

CBS RADIO GROUP

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

FOR

STATION WBBM-AM and HD

SECOND QUARTER, 2018
APRIL 1 THROUGH JUNE 30

Prepared by:

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**ISSUES OF CONCERN TO CHICAGO
ADDRESSED IN RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING IN THE
SECOND QUARTER 2018**

1. Business and Job Development: Creating an economic climate that supports small business and entrepreneurs. Provide assistance to develop new businesses and jobs in distressed economic areas.
2. Crime and Violence: Support of community policing efforts in Chicago, efforts to reduce gang activity and the spread of gangs into the suburbs, ensuring that the police department operates legally and with respect the communities it serves.
3. Neighborhood and Suburban Development: Efforts within the City of Chicago to promote neighborhood cohesion, economic opportunities and housing. Infrastructure concerns.
4. Civil Rights: Enforcing legal rights and developing respect for different races and ethnic groups as well as religious differences; gay and lesbian issues; immigration issues.
5. Health Care: Providing adequate facilities for health care, particularly indigent care; providing affordable health care and access to services.
6. Voter Information: Helping voters make personal election decisions by giving insights into those that are running for offices in upcoming elections.
7. Environment: Issues impacting healthful living of Chicagoans, including vegetation, waterways and other related infrastructure.
8. School Reform and Education: Efforts to improve student performance and achievement, making sure teachers are performing well in the classroom and general educational issues in Chicago and suburbs.

WBBM NEWSRADIO 780
PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

1. At Issue: (Sundays, 9:30am and 9:30pm Duration: 30:00)
Locally produced interview show featuring top newsmakers discussing state and community issues.
2. Made in Chicago: (Mondays, 6:51am, 10:52am, 4:51pm, Saturday, 2:55am, 6:55am, 3:55pm, 7:55pm, Duration 1:00) In-house produced feature spotlighting manufacturing and service companies in Chicago and its suburbs. Topics are chosen based on the worldwide reputation of the goods made or the unique stories of the entrepreneurs that founded the companies.
3. Bloomberg Small Business Report: (Tuesday & Thursday, 10:52am, 1:52pm, 4:51pm; Saturday, 7:55am, and 10:55am; and Sunday, 8:25am, 2:25pm, 4:25pm and 7:25pm. Duration 1:00) Produced by Bloomberg, this feature focuses on issues affecting small business and entrepreneurs.
4. Raising Kids Today: (Saturday, 10:20a, 4:20p, Sunday, 4:20pm, 8:21pm. Duration 1:30) CBS Radio Network feature produced in cooperation with *Parents Magazine* offering advice on raising children and information about child development.
5. Report on Religion: (Sunday, 12:41p, 5:20p, 7:41p. Duration 2:00)
CBS Radio Network feature focusing on news from various religious faiths and denominations and discussing faith-inspired viewpoints on current issues.
6. Face the Nation (Sundays, 11:30am and 11:30pm. Duration 30:00) Weekly interview program produced by CBS News that discusses top issues of the day from a national perspective with people who are making news on those issues.
7. Newsmakers Making A Difference: (Tuesday and Thursday 8:52am, 11:52am, 4:52pm, 8:52pm, Duration: 1:30) In-house produced feature spotlighting individuals and groups working to help Chicagoans in need. Charitable organizations and do-gooders helping feed, clothe, educate and provide health aid among those highlighted.

I. BUSINESS AND JOB DEVELOPMENT

At Issue

April 22, 2018

Guest: Ralph Martire, Exec. Director Center for Tax & Budget Accountability

15 minutes out of 30 minute program

Martire began by saying Illinois lawmakers and Governor Rauner have gone more than three years without agreeing on a general fund budget. He said while Rauner has talked about cutting taxes, his proposals also would increase the state's deficit by nearly a billion dollars. He said education funding ranks 50th among the 50 states, and local taxes will need to cover nearly a half billion dollars promised, but any increased property tax money likely would go to pension funding and not the classrooms that need it. He said only communities with significant property tax wealth would be able to handle. Martire clearly blames Governor Rauner for the problems. He said the Democrat controlled legislature could craft rational budget compromises early year, but said Rauner's office has been the biggest challenge, evidenced by some Republicans breaking ranks to override his veto. He then talked about the auditor general's report showing Illinois' general deficit grew by nearly \$15 Billion this year. Martire said current spending levels are not sustainable. He said social service have been cut by 22 percent since 2000, that the K-12 school system needs another \$7.2 Billion, that higher education has been cut more than 50 percent since 2000. He said the tax increase needed to solve the state's problem would total \$3-\$3.5 billion per year, on top of the \$5 billion increase from last year. When asked whether that might scare businesses away, Martire said there has never been a study that found a correlation between tax policy and job growth, economic growth and business location. He said California and Minnesota both faced fiscal crisis, both raised taxes significantly and their economies boomed, unemployment dropped and job growth beat national averages. He said Kansas cut taxes on the wealthiest residents, and the Kansas economy fell behind the national average growth. He said that resulted in large deficits, and ensuing spending cuts on education. So much so, he said, that the Kansas State Supreme Court rules the government unconstitutionally denied children access to quality education as required by the constitution. Martire said for generations the state underfunded pensions and took the money to pay for services. But he said those IOU's are due. He said now they need to refinance the pension debt, expand the sales tax base, tweak the income tax, and stop borrowing to spend. He said such a move is unlikely to pass in an election year, but it could potentially in a veto session, lame duck session or in the first year in office by a new governor.

At Issue

May 27, 2018

Guest: Rosa Escareno, Chicago Com. of Business Affairs & Consumer Protection
30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Escareno is responsible for watching over commercial licensing, regulates the taxi and ride-sharing industries, along with pet shops, food trucks, vacation rental sites and more. She has been with the City of Chicago dating to the Daley administration in various capacities, and has been in charge of this department for about one year. The Emanuel administration has embraced new technologies and ways of doing business, but Escareno said some new businesses/industries can be disruptive. But she said her responsibility is to bring those “market interrupters” to the public in a way that is respectful and safe. Ride sharing is a prime example, upsetting the taxi business, but providing a service the public wants. She said her department doesn’t control the marketplace, but steps in to be sure they’re all operating within their space. Ride sharing companies have a different business model than taxis, so rules and requirements had to be shaped specifically for them. She said ride sharing was the first step into a new way of doing business, with direct connection through apps between the consumer and provider. She said that also has led to some deregulation of the taxi industry. She said her job is to do what’s right to protect the public, ensuring there are regulations that balance the needs of industry with the safety and security of citizens. She also talked about mobile boutiques, another example of a changing marketplace. A couple years ago such operators came looking for the right to pop-up businesses—a test without committing to a brick and mortar location. So the city came up with a plan for licensing, allowing such businesses to test their concepts, with some time and location restrictions. She said aldermen were concerned because they didn’t fully understand the model, leading to debate over how long a boutique can park in a location, etc. So the licensing program has been expanded for another year before a final process is determined. She said her department has dialogue with the city’s small businesses, saying they are fighters in it to stay. But she said the changing marketplace creates challenges, and businesses look to government to help make things easier for them. She said there are city, state and federal regulations for businesses to deal with, and her job is to help get out of their way so they can succeed. Escareno said Mayor Emanuel just introduced an ordinance to reduce the fee for limited licenses, and also to allow year-round sidewalk cafes. Both came after “gripe sessions” with businesses. She made a point of saying she has a complaint-driven department. Where the most complaints come from, is where most of their resources go. She said one of the most complicated cases they’ve deal with is Airbnb, because the city realized it wouldn’t have the resources needed. So the city established a sophisticated database allowing the company that allows the company to dump in data listing all the units available. With the various requirements the city has developed, that date allows them to see which locations are allowed to operate and which are not.

At Issue

June 3, 2018

Guest: Willie Wilson, Candidate for Mayor of Chicago

5 minutes out of 30 minute program

Wilson is a businessman who ran for Mayor in the previous election and finished third in a five candidate race. He has owned and operated a number of McDonald's franchises, and founded Omar Medical Supplies. He has a Doctor of Divinity degree. He also was on the ballot in several states as a Presidential candidate in 2016. He said in certain neighborhoods unemployment rates are high, so equality in economic development and empowerment is needed. He said the majority of city residents are either Black or Hispanic, but only about one percent of the contractors are minority. Wilson said he's not running for a job; he doesn't need a job. He wants to be sure every community is treated fairly. He said crime is rampant because of economic disparity. He said he has spent a \$500,000 or more to get kids out of jail for low level, non-violent misdemeanor offenses. He said he convinced Governor Rauner to sign a bill making it easier for non-violent offenders to gain release. Wilson said there is one Police Superintendent for the city of Chicago, but 50 Chicago Aldermen. He said he would change to a series of four zones each with a leader. Those four, he said, would report to him as Mayor. He said he would integrate the departments so citizens are more comfortable talking to officers. He also said he would be against building a new \$95 million police and fire training academy. He said that money should instead be used to create jobs. He said Mayor Emanuel has lost the trust of the community. He said the Mayor is trying to do things differently of late, but it is too late. Wilson also complained the city has raised taxes eight times under Mayor Emanuel. Looking at the outflow of residents, he said only white wealthy people will be able to afford to remain.

At Issue

June 17, 2018

Guest: Dorothy Brown, Cook County Clerk and Candidate for Mayor of Chicago
6 minutes out of 30 minute program

Dorothy Brown is Cook County Circuit Court Clerk; a role she's held since the year 2000. She failed in attempts to win races for Chicago City Treasurer and Cook County Board President. Brown said she want to be Mayor of Chicago because she has a special burden to be sure children have a better education, a burden to make sure all areas of the city are treated fairly, with fair and equitable economic development. She said she's a proven leader, with a proven track record, with a heart for all of the City of Chicago. On the topic of budgets, Brown said she can analyze financial statements with the "best of them." She said when she took over the Clerk's office, they ran at a deficit. She said she investigated ways to bring in additional revenue, checking with other cities, and exploring ways to use technology. She mentioned New York and Denver have used general obligation bonds in a way Chicago never has. She said they could look at crowd funding to help their not-for-profit agencies, then "crowd granting." On the topic of economic development, Brown said she's looking at a community wealth building plan for every area of the city, featuring community input. She said such wealth building involves an integration of everything impacting a neighborhood, including schools, reducing crime and helping individuals start small businesses by connecting them with legal and accounting services. She said "trying" isn't good enough. Brown said she'll make sure things get done.

II. CRIME AND VIOLENCE

At Issue

April 1, 2018

Guest: Garry McCarthy, Candidate for Mayor of Chicago

25 minutes out of 30 minute program

McCarthy is the former Chicago Police Superintendent, originally hired by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and then forced out after a public outcry regarding the Laquan McDonald shooting caught on video. McCarthy said he is not running as a personal vendetta against Emanuel. He said he loves the city, and can't stand watching what's happening in Chicago. McCarthy talked about high taxes, education issues with the school system, and crime, saying they're interlocking issues. He called Emanuel's record "abysmal." He said the key is not relying on politics to solve problems. He said politics can't solve violence, education issues or tax problems. He said politics is horse trading, and that business management of city government has worked elsewhere and is needed in Chicago. He also countered claims of improvement in the murder rate, by saying the administration wants to ignore the massive increase in murders in 2016. He said the first thing he'd do is allow the police superintendent run the police department. He said currently that's not happening, that city hall is setting policies and making the decisions. McCarthy said in 2016 there were 4,300 people shot, and less than ½ percent were police related shootings, and many of those were justified. He said there have been bad situations, but the conversation has been one sided. He said the police are not the problem in our society, the criminals are. McCarthy also talked about racism and segregation. He said Chicago was created as a segregated city, but he said insisting black commanders working in black communities won't overcome that. McCarthy called Emanuel one of the most polarizing figures in American politics. He said all interested parties must be brought to the table. He said in his administration, anyone interested in improving Chicago will have a seat at the table, but they must leave personal agendas at the door. Back on the topic of policing, he said the civilian police board, appointed by the mayor, overturned 75 percent of his separation recommendations for officers. He said if the point of the board was to be tough on cops with civilian oversight, it has failed in Chicago. McCarthy talked about the city's budget and credit rating problems, saying those issues come back to crime. He said we must stop borrowing to pay our debts. He said there must be a financial plan, and most importantly stop the exodus from the city. He said there's a study showing for every shooting, 70 people leave the city. He said we're the only major urban center losing population over the last 10 years. One way to raise money, he said is putting a casino at O'Hare airport. He said in the past the issues with having a casino in the city dealt with problems for the community. He said putting one at O'Hare avoids the community issue, and involves travelers who have to go through TSA. He also said we need one pension plan, not four separate plans for different departments. Asked about legalizing recreational marijuana, he said in places like Colorado, it has caused skyrocketing crime. He said cartels are laundering marijuana the way criminals launder money. A story in the paper the day of the taping reported on skyrocketing robbery numbers in downtown Chicago and on the north side. McCarthy said during his tenure everyone cared only about shootings and the murder rate, and

police related shootings and complaints against officers were both down 50 percent or more. But he said if you ask criminologists what bell-weather crime tells you about what's happening in the city, the answer is robberies. He said no one would listen to him. He said there is no place in Chicago now that's safe. He said robberies are not followed up on the way murders are.

At Issue

April 29, 2018

Guest: Tom Weitzel, Police Chief Riverside, Illinois

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Weitzel has been Police Chief of west suburban Riverside since 2008. He's been with the department there since 1984. The first topic of this program dealt with the practice of police collecting information about traffic stops across Illinois. It was championed by then State Senator Barack Obama. Weitzel said when it originally started, departments had to hire personnel to collect the data. Now computers can track the same thing. The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police opposes this continuing. He said there was supposed to be a sunset provision if there was not documented racial profiling. He said all the data he's seen has shown no widespread racial profiling. He said the report is readily available, but nothing has ever been produced as a result. He also said officers are required to guess the nationality or race of someone stopped, because they're not allowed to ask. He said there are a number of bills before the Illinois legislature that he considers anti-law enforcement. One would eliminate school resource officers, and replace them with therapists. Weitzel said both are needed, but called removing the officers "ridiculous." The other, he said, would be the legalization of recreational marijuana. He said he worries about impaired driving, and the manufactured delivery of cannabis which is a federal crime. He said Illinois has no roadside device to measure the amount of cannabis in a person's system. He said only with a fatal accident could an officer take an individual to a hospital for blood and urine tests. He said all the talk about legalizing marijuana is about the dollars. He said maybe next is "decriminalizing crime." He said in most municipalities, marijuana possession only results in a ticket. He said the only individuals facing criminal records are those with big amounts for the manufacturing and delivery for someone else. Talking about arrests for driving while intoxicated, he said mandated court alcohol intervention is needed, because repeat offenders are common. He also talked about body cameras, saying they are expensive, not so much for the equipment, but for the servers and potential requirements on how long to hold the videos, plus the expense of dealing with Freedom of Information Act requests. He said body cameras are not mandated at this time, but most departments have cameras mounted in squad cars. Weitzel also talked about the new criminal justice reform legislation the Governor has signed. He said he agrees too many people are jailed for minor offenses, and he's in favor of more reasonable bond dollars. But he has a problem with signature bonds or electronic monitoring. He said the Cook County Sheriff recently said he doesn't have enough staff to monitor all those on electronic monitoring. He said the key is having good data about a suspect's previous criminal history. On the topic of sanctuary cities and alerting immigration authorities and holding undocumented immigrants after minor arrests, Weitzel said his department doesn't hold anyone longer than they would any criminal. He said if ICE wants their prisoners, they should give the Riverside Police Department an arrest warrant.

At Issue

April 8, 2018

Guest: Paul Vallas, Candidate for Chicago Mayor

10 minutes out of 30 minute program

Vallas was budget director under Richard M. Daley, and later served under Daley as CEO of Chicago Public Schools. Vallas previously has lost a Democratic primary race for Illinois Governor. He is now one of eight candidates for Chicago Mayor. Vallas said he is different from the others because of his approach to solutions. He plans to unveil specific policies on school reform, infrastructure, public safety, pensions and displaced adults (ex-offenders, chronically unemployed, etc.). He said each week he'll offer "specificity" on the problems, solutions and how you pay for them. He said his success will be driven by getting enough attention for his ideas for solutions, and won't be about how much money he raises. Vallas talked about the violence in Chicago. He said the police department has been decimated. He said in New York and Los Angeles the percentage of police officers who are detectives is 14 percent. He said in Chicago, before the promised ramp up, detectives made up only four percent. He plans to staff up to maintain beat integrity and rebuild the detective division. Vallas said you need the support units and flex units available to target areas of high crime without "robbing Peter to pay Paul." He said proper training is critical. He also talked about the closing of schools and said those closed buildings could be repurposed to serve the tens of thousands aged 17 to 40 who are ex-offenders, high school dropouts and chronically unemployed. He said those facilities could become educational and occupational training centers. Vallas said he sees no educational strategy for fighting crime in the city.

At Issue

May 20, 2018

Guest: Lori Lightfoot, Candidate for Mayor of Chicago

15 minutes out of 30 minute program

Lightfoot is the former police board president, having been appointed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel when accountability became a big issue. She is also a former federal prosecutor and at one point was chief of staff for the Office of Emergency Management. Several other candidates and aldermen question whether Lightfoot used her police board president position to further her own political agenda. She said it is clear Emanuel's allies are fearful of the progressive vision and course she hopes to set. She said the city of Chicago is profoundly moving in the wrong direction, and people are telling her they need her to take on the tough challenges that have not been dealt with. Lightfoot also said she agreed to work as police board president to use her talent and resources to serve the city with independence, not to give a personal loyalty oath to Mayor Emanuel. She also said those making claims about political agenda are using a cheap political stunt to impugn the integrity of others involved in the police board process. Lightfoot said she will spend her time talking about the issues that matter most in the day to day live of Chicagoans. She said there needs to be a discussion about violence, and talked about the Laquan McDonald police shooting video that most believe was suppressed for political gain. Lightfoot said one of the first recommendations by the police task force she led, was to create an actual policy requiring the release audio, videos and initial police reports no later than 60 days after the incident happened. She said the findings and recommendations were presented to the Mayor back in 2016. She said he never reconvened the group, and never asked specifics on how they got to their conclusions despite their offers. She said she entered the race to be sure both task force recommendations and Department of Justice recommendations get implemented. She said that the police department would be strengthened, properly trained, and officers would have what they need to be successful. She said no matter the background of officers, regardless of their color or backgrounds or experiences, they need to know how to relate to citizens. She said the quality of life for police officers is important, so that translates into how they perform on the street. She said on a daily basis, the police profoundly impact the lives of citizens across the city. She said people want visibility and a say the police department functions and how tax dollars are spent. She said such oversight is critical to the legitimacy of the department. She was asked about Governor Bruce Rauner's call for the death penalty for killing an officer. Lightfoot said she's opposed to the death penalty, and said the issue already has been settled in Illinois as a matter of law and policy. She said she serves on the Center of Wrongful Convictions advisory committee at Northwestern, and on a regular basis they get reports of individuals who have been locked up for decades for crimes they didn't commit. She said previously we saw exoneration of people who sat on death row for years related to crimes they didn't commit.

At Issue

June 3, 2018

Guest: Willie Wilson, Candidate for Mayor of Chicago

15 minutes out of 30 minute program

Wilson is a businessman who ran for Mayor in the previous election and finished third in a five candidate race. He has owned and operated a number of McDonald's franchises, and founded Omar Medical Supplies. He has a Doctor of Divinity degree. He also was on the ballot in several states as a Presidential candidate in 2016. Wilson talked about violence in the city. He said he had a 20-year-old son shot and killed over drugs. He said in certain neighborhoods unemployment rates are high, so equality in economic development and empowerment is needed. He said the majority of city residents are either Black or Hispanic, but only about one percent of the contractors are minority. Wilson said he's not running for a job; he doesn't need a job. He wants to be sure every community is treated fairly. He said crime is rampant because of economic disparity. He said he has spent a \$500,000 or more to get kids out of jail for low level, non-violent misdemeanor offenses. He said he convinced Governor Rauner to sign a bill making it easier for non-violent offenders to gain release. Wilson said there is one Police Superintendent for the city of Chicago, but 50 Chicago Aldermen. He said he would change to a series of four zones each with a leader. Those four, he said, would report to him as Mayor. He said he would integrate the departments so citizens are more comfortable talking to officers. He also said he would be against building a new \$95 million police and fire training academy. He said that money should instead be used to create jobs. He said Mayor Emanuel has lost the trust of the community. He said the Mayor is trying to do things differently of late, but it is too late.

III. NEIGHBORHOOD AND SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

At Issue

June 17, 2018

Guest: Dorothy Brown, Cook County Clerk and Candidate for Mayor of Chicago
4 minutes out of 30 minute program

Dorothy Brown is Cook County Circuit Court Clerk; a role she's held since the year 2000. She failed in attempts to win races for Chicago City Treasurer and Cook County Board President. Brown said she want to be Mayor of Chicago because she has a special burden to be sure children have a better education, a burden to make sure all areas of the city are treated fairly, with fair and equitable economic development. Brown said she's looking at a community wealth building plan for every area of the city, featuring community input. She said such wealth building involves an integration of everything impacting a neighborhood, including schools, reducing crime and helping individuals start small businesses by connecting them with legal and accounting services. She said "trying" isn't good enough. Brown said she'll make sure things get done.

IV. CIVIL RIGHTS

At Issue

April 29, 2018

Guest: Tom Weitzel, Police Chief Riverside, Illinois

10 minutes out of 30 minute program

Weitzel has been Police Chief of west suburban Riverside since 2008. He's been with the department there since 1984. The first topic of this program dealt with the practice of police collecting information about traffic stops across Illinois. It was championed by then State Senator Barack Obama. Weitzel said when it originally started, departments had to hire personnel to collect the data. Now computers can track the same thing. The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police opposes this continuing. He said there was supposed to be a sunset provision if there was not documented racial profiling. He said all the data he's seen has shown no widespread racial profiling. He said the report is readily available, but nothing has ever been produced as a result. He also said officers are required to guess the nationality or race of someone stopped, because they're not allowed to ask. Weitzel also talked about the new criminal justice reform legislation the Governor has signed. He said he agrees too many people are jailed for minor offenses, and he's in favor of more reasonable bond dollars. But he has a problem with signature bonds or electronic monitoring. He said the Cook County Sherriff recently said he doesn't have enough staff to monitor all those on electronic monitoring. He said the key is having good data about a suspect's previous criminal history. On the topic of sanctuary cities and alerting immigration authorities and holding undocumented immigrants after minor arrests, Weitzel said his department doesn't hold anyone longer than they would any criminal. He said if ICE wants their prisoners, they should give the Riverside Police Department an arrest warrant.

V. HEALTH CARE

At Issue

June 10, 2018

Guests: Dr. Faran Bokhari, Trauma Chair Cook County Hospitals

Andy Wheeler, Social Worker at Cook County Hospitals

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Cook County's Stroger Hospital last year treated more than 11-hundred patients with gunshot wounds. Stroger was the nation's first and one of the busiest level one trauma centers in the country. Bokhari said the problem of gun violence involves several vectors: accessibility to guns, people who have access to guns, and interpersonal issues. Wheeler said the hospital's responsibility is to treat patients and their families with both primary and secondary prevention methods. He said those who've been hurt by gun violence are likely to be impacted again, so working with patients and their families is an opportunity to upset that cycle of violence. He said many of the patients screen positive for PTSD symptoms, having directly witnessed others being shot. He said many are afraid to walk home from school or leave their homes. Bokhari said for some of the patients who have been victims of violence multiple times, it can be more difficult to operate due to scar tissue and damaged organs. Thus he said victims of multiple acts of violence face a much worse prognosis. Bokhari said in the past he's given advice for some families to move out of Chicago, to get away from a gang environment. But he said geography isn't the key, because a gang can move anywhere. He said victims should interface with people other than just those in your similar environment. He said people can be their own person rather than copy others in their environment, or try to emulate others outside their environment. Wheeler said they work with community partners to help cure violence, and the hospital has its own violence intervention program called Healing Hurt People of Chicago. He said that program helps victims to interact with social workers. They might help them re-enroll in a new school, and help the school be aware of what trauma is and how it impacts individuals. He said they've seen good results: 84 percent have decreases in PTSD, 89 percent have increase of efficacy, and only 8 percent of the youth involved have been reinjured—lower than what you'd expect. Both guests said while Chicago has strict gun laws, Federal laws are needed. Wheeler said guns and people can travel easily, and guns frequently come from other states. Bokhari said the gun legislation conversation and disagreements remind him of the days when it first came up to change smoking laws. He said it became a recognition on the part of citizens what they wanted. He said the question is whether high powered automatic weapons should be allowed in the hands of ordinary citizens because you're afraid of a tyrannical government. He said that argument is facetious because the balance of power between such a government and a band of citizens is not close to even.

VI. VOTER INFORMATION

At Issue

April 1, 2018

Guest: Garry McCarthy, Candidate for Mayor of Chicago

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

McCarthy is the former Chicago Police Superintendent, originally hired by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and then forced out after a public outcry regarding the Laquan McDonald shooting caught on video. McCarthy said he is not running as a personal vendetta against Emanuel. He said he loves the city, and can't stand watching what's happening in Chicago. McCarthy talked about high taxes, education issues with the school system, and crime, saying they're interlocking issues. He called Emanuel's record "abysmal." He said the key is not relying on politics to solve problems. He said politics can't solve violence, education issues or tax problems. He said politics is horse trading, and that business management of city government has worked elsewhere and is needed in Chicago. He also countered claims of improvement in the murder rate, by saying the administration wants to ignore the massive increase in murders in 2016. He said the first thing he'd do is allow the police superintendent run the police department. He said currently that's not happening, that city hall is setting policies and making the decisions. McCarthy said in 2016 there were 4,300 people shot, and less than ½ percent were police related shootings, and many of those were justified. He said there have been bad situations, but the conversation has been one sided. He said the police are not the problem in our society, the criminals are. McCarthy also talked about racism and segregation. He said Chicago was created as a segregated city, but he said insisting black commanders working in black communities won't overcome that. McCarthy called Emanuel one of the most polarizing figures in American politics. He said all interested parties must be brought to the table. He said in his administration, anyone interested in improving Chicago will have a seat at the table, but they must leave personal agendas at the door. Back on the topic of policing, he said the civilian police board, appointed by the mayor, overturned 75 percent of his separation recommendations for officers. He said if the point of the board was to be tough on cops with civilian oversight, it has failed in Chicago. McCarthy talked about the city's budget and credit rating problems, saying those issues come back to crime. He said we must stop borrowing to pay our debts. He said there must be a financial plan, and most importantly stop the exodus from the city. He said there's a study showing for every shooting, 70 people leave the city. He said we're the only major urban center losing population over the last 10 years. One way to raise money, he said is putting a casino at O'Hare airport. He said in the past the issues with having a casino in the city dealt with problems for the community. He said putting one at O'Hare avoids the community issue, and involves travelers who have to go through TSA. He also said we need one pension plan, not four separate plans for different departments. Asked about legalizing recreational marijuana, he said in places like Colorado, it has caused skyrocketing crime. He said cartels are laundering marijuana the way criminals launder money. A story in the paper the day of the taping reported on skyrocketing robbery numbers in downtown Chicago and on the north side. McCarthy

said during his tenure everyone cared only about shootings and the murder rate, and police related shootings and complaints against officers were both down 50 percent or more. But he said if you ask criminologists what bell-weather crime tells you about what's happening in the city, the answer is robberies. He said no one would listen to him. He said there is no place in Chicago now that's safe. He said robberies are not followed up on the way murders are.

At Issue

April 8, 2018

Guest: Bill Brady, Illinois State Senate Republican Leader

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Bill Brady has been in the legislature since the early 90's, and was elected GOP Senate leader after his predecessor resigned last year due to what she called dysfunction in Springfield. Brady said it is important to balance the budget and do so without increasing the tax burden. He praised Governor Rauner for his efforts to make this happen. He talked about the Gubernatorial race, and how Rauner's opponent wants to raise taxes. And he said Rauner did the right thing with his education reform package that passed, including controversial tax credits for private school tuition. He talked about pension liabilities, and the need to hold those accountable for the costs. He said schools should be responsible for the financial packages they give to those who are hired. He said Rauner has delivered more relief for schools than any other governor, and Brady said he'd like the schools to have more control and more responsibility. He said pensions are the monsters that are absorbing all the tax dollars, and blamed past governors for failing to fund those pensions properly. And previous attempts by the legislature to change the pension system has been struck down by the Illinois Supreme Court. He said while you can't take away a benefit someone has earned, those employees should be willing to take smaller pay increase so the pensions don't continue to spiral out of control. Brady also addressed President Trump's decision to impose tariffs on China to overcome a trade imbalance. Illinois farmers are concerned because China has retaliated saying they would impose tariffs on soybeans and pork. Brady said the President wants to try and rectify issues for some industries that are at a disadvantage. He said there must be fairer trade, hopefully without harm. Brady said he wouldn't do it the way the President does, that he's abrupt, but he said these are important issues. Brady also talked about gun violence and the gun control debate. He said every member of the General Assembly want the streets to be safe. But he said the failure of Democrats in the state to work with Republicans on coming up with proper legislation led Governor Rauner to veto their plan. Brady said you could have all the restrictive laws in the world, but if the problem of mental illness isn't tackled, nothing will be solved. Brady talked about economic growth. He said he's hoping Amazon will build its next big facility in Illinois. He said high income taxes and high property taxes work against such business growth.

At Issue

May 13, 2018

Guest: Paul Vallas, Candidate for Chicago Mayor

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Vallas was budget director under Richard M. Daley, and later served under Daley as CEO of Chicago Public Schools. Vallas previously has lost a Democratic primary race for Illinois Governor. He is now one of eight candidates for Chicago Mayor. Vallas said he is different from the others because of his approach to solutions. He plans to unveil specific policies on school reform, infrastructure, public safety, pensions and displaced adults (ex-offenders, chronically unemployed, etc.). He said each week he'll offer "specificity" on the problems, solutions and how you pay for them. He said when he was Superintendent of Chicago Public Schools, he visited 440 schools, and he would walk into each classroom and meet the kids and teachers. He said he plans that type of grass roots campaign, hitting all the neighborhoods, attending meetings, and answering questions. Vallas said he believes Mayor Emanuel will wind up in a runoff, which happens if no one receives more than 50 percent of the vote. Vallas said he feels his chances are good to be that person against Emanuel in the runoff. When asked about how he'll raise funds against Emanuel, who already has built up a war chest, Vallas said many are scared to donate for feature Emanuel would retaliate against them. But Vallas said he's confident he'll raise enough money. He said his success will be driven by getting enough attention for his ideas for solutions, and won't be about how much money he raises. Vallas talked about the violence in Chicago. He said the police department has been decimated. He said in New York and Los Angeles the percentage of police officers who are detectives is 14 percent. He said in Chicago, before the promised ramp up, detectives made up only four percent. He plans to staff up to maintain beat integrity and rebuild the detective division. Vallas said you need the support units and flex units available to target areas of high crime without "robbing Peter to pay Paul." He said proper training is critical. About the schools, he said the hard work of teachers and principals have helped them weather the continuing financial storm. Test scores have improved, as he said they did during his administration. But Vallas said Emanuel has had four CPS CEO's in seven years. He did say they finally have the right person in the job, and he would keep Janice Jackson in place. Regarding the controversial closing of some schools, he said it is important to have clear criteria before announcing what schools close. And he said those closed buildings could then be repurposed to serve the tens of thousands aged 17 to 40 who are ex-offenders, high school dropouts and chronically unemployed. He said those facilities could become educational and occupational training centers. Vallas said he sees no educational strategy for fighting crime in the city. He called the way schools are closed now is callous, referring to the closing of 50 schools two years ago. Vallas said he supports having a hybrid Board of Education, featuring both elected members and appointed members. Currently the Mayor appoints every member of the board. Previously another candidate, Garry McCarthy, suggested having a casino at the airport. Vallas called casinos a "side show," saying they won't be a financial solution to anything. He pointed the lottery as an example, failing to solve funding issues for education.

At Issue

May 20, 2018

Guest: Lori Lightfoot, Candidate for Mayor of Chicago

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Lightfoot is the former police board president, having been appointed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel when accountability became a big issue. She is also a former federal prosecutor and at one point was chief of staff for the Office of Emergency Management. Several other candidates and aldermen question whether Lightfoot used her police board president position to further her own political agenda. She said it is clear Emanuel's allies are fearful of the progressive vision and course she hopes to set. She said the city of Chicago is profoundly moving in the wrong direction, and people are telling her they need her to take on the tough challenges that have not been dealt with. Lightfoot also said she agreed to work as police board president to use her talent and resources to serve the city with independence, not to give a personal loyalty oath to Mayor Emanuel. She also said those making claims about political agenda are using a cheap political stunt to impugn the integrity of others involved in the police board process. Lightfoot said she will spend her time talking about the issues that matter most in the day to day live of Chicagoans. She said the city needs to relieve lower income families from tax burden, to refocus education policy by engaging teachers, parents and others at the start of each process rather than dictating policy and including them at the end. She pointed to issues such as the closing of 50 schools two years ago, controversy over the closing of Englewood High School, and the recent consent decree requiring oversight over CPS due to the way special education programming was mismanaged. She said that says something about the current style of leadership. Her plan, she said, is to rebuild our neighborhood schools. She said too many kids are being left behind. She said a comprehensive plan is needed to uplift all students. She said there needs to be a discussion about violence, and talked about the Laquan McDonald police shooting video that most believe was suppressed for political gain. Lightfoot said one of the first recommendations by the police task force she led, was to create an actual policy requiring the release audio, videos and initial police reports no later than 60 days after the incident happened. She said the findings and recommendations were presented to the Mayor back in 2016. She said he never reconvened the group, and never asked specifics on how they got to their conclusions despite their offers. She said she entered the race to be sure both task force recommendations and Department of Justice recommendations get implemented. She said that the police department would be strengthened, properly trained, and officers would have what they need to be successful. She said no matter the background of officers, regardless of their color or backgrounds or experiences, they need to know how to relate to citizens. She said the quality of life for police officers is important, so that translates into how they perform on the street. She said on a daily basis, the police profoundly impact the lives of citizens across the city. She said people want visibility and a say the police department functions and how tax dollars are spent. She said such oversight is critical to the legitimacy of the department. She was asked about Governor Bruce Rauner's call for the death penalty for killing an officer. Lightfoot said she's opposed to the death penalty, and said the issue already has been settled in Illinois as a matter of law and policy. She said she serves on the Center of Wrongful Convictions

advisory committee at Northwestern, and on a regular basis they get reports of individuals who have been locked up for decades for crimes they didn't commit. She said previously we saw exoneration of people who sat on death row for years related to crimes they didn't commit. She was asked how much of an issue her being a lesbian will have on the race. Lightfoot said she has no fear of repercussions for who she is and who she loves, and she says that shows the progress we've made in society. She hopes people will judge her on her background, values and her connection to everyday challenges of people.

At Issue

June 3, 2018

Guest: Willie Wilson, Candidate for Mayor of Chicago

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Wilson is a businessman who ran for Mayor in the previous election and finished third in a five candidate race. He has owned and operated a number of McDonald's franchises, and founded Omar Medical Supplies. He has a Doctor of Divinity degree. He also was on the ballot in several states as a Presidential candidate in 2016. Talking about the schools and a decision that week to get rid of its facilities chief in the wake of a cleanliness issue, Wilson said she shouldn't have gone, Mayor Rahm Emanuel should be gone. He said Emanuel hand picks who runs the school, and he must take responsibility. Wilson said he's a business person, has to balance his budget, and he knows how to get things done. Wilson said he's for an elected, rather than appointed school board. He said the public must have input into the schools, and everything that goes on related to public funds. Wilson said he wants to be sure the schools have the proper technology, but he said one person doesn't have all the answers, so he wants an open dialogue about what's needed. Wilson then talked about violence in the city. He said he had a 20-year-old son shot and killed over drugs. He said in certain neighborhoods unemployment rates are high, so equality in economic development and empowerment is needed. He said the majority of city residents are either Black or Hispanic, but only about one percent of the contractors are minority. Wilson said he's not running for a job; he doesn't need a job. He wants to be sure every community is treated fairly. He said crime is rampant because of economic disparity. He said he has spent a \$500,000 or more to get kids out of jail for low level, non-violent misdemeanor offenses. He said he convinced Governor Rauner to sign a bill making it easier for non-violent offenders to gain release. Wilson said there is one Police Superintendent for the city of Chicago, but 50 Chicago Aldermen. He said he would change to a series of four zones each with a leader. Those four, he said, would report to him as Mayor. He said he would integrate the departments so citizens are more comfortable talking to officers. He also said he would be against building a new \$95 million police and fire training academy. He said that money should instead be used to create jobs. He said Mayor Emanuel has lost the trust of the community. He said the Mayor is trying to do things differently of late, but it is too late. Wilson also complained the city has raised taxes eight times under Mayor Emanuel. Looking at the outflow of residents, he said only white wealthy people will be able to afford to remain. He said "this guy don't get it," that you need to have inclusion. Wilson also said he wants to get rid of red light cameras, and wants senior citizens to receive free rides on public transportation. Asked how that gets paid for, he said ending mismanagement will help. He is for putting a casino in the city. He is for legalizing marijuana.

At Issue

June 17, 2018

Guest: Dorothy Brown, Cook County Clerk and Candidate for Mayor of Chicago
30 minutes out of 30 minute program

Dorothy Brown is Cook County Circuit Court Clerk; a role she's held since the year 2000. She failed in attempts to win races for Chicago City Treasurer and Cook County Board President. Brown said she want to be Mayor of Chicago because she has a special burden to be sure children have a better education, a burden to make sure all areas of the city are treated fairly, with fair and equitable economic development. She said she's a proven leader, with a proven track record, with a heart for all of the City of Chicago. Talking about Mayor Emanuel, she looked at the way he reacted to reports of sexual abuse of children in the school system. She said he refused to have independent oversight, but said he should pull out all the stops needed to protect children. Asked how the city and county are handling the sexual harassment issue, Brown said her office always has trained employees, and always has had a policy. She said every instance of any claim within her office is investigated. The week before her appearance, the Mayor announced plans with Elon Musk to build a privately funded high speed transport to and from O'Hare. Brown called it a distraction and smoke screen trying to change the narrative from the schools' sexual abuse issue. The host, Craig Dellimore, said this mayoral race has more African American candidates than ever before. Brown is African American. She said everyone has the right to run for office. She said she's reaching out to everyone, not just the African American community. She said she has won more elections, by a bigger margin, than anyone else in the race, including the current Mayor. She said she also has more than 17 years' experience running a \$100-plus million operation with a large number of employees. Brown also launched her campaign while under federal investigation for what some have called pay-for-play hiring practices. Brown said she handles her business professionally and properly. She said she welcomes a federal monitor looking into hiring practices, that using the Shakman decree—against political patronage, a computer chooses among the top candidates. On another topic, some lawyers complain about some things in her department still being done on paper. Brown said when she took over the department was antiquated. She said over the years she has put in an image and document management system to digitize what's needed. She said her department has some of the most up-to-date technology available. She said the county has not provided enough funding to complete everything needed. She said they get it done despite the deficiency. On the topic of budgets, Brown said she can analyze financial statements with the "best of them." She said when she took over the Clerk's office, they ran at a deficit. She said she investigated ways to bring in additional revenue, checking with other cities, and exploring ways to use technology. She mentioned New York and Denver have used general obligation bonds in a way Chicago never has. She said they could look at crowd funding to help their not-for-profit agencies, then "crowd granting." On the topic of economic development, Brown said she's looking at a community wealth building plan for every area of the city, featuring community input. She said such wealth building involves an integration of everything impacting a neighborhood, including schools, reducing crime and helping individuals start small businesses by connecting them with legal and accounting services. She said "trying" isn't

good enough. Brown said she'll make sure things get done. On the topic of policing, she said we must get away from the "us versus them" mentality. She said police are there to serve, and community members must make sure they have a better relationship with the police department as well. She wants to see fairness in the justice system, and is looking for criminal and social justice reform. She also wants to have all the justice agencies integrated, bringing together the police department, the State's Attorney and public defenders.

At Issue

June 24, 2018

Guest: Troy LaRaviere, Candidate for Mayor of Chicago

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

LaRaviere is a former Chicago Public Schools principal who was openly critical of Mayor Emanuel and some of CPS's policies. He is now one of eight contenders running against Emanuel. Despite his firing, he was elected president of the Chicago Principals and Administrators Association. He said there are four basic criteria running for office. One is a record of responsible management with public money, which he said he did at Blaine Elementary. There, he said, he managed tens of millions of dollars without a dime being in question. Secondly, he said you need a record of improving public institutions. He led Blaine to be the top rated neighborhood school in Chicago. LaRaviere said the third element is having a public record of sacrificing private gain for the public good. He said that's not currently the case, with so much corruption. LaRaviere said he was terminated for speaking out—terminated, he said, by the same mayor who gave him three awards. He said he received the Mayor's Principal Merit Award three years in a row. LaRaviere was asked about the Chicago Public School's sex abuse scandal. He said Mayor Emanuel has shown himself to be a coward, sending the CPS CEO to take the brunt of the criticism. He said only after forced to address the issue, did the Mayor step forward. He said they're more focused on PR and image management that they didn't even call the family involved. LaRaviere said CPS and the mayor failed to do adequate background checks and failed to do proper oversight or notify other districts with those accused of abuse left to find employment elsewhere. He said proper procedures when claims came forward, weren't followed. He called that a basic training problem. He called CPS the most understaffed school district in the state. He said when you give one person six people's jobs, things fall through the cracks. He said staffing for the schools is critical. He said the district spends \$2,000 per pupil more than the average school in the state. He questioned how the staffing can be so short when the spending is so high. He said CPS is building new schools rather than reducing class sizes. He said before anyone is asked to spend an additional dime in taxes, we must stop rules and policies that prevent those doing business with the city from donating to the campaigns of those who make financial decisions that could help those businesses. He said we know how the Mayor will act if reelected. LaRaviere said he'd make sure to look under every stone to root out corruption before asking for any additional tax money. He said he's in favor of an elected school board, but only if making sure to get competent representation. He said there needs to be qualifying criteria. He pointed to local school councils, which require board members are either parents or teachers at the school. Asked about casino gaming as a way to raise revenue, LaRaviere said he's not for it, but would consider as a last resort. He also talked about violence and guns. He said you can't trust the numbers coming out of the Emanuel administration. He said graduation numbers released were fake, and he said Chicago Magazine exposed the murder rate had artificially been deflated by reclassifying some murders as non-criminal death investigations. He said that meant murders went without investigation, causing murderers to remain on the street. He said creating jobs and improving education are the keys to reducing violence. He also complained there are half the percentage of detectives on the police force than New York

or Los Angeles. He said they're needed to lead investigations. He was asked his feelings on plans to build a \$95 million dollar police and fire training facility. LaRaviere said the key is the training itself, coming up with plans and the right people to properly train officers. He said all building the facility would do is give you space. He said with the right curriculum and training, you wouldn't need to spend on the building.

VII. ENVIRONMENT

At Issue

May 6, 2018

Guest: Margaret Frisbie, Executive Director Friends of The Chicago River

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

This program was recorded along the Chicago River at the Chicago River Museum, which was to open to the public for the season one week later. Frisbie said her group is a non-profit environmental organization, that looks to protect the river for people, wildlife and plants. She said the river spans 156 miles of waterway, from close to the Wisconsin border, connecting to the Calumet River to the south. She said her group is opposed to the dying of the Chicago River green on St. Patrick's Day, and the city should find other ways to celebrate. Frisbie said years ago the river teemed with wildlife, long before Chicago became a major city. But she said as the population grew, the river was used for formal transportation, manipulated for access to Lake Michigan. Eventually the sewer system was dumping directly into the river. But now, she said, the river is alive again, with more than 70 species of fish, plus muskrats and turtles. She said the museum tells the story of how the river doesn't stop and the future is bright. At one point, the river flowed into Lake Michigan, but that meant dumping waste into the Lake, which then turned into our drinking water. So the decision was to reverse the river's flow to solve the issue. Frisbie referred to the Deep Tunnel project which was completed in 2006, complemented by a couple reservoirs. She said that has had a dramatic impact on water quality, reducing the sewage-storm water mix by 85 percent. She said in 2015 and 2016 sewage plants began using technology to kill bacteria and pathogens that used to enter the waterway, providing the most improvement in water quality in 25 years. She said that means swimming in the Chicago River now is probably fine, and that's been a goal. She said her group wants people enjoying the river as part of their community, kayaking, swimming, eating next to it, fishing, rowing, etc. She said their goal is to support developers and planners who think about water, wildlife and people, and how storm water would stay on a property rather than running off into the river. The City of Chicago, she said, currently requires a 30 foot setback for any new development. But Frisbie said that's great for trails, but if you want quality open space, you need more. So open areas, ball fields, etc., would become an oasis along the river. She said this is true for the entire river, not just for the North Branch where a major new development is planned.

VIII. SCHOOL REFORM AND EDUCATION

At Issue

April 8, 2018

Guest: Bill Brady, Illinois State Senate Republican Leader

15 minutes out of 30 minute program

Bill Brady has been in the legislature since the early 90's, and was elected GOP Senate leader after his predecessor resigned last year due to what she called dysfunction in Springfield. Brady said it is important to balance the budget and do so without increasing the tax burden. He praised Governor Rauner for his efforts to make this happen. He talked about the Gubernatorial race, and how Rauner's opponent wants to raise taxes. And he said Rauner did the right thing with his education reform package that passed, including controversial tax credits for private school tuition. He talked about pension liabilities, and the need to hold those accountable for the costs. He said schools should be responsible for the financial packages they give to those who are hired. He said Rauner has delivered more relief for schools than any other governor, and Brady said he'd like the schools to have more control and more responsibility. He said pensions are the monsters that are absorbing all the tax dollars, and blamed past governors for failing to fund those pensions properly. And previous attempts by the legislature to change the pension system has been struck down by the Illinois Supreme Court. He said while you can't take away a benefit someone has earned, those employees should be willing to take smaller pay increase so the pensions don't continue to spiral out of control.

At Issue

April 15, 2018

Guest: David Schuler, Superintendent Township High School District 214

30 minutes out of 30 minute program

David Schuler has been superintendent of this district since 2005, a district that serves seven campuses in areas like Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove, Prospect and Rolling Meadows. It is the second largest high school district in Illinois. Schuler recently was named superintendent of the year nationally by The School Superintendents Organization. Schuler credits teamwork for his award, and he said Elk Grove High School won awards for principal and teacher of the year. Schuler said readiness is the key for high schoolers. He said not all graduates can have the same skill sets. He said it is important to support kids who learn in different ways, and society needs people in manufacturing, doctors, teachers and all need different skill sets. He said every student in his district is required to identify a career area of interest by the end of their sophomore year. He said the idea is creating an educational experience that is relevant and engaging to every student. He said defining success should not be about graduating from high school, but how kids do after graduating from high school. He said the district has partnerships with more than 100 businesses, providing external opportunities for students. He said that helps develop a talent pipeline for community employers. Schuler said they talk to community members about the next-generation workforce needs, then the district develops a plan and process to grow related programs. The goal, he said, is getting the student experience, learn employee/employer relationship, and the business owner gets something perhaps he or she couldn't afford in the past. Asked about how the arts fit in with a vocational program, Schuler said the arts play a big part. He said the pathway for some students involves music, drama and the arts, so the district invests heavily in that. Schuler also talked about the new evidence-based funding formula passed by the state. He said his district's financial take will remain about the same. He said the design is to address inequities in the state funding formula, and the key is for that formula to continue to be funded. He said their district is supportive, because they believe in the greater good. He also talked about bullying and sexual harassment. Schuler said the district has embarked for the last year and a half on a "see something, say something" campaign. Schuler said students have been encouraged to engage in conversations with peers and to let each other know when someone is close to crossing the line.

At Issue

April 22, 2018

Guest: Ralph Martire, Exec. Director Center for Tax & Budget Accountability

15 minutes out of 30 minute program

Martire began by saying Illinois lawmakers and Governor Rauner have gone more than three years without agreeing on a general fund budget. He said while Rauner has talked about cutting taxes, his proposals also would increase the state's deficit by nearly a billion dollars. He said education funding ranks 50th among the 50 states, and local taxes will need to cover nearly a half billion dollars promised, but any increased property tax money likely would go to pension funding and not the classrooms that need it. He said only communities with significant property tax wealth would be able to handle. Martire clearly blames Governor Rauner for the problems. He said the Democrat controlled legislature could craft rational budget compromises early year, but said Rauner's office has been the biggest challenge, evidenced by some Republicans breaking ranks to override his veto. He then talked about the auditor general's report showing Illinois' general deficit grew by nearly \$15 Billion this year. Martire said current spending levels are not sustainable. He said social service have been cut by 22 percent since 2000, that the K-12 school system needs another \$7.2 Billion, that higher education has been cut more than 50 percent since 2000. He said the tax increase needed to solve the state's problem would total \$3-\$3.5 billion per year, on top of the \$5 billion increase from last year. When asked whether that might scare businesses away, Martire said there has never been a study that found a correlation between tax policy and job growth, economic growth and business location. He said California and Minnesota both faced fiscal crisis, both raised taxes significantly and their economies boomed, unemployment dropped and job growth beat national averages. He said Kansas cut taxes on the wealthiest residents, and the Kansas economy fell behind the national average growth. He said that resulted in large deficits, and ensuing spending cuts on education. So much so, he said, that the Kansas State Supreme Court rules the government unconstitutionally denied children access to quality education as required by the constitution. Martire said for generations the state underfunded pensions and took the money to pay for services. But he said those IOU's are due. He said now they need to refinance the pension debt, expand the sales tax base, tweak the income tax, and stop borrowing to spend. He said such a move is unlikely to pass in an election year, but it could potentially in a veto session, lame duck session or in the first year in office by a new governor.

At Issue

May 13, 2018

Guest: Paul Vallas, Candidate for Chicago Mayor

12 minutes out of 30 minute program

Vallas was budget director under Richard M. Daley, and later served under Daley as CEO of Chicago Public Schools. Vallas previously has lost a Democratic primary race for Illinois Governor. He is now one of eight candidates for Chicago Mayor. Vallas said he is different from the others because of his approach to solutions. He plans to unveil specific policies on school reform, infrastructure, public safety, pensions and displaced adults (ex-offenders, chronically unemployed, etc.). He said each week he'll offer "specificity" on the problems, solutions and how you pay for them. He said when he was Superintendent of Chicago Public Schools, he visited 440 schools, and he would walk into each classroom and meet the kids and teachers. He said he plans that type of grass roots campaign, hitting all the neighborhoods, attending meetings, and answering questions. Vallas said he believes Mayor Emanuel will wind up in a runoff, which happens if no one receives more than 50 percent of the vote. Vallas said he feels his chances are good to be that person against Emanuel in the runoff. About the schools, he said the hard work of teachers and principals have helped them weather the continuing financial storm. Test scores have improved, as he said they did during his administration. But Vallas said Emanuel has had four CPS CEO's in seven years. He did say they finally have the right person in the job, and he would keep Janice Jackson in place. Regarding the controversial closing of some schools, he said it is important to have clear criteria before announcing what schools close. And he said those closed buildings could then be repurposed to serve the tens of thousands aged 17 to 40 who are ex-offenders, high school dropouts and chronically unemployed. He said those facilities could become educational and occupational training centers. Vallas said he sees no educational strategy for fighting crime in the city. He called the way schools are closed now is callous, referring to the closing of 50 schools two years ago. Vallas said he supports having a hybrid Board of Education, featuring both elected members and appointed members. Currently the Mayor appoints every member of the board. Previously another candidate, Garry McCarthy, suggested having a casino at the airport. Vallas called casinos a "side show," saying they won't be a financial solution to anything. He pointed the lottery as an example, failing to solve funding issues for education.

At Issue

May 20, 2018

Guest: Lori Lightfoot, Candidate for Mayor of Chicago

7 minutes out of 30 minute program

Lightfoot said she will spend her time talking about the issues that matter most in the day to day live of Chicagoans. She said the city needs to relieve lower income families from tax burden, to refocus education policy by engaging teachers, parents and others at the start of each process rather than dictating policy and including them at the end. She pointed to issues such as the closing of 50 schools two years ago, controversy over the closing of Englewood High School, and the recent consent decree requiring oversight over CPS due to the way special education programming was mismanaged. She said that says something about the current style of leadership. Her plan, she said, is to rebuild our neighborhood schools. She said too many kids are being left behind. She said a comprehensive plan is needed to uplift all students.

At Issue

June 3, 2018

Guest: Willie Wilson, Candidate for Mayor of Chicago

7 minutes out of 30 minute program

Wilson is a businessman who ran for Mayor in the previous election and finished third in a five candidate race. He has owned and operated a number of McDonald's franchises, and founded Omar Medical Supplies. He has a Doctor of Divinity degree. He also was on the ballot in several states as a Presidential candidate in 2016. Talking about the schools and a decision that week to get rid of its facilities chief in the wake of a cleanliness issue, Wilson said she shouldn't have gone, Mayor Rahm Emanuel should be gone. He said Emanuel hand picks who runs the school, and he must take responsibility. Wilson said he's a business person, has to balance his budget, and he knows how to get things done. Wilson said he's for an elected, rather than appointed school board. He said the public must have input into the schools, and everything that goes on related to public funds. Wilson said he wants to be sure the schools have the proper technology, but he said one person doesn't have all the answers, so he wants an open dialogue about what's needed.

At Issue

June 24, 2018

Guest: Troy LaRaviere, Candidate for Mayor of Chicago

22 minutes out of 30 minute program

LaRaviere is a former Chicago Public Schools principal who was openly critical of Mayor Emanuel and some of CPS's policies. He is now one of eight contenders running against Emanuel. Despite his firing, he was elected president of the Chicago Principals and Administrators Association. He said there are four basic criteria running for office. One is a record of responsible management with public money, which he said he did at Blaine Elementary. There, he said, he managed tens of millions of dollars without a dime being in question. Secondly, he said you need a record of improving public institutions. He led Blaine to be the top rated neighborhood school in Chicago. LaRaviere said the third element is having a public record of sacrificing private gain for the public good. He said that's not currently the case, with so much corruption. LaRaviere said he was terminated for speaking out—terminated, he said, by the same mayor who gave him three awards. He said he received the Mayor's Principal Merit Award three years in a row. LaRaviere was asked about the Chicago Public School's sex abuse scandal. He said Mayor Emanuel has shown himself to be a coward, sending the CPS CEO to take the brunt of the criticism. He said only after forced to address the issue, did the Mayor step forward. He said they're more focused on PR and image management that they didn't even call the family involved. LaRaviere said CPS and the mayor failed to do adequate background checks and failed to do proper oversight or notify other districts with those accused of abuse left to find employment elsewhere. He said proper procedures when claims came forward, weren't followed. He called that a basic training problem. He called CPS the most understaffed school district in the state. He said when you give one person six people's jobs, things fall through the cracks. He said staffing for the schools is critical. He said the district spends \$2,000 per pupil more than the average school in the state. He questioned how the staffing can be so short when the spending is so high. He said CPS is building new schools rather than reducing class sizes. He said before anyone is asked to spend an additional dime in taxes, we must stop rules and policies that prevent those doing business with the city from donating to the campaigns of those who make financial decisions that could help those businesses. He said we know how the Mayor will act if reelected. LaRaviere said he'd make sure to look under every stone to root out corruption before asking for any additional tax money. He said he's in favor of an elected school board, but only if making sure to get competent representation. He said there needs to be qualifying criteria. He pointed to local school councils, which require board members are either parents or teachers at the school.