



Issues and Programs List
Quarterly Report
2nd Quarter 2013
[April - June]

Radio

Top 5 Issues Addressed:

Representative Programs That Addressed Issues:

1. Politics

GPB News

Local

May 30, 2013, 5:44pm. Repeated May 31, 2013, 6:35am and 8:35am.

GPB's Ellen Reinhardt reported Georgia's state Democratic Party appears to be in turmoil. The party's chairman has announced he's quitting. Mike Berlon was reprimanded by the State Bar amid other legal problems. The leadership upheaval comes as Democrats hope to capitalize on demographic changes in Georgia. Andra Gillespie, a political science professor at Emory University, says there's a lot going on within the Georgia Democratic Party. "There are individual members of the party who have their own personal and legal troubles," she says. "Then you've got a party whose finances are in shambles right now, and so they really don't have a whole lot of money to be competitive. And you've got a party that's still trying to recuperate from changes in the last ten years where they've seen themselves go from the majority party to the minority party."

GPB News

Local

April 30, 2013, 5:44pm. Repeated May 1, 2013, 6:35am and 8:35am.

GPB's Claire Simms reported the effects of sequestration could soon be felt at the county level. Matthew Chase, Executive Director of the National Association of Counties, visited Savannah to talk to members of Georgia's Association County Commissioners. Chase said sequestration will leave budget holes that counties cannot fill on their own. "I think we're going to feel it right away and you're going to see it first with the state and local reductions to themselves, to the government and then you will see it into the communities itself," Chase explained. "The delivery of service will be cut back in the next couple of weeks and then I think by the fall people will start to really realize the impact."

2. Education

GPB News

Local

April 8-10, 2013, 6:35am, 8:35am and 5:44pm each day.

GPB and the Southern Education Desk presented a 3-part series on new national Common Core education standards, designed to create better critical thinkers. To achieve this, students in 45 states across the country can expect to be writing a lot more than they do now -- which may turn out to be a formidable challenge here in the south. Conservative politicians claim adopting Common Core in their states will lead to a lack of local control. Dan Carsen, Christine Jessel and Annie Gilbertson reported on the effects of the standards throughout the South.

GPB News

Local

April 12, 2013, 6:35am, 8:35am and 5:44pm.

GPB's Jeanne Bonner reported Georgia military bases and contractors are not the only ones feeling the pinch of the sequester. The state's top universities are seeing federal research grants slashed as a result of the across-the-board federal funding cuts. And that's threatening not only important fields of study, but also high-paying jobs. On a sunny spring afternoon at Emory University, researchers are buzzing about the Winship Cancer Institute there. The institute's labs are designed like open library stacks, with row after row of work benches designed to foster collaboration. Students and researchers are busy preparing samples and peering at specimens under microscopes. But the swarm of activity belies a grim funding scenario. Workers in Professor Adam Marcus's lab study cancer cell biology, with an eye toward helping patients beat fatal diagnoses. And he says they're already seeing the impact of the sequester on the federal grant that funds their work. "Every year we get a notice of award, and that's

based upon a review of our progress every year,” he said during a tour of his lab. “So we get a notice of award and I recently received mine. And instead of it being for 12 months, it’s for six months.”

3. Economy / Unemployment

GPB News

Local

May 22, 2013, 5:44pm. Repeated May 23, 2013, 6:35am and 8:35am.

GPB’s Ellen Reinhardt reported a respected economist says Georgia’s economy is recovering from the recession. But his latest forecast predicts that recovery will slow this year. Rajeev Dhawan is director of the Economic Forecasting Center at Georgia State University. Dhawan says our state’s job growth has been better than the nation’s for the past six months. But he says there are obstacles that will slow the state’s businesses this year. “If the foreign economies don’t pick up, our exports don’t pick up. So that becomes one headwind.” Dhawan says. “The second thing is what’s happening in the stop and go politics in Washington. We had the sequester, now the debt ceiling thing will come up later. Then we have to have the budget for the next year. So this kind of uncertainty is a headwind.” And Dhawan says rising gas prices are affecting consumers in the state.

GPB News

Local

May 1, 2013, 5:44pm. Repeated May 2, 2013, 6:35am and 8:35am.

Women-owned businesses are up 112 percent in Georgia. That’s according to a new report by American Express OPEN. It finds that for the third year in a row Georgia leads the nation in the growth of women-owned businesses. Since 1997, women-owned businesses have grown only 59% nationally. GPB’s Ellen Reinhardt spoke with Clare Schexnyder and Kathleen Donahoe. They are co-owners of Oh Baby! Fitness in metro Atlanta and Savannah. They offer fitness classes to take moms from pregnancy into the toddler years. And they just signed their first licensee to grow the business nationally.

4. Transportation

GPB News

Local

April 11, 2013, 5:44pm. Repeated April 12, 2013, 6:35am and 8:35am.

In two months the control towers at 149 small and medium size airports across the country will close, five in Georgia. It’s part of cuts due to sequestration. GPB’s Ellen Reinhardt visited Middle Georgia Regional Airport where officials haven’t given up hope of keeping the tower open even after federal funding is eliminated.

GPB News

Local

June 20, 2013, 5:44pm. Repeated June 21, 2013, 6:35am and 8:35am.

Board members of the Georgia Department of Transportation voted Thursday to move forward with the bidding process for what the DOT called the first large project funded through the Transportation Investment Act (TIA). TIA has been commonly referred to as T-SPLOST, or Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. Last summer, three regions of the state voted to enact the special tax to pay for transportation projects. Of the funds collected, 75 percent go to larger, predetermined projects shepherded by the DOT and 25 percent go to the individual cities and counties that approved T-SPLOST. Bidding will begin Friday for the project, which will widen U.S. 27 in Randolph County.

5. Environment

Weekends on All Things Considered

NPR

June 15, 2013, 5pm.

NPR's Jackie Lyden presented a feature on the country's "water wars." So often, we take water for granted. We turn on the faucet and there it is. We assume it's our right in America to have water. And yet, water is a resource. It's not always where we need it, or there when we need it. Rivers don't follow political boundaries — they flow through states and over international borders. And there are endless demands for water: for agriculture, drinking, plumbing, manufacturing, to name just a few. And then there's the ecosystem that depends on water getting downstream. So what are our legal rights when it comes to water? And who decides? There are two doctrines that govern surface water rights in the U.S. — one for the West and one for the East. In Georgia, the Chattahoochee River flows from the state's mountains through metropolitan Atlanta, down into Alabama, through Florida and then into the Gulf of Mexico. As metro Atlanta expands, the city sucks more water out of the Lake Lanier reservoir, on the Chattahoochee, which means people living downstream, in Alabama and Florida, have less. And since the Army Corps of Engineers operates the four federal dams on this river, the Corps is right in the middle of the conflict.

GPB News

Local

May 8, 2013, 5:44pm. Repeated May 9, 2013, 6:35am and 8:35am.

GPB's Adam Ragusea reported on the five years since 19 tornadoes cut across central and southern Georgia. Two people in a mobile home died in Laurens County on that Mother's Day morning. A direct hit also robbed what was then called Macon State College of nearly all its trees, but now the campus canopy is on the mend. Trees are a big deal at what is now called the Macon campus of Middle Georgia State College. What began in the 1960s as a commuter school plopped in farm fields gradually became a showcase for all manner of native and adapted species. The botanical gardens here were the pride of the institution, said biology professor Dawn Sherry. "Those older trees really kind of lent this air of age to a campus that is relatively new, that kind of gave us this feeling that, 'ok, we've been established,'" she said.