

Community Issues Programming for October 1 - December 31, 2022

WCLH has identified the following issues as significant issues facing our community this quarter. Following each issue is a list of programs aired addressing that issue.

Issue: COVID-19 Virus: Our community is concerned about the spread of COVID-19 disease as well as the economic impact of "Stay at Home" and other mitigation policies.

Democracy Now! "Pandemic Poverty: Ray Suarez on How COVID-19 Set Back Low-Income Workers in the U.S., Especially Women." A new series of video reports by the Economic Hardship Reporting Project and The Intercept called "Insecurity" looks at women leaving the workforce, the impact of the expanded child tax credit, and the wave of union organizing during the pandemic. The series spotlights people navigating food, housing and healthcare insecurity — who are falling through the cracks of the social safety net in the process. We feature clips from the series and speak with the host, Ray Suarez, former PBS correspondent and longtime journalist and an author, and Alissa Quart, executive director of the Economic Hardship Reporting Project and author of "Squeezed: Why Our Families Can't Afford America."

Airdate 27 December 2022 8:40AM Length 19 minutes

Democracy Now! "Children's Hospitals See Surge in RSV as Experts Warn of Winter "Tripledemic" of Respiratory Illness". Public health experts in the United States are warning of a possible "triple-demic" of respiratory illness this winter: an increase in COVID cases, an early flu season and a surge in cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Hospitals in some parts of the U.S. are already seeing a surge in cases of RSV, which usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms but can be very serious for infants. Many respiratory illnesses are "coming back with a vengeance" after ebbing over the last two years due to pandemic mitigation efforts, says pediatrician Dr. Christina Propst. She urges parents of infants to continue to avoid crowds, practice good hygiene and keep up to date on children's vaccinations in order to slow the spread of RSV. "It is really important to take these commonsense precautions to keep children safe and really to keep our healthcare system afloat at this point," says Propst.

Airdate: 27 OCTOBER 2022 8:53AM LENGTH: 6 MINUTES

Issue: Voting: The Congressional election is about to take place in our area, and the redistricting changes and ongoing mail-in ballot issues are affecting our community.

Democracy Now! : "Election Night 2022 Coverage with Democracy Now!". On Tuesday, Nov. 8, Democracy Now! will air a 3-hour election night special from 9 p.m. to midnight ET.

We'll be covering the key congressional races which will determine the balance of power in Congress, as well as gubernatorial races and ballot initiatives from around the country. Join us to hear the voices of activists, analysts and grassroots leaders discussing how the movements on the ground will go forward following these important midterm elections.

Airdate: 8 NOVEMBER 2022 9:00PM LENGTH: 3 HOURS

***Democracy Now!* : John Nichols: "Standing Up to Donald Trump in the Republican Party ... Leads to Your Defeat".** We look at the outcome of Tuesday's primaries for opponents of former President Trump. In Wyoming, Liz Cheney, Trump's chief House Republican foe, lost her primary to a Trump-backed challenger. In Alaska, Senator Lisa Murkowski, another Republican Trump critic, will move forward to the general election alongside a Trump challenger who also advanced under the state's ranked-choice voting system. The races "show a clear signal: Standing up to Donald Trump in the Republican Party, by and large, leads to your defeat," says John Nichols, national affairs correspondent for The Nation. Despite Cheney's defeat, Nichols says she is an "extreme right-wing conservative" who is "signaling an openness to running for president of the United States." Nichols also discusses how former Alaska governor and Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin is projected to advance in the race for Alaska's at-large congressional seat.

Airdate: 17 AUGUST 2022 8:49AM LENGTH: 1 MINUTE

***Democracy Now!* : "Redrawn Districts in NY Primary Pit Progressives Against Self-Funded Millionaire & Nadler vs. Maloney."** Primaries in New York's redrawn congressional districts have led to heated battles within the Democratic Party that could have national implications. In the newly created 10th Congressional District, Dan Goldman, a conservative Democrat and heir to a multimillion-dollar Levi Strauss fortune, is running against a diverse field of candidates that includes Mondaire Jones, Yuh-Line Niou, Carlina Rivera and Elizabeth Holtzman. The New York Times endorsed Goldman without noting its publisher's connection to the millionaire. Many congressional seats have been "thrown into chaos by redistricting" and seem to favor more conservative candidates, says Alex Sammon, staff writer at The American Prospect who has been closely following local races.

Airdate: 23 AUGUST 2022 8:48AM LENGTH: 11 MINUTES

Democracy Now! : “CA Gov. Newsom Threatens to Veto Farmworker Union Bill as He Buys \$14.5M Vineyard in Napa Valley.” Hundreds of farmworkers concluded a 24-day march to Sacramento spanning 335 miles to demand California Governor Gavin Newsom support legislation that would make it easier for farmworkers to cast their ballots in union elections by mail. Newsom has threatened to veto the bill, which would keep farmworkers safe from employer retaliation, explains Teresa Romero, president of the United Farm Workers, the labor union that helped organize the march. We also speak with Irene de Barraicua, operations director of Líderes Campesinas, who describes the ongoing threats women agricultural workers and others face on the ground, including sexual harrasment, wage theft and exposure to toxic chemicals.

Airdate: 29 AUGUST 2022 8:47AM LENGTH: 12 MINUTES

Issue: Oil and Gas: The ongoing issue of oil and gas prices, in addition to the environment and health effects in our community.

Democracy Now! : “Who Should Pay for Climate Crisis? Global South Demands “Loss and Damage” from Wealthy Nations.” We are broadcasting from COP27, the U.N. climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, where poorer countries in the Global South that are weathering the worst effects of the climate crisis are calling for wealthy nations to pay reparations in the form of climate financing. “We need a global plan to phase out fossil fuels in a just and equitable manner,” says Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy with Climate Action Network and global engagement director of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. He adds that the United States is the main impediment to “loss and damage” climate financing. “Money is available, but [the] U.S. has always blocked money going to poor people who are suffering from climate impacts,” he says.

Airdate: 16 November 2022 8:12AM LENGTH: 13 MINUTES

Democracy Now! : “Sunrise Movement on Midterm Election: If GOP Takes Congress, Climate Action Will Be Stalled, Reversed.” The climate movement warns the midterm elections will either advance or torpedo climate initiatives in the U.S. This comes as climate activists and scientists at the U.N. climate summit in Egypt cautioned that the world is heading toward climate disaster without deeper cuts in planet-heating emissions. “We are up against a ticking time bomb of an unrelenting climate crisis and an economic crisis that is bearing down on working people,” says Varshini Prakash of the Sunrise Movement, which has reached 3 million young voters to get out the vote in the midterms. Prakash also explains how parts of President Biden’s climate legislation passed this year could be stalled or reversed if Republicans take back control of Congress in 2023.

Airdate: 8 November 2022 8:18AM LENGTH: 10 MINUTES

Issue: Congress: As the new year starts, a new speaker of the house will be elected, which will bring changes to the way local communities operate.

Democracy Now! : ““Enough Is Enough”: Rail Workers Decry Biden’s Push to Impose Strike-Breaking Labor Deal.” President Biden is pushing Congress to block a pending nationwide rail strike and push through a contract deal that includes no sick days and is opposed by four of the 12 rail unions. Biden’s latest request is an attempt to “legislate us basically back to work, before we’ve even had a chance to strike,” says locomotive engineer and Railroad Workers United organizer Ron Kaminkow. “Workers should have the right to take off work for a reasonable amount for whatever reason they need it,” says labor professor Nelson Lichtenstein, who urges the rail workers to strike anyway.
Airdate: 30 NOVEMBER 2022 8:11AM LENGTH: 20 MINUTES

Democracy Now! : “Why Is AIPAC Spending Millions to Beat Summer Lee, a Democratic Socialist Running for Congress in PA? With Democrats at risk of losing both the House and Senate in Tuesday’s midterms, we speak with Justice Democrats spokesperson Waleed Shahid about the progressives favored to win congressional seats. Texas city councilmember and former labor organizer Greg Casar, Illinois state Representative Delia Ramirez and Pennsylvania community organizer Summer Lee have all been endorsed by Justice Democrats, who are best known for helping catapult members of the Squad to victory in 2018. “I think that we’ll continue to see these progressives expand the horizon on issues that working-class communities care about,” says Shahid, who critiques the Democratic Party for weak messaging on the economy. Shahid also discusses how the pro-Israel lobbying group AIPAC is pouring money into defeating progressive candidates like Summer Lee.
Airdate: 7 NOVEMBER 2022 8:14AM LENGTH: 14 MINUTES

Democracy Now! : “David Dayen on Rail Contract Bill, Respect for Marriage Act, Debt Ceiling & What a GOP Congress Means.” With a new Congress being sworn in next month, Democratic lawmakers have a busy lame-duck session during which they will try to pass as many bills as possible before losing their majority in the House of Representatives. The Senate has just passed the historic Respect for Marriage Act in a 61-36 vote that protects marriage equality, and lawmakers are also moving to impose a controversial contract on the freight rail industry to avert a possible strike by thousands of rail workers who are demanding sick days and other improvements. Meanwhile, a fight is looming over a funding bill to avoid a government shutdown. For more, we speak with journalist David Dayen, whose recent piece for The American Prospect is headlined “Reconciliation Is Available to End Debt Limit Hostage-Taking.”
Airdate: 1 DECEMBER 2022 8:28AM LENGTH: 24 MINUTE

