

Community Issues Programming for January 1 - March 31, 2024

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: Environment: Our community is concerned about the environment as well as the impact of government decision making and other regulations on the economy and daily life.

Democracy Now! ESG Funds Under Attack: Why Republicans Are Targeting Socially Responsible Investing. Airdate 29 March 2024 8:15AM Length 15:30 minutes

Republicans are on a “crusade” against responsible investing, says Andrew Behar, CEO of the nonprofit group As You Sow that promotes corporate responsibility through shareholder advocacy. His group was subpoenaed to testify before the House Judiciary Committee this week as Republicans probe whether investments that take into account environmental, social and governance (ESG) concerns violate antitrust laws. Republicans have introduced bills in dozens of states across the U.S. to limit state bodies from working with banks and other financial firms that take things like climate change into consideration in their investments. ESG is “a framework for assessing risk,” Behar says. “Basic good business says you want to assess and address risk, and that’s what they’re trying to suppress.”

Issue: Abortion: This is a social issue that reaches every community in the country – the changes are ongoing with the debate for who has what rights is affecting our community.

Democracy Now! : Supreme Court Seems Set to Preserve Access to Mifepristone in Likely Defeat for Abortion Foes. Airdate: 27 MARCH 2024 8:11AM LENGTH: 17 MINUTES

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments Tuesday on the abortion pill mifepristone, which is available by mail and can be taken at home, even in states that have severely limited or banned abortions. The case was brought by a group of anti-choice medical associations that have sought to overturn moves by the Food and Drug Administration to increase access to the drug, which is used for roughly two-thirds of all U.S. abortions. This was the first abortion-related Supreme Court hearing since the court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022. A decision is expected by July. “Overall the justices showed that they were skeptical of the claims brought by the plaintiffs in this case,” says Michele Goodwin, a law professor at Georgetown University and founding director of the Center for Biotechnology and Global Health Policy. Goodwin summarizes the arguments presented by both sides, the justices’ responses and the legal implications of the upcoming ruling.

Issue: Gun Control: The ongoing issue of gun violence and gun control on a national, state, and local level has an impact on our community.

***Democracy Now!* : “I Died That Day in Parkland”: Shotline Uses AI-Generated Voices of Gun Victims to Call Congress**

The shooting in Kansas City on Wednesday came on the sixth anniversary of the Parkland, Florida, school massacre that left 17 dead and injured 17 others at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. To mark the anniversary, gun control advocates have launched a project called “The Shotline,” which calls lawmakers with AI-generated audio messages that feature the voices of gun violence victims, pushing them to pass stricter gun control laws and prevent future tragedies. One of the victims featured is Parkland student Joaquin Oliver, who was just 17 years old when he was killed. We speak to Joaquin’s father, Manuel Oliver, a gun reform activist who worked on the “Shotline” project. He describes the project as the “result of more than six years being ignored” while “begging these politicians to pass laws,” and reacts to the news of the Super Bowl parade shooting in Kansas City.

Airdate: 16 FEBRUARY 2024 8:50AM LENGTH: 9 MINUTES