Jersey law that would require low-speed electric bikes and scooters to not only be registered with the state, but also carry a type of insurance that does not even exist yet. The Senate Transportation Committee advanced the measure on February 15, but committee chair New Jersey state Senator Patrick Diegnan thinks it will likely be amended heavily before moving further. "I don't think anybody supports the bill exactly as it's written," Diegnan said. Under the measure, one would not be able to operate a low-speed electric bicycle or scooter unless it is registered with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. And the owner would have to maintain liability insurance coverage, personal injury protection coverage for pedestrians, and uninsured motorist coverage.</p>	:35 to :40 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., and 11 p.m.



		<p>Benjamin Dziobkek, executive director of Climate Revolution Action Network, said the bill is just an added tax on bike riders, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds and may not be able to afford a car. "This bill is bad for bikers, it's bad for insurance companies, and it's bad for working class New Jerseyans," Dziobkek said. Advocates said officials' primary focus should be equipping New Jersey with more "bikable" infrastructure, if safety is truly the priority. "If we discourage e-bike use, it really will reduce our current efforts to reduce road crashes, by pushing more people to continue driving cars," said Debra Kagan, executive director of the New Jersey Bike &amp; Walk Coalition. If signed into law, the bill says it would go into effect 180 days later. But, according to Gary La Spisa, vice president of the Insurance Council of New Jersey, it would take longer than six months to develop an insurance product like this "from scratch." The measure has been referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. For his packages that aired on February 19, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia aired comments that were pulled from the February 15 hearing from Dziobkek, La Spisa, and Kagan.</p>		
2/20/24	Dennis and Judi	<p><b>Taxes/Fees: New Jersey Property Taxes Soar to An All-Time High</b> – WKXW Talk Show Host Dennis Malloy and Judi Franco devoted a 60-minute portion of their program to discussing New Jersey's property tax bills in 2023. Living in the Garden State got more expensive last year, with property taxes climbing by an average of 3.2%. More than \$33.3 billion in property tax revenue was collected in 2023, according to new data released by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. That is an increase of more than a billion dollars from the year before. New Jersey homeowners, on average, paid \$9,803 in property taxes — a jump by more than \$300. Homeowners are paying over \$10,000 in property taxes on average in eight of New Jersey's 21 counties. And of those eight counties, most of them are in North Jersey. Nearly 69 cents of every dollar collected in property taxes went to fund New Jersey schools. Around 21 cents went to municipalities, while the remaining funds went to county spending. The tax increases</p>	60 minutes	10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

		<p>continue despite a 2% cap on year-over-year property tax increases in place since 2010. There are exceptions to cover growing pension costs, health benefits for employees, and the costs of large emergencies. A vast majority of municipalities had their property taxes go up in 2023. Out of 564 municipalities, 400 of them saw increases greater than 2%. Eleven municipalities had increases greater than 10%. The crown for the biggest average property tax increase goes to Washington Township in Burlington County, which is home to around 700 people. Average property taxes there skyrocketed up by 29.5% to \$3,933 in 2023. Only 42 municipalities cut their property taxes in 2023; that is less than the 71 municipalities that saw decreases in 2022. Malloy and Franco asked their audience what their property taxes are like in New Jersey, encouraging them to call the program to discuss the matter.</p>		
2/21/24	Steve Trevelise	<p><b>Environment: New Jersey Phasing Out Gas Cars, but Poll Shows Most Residents Are Against the Plan</b> – Based on reporting by WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia of a poll about electric cars, WKXW Talk Show Host Steve Trevelise devoted a 60-minute portion of his program to discussing the push by the Murphy administration to ban the sale of new gas-powered vehicles in New Jersey by 2035. According to a Rutgers-Eagleton poll released on February 19, 50% of New Jersey adults are opposed to the rule. And 56% say they are not likely to purchase an electric vehicle. "Even as a dozen or so states across the country adopt the same regulations, New Jerseyans are divided on the matter of electric vehicles (EV) and the impact they will have," said Ashley Koning, director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers University—New Brunswick. Despite opposition to the policy, a majority of New Jerseyans believe that the move would have a positive impact on the state's air quality and residents' health. But 47% believe it would have a negative impact on their personal finances, and less than a third say the policy would be a plus for New Jersey's economy. Of respondents who say they likely would not buy an electric vehicle; a plurality say cost is the main reason. Respondents also cite concerns related to charging their vehicle.</p>	60 minutes	7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

		<p>"I think a lot of this has to do with lack of information and lack of awareness on the issue at the moment," Koning said. "That's why we see so much division here." Demographics play a major part in residents' views on the topic. At 68%, support for the mandate is strongest among Democrats. In the poll, 15% of Republicans support the policy. The mandate also gets majority support from Black and multiracial residents, those aged 18 to 34, and individuals who live in urban environments. "I would expect these numbers would change as people get more information. Which direction they might change — we're not sure yet," Koning said. Ahead of the complete phase-out by 2035, at least 51% of all new car sales in New Jersey must be electric vehicles by 2027, under Governor Phil Murphy's plans. These are plans that can be overruled by legislators or undone by future governors. In the poll, 45% of respondents said they would be less likely to vote for a candidate running for office in New Jersey if they supported the state's phase-out policy. Twenty percent of respondents said they would be more likely to vote for such a candidate. Trevelise asked his listeners whether they plan to purchase an electric car. For those listeners that have one already, he asked how they liked it compared to a gas-powered vehicle.</p>		
2/22/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b><u>New Jersey Consumers: New Jersey's Auto Insurance Rates on the Rise</u></b> – As a percentage of income, the cost of automobile insurance in New Jersey is not that bad, according to a new analysis. But you could be paying even less — you just need the patience to search for a better price elsewhere. In New Jersey right now, the average annual premium of \$2,555 takes up 2.65% of household income, finds an analysis by Bankrate. That percentage is higher in 28 states; it is as high as 6.5% in Louisiana. Auto insurers do not base their rates on one's income, but the analysis provides a good assessment of the impact that rates have on drivers from state to state. In New Jersey and nationwide, rates are up in 2024. As costs related to services such as auto repairs and medical treatment go up, so does the cost of financial protection behind the wheel. "Auto insurance rates have been rising at a breakneck</p>	:35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at:  5:30 a.m.,  6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., and 11 p.m.</p>

		<p>pace," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst for Bankrate. "And though the pace of increases will eventually slow, that does not mean premiums are coming down." The rate drivers are paying today may not be the best one available in the state. There are dozens of auto-insurance companies that would like to do business with you, and the risk you carry as a driver may be perceived differently from carrier to carrier. One company may be interested in the last year of your driving history, while others may look five years back, for example. One carrier may put more weight than others on where your vehicle is garaged, or the ZIP code in which you live. That is why Christine O'Brien, president of the Insurance Council of New Jersey, advises consumers to get two to three quotes, at least, before opting for an insurer. Across the board, the type and age of the vehicle you are trying to cover will impact the rates you are quoted. Certain vehicle features, meanwhile, can impact different types of coverage in opposite ways. For example, safety technology may make you less likely to get into a collision, but that technology would also be more expensive to repair in the event of a crash. O'Brien said drivers also want to be mindful of their credit score. Carriers use a credit-based insurance score to determine a consumer's level of risk. For his packages that ran on February 22, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia aired comments from an interview he did with O'Brien.</p>		
2/23/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Public Health: Common Material in New Jersey Schools Could be Damaging Children's Organs –</b> No one knows how many schools in New Jersey have students and staff stepping onto potentially toxic floors every day. But advocates and legislators are working to get a better handle on the reach of the problem, and ways to make sure it is not an issue for future generations. The main threat is rubber-like gym floors that have been getting installed in school facilities since the 1960s, and as recently as the early 2000s. A mercury catalyst was used during the manufacturing process to help them cure faster. But as the floors age and wear down in schools, cracks form and mercury vapors can be released into the air, according to experts. "Mercury vapor</p>	:35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., and 5 p.m.</p>

		<p>can damage the central nervous system, kidneys, lungs, skin, and eyes, and is especially harmful to children, as well as to developing fetuses," said Drew Tompkins, director of advocacy and policy for the New Jersey Work Environment Council. And poor ventilation makes mercury vapor more toxic, as well as warmer temperatures, putting both students and staff at risk. But knowing which floors are potentially dangerous is not a simple task. Neither the date of a floor's installation nor the safety data sheets that accompany the floor, would give a school the information they need. And even if a floor is found to be laced with mercury, it is not a given that the floor will ever emit dangerous levels of mercury vapor. Advocates for change made their comments on February 22 before the Assembly Consumer Affairs Committee, which hosted discussions on two bills related to the issue of mercury-containing floors. One measure would require that new flooring for schools and child care centers be certified mercury-free. In the case of a project involving floors that are already installed, there would have to be confirmation that the already existing material is free of mercury, or confirmation that the existing flooring material would be removed prior to the installation of new flooring. Another bill would establish a task force to study the presence of mercury floors in schools and child care centers. As part of this effort, advocates said the state should also create a database of all the schools with mercury-containing floors. That would require sampling work from each of the schools, and they would have to report the data. In February 2020, the New Jersey Department of Health released guidance to help schools determine whether their floor is a concern. The guidance advises schools to conduct inspections of their poured polyurethane floors, but it does not mandate the move. And it offers recommendations for schools whose air samples exceed hazardous threshold levels. Months prior, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority, which manages the construction and renovation of schools in 31 districts, implemented a rule that ensures no future projects include floors that contain the</p>		
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		mercury catalyst. For his packages that ran on February 23, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia aired comments pulled from the February 22 hearing from Nikki Baker, an organizer with Healthy Schools Now, and Tompkins.		
2/26/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Crime: Legislation Aims to Address Rise in Hate Crimes</b> – Certain bias acts would see increased penalties under legislation introduced to combat a rise in hate crimes and online harassment. New Jersey Assemblyman Gary Schaer is behind a package of bills that focuses on acts of hate on college campuses, in schools, at houses of worship, and online. According to the Anti-Defamation League, New Jersey recorded a 30-year high for the number of antisemitic incidents in 2022. And the trend was exacerbated in the aftermath of the October 2023 Hamas attacks on Israel. Through the first 11 months of 2023, police departments across New Jersey recorded 2,477 bias incidents, according to the New Jersey State Police. The total through all of 2022 was 2,178. One of Schaer's measures would create specific penalties for swatting incidents that involve a church, synagogue, temple, or other place of worship. The bill, A3560, establishes a second-degree offense for such an act, punishable by a prison term of 5 to 10 years, and/or a fine of up to \$150,000. The act of doxxing — knowingly disclosing the personal information of someone online, without their consent, in order to subject them to violence or intimidation, would be officially recognized as a crime, under another measure from Schaer. The bill, A3561, would make doxxing a crime of the fourth degree. It would become a third-degree crime if the act results in serious harm for someone. A third bill seeks clarity more than punishment. Under bill A3558, New Jersey would adopt a statewide definition of antisemitism. The bill would also appropriate \$100,000 for the creation of a public awareness campaign to promote bias crime reporting. According to Schaer, the same definition of antisemitism is shared by dozens of states in the United States, as well as the U.S. Department of State, and a number of countries in Europe. For his packages that ran on February 26, WKXW News</p>	:35 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.

		Reporter Dino Flammia aired comments from an interview he did with Schaer.		
2/27/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Education: New Jersey Adults Would Rather See Offensive Content Than Book Bans in Schools –</b></p> <p>As state lawmakers consider new legislation to protect libraries and their staffs from possible book bans, a new Rutgers-Eagleton poll suggests most New Jerseyans worry that such bans could end up impacting the education of children across the state. According to the poll results released on February 26, 58% of adults are more concerned that schools may ban books and censor topics that are educationally important, compared to 35% who say they are more concerned that schools may teach books and topics that students or their parents feel are inappropriate. When asked about recent laws throughout the United States regarding banned books or making it illegal for teachers to discuss LGBTQ or racial issues, a majority, 56%, said such measures are mostly being driven by politicians who want to advance their careers. Thirty-one percent believe the effort is mainly driven by parents' concerns. "When we assess views in a scientific and representative way, public opinion on this issue shows — like many other topics — that the loudest voices do not necessarily represent the majority," said Ashley Koning, director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling. With the exception of three groups, more than half of every demographic in the poll is more concerned about book bans than inappropriate content. Twenty-seven percent of Republicans believe offensive content is the bigger concern, along with 50% of 35-to-49-year-olds and 50% of individuals who do not identify as transgender or know someone who is transgender. Despite their views, Republicans in the poll are split on the motivation behind moves such as book bans. Forty-four percent believe they are politically motivated, while 43% believe such rules are driven by genuine parental concern. A proposed law introduced in the newest session of the New Jersey Legislature requires school boards to create a policy related to the material in libraries, and a policy regarding a process that must be followed when someone wants a book pulled from the shelves. Under the "Freedom to</p>	:35 to :40 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.

		<p>Read Act," the material in libraries would have to be "diverse and inclusive," including protected classes in New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination. The material, the bill notes, would have to be both age- and grade-appropriate. Also, the proposed law provides civil and criminal liability protection to librarians and other library staff who operate under the rules of the bill. For his packages that ran on February 27, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia aired comments from an interview he did with Koning.</p>		
2/28/24	Bill Spadea	<p><b>Government/Politics: On the Heels of Murphy's Budget Proposal, New Jerseyans Asked to Voice What They Want to See Fixed</b> – The day after New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy unveiled his \$55.9 billion budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025, WKXW Talk Show Host Bill Spadea devoted two hours of his program to asking his listeners what they want to see fixed in New Jersey. Murphy's budget, nearly 5% percent higher than his last proposal, does increase school spending in grades K through 12, as well as offer another round of property tax relief payments through the ANCHOR program. The budget also includes more money for programs to combat the state's nursing and teacher shortages, increases the number of affordable housing options, expands free meals to students, and addresses homelessness among the state's veteran population. The budget, however, also proposes new taxes, hikes fees, and sunsets some popular programs. Under his proposal, the governor wants to create a tax on businesses called the Corporate Transit Fee. This fee, projected to raise about \$1 billion, will create a dedicated funding source for NJ Transit. It would be imposed on businesses with net incomes greater than \$10 million annually. Murphy is also calling for an end to free state park entrance fees, a program that saved consumers sales tax on back-to-school supplies, and a popular tax incentive for motorists that purchase electric vehicles. He is also looking to increase the state's gun permit fees and bring back a fee for teacher certifications. Republicans accused the governor of spending more than the state is projected to bring in, asking the governor to give them a seat at the table in the overall process so that the budget</p>	120 minutes	6 a.m. to 8 a.m.



		can be a bipartisan effort. Spadea encouraged his listeners to call his program to voice what they want to see fixed in the state.		
2/29/24	WKXW Newscasts	<b>Government/Politics: Monmouth County Launches System to Streamline Help for Struggling Residents</b> – A first-of-its-kind support system is up and running for Monmouth County residents seeking services related to mental health, addiction, housing, and other needs. The county held an event on February 28 to launch the Monmouth ACTS Navigation System, which features a "warm line" that individuals can dial to receive a direct connection to services, instead of just receiving a list of phone numbers for agencies that may or may not be able to help. At 732-683-8959, residents can connect live with a trained social worker. If the caller is in crisis, the social worker can personally connect the individual with the appropriate agency on the spot through a three-way call. "We are certain that at least the first step in the process has been undertaken," said Peter Boynton, chair of the Monmouth ACTS Advisory Council. If the person is not in crisis, the social worker will use a state-of-the-art referral system that puts the caller on an agency's radar, and those agencies that get a referral have 48 business hours to contact the resident. "Our system allows us to track that referral, so that we're able to determine whether or not anyone has followed up," Boynton said. As another step to ensure that residents' needs are not overlooked, an electronic survey will be sent to residents to track their experiences. The navigation system runs Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On February 29, WKXW News Anchors ran comments from Boynton.	:30 to :35 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.
3/1/24	WKXW Newscasts	<b>New Jersey Housing: A Proposed Law Paves Way for Accessory Dwelling Units Statewide</b> – New Jersey is looking to overstep and take away too much control from local governments, according to opponents of a proposed law that is designed to increase housing availability throughout the state. Many towns across New Jersey prohibit houses from developing accessory dwelling units (ADU) — an additional living space in a garage or basement, for example. But a bill advanced by a Senate committee would preempt those rules and	:35 to :40 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5

		<p>essentially give residents everywhere the green light to make the move. Specifically, municipalities in New Jersey would be required to adopt one of two model land use ordinances that would be crafted by the state Department of Community Affairs, or create their own to be approved by state officials. According to the bill's language, an ADU would have to feature facilities for independent living, "including space for sleeping, food preparation, and sanitation." "Many people want to stay in their current home and their current community, and ADUs can play a vital role making this a possibility," said Katie York, associate state director of advocacy for AARP New Jersey. "Removing restrictions on ADUs will lead to more housing choices for smaller and older families." Advocates cite a housing affordability and supply problem as a main reason for New Jersey to permit separate dwelling units statewide — a town-by-town approach can be confusing for residents and officials. According to an AARP analysis of Census data, it was estimated that more than 6,000 New Jerseyans aged 55 and older experienced homelessness in 2023. "We see that a one-bedroom apartment, on average, in New Jersey costs almost \$1,600 per month," York said. "To put that in context, the average Social Security retirement benefit in New Jersey is less than \$2,000 a month." The Democrat-sponsored legislation was introduced in January and was advanced as a committee substitute — a combination of two bills — on February 15 by the New Jersey Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee. The New Jersey State League of Municipalities has been against the proposal from the start. For his packages that aired on March 1, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia ran comments taken from the February 15 hearing from York; Frank Marshall, assistant general counsel with the New Jersey League of Municipalities; and Christina Kata, New Jersey policy associate with the Regional Plan Association.</p>		p.m., and 6 p.m.
3/4/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Public Health: China Floods New Jersey With Dangerous Products Banned in Their Own Country</b> – New Jersey is dealing with a dangerous flood of illegal flavored vape products being</p>	:25 to :35 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5

		<p>shipped from China. That is according to Rich Marianos, a retired assistant director of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, turned Georgetown University faculty. Marianos is among a collective of retired law enforcement, alerting the public about dangers of such non-regulated vape products, which include popular brand, Elf-Bar, being marketed specifically to youth. Despite being illegal at the federal and state levels since 2020, many such flavored vape products are still on store shelves. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently busted five New Jersey shops — in Atlantic City, Swedesboro, Ewing, Pennsauken, and Absecon — seeking a maximum fine of over \$20,000 for each. These shops received warning letters from the FDA first, but failed to remove the illegal vape items. “We need to do a better comprehensive job as a nation, through law enforcement, our school resource officer, our parents, our school administrators to attack this with a full-court press,” Marianos said, pointing to the success of such public education programs as MADD for drunk driving awareness. Marianos commended New Jersey in being among states already identifying the problem, while adding that having a ban on these vapes is just the start. He says five stores being fined is barely a drop in the bucket. He said the FDA needs to provide more resources — namely funding — to help communities crack down on these illegal sales, which translate into a multibillion-dollar industry, supporting organized crime in China. These very products are banned in China for domestic use. Among middle school and high school students who use e-cigarettes, 25% used them daily and 89% used flavored e-cigarettes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Many of these cartridges have not been regulated by the FDA and have strong concentrates of nicotine, synthetic nicotine, and even THC, which is the main psychoactive chemical in cannabis. On March 4, WKXW News Anchors ran comments from Marianos.</p>		<p>Newscasts at:  5:30 a.m.,  6:30 a.m.,  8:30 a.m.,  12 p.m., 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., and 11 p.m.</p>
3/5/24	Deminski and Doyle	<p><b>Taxes/Fees: Gas Tax Plan Could Have Motorists Paying More</b> – In a year that has so far seen a 3% hike in tolls on the New Jersey Turnpike and the</p>	60 minutes	4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

		<p>Garden State Parkway, as well as a proposal to increase NJ Transit rail and bus fees by 15% in July, New Jersey drivers may be in for more pain. On March 7, the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee is expected to consider a bill A4011, which would revise the calculation of gas tax rate in an effort to fund the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). The TTF provides yearly funds for projects through NJ Transit and the state Department of Transportation. According to the bill language sponsored by New Jersey state Senators Paul Sarlo and Nicholas Scutari and New Jersey Assemblyman Clinton Calabrese, the measure aims to amend the “New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act of 1984” to make changes necessary to support the State’s Annual Transportation Capital Program for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029. Under the legislation, the gas tax would increase by 1.9 cents for the next five years. Additionally, the measure would also impose a fee on owners of electric vehicles. According to the measure, the fee would be \$250 for the first year, increasing by \$10 each subsequent year until 2028. Deminski and Doyle asked their listeners what they thought about the plan to raise the gas tax and include a fee for EV owners, encouraging their listeners to call their program and offer their opinions.</p>		
3/6/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Education: Four Years Later, New Jersey Colleges Still Feeling Impacts of COVID Lockdown</b> – This month four years ago, colleges and universities in New Jersey started to absorb the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. According to comments made to state legislators, that impact is still being felt today. Staff members from numerous Garden State institutions testified before the New Jersey Senate Higher Education Committee on March 4, and many echoed the same concerns — there are still big holes to fill when it comes to the academic achievement and mental health needs of students. Pandemic learning loss has followed students from high school into college, according to Rory McElwee, vice president for student Affairs at Rowan University. Since fall 2019, enrollment in developmental courses has doubled or tripled. "More anecdotally, some faculty have noted that students seem less prepared, less ready to learn</p>	:35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at:  5:30 a.m.,  6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., and 11 p.m.</p>

		<p>autonomously, or even lacking basic classroom skills like taking notes," McElwee said.</p> <p>The four-year graduation rate at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) has not declined because of the COVID-19 emergency, but there has been a major shift in the out-of-classroom needs of students. The number of tutoring appointments at TCNJ increased from 5,439 in 2021 to 8,862 in 2023, according to Suzanne McCotter, interim provost. Higher education institutions have had to improve their resources related to mental health, once students eventually came back on campus after months of fully remote or hybrid classes. In 2023 alone, TCNJ had 900 unique clients at its counseling center. "The number-one presenting issue among students is anxiety, and we expect this trend to continue," McCotter said. The pandemic has also caused a shift in housing patterns that persist at Stockton University, according to Christopher Catching, vice president for student affairs. Prior to the pandemic, Stockton's housing occupancy was at 97%. It is down to 86%. Catching said that is a concern because students who utilize college housing are more likely to continue their education. Also, students who live on campus have easier access to resources. For his packages that ran on March 6, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia aired comments pulled from the March 4 hearing from McCotter; Catching; McElwee; and Michael Middleton, provost and vice president for teaching, learning and growth biography at Ramapo College of New Jersey.</p>		
3/7/24	Dennis and Judi	<p><b>Government/Politics: Some Paterson Residents Getting Hundreds in Guaranteed Income</b> – During a 60-minute portion of their program, WKXW Talk Show Hosts Dennis Malloy and Judi Franco discussed a guaranteed income program in Paterson based on reporting by WKXW News Reporter Rick Rickman. Low-income residents living in New Jersey's third-largest city are getting \$400 every month and can use it for whatever they want. Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh calls it a success and wants to expand the experimental program to thousands more Patersonians — and maybe one day, the entire country. The Guaranteed Income Pilot Program gave 110</p>	60 minutes	11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

		<p>individuals debit cards loaded with \$400 each month for twelve months during the pandemic. Their purchases were tracked by researchers at the Center for Guaranteed Income Research at the University of Pennsylvania. "They're not spending on cigarettes or alcohol like people may think. They're actually spending it on groceries. They are paying their rent, their utility bills," Sayegh said. Funds were also spent on child care, Thanksgiving dinner, and Christmas gifts bought at department stores. An extra \$400 each month represented a significant increase for the selected individuals, more than half of whom had at least one child. The median yearly income for the group was less than \$14,000. A family of three must make less than \$24,200 to fall below the federal poverty line. Living in poverty is a reality for tens of thousands of Paterson residents. More than one in five people in the city live under the poverty line, according to census data. Researchers said the allowance was not a "panacea" but worked as an intervention. They also said the assistance had "mixed results." It was not enough to offset the economic hardships brought on by the pandemic and rising expenses. Sayegh, who took the initiative to get Paterson in the program, said the city expanded the program to 200 residents this past December. That is still far short of the thousands of residents who applied. He is asking the New Jersey Legislature to earmark \$5.5 million in the 2025 fiscal year budget. If that fails, he said the city could use around \$500,000 in leftover funds from the American Rescue Plan. Malloy and Franco asked their audience what they thought about the guaranteed income program and whether it was something they agreed or disagreed with.</p>		
3/8/24	Eric Scott	<p><b>Youth Sports: Bad Call at Basketball Game Divides New Jerseyans</b> – WKXW Talk Show Host Eric Scott, filling in for a vacationing Bill Spadea, devoted almost his entire program to a controversial sports call and rule dividing athletes, schools, and officials across New Jersey. The issue is so big that even New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy weighed in. During a New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Group 2 semi-final boys basketball game on March 5</p>	210 minutes	6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

		<p>between Camden High School and Manasquan High School, a bad call was made by officials that cost the latter the game. Initially, officials thought a buzzer-beater was taken after the buzzer had already been sounded, giving Camden the win despite the shot making the basket for Manasquan. After the basket was waved off by officials, they were shown video that the shot was taken before the buzzer sounded. However, since the basket had already been waved off by officials, there was nothing that could be done to reverse the decision. "Once game officials leave the 'visual confines of the playing court,' the game is concluded, and the score is official. So, while the officiating crews' reports indicate that a post-game review of footage of the play in question convinced them that the basket should have counted, the results could not then and cannot now be changed," the NJSIAA said in a statement. The decision did not sit well with the Manasquan school superintendent who followed through with his promise to seek legal action and a review by the state Department of Education. The Clark Law Firm filed for injunctive relief with a Superior Court judge in Toms River, asking for a delay to a March 9 championship game between Camden and Arts High School of Newark at Rutgers until the Manasquan game can be reviewed. On March 7, a Superior Court judge in Ocean County ruled that it is not up to them to decide whether or not the March 9 championship game should be paused, sending the matter to the New Jersey Department of Education to decide. During an unrelated press conference on March 7, Murphy talked briefly about the matter, saying it is a "crushing way to lose a game." The issue has erupted on social media with some people suggesting Camden should forfeit the win to Manasquan while others think Manasquan should simply accept the loss. During his program, Scott asked his listeners what they thought of the overall issue, asking specifically if the Manasquan School District should continue their quest to delay the championship game, or should they accept the outcome.</p>		
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3/11/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Public Safety: Federal Government Issues New Rules to Reduce Chemical Disaster Risk to Public</b></p> <p>– Close to 100 facilities across New Jersey have the potential to cause catastrophic danger community-wide — and beyond — in the event of a fire, because of the dangerous substances they are working with on site. New rules from the federal government aim to reduce the risk to the public, as well as the workers at these sensitive facilities, in the event of a chemical release, fire, or explosion. Now it is up to New Jersey to get its own standards in line with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) update to the Risk Management Program. Across the country, there are about 12,000 facilities covered by the rules, which were issued on March 1. The facilities use extremely hazardous substances, and at a high clip — chemical warehouses, oil refineries, and manufacturers, for example. In New Jersey, there are approximately 90 facilities that fit the bill, according to the New Jersey Work Environment Council. They exist in all counties except Atlantic and Mercer. Under the update from the EPA, for the first time, chemical facility owners must better evaluate risks of extreme weather and climate change; advance worker and union training and participation in hazard prevention; implement prevention safeguards, such as safer chemicals, in sectors that tend to have higher incident rates; and more. According to the Coalition to Prevent Chemical Disasters, there have been 11 incidents of note in New Jersey since the beginning of 2021, including a chemical waste fire in Howell in 2023, and a massive blaze at a chemical plant that caused a shelter-in-place in Passaic in January 2022. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection must adopt the new EPA rules. True implementation of the upgraded standards will take a few years, said Debra Coyle, executive director of New Jersey Work Environment Council. For his packages that aired on March 11, Flammia ran comments from an interview he did with Coyle.</p>	:35 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m., and 9 p.m.
3/12/24	Steve Trevelise	<p><b>Public Safety: Report Finds Drowsy Driving Kills Ten Times More People Than Reported</b></p> <p>– The true dangers associated with drowsy driving are extremely underestimated, according to an</p>	60 minutes	9 p.m. to 10 p.m.



		<p>analysis. According to research from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety published on March 8, drowsy driving is a factor in 10 times as many traffic fatalities as traditional data indicate. The group's study estimates that 18% of traffic fatalities between 2017 and 2021 involved a tired driver, and nearly 30,000 people died in those crashes. "This new research is a wake-up call and highlights sleep deprivation as a major traffic safety and public health concern," said Robert Sinclair, senior manager of public affairs for AAA Northeast. According to state crash data, over 5,200 people in New Jersey alone were involved in crashes involving a drowsy or fatigued driver since 2021. And according to AAA, the actual number is likely much higher than that. On March 12, WKXW Talk Show Host Steve Trelise discussed the matter, asking his audience if they have ever driven while drowsy, and what they did to keep themselves awake.</p>		
3/13/24	Dennis and Judi	<p><b>New Jersey Consumers: New Jerseyans Frustrated by Growth in Tipping Requests</b> – WKXW Talk Show Hosts Dennis Malloy and Judi Franco led a discussion with their listeners about New Jersey's tipping culture, focusing on the frustration some consumers are feeling about the current tipping culture many find themselves in. While tipping restaurant servers has been common practice for years in New Jersey, post-pandemic it appears the number of services asking for a tip has increased tenfold. In fact, a survey released in November 2023 by the Pew Research Center reported that 72% of Americans said tipping is expected now more than five years ago. With the increase, many consumers have reported getting confused about how much they should tip and when to tip. Of the nearly 12,000 U.S. adults polled for the Pew Research Center's tipping survey, 34% indicated it is "extremely or very easy" to know if a tip is necessary, while a third said it was "extremely or very easy" to determine how much should be given for various services. And while consumers pretty much agree restaurant servers should be tipped, some are divided on whether that should extend to food pickups. Advances in technology has also made tipping challenging as a number of in-person point of sale systems now ask</p>	60 minutes	12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

		<p>consumers if they want to leave a tip when using their credit cards. For an hour of their program on March 13, Malloy and Franco asked their listeners about this overall issue, encouraging them to call their program to give their opinions on whether they think tipping has gotten out of control.</p>		
3/14/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Public Health: New Jersey Legislature Looking at Allowing More Dentists, Hygienists from Other States</b> – A multistate compact for dental professionals, allowing dentists and dental hygienists to practice in more than one jurisdiction, cannot become a reality until seven states sign up. New Jersey may become one of them. Currently, four states are on board with the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. Several states are considering the move, including New Jersey, where an Assembly committee recently approved legislation that gets the state involved. "This is not new for us in New Jersey," said Assemblyman Herb Conaway Jr., a primary sponsor of the measure. "We've got an interstate medical licensure compact, a physical therapy licensure compact, a nurse licensure compact, a psychology interjurisdictional compact." If the compact were to launch, dentists and hygienists in one compact state would be able to practice in any other compact state without having to obtain a new license. There are concerns that the move would bring inferior professionals into the Garden State, but additional approval is needed in order for a professional to join the agreement. According to the New Jersey Dental Association, New Jersey is not struggling with a supply of dentists currently — the bigger concern is the number of hygienists. As of earlier this year, Iowa, Tennessee, Washington, and Wisconsin had enacted legislation adopting the compact. Legislation was approved by the New Jersey Assembly Health Committee on February 22. There has not been any action yet on a state Senate version of the bill. For his packages that ran on March 14, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia pulled comments from the February 22 hearing from Conaway; and Paul Bent, a lobbyist for the New Jersey Dental Hygienists' Association.</p>	:35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5 a.m., 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., and 11 p.m.</p>

3/15/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Crime: Sending Nudes Could Become a Crime in New Jersey</b> – New Jersey may create a whole new batch of criminals. A proposed law moving through the New Jersey Statehouse would criminalize the act of sending someone a nude photo, if the material is unwanted and unsolicited. The bipartisan measure is playing catch-up with evolving technology. Assemblywoman Aura Dunn said her bill treats these lewd electronic messages the same as flashing or streaking. Sending an unsolicited nude photo would become a disorderly persons offense, or misdemeanor, under bill A1939. That is punishable by up to six months behind bars, a \$1,000 fine, or both. The photo could be sent through text or email, or over an app or dating site. If the bill were to become law, even individuals who believe they have a connection with someone would want to think twice before hitting "send" on a photo that the other party did not specifically ask to see. If the recipient of the lewd material is under the age of 13, the act would be bumped up to a fourth-degree crime, punishable by up to 18 months imprisonment, a \$10,000 fine, or both. The newer measure has sponsors and co-sponsors on both sides of the political aisle. It was unanimously advanced by the New Jersey Assembly Judiciary Committee on March 4. For his packages that ran on March 15, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia aired comments that he pulled from an interview with Dunn.</p>	:35 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 4 p.m.
3/18/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Public Health: Allergy Season Expected to be Worse One Yet</b> – New Jerseyans who suffer from allergies are likely to have a difficult time as the weather transitions from winter to spring. Even people who do not get too agitated by the pollen circulating in the air may find themselves reaching for the tissue box this spring. You can thank a very wet winter — more in the form of rain than snow. The precipitation provides a nutrient source for trees to pollinate heavier during the spring season. "This coming year is going to be full of nutrients that will actually increase pollen production by over 10% from previous years," Dr. Leonard Bielory, professor of medicine, allergy, immunology, ophthalmology at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine, told</p>	:30 to :35 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 8 p.m., and 10 p.m.

		<p>New Jersey 101.5. And while rain can wash away pollen during the spring, it also has the ability to break it down into smaller particles, making the allergen even easier to be inhaled. Pollen counts from trees will "strike gold," Bielory said, in the final weeks of March and the beginning weeks of April, courtesy of birch and oak trees. New Jersey should see pollen counts in the thousands. As it is, tree pollen got a bit of an early start in New Jersey this year. Grass pollen will follow the trees, likely in May and June. Ragweed season, which affects 75% of allergy sufferers, typically moves in around the middle of August. Over time, Bielory said, there has been an increase in the number of people who develop allergies, and an increase in the number of pollen types that are bothering people. "Even people with minor symptoms may have moderate to severe symptoms this year," Bielory said. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about a quarter of adults have a seasonal allergy, along with close to 20% of children. For his packages that aired on March 18, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia ran comments from an interview he conducted with Bielory.</p>		
3/19/24	Deminski and Doyle	<p><b>Elections: Proposal Would Give Voters More Polling Place Options</b> – New Jersey lawmakers want to make it easier for voters to cast their vote on Election Day, by letting them show up at any polling place in town. A measure approved unanimously by a Senate panel would establish "The Voter Convenience Act." Should it become law, residents on Election Day would be able to vote at any polling place in their municipality. The bill also paves the way for election boards to allow for countywide polling stations on Election Day — people can vote at any polling station within the county where they reside. Anywhere-in-the-county votes are already taken during the state's in-person early voting sessions. You show up, and an electronic poll book checks you in. Then it tells other poll books in the county that your votes have already been cast. "This bill will basically just allow us to use the technology that we already have, to its fullest capabilities," said Linda Hughes, speaking on behalf of the New Jersey Association of Election Officials. According to the association,</p>	60 minutes	2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

		<p>switching to a more universal model of voting will result in the need for fewer poll workers, although the group said there are no plans to reduce the number of polling locations in a given town or county. The proposed law may also result in fewer provisional ballots being cast, as well as a quicker turnaround of results, the group said. "And I cannot emphasize this enough — voters will experience less frustration on Election Day," said Shona Mack Pollock, the association's president. Under current law, an Election Day vote needs to be cast at a specific site. One polling place handles the voters of certain election districts. The proposed law was advanced on March 18 by the New Jersey Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism &amp; Historic Preservation Committee. An Assembly version was introduced on March 11. During a 60-minute portion of their show, WKXW Talk Show Hosts Jeff Deminski and Bill Doyle asked their listeners what they thought of the measure, asking people if they liked the idea of being able to vote anywhere in their specific county.</p>		
3/20/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Elections: New Jersey May Roll Back New Law That Keeps Cops Away from Polling Places</b> – Under current state law, police officers are prohibited from being anywhere near most polling places in New Jersey. But there is a push to already roll that rule back a bit, despite opposition from groups who fear the proposed about-face could impact voter turnout. Under a measure approved on March 18 by the New Jersey Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism &amp; Historic Preservation Committee, schools that act as polling places can have a police presence, as long as they request one. New Jersey state Senator M. Teresa Ruiz, a sponsor of the proposed law, said she worked at a school polling place for decades and always feared things going south in an instant, if the wrong person were to walk through the doors. Not all schools have the ability to keep kids out of class on days that feature an election, Ruiz said. Ruiz said her measure will ensure "that there is someone that can respond" right away in the event of an emergency. According to the legislation, police are already permitted at senior residential centers that act as polling places — an exception to the 2022 law that requires uniformed</p>	:35 second packages	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., and 11 p.m.</p>

		<p>and plain-clothes cops to keep at least 100 feet away from polling places and ballot drop boxes. Ruiz's measure clarifies that a police presence would be permitted at schools and senior residential centers in the event of a request. And at both venues, the officers must be plain-clothed. But even in plain clothes, officers can still suppress votes, according to critics of the proposed law. "We cannot ignore the reality that the presence of police officers can have a chilling effect on voter turnout," said Luis Angel Torres Rodriguez, on behalf of Returning Citizens Support Group. A police presence at polling places, he said, can instill fear and apprehension among certain segments of the population, such as marginalized communities. Opponents say the proposed move is putting a dent in one of the main reasons for the 2022 law – to avoid voter intimidation and suppression. "This bill also impacts people on probation and parole that can now vote," said Yannick Wood, with the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. "Many of them are Black, brown, and other people of color and may not feel comfortable casting their vote in front of a police officer." Ruiz's bill also requires all schools that serve as polling places to develop security plans to prevent voters from having access to students. For his packages that aired on March 20, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia ran comments made during the March 18 hearing from Ruiz, Wood, Rodriguez, and Ronald Pierce, co-director of All of Us or None.</p>		
3/21/24	Bill Spadea	<p><b>Quality of Life: Poll Gauges New Jerseyans' Desire to Stay</b> – WKXW Talk Show Host Bill Spadea, based off reporting by WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia, devoted two hours of his program to discussing a poll that shows about half of those surveyed are looking to leave New Jersey. In a poll released on March 20 out of Monmouth University, 48% of New Jersey adults said they would like to move out of the Garden State at some point. The same percentage said they would like to stay here for good. Twenty-eight percent said they are very likely to leave New Jersey, whether or not they would like to. Another 27% said a move out of the state is somewhat likely. Among the poll respondents who said they are</p>	120 minutes	6 a.m. to 8 a.m.

		likely to move out of New Jersey at some point, 40% said the move would not happen until after retirement. Older residents' views may change, however, before that time comes. The same poll found that close to two-thirds of New Jerseyans know "nothing at all" about the state's tax relief program Stay NJ, which is designed to cut property tax bills in half for seniors. Overall, in the Monmouth University poll, 60% of Republicans and 57% of independents indicated a desire to move out of New Jersey at some point. Less than a third of Democrats are interested in leaving. Among those looking to leave New Jersey sooner or later, 43% note that the state's cost of living is the driving factor. Spadea asked his audience a number of questions surrounding the topic. Specifically, he asked his listeners if they plan to stay in New Jersey or leave.		
3/22/24	WKXW Newscasts	<b>Public Safety: Traffic Fatalities Continue Downward Trend in 2023</b> – For the second straight year, New Jersey in 2023 recorded a decrease in the number of fatal crashes and fatalities on its roads. According to preliminary data from the New Jersey State Police (NJSP), there were 78 fewer fatalities on New Jersey’s roadways in 2023 compared to 2022. The data finds that in 2023, 611 lives were lost across 579 deadly crashes. Close to 300 of last year’s deaths were not drivers. According to the numbers, 88 were passengers, 25 were bikers, and 175 were pedestrians. Tracy Noble, manager of public and government affairs for AAA Mid-Atlantic, said the majority of fatalities can be blamed on human error and carelessness. “We’re seeing people driving at increasing speeds. We’re seeing people distracted, which means they’re taking their eyes off the road,” Noble said. A few counties in New Jersey account for fewer than 10 fatalities over the year. Others recorded dozens over the 12 months, thanks in part to more highway miles and more cars on the roads. Based on the preliminary figures, Middlesex County saw the most fatal crashes, 60, and fatal deaths, 62, in the state. Essex County ranked second with 50 fatal crashes and 50 deaths. The final 2023 report from the State Police likely will not be released until the fourth quarter of this year. In 2022, New Jersey	:35 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 5 p.m.

		recorded 689 deaths across 646 fatal crashes, according to the NJSP. In 2021, nearly 670 deadly crashes claimed 697 lives. Currently, fatal crashes in 2024 are trending higher than in 2023. For his packages that aired on March 22, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia ran comments from an interview he did with Noble.		
3/25/24	Steve Trevelise	<p><b>Transportation: Bill Would Prevent New Jersey From Sharing Driver Information With Other States</b> – Based off reporting by WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia, WKXW Talk Show Host Steve Trevelise devoted 60 minutes of his show to discuss a proposal that would ban the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) from disclosing certain pieces of information with other states. The legislation is in response to states that use speed or red-light cameras to capture license plates for a supposed violation. The companies that run those cameras, however, need more information before they can actually issue a ticket. The bill is sponsored by both Democrats and Republicans in the state Senate and Assembly. "We want to short-circuit the process," state Senator Declan O'Scanlon told New Jersey 101.5. The bill blocks the NJMVC and other entities from disclosing the personal information of New Jersey drivers to another state for the purpose of imposing a fine resulting from driver behavior captured by a speed control device or a traffic signal monitoring system. "If anything, these systems make our roads less safe," O'Scanlon said. "We should stop permitting these companies and their government co-conspirators from stealing from New Jersey residents." Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration suggest that the presence of red-light cameras in certain states has not made a significant impact on the number of vehicle fatalities. In 2020, for example, none of the six states with the best fatality rates had red-light cameras in operation. Since 2023, the group Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety has been pushing automated speed enforcement as a safety measure. In their yearly reports, New Jersey loses points because cameras are prohibited. New Jersey at one point allowed red-light cameras at intersections in two dozen municipalities. The experiment began in 2008 and</p>	60 minutes	7 p.m. to 8 p.m.



		ended in 2014. Trelise asked his listeners what they think of the measure, and whether the NJMVC should be allowed to share driver information with other states.		
3/26/24 and 3/27/24	WKXW Newscasts	<p><b>Taxes/Fees: New Jersey Raises the Gas Tax, Implements Fee on Electric Vehicles</b> – New Jersey's gas tax will increase for five years straight and electric vehicle owners will have to put out a yearly fee in order to keep the state's pot of money for transportation projects afloat.</p> <p>A law signed by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy on March 26 is meant to provide billions of dollars for New Jersey's Transportation Trust Fund (TTF), which was set to expire a few months from now. With the new law, a change to the state's gas tax formula will go into effect on July 1, the start of New Jersey's fiscal year. To meet the state's ambitious financial goals for road and transit projects, the tax per gallon will increase by 1.9 cents annually for five years. According to the law's language, the annual tax rate adjustment at New Jersey's pumps will be pushed back by three months, from October 1 to January 1, so that changes coincide with the start of the new year. To ensure that electric vehicle owners are also paying their share for road repairs, the law includes an annual "electric vehicle fee" for five years. When the owners of zero-emission vehicles register their vehicles, they will have to put out an extra \$250 starting on July 1. The yearly fee will increase by \$10 annually through 2028. "The funding will cover the cost of maintenance and repairs for everything from roads and highways, to bridges and tunnels, to railroads and runways, and, yes, even those damn potholes," Murphy said before signing the bill at an event in Aberdeen. Murphy said the nation depends on the strength of New Jersey's transportation system — the state is at the heart of one of the busiest stretches of commerce in the world. In 2022 alone, more than 500 million tons of freight were transported in the state, Murphy said. The new revenue boost will also benefit NJ Transit. The agency is scheduled to see an additional \$91.75 million over the last three years of the new program. The agency already gets \$767 million annually from the TTF for new capital projects. On March 26, WKXW News</p>	<p>:25 to :30 second packages on 3/26/24</p> <p>:35 second packages on 3/27/24</p>	<p>During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at:</p> <p>3/26/24 (:25 to :30 second packages) – 2:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m., and 11 p.m.</p> <p>3/27/24 (:35 second packages) – 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m.</p>

		Anchors ran packages with comments from Murphy. On March 27, packages from WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia ran with comments from Murphy from the March 26 press conference.		
3/28/24	Town Hall Series: Don't Be a Bad Sport	<b>Youth Sports: Town Hall Program: Young Athletes Confronting Unprecedented Pressures</b> – WKXW presented the latest in a series of Town Hall broadcasts on March 28 taking a look at the issues impacting today's young athletes. From parents behaving badly on the sidelines to kids feeling pressured to play through injuries, today's young athletes are facing more than just performance anxiety. As if spectators behaving badly is not stressful enough, young athletes are also grappling with sports-related injuries. The problem is so bad that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has called it an "epidemic." During the 60-minute program, WKXW Town Hall Host and Moderator Eric Scott lead a panel of experts in the youth sports arena. The program's on-air panel included Dr. Jason Krystofiak, division chief of sports medicine at Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center; Colleen Maguire, executive director of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association; Dr. Mike Gross, a clinical and sport psychologist and head of sport psychology at Princeton University; and Robert Everett, a former president of Berkeley Little League.	60 minutes	7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
3/29/24	WKXW Newscasts	<b>Youth Sports: New Jersey 'Penalty Box' Bills Seek to Rein in Adult Behavior at Youth Sports</b> – Wild parents. Over-the-top coaches. Brawls. The game is not the only action happening when you watch youth sports. A series of proposed laws introduced in the New Jersey Legislature aims to rein in poor adult behavior during and after games, at the school level and within private and public leagues. "I want to put youth sports back where it should be — in a positive light, doing what's good for kids so they can have a strong future after youth sports is all over," Assemblywoman Vicky Flynn told New Jersey 101.5. Flynn is the primary sponsor of the package of bills known as the Penalty Box Act. Her own experience as a student athlete was a positive one, but she says kids on the field or court today are constantly exposed to toxic behaviors, mainly exhibited by coaches and parents. "I want to put	:35 second packages	During New Jersey 101.5 Newscasts at: 5:30 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., and 6 p.m.

		<p>the kids' interests first," Flynn said. "And I want New Jersey to lead on this issue." One measure under the Penalty Box umbrella would increase the penalties for assault and harassment against sports officials and players, from disorderly persons offenses to third- or fourth-degree crimes. Under the bill, someone convicted of these acts could be blocked from all youth sports events for years, beyond having to pay a fine and/or serve jail time. Another measure ensures that a school district's anti-bullying policy does not only relate to student-on-student situations — it would also apply to the actions of adults such as teachers, coaches, and trainers. Under another piece of legislation from Flynn, coaches of school athletic programs will have to undergo training on the district's harassment, intimidation and bullying policy. And the "school safety team" at each school would have to include at least one coach, if applicable. For his packages that aired on March 29, WKXW News Reporter Dino Flammia ran comments pulled from an interview he did with Flynn.</p>		
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**Issues Programs List**  
**Quarterly Public Service Announcements**  
**Station: WKXW-FM, New Jersey 101.5**  
**January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024**

Throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024, WKXW aired :15 second, :30 second, and :60 second PSAs from local, state, and national groups on a variety of issues impacting New Jersey. The following list is a representative example of the PSAs available to the station to air during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter:

- AARP – caregiving and retirement awareness campaigns
- The Ad Council, AdoptUSKids, United States Department of Health and Human Services – teen adoption awareness campaign
- The Ad Council and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – prediabetes awareness campaign
- The Ad Council, Humane Society of the United States, and Maddie’s Fund – adopt a pet awareness campaign via The Shelter Pet Project
- Arbor Day Foundation – tree planting campaign
- American Heart Association – diabetes, heart attack, high blood pressure, and workplace mental health awareness campaigns
- American Lung Association – save by the scan awareness campaign
- American Psychiatric Association – mentalhealthcareworks.org
- Center for Hope & Safety – domestic violence hotline awareness campaign
- Child Fund International – childhood poverty awareness campaign
- Children’s Cancer Research Fund – childhood cancer awareness campaign
- Disabled American Veterans – PTSD and veterans benefits awareness campaigns
- End Family Fire – gun storage safety awareness campaign
- Family Connections – family connections awareness campaign
- Federal Emergency Management Agency – preparedness awareness campaign
- Federal Trade Commission – serving alcohol to underage teens awareness campaign
- Feeding America – food insecurity awareness campaign
- Foundation Fighting Blindness – fighting blindness campaign
- Gill Foundation – LGBT discrimination awareness campaign
- Goodwill – job training awareness campaign
- Health Resources & Services Administration and United States Department of Health and Human Services – organ donation awareness campaign
- Keep America Beautiful – litter and recycling awareness campaign
- Library of Congress – veterans history project awareness campaign
- Lupus Foundation of America – lupus awareness and walk to end lupus now campaigns
- National Fire Protection Association – fire safety awareness campaign
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration – underage drinking and driving, texting and driving, proper car seats, child heatstroke prevention, and seat belt safety awareness campaigns
- National Lung Cancer Roundtable – lung cancer screening awareness campaign
- National Volunteer Fire Council – make me a firefighter awareness campaign
- New Jersey Army National Guard – New Jersey Army National Guard awareness campaign

- New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association and Directors of Athletics Association of New Jersey – college sports participation campaign
- Peace Corps – Peace Corps awareness campaign
- Prudential Spirit of Community Awards – student volunteerism campaign
- TEACH – career in teaching campaign
- The Valerie Fund – childhood cancer awareness campaign
- United Negro College Fund – college investing program awareness campaign
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and National Fair Housing Alliance – real estate sales discrimination awareness campaign
- United States Department of Veterans Affairs – PTSD, disability benefits, and appeals modernization awareness campaigns
- United States Deputy Sheriff's Association – support law enforcement campaign
- United States Forest Service – forest fire awareness campaign
- United States Treasury – housing affordability awareness campaign