



# ISSUES & PROGRAMS

## WBKA

**4th QUARTER 2023**

**(October, November, December)**

### **Public Affairs**

WBKA airs the public affairs show "Maine View" that is designed to address important community issues. The following is a list of show topics during the Quarter. Each edition of Maine View also includes Maine Governor Janet Mill's weekly radio address and the response from the Republican Party in Maine. Each address runs roughly 5 minutes. Maine View has a run time of 20 minutes and airs Sunday at 6:00am

10/1: In this week's edition of MaineView, we talk with to people running for Congress in Maine's Second Congressional District; Mike Soboleski and Austin Theriault.

Mike Soboleski is a born and raised Mainer and a lifelong conservative. Like so many Mainers, he has experienced both victories and setbacks, yet he has consistently persevered throughout his life. One of seven children, Mike was raised in a two-bedroom house without indoor plumbing. This early experience instilled in Mike a deep sense of resiliency and an unshakable determination to rise above adversity and to fight for what he believes in. After graduating from Gardiner Area High School, Mike felt a strong call to serve his country, so he enlisted in the United States Marine Corp, achieving the rank of Corporal.



Mike served with distinction stationed at Parris Island, South Carolina and was meritoriously promoted after basic training, then was eritoriously promoted again after Military Occupational Specialty training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where he eventually become the acting legal officer for the battalion handling legal and disciplinary matters. In the Marines, Mike learned discipline, teamwork, and the value of self-confidence which he believes is sorely lacking in today's America. After his service to our nation, Mike attended the University of Maine at Machias on the GI Bill. Mike successfully started and grew a successful small business in Maine – selling and servicing fitness equipment – Mike's clients included 44 Fitness Centers, Colleges, and High Schools across Maine and New Hampshire. After selling the company he took a position as a salesman for Puritan Pontiac, GMC, Isuzu. Later Mike went on to turn a hobby into a lasting career – becoming an actor, stuntman, precision and stunt driver, and feature performer. As an actor Mike performed in 803 projects, including 643 episodes of 52 different television series, 106 feature films, and 54 commercials and Public Service Announcements including The World Trade Center Memorial Fund and The NY Police and Firefighters Widows and Orphans Fund. Some of Mike's notable credits include feature films like "The Departed", "War of the Worlds", "Anger Management", and "World Trade Center," as well as recurring roles in "Law and Order SVU" and "Third Watch." Mike is a 25-year member of the Screen Actors Guild labor union. Mike was living and working in New York City as an actor on September 11, 2001 when our nation was attacked. While many were running away from Ground Zero, Mike was running towards it. Relying on search and rescue training he received while a US Marine, Mike joined a team of volunteer First Responders and was assigned to a NYPD Emergency Services Unit – searching the dangerous disaster zone for survivors, and sadly, remains. Mike lost friends on 9/11 and has never forgotten their names, faces, and sacrifices. Like many responders, Mike suffered both short and long-term health effects – later Mike joined others in a grassroots effort to advocate for the reauthorization of the Zadroga Act, providing support for 9/11 survivors and families. He was injured during the 9/11 Search and Rescue effort and spent several years recovering from his injuries. Hard work, great doctors and nurses, and the healthy Maine way of life gave him back his active lifestyle. Like so many Mainers, Mike receives his medical care at the TOGUS VA Center in Augusta. In 2011 Mike returned to his beloved Maine and took a job in the Property Support Department at Sugarloaf Mountain. In 2019 Mike was hired by the US Census Bureau, his third Census, to run all Field Operations in the state for the 2020 Census during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under Mike's leadership the Maine Census, a historic underperformer, became first in the nation. In 2022 Mike ran for State Representative in Maine's 73rd District which includes parts of Franklin, Oxford, and Somerset Counties on a platform of lower taxes, controlled spending, putting Maine first, and Common-Sense Solutions. He successfully navigated a primary and earned nearly 60% of the vote in the general election. In the legislature Mike serves on the committees for Labor and Housing and Environment and Natural Resources where he's fought for conservative victories for the Maine people.



Mike is a member of the American Legion, Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine, NRA, Franklin County Republican Committee, and is active with the Oxford and Somerset County Republicans. He's signed the Americans for Tax Reform pledge, and the US Term Limits pledge. In his free time Mike enjoys hunting, golfing and being outdoors enjoying the natural beauty of Maine.

Austin Theriault is an Aroostook County-born entrepreneur and former NASCAR driver who is committed to making Maine's 2nd Congressional District a better place for working-class Mainers to live. He hails from a multi-generational logging and farming family with deep roots in Aroostook County's St. John Valley. His family has instilled in him a love of Maine, a respect for hard work, and a dedication to community service. That's where his passion to help regular Mainers who are struggling comes from – and why he's dedicated to making a difference. At age 16, he took over the management of his racing career handling contract negotiations, sponsorship agreements and all administrative tasks. During this time he used these skills and hard work to pursue authentic partnerships and forge relationships across multiple industries. His efforts paid off in 2017 when he captured the ARCA Racing Series national championship in what many called a "dream season". During this time he also started mentoring and training younger drivers in an effort to bring common sense and transparency to an industry with many barriers to entry – not that different from today's political climate, where he strives to put "People over politics." After Austin stepped away from driving, he fully focused on the business side of the sport where he excels in mentoring, managing and training new drivers. Austin is someone who works to build bridges and will use all he has learned from his family and entrepreneurial efforts to do the same in Washington. Following his successful racing career that took him across the country to NASCAR's most legendary tracks, Austin returned to Fort Kent and chose to devote his time to serving the people of Maine. Last year, he was elected to the Maine House of Representatives, representing much of the St. John Valley. Born and raised in Fort Kent, Austin knows what our state faces. Regular Mainers are being priced out and attacked by people in government who hold too much power and not enough common sense. It's time for energetic and effective leadership for Maine at a national level. During his first term in Augusta, Austin wasted no time – he got bipartisan legislation passed that will help fix Maine's roads. He also helped create a new bipartisan law that will bring more manufacturing jobs and lower energy costs to rural Maine. However, he also saw that much more needs to be done for rural Maine immediately – and that's why he's running for the United States House of Representatives. Mainers in the Second Congressional District need a voice in Washington who understands their way of life – and will fight for that way of life while forging relationships that will benefit Mainers for years to come.



10/8: This week's edition features a talk with Shane Patrick, owner of Pleasant Pond Orchard in Richmond, Maine, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Maine Pomological Society. The MPS, which serves the interests of Maine apple growers, is celebrating its 150th year of incorporation in 2023. There are 84 commercial apple farms in Maine growing on approximately 2000 acres statewide. Patrick agreed that it has been a challenging season for many Maine growers because of extreme cold weather in February and a late season frost in May that destroyed some of the crop. Many farms were unscathed but Patrick reported dozens of his trees suffered irreparable fruit damage. Pleasant Pond Orchard is a direct to consumer apple producer. Other topics included: how to properly pick apples and store them; what apples make the best apple pie (which, Patrick said, is a good way to start an argument); and the future of the traditional Maine apple farm. Time 19:11

10/15: In this edition we talk with realtor Emily Ellis of Maine Woods Development which is announcing a special giveaway on Veterans Day. One deserving veteran in the Bangor area will be presented with keys to a brand-new townhouse as a token of gratitude for their service and sacrifice. Ellis veterans or veterans and their families should enter the contest for themselves before Oct. 20, 2023 by visiting [www.MaineWoodsTownhomes.com](http://www.MaineWoodsTownhomes.com). To be eligible, United States Veterans must be willing to move or stay in Bangor, Maine and submit a 300-500 word essay of why they want to make the Maine Woods their home. Additional rules can be found on the website.

We also welcome back into our studio Amanda Cost of Partners for Peace, celebrating 50 years of support, advocacy and education for people affected by domestic violence in Penobscot and Piscataquis counties. Cost describes the job of her and her team as – not harder or easier – but rather “different” as touching on the complications of social media, children and pets in casing for those fleeing an abuse home. This edition runs 20:30

10/22:

This edition features Tim Hobbs of the Small Business Administration in Maine. Ahead of Veteran's Day, Tim outlines three programs the SBA has in Maine, New England and the Nation to help veterans who might be entrepreneurs start and sustain a business. Tim outlines how the SBA is making many of these programs -- some in person and some administrated remotely -- more than affordable -- they're free. We also meet Juliana Morehouse of Portland. She is Mrs. Maine and recently represented our state in the Miss USA competition. She is the first married woman to ever complete in the pageant. Juliana talks of the rule change at the pageant level, her passions and her inspirations. This edition runs 2200.



10/29: This week's edition features a talk with Brooke Jansen, an Aging and Disabilities Counselor at Spectrum Generations – one of five non-profit, Area Agencies on Aging in Maine that provide, unbiased, federally funded and state sponsored – free to the consumer - Medicare counseling services throughout Maine. The topic is the Medicare Part D choices window for medical and prescription options that closes on December 7.

Jansen outlined the four Parts of Medicare: Medicare Part A, which includes inpatient care; Medicare Part B, which includes doctor and outpatient services; Medicare Part C, which includes Medicare Advantage private insurance plans; and Medicare Part D, which includes prescriptions. Jansen said the “confusion” about these parts is the numerous providers and options for consumers. For more information the link is:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oads/get-support/older-adults-disabilities/area-agencies-on-aging>. Time 18:47

11/5: In this edition, we talk ahead of Veterans Day with Jim Fernald of Brookings Smith Funeral Homes about benefits afforded those that have served their country yet sometime not realized by veterans and their families. Jim talked specifically of headstones, honor guards and burials. Our conversation took us to Arlington National Cemetery and Jim's experiences there. We also speak with Aimee Thibodeau, temporary airport co-director and full time marketing manager for BGR, speaking of the military history of the airport -- from Godfrey to Dow to BGR and the coexisting 101st Air Refueling Wing. Aimee also touches on upcoming enhancements at BGR including a federally funded skybridge that will better connect passenger from the second floor of the terminal to awaiting airplanes. This edition runs 21:00.

11/12: In this edition we talk with Maine State Fire Marshal Rich McCarthy on home heating season, the dangers of fire, and the importance of safety. Rich talks of the heartbreaking trend of home fires that inevitably occur beginning in late October and early November and he speaks of recent fatal fires in Fort Fairfield and Carmel, plus a propane explosion in Orland. Rich even break the news of a fatal fire in Carroll Plantation in Penobscot County. He touched on the importance of smoke/carbon monoxide detectors and having an escape route in each building in Maine. We also talk with Tim Caverly who, with contributions from his brother Buzz, has written his 12th book "Conversations." Caverly share some of the antidotes -- including the legend of the milking moose and alien abductions in the Allagash. This edition runs 22:00.



11/19: This week's edition features a talk with Bill Nolan, retired chef and longtime call attendant for the Butterball Turkey Talk Line. Butterball receives over 100,000 calls from early October until Thanksgiving – and many during the day itself. Consumers can get their questions answered about all aspects of preparing their turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. The talk line offers tips on selecting the bird, defrosting it, cooking it (including a time-saving butterfly method), how to prepare side dishes, how to carve the bird, and what can or should be done with leftovers (which, he said, should be frozen or discarded after three days from serving). He shared those tips with our audience. Nolan also offers his favorite leftover sandwich preparation – which includes making the “bread” out of stuffing solidified in a waffle iron, and adding bits of all the side dishes including green bean casserole! Time 19:37.

11/26: In this edition we talk with Andrea Cianchette maker of Focus Maine. Andrea helped found the public-private organization working directly with small, medium and large businesses in Maine to spur job growth in our state. In the past five years, Focus Maine catalyzed \$176.5 million in sales revenue, nearly \$50 million in earnings, and over 900 direct, indirect and induced jobs throughout the state. We also reconnect with cancer- Jeni Lloyd of Northern Light Philanthropy -- continuing a tradition of reminding listeners of what they should and perhaps should NOT do for friends and family battling cancer. Among suggestions, Lloyd says merely being silently present for a survivor could be the best present one could give this holiday season. This edition runs 22:00.

12/3: In this edition, we speak with Yellow Light Breen of the Maine Development Foundation. The foundation's 2024 measures of growth report is out with its “red flags” and its “gold stars.” Yellow details what the foundation finds to be the state's greatest assets and challenges in growing Maine's economy. Surprisingly, past red flags are now gold stars!

We also talked with Lance Boucher of the American Lung Association in Maine. Lance discusses a new report that ranks states for new lung cancer cases, and places Maine in the top 10. Lance discusses the likely causes of Maine's high ranking as smoking and radon. Lance focuses on the importance of having radon testing in our homes. This edition runs 22 minutes.





12/10: This week's edition features a talk with Candace Marriner, the Executive Director of the Maine Children's Home in Waterville. She assumed the job in August, 2023, following the departure of Rick Dorian. Formerly the Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers, the MCH provides five core programs to build and strengthen families and their children. They are an adoption program, counseling for young adults, young parent support, pregnancy support and it's best known event – the annual Christmas Program. The agency's headquarters is on Silver Street in Waterville. This year, over 1200 children from around the state will receive a box of selected gifts and clothing at no charge. Supporters can contribute year round by donating items on MCH's "urgent needs list," purchasing items on the organization's Amazon wish list, participating in the annual giving tree campaign. Or making a monetary donation. Volunteers are also needed throughout the year. Time 20:12

12/17: In this edition, we speak with Dr. David Cloutier of the Veazie veterinary clinic. Dr. Cloutier answers questions about a mysterious illness affecting dogs in our nation and our state. Some liken this affliction to what COVID-19 did to humans. Dr. Cloutier talks of the symptoms and the importance of getting one's pup to the vet for immediate evaluation.

We also talk with Tony Cameron of the Maine tourism association. The MTA recently pulled members about Their successes in the past summer tourist season. We as a state welcomed fewer tourists, but those that were here spent more money. Cameron also shares what retailers are anticipating for sales in the holidays ahead.

Finally, we talk with Vanessa Corson of Maine, emergency management. Corson called our radio program on one of the stormy days of the year... And share some common sense for motorists. This edition run 22 minutes.

12/24: In this addition, we speak with Elizabeth Vanderweid of the finance authority of Maine about next GEN and Alford grants. Elizabeth explains how these educationally aligned accounts came to be, how anyone can contribute into them, and how they are matched with the generosity of the Alpine foundation, to help ease the cost of education. Elizabeth also stresses the importance of urine donations to the grants. We also talk with Rebecca Graham of the Maine municipal association and special guest, John Kilbride, the police, chief of Falmouth, explains efforts to recruit, law-enforcement to communities in Maine. Rebecca and John speak of a video produced with help of the New England school of communications to showcase what the state has to offer to potential candidates in the field. They also discuss the challenges of getting qualified applicants and competing with other states in the nation for those who would answer the call. This addition runs 20 minutes.



12/31: This week's edition features a talk with Lieutenant Jason Luce, a 24-year veteran of the Maine Warden Service. He leads the boating safety efforts for the Service and is based out of the offices in Gray. He has been a member of the service's Critical Incident Stress Management Team for ten years, and has worked at the national level to enhance Maine's recreational boating safety and enforcement efforts. Topic include: the headway speed law; boater education; invasive water plant control; boating under the influence; lifejackets; water wildlife; and reporting incidents or problems to the warden service. Luce said it's important to be courteous on the water, and be mindful of the surroundings. That includes familiarizing oneself with a body of water before speeding off on it. According to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website, game wardens are "progressive, highly-motivated, faithful to the Maine heritage and adaptive to change." Luce says he embraces those ideals in service to the public.

Time 20:03