

## Quarterly Issues Programs List

**Townsquare Media Faribault-Owatonna**

**Stations: KRFO-AM, KRFO-FM, and KQCL-FM**

**October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023**

### SECTION I. Issues

- A) **Economy:** The economy is near the top of the list when it comes to concerns of Southern Minnesotans. Keeping life affordable is a challenge. From inflation to interest rates, to employment opportunities, taxes, and vanishing pandemic programs – Minnesotans are concerned and paying attention.
- B) **Healthcare:** Keeping their families healthy is likely the top priority of southern Minnesota parents and families. From challenges at long-term care facilities, to the health of Minnesota kids, healthcare is always a top point of concern.
- C) **Public Safety:** Many Minnesotans view the state as being less safe that it was just a few years ago. From law enforcement staffing issues, to an increase in violent crime – keeping themselves, their children, and families safe is always on the mind of Minnesotans
- D) **Veteran Affairs:** The health and wellness of Minnesota’s veterans is a top priority to both those who have served, and those who have not. An increase in suicide deaths by Minnesota veterans is a sign that things are out of balance pertaining to Veteran care.
- E) **State Government:** Minnesotans are keenly aware that what happens in the state legislature has a direct impact on their lives and their bottom lines. This quarter also features mid-term elections, which has Minnesota voters looking for even more information.

### **SECTION II – Responsive Programs**

**MINNESOTA MATTERS** is a weekly locally produced public affairs program that discusses matters of importance to Minnesotans. Minnesota Matters runs every Sunday morning on **KRFO-AM, KRFO-FM** and **KQCL-FM** for 30 minutes from 6:00 am to 6:30 am.

10/1/2023

**Issue(s) Discussed:** Agriculture, Public Health, Economy, Arts

**Program Description:** Discussed during the program, the ending of many special Minnesota government programs tailored for the pandemic, the University of Minnesota has released a new apple variety, a recap of the Hennepin Theater Trust’s 2023 season, and the introduction of a new member to the U of M’s men’s basketball broadcast team.

10/8/2023

**Issue(s) Discussed:** Veteran Affairs, Local Government, Child Care, Economy

**Program Description:** During the program there was a discussion regarding federal funding to boost childcare wages coming to an end, what it means as Anoka, Minnesota becomes the site of state’s first social district, and an investigation as to why veteran deaths by suicide are on the rise in the state.

10/15/2023

**Issue(s) Discussed:** Public Safety, Bullying, Arts

**Program Description:** During the program the hosts discussed why it took twenty years for officials to apprehend and charge a rape suspect for a crime that occurred in Minnesota in 2003, October is Bullying Prevention Month, a University of Minnesota graduate is performing at the Orpheum Theater in Minneapolis, and a look at Big Ten football media days.

10/22/2023

**Issue(s) Discussed:** State Government, Marijuana Legalization, Non-Profits, Economy

**Program Description:** During the program the hosts discuss what was a very busy political week in Minnesota, non-profits across the state are rebounding following the pandemic, a major cannabis manufacturing facility is a 'go' in Minnesota, and fall colors are beginning to peak across the state.

10/29/2023

**Issue(s) Discussed:** Politics, Healthcare, Natural Resources, Native American Affairs, Agriculture

**Program Description:** This week's program included discussions regarding Minnesota's place in the national political spotlight this week, the approaching open enrollment period for health insurance, stopping Chronic Wasting Disease among Minnesota deer herds on or near tribal lands, and Minnesota is home to the world's largest pumpkin.

11/5/23

**Issue(s) Discussed:** Politics, Marijuana Legalization, State Government, Natural Resources

**Program Description:** The program continued the discussion of Minnesota's place in the national political spotlight again this week, the work that continues on management plans within the state's cannabis industry, it's opening weekend of Minnesota's firearms deer hunting season, the Minnesota State Fair, and an update on the University of Minnesota football team.

11/12/23

**Issue(s) Discussed:** State Government, Politics, Non-Profits, Charitable Giving, Veteran Affairs

**Program Description:** This week's program included a discussion regarding this week's mid-term elections in Minnesota, Minnesota veterans are being honored this week, Minnesota's largest day of charitable giving 'Give to The Max' day is right around the corner, and a recap of an emotional weekend for a trio of former U of M golfers.

11/19/2023

**Issue(s) Discussed:** Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Public Safety

**Program Description:** This week on the program discussions included the release of the annual 'Business Benchmark Report' by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, work continues on the federal Farm Bill, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Eagle Cam is active, and a recap of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's 'Towards Zero' Deaths' highway safety conference.

11/26/2023

**Issue(s) Discussed:** Charitable Giving, Non-Profits, Health

**Program Description:** The program included discussions on Minnesotans remembering and lauding former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign is underway in Minnesota, maintaining healthy eating habits over the holidays, and Christmas tree season and a possible shortage of natural trees.

12/3/2023

**Issue(s) Discussed:** Natural Resources, State Government, Health

**Program Description:** During the program the hosts discussed Minnesotan's marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources continued push to stop the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease among the state's deer population, public comment continues on the redesign of a new state flag and seal, and Minnesota's medical cannabis program has added a new delivery method.

12/10/2023

**Issue(s) Discussed:** State Government, Health

**Program Description:** During the program the hosts covered the latest state budget forecast came out this week giving lawmakers an idea of how much money they'll have to work with, the state's office of Medical Cannabis is looking for a new leader, the Minnesota Department of Transportation's 'Name a Plow' contest is underway, and Minnesota Twins radio broadcaster Cory Provis is moving to cover the TV games.

12/17/2023

**Issue(s) Discussed:** Criminal Justice, Gambling, Education, Marijuana Legalization, Arts

**Program Description:** This week's program focuses on the Great Northern Innocence Project after a Minnesotan a was proven innocent of a 2004 murder, a state campaign to raise awareness surrounding youth gambling risks, another Minnesota school is offering certificate programs in the cannabis industry, and musical titles "I Am Betty" about Betty Crocker is wrapping up its run in Minnesota.

12/24/2023

**Issue(s) Discussed:** Public Safety, Climate, Consumer Safety

**Program Description:** This week's program focuses on where Minnesotans stand when it comes to believing in Satna Claus, Minnesota law enforcement will have an increased presence on state highways between now and the end of the year, according to the calendar winter is officially here, and holiday scams affecting Minnesota consumers.

12/31/2023

**Issue(s) Discussed:** Public Safety, Environment, Public Health, Politics, Marijuana Legalization, Abortion

**Program Description:** This week's program takes a look back at 2023, and the stories that made news across the state.