

**AM 1220 WQUN HAMDEN, CT**

**QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT**

**OCTOBER 2016 through DECEMBER 2016**

AM 1220 WQUN is owned by Quinnipiac University. As a part of its directive and mission statement is to serve its city of license, Hamden, and the greater New Haven community, the station provides local news, public service announcements, and community-oriented programming originating from the facilities of WQUN. The station regularly schedules community guests to highlight events and issues in the greater New Haven community through its morning program.

News:

WQUN runs weekday news at 6:06, 6:30,7:30,8:08,8:30,9:00,9:30,10:04, 10:30, 11:04,11:30,12:04, 12:30,1:04, 1:30, 2:04 2:30, 3:04, 3:30, 4:04 4:30, 5:04, 5:30 and 6:04 pm The newscasts include interviews with local community leaders, compiling local stories and utilizing the Associated Press, Metro News Source and CBS Radio Network. We also provide local traffic and weather reports.

## **October Headlines**

1. Car Settlement
2. State Drought Watches
3. Ice Storm Drill
4. Romano on Hamden Voting
5. East Haven Band Member
6. Utility Bill Scams
7. Elderly Man Killed By Own Car
8. East Haven Credit Rating
9. Two Shot Inside New Haven Club
10. Dentist Sexual Assault
11. Branford Trains
12. Strong School Units
13. Name Change Rally
14. Petit Ad Fallout
15. State Mosquito Monitoring Ends For the Year
16. New Haven Receives Magnet School Grant
17. Access Health CT Enrollment
18. Former Contractor Gains Early Prison Release
19. Hartford Withdraws Scarborough Eleven Case
20. Heater Fire In Bank Causes Evacuation
21. CT Juvenile Incarceration
22. Fatal Bristol Shooting
23. Head-On Collision East Haven
24. Metro North Terror Exercise
25. Man Dead Shelton Drainage Ditch

## **November Headlines**

1. Ex-Housing Authority Chair Avoids Prison in Sexual Assault Case
2. Obama Commutes New Haven Man's Sentence
3. Hartford Will Make Bills in December
4. Swastikas Painted At Wilbur Cross High
5. Boughton Forms Exploratory Committee
6. Major Hotel Project Planned in West Haven
7. GOP Leaders Wants Budget Talks Next Week
8. Malloy Disappointed Over Overtime Ruling
9. Gas Prices Low As Holiday Travel Begins
10. Hamden High Threat
11. New Haven Snow Plan
12. North Haven Bond Rating
13. Rustic Oak
14. Tyler Street Vote
15. Malloy Ice Storm
16. CT Teacher of the Year
17. CCM on Education
18. Stockings For Soldiers Drive Begins
19. Electric Car Sales
20. City Clerk's Office Seeks Legal Funds
21. Police Halt Prostitution Stings
22. New Haven Man Accused in Cop Attack
23. State Seeks to Increase Electric Car Sales
24. Bristol Commercial Fire
25. Man Accused of Taking Gun From Store

## **December Headlines**

- 1. Branford Fracking**
- 2. Malloy Non-Profit Health**
- 3. Chafrell Drugs**
- 4. State Park Cuts**
- 5. Kuss Mail**
- 6. Lorusso Court**
- 7. Immigrants Rally**
- 8. Cold Advisory**
- 9. U-I Increases**
- 10. Blumenthal Wants Trump to Divest Holdings**
- 11. Malloy Sandy Hook**
- 12. Clergy Campbell**
- 13. Casanova Rally**
- 14. Clergy Criticizes Assistant Chief Comment**
- 15. Mail Fraud Scam**
- 16. Blumenthal on Exxon CEO**
- 17. Stadium Update Delayed One Week**
- 18. New Britain Gets New Firefighters**
- 19. Senators Criticize Tillerman Appointment**
- 20. Minority Contractors**
- 21. Heroin, Crack Seized in Hamden Bust**
- 22. Bronin Visits Rocky Hill Seeking Help**
- 23. New Kidney Found For Senate President**
- 24. Woman Dies in Crash With Garbage Truck**
- 25. Gun Violence Vigil Tomorrow in Washington**

## Connecticut Radio Network Dialogue 2016 Guests and Subject Matters

(October, November, December)

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 - Gian-Carl Casa – President and CEO of the Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance.

Subject Matter: On this show Gian-Carl Casa, President and CEO of the Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance, discussed the state's decision to save money by closing down state-run group homes and transferring care of the residents to nonprofit agencies. This was being done by the state in its budget cutting process because of the deficit. The Department of Developmental Services announced more than 400 layoffs and the transfer of people in group homes to the private sector nonprofits, which are a part of the Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance. Gian-Carl Casa on the show was asked if this was a good thing or a bad thing. He told that he thinks it's a good thing both for their organization, good for the taxpayers of the state as it will save money, and it's good for the clients who will get high quality services. Casa explained that this is not necessarily something that is new because right now there are about 740 state community residences and there are about 34-hundred residents of community nonprofit run residences. So he says it's just an extension of a policy that's been going on. Casa says it will save considerable dollars for the State of Connecticut over time, and they feel the quality is as good, if not better, than what the state residences are providing people. He says the operators of the homes will switch from the state to community providers. As far as cost savings, Casa explained that it costs about \$265-thousand dollars per individual to care for them per year in a state government run residence, versus in a nonprofit residence it will cost the state about \$113-thousand dollars per year per individual ... so that's a \$152-thousand-dollar difference per individual.

Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance President and CEO Gian-Carl Casa told that the individuals in these homes are clients of the Department of Developmental Services who have developmental disabilities. He says they are being cared for in the community as the U.S. Supreme Court felt that keeping people in the community is better for them and that they respond better to residential treatment in a community setting.

Gian-Carl Casa says in the past once people have been transferred into a

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 - (Casa continued) - nonprofit community residence, the families and the people themselves tend to be happy with the transfer. But there were some families that feared the switch from the familiarity of what their loved ones were used to, might be detrimental to their family members. However, Casa says the proof has been that community providers deliver high quality services and at a lower cost than the state can. He says the state is facing a deficit for the fiscal year beginning next July 1<sup>st</sup> of just over a billion dollars. Casa says the question really is how much can the state do to care for its citizens who are most at risk, who are most vulnerable, and most in need of care. He says it doesn't seem like a viable option anymore for the state to take care of them, when his members are providing a viable option ... and can do it at less cost to the state.

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Jonathan Harris - State Consumer Protection Commissioner.

Subject Matter: On this show State Consumer Protection Commissioner Jonathan Harris discussed the growth of the state's medical marijuana program since it was implemented 2 years ago. Harris told that when the medical marijuana program first started 2 years ago there were not even 700 patients ... but now they have 13,509 which is a tremendous growth. He also says there's been an increase in the number of physicians that are certifying patients for medical marijuana use. Harris told that there were just about 80 doctors when it started in September of 2014 and now there are 547 physicians certifying medical marijuana use in the state. So he says the program is growing, maturing, and progressing.

State Consumer Protection Commissioner Jonathan Harris says the demand for medical marijuana by patients in Connecticut is up. He says the program began with 6 dispensaries and is increasing to 9 now. He says the state still has 4 producers of medical marijuana. Harris also pointed out that Connecticut was the first state in the nation to put together a pharmaceutical model. He says that means they regulate medical cannabis the same way they regulate any other drugs, with actually tighter security as to who can enter facilities.

Commissioner Harris says there have been a few expansions in the state's medical marijuana program, and one that just went into effect October 1<sup>st</sup> is it expanding to children. He says minors will now have access to medical marijuana for 6 very serious conditions that include epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, irreversible spinal cord injury, and end of life situations, where unfortunately the minor will be passing away. Harris says it's more difficult for minors to get access

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Harris continued) - to medical marijuana, because instead of having just one physician to certify that they have one of the debilitating conditions, they will need their primary care physician and a physician with expertise in the particular debilitating disease to also sign off on it, as well as a parent. He told children having access to medical marijuana had been discussed for a couple of years and they understand people's concerns, but Harris says this is just giving minors another choice for medicine that has been shown with research to provide relief from pain and underlying disease conditions. He says before now, people have had to leave the state to find that relief for their children ... but now that alternative is here for them in the State of Connecticut.

Also effective on October 1<sup>st</sup> hospitals, universities, and medical marijuana dispensaries now can apply for medical marijuana research proposals and submit them. Commissioner Jonathan Harris says they've had a lot of interest in research here in Connecticut. He says they've come from some of the producers of medical marijuana, some of the state's institutions of higher education, and from some of the dispensaries. Harris says Yale University has been leading the way on this. He explained that one of the challenges of medical marijuana programs that physicians and other healthcare providers were concerned with, was the lack of scientific evidence that we've had for other pharmaceuticals. So Harris says Connecticut is the first state in the nation to have a formal structure for research and they will be taking applications to approve research in medical cannabis. He says they'll be licensing the employees of the research. Harris says this is really important because it will provide more evidence of the positive effects of medical marijuana and also provide the state with more jobs. He also pointed out that this is not people smoking huge marijuana joints like in a Cheech and Chong movie, this is medicine with 85 chemicals in the cannabis plant that help people with serious illnesses. Harris says this research will help to provide better healthcare and choices to people suffering from these diseases. He explained that less than 30% of the medical marijuana dispensed in Connecticut is smoked. Harris says marijuana medicine through the program comes in many forms such as oils for vaping, for cooking, topical oils, eyedrops, gel caps, pills, and other edibles. So he says the innovation has been tremendous for medical marijuana to treat people with debilitating diseases like cancer, HIV/Aids, and Parkinson's disease. Harris says the program started with 11 diseases eligible for medical marijuana, and has now increased to 22 diseases for adults and 6 for minors.

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Mick Bolduc - Epidemiologist with the State Department of Public Health.

Subject Matter: This week's Dialogue show gets everybody ready for the flu season coming up with epidemiologist Mick Bolduc from the State Department of Public Health. He says the best protection from getting the flu is to get a flu shot. Bolduc told it is recommended that everyone 6 months of age and older get a flu shot on a yearly basis. He says the flu can actually happen throughout the course of the year, but it normally starts ramping up in October and November, so now is the perfect time for people to get their flu shot. Bolduc says the flu really hits the very young and very old hard, so it is especially important for these populations to be vaccinated on a year basis. He says though that really everyone needs to get a flu shot, because you never know when you're going to be exposed to the flu. Bolduc says if you've never had the flu, you never want to get it, because it'll hit you like you've been run over by a truck. So, he says you don't want to get it if you don't have to and the best protection is a flu shot.

Mick Bolduc told that health officials try to predict what flu strains will be in the U.S. during the fall and winter months based on what strains have been in the Southern hemisphere during the summer, which is their flu season. He says it's kind of a guessing game and they then come up with the vaccine to combat those strains. Last year the vaccine was very effective, but not every year is a perfect match. Nevertheless, Bolduc says that flu vaccine is going to give you some protection no matter what. He told the flu is a severe illness that causes hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations each year. Bolduc also says over the last 4-years there have been over 500 children that have died from flu complications. So, Bolduc says the flu is not something to be fooled around with, as it can result in severe consequences leading to pneumonia and even death. He noted that for those ages 65 and older there is a high dose formulation that gives them the maximum protection.

One kind of flu vaccine epidemiologist Mick Bolduc told will not be available this year is the flu mist, which had been good for children who don't like needles. Bolduc explained that the Centers for Disease Control looked at the flu mist's effectiveness for the past 3-years and found that it just wasn't effective ... with only a 3% effectiveness rate last year. So, they decided that for this year the flu mist will not be used, and injectable vaccine is the only flu vaccine available in the United States. Bolduc says they will continue to look at making the flu mist



October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Bolduc continued) - more effective, but until they can it will no longer be offered. But he said there is certainly no shortage of the injectable flu shot as manufacturers have made 160-million doses, which is plenty to go around.

Mick Bolduc told on the show that they always get asked when should people get their flu shot so they'll be protected. He says their recommendation is the same that the CDC recommends, which is get it as soon as vaccine is available, because you don't know when you are going to be exposed to the flu. Bolduc says even if you get your flu shot in August, it will protect you throughout the course of the flu season. He says the flu season here generally runs from October to May with it normally peaking during the months of January, February, and March. Bolduc also told that there are vaccines out there now that are egg-free for those people who are allergic to eggs. He says once you get your flu shot it normally takes 10 to 14 days to give you protection. State epidemiologist Bolduc also shot down a myth, as just that a myth, that you could get the flu from getting a flu shot, that cannot happen he told. He says during the flu season it's a good idea to wash your hands frequently to avoid spreading germs ... and if you should unfortunately get the flu, don't go to work or school and expose others to this serious disease. So, get a flu shot Bolduc says so you hopefully won't be in that predicament.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 - Doug Schwartz - Director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

Subject Matter: On this Dialogue edition Quinnipiac University Poll Director Doug Schwartz discussed how things were shaping up as we got nearer to Election Day ... focusing on the big presidential race between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump. He told there is a statewide U.S. Senate race in Connecticut between incumbent Senator Richard Blumenthal and Republican challenger State Representative Dan Carter, but the last poll they took had Blumenthal 30 points ahead. So, it seems pretty certain that Senator Blumenthal is going to win his re-election bid to the U.S. Senate. Given that, Doug Schwartz told that they decided to focus on the presidential election, and doing polls nationally with the focus on the most important states that could go either way, called swing states. He says they first started focusing on swing states with their polling in 2008. Schwartz says here in Connecticut, like in the U.S. Senate race, the presidential race is expected to go blue ... with Democrat Hillary Clinton taking

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 - (Schwartz continued) - the state.

Q-Poll Director Doug Schwartz says this presidential election has certainly heightened the interest in polling. He says the key swing states the Q-Poll was focusing on were Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Colorado, Iowa, Virginia, and Georgia. Schwartz pointed out that sometimes one key state can be the difference as it was in both the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections. George W. Bush won both of those, but Schwartz reminded listeners that if Al Gore had won Florida in 2000 instead of Bush, Gore would have been president ... and in 2004 if John Kerry had taken the state of Ohio, Kerry would have won the presidency instead of Bush. As of this time Schwartz told that in 4 of the key swing states Clinton was up in Florida and Pennsylvania, but Ohio and North Carolina were toss-ups. He also stated that in this race there have been more big developments than he can ever remember from week to week that can sway people's votes ... from Trump's crude comments on an Access Hollywood bus on how he took advantage of women sexually to Clinton's emails sent on an unsecured private server while she was Secretary of State.

One thing Q-Poll Director Doug Schwartz was asked about on the show was if it was possible that due to the wild statements Donald Trump has made in the campaign, if people the Q-Poll contacted might be too embarrassed to admit that they were going to vote for him. Schwartz told that he didn't think there's a good chance of that occurring because in the presidential primaries before this the polls were very accurate with Trump supporters not shy about telling pollsters that they were voting for their candidate Trump.

Q-Poll Director Doug Schwartz says one thing that was a bit different in this presidential election between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump was that all 3 debates were must-see TV for people. Lots of times in the past people have tuned into the first debate and then interest waned in subsequent debates. Schwartz says usually debates tend to reinforce preexisting dispositions, and you normally don't see much change. But in this election year he says we've seen more movement than usual. Schwartz told also that things which have come up in the 3 debates have tended to be stories all through the week that could sway people's opinion on the candidates. He says these are two historically unpopular candidates with people possibly deciding on the lesser of 2 evils.

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Denise Merrill - Connecticut Secretary of the State.

Subject Matter: On this Dialogue show Secretary of the State Denise Merrill got listeners up to date on what they needed to know for Election Day ... just days away on November 8<sup>th</sup>. First of all, she told they needed to be registered to vote and that the deadline to register in advance in Connecticut was November 1<sup>st</sup>. Merrill urged people to do that because she expected long lines on Election Day with well over 2 million people registered to vote in Connecticut, a record amount for the big heated presidential election between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump. She explained that before the in advance deadline of November 1<sup>st</sup> people had different options in which they could register to vote. Merrill told they could do it online through the online voter registration system if they have a Connecticut driver's license or a state I.D., people could also mail-in an application form which they could get from the Secretary of the State's website or their local town, and maybe the easiest way they could just go down to their local town hall to the Registrar of Voters office and register to vote in person. Merrill also noted that these days people are also registering to vote at the DMV when they get their driver's license ... so that's also another way people have signed up to vote in this election year. She in addition told that Facebook promoted a voter registration drive for 2-days and 15-thousand additional people registered in 2-days through Facebook ... so social media has also helped out in getting people registered to vote. Because of the record number of voters registered, Merrill expected a big turnout on Election Day for people voting. Though she also reminded people that it's not just the presidential race, that there's also a U.S. Senate race in Connecticut, all of the U.S. House of Representatives are up for re-election, and all of the state senators and representatives too. Merrill says these are people that will be making big decisions that affect our towns. She urged voters to go to [www.myvote.ct.gov](http://www.myvote.ct.gov) to check that they are properly registered to vote and find out their correct polling place so they don't go to the wrong one on Election Day. She told that some people move and even if it's moving in the same town, their voting place may have changed.

Now Secretary of the State Denise Merrill told that if people did not register in time by the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, they could register to vote on Election Day itself at their local town hall and then vote there. But she said there could be long lines, so she encouraged people to register before Election Day. When voting on Election Day, Merrill also reminded people that they would need to show some identification, though in Connecticut it does not have to be a picture I.D., as it

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Merrill continued) - could be a utility bill just to show that they live at the address registered. If people need to vote by absentee ballot, Merrill told they would need to provide a reason, with the most obvious being they wouldn't be in their voting district on Election Day to vote in person.

Many states these days have early voting, but Secretary of the State Denise Merrill says Connecticut does not unfortunately. She says she would love for the state to have it, and in fact got a measure on the ballot in 2014 for people to vote on allowing Connecticut to have early voting ... but it was turned down by the voters. Merrill says maybe people didn't understand how good it would have been to have early voting and cut down on the long lines on Election Day at the polls in especially a presidential election year. So, she thinks it might be worth another try. Merrill also says she'd be in favor of our country having a national voting holiday to make it easier for people to vote. One thing that Merrill emphasized on the show however was the fear that our voting system could be hacked could not happen ... because the voting machines in our country are not hooked up to the internet. In Connecticut, she told we have optical scanners that count the votes with a paper trail verification.

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Linda Dixon - Department of Children and Families Administration.

Subject Matter: This week's guest is Linda Dixon, an administrator with the Department of Children and Families, as November is national adoption awareness month. She told that a focus of the month was on child specific recruitment. Dixon says it's an intensive, individualized, tailored approach based on the child's specific needs, background, strengths, and interests. She explained that general recruitment is about raising public awareness on the needs of children in foster care and needs of youth waiting to be adopted. Dixon told that this is done through the use of billboards and public service announcements.

For child specific recruitment, Linda Dixon says there are elements that focus on an individual child. One is what they call "intensive case mining" which involves sitting down with a child and finding out about past and current relationships that the child has had to see if one could be a permanent resource for the child. Dixon says no stone is left unturned as this is very intensive in terms of time, which can take a couple of days because it is a comprehensive assessment. She told that they also have what's called a heart gallery that has photos and stories

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Dixon continued) - of children seeking to be adopted. Dixon says they also use social media to find relatives and permanent connections for kids. She explained that it is definitely a less traumatic experience for a child to go with a relative or someone they already know. The DCF administrator told that in the past 5 years they have about doubled the amount of children who are with relatives and have significantly reduced the number of kids in institutional care.

DCF Administrator Linda Dixon told that for people interested in becoming either temporary foster parents or adopting a child for life, they should call DCF at 1-888-kid-hero or go to [ctfosteradopt.com](http://ctfosteradopt.com). She told they'll have a background check done, they'll provide training and support, and prospective parents will have to meet some licensing requirements. Dixon says the training takes about 12 weeks and so from start to finish it would normally take about 4 months to get someone fully licensed. She says they make every decision on a case by case basis on evaluating whether someone is suitable to be an adoptive or foster parent. So Dixon says if people have enough love to spare and they call the DCF, they will sit down with them and explore all options. She says they don't discriminate based on sexual orientation or marital status ... so you can be single, married, a straight or gay couple. Dixon says you have to be age 21 or older and be financially stable and be in good health to keep up with kids. Dixon says time and time again they hear from their families that have adopted kids, telling them that it is the most rewarding experience to impact a kid's young life and that they would do it again. Dixon says these families are actually their best recruiters. She noted that there are financial subsidies for adoptive parents including health care and for college. Dixon told that last year they had 465 adoptions.

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Dr. Ken Long - Professor of History and Political Science at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

Subject Matter: This week on Dialogue Dr. Ken Long, Professor of History and Political Science at the University of St. Joseph gave his views on the results of the presidential election in which Donald Trump surprised and stunned everyone winning the election over Hillary Clinton. Dr. Long told listeners that this is very much a change election with a lot of voters fed up with politics as usual ... which played very well into Donald Trump's hands. He says even when Trump went off script and would say some off-color things, a lot of voters viewed that as proof that

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Long continued) - Trump was indeed not a politician. Dr. Long told that many in America had an overwhelming frustration with politics as usual and a sense that it is not working for us, first and foremost economically. He says Trump did very well in Rust Belt states which were feeling years of high unemployment, as well as in rural areas of the country that are struggling a great deal.

Much of Donald Trump's campaign had a lot of talk that sounded to a lot of people like hatred ... hatred of immigrant groups, minorities, disrespect for women, and disrespect for elected officials. So there certainly was no politeness to things that he said. But Dr. Ken Long says Donald Trump's supporters had the feeling that things are not going well in this country and politicians are not doing anything about it. He says right-wing leaning voters feel that way about the Black Lives Matter movement and violence associated around it, and the terror strikes in Orlando, Paris, and Brussels. Long also acknowledged that these people also feel that Democrats always side with minorities or people looking to get something out of the government, rather than siding with them – normal working people.

Dr. Ken Long told on the show that we can't lose sight that the presidential race was an unpopularity contest. He says the polls misled that Hillary Clinton was in the lead the whole way. Long says Trump's candidacy was in many ways a guilty pleasure. He feels a lot of Trump's voters were less inclined to tell the truth about who they intended to vote for ... which is why everyone was surprised as it was thought Clinton was going to win. But Long says even though he won, Trump assumes the presidency as the least popular president-elect in modern times. He says in this race we saw most Americans seeing these candidates as unqualified, dishonest, and unreliable. Long says Trump comes in with even an enormous rift in his own party ... so it will be a challenge for him even with a Republican majority in both chambers of Congress. But despite Trump's negatives, Long says it seems that voters cared more for making a change, because what was happening wasn't working, so let's try something different.

Now that Donald Trump will be our next president, Dr. Ken Long says it will be interesting to see how he does, as he is an outsider, having never held political office ... so he will have to surround himself with people who know how to get things done in politics like Newt Gingrich, Rudy Giuliani, and Chris Christie. Long says internationally other countries will be wondering how he'll be as well, as Trump had a lot of tough talk on the campaign trail and made lots of

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (more Long continued) - promises, many which Long doubts Trump can keep. For instance, Trump kept harping about building a wall on the Southern border to keep illegal immigrants out, and that Mexico is going to pay for it. Long says that's not going to happen and certainly this country is not going to spend tons of money to build it, as Congress won't approve it.

On the other side of the coin, Dr. Long says the Democratic Party will have to reevaluate itself losing the election by nominating a flawed candidate in Hillary Clinton, who had a lot of baggage by sending emails over a private server while she was Secretary of State. He says they basically anointed her in the primary process over Bernie Sanders. Yet Dr. Long says Sanders came within reach of her which should have set off all kinds of warning bells that she was not a strong candidate and was not trustworthy. Long says it was almost like Democratic insiders arranged the nomination ... and they paid for it when she lost the election.

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Themis Klarides - Republican House Leader.

Subject Matter: On this show State Representative Themis Klarides, who is the House Republican Leader, discussed the ramifications of the elections that just took place. In the state legislature Republicans, who have been in the minority for quite some time in Connecticut, made significant gains. In the State Senate, it is now a tie at 18 apiece and in the State House of Representatives the GOP has narrowed the margin to 79 Democrats and 72 Republicans. GOP House Leader Klarides says this now give them the ability to put forth their agenda and puts Democrats on notice that they'd better listen to Republican ideas because in 2-years voters go back to the polls and could decide that more Republicans need to be voted into office at the State Capitol if Democrats keep putting the state on the wrong fiscal path.

As for how Republicans made significant gains in the legislature this election House GOP Leader Themis Klarides says although Donald Trump won the presidency in the country, he still lost Connecticut by 12 points, which was at least less than John McCain and Mitt Romney lost by in the previous two presidential elections. But the real reason why Republicans did well Klarides feels is that their candidates did a very good job in knocking on doors and asking people if they felt Governor Malloy has done a good job ... and if the answer is no then they must believe that Democratic legislators have not done a good job either. She says if Democratic legislators voted with the governor, then they are just as much

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Klarides continued) - to blame, and Klarides feels Republicans made that connection with voters and thus the results. Klarides says the Democrats are the ones to blame for the taxes, borrowing, regulations, and anti-business policies in Connecticut.

GOP House Leader Themis Klarides says with the new dynamic coming up in the state legislature Governor Malloy and Democratic leaders in the legislature have reached out to her and Senate GOP Leader Len Fasano, and acknowledged where the situation stands now number wise. However, Klarides says there's a difference between reaching out and acknowledging how it's changed ... because one vote could make a difference in committee votes and in the overall legislative vote. She says after the voters have spoken Republicans in the legislature will try to have their input on the budget and structural change, which they feel is needed. Unfortunately, Klarides says the GOP came to the table last session in the budget talks with 13 major structural changes and Democrats didn't agree to any of them. Aside from budget matters, GOP House Leader Klarides also hopes there will be a lot more discussion on even what bills come out of committee, because the vote margin is now so narrow.

As far as the budget goes, before the election Republicans were saying the Democrats were claiming things weren't so bad ... but that right after the election there would be bad news. Lo and behold a report did come out showing that in the coming budget the state could have a deficit of over a billion dollars. State House Republican Leader Themis Klarides says there's no gloating here on Republicans' part ... more like the response: when are Democrats going to open their eyes and take their heads out of the sand. She says Democrats cannot continue to see the dire fiscal situation the state is in, yet stand up and say everything is fine. Klarides asked how many times have we heard the governor say everything is fine and then raise taxes. She says this is nonsense and that the people of Connecticut are not going to tolerate it anymore. Klarides says the Democrats are always on a quest to find new revenue, whether it was Keno last year, and now they are talking about legalizing recreational marijuana to raise revenue. She says Democrats have such an irresponsible way of budgeting. Klarides says the state needs to start making structural changes to its budgeting process so that we don't keep facing deficits year after year and chasing red ink. She says the state needs to adhere to the spending and bonding caps and stop borrowing money.



November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Tim Phelan - President of the Connecticut Retail Merchants Association.

Subject Matter: On this show Tim Phelan, President of the Connecticut Retail Merchants Association, discussed the holiday shopping season ahead. The season normally gets going with the big Black Friday sales the day after Thanksgiving. However recently those sales have been starting right on Thanksgiving Day itself with many stores opening later in the day. This year though it seemed like more stores were making a point of it not to open on Thanksgiving Day so that their employees and customers could spend the day with their families instead of working or shopping. Tim Phelan told that really, it's consistent with retailers' philosophy of responding to their customers and consumer requests. So, he says if you're a retailer that feels your customer base is not going to come out, then you're probably not going to open on Thanksgiving night ... but on the other hand stores that feel their customer base will come out on Thanksgiving night will probably choose to open.

As far as Black Friday goes the President of the Connecticut Retail Merchants Association Tim Phelan says the holiday season and the kick off on Black Friday is still a very critical part of the retail calendar. He says for the vast majority of retailers this is still a very important time of the year. Phelan says for brick and mortar retail stores the competition is greater than it has ever been, as they are also competing with online retailers ... not just other stores in their area. So, he says a good strong Black Friday starts the holiday season for retailers ... it doesn't complete it ... but kicks it off and gets it rolling.

After Black Friday, a rather new promotion is Small Business Saturday. Phelan says that is a small business strategy promotion that the Connecticut Retail Merchants Association supports. He says they feel it's a great event that highlights the importance of small independent retailers that are located here in Connecticut and nationwide. Phelan told that when analysts talk about retailers they focus on national multistate retailers and they forget the smaller independent retailer that really is the backbone of everybody's economy and particularly here in Connecticut. He says the biggest area for small businesses is small retailers all over Connecticut that make their communities come alive. Phelan says Small Business Saturday helps promote those retailers and hopefully brings that to the attention of the public and shoppers to support them ... as these retailers are under tremendous stress against online retailers.

November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Phelan continued) -

Meantime to round out the special shopping days there is the Monday following Thanksgiving known as Cyber Monday designed to promote shopping online. Tim Phelan told that Cyber Monday started a few years ago, purely with online retailers ... but he says now brick and mortar retailers also have a strong online presence as well. So, he says both have strong promotions to shop from at their online sites. Unfortunately, Phelan also told that Cyber Monday highlights the disconnect that is going on between purely online retailers and those retailers that have a physical presence in the State of Connecticut. He says those retailers that have a physical presence in the state are required to charge the State of Connecticut's sales tax, whereas online retailers (with the exception of Amazon because they have a distribution center in Connecticut) for the most part do not. Phelan says this is a big beef for brick and mortar retailers who are at a big disadvantage with this unlevel playing field.

As for holiday shopping here in Connecticut, Tim Phelan says the state has all of the major national retail stores, plus the wonderful local smaller shops ... so he says there's really no reason to go anywhere else for your holiday shopping. He says he expects the stores to be well staffed to help customers, and even though it is a hectic time, it should be festive not stressful. Phelan expects that the top purchases for gifts will be gifts cards, clothing, books, toys, Barbies, promotions tied to movies, Legos, electronics, jewelry, and don't forget food from food retailers for those holiday get togethers.

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Joe Aresimowicz - Currently State House Democratic Majority Leader, and soon to be State House Speaker – (D) from Berlin.

Subject Matter: On this Dialogue edition Joe Aresimowicz, currently the House Democratic Majority Leader in the legislature, and soon to be Speaker of the House when the new session starts in January, discussed the new power structure in the general assembly after Republicans made major gains in the November elections. The State House of Representatives for the new session will be 79 Democrats to 72 Republicans, and in the State Senate there will be an 18-18 split. Aresimowicz told that he really doesn't think things will change too much, saying that here in Connecticut 90% of the bills passed are done on a bipartisan basis anyways. But he says Democrats and Republicans will now almost be required to work across the aisle ... but added that's when they do their best work when they

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Aresimowicz continued) - do it in a bipartisan way. Aresimowicz does admit they'll have to be mindful of attendance and make sure when they bring legislation to a vote, that they do have the necessary people present to vote to pass it. But he says he feels good with the situation and told that he has always had a very good working relationship with Republican House Leader Themis Klarides. Aresimowicz says they'll work together to move the state forward.

Regarding the state budget, which has a big projected deficit of 1.5 billion dollars for next fiscal year, Governor Malloy made a comment that perhaps he could possibly work with some Republicans to get what he wants ... since he is more conservative than many Democrats in the legislature. When asked about the governor's comments Representative Joe Aresimowicz stated that he doesn't think the people of Connecticut care anymore about liberal, moderate, or conservative tags. He says they want people to work together to move the state forward. Aresimowicz says the people of Connecticut are tired of the fights they have in D.C. that have essentially paralyzed our government and their inability to get things done. He says people don't want to hear that here in Connecticut. Aresimowicz also said he wants a common-sense approach to the job crisis the state is facing, as well as the deficit. But Aresimowicz says as long as everyone is willing to work together, he feels titles and political alignment shouldn't matter much.

With the new session coming up, soon to be State House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz told with a projected budget deficit of over a billion dollars it will be difficult. But he says they'll make the tough decisions to put Connecticut back on the right track. Aresimowicz says the problems the state has have escalated because over the years Connecticut hasn't fully funded the state pension fund. He says ideally Connecticut needs to expand its base of taxes ... not by expanding the number of taxes, but by adding more businesses that will pay taxes. But until that happens to a greater degree he knows they'll be faced with having to make more painful budget cuts. As far as adding taxes ... he says he never makes up his mind before the budget negotiations ... so he would not rule it out. Aresimowicz feels they really need to find efficiencies in the budget. For instance, he says there are too many consultants and managers in state government that could be curtailed and save money. But again, Aresimowicz says they'll make the hard decisions ... they may not be popular ... but they have to be willing to make them to get Connecticut back on the right track.

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Karen Jarmoc - CEO of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Subject Matter: On this Dialogue show Karen Jarmoc, CEO of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, discussed a new report that they put out regarding the use of emergency domestic violence shelters in Connecticut by people in fear of domestic violence. Jarmoc told that there are 18 designated domestic violence service providers in the State of Connecticut with 16 of the 18 actually having a physical shelter. She says the other 2 providers give safe home stays temporarily to victims in a hotel or motel, and then are transitioned to one of the shelters. Jarmoc says this has to do with space at the shelters. She told that any woman who is feeling threatened in a domestic violence relationship feeling they need help should call the statewide hotline at 888-774-2900. Jarmoc says it's a 24-hour number all days of the week. She told that they'll link that person to their most local program. Jarmoc says whenever someone calls that number they'll always get a live person who is a certified domestic violence counselor. She says the call is fully confidential and they will be able to assist the person in need.

In their report just issued, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence says there has been a very heavy use of these domestic violence shelters over the last 8 years or so. CEO Karen Jarmoc says they are becoming increasingly over-capacity all the time. She says years ago there would be times when they had to use a family room or a children's playroom space to house a family when there was an overflow. But now Jarmoc says that is the constant state of being for domestic violence shelters. She also says that families are staying much longer and that's because families are coming in with multiple problems ... such as emotional issues and trauma where they need some behavioral healthcare and maybe even substance abuse help. This she says is in addition to the risk and safety issue of domestic violence which they have escaped from. Jarmoc says the resources to house victims in transition is getting more and more difficult, as the shelters were about 57% in use back in 2008 ... and now they are at 125%. Although Jarmoc says she's not so sure this is because there's more domestic violence now ... she feels it's more reflective on them getting the word out for where domestic violence victims can get help, and that this shelter network exists. She told when she came to the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence in 2011 most victims did not know where to get help. So Jarmoc says they started a fundraiser every year and then have done a huge push on information about where to access help and that has worked.

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Jarmoc continued) -

Karen Jarmoc told that all of the emergency shelters are at undisclosed locations in the state to protect these women from domestic violence situations. In addition to the women, Jarmoc told that there are also over a thousand kids at the shelters with their mothers who also need support. Though she stated that in most cases the kids are pretty resilient and often enjoy the family atmosphere at the shelters. The average stay has gone up for them since 2008 when it was 26 days, now the average stay is 46 days before they try to transition them into permanent housing.

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence CEO Jarmoc told that while they do have some fundraising events during the year the bulk of the funding for the shelters and hotline services comes from the State Department of Social Services. But with the state in a very tough budget deficit situation they are worried about losing any funding. That is one of the reasons why they have released this report and data to show how vital it is to continue to get the funding for the domestic violence shelters and support services.

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Alicia Woodsby - Executive Director of the Partnership for Strong Communities.

Subject Matter: This week Alicia Woodsby, Executive Director of the Partnership for Strong Communities, was the guest on Dialogue. She explained that they are a statewide non-profit, policy and advocacy organization that is dedicated to ending homelessness, expanding affordable housing, and building strong communities in Connecticut. Ms. Woodsby told that they staff and manage two statewide campaigns: The Reaching Home campaign which focuses on preventing and ending homelessness and building the political and civic will to do so. The second campaign she told is the Home Connecticut campaign which is focused on expanding affordable housing options and choice across the state.

Connecticut has become the second state in the nation to virtually end homelessness among veterans, which is a big problem nationwide. Alicia Woodsby explained that they define ending homelessness as making it rare, brief, nonrecurring, and being able to create a system that can quickly identify individuals who are experiencing homelessness and connect them to housing in a very short period of time. She says their standard is under 90 days. Woodsby

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Woodsby continued) - told that it's about creating a response system to have the outreach and engagement to be able to find and identify these folks and be able to quickly get them into permanent housing, and then ensure that they are not coming back into homelessness. So, Woodsby says while people will still continue to fall into homelessness, now there is a system in place to help them quickly. She says it's a response system that is streamlined, efficient, and targeted. Woodsby says they are doing that for those who are experiencing chronic homelessness as well, and for their overall homelessness response system in the state too. She told listeners that over the last 5 years they've transformed it from a disjointed system of shelters across the state to teams of providers who work in 8 regional coordinated access networks. Woodsby says they all have lists of every individual in their community who is homeless and they prioritize housing resources for folks based on vulnerability. She says they are on the cusp of ending chronic homelessness as well in the state. Woodsby says they are also making strides and working towards next accelerating ending homelessness with families with children. Woodsby says Connecticut is a leader in the nation on the work they are doing on homelessness for veterans and chronic homelessness. She credits Governor Dannel Malloy for being very supportive in the effort as well.

As for chronic homelessness in the state, Alicia Woodsby told that Connecticut has had a significant drop by 20% from last year to this year. She says the chronically homeless have experienced homelessness repeatedly over long periods of time and have a severe disabling condition ... such as mental health, substance abuse, or other chronic health conditions.

Woodsby on the show told that last year there were around 11-thousand people that experienced homelessness in Connecticut. Aside from people with health or abuse issues, she says many people become homeless when they can no longer afford their housing for reasons like a job loss. Woodsby says affordable housing is a big problem in Connecticut. She explained one needs to make \$24.72 an hour to be able to afford a basic 2-bedroom apartment. Woodsby also told there are more and more renters in Connecticut and less home ownership ... so there's a huge demand which drives up the cost. She says the Partnership for Strong Communities is constantly talking to towns about this lack of affordable housing. Woodsby told that it's not only hurting individual achievement, but also the viability of communities and the state's economy too. So, Woodsby says they are working with towns and the state in this area to get more affordable multi-family

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (more Woodsby continued) - housing. Despite the State of Connecticut facing a big budget deficit, Woodsby feels Governor Malloy and state leaders know that achieving more affordable housing in the state has got to be a priority and accomplished. She is also hopeful that new HUD Secretary Ben Carson, chosen by President-elect Donald Trump, will also see the importance of affordable housing in local communities in this nation and help work towards solutions.

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Johanna Krebs - Project Manager for MADD Connecticut.

Subject Matter: This week Johanna Krebs, Project Manager for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, discussed issues they are concerned with regarding drinking and driving in our state. With it being the holiday season there are many holiday parties and of course New Year's Eve parties and celebrations. Krebs told that those hosting parties need to plan ahead to be safe. She says it's a great time of year to enjoy festivities with our families and friends in celebrating the holidays ... but we need to do it safely. Krebs told that between Thanksgiving and New Year's MADD has their "Tie One On for Safety" campaign, which is to designate a sober, non-drinking driver. She says they bring this to the attention of the public by handing out red ribbons for people to tie on their vehicles. Krebs explained that when people put the red ribbons on their vehicles, it's a reminder to everyone that the driver of that vehicle is going to be a designated driver and not get behind the wheel with any drinking impairment.

Johanna Krebs advised party hosts that you want your guests to have fun ... but in a safe manner. She says you want options for your guests to enjoy other than alcoholic drinks. Krebs says services like Uber should also be utilized and other public transportation ... so that your guests do not get behind the wheel after drinking and get home safely.

MADD Connecticut has been very instrumental in getting laws preventing drunk driving passed in the state. Johanna Krebs told that one of those is the ignition interlock law that went into effect in July of 2015. She says this requires that anyone arrested for the crime of drunk driving has to have an ignition interlock put in their vehicle (at their cost) before they can drive it. She says they have to blow into it to show they are not under the influence and can safely drive their vehicle. Krebs told that as of mid-November, the Department of Motor Vehicles

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Krebs continued) - reported that there were 7,235 ignition interlocks in Connecticut being used. She explained the great thing about ignition interlocks is that it stops someone from starting their vehicle if they have a breath alcohol content of above .025 ... but also allows them to go to work and continue to go other places in their daily lives ... except being able to drive that vehicle after they've been drinking. Krebs says these ignition interlocks from July of 2015 to July of 2016 have prevented 58,197 engine starts ... preventing drivers from getting on the road after drinking. She says they can see that these ignition interlocks are working. Krebs says in the past when a person's driver's license was suspended 50-to-70 percent of those people still went out and drove under the suspended license. So, she says the suspended license did not stop them from driving after consuming alcohol ... but the ignition interlock does.

Johanna Krebs also told on the show that MADD Connecticut is also pleased they were able to spearhead another law that just took effect in Connecticut in October. This is the DUI Child Endangerment Law that increases penalties for driving drunk with a child under the age of 18 in the vehicle. She says that's a life-threatening situation and MADD is happy that the legislature passed this law and now increases the penalties for someone who would drive intoxicated with a child in their vehicle.

Meantime, Johanna Krebs told that MADD also combats underage drinking and driving. She says they have a youth development team that goes to communities and schools educating students about this. Krebs told they are extremely thankful for the Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office for providing them the funding to be able to reach hundreds of parents every single month through their Power of Parents Program. She says they educate PTA's and local school programs so that parents have the information to have effective conversations with their teens about drinking and driving. Krebs says 74% of teens says parents are number one on their list when it comes to engage or not engaging in underage drinking. She says teens are listening ... many times it seems like they aren't ... but they are, so it's extremely important to set rules and boundaries, as it could save their life. Krebs says the conversation also needs to make it clear for them not to get into a car with someone who has been drinking. Krebs mentioned that it also extends to impaired people and driving these days, especially with the opioid crisis in society, not just alcohol.

Johanna Krebs says they have an entire department at MADD Connecticut,



December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (more Krebs continued) - including 3 on-call victim advocates, 24 hours/7 days a week, in their Victim Services Department who help families and loved ones that have lost a loved one due to an impaired/drunk driving crash. She says their victim advocate is ready to talk 24/7, even on Christmas. MADD also helps them deal with the tricky criminal justice system, providing resources, or just being there to support the victim. Krebs says drunk or impaired driving is a crime ... and a preventable crime.

## **REPORTER AT LARGE GUESTS**

### **OCTOBER**

**22nd            SAVE THE CHILDREN**

### **NOVEMBER**

**5<sup>th</sup>            CBIA**

**12<sup>th</sup>            ELECTION REFLECTION**

**19<sup>TH</sup>            S/R Vincent Candelora**

### **DECEMBER**

**3<sup>rd</sup>            S/R Steve Dargan**

**10<sup>th</sup>            BBB Howard Schwartz**

**17<sup>th</sup>            State Sen Elect George Logan**