



Issues and Programs List
Quarterly Report

January – March 2023
1st Quarter

RADIO

Top Issues Addressed:

1. Politics
2. Health
3. Housing
4. Race Relations
5. Education

Representative Programs That Addressed Issues:

1. Politics

Political Rewind

GPB

Weekdays, 9am and repeated at 2pm

During this quarter, Political Rewind focused on the start of the 2023 Georgia Legislative session which begins with new leadership in both the House and Senate. The program also looked at the start of the second term for Gov. Brian Kemp, the continuing investigations into former Pres. Donald Trump, the status of COVID three years after the pandemic's start and controversies surrounding culture issues like abortion and care for transgender kids.

Political Rewind

GPB

January 9, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and his panel looked at the start of the new Georgia Legislative session. This year's term begins with a large and diverse freshman class, making up a fifth of the legislature, along with a new house leader, Rep. John Burns, and a new head of the Senate, Lt. Gov. Burt Jones. Today's start of the legislature is likely to be short, as many politicians plan to head to Los Angeles for tonight's college football national championship featuring the Georgia Bulldogs. Joining host Bill Nigut for today's show were *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political reporter Patricia Murphy; Emma Hurt, a reporter for *Axios Atlanta*; Margaret Coker, editor-in-chief of *The Current*; and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* government reporter Maya Prabhu.

Political Rewind

GPB

March 7, 2023, 9am and 2pm.

Today's *Political Rewind* focused on the winners and losers from yesterday's Crossover Day in the state legislature. That is the day in the annual session where proposed bills must pass either the House or Senate for any chance to eventually become law. Two different sports gambling bills failed to get the votes needed to move on, although panelists agreed that a proposal could be tacked on to another bill at the last minute to gain passage. Among the bills that do still have a chance at final passage are an expanded school voucher bill that would give parents \$6,000 for educational expenses and a bill that would prohibit doctors from prescribing hormone therapies or gender reassignment surgeries for Georgians under 18. Panelists today included *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* senior reporter Tamar Hallerman; Oglethorpe University professor of political science, Dr. Kendra King Momon; Republican consultant Leo Smith; and Democratic state Rep. Dave Wilkerson.

2. Health

Political Rewind

GPB

January 20, 2023. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On *Political Rewind* today, host Bill Nigut and his panel of health professionals looked back on the past 3 years of the COVID pandemic. Panelists agreed that the pandemic worsened healthcare disparities across Georgia. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black and Hispanic patients were treated with the therapeutic Paxlovid far less frequently than white patients. Black patients were already underserved before the pandemic. Black women face higher rates of maternal mortality, breast cancer, or other pregnancy-related causes, regardless of economic class. The group also agreed that the vaccine rollout confused the public, with fewer Georgians getting the recommended booster shots leading to more serious infections. And while people are still contracting the disease, it's a less severe variant than at the beginning of the crisis. Panelists included Professor Amber Schmidtke, a microbiologist and medical educator; Dr. Carlos del Rio, associate dean of the Emory School of Medicine and Grady Health System; and Professor Rodney Lyn, dean of the School of Public Health at Georgia State University.

Political Rewind

GPB

March 13, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and his panel looked at Republican efforts that would effect the healthcare of Georgians. Senate bill 140 passed the State Senate on a party-line vote. The bill would target and ban gender-affirming healthcare for minors in the state. Critics warn the bill would lead to worse mental health outcomes for children and eventual bans on gender-affirming care for adults. Over 500 health care providers in the state have come out in opposition to the proposal. Panelists today included Emory University professor of political science, Andra Gillespie; Georgia Equality executive director, Jeff Graham; *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political reporter, Patricia Murphy; and Emory University professor of political science, Bernard Fraga.

Political Rewind

GPB

March 22, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today's *Political Rewind* focused on Senate bill 99 which would allow governments or private non-profit groups to build hospitals in less populated counties without getting a Certificate of Need from the State Department of Community Health. The bill is controversial because Lt. Gov. Burt Jones is pushing for its approval, even though it could lead to a hospital being built on property owned by his father in Butts County, sparking concerns of a conflict of interest. Also discussed was final passage of a bill that would ban most types of gender-affirming care for transgender minors. That bill now heads to the Governor for his signature. Joining host Bill Nigut on today's show were *Atlanta Journal-*

Constitution political reporter Greg Bluestein; *Capital B* reporter Chauncey Alcorn; editor-in-chief of *The Current*, Margaret Coker; and GPB political reporter Stephen Fowler.

3. [Housing](#)

Political Rewind

GPB

February 2, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On a special edition of Political Rewind, host Bill Nigut welcomed *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* investigative journalists Alan Judd and Willoughby Mariano to the show to discuss their series "Dangerous Dwellings," an investigation into rundown apartment complexes and their effects on residents. Their year-long investigation showed more than 250 chronically dangerous apartment complexes beset by violent crime, and often, horrific living conditions including rats and garbage, leaking pipes and unmitigated mold that sickens many residents, particularly children. A majority of these complexes are owned by real estate moguls who did not live in the area. The reporters mentioned that currently there are no laws in Georgia setting minimum living standards for apartments, even though a recent AJC poll showed 90% supported legislation that would require rental properties to be safe, sanitary and fit for habitation.

Political Rewind

GPB

February 22, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Across metro Atlanta, corporations have bought up tens of thousands of homes, raising rents and pricing middle-class Georgians out of home ownership. Today's *Political Rewind* featured a special panel of journalists and government leaders who explained why the rent is so high. This comes on the heels of an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* series, "American Dream for Rent," which looked at why home ownership is out of reach for so many Georgians. The investigation showed large private equity firms buy up homes listed for under \$500,000 within hours of their listing. More than 65,000 homes were purchased by bulk buyers over the last decade, pushing small buyers out of the market and making it difficult to ensure property management makes necessary repairs. Joining guest host Kevin Riley, editor of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, to discuss this housing crisis were *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* government reporter Brian Eason; Republican House Majority leader Chuck Efstration; *The Atlanta Way* journalist and documentarian King Williams; and Democratic State Sen. Nikki Merritt.

4. [Race Relations](#)

Political Rewind

GPB

January 30, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today on *Political Rewind*, protestors gathered peacefully over the weekend after the release of four videos showing the brutal death of Tyre Nichols at the hands of Memphis police officers. Meanwhile, Gov. Brian Kemp and Mayor Andre Dickens coordinated to stem violent protest in Atlanta. The videos showed the five Memphis policemen fatally beat Nichols following a traffic stop. The officers were part of a “Scorpion” police unit that has now been disbanded. Politicians are again calling for police reform. Discussing the situation with host Bill Nigut were *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political reporter, Patricia Murphy; former state senator Jen Jordan; Republican insider Eric Tanenblatt; Clark Atlanta University political science professor, Tammy Greer.

5. Education

Political Rewind

GPB

February 28, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today on *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and his panel looked at the U.S. Supreme Court which is about to hear oral arguments on the student debt relief plan proposed by Pres. Joe Biden. Six Republican-led states have filed suit to block the plan, which would forgive student loans under \$20,000. The case could affect 16 million Americans, including 1 million Georgians who have applied for Biden’s program. More than 600,000 Georgians have already been approved for the forgiveness. Taking part in the discussion were *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* senior reporter, Tamar Hallerman; *Washington Post* democracy reporter, Matt Brown; Emory University professor emeritus of political science, Alan Abramowitz; and University of Georgia professor of political science, Charles Bullock.

Political Rewind

GPB

March 15, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today’s *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and his panel examined the legislature’s vote to reject Gov. Brian Kemp’s proposal that would have fully funded Georgia’s Hope Scholarship. Originally, the scholarship provided a free college education to all Georgians, but budget issues forced the legislature to limit full funding only to students with a high grade point average. While the governor wanted to return full funding, members of the legislature said they want to continue the incentive that rewards students with a G.P.A. of 3.7 or higher. Joining today’s discussion were *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political reporter Greg Bluestein; Associated Press national politics reporter, Meg Kinnard; WABE political reporter Rahul Bali; and CEO of *Mundo Now*, Rene Alegria.

