

WAXB Second Quarter 2016

ISSUES AND PROGRAM LIST

Each program has a duration of 30 minutes

Each program has aired on the date indicated from 0600-0630

Connecticut Radio Network Dialogue 2016 Guests and Subject Matters
(April, May, June)

April 3rd, 2016 - Beth Bye - State Senator, Democrat from West Hartford, and Co-Chair of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee.

Subject Matter: On this week's show State Senator Beth Bye, Co-Chair of the legislature's budget-writing Appropriations Committee, discussed the challenge of writing a new budget with a big deficit. After already cutting \$220 million for this year's deficit, Senator Bye explained they now have to write a budget with an expected \$900 million deficit next year. She told that they've been cutting and cutting for 2 years and are now down to the painful cuts period at this point.

Appropriations Committee Co-Chair Senator Beth Bye feels the main reason the state is in the mess it's in now is because of revenue shortfalls. She told that wages have been flat for the past 5 years and even though people have been getting back to work it's at jobs that aren't paying as much in wages. Senator Bye says oil prices have gone down so the state gets less money and the casinos in the state also are not generating the revenue they once did which the State of Connecticut gets a percentage of. She also explained that corporate taxes as part of the state budget was 7% of the budget in 1990 and now it's less than 2%. So Senator Bye says the state is more and more dependent on personal income and unfortunately the projections on what it would bring in have all been wrong. She says we are in a complicated time where the average worker is not feeling the improvement post-recession.

Senator Beth Bye told on the show that because of these revenue shortfalls the state has to take a whole new view on what it can and can't do, now and in the future. She says they are scaling back on what they can do and on this budget they are looking at 5% to 7% reductions across the board and eliminating certain programs. Senator Bye says it's very frustrating to see people with disabilities not getting what they need and not enough dollars for mental healthcare and a lot of families underserved. But they are faced with the budget reality that they can't increase those services and balance the budget. Senator Bye says even in the legislature there's a balancing act because everybody wants them to cut the

April 3rd, 2016 - (Bye continued) - budget, but nobody wants them to cut the programs that are important to them. So Senator Bye says they will put out the leanest budget possible that they can.

Now another area that is out of Senator Beth Bye's and the Appropriations Committee's hands is state employee layoffs to save money which the governor says will have to be done. Senator Bye on the show stated that she's hopeful still that the governor and the labor leaders will get in a room and work out some concessions package to save employee jobs. But regardless if that can be achieved or not Senator Bye says even in this election year they all have to step up and make a balanced budget. She says they'll just have to do their best given the current revenues and the needs of the state, and she feels that's all people ask you to do is your best.

April 10th, 2016 - Jesse Marks - of Connecticut Voices for Children.

Subject Matter: On this week's show Jesse Marks from Connecticut Voices for Children discussed the state's budget situation with huge deficits. Marks says on the show that Connecticut needs to move away from the cycle of cuts and fiscal emergencies every year that the state keeps facing. The state just mitigated a \$220-million-dollar budget deficit for the current fiscal year and now is facing over a \$900-million-dollar deficit for next fiscal year. Marks says state leaders really need to take a longer term structural perspective on the state's fiscal challenges.

Connecticut Voices for Children's Jesse Marks told that Connecticut has had really disappointing tax revenues for the past several years. He says that's been caused by stagnant income growth which in turn has slowed tax revenues in a state that is heavily reliant on the income tax to fund government services. Marks says Connecticut's economy has shifted from higher wage employment to job growth primarily in lower wage industries since the recession. He told that another area the state needs to address is growing long-term liabilities. These are things like pension costs, retiree benefits, and increasing state debt. Marks says other underlying problems are persistent social, racial, geographic, and economic inequalities in the state that hampers economic growth by holding back significant portions of the population that could otherwise be part of the solution.

April 10th, 2016 - (Marks continued) -

Jesse Marks told there are also tax exemptions and credits which Connecticut Voices for Children feels the state has let grow too large, and should eliminate ones that are no longer good policy. He says when tax credits are given to corporations to come to Connecticut or to get them to stay, the state has to make sure they are achieving the objectives that were set out when they were put into place ... and if not eliminate the ones that aren't.

Jesse Marks of Connecticut Voices for Children also said on the show that they feel the state's property tax system needs to be revamped. He says there needs to be better equalization for what mill rates people pay in Connecticut's 169 cities and towns. Another thing Marks told they feel should happen is that the wealthy in Connecticut need to pay more in income taxes. He admitted that if Connecticut taxed the wealthy more a few might move out of the state, but feels not enough to counteract the benefits of raising taxes on the wealthiest in the state.

April 17th, 2016 - Bob Godfrey - Deputy State House Speaker, Democrat from Danbury.

Subject Matter: On this show Deputy State House Speaker Bob Godfrey, Democrat from Danbury, discussed yet another budget deficit the State of Connecticut is grappling with. The deficit for the next fiscal year is now \$922 million dollars. Representative Godfrey admitted that it is very tiring having to wrestle with budget deficit after budget deficit in recent years because of factors that are totally out of their control. He says things like China's economy and Wall Street have really affected Connecticut's revenue stream because of their volatility and unpredictability. Godfrey says he's been at the Capitol for 28 years and he's never seen anything like this where no one has been able to accurately predict what Connecticut's revenue will be each year since the recession of 2008.

Deputy State House Speaker Bob Godfrey talked on the show about Connecticut just absorbing another blow recently with the news that General Electric was moving their headquarters out of Connecticut, from Fairfield to Boston. One of GE's reasons was they wanted to tap into the young talented and

April 17th, 2016 - (Godfrey continued) - educated workforce in Boston. Godfrey says we don't have that in cities in Connecticut with the exception of New Haven and possibly Stamford, that is welcoming to young people just out of college. He says bluntly we seem as a state not to like young people. Godfrey says unfortunately Connecticut does not produce opportunities for young people once they finish their college education here, both in terms of jobs and affordable housing ... so these young people exit the state.

But getting back to the problem at hand here in Connecticut, lawmakers have to deal with another budget deficit that they have to fill. One thing Deputy State House Speaker Bob Godfrey feels they should look at doing something about what companies like Walmart are taking advantage of. Godfrey says Connecticut taxpayers are actually subsidizing the healthcare for a lot of workers in the big box stores because these stores hire part-time workers who don't qualify for the business's healthcare. So he told those big box part-time people get dumped onto state programs whether it be Access Health CT or Medicaid. Godfrey feels these businesses should be paying for their own employees' healthcare ... just like responsible businesses that hire full-time people.

Representative Bob Godfrey told the Democratic leadership in the legislature were waiting for income tax returns to come in to see just how much revenue does come in. Meanwhile Governor Malloy was a bit impatient and came out with his own revised budget that has spending cuts, layoffs up to 25-hundred state employees, reconfigures education funding to towns, and cuts state aid to municipalities. Godfrey told that in this election year Democrats in the legislature are not liking some of the governor's proposals. He says in the governor's plan some towns would get zero education funding which they cannot go along with. Godfrey also says any cuts in aid to municipalities would just trickle down to people in the way of higher property taxes which they don't like either. He also told that the governor would like state employee unions to make concessions to save the state money ... but it is the state employee unions' opinion that they gave concessions 5 years ago and are not willing to do it again. So Godfrey says a lot of work still needs to be done by the legislature and governor to get on the same page to fix the state's big deficit problem.

April 24th, 2016 - Doug Schwartz - Director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

Subject Matter: On this show Doug Schwartz discussed their polls on the presidential race with Connecticut's presidential primary about to take place on Tuesday April 26th, along with the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and Rhode Island. Schwartz told that in the poll they conducted with Connecticut voters, the winners would be Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton in our state. He explained that Trump had a 20-point lead over John Kasich, leading 48% to 28%, with Ted Cruz a distant 3rd in the Republican primary at 19%. On the Democratic side Hillary Clinton had a 9-point lead over Bernie Sanders at 51% to 42%.

Doug Schwartz says it's very interesting that Connecticut voters for each party have a distinct preference on the type of candidate they want for their party's nominee. He says Republicans very much want a candidate who is outside of the political establishment. Schwartz says 59% of likely Republican primary voters told them in their Q-Poll that they want an outsider, and overwhelmingly those people who want an outsider go for Trump. On the Democratic side Schwartz says it is the opposite with Connecticut Democrats wanting a candidate who has experience in politics and Hillary Clinton is their choice.

As for Donald Trump's strong showing, Q-Poll Director Doug Schwartz says Trump does very well with blue collar, non-college educated voters. He says Trump wins overwhelmingly with that group. Schwartz says they've seen this in state after state ... so that is Trump's base. Schwartz says it's people who are dissatisfied with their economic situation that are voting for Trump.

On the Democratic side Doug Schwartz told that Hillary Clinton does very well with women and blacks. Meantime Bernie Sanders' message resonates with younger people by talking about climate change and the student loan debt issue. Now here in Connecticut only registered Democrats can vote in the Democratic presidential primary, but in states that have open primaries where Independents can vote, Sanders has done very well.

As for the eventual candidates facing off in November, Q-Poll Director Doug Schwartz says Trump and Clinton are nearing sewing up the needed delegates to win their respective party's nomination. He says it has been an unusual primary season in that a primary as late as Connecticut's still matters greatly, which is why

April 24th, 2016 - (Schwartz continued) - all of the candidates with the exception of Ted Cruz campaigned in Connecticut. For the Trump-Clinton matchup most polls have Clinton ahead at this stage, with their own national Q-Poll having Hillary Clinton leading Trump by 6 points. But Schwartz says that is not an insurmountable lead, and he cautioned that Trump thus far has surprised everyone. He says at the beginning of the primary season the political experts didn't give him much of a chance especially when Trump took a bold criticizing approach against his rivals and also made disparaging remarks against Mexicans and Muslims. Schwartz says he doesn't expect Trump to change that style even though he's going up against a woman in Clinton, because actually he did already go through that against Carly Fiorina, a Republican that was running for president. He says Hillary Clinton does have real strong support amongst women and minorities though ... so it should be an interesting matchup because both candidates also have high unfavorable with voters.

May 1st, 2016 - Matt Ritter - State Representative, Democrat from Hartford, and Co-Chair of the Legislature's Public Health Committee.

Subject Matter: On this show State Representative Matt Ritter, Co-chair of the legislature's Public Health Committee, discussed major legislation to deal with the state's opioid drug crisis. He told that even though they addressed the issue last year ... more needed to be done with all of the opioid overdoses occurring in the state. Representative Ritter explained that you know this is a major issue when at the start of the legislative session over 50 pieces of legislation dealing with the opioid crisis were introduced. He says by contrast no other topic had more than three.

One of the things Representative Ritter told they needed to look at in dealing with the opioid crisis was on the prescription side of things. He told that lawmaker Representative Sean Scanlon from Guilford kept making the point that one of the biggest feeders of this epidemic has been the medicine cabinet with leftover supplies of drugs. So he said they felt they needed to control the supply of opioid prescriptions when people don't need them. Representative Ritter explained that opioids are given as painkillers for things like having your wisdom teeth out, or knee and hip surgeries. He says some people get hooked on them,

May 1st, 2016 - (Ritter continued) - but also young adults get their hands on the leftover supply as some of the kids in high school know when someone is getting their wisdom teeth out. Ritter says they are looking for that supply and that's how dangerous it has become. He says this is truly a public health crisis where people are overdosing on opioids and dying. Ritter told that a lot of people who no longer can get their hands on the opioid painkillers then turn to heroin. So that's why he says they want to head off the problem at the source of it with over-prescribed opioid painkillers. Ritter told on the show that there are over 300-million unused opioid prescriptions in American's medicine cabinets ... which is a shocking number.

So Representative Matt Ritter says they want to put a cap on how long a prescription doctors could write. He told if you are a minor under the age of 18, no more than a 7-day supply could be issued by the doctor. If you are an adult over the age of 18 the first time you go to the doctor the opioid prescription can be no more than 7 days, subsequent to that it can exceed 7 days for chronic pain or cancer treatments. Ritter feels however this documentation will go a long way from doctors over-prescribing painkillers and leading to overdoses. He added that they worked with doctors on this bill and that the medical society is very supportive. Ritter also told that they are trying to prevent people from "doctor shopping" where individuals go to different doctors to get more painkiller drugs with multiple prescriptions. He says they have an electronic prescription monitoring program and now anytime a doctor or nurse writes someone a prescription for an opioid drug it goes into a statewide database so someone can be spotted if they've gone to get opioid prescriptions from doctors in different towns.

Another major portion of this bill is requiring first responders in every town in Connecticut to carry Naloxone which goes by the brand name Narcan. This is a life-saving, overdose reversing drug that is very effective in saving lives. Representative Ritter told that first responders in a quarter of Connecticut's 169 cities and towns have not been carrying this life-saving drug, but now they all will by this fall. He says the drug is either administered with a nasal injection or a small needle in the thigh. Ritter says first responders have told him that people have been almost dead and that injection wakes them up within 5 seconds and they are fine. He says it's a miracle drug that has no side effects and saves lives.

May 8th, 2016 - Karen Jarmoc - CEO of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Subject Matter: On this edition Karen Jarmoc, CEO of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, discussed a bill that was passed by the Connecticut general assembly and will be signed into law by Governor Malloy to tighten-up gun restrictions related to temporary restraining orders. Jarmoc explained that passage of this is extremely important because evidence shows how dangerous and volatile it can be when someone is leaving in a domestic violence relationship ... sometimes leading to deaths. She says quite often when someone is applying for a restraining order, that might be the first time the abuser knows that they are leaving. Jarmoc says couple this with firearms owned by that domestic violence abuser and the combination can be very lethal. She says they know that when there is access to a firearm in a domestic violence relationship, it increases the chance of homicide by five times. In Connecticut Jarmoc told a firearm is the predominant use of force when there is a domestic violence homicide 39% of the time.

Karen Jarmoc told in the case of a permanent restraining order it always has been law in the State of Connecticut that guns must be turned in. But there was a gap or loophole during a temporary restraining order where there normally is a 2-week period in between when the order is issued and the permanent hearing. Jarmoc says that was a real concern and there was a horrible incident in May of 2014 when Lori Jackson Gellatly was murdered by her husband Scott Gellatly in Oxford, who got a firearm from out of state during that timeframe and murdered his wife after she filed a temporary restraining order against him.

Now with this new law that will be taking effect on October 1st, Karen Jarmoc says the individual as soon as they are served will have 24 hours to either turn their firearms into law enforcement for police to hold onto, or they can sell their firearms to a federally licensed firearm dealer ... but they only have 24 hours to do that. She says if they do not do that they can be arrested. Jarmoc says the intent is not to take firearms away from people, it's only to take firearms away from those individuals who are deemed to be dangerous. So if the restraining order does not end up being issued permanently they can get their firearms back.

Opponents to this bill felt it was unnecessary, saying the victim could use an

May 8th, 2016 - (Jarmoc continued) - existing risk warrant process to take guns away from their abuser. But Karen Jarmoc told that a temporary restraining order is a better option because it offers the victim better protections, like the abuser can no longer be in contact with the victim at home or work and potentially with their children as well. She also says sometimes victims have a hesitancy to reach out to law enforcement in these volatile situations because that starts an investigation that could set the abuser off before the guns are confiscated. Jarmoc however told that this type of law is not unique to Connecticut as 20 other states have a law similar to this, including Texas and North Carolina which are very pro-gun states. So she says this law is all about victim safety, not just taking guns away from individuals, and she noted that there is a process that takes place before that happens, as temporary restraining orders are not just issued randomly.

Karen Jarmoc of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence says this is one of the strongest measures they've been able to move forward in years. She credited New Haven State Representative Robyn Porter's powerful speech on the House floor as she had been a victim of abuse. Porter told how she stood a chance against a punch, a brick, or even a choke ... but that she didn't stand a chance against a gun which is lethal. Jarmoc says Porter's powerful authentic experience was huge as it gave the bill momentum for passage.

May 15th, 2016 - Dan Carter - State Representative from Bethel, and the GOP Convention Endorsed Candidate for the U.S. Senate.

Subject Matter: On this week's show State Representative Dan Carter discussed the situation with the state budget and his run for U.S. Senate. On the state budget situation with a huge deficit, he told that this year has been dramatically different from the previous 5 budgets that he has lived through at the State Capitol. Carter says he had very high hopes when Democratic Governor Dan Malloy came out at the beginning of the year sounding like a Republican, finally saying the state needs to live within its means. But he told that as the session wound down and there was no budget from legislative Democrats, Carter found it interesting that Republicans were negotiating with Governor Malloy more than the Democrats were. However, in the final moments he told that it went back to