



# Georgia Public Broadcasting Quarterly Issues/Programs Report

April – June 2022

## Radio

### Top 5 Issues Addressed:

1. Politics
2. Gun Violence
3. Health
4. Economy
5. Education

## Representative Programs That Addressed Issues:

### 1. Politics

#### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

Weekdays, 9am and repeated at 2pm

As Americans remain divided on numerous issues, *Political Rewind* continued to focus on the issues that face Georgians. These included the investigation into the January 6<sup>th</sup> Insurrection, the mid-term elections, inflation and the economy, gun violence and the fight over education topics.

#### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

April 5, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today's *Political Rewind* looked back on the recently-completed state legislative session. Host Bill Nigut and panelists examined which bills passed at the last-minute, which failed, and which were altered. GPB Radio reporter Riley Bunch said the legislature OK'd a stripped-down election bill, a bill banning divisive concepts in schools, permit-less gun carry and the Mental Health Parity Act. However, a ban on mailing abortion pills, a gambling referendum, and a bill to clear up the medical cannabis system all failed to pass. Today's panelists included WRBL-TV reporter Chuck Williams, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political reporter Patricia Murphy, *Georgia Recorder* state government reporter Stanley Dunlap, and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* senior reporter Tamar Hallerman.

#### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

May 25, 2022, 9am and 2pm.

Following the previous day's primary voting in Georgia, we had two special LIVE *Political Rewind* shows today to delve into the results. At 9am, host Bill Nigut and his panel examined Gov. Brian Kemp's trouncing of challenger David Perdue, winning with a runoff. And in another blow to former President Donald Trump, secretary of state Brad Raffensperger beat back a challenge from Trump-backed Congressman Jody Hice. Panelists included *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reporters Greg Bluestein and Tia Mitchell, Emory University professor emeritus of political science Dr. Alan Abramowitz, and Emory University political science professor Dr. Andra Gillespie.

At 2pm, a separate panel looked not only at Georgia's election results, but also examined the mass shooting at a Texas elementary school that claimed twenty-one victims, including nineteen children. The discussion included speculation as to whether candidates will address gun control on a state and national level. Joining host Bill Nigut were GPB Radio reporters Riley Bunch and Stephen Fowler, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* managing editor Leroy Chapman, and Clark-Atlanta University political science professor Tammy Greer.

### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

June 22, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm

Today's *Political Rewind* focused on the results of yesterday's Georgia primary runoffs. The breakdown shows candidates backed by Democratic Gubernatorial nominee Stacey Abrams won their primaries, including Charlie Bailey running for Lt. Governor and State Rep. Bee Nguyen winning her race for Secretary of State. Also, candidates backed by former President Donald Trump took big losses, including Jake Evans in the 6<sup>th</sup> District Congressional race and Vernon Jones in the 10<sup>th</sup> District race. In addition, there was a surprising win in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, where Republican Chris West beat conservative media darling Jeremy Hunt in the race to face long-time Democrat Sanford Bishop in November. Joining host Bill Nigut were *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political reporter Greg Bluestein, Emory University professor emeritus of political science Dr. Alan Abramowitz, *Capital B Atlanta* reporter Chauncey Alcorn, and University of West Georgia political science professor Karen Owen.

## **2. Gun Violence**

### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

May 17, 2022. 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*: host Bill Nigut and his panel looked at how the nation and Georgians have reacted to the deadly mass shooting in Buffalo, New York. In that shooting, an 18-year-old white supremacist killed eight Black people at a Buffalo supermarket motivated by the far-right online conspiracy "replacement theory" which claims white people in the United States are being replaced by people of color. The panel discussed whether the shooting might lead to passage of a domestic terrorism bill making its way through the U.S. House of Representatives. Panelists included *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reporters Tamar Hallerman and Tia Mitchell and Margaret Coker, editor-in-chief of *The Current*.

### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

May 27, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut welcomed former director of the C.D.C. Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Dr. Mark Rosenberg, to discuss gun safety as a public health issue. Rosenberg noted that there is a myth that we cannot stop gun violence without taking everyone's guns, and he said research on gun safety has been treated differently than other injury prevention research. Rosenberg also said in order to fully address gun safety, we need to address the safety of the gun itself as well as who buys guns and how easily. Rosenberg started research on gun violence in the 1980's and found that having a gun in a home increases the risk of someone in the household being murdered by weapons by 200%. Joining today's discussion was former *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* politics reporter Jim Galloway.

## **3. Health**

### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

April 6, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Now that the COVID crisis has passed its 2-year anniversary, today's *Political Rewind* decided to look at the current status of the disease in Georgia. Host Bill Nigut was joined by Dr. Carlos del Rio, executive associate dean for Emory at Grady Hospital; Dr. Amber Schmidtke, division chair of natural sciences and mathematics at the University of St. Mary; and GPB Radio senior healthcare reporter Ellen Eldridge. The group discussed an encouraging decline in COVID cases both nationwide and in Georgia – though Dr. Schmidtke urged people to remain vigilant against the disease. They also discussed whether people need to continue to “mask up” and the status of vaccinations in Georgia.

**Political Rewind**

*GPB*

June 28, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and his panel looked at the repercussions of the Supreme Court's ruling overturning the landmark Roe v. Wade opinion guaranteeing the right to abortion. The Georgia legislature passed a bill in 2019 banning abortions after six weeks, but that bill has been tied up in the courts awaiting the Supreme Court's latest ruling. That law cannot take effect until at least mid-July when a federal court is expected to rule on its status. Meanwhile, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reporter Tamar Hallerman told today's panel that Georgia's maternal mortality rate remains among the highest in the nation, and a bipartisan panel ruled 60% of those deaths are preventable. In addition, Black mothers were 3 to 4 times more likely to die the year after childbirth. Joining Hallerman on today's panel were University of Georgia professor of political science Audrey Haynes, *Axios Atlanta* reporter Emma Hurt, and Clark Atlanta professor of political science Tammy Greer.

**On Point**

*APM*

June 29, 2022, 10am.

In the wake of the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade, *On Point* focused on Georgia as it examined how women are having to go to great lengths to find safe abortion services. “The number of patients that are traveling from out of state to get care in Georgia includes women from Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama,” according to guest Kwajelynn Jackson, executive director at Feminist Women's Health Center in Atlanta. Most recently, she said, they have seen patients from as far away as Texas. And unlike the 1970's, those patients are more likely to be women of color who are already mothers. According to guest Fatima Goss Graves, president, and CEO of the National Women's Law Center, “Most people who have abortions already have children, so their lives will be upended by the idea that they cannot access health care in their community. Host Meghna Chakrabarti also welcomed Janai Nelson, president and director-counsel of the Legal Defense Fund and Ni'aisha, a mother of four in Georgia.

4. **Economy**

**Political Rewind**

*GPB*

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

Today on *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and his panel celebrated some good economic news for Georgia amidst all the concern over inflation and soaring gas prices. The parent company for Kia motors has announced plans to build a second factory in Georgia. The factory will be located in Bryan County, near Savannah, and will manufacture electric cars. This follows the recent announcement that Rivian will open an electric vehicle plant near Atlanta. Discussing the implications of this new plant on today's show were Rick Dent, vice president of Matrix Communications; University of Georgia political science professor Charles Bullock; Clark Atlanta political science professor Tammy Greer; and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political reporter Patricia Murphy.

**Political Rewind**

*GPB*

June 8, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's *Political Rewind*, a conversation about a new Wall Street Journal poll that showed most Americans are deeply troubled by the state of the nation's economy. How might that affect election results this coming November? Discussing that issue and others on today's panel were *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* political reporter Greg Bluestein; Emory University professor emeritus of political science, Dr. Alan Abramowitz; Emory University professor of political science Dr. Andra Gillespie; and Rick Dent, vice president of Matrix Communications.

## 5. Education

### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

April 27, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

On today's edition of *Political Rewind*, host Bill Nigut and his panel discussed Gov. Brian Kemp's plans to sign a series of controversial education bills. The measures are the product of a GOP-led push to limit how teachers can talk about so-called "divisive topics," such as history, race, and gender identity and more. They also give parents a larger role in choosing what books their kids can read in school. Discussing this and other issues were *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* politics reporter Greg Bluestein; *Capital B Atlanta* politics reporter Chauncey Alcorn; Leo Smith, CEO of Engaged Futures; and editor-in-chief of *The Current*, Margaret Coker.

### **Political Rewind**

*GPB*

June 23, 2022, 9am and repeated at 2pm.

Today on *Political Rewind*: a look at how voters in conservative Cherokee County recently spurned school board hopefuls nominated by a national PAC. The 1776 Project PAC had nominated school board candidates in Cherokee, Coweta, and other Georgia counties, hoping to install a majority to ban what they call "critical race theory." However, voters rejected those candidates in favor of well-known locals. Joining host Bill Nigut to discuss the implications of this vote were GPB-TV *Lawmakers* host Donna Lowry; *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* editor Kevin Riley; editor-in-chief of *The Current*, Margaret Coker; and GPB Radio politics reporter Stephen Fowler.