

WRMR-FM, Wilmington, NC (98.7)  
QUARTERLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ISSUES  
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS  
**1st QUARTER 2022**

The following is a list of issues and concerns for 1st Quarter 2022, and addresses in Public Affairs Programming, Public Service Announcements, Community Involvement and special programming on WRMR-FM.

1. POVERTY
2. ENVIROMENT
3. DOMESTIC TERRORISM
4. HEALTH
5. JUSTICE
6. CONGRESS
7. EDUCATION
8. INSURANCE
9. DMV
10. POLITICS

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Signature

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Date

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS**

During January, February and March, WRMR-FM broadcast 13 hours of Public Affairs Programming on Sundays from 6:00AM-7:00AM.

**NEWS & VIEWS WITH CHRIS FITZSIMON** is a 30-minute program, focusing on state policy issues that air Sundays at 6:00AM.

**North Carolina Newsmakers** is a 30 minute program focusing on state and local issues with Nancy Benson and Reed Pence that airs Sundays and 6:30AM.

## **2022 1st QUARTER ISSUES**

### **1. POVERTY**

UNC Law School examines the scandal of child poverty and hunger in North Carolina.

### **2. ENVIROMENT**

The environmental crisis confronting our state, nation, and planet figure to grow even more daunting in 2022.

### **3. DOMESTIC TERRORISM**

America marked the one-year anniversary of the deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol last week with a number of commemorative events across the country.

### **4. HEALTH**

We're now closing in on the two-year anniversary of the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. and thanks to the recent rise of the extremely contagious omicron variant of the virus, it's clear we're not out of the woods yet

### **5. JUSTICE**

The issue of political gerrymandering has been much in the news of late across the country with the enactment by several state legislatures – including North Carolina's

### **6. CONGRESS**

Since it was established 233 years ago, 115 justices have served on the U.S. Supreme Court. Of that number, 108 have been white men – a group that today represents just 28% of the U.S. population.

### **7. EDUCATION**

When school choice advocates sold state lawmakers on the supposed benefits of charter schools back in the 1990's, they promised that loose oversight would allow the schools to serve as "laboratories of innovation" for the entire education system

## **8. INSURANCE**

, 38 U.S. states have taken advantage of the law to expand their Medicaid programs to cover millions of Americans who had been trapped in the coverage gap – with incomes too low to afford private insurance and too high to qualify for public subsidies.

## **9. DMV**

A few years' back, civil rights groups sued the North Carolina DMV over its longstanding and hugely destructive practice of suspending the driver's licenses of people who couldn't afford the cost of traffic tickets.

## **10. POLITICS**

Another election year is upon us and now that the state's gerrymandered electoral maps have been made at least somewhat fairer, the 2022 primary election is less than two months away.

## **PROGRAMMING:**

### **1. POVERTY**

#### **News & Views for January 2, 2022**

Guests: Prof. Gene Nichol and Heather Hunt of the N.C. Poverty Research Fund at UNC Law School

A new report from researchers Gene Nichol and Heather Hunt of the N.C. Poverty Research Fund at UNC Law School examines the scandal of child poverty and hunger in North Carolina. The report is called "The persistent and pervasive challenge of child poverty and hunger in North Carolina," and in it, Nichol and Hunt delve into the sobering facts and data surrounding this persistently dire situation and present numerous powerful observations and human stories shared by an array of interviewees with firsthand experience in serving people in need.

Though it tells a sobering story, this report constitutes the latest in a long line of 'must reads' from the Nichol/Hunt team and deserves to be an essential resource for local, state and federal policymakers, human service providers, advocates, academics, journalists, and all North Carolinians who desire to make their state a better place to live.

Recently, I caught up with Nichol and Hunt for an extended conversation and in Part One we discussed some of sobering statistics from their report – including the remarkable fact that one-in-five North Carolina children are living in poverty.

In Part Two of our conversation, Nichol and Hunt related some of the stories and observations they collected from a number of heroic service providers working to combat poverty in our state and also shared their take some current law and policy debates – like the longstanding Leandro school funding case and proposals to extend the federal child tax credit – with the potential to make a real impact on the problem.

## **2. ENVIROMENT**

### **News and Views for January 9, 2022**

Guest: NC Policy Watch environmental investigative reporter Lisa Sorg

One wishes it weren't so, but it's beyond debate at this point that the environmental crisis confronting our state, nation, and planet figure to grow even more daunting in 2022. Whether it's the global climate emergency and the massive new demands it's placing on public infrastructure, the rapidly expanding problem of water polluted with PFAS, or the unintended consequences of even well-meaning plans like the effort to convert hog waste to biogas, environmental challenges (and the policy debates to which they give rise) will be much in the news in the coming year.

Fortunately for North Carolinians, we're lucky to have one the of the nation's best and most experienced environmental journalists closely monitoring these issues in NC Policy Watch environmental reporter, Lisa Sorg. And earlier this week we caught up with Lisa to take a brief look ahead at some of the issues she'll be watching closely in the new year.

### **3. DOMESTIC TERRORISM**

#### **News and Views for January 16, 2022**

Guests: Congressman David Price and Professor David Schanzer, a Duke University expert in domestic terrorism

America marked the one-year anniversary of the deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol last week with a number of commemorative events across the country.

In Washington, there were moments of silence on the floors of both the House and Senate, followed by calls to heal a divided nation.

One of the most thoughtful reflections on the January 6th incursion came in a special online conversation hosted by veteran North Carolina Congressman David Price with Duke University Professor David Schanzer of the Sanford School of Public Policy. Schanzer is also the Director of the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security.

Professor Schanzer believes that what we witnessed that day was evidence of a growing domestic terrorist movement, with Donald Trump using incendiary rhetoric to stoke violence and overturn the legitimate results of the 2020 presidential election. Price and Schanzer discuss why events of that day cannot be dismissed and how current moves in state legislatures could be used to block legitimate votes from being counted. Both men also discuss risks to our democracy if the truth of the January 6th incursion is not made widely public. The bipartisan House Select Committee investigating the January 6 Capitol Hill riots is expected to release an interim report on the events later this summer.

#### **4. HEALTH**

##### **News and Views for JANUARY 22, 2022**

Guest: Veteran health policy journalist Rose Hoban

We're now closing in on the two-year anniversary of the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. and thanks to the recent rise of the extremely contagious omicron variant of the virus, it's clear we're not out of the woods yet. Indeed, the latest reports from public health officials show that North Carolina is shattering previous records for infections and hospitalizations and it's quite possible that the death rate could spike to new heights as well in the coming days.

And while many people have taken some solace from the fact that many infected individuals are displaying less severe symptoms than with previous COVID variants, this may not be a function of the virus itself. As veteran health policy journalist Rose Hoban of North Carolina Health News told us in a conversation we had earlier this week, there's reason to suspect that widespread vaccinations and other advances we've made in treatment are likely what's been saving us of late from a truly catastrophic situation.

#### **5. JUSTICE**

##### **News and Views for JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup> 2022**

Guest: Attorney Yurij Rudensky of the Brennan Center for Justice  
The issue of political gerrymandering has been much in the news of late across the country with the enactment by several state legislatures – including North Carolina's – of maps designed to rig electoral outcomes and disenfranchise voters of color. Proposed legislation in Washington would have gone a long way toward ending this noxious practice, but it ultimately came up short thanks to the Senate's arcane filibuster rule.

Recently, in order to get a better handle on where things stand – including in North Carolina where the state Supreme Court will hear a challenge this week to the state's new legislative and congressional maps, we caught up with one of the nation's top experts on the subject – attorney and redistricting specialist Yurij Rudensky of the New York-based Brennan Center for Justice.

## **6. CONGRESS**

### **News and Views for FEBRUARY 6TH, 2022**

Guest: Congresswoman Deborah Ross

Last January 3rd, Raleigh lawyer Deborah Ross was sworn in to her first term in Congress, and to describe the 13 intervening months as extraordinary would be an understatement. Between the U.S. Capitol insurrection, the pandemic, the political strife fomented by former President Trump, the blatant gerrymandering undertaken by North Carolina Republicans, and dozens of other controversies, Ross has endured a unique initiation to Washington politics.

To her great credit, however, Ross has coped with this challenging situation by turning her office into a veritable beehive of activity. Not only has she spoken out on scores of issues, helped funnel millions in federal relief to North Carolina, and provided service to remarkable number of constituents, she's actually sponsored and passed legislation into law – something that's extremely rare for a first-year lawmaker.

Earlier this week, the congresswoman took a few minutes from her busy schedule to share with us some of her reflections on this tumultuous past year as well as some of the issues on the policy front burner at the start of 2022. Issues discussed: pandemic, economic recovery, redistricting, the U.S. Supreme Court's vacancy, and the future of the Equal Rights Amendment.

## **7. EDUCATION**

### **News and Views for February 14, 2022**

Guest: NC Policy Watch education reporter Greg

When school choice advocates sold state lawmakers on the supposed benefits of charter schools back in the 1990's, they promised that loose oversight would allow the schools to serve as "laboratories of innovation" for the entire education system.

The reality, unfortunately, has turned out quite different. While some charters do fine work, few innovations have seeped into traditional schools. What's more, a number of charters have run into serious problems.

Recently, NC Policy Watch education reporter Greg Childress reported on an eastern North Carolina charter called Three Rivers



Academy that allegedly padded enrollment numbers, paid families so students would attend class, fudged student records, and took other troubling actions to keep state funds flowing. Earlier this week, we sat down with Childress to discuss the situation at Three Rivers and why state officials are so concerned.

## **8. INSURANCE**

### **News and Views for February 20, 2022**

Guest: Senator Mike Woodard

It's been almost a decade now since President Obama and a Democratic Congress enacted the Affordable Care Act. Since that time, 38 U.S. states have taken advantage of the law to expand their Medicaid programs to cover millions of Americans who had been trapped in the coverage gap – with incomes too low to afford private insurance and too high to qualify for public subsidies.

Unfortunately, North Carolina Republican legislative leaders have kept our state as one of the holdouts – a decision that's left hundreds of thousands of working people uninsured and led to thousands of premature deaths. Now, however things may finally be changing. A GOP-led legislative committee is looking at finally expanding Medicaid in our state and recently we got a chance to get an update on this issue -- as well as the latest on redistricting and the pandemic -- with veteran Durham County-based state Senator, Mike Woodard.

## **9. DMV**

### **News and Views for MARCH 13TH, 2022**

Guest: Dr. Peter Morris, Executive Director of Urban Ministries of Wake County

One of the organizations that's truly on the frontlines in the ongoing battle against poverty in our community is Urban Ministries of Wake County. Now celebrating its 40th year of combating hunger, homelessness and lack of access to health care, Urban Ministries serves thousands of North Carolina's most vulnerable residents with an array of vital services that many can

find in no other place. Not surprisingly, the challenges of performing this difficult work have only been enhanced during the pandemic, but as the organization's executive director, Dr. Peter Morris, told us earlier this month, COVID-19 has also brought out the best in a lot of Urban Ministries friends and supporters.

## **10. POLITICS**

### **News and Views for March 27TH, 2022**

Guest: Meredith College political scientist and pollster David McLennan

Well, another election year is upon us and now that the state's gerrymandered electoral maps have been made at least somewhat fairer, the 2022 primary election is less than two months away.

And while the gaps between Democrats and Republicans appear to remain as wide as ever, they aren't the only divisions that will be on display for voters in the coming weeks. In the GOP, for instance, candidates loyal to Donald Trump and his outrageous claims about the 2020 election and admiration for Vladimir Putin will do battle in some instances with those who reject such extreme stances.

Earlier this week we sat down for a special two-part conversation with one of the state's top electoral observers, Meredith College political science professor and pollster, David McLennan. In Part One of our chat, McLennan shared his thoughts on, among other things the Democratic and GOP Senate primaries and some of the key races in the state's newly configured congressional map.

In Part Two of our conversation, we dug into some of the other congressional races, and also examined some bigger issues impacting our politics in 2022 – including the ongoing growth in unaffiliated voters, the huge and negative ongoing effects of gerrymandering, the impact of Russia's war on Ukraine and the hardships it's helped cause for the U.S. economy, and the worrisome and unfounded decline in voter confidence in elections that's given rise to harassment and even threats against election officials.

## **Additional Topics aired**

### **CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

**JANUARY 1-2**

#### **CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

#### **INTERVIEW WITH DR. MIKE WALDEN - ECONOMIST AND PROFESSOR EMERITUS AT NC STATE**

COVID-19, POPULATION, ECONOMY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFLATION, INTEREST RATES, SOCIAL SECURITY, NATIONAL DEBT, STUDENT DEBT, BROADBAND, GAS PRICES, SUPPLY CHAIN, AND RECESSION.

**JANUARY 8-9**

#### **CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

#### **INTERVIEW WITH TOM JENSEN - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY POLLING**

BIDEN APPROVAL, AFGHANISTAN, INFRASTRUCTURE, POLITICS, INSURRECTION, ELECTION, DONALD TRUMP, REDISTRICTING, CONGRESS, LOCAL NEWS, MEDIA, AND SOCIAL MEDIA.

**JANUARY 15-16**

#### **CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

#### **INTERVIEW WITH DALE FOLWELL - NORTH CAROLINA STATE TREASURER**

STATE PENSION PLAN, STATE HEALTH PLAN, INSURANCE, INFLATION, INTEREST RATES, FINANCIAL AUDITS, BONDS, BROADBAND, TRANSPORTATION, HIGHWAY TRUST FUND, COVID19, AND UNCLAIMED CASH.

**JANUARY 22-23**

#### **CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

#### **INTERVIEW WITH SHAWN HARDING - PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FARM BUREAU**

FARM BUREAU BACKGROUND, FARMING, AGRICULTURE, COVID-19, SUPPLY CHAIN, HEALTH

CARE, TECHNOLOGY, WEATHER, GLOBAL WARMING, TOBACCO,  
INSURANCE, LABOR  
SHORTAGE, IMMIGRATION, AND FERTILIZER.

**JANUARY 29-30**

**CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

**INTERVIEW WITH JOSH STEIN - NORTH CAROLINA  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

COVID-19, SCAMS, ROBOCALLS, OPIOIDS, E-CIGARETTES,  
ADVERTISING, FRAUD, PRICE  
GOUGING, DEBT COLLECTORS, SAFE CHILD ACT, SEX  
TRAFFICKING, PRESCRIPTION  
MEDICINE, AND SOCIAL MEDIA.

**FEBRUARY 5-6**

**CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

**INTERVIEW WITH JOHN HOOD - PRESIDENT OF THE JOHN  
WILLIAM POPE FOUNDATION**

SUPREME COURT, PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN, ECONOMY,  
REDISTRICTING, ELECTIONS, U.S.  
SENATE RACE, FUTURE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN NORTH  
CAROLINA, FUTURE OF THE  
REPUBLICAN PARTY IN NORTH CAROLINA, INFRASTRUCTURE,  
TRANSPORTATION, AND LABOR  
MARKET.

**FEBRUARY 12-13**

**CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

**INTERVIEW WITH STEVE LAWLER - PRESIDENT AND CEO  
OF THE NORTH CAROLINA HEALTH  
CARE ASSOCIATION**

COVID-19, RESEARCH, HEALTH CARE, RECRUITING AND  
RETAINING STAFF, AFFORDABLE  
CARE ACT, URGENT CARE, URBAN AND RURAL HOSPITALS,  
MENTAL HEALTH, BROADBAND,  
TELEMEDICINE, OPIOIDS, MEDICAID EXPANSION, AND  
LEGISLATION.

**FEBRUARY 19-20**

**CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

**INTERVIEW WITH ANDY ELLEN - PRESIDENT OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA RETAIL MERCHANTS  
ASSOCIATION**

INFLATION, ECONOMY, GAS PRICES, EMPLOYMENT,  
LEGISLATION, TAXATION, WORKER'S  
COMPENSATION, INTERATIONAL TRADE, CURRENCY, SELF  
CHECK OUT, THEFT, CHILD CARE,  
ONLINE SALES, AND SHOPPING HABITS.

**FEBRUARY 26-27**

**CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

**INTERVIEW WITH DAVID BOLIEK - CHAIRMAN OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT  
CHAPEL HILL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

EDUCATION, RESEARCH, ENDOWMENT, FUNDRAISING,  
GOVERNANCE, FACULTY,  
APPLICATIONS, COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BUDGET,  
ATHLETICS, STUDENT DEBT, AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

**MARCH 5-6**

**CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

**INTERVIEW WITH LYNN MINGES - PRESIDENT AND CEO  
OF THE NORTH CAROLINA  
RESTAURANT AND LODGING ASSOCIATION**

RESTAURANTS, COVID-19, EMPLOYMENT, SALARY AND WAGES,  
HOTELS, OCCUPANCY,  
REMOTE WORKING, WEDDINGS, TECHNOLOGY, LEGISLATION,  
AND ALCOHOL.

**MARCH 12-13**

**CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

**INTERVIEW WITH BRAD CRONE - PRESIDENT OF  
CAMPAIGN CONNECTIONS**

ENERGY, GAS PRICES, ELECTIONS, REDISTRICTING, UKRAINE,  
U.S. SENATE RACE, NORTH

CAROLINA CONGRESSIONAL RACES, ECONOMY, HEALTH CARE,  
COVID-19, POLITICAL PARTIES,  
AND STUDENT DEBT.

**MARCH 19-20**

**CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

**INTERVIEW WITH DALE FOLWELL - NORTH CAROLINA  
STATE TREASURER**

INFLATION, STATE DEBT, INTEREST RATES, COVID-19, SUPPLY  
CHAIN, STATE HEALTH PLAN,  
HEALTH CARE, FRAUD, SCAMS, UNCLAIMED CASH, SUNSHINE  
AWARD, AND RUSSIAN ASSETS.

**MARCH 26-27**

**CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS**

**INTERVIEW WITH CONGRESSMAN DAVID PRICE - UNITED  
STATES REPRESENTATIVE FOR  
NORTH CAROLINA'S FOURTH DISTRICT**

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, UKRAINE, RUSSIA, ECONOMY, COVID-  
19, FEDERAL FUNDING,  
TRANSPORTATION, INFLATION, HOUSING, AND SUPPLY CHAIN.