

WQPT Quarter 1 2024

WQPT produces and broadcasts a weekly public affairs program called "The Cities." It is broadcast every Thursday from 7-7:30pm and Sunday at 4pm. The program regularly deals with local issues of importance to our viewers.

Program	Episode ID (Station Id)	Episode Description	Original Air Date	Issue
The Cities	WQPT-1407	Jim sits down with two veteran Quad City lawmakers, State Senator Cindy Winckler (Democrat from Davenport, IA) and State Representative Gary Mohr (Republican from Bettendorf, IA) about the expectations for the upcoming session. Original air date January 4, 2024.	1/4/2024	Money coming in to Iowa- where it's coming from, where it's going; Book Bans- who should make the decision on which books to ban; school vouchers; what to expect for taxes in 2024; funding education in 2024
The Cities	WQPT-1408	Jim talks with the Chairman of the Rock Island County Democratic Party, Western Illinois State Senator Mike Halpin about priorities, accomplishments and failures.	1/11/2024	Budget projections for 2024- things are moving in a better direction than four years ago; possibility of lowering taxes; How higher education is still recovering from the budget freeze; Do we need to rethink how higher education exists; focus on STEM in education; Smart Start Illinois- getting every kid into pre-school by 2027; Minimum Wage; Assault weapon registration; What Illinois is doing to combat crime; what Illinois is doing for mental health
The Cities	WQPT-1409	Every four years Iowa becomes the epicenter of national politics. Jim talks with Jeanita McNulty, the Chair of Scott County Republicans and Kay Pence, the Chair of Scott County Democrats about the caucus. Original air date January 18, 2024.	1/18/2024	Caucus Night for republicans and democrats; Web based way to count at each location; mailing out preference cards and how people reacted; making it easier for people to participate in the caucus; Is it worth it to keep the caucus
The Cities	WQPT-1410	Jim speaks with West Side Revitalization Coordinator Thurgood Brooks and Quad Cities Community Foundation's Interim Director of Grant-making and Community Initiatives Kaleigh Trammell about the process and progress of revitalizing Rock Island's west side. Original air date January 25, 2024.	1/25/2024	What is being done to revitalize the west end of Rock Island; building off of the pride that already exists in that area; how Transformation Grants are helping to make this happen;
The Cities	WQPT-1411	Jim speaks with Kassie Daly, Associate Director of Admissions and Director of Transfer Services at WIU, about the FAFSA delay and steps students should take to get ready for college. Jim also talks with Brad Harvey about the past Quad Cities music scene and the chances of a music museum in the Quad Cities. Original air date February 1, 2024.	2/1/2024	The status of FAFSA during this delay and what families can do in the mean time; how is this delay going to affect universities; how grants and scholarships through FAFSA have changed; pursuing affordable higher education to avoid massive loans How the music scene has changed over the years; creating a music museum for the Quad Cities and what it would do for the Quad Cities
The Cities	WQPT-1412	Jim talks with Western Illinois University Political Science Professor Keith Boeckelman about what we can expect after the caucus and primary.	2/8/2024	The unique position US politics are in regarding Donald Trump being allowed on ballots; how this situation might get more of Trump's unreliable voters to turn out and vote; Why aren't the other candidates doing well; Illinois politics; JB Pritzker; Mike Madigan; problem with majority rule in Illinois
The Cities	WQPT-1413	Jim Mertens talks with National Weather Service Hydrologist Matt Wilson about the potential flooding this spring and with Putnam Museum Marketing Director Scott Peake about the discovery unearthed in the Putnam's vaults.	2/15/2024	The strange winter season in the Quad Cities; what is causing this strangeness; Flood potential with the Mississippi River The amazing collections at the Putnam Museum and what has been found in storage; how the Putnam is interacting with the community
The Cities	WQPT-1414	Jim talks with Sound Conservancy Founder Andrej Kozlowski about the future of the Sound Conservancy in their new location, the old Moline Carnegie Library. Jim also talks with United Way VITA Coordinator Max Bigalk about the Volunteer Income Tax Assistant Program.	2/22/2024	How low income individuals can get help with taxes from professionals The Sound Conservancy in a new location and what they offer to the Quad Cities community- lessons, concerts, piano restorations

The Cities	WQPT-1415	Jim talks with Moline Mayor Sangeetha Rayapati about Moline's plans for the newly opened waterfront.	2/29/2024	State of the City of Moline; focusing on striking a balance between how the city provides what they provide and what they're providing; what the city is planning on doing with the open land created from the new I-74 bridge; creating local amenities that are also a regional draw; how the Heart of the Arts continues to do well; what the city is doing for entrepreneurs and what entrepreneurs are doing for the city; creating experiences to draw the community together; focusing on infrastructure projects
The Cities	WQPT-1416	Jim talks with Rock Island Mayor Mike Thoms about Rock Island's plans for progress in the coming year.	3/7/2024	State of the City of Rock Island; effort to increase retail; working together with other cities, people, associations to keep growing; revitalizing the west end of Rock Island; changes to help revitalize the downtown; working on infrastructure projects; gun seizures/control; Working with the Quad Cities as a whole to stop gun violence;
The Cities	WQPT-1417	Jim talks with State Representative Gregg Johnson about politics, legislative priorities, and a bi-partisan measure that better protects people who work at prisons. Jim then talks with Denny Hitchcock about what's coming up at Circa 21.	3/14/2024	Illinois primary; tax cuts; GOMB predictions for Illinois; Smart Start Illinois; abortion rights, women's health care, LGBTQ+ rights; laws to protect those that work at prisons how Circa' 21 got started and what you can see there
The Cities	WQPT-1418	Jim talks with East Moline Mayor Reggie Freeman about bold decisions for the East Moline downtown region, investments in policing, infrastructure, and other city services, and plans to build a city government that is as diverse as the city itself.	3/21/2024	State of the City of East Moline; how East Moline is drawing in more people; how the Rust Belt is helping tourism; looking at ways to revitalize the downtown; ways the whole city is going under a revitalization; how to expand and grow; diversity in the city; taxes
The Cities	WQPT-1419	Jim talks with Moline Centre Program Manager, Kirk Marske about creating a plan for downtown Moline. Jim then talks with Karree Fah of Hiney Heros of the Quad Cities about the financial burden of baby diapers and how Hiney Hero helps.	3/28/2024	Community feedback to the company designing the river front in Moline; revitalizing downtown; developing the downtown to residential; working to continue the downtown entertainment that started last year; what is being done to bring people back out now that the pandemic is over What Hiney Heros is doing to help young families provide for their babies; bringing awareness to the need for diapers