



Issues and Programs List  
Quarterly Report  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2012  
October – December, 2012

**Radio**

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

## Representative Programs That Addressed Issues:

### 1. Economy / Unemployment

#### **GPB News**

*Local*

October 2, 2012, 4 and 5pm. Repeated October 3, 2012, 6, 7:30 and 8:30am.

GPB's Ellen Reinhardt reported on a tax break to help tourism attractions in Georgia has been law since 2011 but the measure is too complicated to be put into place. The law allows the Governor to approve the tax breaks after an independent board determines if a project is eligible. One requirement is to draw at least 25 percent of visitors from outside Georgia without competing with existing businesses. But Saralynn Stafford with the Department of Community Affairs says the law is vague on who those evaluators should be. She says they also can't figure out how to calculate the number of out-of-state visitors who would be attracted by the projects.

#### **GPB News**

*Local*

November 26, 2012, 6, 6:30, 7 and 7:30am.

GPB's Orlando Montoya reported that this holiday season is expected to be a quiet one at the Savannah River Site near Augusta. Officials told employees at the nuclear materials storage facility to take as much time off as possible so they can deal with a \$175 million budget shortfall. About 400 workers were laid off and another 300 took buy-outs recently as the private company running the site faced funding gaps. The facility is the largest employer in the Augusta area.

#### **GPB News**

*Local*

December 20, 2012, 4, 5, and 6pm. Repeated December 21, 2012, 6, 6:30 and 7am.

GPB's Joshua Stewart reported that Georgia's unemployment rate dropped to its lowest rate in nearly four years. State labor officials said that Georgia's seasonally adjusted jobless rate declined to 8.5 percent in November. That's 0.2 percentage points lower than October. State Labor Commissioner Mark Butler said that is the lowest state unemployment rate in nearly four years, since it was 8.5 percent in January 2009. Butler said the lower rate is the result of job growth and fewer layoffs.

### 2. Politics

#### **GPB News**

*Local*

October 9, 2012, 4:30 and 5pm. Repeated October 10, 2012, 6:30, 7, 7:30 and 8am.

GPB's Orlando Montoya reported on the last day for Georgians to register to vote in this year's general elections. Democrats are swimming against a host of factors keeping one of their key constituencies from getting to the polls. African-American men vote at much lower rates than other groups. Just 63% of eligible black men are registered voters in the state, compared to about 75% for black women and whites. Richard Shinhosier of the Savannah branch NAACP says his group registered 3,000 voters by this week's deadline. "It would have made a difference if black men would have gone to the polls in greater numbers," Shinhosier says. "But I think that we also must take into consideration that many black men were not available to vote because of their involvement in the criminal justice system." More than half the state's 275,000 disenfranchised felons in Georgia are black.

**GPB News***Local*

December 27, 2012, 4, 4:30 and 5:30pm. Repeated December 28, 2012, 6:30, 7, 8:30am.

GPB's Jeanne Bonner reported that state lawmakers will again try to pass an ethics reform bill in the upcoming legislative session. This time, with pressure from Tea Party groups and others, there's a good chance a gift-cap will become law. In a July referendum, more than one million Georgians in both major parties said they would support a cap on gifts from lobbyists to state legislators. Since then the Georgia Ethics Alliance has conducted a series of town hall meetings around the state. State Sen. Joshua McKoon of Columbus has been leading the fight in the legislature. He says many lawmakers have changed their stance on ethics reform since the last legislative session. "We've gone from a situation where no one wanted to be seen speaking about this issue to a situation where I think we actually almost have a rush to file ethics legislation," he said. He said the change is going to bring about a robust debate on the issue.

### 3. Education

**GPB News***Local*

October 29-31, 2012, 5:45pm each day. Repeated October 30-November 1, 2012, 6:45 and 8:45am.

GPB's Maura Walz from the Southern Education Desk presented a three-part feature series on Georgia's upcoming Charter School amendment vote. The series focused on the reason for the vote and what approval would mean for the state's students.

**GPB News***Local*

November 12, 2012, 6, 7, 7:30 and 8:30am.

GPB's Orlando Montoya reported on a new Savannah group aiming to tackle poverty -- through the lens of early childhood. The Savannah Early Childhood Foundation has an ambitious agenda. The group plans to raise \$2 million in two years. That would make it one of the largest Savannah philanthropic efforts. The group is seeking much of its initial phase funding from national and regional early childhood organizations. The foundation's Paul Fisher says the idea focuses resources on parents of children from birth to age five. "What we're really doing is identifying resources focused on children and parents, but using those resources and applying them a little earlier in the stage of a child's life and the parents who help with the care, nurturing, and education of that stage of life," Fisher says.

### 4. Environment

**GPB News***Local*

October 3, 2012, 4, 4:30, 5:30pm. Repeated October 4, 2012, 6:30, 7 and 8am.

GPB's Jeannie Bonner reported that Georgians who buy appliances this weekend can save some money on sales taxes if they buy environmentally-friendly models. The state is holding its second sales tax holiday of the year through Sunday. Georgia shoppers will not have to pay sales tax on Energy Star or WaterSense items with a purchase price of \$1,500 or less. The year's first tax holiday was in August for back-to-school shopping.

**GPB News***Local*

November 14, 2012, 4:30pm. Repeated November 15, 2012, 6am.

GPB's Dominick Brady reported that The Georgia Water Coalition published its 2012 "Dirty Dozen" list. It brings awareness to the health of Georgia's waterways. Coalition member Joe Cook said his group has concerns about the Environmental Protection Division's ability to monitor and enforce river health. "We have seen all our state agencies funding cut. EPD has been hit particularly hard. I believe

that is a result of our priorities,” said Cook. The coalition says \$37 million dollars of the \$57 million-dollar solid waste trust fund was redirected to pay other state bills in 2012. Fees collected for hazardous waste removal have been impacted too, according an Association County Commissioners of Georgia report. State policy makers redirected all but \$2 million of the \$17 million Hazardous Waste Trust Fund in 2010.

## 5. Health

### **GPB News**

*Local*

October 22, 2012, 4:30 and 6pm. Repeated October 23, 2012, 6, 7 and 7:30am.

GPB’s Ellen Reinhardt reported the story of Mark Lyttle, an American citizen from North Carolina with mental disabilities who received a 175 thousand dollar settlement from the federal government. A federal district court in Georgia found the government wrongfully deported him to Mexico. In 2008 Lyttle was inexplicably referred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement as an undocumented immigrant from Mexico. That’s despite the fact the bi-polar man had never been to Mexico, shares no Mexican heritage and spoke no Spanish. But he was detained and deported to Mexico with just three dollars in his pocket. Azadeh Shahshahani with the Georgia ACLU, which represented him, says Lyttle spent 125 days wandering Central America. She says he was " living off the streets and homeless shelters, and begging. And he had no way to prove his identity either, so he was imprisoned at times. “Ultimately, someone with the American Embassy in Guatemala helped him get back to the U.S. ICE has refused comment on Lyttle’s case. A spokesman says they now offer a 24-hour hotline to help detainees. ICE personnel will collect information from the individual and refer it to the relevant Field office for immediate action. Shahshahani says that is a good first step. But she says people with mental disabilities need a court-appointed lawyer to ensure their rights are protected during the deportation process.

### **GPB News**

*Local*

November 16, 2012, 4, 5 and 6pm. Repeated November 17, 2012, 8, 9 and 11am.

GPB’s Jeanne Bonner reported that Governor Nathan Deal says he doesn’t need a deadline extension to tell the Obama Administration Georgia will not create a healthcare exchange. He made the announcement after the government said states could take more time to decide. The exchanges will serve as marketplaces where consumers can buy insurance. They’re part of President Obama’s healthcare overhaul. Georgia held off on creating the exchange and now that the Governor says it won’t, the federal government will have to set one up for Georgians. Brian Robinson is Gov. Deal’s spokesman. He says the Obama Administration hasn’t provided enough information or flexibility. “We don’t how much it would cost the state to set up,” he said in an interview. "We don’t know if the state would be left on the hook for the cost in the long run. There are just too many unknowns. If it’s going to be a federal exchange anyway, let them pay for it and set it up.” Robinson said that Gov. Deal understands that "Obamacare is the law of the land" now that the president won re-election. But he says that doesn't change the fact that Georgia can't afford to set up the exchange or the other costs associated with the healthcare plan.