

Quarterly Issues Programs List

Townsquare Media Faribault-Owatonna

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

April 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023

SECTION I. Issues

- A) **Mental Health:** Even prior to the pandemic mental health issues, and specifically suicide, were increasingly in the spotlight and causing concern in Minnesota. Now we are seeing the stresses of the pandemic causing an elevated rate of mental health issues and suicide across the state.
- B) **Minnesota Politics:** The 2023 Minnesota legislative session is in full swing, with a record number of bills expected to pass with a Democratic House, Senate, and Governor. Everything from abortion rights, recreational marijuana, education, infrastructure, and more on the table.
- C) **Education:** As children across southern Minnesota prepare to break for summer vacation, many Minnesota families are concerned how Minnesota school districts are handling the learning gap created by missed time during the COVID pandemic.
- D) **Safety:** Many Minnesotans view the state as being less safe than it was just a few years ago. Behavior changes that occurred during the pandemic may be to blame. Keeping themselves, their children, and families safe is always on the mind of Minnesotans
- E) **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.

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.

4/2/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Healthcare, safety, agriculture, avian influenza

Program Description: Discussed during the program, long-term care center funding and shortages in Minnesota, preparing your family for severe weather season in the state, and look at how avian influenza is impacting Minnesota chicken & turkey farmers.

4/9/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Healthcare, agriculture, Minnesota politics

Program Description: During the program there was discussion of long-term care center worker shortages in the state, Minnesota's hemp program and the upcoming growing season, and news from the Minnesota legislature with about a month and a half left in the current session.

4/16/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: State infrastructure, healthcare, and Minnesota politics

Program Description: During the program the hosts discussed the 2023 Minnesota road construction season and major projects in the state, challenges long-term care centers are facing in Minnesota, and the \$4 billion higher education budget bill in the state legislature

4/23/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Minnesota politics, environment, state government

Program Description: During the program the hosts discuss what Minnesota lottery proceeds fund, Earth Week celebrations in the state, and the flurry of activity at the Minnesota state capitol as house and senate budget bills face floor votes.

4/30/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: State commerce, healthcare, Minnesota politics

Program Description: This week's program included discussions on high water on the Mississippi River has prompted the closing of several locks and dams, Minnesotans with medical assistance are urged to keep an eye on their mail as renewal time approaches, the latest from St. Paul as state legislators continue to make progress on several budget bills.

5/7/23

Issue(s) Discussed: State commerce, addiction, healthcare, Minnesota politics

Program Description: The program discussed new funding to expand Minnesota's film production tax credit, the Hazelden Betty Ford graduate school is launching a new program to help address the growing need for addiction counselors in the state, and updates from the state capitol with just two weeks left in the current session.

5/14/23

Issue(s) Discussed: Education, healthcare, eldercare, Minnesota politics

Program Description: This week's program included a discussion boys' volleyball officially being added as a Minnesota high school sport, the number of people living with Alzheimer's in Minnesota continues to grow, and an update from St. Paul following the second to last week of the current legislative session.

5/21/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Economy, housing, personal finance, environment, Minnesota politics

Program Description: This week on the program discussions included a new law aimed at helping first time home buyers in the state, University of Minnesota researchers have discovered a new species of wasp, and another update from the state capitol as the current legislative session winds down with a lot of unfinished business.

5/28/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Housing, mental health, Minnesota politics

Program Description: This week on the program there were discussions of lawmakers' approval of funding to expand housing opportunities across the state, Mental Health Awareness Month in Minnesota, and a wrap-up from Saint Paul following the end of the 2023 Minnesota legislative session.

6/4/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Human rights, public health, Minnesota politics

Program Description: During the program the hosts discussed Pride month in Minnesota, a check-in with the new director of the Infectious Disease Division at the Minnesota Department of Health, and follow-up to the end of the legislative session with the bills signed into law this week by Governor Tim Walz.

6/11/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Public safety, Minnesota politics, abortion, marijuana

Program Description: During the program the hosts covered Minnesota's shortage of 911 dispatchers, and had a conversation with Minnesota Governor Tim Walz about the 2023 legislative session, and the impact the new laws will have in the state.

6/18/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Crime, public safety, healthcare, marijuana, Minnesota politics

Program Description: This week's program focuses the increase of auto thefts across Minnesota, changes coming to the state's medical cannabis program, last week Governor Walz spoke to the 2023 legislative session – this week Minnesota's top Republican, Senator Mike Johnson, gave his view of the session.

6/25/2023

Issue(s) Discussed: Agriculture, healthcare, economy, families

Program Description: This week's program focuses legendary Minnesota Golden Gophers volleyball coach Hugh McCutcheon, Meeker County's honoring of a local Wizard of Oz actress, and a look at the latest University of Minnesota's adolescent sexual health report.