



Issues and Programs List
Quarterly Report
3rd Quarterly 2020

July – August - September

Radio

Top 5 Issues Addressed:

1. Politics
2. Health
3. Education
4. Race / Civil Rights
5. Law Enforcement

Representative Programs That Addressed Issues:

1. Politics

Political Rewind

GPB

Weekdays, 9am and repeated at 2pm

As would be expected during a major election year, *Political Rewind* tackled a number of important issues during the quarter – from problems at the polls during the June state primary to racial unrest to schooling during a pandemic to all of the other implications of a major health issue. And, of course, there was a focus on the candidates running for office this year, particularly with 2 Senate races in Georgia in addition to the Presidential race and numerous Congressional and local races. Some of the specific topics addressed are listed below.

Political Rewind

GPB

August 17-21 and August 24-28, 2020, 9am and repeated at 2pm each day.

Political Rewind devoted two weeks of the program to in-depth coverage of the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. In an unusual year with socially distant attendance and remote speeches, host Bill Nigut and our panels of political experts explored each day's events and how they may impact the national election and the effects on politics in Georgia.

On Second Thought

GPB

August 7, 2020, 11am. Repeated August 8, 2020 at 7am and August 9, 2020 at 11am.

Americans rank the United States Postal Service as their favorite federal agency, and it's one of the few agencies mandated in the Constitution. Over the years, USPS has been hit hard by the confluence of multiple recessions: first the advent of the internet, email and instant messaging; then COVID-19; and, increasingly, politics.

Cost-cutting procedures implemented after the appointment of new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy have customers complaining of delayed or degraded service. These concerns are echoed by the American Postal Workers Union itself, as well as voters looking ahead to the Nov. 3 election, when more mail-in ballots will likely be used to decide the election than ever before.

Aaron Gordon, a journalist for *VICE*, and Kevin Kosar, vice president of research partnerships for R Street Institute, joined *On Second Thought* host Virginia Prescott to discuss the USPS' challenges, and what it might mean if Americans' trust in the agency erodes during this crucial and unprecedented time in its service.

Political Rewind

GPB

September 16, 2020, 9am and repeated at 2pm

Today on *Political Rewind*, the latest pandemic and election 2020 news in Georgia.

The Trump campaign is running new television spots here in the Peach State. The focus is on the economy, and not the law and order message the President has pushed in recent weeks.

And politics has harmed the reputation of the Center for Disease Control. Can the agency continue to be effective despite the distractions of politics?

Host Bill Nigut discussed these topics and more with Greg Bluestein, Politics Reporter with *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*; Jackie Cushman, Author and Republican strategist; Howard Franklin, Democratic Consultant and Managing Partner of Ohio River South; and Ryan Grahma, Chairman of the Georgia Libertarian Party.

2. Health

Political Rewind

GPB

July 9, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today on *Political Rewind*, coronavirus case numbers soar in Georgia and across the country even as some facet of American life has begun to reopen. While the death rates reported for the virus have gone down, Georgia has now broken 100,000 cases with the rate of new infection doubling from just two weeks ago.

Host Bill Nigut discussed the latest with two top public health experts from Georgia State University.

Interim Dean Rodney Lyn of GSU's School of Public Health said officials need to consider fact-based evidence when making decisions about policy.

"Many of the laws that we have and the requirements that we have for the public are about protecting others," he said. "Some of it is about protecting the individual engaged in a behavior but so often it's about protecting other people in the community."

We discussed the latest trends in the pandemic's numbers, and what recent data might mean for those hoping for a quick end to the lock down.

The other guest was Harry Heiman, Associate Professor of the GSU School of Public Health

Political Rewind

GPB

July 21, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today on *Political Rewind*, we took a deeper look at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. In recent months, the agency has been at the center of the headlines.

For a clearer perspective of the CDC's role in our current public health emergency, we looked back at the role of public health officials in past crisis.

"Infectious diseases is just one thing the CDC protects us from." public health expert Dr. Mark Rosenberg said. "Hepatitis, HIV and Zika and Swine Flu; these are just a few of the things."

Host Bill Nigut was joined by Tamar Hallerman, senior reporter for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and Dr. Mark Rosenberg, Public Health Leader and Former-CEO of Task Force for Global Health

On Second Thought

GPB

August 27, 2020, 11am. Repeated August 28, 2020, 7am and August 29, 2020, 11am.

Last weekend, Georgia hit a grim milestone with 5,000 deaths from COVID-19 and related illnesses, surpassing all other conditions aside from heart disease and cancer, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It's been widely reported that infections and deaths are disproportionately higher among people of color, but studies published in the Journal of American Medical Association, or JAMA, reveal an even sharper contrast in low-income non-white communities, where residents died of the virus at more than nine times the rate of residents of largely white, more affluent areas.

On Second Thought host Virginia Prescott sat down with Dr. Heval Kelli, a cardiologist focused on prevention and health advocacy for underserved and refugee communities in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

"I grew up in one of the poorest communities in Atlanta, and I remember I was afraid to get sick," Kelli said, recalling that he would sometimes ignore symptoms of an illness out of fear of losing his job or a paycheck. "I understand this challenge, and now I'm a physician on other side," he said. "I'm trying to figure out a way to help people focus on prevention. Maybe if we could prevent people from getting the infection, they're not going to be losing their job."

3. Education

On Second Thought

GPB

July 30, 2020, 11am. Repeated July 31, 2020 at 7am and August 1, 2020 at 11am.

For a special edition of "On Second Thought," we invited a panel to discuss one central question: are Georgia schools prepared to support youth mental health in the coming school year?

This back-to-school season is unlike any other in history. COVID-19 has put government and education leaders at odds in Georgia and across the country over whether in-person, virtual, or some hybrid of the two is the best and safest choice for educating students this coming school year.

While this urgent debate has been settled in many districts, the resulting anxiety and confusion for students, parents and administrators compounds months of disruption, isolation and insecurity.

Even before the pandemic, access to mental health care and resources for youth was a concern in Georgia, which ranks 47th out of 50 states for access to mental health care and resources for the general population. But as the pandemic compounds stressors, pushing well-being to the limit over the last five months, providers predict things will get worse as students transition back to school.

On Second Thought collaborated with American Public Media's "Call to Mind" initiative, a national program to encourage new conversations about mental health, to put together a panel to discuss one central question: are Georgia schools prepared to support student mental health under these circumstances?

Dr. Erica Fener Sitkoff, executive director of Voices for Georgia's Children; Dr. Sarah Vinson, founder of the Lorio Psych Group and associate clinical professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at Morehouse School of Medicine; and Dr. Roy Reese, psychologist and director of Behavioral Health at Akoma Counseling and Consulting, joined *On Second Thought* host Virginia Prescott to shed light on the

pandemic's impact and discuss challenges, concerns and hopes for managing mental health as Georgia — and the nation — head back to school.

Political Rewind

GPB

August 10, 2020, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today on *Political Rewind*, schools across Georgia are attempting to adapt to the semester as coronavirus continues to be a public health emergency. A patchwork of different policy decisions by school districts show that there is no clear consensus on how to move forward.

Some schools have already begun classes, while others begin in the next few weeks. We checked-in on the latest developments as parents, children, teachers and administrators struggle with what to do.

Discussing the issue with host Bill Nigut were Sarah Riggs Amico, former U.S. Senate Candidate; Maureen Downey, Education Columnist, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*; GPB Radio reporter Ellen Eldridge and Jim Galloway, Lead Political writer of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

Political Rewind

GPB

July 7, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Tuesday on *Political Rewind* education experts joined guest host Donna Lowry for a conversation about the uncertainty over the coming school year. Many families are wondering what schooling will look like in just a few months.

Under a cloud of the pandemic, school systems are asking parents to decide whether to send their children back to classrooms or continue online learning.

The American Academy of Pediatrics "strongly advocates" for students to be "physically present in school" this fall, but only "if it's safe." Some school districts have released their reopening plans, with many including a hybrid plan of students in school and home learning virtually.

But Ty Tagami, education reporter for *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, said students in many counties outside of the metro Atlanta area face challenges when it comes to those who learn from home.

"A lot of school districts don't have some of the advantages we have in metro Atlanta, namely technology, broadband access, so many school districts don't have it," said Tagami.

Dr. Stephen Owens, with the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, said budget cuts risk exacerbating the situation.

"The uncertainty of how many students will be in the classroom is compounded by the uncertainty for schools caused by a nearly \$1 billion cut in K-12 education," Dr. Owens said. "This is a crisis that will be with our schools for a number of years."

Other guests included Dr. Stephen Owens, Senior Policy Analyst with the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute and Amy McCoy Dees, chair of the Coweta County School Board.

4. Race / Civil Rights

Political Rewind

GPB

July 29, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today on *Political Rewind*, the body of Congressman John Lewis returned to Georgia today as the nation celebrated the life of a civil rights icon.

Former Congressman Buddy Darden served with Lewis when he first came to Washington.

Darden said Lewis built a reputation for hard work and keeping his work. According to Buddy, Lewis would often say, "The best politics is doing your job."

Other panelists joining host Bill Nigut were Donna Lowry, host of GPB T-V's *Lawmakers* program, Tharon Johnson, founder and CEO, Paramount Consulting, and Joe Crespino, Professor of American History at Emory University.

Georgia Today

GPB

September 4, 2020, 6:30pm

The popular GPB Radio podcast, Georgia Today, became a weekly radio program on Friday evenings this quarter. The program is hosted by Steve Fennessy. On today's show, in many ways, the WNBA is a trailblazer when it comes to political activism. Some players are even sitting out the entire season in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. The Atlanta Dream has been particularly vocal, which has set it in direct opposition with one of the franchise's owners, U.S. Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R-Georgia). *Washington Post* sports reporter Candace Buckner discusses how Loeffler is looking to score political points by speaking out against her very own players.

Political Rewind

GPB

July 10, 2020. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today on *Political Rewind*, a look at recent violence in Atlanta and the political backlash. The unrest is featuring already in the politics of the day. How will these events play out in the months leading up to November?

Atlanta City Council President Felicia Moore said the situation is being played for political points.

"They are attaching themselves, on both sides, to issues that are getting them the attention that they want that can get their message out and hopefully rally up their base," Moore said.

Other guests on the program, joining host Bill Nigut, were Jim Galloway, Lead Political Writer with *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Republican strategist Edward Lindsey, and Patricia Murphy, Capitol Reporter for GPB T-V's *Lawmakers*

5. Law Enforcement

Georgia Today

GPB

August 14, 2020, 6:30pm.

In 2017, a man named Eurie Martin died after he was tasered by sheriff's deputies in Washington County, Georgia. The case, which is now being considered by the Georgia Supreme Court, could have major implications on policing and the state's Stand Your Ground law. Georgia Today host Steve Fennessy walked through the case with GPB reporter Grant Blankenship.

Political Rewind

GPB

August 31, 2020, 9am, repeated at 2pm.

Today on *Political Rewind*, activists have been discussing the role of police in society for a long time. But recent police violence across the country has given the movement to change policing new momentum. While polls show that the majority of Americans are now sympathetic to the Black Lives

Matter movement, many are skeptical of calls to defund police. But what would it mean to defund and redistribute police budgets, as some activists endorse? Host Bill Nigut discussed this with Rusty Paul,

Mayor of Sandy Springs; Tiffany Williams Roberts, Community Engagement Counsel for the Southern Center for Human Rights; Fred Smith, Professor of Constitutional Law at Emory University; and Jim Galloway, Lead Political Writer for *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.