

Community Issues Programming for January 1 - March 31, 2023

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!* “How Silicon Valley Bank & Signature Bank Lobbied to Weaken Regulations That Could Have Prevented Collapse.”**

The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank are the largest bank failures since the 2008 financial crisis, which prompted lawmakers to pass legislation to increase regulations on banks and other financial institutions. But during the Trump administration, a number of Democrats joined Republicans in Congress to weaken laws including Dodd-Frank, the landmark regulatory reform passed in the wake of the crisis. Executives from Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank were among those who successfully lobbied to weaken rules that may have prevented their collapse. The fallout from the bank failures now threatens to spread to other financial institutions, and the Biden administration has taken extraordinary steps to guarantee all deposits in the two failed banks and to shore up the rest of the sector in what many are criticizing as a bailout of rich bank customers. For more, we speak with *The Lever's* David Sirota and banking law professor Mehrsa Baradaran, whom progressive groups at one point backed as the Biden administration's pick for comptroller of the currency, an influential regulator of banks.

Airdate 14 March 2023 8:15AM Length 15:30 minutes

***Democracy Now!* “East Palestine Toxic Train Crash Shows Plastics Industry Toll on Planet. Will U.S. Ban Vinyl Chloride?”**

Five weeks after the Norfolk Southern toxic train derailment and so-called controlled burn that blanketed the town with a toxic brew of at least six hazardous chemicals and gases, senators grilled the CEO of Norfolk Southern over the company's toxic train derailment. The company has evaded calls to cover healthcare costs as residents continue to report headaches, coughing, fatigue, irritation and burning of the skin. For more on the ongoing fallout from the toxic crash, and its roots in the plastics industry, we are joined by Monica Unseld, a biologist and environmental and social justice advocate who has studied the health impact of endocrine-disrupting chemicals used in plastics like those released in East Palestine. She is executive director of Until Justice Data Partners and co-lead for the Coming Clean science team. Also joining us is Judith Enck, a former EPA regional administrator and president of Beyond Plastics whose recent *Boston Globe* op-ed is headlined “The East Palestine Disaster Was a Direct Result of the Country's Reliance on Fossil Fuels and Plastic.”

Airdate: 13 MARCH 2023 8:42AM LENGTH: 18 MINUTES

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! : “Roe v. Wade at 50 (Almost): What Abortion Access Looks Like After Constitutional Right Overturned”.

This Sunday marks what would have been the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 ruling that guaranteed a constitutional right to abortion. But the landmark decision was overturned by the ultraconservative Supreme Court just over six months ago in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health. The court’s removal of the right to safe, legal abortions has led to total abortion bans in 12 states. Meanwhile, the push to ensure access to abortion has spurred new legal challenges and greater reliance on the abortion pill mifepristone, as medication abortions account for more than half of all U.S. abortions. We get an update from Amy Littlefield, abortion access correspondent at The Nation, whose most recent piece looks at how cities and states are acting to limit the damage from Dobbs. “There are an untold number of people staying pregnant against their will, despite the best efforts of activists,” she says.

Airdate: 18 JANUARY 2023 8:11AM LENGTH: 17 MINUTES

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! : ““Stop the Absurd Debate”: Parkland Father Calls for Nationwide Education Strike to Demand Gun Reform.”

In the wake of the mass shooting at a private Christian elementary school in Nashville, Tennessee, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said Wednesday Republicans “want to see all the facts” before proposing any new gun legislation. Just last week, Manuel Oliver, father of one of 17 people killed in the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, was arrested in the Republican-controlled House after he and his wife Patricia spoke out during a subcommittee hearing on the Second Amendment. He joins us to call for a national education strike to push for action on the U.S. gun violence epidemic. His new op-ed for The Daily Beast is “Arrest Gun-Loving Members of Congress—Not Grieving Fathers.”

Airdate: 31 MARCH 2023 8:50AM LENGTH: 9 MINUTES

***Democracy Now!* : “Guns Leading Killer of Kids: With MSU Massacre, U.S. Averages More Than One Mass Shooting a Day.”**

The Michigan State University community is in mourning after a mass shooting on campus Monday in which a gunman killed three students and severely wounded five more. In response to Monday’s killings, both Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and President Joe Biden have called for tighter gun laws to restrict the purchase of weapons. Monday’s bloodshed came just a day before the fifth anniversary of the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, highlighting the ever-present risk of gun violence in the lives of young people in the United States. “Young people now experience gun violence multiple times throughout our lives,” says gun violence prevention advocate Robert Schentrup, whose sister Carmen was killed in the 2018 Parkland massacre. We also speak with pediatrician Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, who teaches at Michigan State and says gun violence must be seen as a public health crisis. “The number one killer of children is guns,” says Dr. Hanna-Attisha.

Airdate: 15 February 2023 8:50M LENGTH: 9 MINUTES