

WSVI-WZVI-Quarterly Issues and Problems Report  
From January 1, 2019-March 31, 2019

*WSVI TV remains in silent status. On September 21, 2018 WZVI returned to the air in a testing mode at low power. It remains our goal to return to the air as soon as possible. To serve the public during this time Alpha Broadcasting attempted to maintain a 24/7 live stream of its programming incorporating many of its program elements. This report is prepared for continuity for the public file system and reflects some of the issues and concerns guiding our online and streaming coverage of our community.*

New Governor for the US Virgin Islands

WSVI-WZVI Extensively covered the elections in the US Virgin Island in 2018 that produced a new governor in January 2019. We carried the state of the Territory address which laid out the new priorities of the incoming administration.

Albert Bryan, the Democrat who beat his competitors during the August 4, Democratic Primary Election to face the Independent candidates and sitting governor during the General Election, today went head-to-head with Governor Kenneth Mapp in the runoff and has emerged victorious over Mr. Mapp to become the ninth elected Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

With the catchy slogan “Change Course Now”, calling on Virgin Islanders to abandon the current administration’s style of governance for something different, the Bryan-Roach campaign was able to successfully capitalize on Governor Mapp’s many self-inflicted wounds, much of which were caused by the governor’s boorish character and unbridled tongue. During his four-year tenure, Mr. Mapp levied many verbal assaults on residents, all of which were unbecoming of the governorship. He once called a female lawmaker, Senator Janette Millin Young, a jackass, setty fowl, stupid and crazy. He also told a constituent to “go f&#k yourself.” During another heated debate on Facebook, Mr. Mapp responded to a resident who asked where he resided by telling him, “wit ur mudda,” a response widely known in the Caribbean as an insult.

Mr. Bryan, who ran a brilliant and first-rate campaign that took advantage of social media, simply capitalized on the governor’s own mistakes and presented himself as a unifier of the U.S. Virgin Islands and a competent leader. The flood of endorsements that Mr. Bryan received, including that of Senator Alicia Hansen and Adlah Donastorg, also appeared to have aided in sealing the victory.

And Mr. Bryan is also seen as the contrast of Mr. Mapp. A former Department of Labor Commissioner, Mr. Bryan, 50, is perceived as young and charismatic with a wife and two children. He was also the chairman of the Economic Development Authority board.

Taxes deriving from recovery work in the the USVI have bolstered the government's coffers, leading to a more stable government that once teetered on the brink of collapse.

### Preparations being made for 2019 Hurricane Season

We gave extensive coverage to the Colorado State University hurricane researchers which are predicting a slightly below-average Atlantic hurricane season in 2019, citing the relatively high likelihood of a weak El Niño as a primary factor.

Tropical Atlantic sea surface temperatures are currently slightly below their long-term average values and are consequently considered an inhibiting factor for 2019 Atlantic hurricane activity as well.

A weak El Niño has recently developed in the tropical Pacific. CSU anticipates that these weak El Niño conditions are likely to persist through the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season. El Niño tends to increase upper-level westerly winds across the Caribbean into the tropical Atlantic, tearing apart hurricanes as they try to form.

The tropical Atlantic is slightly cooler than normal right now. Colder-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic provide less fuel for tropical cyclone formation and intensification. They are also associated with a more stable atmosphere as well as drier air, both of which suppress organized thunderstorm activity necessary for hurricane development.

### Ongoing Hurricane Issues

The U.S. Virgin Islands suffered catastrophic damage after back-to-back blows from hurricanes Irma and Maria last fall. The storms damaged or destroyed about 18,500 homes and businesses on the three major islands — St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John — including multiple high-rise apartment buildings. The Virgin Islands has a population of about 103,000 people.

Even before the hurricanes, the Virgin Islands government was facing a dire financial crisis because of its stagnant economy. Those financial woes deepened after the storm because of the collapse of the tourism industry and shrinking tax revenue.

The territory has accumulated about \$1.9 billion in debt, and it maintains only two to four days of cash on hand, according to Lonnie Soury, spokesman for the Virgin Islands Public Financing Authority.

He noted that the Virgin Islands has received other aid from the federal government, including \$196 million to shore up its general fund and utilities, he said. In total, the federal government has allocated more than \$2 billion for the territory's disaster recovery.

Tropical weather for 2017 impacts the Virgin Islands and WSVI-TV continues to provide local news even after its broadcast operations are impacted.

Two major Hurricanes struck the WSVI community during the quarter. The first was Hurricane Irma. Hurricane Irma was an extremely powerful and catastrophic Cape Verde-type hurricane, the strongest observed in the Atlantic since Wilma in 2005 in terms of maximum sustained winds. It was the first Category 5 hurricane to strike the Leeward Islands on record, followed by Hurricane Maria only two weeks later.

Hurricane Maria was regarded as the worst natural disaster on record in Dominica and caused a major humanitarian crisis in the Virgin Islands, as well as being the tenth-most intense Atlantic hurricane on record. The thirteenth named storm, seventh hurricane, fourth major hurricane, and the second Category 5 hurricane of the unusually active 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, Maria caused catastrophic damage across the Northeastern Caribbean, compounding recovery efforts in the already struck areas of the Leeward Islands, who were still recovering from hurricanes Irma and Jose just two weeks prior.

Originating from a tropical wave, Maria developed into a tropical storm on September 16 east of the Lesser Antilles. Remarkably favorable environmental conditions enabled the cyclone to undergo explosive intensification as it approached the Lesser Antilles. The system reached Category 5 strength on September 18 as it made landfall in Dominica, resulting in catastrophic damage across the entire island. Thereafter Maria reached its peak over the eastern Caribbean with maximum sustained winds of 175 mph making it the tenth-most intense Atlantic hurricane on record.

WSVI-TV AND WZVI-TV licensed to Alpha Broadcasting Corporation were impacted by two back-to-back Category 5 hurricanes in the third quarter of 2017. As a result of Hurricane Irma, WZVI-TV in St. Thomas were forced to cease operations as of September 8, 2017. WSVI-TV in St. Croix was able to remain operational throughout this storm but was knocked off the air with severe damage after the second hurricane on September 20, 2017. WSVI and WZVI both sought Special Temporary Authority to remain silent while the television stations are being rebuilt along with the necessary infrastructure to resume operations. Therefore for the period of this report, both stations remain off the air.

As of October 10, at least 88 people are known to have been killed by the hurricane: Including 1 in the United States Virgin Islands. Maria wrought catastrophic damage to the entirety of Dominica, which suffered an island-wide communication blackout.

While WSVI-TV's on air operations were impacted by the storms, WSVI-TV continued broadcasting weather updates and local news via the internet and its social media outlets and is planning on returning to cable TV in October as it works

to restore operations. The programming has also including daily briefings by the local Government and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

WSVI TV began extensive hourly updates on the tropical weather conditions of the Caribbean in Q1 2017. These reports were carried in Spanish and English with open captions for the hearing impair and using Charts from the National Weather Service in San Juan Puerto Rico. These programs were also broadcast on WSVI-TV's Facebook page and regular updates on rip currents and tides as well as a Marine Forecast were reported.



CHANNEL 8 REMAINS OPERATIONAL ON INTERNET THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD.

Channel 8 maintained contact with its viewers in the Virgin Islands and outside the territory through social media and online via its website at [www.wsvi.tv](http://www.wsvi.tv).