

# **WJBM RADIO**

## **QUARTERLY ISSUES**

### **STATEMENT OF PROBLEMS AND HOW THEY ARE ADDRESSED**

**Filed January 6, 2021  
Period October 1, through December 31, 2020**

## PUBLIC FILE QUARTERLY ISSUES

WJBM has found through personal contact in the community that the following issues need to be addressed on an ongoing basis.

1. **COVID-19** Health risks, cancellation of events, fundraisers, and even church services has caused disruption of lives throughout our listening area
2. **ELECTION** WJBM works to cover the candidates for office. This applies to local, state and federal candidates. We also cover related stories, such as robo calling reaching local residents.
3. **EMERGENCY COVERAGE** TV is available from the neighboring St. Louis area, but resources are limited for covering local emergencies. This affects people while the emergency is in progress and also in the aftermath.
4. **SCHOOL NEWS** The activities at schools seem to always be expressed as important. School funding in Illinois is also a statewide topic and that shows up in local concerns as well. Covid cancellations and season postponements.
5. **RECREATION AND TOURISM** Our area is a part of The Great Rivers & Routes Tourist Bureau and WJBM covers their press releases and all issues ties to area tourism.
6. **RELIGION** People express their concerns of getting information out to the community about the church activities. There are concerns over numbers of members in the churches, and the effects of aging on participation in the churches and parishes in the community.
7. **SOCIAL SERVICES** With changes in the medicare program, access to the program has become a widely discussed topic. Access to social programs and also the lack of knowledge about what is available is also expressed.
8. **FUEL & ENERGY COSTS** Many households in this market are dependant on sizable job commutes. Also the farming community is heavily impacted by high fuel prices. The concerns extend into home heating and cooling as well.
9. **HEALTH** Western Illinois residents have a continuing concern about health issues beyond covid-29. As a rural community many are self employed. This raises concerns about insurance. Many are not insured, many more are self insured. Access to rural health care is also a consistent concern.
10. **LOCAL NEWS** There is no daily newspaper printed within the market area of WJBM, (Greene, Jersey and Calhoun Counties). This gives WJBM coverage of local news, alerts, boil orders, emergency announcements added importance.

## **PUBLIC FILE – PROBLEMS ADDRESSED**

This is a listing of what WJBM is doing to meet the needs of the local community address in the quarterly issues list.

1. WJBM covers the stories dealing with drug access. The state of Illinois is debating raising the age for young people accessing tobacco products and at the same time is dealing with legalizing marijuana.
2. People in general come away confused when dealing with the various social service programs that are available, but many go unused. We air programs that help direct those needing services to those that either provide the service or provide information about them.
3. Covid-19 has been disruptive to everyone's activities and has been life threatening to many, With cases beginning to show up in our listening area WJBM is working with county health department and Illinois state agencies to cover developments.
4. We air a combination of news and public affairs programs that deal with the health care issues of the community. Daily newscasts feature the stories on health services, times and dates for clinics, and general reports on health news. Our local hospital also does a long form interview program every week that goes into detail about health issues.
5. We offer long form programs that also serve as interview time on the air to more fully explain the services. We carry local newscasts on the hour at 6am, 7am, 8am, and noon.
6. We have established our programming to be a first choice for emergency information in our region. We have made direct connections with the officials at the Health Department and the Hospital to get Hazmat reports on the air immediately in the event of an emergency that could be associated with response to rail, barge, air, or truck disasters.
7. We carry a program each morning (when families are preparing for the day), that shares the information on area school newsletters, their calendar of events, and also the school breakfast and lunch menus. We dedicate time in our local newscasts that publicizes the upcoming school board meetings.
8. Robo calls have been plaguing Illinois residents for the election. People want to know that it is being addressed by officials.
9. During the time after storm damage has hit areas within our coverage we have reported any variety of news stories, ranging from road closures, power outages and related information to help in the recovery. We also broadcast weather alerts extensively in advance of threatening weather.
10. We broadcast a comprehensive array of farm related programs, with over 100 each week. To offer various perspectives and to get the complete story to our listeners we are affiliated with these networks, Brownfield Farm Network, RFD Radio Network, Doane-Agritalk, and the tribune radio network. The combination of all of these networks is designed to give farmers a broad perspective on the changing marketplace,

President Donald Trump says he is considering commuting the sentence of ex-Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

The comments came aboard Air Force One on Thursday after he announced on Twitter that he planned to pardon conservative commentator Dinesh D'Souza.

Trump tells reporters that Blagojevich said something dumb but that "lots of politicians" do and thinks his sentence is excessive.

The former governor began serving his 14-year prison sentence on corruption convictions in 2012. His scheduled release date is 2024. Blagojevich was also a contestant on Trump's "Celebrity Apprentice" reality television show in 2010.

A BILL RAISING THE LEGAL AGE TO BUY TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO 21 FAILED IN THE ILLINOIS HOUSE TUESDAY.

SUPPORTERS SAY THIS WILL LOWER THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO PICK UP THE HABIT AND END UP WITH SMOKING-RELATED ILLNESSES. BUT OPPONENTS... LIKE REPRESENTATIVE JEANNE IVES, SAY 18 YEAR OLD'S ARE MATURE ENOUGH TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS. SHE ALSO POINTS OUT THIS BILL ONLY APPLIES TO BUYING SMOKE.

Play "nuzcrt.wav"

THE BILL COULD COME UP FOR A VOTE AGAIN IF THERE APPEARS TO BE ENOUGH SUPPORT THE SECOND TIME AROUND.

STATE LAWMAKERS HAVE APPROVED AN OVERHAUL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS PROCESS.

UNDER THE BILL... THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL CAN INVESTIGATE CLAIMS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT WITHOUT HAVING TO FIRST GO THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMISSION. IT'S SPONSORED BY SENATOR MELINDA BUSH.

Play "nuzcrt3.wav"

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE VICTIM AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE COMPLAINT. THE BILL NOW GOES TO THE GOVERNOR.

---

STATE LAWMAKERS HAVE APPROVED AN OVERHAUL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS PROCESS.

THE BILL AIMS TO MAKE THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL MORE AUTONOMOUS, BUT LETTING THEM INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT WITHOUT HAVING TO FIRST GET APPROVAL FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMISSION. SENATOR KAREN MCCONNAUGHAY WORKED ON THE LEGISLATION AND APPLAUDS THE EFFORT.

Play "nuzcrt4.wav"

THE BILL ALSO SETS UP A FOUR PERSON SEARCH COMMITTEE MADE UP OF FORMER PROSECUTORS OR JUDGES TO FIND A PERMANENT INSPECTOR GENERAL. IT STILL MUST BE SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE GOVERNOR.

The Jersey County State's Attorney has been charged with driving under the influence. Ben Goetten was stopped at around 10pm last Friday and charged with improper lane usage. He was subsequently charged with a DUI, improper lane usage, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Goetten issued a statement saying he has retained legal counsel and does not expect to be treated any differently under the circumstances. Goetten is running unopposed in the upcoming election. Goetten has a court appearance scheduled for December 1.

Illinois now has more than 240,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and more than 81-hundred deaths related to the virus. The state passed both milestones Thursday, as it added 1,360 new confirmed cases and an additional 25 fatalities to its total. After a slowdown in receiving test results over the last couple of days, Illinois reported more than 40,000 tests on Thursday. Region 3, which includes the Tri County area, got some good news, as its seven-day average rate of positive tests fell below five-percent for the first time in more than a month. Jersey County now has a total of 291 positive cases. 124 are active, 161 have recovered. In Greene County, there is now 137 cases. 37 are active, 99 have recovered. The Calhoun County total of positive cases is 35. 9 are active, 26 have recovered.

Some Illinoisans are getting automated phone calls that appear designed to discourage them from voting by mail. Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul says the robocalls falsely claim that private information from those who vote by mail may be used to identify people with outstanding warrants or collection notices, or to force people to submit to mandatory vaccines. Raoul says personal voter information is not shared with any other agency... and says anyone who gets such a call should disregard it, or report it to the Attorney General's Office or the State Board of Elections.

More than 125 labor unions across Illinois are expressing their support for the state constitutional amendment to create a progressive income tax. The Illinois AFL-CIO, the Illinois Federation of Teachers, SEIU Healthcare and others say it's unfair for working men and women to pay the same tax rate as millionaires. They say Illinois should adopt the progressive tax, where those who make more can be charged a higher tax rate. Both supporters and opponents of the amendment are expected to make a high-profile push on the airwaves and online in the weeks leading up to the November election.

Illinoisans who shifted to telecommuting have reclaimed nearly five hours of their lives each week. About 1 in 4 employed people teleworked or worked from home for pay because of the coronavirus pandemic, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics data from July. That's a decline from May, when nearly one-third of the workforce was working from home, not counting those who already were. CoPilot, a car shopping app, analyzed pre-pandemic commuter data from the U.S. Census and found Illinoisans spent an average of 4.9 hours commuting to and from work every week, working more than 43 hours. A Brookings study found that workers would take an 8 percent pay cut to work from home.

Expect to see more police out on the roads this holiday weekend. State and local police are boosting patrols as part of the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. Police will also be on the lookout for speeders, distracted drivers and those not buckled up.

Jersey and Greene counties remain at Warning Level for coronavirus. The Illinois Department of Public Health today reported 29 counties are considered to be at a warning level for COVID-19. A county enters a warning level when two or more COVID-19 risk indicators ~~that measure the amount of COVID-19~~ increase. One of those indicators is the positivity rate for tests conducted. In Jersey County the rate is 8.5%. The Greene County rate is 10.6%. Both are down from last week, but still above the 8% target. The metrics are updated weekly, from the Sunday-Saturday of the prior week.

Republican lawmakers are looking to get more of their Democratic colleagues to sign up for a bill that would provide a check on a governor's executive authority. State Rep. Tim Butler said his House Bill 5780 should be brought up during the fall session, which is after the November election. He said his bill would force the governor to work with the Legislature and be more collaborative on responding to a pandemic.

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced today it has received the Excel Award, the top honor for communications work from the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials. The recognition from fellow state departments of transportation in the TransComm Skills Awards was for the ongoing Life or Death Illinois multimedia campaign. Life or Death Illinois debuted in 2018 as the first comprehensive approach by IDOT to reduce injuries and fatalities associated with motorcycles, bicycles, pedestrians, seat-belt use and work zones as well as impaired and distracted driving. An element on Scott's Law was created in 2019. More information, including materials developed across a variety of platforms, can be found at [www.LifeorDeathIllinois.com](http://www.LifeorDeathIllinois.com).

The back and forth continues between the IHSA and Governor this week. First the governor says the basketball season will be put on hold, then the IHSA counters that the season will start Nov. 16 and then the governor comes back announcing the season will be pushed to the spring. But IHSA executive director Craig Anderson says basketball can be played safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. He says that's why the IHSA board of directors voted this week to defy the wishes of Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health and move forward with a season.

Play "news2.wav"

Anderson says some school districts may choose to opt out of playing this season. For those that elect to play, boys and girls basketball practices are scheduled to begin November 16, while the season opens November 30.

The president and CEO of the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau is leaving to take a similar position in Texas.

Brett Stawar --- who has spent 16 years at the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau --- will lead a Tourism Bureau & Chamber of Commerce located near Corpus Christi, Texas. His last day at the local bureau will be August 13.

The Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau covers a six county region that includes Jersey, Greene and Calhoun counties locally.

A search committee will be appointed and an interim CEO will be selected as well.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum welcomed its five millionth visitor just days after the museum reopened to the public.

Visitor No. 5,000,000 was Regina Padgett of Orlando, Fla. She received a family membership in the presidential library's foundation and \$150 worth of gifts from the museum store and the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The museum opened April 19, 2005. The museum was closed for three-months due to during the coronavirus pandemic.

STATE OFFICIALS ARE URGING EVERYONE TO TAKE COVID SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AS THEY CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN THIS WEEKEND.

GOVERNOR J-B PRITZKER SAYS FAMILIES AND PARTIERS NEED TO REMEMBER WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A PANDEMIC, AND TO MAKE CHOICES THAT WILL HELP PREVENT SPREAD OF COVID-19.

Play "nuzcrt.wav"

IF YOU'RE KIDS ARE TRICK OR TREATING, IT'S RECOMMENDED THEY ONLY DO SO WITH HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS. FOR THOSE HANDING OUT CANDY, IT'S RECOMMENDED YOU LEAVE INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED TREATS ON A TABLE OUTSIDE. KIDS SHOULD NOT EAT THEIR CANDY UNTIL THEY'VE THOROUGHLY WASHED THEIR HANDS.

Daily Illinois coronavirus cases are over 1,000 for the second day in a row.

There were 1,317 new confirmed cases of coronavirus reported Friday bringing the total to 151,767. There also were 25 deaths bringing that total to 7,144.

The positivity rate over the past 7 days is now up to 2.9% up about half a percent from last week.

Locally, Jersey County is now reporting 41 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Small Central Illinois nonprofits that specialize in food and housing assistance are being encouraged to apply for grants under the state's Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund, a biannual program administered by the Illinois State Treasurer's Office intended to support nonprofits across the state with annual budgets of \$1 million or less.

The Treasurer's Office recently announced that it will double the number of recipients for the fall 2020 grant cycle in response to challenges related to COVID-19.

The Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund will offer a total of \$375,000 to be split between 30 nonprofits. The maximum award amount is \$12,500 for each organization.

Applications will be accepted now through Sept. 30 in two categories: Food Programs and Housing Programs.

Applicants will need to complete the online application at [ilcharitabletrust.com](http://ilcharitabletrust.com).

A state retailers' association says while the state gears up to dole out federal aid to local businesses, it's not listening to things Illinois' business community says needs to be done to foster greater growth, let alone live with pandemic regulations. Greg Bishop reports.

Play "nuzcrt9.wav"

---

A state retailers' association says while the state gears up to dole out federal aid to local businesses, it's not listening to things Illinois' business community says needs to be done to foster greater growth, let alone live with pandemic regulations. Greg Bishop reports.

Play "nuzcrt9.wav"