

# Issues Programs List

## Quarterly Issues-Programs List

Stations: KCGY-FM AND KOWB-AM

January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024

Townsquare Media Laramie, Wyoming

### Section I: Issues

The stations have identified the following topics as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

- A. **Taxes/Government/Education Funding:** The state for once has a budget surplus at the same time as a court fight is pending over education funding. How to spend that extra money, and how much should go to fund existing programs as opposed to how much should be set aside for savings for “a rainy day” is a major topic of discussion. It was one of the main items considered by lawmakers during the Legislative Session.
- B. **Wyoming State Government.** Cheyenne is the state capital where most state government decisions are made. Laramie is home to the University of Wyoming, an institution that is dependent on state funding and is largely heavily affected by many state policy decisions.
- C. **Drug/Alcohol abuse:** Wyoming continues to suffer from one of the highest drunk driving rates in the country, as well as a continuing methamphetamine epidemic and a growing opioid problem. These issues have a ripple effect on everything from crime to local and state budget issues.
- D. **Economy:** An obvious concern both in terms of the economic well-being of local and state residents, as well as paying for state and local government programs. Because of the critical importance of the energy industry to Wyoming’s economy, energy prices are one key component of this issue, although certainly not the only one
- E. **Wyoming Legislature.** State lawmakers met in an unusually contentious budget session in February and early March. As the quarter ended there were calls for a special session to override vetoes issued by Gov. Mark Gordon. At this writing, the issue of whether that will happen remains unresolved.
- F. **Suicide:** Wyoming has the highest suicide rate in the nation. This is an issue with implications for
- G. **Healthcare:** Can include anything from the availability of healthcare to access to exercise and healthy foods.
- H. **Crime:** Includes everything from street crimes to the gun control debate. During this quarter we also focused on scams, especially those targeting senior citizens.
- I. **Homelessness:** A major problem across Wyoming and especially in southeast Wyoming.

## Section II: Programming

The below programming runs every Sunday morning at 6 a.m. on KCGY-FM  
and at 8:30 a.m. on KOWB-AM.

Date(s) Aired	Program Name	Description of Issue Discussed	Duration
1-7	Report To Wyoming	Jim Herlihy, regional spokesman for the Alzheimer's Association, on new treatments for the disease. Specifically spoke about lecanemab, which he says shows promise is slowing the cognitive decline caused by Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Herlihy says that while no Alzheimer's cure yet exists, researchers are confident that the first person to recover from the disease may be alive today. <b>Healthcare.</b>	22 mins
1-14	Report to Wyoming	Robin Bocenegro, Director of the Comea Shelter in Cheyenne on homelessness. Bocenegro said that while homelessness is a national problem, it is especially bad in Wyoming due to a couple of factors. One of those is a statewide housing shortage, the other is a lack of access to mental health and substance abuse treatment programs. The problem can become life-threatening in Wyoming because of the brutally cold winters. So much so that many shelters in the winter months waive rules against housing intoxicated people. Bocenegro said one little-known fact about homelessness is that a significant number of people are homeless by choice, preferring that lifestyle with its freedom and lack of obligations. <b>Homelessness, drug/alcohol abuse.</b>	23 mins
1-21	Report To Wyoming	Rep. Jeanette Ward [R-Casper] on her "What is a Woman" bill in the Wyoming Legislature. The bill would mandate separate accommodations for men and women, based on chromosomes at birth. Ward maintains the bill is needed for the safety and privacy of women in restrooms, locker rooms, and other settings. Her bill was prompted in part by a lawsuit filed by six University of Wyoming sorority members over the forced inclusion of a transsexual student in their organization. Ward's bill failed to become law, but is widely expected to be filed again in 2025. <b>Wyoming Legislature, Crime</b>	15 mins

1-28	Report To Wyoming	Rep. Harriet Hageman [R-Wyoming] on several bills in Congress and what they mean for Wyoming. The interview especially focused on what Hageman calls an ‘invasion’ of the U.S. on its southern border. While Wyoming is far away from that border, Hageman said a lack of federal action is costing Wyoming residents in terms of law enforcement and social costs. Hageman blamed the Biden administration for what she calls a lack of action on border security. <b>Crime, Economy.</b>	15 mins
2-4	Report To Wyoming	Cheyenne City Councilman Richard Johnson on an effort to change state law to allow beer and wine sales in grocery and convenience stores. Such a law would have to be approved by the legislature, so it is a state rather than local issue. Johnson argues that some stores already can do this if they have a liquor license, while others can't. He says that makes little sense. He also points out that many states have such a law already. <b>Wyoming Legislature, economy, drug/alcohol abuse.</b>	22 mins
2-11	Report To Wyoming	Raymond Macchia Executive Director of Legal Aid of Wyoming. While people have a right to an attorney when charged with a crime, there is no such guarantee for people's civil cases. Legal Aid of Wyoming offers low-income people help in landlord/tenant disputes, custody battles, and many other civil cases. Macchia says poor people often find themselves at a disadvantage when being sued or when filing a suit because they can't afford an attorney. Legal Aid of Wyoming is available to help those finding themselves in such situations, but many people don't know about it. <b>Homelessness.</b>	20 mins
2-18	Report To Wyoming	Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon's State of the State address kicking off the 2024 Wyoming Legislative Session. Among other things, the governor asked lawmakers to support his budget proposals and attacked the federal government for what he says is unfounded hostility to Wyoming's energy industries. The governor also asked lawmakers to address high property taxes, which in fact they did with several bills. <b>Wyoming Legislature, economy, Wyoming State Government, taxes.</b>	28 mins

2-25	Report to Wyoming	Rep. Daniel Singh on issues in Wyoming Legislature. Among other things, Rep. Singh urged fiscal conservatism in the face of calls for more money for education. Rep. Singh argued that Wyoming schools are already well-funded and that some advocates for increasing school funding are never happy no matter how much is spent. Also argued for House Bill 125, a bill that would have eliminated most gun-free zones in Wyoming. That highly controversial bill was passed by the legislature but was vetoed by Governor Mark Gordon. Singh also discussed what it was like being the second-youngest legislator. He is 27 years old in a body dominated by people in their mid-40s to mid-60s. <b>Wyoming Legislature, Wyoming State Government, economy</b>	22 mins
3-3	Report To Wyoming	Rep. Landon Brown [R-Laramie County] on the state budget and other issues in the 2024 Wyoming Legislature. At the time of this interview, the Wyoming House and Senate were at an impasse over the state budget, with a \$1.1 billion, a significant difference in a state the size of Wyoming, which has the smallest population in the nation. Brown predicted that the two houses would split the difference and reach a compromise, which turned out to be correct. Brown also said the political vitriol and lack of civility which has permeated national politics has increasingly become a factor in the legislature, making governing the state more difficult. <b>Wyoming Legislature, Wyoming State Government</b>	27 mins
3-10	Report To Wyoming	Patrice Gapon and Micheal Hand, Cheyenne residents and authors of "ABCs for Dementia Caregivers." The authors both have firsthand experience in caring for loved ones with dementia in Wyoming, a topic that is very relevant in a state with an aging population and somewhat limited access to healthcare. Hand and Gapon outlined some of the available resources for Alzheimer's caregivers and emphasized the importance of caregivers taking care of their own physical and mental health. <b>Healthcare.</b>	25 mins
3-24	Report To Wyoming	Automotive expert Nick Dodgson on the future of the American automobile. Among other things, Dodgson predicted that how people "own" cars is very likely to change. He said motorists in the not-too-distant future may buy	29 mins

		<p>timeshares on vehicles. Much like people do today in renting vacation homes. He also said that the age of the gasoline internal combustion engine is ending, a change which, if accurate, would have widespread implications for Wyoming's petroleum industry. Bud Dodgson said that does not necessarily mean that electric cars are the wave of the future either. He says hydrogen-powered cars may well be the dominant type of vehicles for future generations. This, again, could have implications for Wyoming's economy, since some hydrogen production research is being conducted at the University of Wyoming and experimental projects have been launched elsewhere in the state. <b>State Economy</b></p>	
3-31	Report To Wyoming	<p>Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Dale Steenbergen on the economic impacts of the 2024 Wyoming Legislature and the bills that became law. Steenbergen said overall it was a positive session for the Wyoming economy. He applauded the defeat of Wyoming House Bill 203, which would have eliminated most homeowner property taxes in favor of a two-cent per dollar increase in sales taxes. Steenbergen said such a sales tax increase would hurt Wyoming businesses. Steenbergen did express concerns about the continuing housing shortage in the state, which he says makes hiring employees difficult and makes businesses hesitate to move here. <b>Wyoming Legislature, State Economy</b></p>	28 mins