

Quarterly Issues Programs List

Townsquare Media Rochester License, LLC
Stations: KWWK, KDCZ, KROC-FM, KYBA
January 1st, 2024 through March 31st, 2024

SECTION I. Issues

A) Public Health – The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) works to protect, maintain, and improve the health of all Minnesotans through disease prevention, health promotion, and assurance of a safe and healthy environment. MDH collaborates with communities, individuals, and partners to address public health challenges and advance health equity across the state.

B) Economy – Minnesota’s income inequality has slowly grown over the past 20 years or so, mostly because its Black and indigenous population has continued to lag behind other racial and ethnic groups in the state when it comes to household income. However, the state is still among those whose income gap is among the narrowest.

C) Reproductive Rights– In January 2023, Governor Walz signed Minnesota's Protect Reproductive Options Act into law, affirming Minnesotans' fundamental right to make independent decisions about their own reproductive health.

D) Public Education – The Minnesota Department of Education released statewide test results for 2023 that show more than half of students are struggling.

E) Wildlife and Conservation – The MN Department of Natural Resources plays a crucial role in conserving and preserving Minnesota’s forests, wildlife, waterways, and recreational areas.

SECTION II – RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

MINNESOTA MATTERS, hosted by Tasha Redel, Bill Werner, Mark Dorenkamp and Mike Grim is a weekly locally produced public affairs program that discusses matters of importance to Minnesotans. Minnesota Matters runs every Sunday morning on KROC-FM, KWWK, KDCZ, and KYBA from 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.

January 7th, 2024 – Issues Discussed: Economy, Public Health, Public Education

This episode covers a wide range of issues, including radon action month, a new law safeguarding rental tenants and pets, navigating student loans, and recent political updates. Eminence Bill Werner provides insights into the week's political developments, ranging from the state flag redesign controversy to the implementation of the red flag law. The discussion extends to the significance of a new law protecting pets from surgical alterations mandated by landlords, with state Representative Maria Issa Perez Vega providing valuable insights. Additionally, Laura Erdman from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education shares details about a newly launched success coaching service tailored for first-year self loan borrowers, designed to simplify the student loan process.

January 14th, 2024 – Issues Discussed: Economy, Public Health, Food Insecurity

The episode kicks off with a discussion on the state's current issues, including the persistently high use of food shelves across Minnesota, highlighting the challenges faced by families due to factors like inflation and changes in emergency benefits. Angelica Clubbish, director of Community Partnerships at Second Harvest Heartland, provides insight into the significant increase in food shelf visits in 2023, emphasizing the continued need for support and the organization's efforts to address it.

January 21st, 2024 – Issues Discussed: Economy, Public Health

The episode covers a range of subjects, including the prevalence of pregnancy discrimination cases, highlighted by Eminem's Ashley Walker speaking with MDHR commissioner Rebecca Lucero and insights into the 2024 Minnesota State Fair including budget considerations and upcoming entertainment announcements and maintenance projects at the State Fairgrounds.

January 28th, 2024 – Issues Discussed: Economy, Public Health, Public Safety

The episode starts by addressing the charges filed against Minnesota State trooper Ryan Londrigan for the death of Ricky Cobb II during a traffic stop, with input from Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty and statements from Cobb's family and Londrigan's attorney Chris Mattel. Imran Ali from the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association defends Trooper Londrigan, criticizing the charges. Legal expert David Schultz discusses the challenges prosecutors face in obtaining a conviction. Later, Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Brooke Cunningham provides updates on the flu, COVID-19, and RSV season, emphasizing the importance of vaccinations and testing.

February 4th, 2024 – Issues Discussed: Public Education, Wildlife & Conservation, Public Health, Public Safety

Topics covered include the announcement of four finalists for the president of the University of Minnesota by the EU of M, District Court judges officiating Valentine's Day weddings, concerns about wildfire danger due to mild winter temperatures discussed by Nick Petrak and DNR climatologist Pete Bouley, and the success of the University of Minnesota women's gymnastics team under head coach Jenny Hanson.

February 11th, 2024 – Issues Discussed: Tourism, Weather

The episode begins with a tragic incident at Lutsen Lodge, which was destroyed by a fire, prompting a conversation about the lodge's history and significance. Then, there's a segment on the unusual warm winter in Minnesota, featuring a conversation between Brent Palm and Pete Bouley, an official weather record keeper.

February 18th, 2024 – Issues Discussed: Public Health, Reproductive Rights, Economy,

The episode starts with a news on the confirmation of new measles cases by the Minnesota Department of Health, a study from the University of Minnesota suggesting undercounting of COVID-19 deaths, the opening of the legislative session with a focus on bonding bills and hot-button issues, efforts to pass an equal rights and abortion rights constitutional amendment, debates over legislation on end-of-life options and school resource officer use of force, and legendary

February 25th, 2024 – Issues Discussed: Public Education, Public Safety, Wildlife & Conservation

This episode covers various topics, including the ongoing debate surrounding school resource officers at the Capitol, a series on youth sports in Minnesota, and the tragic incident in Burnsville where two police officers and a fire department paramedic were shot and killed during a domestic abuse call. Governor Tim Walz and other officials express condolences to the families of the victims, emphasizing the sacrifices made by first responders. The episode also discusses efforts to address issues affecting police officers, such as legislation governing the use of force by school resource officers, highlighting the challenges of finding a compromise between law enforcement and lawmakers.

March 3rd, 2024 – Issues Discussed: Public Safety, Public Health, Mental Health, Weather, Economy

The episode begins with a somber remembrance of fallen officers and a firefighter-paramedic who lost their lives in the line of duty during a tragic domestic call in Burnsville. Legislative business at the state Capitol was halted to honor their sacrifice. Later, the discussion shifts to the implementation of the 988 crisis hotline in Minnesota, offering support and counseling to individuals experiencing emotional distress or mental health crises. Brent Palm discusses the record-breaking warm temperatures and lack of snowfall during the winter of 2023/2024 in Minnesota, highlighting the impact on winter recreation and the early start of the fire season. Finally, Boyce Olsen

moderates a panel discussion on workforce challenges in long-term care, focusing on the changing landscape post-pandemic and the need to attract and retain talent in the healthcare sector amidst increasing demand.

March 10th 2024 – Issues Discussed: Public Safety, Public Health, Public Education, Economy

The discussion begins with analysis of Minnesota's Super Tuesday presidential primary results, highlighting the performance of candidates like Donald Trump, Joe Biden, Nikki Haley, and Dean Phillips. The conversation then shifts to legislative priorities in Minnesota, including bipartisan efforts to fix laws on the use of force by school-based officers and proposals related to alcohol modernization. Additionally, the episode covers initiatives such as the Employer Reasonable Accommodation Fund, aimed at assisting small and medium-sized employers in providing accommodations for Minnesotans with disabilities. Topics like the flu season, consumer prices, and combating organized retail crime are also explored, offering insights from experts and industry leaders

March 17th 2024 – Issues Discussed: Public Safety, Public Health, Public Education, Reproductive Rights, Economy, Mental Health

The discussion begins with a report on the Minnesota Legislature addressing a carryover issue from the previous year concerning the use of force by school-based resource officers. After negotiations and compromises, a bipartisan agreement is reached and a bill is passed in both chambers. The conversation then shifts to Vice President Kamala Harris's visit to a Planned Parenthood clinic in Saint Paul, where she advocates for reproductive freedoms amid concerns over the potential overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by the US Supreme Court. Additionally, the show explores the impact of ride-sharing companies like Uber and Lyft threatening to leave Minneapolis due to proposed minimum pay regulations for drivers set by the City Council. Finally, the University of Minnesota's research on the importance of nurturing creativity in education is discussed, along with financial counseling tips for managing credit card debt and the ongoing debate over legalizing sports betting in Minnesota, including its potential revenue allocation and associated risks. The episode concludes with a reminder about the importance of mental health support and resources available through the 988 hotline.

March 24th 2024 – Issues Discussed: Reproductive Rights, Economy, Public Safety, Public Health, Public Education

This episode covers the progress of a sports betting bill in the legislature, efforts to address credit card debt, the importance of nurturing creativity, Vice President Kamala Harris's visit to a Planned Parenthood clinic, the impact of Uber and Lyft shutting down operations in Minneapolis due to a minimum pay ordinance, legislation regarding school-based resource officers' use of force, and the legalization of sports betting in Minnesota, including its potential revenue distribution and measures to protect against problem gambling and underage participation. Senator Matt Klein, chief author of the sports betting bill in the Senate, also provides insights into the legislative process and the considerations involved.