

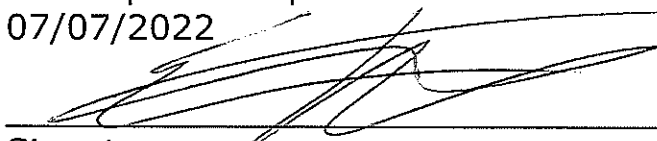
WRMR-FM, Wilmington, NC (98.7)
QUARTERLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ISSUES
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS
2nd QUARTER 2022

The following is a list of issues and concerns for 2nd Quarter 2022, and addresses in Public Affairs Programming, Public Service Announcements, Community Involvement and special programming on WRMR-FM.

1. EDUCATION
2. HEALTH CARE
3. INFLATION
4. GUN VIOLENCE
5. SUPREME COURT
6. EQUALITY
7. ELECTIONS
8. CHILD FATALITY TASK FORCE
9. ACLU
10. NC RECOVERY

This report was placed in the Public Inspection File on
07/07/2022

Signature



Date

7-7-2022

PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

During April, May and June, 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.

NC NewsMakers is a 30 minute program focusing on state and local issues that air on Sundays and 6:30AM

2022 2nd QUARTER ISSUES

1. EDUCATION

Under a new draft “merit pay” plan for teacher compensation developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, classroom experience – a teacher’s current chief pathway to a higher salary – would be devalued in favor of a combination of several other potential criteria

2. HEALTH CARE

For many people in North Carolina, the health care professional whom they treat as their quote “family doctor” is not a physician.

3. INFLATION

In the aftermath of World War II, prices for goods and services shot up across the globe as consumer demand – pent up for several years during the war – was rapidly unleashed.

4. GUN VIOLENCE

By any fair assessment, gun violence in North Carolina has become a genuine crisis.

5. SUPREME COURT

This past Monday night, the nation learned of an extraordinary leak of a draft U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Mississippi abortion case (Dobbs v. Jackson).

6. EQUALITY

This past week’s leaked draft Supreme Court ruling on the future of reproductive freedom in this country is far from the only deeply troubling development in the ongoing culture war being waged by the American far right.

7. ELECTIONS

After multiple fits and starts driven by state court efforts to fix gerrymandered congressional and legislative maps, North Carolina’s 2022 primary elections finally concluded this past week.

8. CHILD FATALITY TASK FORCE

In 1991, the state legislature established a group known as the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force and charged it with studying (and making recommendations to reduce) the number of child deaths in our state.

9. ACLU

The North Carolina General Assembly is back in town for what's usually referred to as the legislative "short session" – a gathering that's supposed to be reserved for making adjustments to the two-year state budget and handling a smattering of bills left over from last year.

10. NC RECOVERY

State officials are failing miserably in delivering recovery services to scores of families who suffered grievous damage to their homes during Hurricane Matthew – a disaster that dates all the way back to 2016.

PROGRAMMING:

1. EDUCATION

News and Views for 4-17-2022

Guest: Veteran Mecklenburg County middle school teacher and education policy commentator Justin Parmenter

Under a new draft “merit pay” plan for teacher compensation developed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, classroom experience – a teacher’s current chief pathway to a higher salary – would be devalued in favor of a combination of several other potential criteria, including student test scores, and evaluations prepared by principals, fellow educators, and students.

And while many teachers acknowledge the potential value of factoring in the evaluations of trained educators into teacher pay, the plan’s inclusion of student test scores and survey results has provoked a storm of protests from critics. Earlier this week, in order to get a better understanding of the plan and some of the critiques, we sat down with Justin Parmenter – a veteran Mecklenburg County middle school teacher who publishes regular commentaries on education policy at the website, Notes from the Chalkboard.

2. EDUCATION

News and Views for 4-24-2022

Guest: NC Policy Watch investigative reporter Lynn Bonner

For many people in North Carolina, the health care professional whom they treat as their quote “family doctor” is not a physician. In many instances, the person in question is actually an advanced practice nurse operating under the supervision of a physician -- supervision that is often extremely minimal and that allows the nurses in question to operate what, are for all practical purposes, their own health care practices.

At present, roughly half the states in the U.S. allow nurse practitioners with specific top-of-the-line credentials to diagnose and treat patients without doctors’ supervision and as NC Policy

Watch investigative reporter Lynn Bonner reported recently, a number of North Carolina lawmakers would like to add our state to the list. Recently, we sat down with Lynn to learn more about this fascinating and important policy debate.

3. INFLATION

News and Views for 4-24-2022

Guest: North Carolina Budget and Tax Center economist Patrick
In the aftermath of World War II, prices for goods and services shot up across the globe as consumer demand – pent up for several years during the war – was rapidly unleashed. Today, as the COVID-19 pandemic winds down, we’re witnessing a similar scenario with high rates of inflation in the U.S. and around the world.

And while some critics have attempted to blame the price surge on a specific government policy or action, the truth of the matter is that, like the economy as a whole, inflation is a deeply complex subject that defies simplistic explanations.

Happily, however there are important insights we can glean about where things stand, how we got here, and the steps we need to take to capitalize on inflation’s good impacts (and minimize the bad ones), and recently we got a chance to explore several of these topics with one of our state’s most knowledgeable experts – North Carolina Budget and Tax Center economist, Patrick McHugh.

4. GUN VIOLENCE

News and Views for 5-1-2022

Guest: Becky Ceartas of North Carolinians Against Gun Violence
By any fair assessment, gun violence in North Carolina has become a genuine crisis. Road rage and domestic violence incidents, firearm suicides and even random mass shootings have become so common that many of us have become as numb to the tragic news reports as we are to traffic jam updates. And while gun rights advocates have all but assured that lawmakers will not pass tough gun control laws anytime soon, there are some very modest steps within reach that could save

hundreds of lives, without threatening the notion of a generalized right to bear arms. And recently we caught up with one of North Carolina's most knowledgeable and articulate spokespersons for sane firearm safety policies, North Carolinians Against Gun Violence executive director, Becky Ceartas.

5. SUPREME COURT News and Views for 5-8-2022

Guest: Neil Siegel, Professor of law and a professor of political science at Duke University

This past Monday night, the nation learned of an extraordinary leak of a draft U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Mississippi abortion case (Dobbs v. Jackson). The draft ruling authored by Justice Samuel Alito would reverse the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling, which established the constitutional right to terminate a pregnancy prior to fetal viability. In the aftermath of the disclosure, millions of people are asking how and why the leak occurred, what the draft opinion says, and what – if it is in fact the final word – the opinion would mean in the real world.

On Tuesday of this past week – the day after the leak became public – we sat down with a person uniquely qualified to address all of those questions -- Duke University professor of law and public policy Neil Siegel. And as Siegel told us, the leak does not bode well – either for Supreme Court or the bodily autonomy of pregnant Americans.

6. EQUALITY News and Views for 5-8-2022

Guest: Kendra Johnson, executive director of Equality NC

This past week's leaked draft Supreme Court ruling on the future of reproductive freedom in this country is far from the only deeply troubling development in the ongoing culture war being waged by the American far right. Across the nation in recent months politicians and talking heads have been pursuing a hateful and politically-motivated effort to drive conservative

voters to the polls by demonizing and even the denying existence of LGBTQ people.

The campaign, which targets everything from library books to transgender healthcare, is quite literally driving large numbers of vulnerable people to contemplate or even attempt suicide.

And earlier this week, we got an update on where things stand and how and why caring and thinking people are pushing back, in a conversation with the executive director of the human rights organization Equality North Carolina, Kendra Johnson.

In Part Two of our chat, we also discussed some more hopeful developments, including the record number of LGBTQ candidates running for office this year and the fact that a sizable percentage of North Carolinians now reside in cities and counties that have enacted ordinances to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

7. ELECTIONS

News and Views for 5-22-2022

Guest: Meredith College political scientist and pollster David McLennan

After multiple fits and starts driven by state court efforts to fix gerrymandered congressional and legislative maps, North Carolina's 2022 primary elections finally concluded this past week. As is always the case in off-year primaries, overall voter turnout was low (roughly 1 in 5 voters participating) , but for better or worse, that didn't prevent those who did turn out from rendering a host of momentous decisions – including selecting the nominees to fill Richard Burr's soon-to-be-vacated and vitally important U.S. Senate seat.

This week, in order to get a better handle on the results, what they tell us about the state's electorate and what months leading up to the November general election are likely to look like, I sat down with veteran Meredith College political scientist and pollster David McLennan. McLennan said the electoral battles in our deeply purple state are just getting started.

McLennan surveyed some of the high-profile results from last Tuesday's North Carolina primary elections – including the outcome in the U.S. Senate primary, the rise of nominees Ted Budd and Cheri Beasley, the demise of former Gov. Pat McCrory,

and what McCrory's fall says about the rapidly changing nature of the Republican Party.

In Part Two of our conversation, we dug deeper into some of the other most hotly contested races, including an array of U.S. House primaries, the defeat of controversial far right congressman, Madison Cawthorn, and Gov. Cooper's unusual decision to choose sides in a state legislative primary. We also surveyed some of the substantive issues (like the battle over abortion rights) that figure to be front and center as the candidates look to November.

8. CHILD FATALITY TASK FORCE News and Views for 5-29-2022

Guest: Kella Hatcher, executive director of the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force

In 1991, the state legislature established a group known as the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force and charged it with studying (and making recommendations to reduce) the number of child deaths in our state. And over the first couple decades of its existence, the group advanced a number of proposals that ended up finding their way into law and making a real and positive impact in reducing child deaths.

In recent years, however, despite the task force's continued good work, progress has been slower and tougher, and it's become clear that there is a need for new and ambitious action from lawmakers if the state is going to further reduce infant mortality and combat the sobering spike in youth suicides and gun violence.

9. ACLU News and Views for 5-29-2022

Guest: ACLU of North Carolina attorney Daniel Bowes

As we discussed in our previous segment, the North Carolina General Assembly is back in town for what's usually referred to as the legislative "short session" – a gathering that's supposed to be reserved for making adjustments to the two-year state budget and handling a smattering of bills left over from last year.

For better or worse, however, early indications point to a session filled with a bevy of controversial proposals – including several that will directly impact basic civil rights and liberties. Earlier this week, in order to get a better handle on some of these debates, we sat down with the Director of Policy and Advocacy for the ACLU of North Carolina, attorney Daniel Bowes.

10. NC RECOVERY

News and Views for 6-5-2022

Guest: NC Policy Watch investigative reporter Lisa Sorg

As NC Policy Watch investigative reporter Lisa Sorg has reported in disturbing detail in recent weeks, state officials are failing miserably in delivering recovery services to scores of families who suffered grievous damage to their homes during Hurricane Matthew – a disaster that dates all the way back to 2016.

Some displaced families have been forced to exist for years in motels, travel trailers, badly damaged homes – or even their cars. Meanwhile, a contractor favored by the office overseeing recovery has had a truly abysmal record of delivering on its promises.

Earlier this week we sat down with Lisa to learn more about her reporting on this troubling story and why it appears to be past time for Gov. Roy Cooper to take charge of this outrageous situation.

Additional Topics

Guest: Christina Adeleke of the North Carolina AIDS Action Network

Over the past few decades, the world has made great strides in developing treatment and prevention strategies that have helped in combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Unfortunately, despite that progress, we still have a long way to go. North Carolina, for instance, is home to two of the CDC's list of the top 25 cities with the highest HIV infection rates: Charlotte and Greensboro.

Thousands of North Carolinians continue to be adversely impacted by HIV and many don't even know they're infected. Last week, in response to this ongoing crisis, members of the

North Carolina AIDS Action Network converged on the state Legislative Building in support of an array of legislative proposals – most notably expansion of the state’s Medicaid program – that could make a huge difference. And on the day prior to the event, we caught up with the Action Network’s Policy and Communications manager, Christina Adeleke.

Guest: Education policy attorney Matt Ellinwood

When will the North Carolina Supreme Court finally, at long last, compel the state legislature to comply with repeated rulings in the decades-old Leandro education funding case? That’s a question that’s been on the minds of a lot of observers and experts in recent months given the fact that the state has both a comprehensive plan in place to provide all children with access to a sound basic education and billions in the bank to get the job done.

Earlier this week, we got some of the latest scoop on this seemingly never-ending debate from one of the state’s top education policy experts, North Carolina Justice Center attorney, Matt Ellinwood. And as Ellinwood told News & Views, the need for action to comply with Leandro has never been greater.

Unfortunately, as we also discussed, right now, adequate funding for schools is taking a backseat at the General Assembly to the latest conservative culture war campaign to marginalize LGBTQ students.

Guest: Senator Natalie Murdock

State Senator Natalie Murdock may be the first Black woman under the age of 40 to ever serve in the North Carolina state Senate, but in just over two years on the job, the Durham County Democrat has already made several important marks on an array of important issues and demonstrated an impressive ability to bridge partisan divides – even as she proudly and forcefully champions a host of progressive causes.

Earlier this week Senator Murdock joined us for a special extended conversation in which we explored a host of current front burner issues. In Part One of our chat we discussed the recent conversion of several Republican senators to the cause of Medicaid expansion, the need for a similar conversion when it

comes to the raging gun violence crisis and the limited, but important progress being made at the legislature in finally legalizing medical marijuana.

In Part Two of our chat, we dug into several other current issues that deserve to be priorities at the General Assembly, including funding for schools, a new bill that would make feminine hygiene products more widely available to public school students, and the need to secure abortion rights in light of the expected Supreme Court decision reversing *Roe v. Wade*. And the senator also shared her views on Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson's latest statement that men, not women, should lead our society.

Guest: North Carolina Congresswoman Deborah Ross
Throughout her first term in office, Congresswoman Deborah Ross (NC-02) has been kind enough to check in with News & Views on regular basis to provide updates on many of the events, debates, and legislative proposals that she's been monitoring, participating in, and voting on during an especially tumultuous time in our nation's history.

And this past week, we caught up with the representative once again to get her take on some of the current front burner issues in the nation's capital – including the national gun violence crisis, the need to make schools safer, and the early work of the House Select Committee investigating the January 6 insurrection. Rep. Ross also shared news of some welcome new federal appropriations she's helped secure for Wake County.

Guest: National Consumer Law Center attorney Jenifer Bosco
One of the most widespread and pernicious sources of economic insecurity these days for millions of average American families is medical debt. According to experts at the National Consumer Law Center, medical debt frequently leads to all manner of big and debilitating burdens, including bad credit ratings, nagging debt collectors, and even bankruptcies and home foreclosures.

Right now, the simplest and most effective tool to reduce consumer medical debt in North Carolina would be for state lawmakers to follow the lead of 38 other states by expanding Medicaid eligibility. But another important tactic that's also the subject of a bill at the General Assembly involves requiring hospitals to meet their legal and moral obligations in providing

charity care and refraining from abusive collection practices. And recently we caught up with a national expert who drafted the model legislation that helped inspire the North Carolina proposal – National Consumer Law Center attorney Jenifer Bosco.

Guest: Journalist and documentary Cristin Severance

There's scarcely an American community that's been spared from the ongoing national gun violence crisis, but one that's getting hit especially hard of late is Durham. Thanks in large part to the dangerous convergence of easy access to firearms, a troubling shortage in law enforcement officers, and the growth in the city's gang population, there have been more than a thousand shootings in the city already this year and the trend shows little sign of slowing.

In the coming weeks, WRAL-TV will be airing an important new documentary on this subject entitled "Durham under fire" and recently we caught up with one of the journalists behind it, WRAL TV investigative reporter and documentary producer Cristin Severance. And as Severance told me, the situation in Durham is deeply worrisome and extremely complex. "Durham under fire" premieres on June 29th.

Guest: State Representative Marcia Morey

For the last several years, no North Carolina legislator has fought harder to tackle the gun violence crisis that plagues our state and nation than Durham County state representative Marcia Morey. Among many other things, Morey – a former state court judge – has sought repeatedly to get the Republican leadership of the state House to allow a vote on legislation that would add North Carolina to the growing list of states to enact a so-called "red flag" law. Under such a law, friends and family members who fear that someone is about to commit an act of gun violence can petition a court to order the temporary removal of the individual's firearms.

Recently, North Carolina U.S. Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr announced that they had brokered legislation in Washington to incentivize states to enact such laws, but as Morey told us, there is little evidence that those efforts are having any impact in

North Carolina. Other issues discussed: the controversial Parents' Bill of Rights/HB 755.

Guest: Bob Phillips, Executive Director of Common Cause North Carolina

One of the toxic byproducts of former President Donald Trump's big lie that the 2020 election was somehow stolen from him has been the proliferation of proposals from Republican politicians across the country that would make it harder for average people to vote.

Sadly, this misguided crusade has even made its way to North Carolina – a state in which elections have been repeatedly shown to be clean and fair and that Trump and other Republicans won in 2020. Recently, for example, the state GOP proposed the establishment of a new and burdensome signature check on all absentee ballot requests.

Earlier this week we got a chance to discuss the proposal with Common Cause North Carolina executive director Bob Phillips, and as he told us, it's but the latest in a long line of cynical moves that threaten the health of our democracy.

Guest: Tiffany Gladney, the Policy Director of the advocacy group NC Child

Between the COVID-19 pandemic and the horrific incidents of gun violence that have plagued our nation in recent years, now is a tough time to be an American kid. For millions of schoolchildren, social disruptions and the constant threat of violence are causing unprecedented mental health challenges.

Earlier this week, we got a chance to explore this sobering situation in a conversation we had with one of our state's top advocates for children, the policy director for the group NC Child, Tiffany Gladney. And as Gladney told me, the "to do" list for policymakers is pretty obvious. All that's needed now is the vision and willingness to make the kinds of changes and investments that are so badly needed. Issues discussed: gun control, youth mental health, school resources, Medicaid expansion.

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

APRIL 2-3

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

INTERVIEW WITH DR. SCOTT RALLS - PRESIDENT OF WAKE
TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EDUCATION, CAREER TRAINING, BUSINESS GROWTH, TUITION,
COST OF EDUCATION, JOB
OPENINGS, RETAINING FACULTY, TEACHER SALARY, FUNDING, E-
SPORTS, ONLINE LEARNING, AND STUDENT DEBT.

APRIL 9-10

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

INTERVIEW WITH MIKE CAUSEY - NORTH CAROLINA INSURANCE
COMMISSIONER
ACCREDITATION, DISTRACTED DRIVING, AUTOMOBILE
INSURANCE RATES, OPIOIDS,
TELEHEALTH, HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE, FIRE DEPARTMENTS,
STORM READINESS, SCAMS AND FRAUD.

APRIL 16-17

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

INTERVIEW WITH DR. MIKE WALDEN - PROFESSOR EMERITUS
OF ECONOMICS AT NC STATE
UNIVERSITY
INFLATION, ECONOMY, STIMULUS, COVID-19, UKRAINE
INVASION, NATO, TELEMEDICINE,
MORTGAGE RATES, INTEREST RATES, BROADBAND, RECESSION,
STATE ECONOMY, SUPPLY
CHAIN, AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

APRIL 23-24

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN HOOD - PRESIDENT OF THE JOHN
WILLIAM POPE FOUNDATION
UNITED STATES SENATE PRIMARY, CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY,
UKRAINE, ELECTIONS,
FOREIGN POLICY, AFGHANISTAN, INFLATION, EMPLOYMENT,
NEWS MEDIA, EDUCATION, AND IMMIGRATION.

APRIL 30 – MAY 1

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

INTERVIEW WITH BOB PHILLIPS - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
COMMON CAUSE NORTH
CAROLINA

REDISTRICTING, UNAFFILIATED VOTERS, ELECTIONS, MEDIA,
NEWS, COMMON CAUSE
BACKGROUND, MONEY IN POLITICS, SUPER PACS, EDUCATION,
POLITICAL ADS, VOTER
REGISTRATION, ELECTION SECURITY, AND SAME DAY
REGISTRATION.

MAY 7-8

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

INTERVIEW WITH BRUCE STANLEY - PRESIDENT AND CEO OF
THE METHODIST HOME FOR
CHILDREN

CHILD CARE, SOCIAL WORK, FUNDING, SUBSTANCE ABUSE,
ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA, FAMILY
DRUG COURTS, BINGE DRINKING, JUVENILE JUSTICE, GANGS,
BULLYING, AND THERAPY.

MAY 14-15

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

INTERVIEW WITH TOM JENSEN - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC POLICY POLLING
PRIMARY ELECTIONS, VOTING, UNAFFILIATED VOTERS, UNITED
STATES SENATE RACE,
UNITED STATES HOUSE RACES, JOE BIDEN APPROVAL,
ECONOMY, ELECTION INTEGRITY, AND
POLITICAL PARTIES.

MAY 21-22

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

INTERVIEW WITH ERIC BOYETTE - NORTH CAROLINA
TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY COVID-19, POPULATION
GROWTH, HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION, BUDGET, TOLL ROADS,
SAFETY, FERRIES, RAIL, MICRO TRANSIT, HIGH-SPEED RAIL,
AND PORTS.

MAY 28-29

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

INTERVIEW WITH BRENDA BERG - PRESIDENT OF BEST NC COVID-19, EDUCATION, VIRTUAL EDUCATION, PARENT PARTICIPATION, ATTRACTING TEACHERS, TEACH NC, COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, COLLEGE PREPAREDNESS, PRINCIPALS, TEACHER PAY, LICENSURE, AND LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

JUNE 4-5

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

INTERVIEW WITH BRAD CRONE - PRESIDENT OF CAMPAIGN CONNECTIONS POLITICS, MIDTERM PRIMARIES, 2022 ELECTION OUTLOOK, MEDICAL MARIJUANA, GAMBLING, MEDICAID EXPANSION, ALCOHOL, GUN CONTROL, ABORTION, EDUCATION, STUDENT DEBT, JOBS, AND TECHNOLOGY.

JUNE 11-12

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

INTERVIEW WITH TOM CAMPBELL - CREATOR OF NCSPIN MEDICAL MARIJUANA, MEDICAID EXPANSION, HOSPITALS, PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS, POLITICS, POLITICAL AD, EARLY VOTING, GUN CONTROL, PRESIDENT BIDEN APPROVAL, SUPPLY CHAIN, GAS PRICES, NEWS MEDIA, AND POLITICAL PARTIES.

JUNE 18-19

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

INTERVIEW WITH THOMAS STITH - NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM EDUCATION, DUAL ENROLLMENT, CONTINUING EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT, FUNDING, TAXATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, LEGISLATION, AND MANUFACTURING.

JUNE 25-26

CAROLINA NEWSMAKERS

INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTOPHER CHUNG - CEO OF THE NORTH
CAROLINA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
ECONOMY, BUSINESS, BUSINESS RECRUITMENT, EXPORTS,
EDUCATION, AUTOMOBILE
PLANTS, TOURISM, ENERGY, MANUFACTURING, WORKFORCE,
SUPPLY CHAIN, BROADBAND,
AND PORTS.