



Issues and Programs List  
Quarterly Report  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2013  
[January – March]

**Radio**

**Top 5 Issues Addressed:**

1. Politics
2. Economy / Unemployment
3. Education
4. Environment
5. Transportation

## Representative Programs That Addressed Issues:

### 1. Politics

#### **GPB News**

*Local*

January 25, 2013, 4, 4:30, 5:30 and 6pm. Repeated January 26, 2013, 8 and 9am.

GPB's Ellen Reinhardt reported on Georgia Sen. Saxby Chambliss' surprise announcement that he would not seek a third term. Chambliss was first elected to the U.S. House during the Republican wave of 1994. He moved to the Senate in 2002 after a tough election battle with incumbent Democrat Max Cleland. Chambliss had been a party loyalist, but received heavy criticism for being part of the "Gang of Six" that tried to work with Democratic Senators to resolve budget issues.

#### **GPB News**

*Local*

February 20, 2013, 4, 4:30 and 6pm. Repeated February 21, 2013, 6 and 8am.

GPB's Adam Ragusea reported the Bibb County Democratic Party fired off a blistering letter to federal officials, calling a new state law affecting local elections there a "veiled attempt to thwart democracy." Governor Nathan Deal signed legislation that will make most local elections in Macon and Bibb County nonpartisan when the two governments merge in 2014. Bibb Democratic Party Chair Fred Swann characterized the new law as an attempt by Republicans to make their party more electable in this reliably blue county by removing party labels from the ballot.

#### **GPB News**

*Local*

March 6, 2013, 4, 4:30, 5:45 and 6pm. Repeated March 7, 2013, 6, 6:35, 7, 8 and 8:35am.

GPB Capitol Reporter Jeanne Bonner reported on the status of proposed legislation as the 40-day legislative session reached the 30-day mark. At that point, any bill with hopes of becoming law must pass one of the two Georgia legislative bodies to have any chance at final approval. Dozens of potential bills will be discussed on this so-called "Crossover Day," including new carry laws for gun owners and an ethics bill.

### 2. Economy / Unemployment

#### **GPB News**

*Local*

January 17, 2013, 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30am

GPB's Joshua Stewart reported on new state unemployment numbers which showed Georgia's jobless rate inched up a notch to 8.6 percent in December. That's up from 8.5 percent the previous month, but an improvement over the 9 rate recorded a year earlier. Labor Commissioner Mark Butler said a combination of factors led to the increase. He said seasonal government layoffs were to blame, but he also said the state's manufacturing sector continued to show job improvement.

**GPB News***Local*

February 18, 2013, 4, 5, 5:30 and 6pm. Repeated February 19, 2013, 6:30, 7, 8 and 8:30am.

GPB's Ellen Reinhardt reported home builders in Georgia are seeing slow, but steady growth and expect strong sales this spring. One expert predicts double digit growth in new home sales for 2013. Steve Palm, president of the real estate research firm Smart Numbers, says he expects double digit growth in the Atlanta, Columbus, Savannah, Macon and Augusta markets this year. "Builders have taken advantage of low priced lots that have been foreclosed on by the lenders that they can now buy at a pretty good rate," he says. Palm says inventory of existing homes is down, so that means builders are seeing greater demand for new homes.

**Working***Local*

March 8, 2013, 7:35am and 5:45pm.

In this weekly series, GPB's Joshua Stewart speaks with career coach and workplace consultant Brandon Smith about issues in the workplace. This particular week, the two discussed why workers don't get promotions they were expecting and how to fix what might have gone wrong.

### 3. Education

**GPB News***Local*

February 13, 2013, 4, 4:30, 5, 5:30 and 6pm. Repeated February 14, 2013, 6, 7 and 8am.

GPB's Ellen Reinhardt reported on President Obama's visit to Georgia and his plans to use Georgia's well-regarded Pre-K Education Program as a model to establish a national Pre-K program. The Commissioner of Georgia's Pre-K program, Bobby Cagle, told GPB that a recent study found Georgia's program is working. "Children, on average in this program, move from below average in language, mathematics and social skills to above the national average at the completion of the year," he said.

**GPB News***Local*

March 4, 2013, 5 and 6pm. Repeated March 5, 2013, 6:30, 7 and 8:30am.

GPB Capitol Reporter Jeanne Bonner reported Georgia lawmakers are considering a bill that would deny jobless benefits to school workers employed by private companies during summers and holidays. Backers say it would save the state money, but critics say the bill merely favors private companies, including charter school management firms. By federal law, bus drivers, janitors and others employed by public school systems can't apply for jobless benefits during summers and holidays. The bill's sponsors say it would level the playing field between them and workers employed by private firms.

**GPB News***Local*

March 26-29, 2013, 6:35am, 8:35am and 5:45pm each day.

GPB presented a series of reports from the Southern Education Desk regarding Pre-School Education in the South. Reporters Latonya Turner, Annie Gilbertsen, Dan Carsen, and Sue Lincoln looked at studies that show quality pre-school education helps low-income children escape poverty and helps them perform better as they move forward in school. However, while the South offers some of best-regarded pre-school programs, access to those programs is not available for many low-income students.

## 4. Environment

### **GPB News**

*Local*

January 31, 2013, 6, 6:30 and 8:30am.

GPB's Orlando Montoya and John Young reported environmental groups are crying foul on loan terms acquired by Southern Company for its Vogtle nuclear plant. The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and others are calling for a greater degree of transparency in the federally-backed financing of the delayed and over-budget project. Anti-nuclear activists are drawing comparisons to the failed energy company Solyndra in a report that took three years to complete. The nuclear plant near Augusta is the first new reactor to be built in the US in over a decade.

### **GPB News**

*Local*

February 10, 2013, 4, 5:30 and 6pm. Repeated February 11, 2013, 6:30, 7 and 8am.

GPB's Orlando Montoya reported even though officials already have chosen an institution to conduct water monitoring on East Georgia's Ogeechee River, a rival group is aiming to change their minds. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division has yet to finalize an order that would give more than \$700,000 to Georgia Southern University in Statesboro. The money would come from King America Finishing, the Screven County textile mill where violations were discovered in the wake of a massive fish kill in the river two years ago. The order would make Georgia Southern the institution responsible for studying the river. But the order was delayed because EPD didn't schedule a public hearing. Now the Augusta non-profit Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy is urging regulators to revisit the choice.

## 5. Transportation

### **GPB News**

*Local*

January 7, 2013, 4, 4:30, 5:30 and 6pm. Repeated January 8, 2013, 6 and 7:30am.

GPB's Joshua Stewart reported the end of a 20-year road project is now in sight. The state Department of Transportation last week announced construction will begin soon on the final piece of the Fall Line Freeway. The four-lane, divided highway will improve access to communities like Sandersville, where two big projects are about to take off. In September, General Biofuels announced plans to make wood pellets in a \$65 million Sandersville facility with production supposed to begin early next year. Charles Lee heads economic development for Washington County, halfway between Macon and Augusta and just east of the final section of the Fall Line Freeway. He said the wood-pellet plant in Sandersville will be a key beneficiary of the road. The county also will be home to a new \$2 billion coal-fired power plant planned to go online in about five years.

### **GPB News**

*Local*

March 5, 2013, 4, and 5:30pm. Repeated March 6, 2013, 6:30, 7 and 8:30am.

GPB's Adam Ragusea reported on a new study that finds that people in major metropolitan areas are using passenger rail much more than they were 15 years ago, and it comes as state lawmakers are considering a bill that would revive rail service from Atlanta to Macon. The Brookings Institution—a Washington think tank—looked at trends in Amtrak ridership between major cities, comparing figures from 1997 and 2012. In the Chicago metro area, the number of people taking the train shot up 64 percent, while the same figure soared 211 percent in the Boston area. The Atlanta region saw the number of trips go up just 29 percent, but that's still a lot, said study co-author Robert Puentes,

considering Atlanta "only has one station in the entire metropolitan area, and it's an enormous Metropolitan area." Meanwhile, proponents of a bill that would bring back passenger service from Macon to Atlanta with stops in-between are struggling to find support at the state capitol. Many lawmakers and transportation officials say they like the idea, but are concerned about cost.