

Issues Programs List
WECI 91.5 Radio Station
July 1 - September 30, 2021
Placed in Public File October 10, 2021

Section I: Issues

WECI has identified the following issues as significant and relevant to the local communities and listening audience:

COVID-19 Pandemic/Public Health
Economics
Climate/Environmental Issues
Education

Section II: Responsive Programming

Issue: COVID-19 Pandemic/Public Health

Saturday, July 10th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: The Menopause Manifesto

Dr. Jen Gunter, M.D., OB/GYN and Pain Medicine Specialist; Author, *The Menopause Manifesto*, with Samantha Bee, Comedian; Host, “Full Frontal with Samantha Bee,” TBS on the myths, misinformation, and misogyny surrounding menopause.

Monday, July 12, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now!: AOC: U.S. Must Mass Produce COVID-19 Vaccine for World, or Pandemic Could Drag On for Generations

As the COVID-19 pandemic drags on, less than 0.1% of vaccine doses have been administered in low-income countries, according to data available at the end of March, with more than 86% of shots being administered in high- and upper-middle-income countries. “We are not protecting ourselves from the virus, and we frankly are setting up the virus and COVID for being around for generations,” says New York Congressmember Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. She calls on the United States to use tools like the Defense Production Act to mobilize mass production of vaccines to export for free around the world.

Thursday, July 15, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now! How the Pandemic Fueled Global Hunger: 2.5 Billion Lack Nutritious Food, 1 in 5 Children Are Stunted

The COVID-19 pandemic has fueled a sharp increase in the number of people going hungry worldwide, along with conflict and the impacts of climate change. A new report on the state of food security and nutrition in the world found about one-tenth of the global population was undernourished last year, more than 2.5 billion people did not have access to sufficient nutritious food, and one in five children now face stunted growth.

Wednesday, July 21st, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 39 minutes

Democracy Now! The Pandemic Is Not Over: Science Writer Ed Yong on Delta's Devastation in Low-Vaccination States

COVID-19 cases in the United States have tripled over the past month as the highly contagious Delta variant rapidly spreads across the country, particularly in areas with low vaccination rates. Deaths from COVID-19 have increased by nearly 50% over the past week, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the Delta variant is now responsible for 83% of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. "Things are much worse than people might realize," says Ed Yong, science writer at The Atlantic who reports on the Delta variant's spread in Missouri, one of the hardest-hit areas in the U.S.

Friday, August 13, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now!: "Not Going Quietly": Paralyzed with ALS, Ady Barkan Continues Fighting for Medicare for All

Democracy Now! spoke with healthcare activist Ady Barkan, the 37-year-old lawyer and father who, since his ALS diagnosis in 2016, has devoted his life to campaigning for universal healthcare. He continued to speak out even after losing his voice and now uses a computerized system that converts his eye movements to speech. Barkan is the subject of "Not Going Quietly," a documentary following his cross-country activism. "Only a truly radical departure from our exploitative, for-profit model to one that guarantees healthcare as a right for all will ensure that we no longer live in a nation where people go bankrupt on account of their medical bills," Barkan tells *Democracy Now!* "We need Medicare for All now."

Saturday, August 29, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: A Conversation with Dr. Anthony Fauci, and U.S. Digital Response: Tech's Fight Against COVID

First Module: Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NAID), Member, White House Coronavirus Task Force; in conversation with Dr. Gloria Duffy, President and CEO, The Commonwealth Club

Tuesday, September 7th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 43 minutes

Democracy Now!: 9/11's Unsettled Dust": Bush's EPA Hid Health Risks from Toxic Dust at Ground Zero & Thousands Died

As this week marks the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, Democracy Now! looks at an enraging new documentary, "9/11's Unsettled Dust," on the impact of the toxic, cancer-causing smoke and dust that hung over ground zero and how the Environmental Protection Agency put Wall Street's interests before public health and told people the air was safe to breathe. One of the key figures in the film is Democracy Now! co-host Juan González, who was among the first to expose the public health and environmental crisis at ground zero in a series of reports for the New York Daily News.

Thursday, September 16th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 51 minutes

Democracy Now! As Wealthy Nations Debate Giving Booster Vaccine Shots, Calls Grow for Global Vaccine Equity

As the debate over booster vaccine shots heats up in the United States, global health leaders have issued an urgent call for global vaccine equity. The WHO reports vaccination rates on the African continent fall far below its target for 70% of the population of all countries to be vaccinated by mid-2022. "The science is not completely behind the need for booster shots yet," says Zane Dangor, special adviser to the foreign minister of South Africa, who has called on the U.S. to come up with a proposal for allowing other countries to manufacture vaccines.

Issue: Economics

Saturday, July 17th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: Black Smoke: African Americans and the United States of Barbecue with Adrian Miller

Adrian Miller, Writer; Certified Barbecue Judge; Attorney; Author, *Black Smoke: African Americans and the United States of Barbecue* in conversation with Justin Phillips, Columnist, San Francisco Chronicle on the entrepreneurship, culinary innovation, and stories of Black perseverance during the most patriotic of American holidays, July 4th.

Saturday, August 21st, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: Inside Facebook's Battle for Domination

Sheera Frenkel, Cybersecurity Correspondent, The New York Times; Co-Author, *An Ugly Truth: Inside Facebook's Battle for Domination* with co-author Cecilia Kang, Technology and Regulatory Policy Correspondent, The New York Times, and Emily Chang, Anchor and Executive Producer, Bloomberg Technology; Author, *Brotopia: Breaking Up the Boys' Club of Silicon Valley*, on the inside decisions and consequences of Facebook's infamous leaders.

Wednesday, August 11th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 44 minutes

Democracy Now! “The End of Neoliberalism”: Rep. Ro Khanna Hails “Historic” \$3.5 Trillion Budget Plan

Senate Democrats passed a \$3.5 trillion budget resolution early Wednesday, August 11th, 2021, that would vastly expand the social safety net, increase taxes on the rich and corporations, improve worker rights and include measures to combat the climate crisis. The budget blueprint passed 50-49, less than 24 hours after a \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill was approved 69-30 in the Senate. Both spending packages have moved on to the House of Representatives, where Speaker Nancy Pelosi indicated she will not bring the bipartisan bill to the House floor unless the reconciliation bill is considered at the same time.

Friday, September 3rd, 2021, -- 3pm. Duration: 34 minutes

Democracy Now!: Dirty Work: Eyal Press on Essential Jobs and the Hidden Toll of Inequality in America

Ahead of Labor Day, Democracy Now! speaks with journalist and sociologist Eyal Press about his new book, “Dirty Work: Essential Jobs and the Hidden Toll of Inequality in America.” Press profiles workers like prison guards and oil workers — people who make their livelihoods by doing “unethical activity that society depends on and tacitly condones but doesn’t want to hear too much” about, he says. “This work is largely hidden, and we rarely hear from the people on the frontlines who are delegated to do it,” Press tells Democracy Now!

Wednesday, September 8th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 55 minutes

Democracy Now! Joseph Stiglitz: Ending Unemployment Benefits as Pandemic Rages Is Cruel & Hurts Economic Recovery

Democracy Now! covers how as unemployment benefits for millions of U.S. workers expired on Labor Day, with many states suffering the worst surge of the pandemic, economist Joseph Stiglitz says it’s “disturbing” federal aid was allowed to lapse. “This is going to feed into the problems posed by the Delta variant.” Stiglitz also talks about whether Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell should stay in the job, saying he has done a “reasonable job” during the pandemic but has a tendency “to side with Wall Street and engage in deregulation.”

Friday, September 18th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now! “Another World Is Possible”: How Occupy Wall Street Reshaped Politics & Kicked Off New Era of Protest

On the 10th anniversary of Occupy Wall Street, Democracy Now! examines the legacy of the historic protests with three veterans of the movement: Nelini Stamp, now the director of strategy and partnerships at the Working Families Party; Jillian Johnson, a key organizer in Occupy Durham who now serves on the Durham City Council and is the city’s mayor pro tempore; and writer and filmmaker Astra Taylor, an organizer with the Debt Collective.

Wednesday, September 29th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 41 minutes

Democracy Now!: “Hold the Line!”: Can Progressives Force Passage of \$3.5T Package to Expand the Social Safety Net?

Progressives in the House of Representatives say they will oppose the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she would seek a vote on the measure separately from the Build Back Better Act, the \$3.5 trillion bill that expands the social safety net and combats the climate crisis. Conservative Democratic Senators Kyrsten Sinema and Joe Manchin, who receive major donations from financial institutions, fossil fuel companies and other industries, continue to oppose the \$3.5 trillion package. While the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill is “kind of a half-measure,” the Build Back Better Act “really could be best described as the Democratic platform,” says David Dayen, executive editor of The American Prospect.

Issue: Climate/Environmental Issues

Tuesday, July 6th, 2021 --3 pm. Duration: 46 minutes

Democracy Now!: Exxon Exposed: Greenpeace Tricks Top Lobbyists into Naming Senators They Use to Block Climate Action

Democratic Congressman Ro Khanna, the chair of the House Oversight Subcommittee on the Environment, announced plans to ask the CEOs of Exxon and other fossil fuel companies to testify before the committee about their role in blocking congressional action to address the climate emergency. Khanna made the request after Greenpeace UK released a video of two lobbyists discussing Exxon’s secretive efforts to fight climate initiatives in Washington, revealing how the oil giant supported a carbon tax to appear proactive about climate change while privately acknowledging that such a tax has no chance of being passed.

Saturday, July 24th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: Mystic and the Power of Art

Shepard Fairey, Artist; Activist, with Mystic, Grammy-nominated hip hop artist, and Greg Dalton, Founder and Host, Climate One on how the power of image can transform the climate conversation into something more productive and thought-provoking.

Wednesday, July 29, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now!: “This Is Not a Climate Bill”: Leah Stokes on Why Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal Doesn’t Go Far Enough

Senate Democrats announced that they joined with 17 Republicans to vote in favor of taking up a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure deal. The plan included new spending on climate and environment measures, but critics said it falls far short of what is needed. Democrats said they hope to include

additional climate measures in a \$3.5 trillion reconciliation package that could advance without being blocked by a Republican filibuster if it is backed by all 50 Democrats.

Monday, August 30th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 46 minutes

Democracy Now!: Hurricane Ida Hits Oil Industry in Black & Native Communities on Louisiana Coast Amid Climate Crisis

Democracy Now! Covers how two-thirds of Louisiana's industrial sites lie in the path of Hurricane Ida, including oil refineries, storage tanks and other infrastructure like oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. Louisiana's Gulf Coast is a major oil and gas hub, with 17 oil refineries, two liquefied natural gas export terminals, as well as a nuclear power plant and many Superfund sites. Oil spills and chemical releases due to climate change-intensified storms are a "worsening, consistent problem" in Louisiana's Gulf Coast, says Antonia Juhasz, a longtime oil and energy investigative journalist. Communities of color living on the Gulf Coast near polluting gas and oil infrastructure "now also have to deal with that worsening climate crisis creating a storm that harms these facilities, that then causes more releases," she adds.

Saturday, September 11th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Commonwealth Club: Which Way Are Swing Voters Swinging on Climate?

Andrew Freedman, Axios Reporter, Covering Climate and Energy, Venkatachalam "Ram" Ramaswamy, Director, NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, Rich Thau, Moderator, The Swing Voter Project; Co-founder and president, Engagious, and Greg Dalton, Founder and Host, Climate One on how political agendas and climate change have been affecting one another.

Thursday, September 23rd, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 25 minutes

Democracy Now! Raj Patel: Climate, Conflict and Capitalism Drive Global Hunger. COVID Made It Worse

With hunger growing across the globe during the pandemic, the United Nations is holding its first Food Systems Summit, but the gathering is facing fierce criticism for giving corporations an outsized role framing the agenda. The United Nations' own experts on food, human rights and the environment released a statement warning the summit could "serve the corporate sector" over the needs of workers, small producers, women and Indigenous peoples around the world. U.N. figures show the pandemic has increased the number of hungry people to 811 million, and nearly one in three people worldwide — almost 2.4 billion — lack access to adequate nutrition.

Issue: Education

Tuesday, July 20th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now!: "Heartbreaking": Judge's Suspension of DACA Renews Push for Comprehensive Immigration Bill

After a federal judge struck down DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, *Democracy Now!* looked at what may come next with Cesar Espinosa, a DACA recipient and executive director of the Houston-based, immigrant-led civil rights organization FIEL. He says the latest ruling is “heartbreaking,” and urges lawmakers to create a legislative solution for the millions of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. “We want to see Congress and the president take action.”

Monday, July 26th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 59 minutes

Democracy Now!: Remembering Civil Rights Icon Bob Moses: Organized SNCC, Miss. Freedom Summer & Algebra Project

Democracy Now! remembers the life of Bob Moses, the civil rights leader who left his job as a New York City high school teacher to register Black voters in Mississippi in the 1960s, facing down horrific violence and intimidation to become one of the icons of the movement. He died Sunday, July 25th, at age 86. Moses spent his later years as an advocate for improved math education, teaching thousands of students across the United States through the Algebra Project, the nonprofit he founded.

Tuesday, August 10th, 2021 -- 3 pm. Duration: 50 minutes

Democracy Now! Teachers Union President Randi Weingarten on Why She Now Supports Vaccine Mandates for Teachers

Democracy Now! examined the state of school reopenings amid a surge in COVID-19 infections among children in the U.S. with Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers. Weingarten, who had favored voluntary vaccinations for teachers, voiced support for a vaccine mandate for educators because the Delta variant “significantly changes the circumstances.” Weingarten noted that almost 90% of teachers represented by the American Federation of Teachers are already vaccinated, saying it’s time to stop “scapegoating” teachers for the challenges in reopening schools. “The teachers in the country understand the importance of being back in school and the importance of vaccinations,” she said.