



**Georgia Public Broadcasting**  
**Quarterly Issues/Programs Report**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**  
**April - June 2023**

**Top 5 Issues Addressed:**

1. Politics
2. Health
3. Policing and Criminal Justice
4. Gun Violence
5. Immigration

## Representative Programs That Addressed Issues:

### 1. Politics

#### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

Weekdays, 9am and repeated at 2pm

Numerous major topics were addressed on *Political Rewind* during the quarter, starting with former president Donald Trump's arraignment in a New York 'hush money' prosecution. The show also discussed other cases facing the former president, including the ongoing investigation in Georgia's own Fulton County. Over the quarter, the show address ongoing state and national efforts to limit abortion access, the ongoing social and legal battles over Atlanta's police training center, gun violence, and immigration.

#### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

April 5, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and his panel recapped former President Donald Trump's arraignment in a New York case regarding business fraud ahead of election night in 2016. The panel also unpacked other cases against the former president around the nation. The panel also discussed Trump's continuing popularity as the Republican frontrunner for the 2024 presidential election, as Georgia's politicians like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene travel to New York to protest during his arraignment. Finally, the panel unpacked Governor Brian Kemp's first vetoed bill, which would have capped tuition increases without legislative approval. Panelists were Audrey Haynes, professor of political science at the University of Georgia, Maya King, politics reporters at the *New York Times*, Rick Dent, vice president of Matrix Communications, and Tia Mitchell, Washington reporter at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

#### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

May 15, 2023, 9am and 2pm.

Today's *Political Rewind* focused on a number of political issues. First, Governor Kemp instructed state agencies to "disregard" several line items in the state's final 2023 budget, including funding for mental healthcare and free meals for students. Host Bill Nigut and the panel discussed the \$30 million dollar measure alongside new tax breaks and rebates, which totaled over \$2 billion dollars. The panel also discussed reporting that suggests former Senate candidate Herschel Walker may have misdirected campaign finance dollars to a private business. Finally, the panel also discussed a CNN Town Hall featuring Donald Trump, which could impact Fulton County's investigation. The panelists were Leo Smith, president of Engaged Futures, Patricia Murphy, political reporter and columnist at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, State Representative Mary Margaret Oliver, and WABE politics reporter Rahul Bali.

#### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

June 2, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm

On *Political Rewind* today, host Bill Nigut and his panelists looked at the Congressional battle over debt ceiling legislation ahead of an early June deadline. After days of negotiation, the House and Senate sent a debt ceiling bill to President Biden's desk. The panel also discussed the widening GOP primary field, including Mike Pence and Chris Christie. Finally, the panel discussed the state Republican convention in Columbus, which Governor Brian Kemp signaled he would not attend. The panelists included Emory University professor of political

science Andra Gillespie, Emory University professor emeritus of political science Alan Abramowitz, University of Georgia professor of political science Charles Bullock, and former *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* columnist Jim Galloway.

## News

May 3, 2023, Morning Edition and All Things Considered

Gov. Brian Kemp has signed a measure that virtually eliminates the ability for local elections officials to receive third-party funding to help cover their costs. Under Senate Bill 222, it is now a felony for local government officials or election workers to ask for or receive money to pay for elections except for funds that come from the state or federal government.

## News

May 4, 2023, Morning Edition and All Things Considered

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger has set Georgia's presidential preference primary for March 12, 2024, dealing a blow to Democrats' hopes for an earlier (if symbolic) contest and giving Republicans a chance to select delegates for multiple candidates. Georgia's presidential primary will come one week after the so-called "Super Tuesday" of states like Texas, California and North Carolina that will provide a plurality of the Republican Party's delegates for the 2024 nominating convention and a week before other key states like Arizona, Florida, and Ohio.

## 2. [Health](#)

### Political Rewind

GPB

April 20, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today's *Political Rewind* focused on the Supreme Court battle over access to the abortion drug mifepristone. A Texas federal judge ruled the FDA had not properly vetted the drug 20 years ago, but the Court temporarily allowed access while they debated its final availability. The panel tied it to the Georgia Supreme Court's ongoing discussion around the viability of Georgia's six-week abortion ban, which was passed before *Dobbs* invalidated *Roe v. Wade*. Panelists include Donna Lowry, host of GPB-TV's *Lawmakers*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* editor-at-large Kevin Riley, Matrix Communications vice president Rick Dent, and Stephen Fowler, politics reporter at GPB News.

### Political Rewind

GPB

May 1, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's edition of *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and his panel discussed the growing unpopularity of strict abortion bans in Republican-led states. South Carolina and Nebraska's failed bills would have been similar to Georgia's six-week ban. The panelists discussed the changing composition of Republican lawmakers to include women, who want to preserve access to reproductive healthcare, as part of the reason the bills failed. The panelists include former state Senator Jen Jordan, Engaged Futures CEO Leo Smith, WABE politics reporter Rahul Bali, and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political columnist Patricia Murphy.

### Political Rewind

GPB

June 9, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and his panel discussed former First Lady Rosalynn Carter's dementia diagnosis, her work in mental healthcare and caregiving, and her legacy as an advocate for substance

use and mental health disorders. The panel discussed Carter's recent diagnosis along with the news that her husband, former President Jimmy Carter, was in home hospice care in Plains. The panel discussed the state of caregiving in Georgia, especially elder care. Finally, the panel discussed the Carters' institutional efforts to address healthcare, through the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers in Americus and the Rosalynn Carter Fellowship for Mental Health Journalism. Panelists include GPB senior health reporter Ellen Eldridge, Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers CEO Dr. Jennifer Olsen, and Carter Center CEO Paige Alexander.

## **News**

April 18, 2023, Morning Edition and All Things Considered

In 2020 close to 700 pregnant women in Georgia reported struggling with depression after giving birth. However, the numbers are likely much higher. Now health providers are getting increased training on how to spot and treat women in an effort to decrease the numbers of postpartum suicides. GPB spoke to experts and providers about what they are doing to help.

## **News**

May 19, 2023, Morning Edition and All Things Considered

Georgia's behavioral health leaders say staffing shortages are creating challenges for those needing mental health treatment. A lack of access to behavioral health care has to do with staffing shortages and they are looking for ways to retain and recruit workers, including higher pay. State officials say a 40-percent increase in pay is needed.

## **News**

June 14, 2023, Morning Edition and All Things Considered

Medicaid unwinding could leave thousands of people without coverage. This year, a COVID-19 pandemic policy that kept millions of people covered by Medicaid without interruption ended. But now, many people are at risk of losing their Medicaid coverage, especially if they do not know what to do. And advocates say some outreach efforts from state public health departments have not been effective in reaching vulnerable communities.

### **3. Policing and Criminal Justice**

#### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

April 27, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today's *Political Rewind* looked at two recent inmate deaths in Georgia's prisons. 71-year-old Anthony Joseph Zino, an inmate at Smith State Prison, was found in his cell five days after his death, badly decomposed. 35-year-old Lashawn Thompson died in Fulton County Jail, covered in bug bites. The panel discussed the state of Georgia's carceral institutions, federal interventions, and investigations, and how Black Georgians are disproportionately represented in Georgia's prison population. The panel also discussed Georgia's history of prison reform, like Deal-era Accountability Courts. Panelists include GPB News reporter and editor Grant Blankenship, Clark Atlanta University professor of political science Kurt Young, the Southern Center for Human Rights' director of public policy, Tiffany Williams Roberts, and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* editor-at-large Kevin Riley.

## **Political Rewind**

GPB

May 19, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, the panel discussed protests against the Atlanta police training center, referred to by protesters as "Cop City." Three hundred protestors gave hours of public comment ahead of an introduced ordinance at City Hall which allocates funding for the training center. Opposition to the facility had grown since the shooting death of environmental activist Manuel Paez Teran during a raid of the forested construction site in January. Mayor Andre Dickens wrote an opinion for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, laying out his case for the center. Panelists include DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond, former Georgia attorney general Sam Olens, and former *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* columnist Jim Galloway.

## **Political Rewind**

GPB

June 6, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today on *Political Rewind*, Host Bill Nigut and the panel discussed the overnight approval of funding for Atlanta's police training center. After 14 hours of overwhelmingly negative public comment, the Atlanta City Council approved what could amount to \$67 million for the public training center. This is because dozens of individuals were arrested and charged with domestic terrorism, and three bail fund organizers were arrested and charged with financial crimes. The panelists included *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* senior reporter Tamar Hallerman, GPB News *All Things Considered* host Peter Biello, Emory University professor of political science Bernard Fraga.

## **News**

June 23, 2023, Morning Edition and All Things Considered

Protestors of a new police training center in Atlanta say a new domestic terrorism law is being used to silence opponents. Scholars and politicians have spent decades debating what terrorism is. Georgia's law, passed five years ago captures a common area of agreement: murder meant to scare people into behaving differently. But it also includes something more subtle: the destruction of critical infrastructure to advance a belief.

## **News**

June 7, 2023, Morning Edition and All Things Considered

A group of Atlanta community leaders announced they filed a referendum with the city to get the construction of the controversial police training center on the ballot. The Atlanta Municipal Clerk has seven days to approve the referendum and provide an official petition. Organizers will then have 60 days to collect signatures from at least 15% of voters who registered in the last election, or around 71,000 signees.

## **News**

May 16, 2023, Morning Edition and All Things Considered

Relentless job pressure leaves a mark on police officers' physical and mental health. Many struggle with burnout, and the rate of post-traumatic stress disorder is five times as high in police officers as in the civilian population. Some studies estimate that 30% of police officers have a substance abuse problem. The concept of wellness rooms caught on during the COVID-19 pandemic. Just like front-line health care workers, police officers experience constant and extreme adrenaline spikes, said Dr. Jody Hughes, chief medical officer, and a critical care physician at Wellstar Cobb Hospital.

## 4. Gun Violence

### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

April 17, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today on *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and his panel discussed Governor Brian Kemp's appearance on a CNN interview with Jake Tapper. Over the previous weekend, four were killed and twenty-eight were injured in a shooting at a birthday party in Alabama. The governor expressed his condolences but said he would not pass any gun control legislation this session. Our panel discussed Georgia's existing measures, the prominence of gun violence and its effect on children, and what legislation was currently being drafted to address gun violence. The panelists were Emory University professor emeritus of political science Alan Abramowitz, Capital B reporter Chauncey Alcorn, documentarian King Williams, and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reporter and columnist Patricia Murphy.

### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, guest host Donna Lowry discussed a shooting in a Midtown Atlanta medical facility, which killed one and injured four others. The shooting preempted an hours long manhunt. The shooter scheduled a mental health checkup with the VA's office before the shooting, leading our panel to discuss correlations between mental healthcare and gun violence. The panel also discussed the political response to the shooting, from the U.S. Senate to the Governor's office. Panelists included Morehouse College pre-law professor Adrienne Jones, Axios reporter Emma Hurt, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reporter and columnist Patricia Murphy, and GPB News political reporter Stephen Fowler.

### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut spoke with a panel on gun violence and how it affects children. They spoke on a CDC report showing guns lead the causes of death for children, laws like permitless carry that could increase gun violence, and bills like Rep. Michelle Au's safe storage bill meant to curtail gun violence. They also discussed Georgia schools' current safety programs, like annual drills for mass shooter response time. The panelists were *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* editor-at-large Kevin Riley, former CDC researcher Dr. Mark Rosenberg, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* education columnist Maureen Downey, and state Representative Michelle Au.

### **News**

June 16, 2023

Mass shootings involving children have prompted waves of grief for communities across the country. For Jon Waldman, who sold high powered guns. Recent gun violence prompted reflection. He wondered: What if one of the guns he sold ended up killing a child? And what if that child was his own? Waldman says he is choosing to close his business, Georgia Ballistics in Duluth, because of the risk those weapons pose to children.

## 5. Immigration

### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's edition of *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and his panel discussed a U.S. House Republican-led effort to crack down on asylum immigration as Title 42 will expire in the coming month. The panel discussed the Trump-era policy which allows for the government to turn away asylum seekers, and what the Biden administration has done to address immigration. The panelists included immigration attorney Charles Kuck and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* senior reporter Tamar Hallerman.

### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today on *Political Rewind*: Host Bill Nigut and the panel discuss the end of Title 42, a Trump-era immigration law that allowed the denial of asylum seekers in the face of a health emergency like COVID-19. While there was no chaotic rush of migrants at the border, it leaves U.S. policy on immigration unclear. Our panel discussed the ramifications of the expiration as well as their work with migrating families. The panelists included immigration attorney Charles Kuck, WRBL-TV reporter Chuck Williams, Oglethorpe University political science professor Kendra King Momon, and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* senior reporter Tamar Hallerman.

### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

August 2, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut was joined by *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* editor Kevin Riley to interview *MundoNow* CEO Rene Alegria. *MundoNow* began as an Atlanta-based Spanish newspaper, but now dominates the independent Spanish-language digital media market. The hosts interviewed Alegria on his experience as a son of immigrants in a hostile Arizona environment, expanding what people think of immigrant and Latino communities, and why listeners should not buy the idea that the Hispanic voting bloc is monolithic, with dividing topics like DACA.