

1. The goals are to inform and educate our audience, inspire community and make sure we address issues that are important to everyone in our coverage area. We keep geographic, socio-economic and ethnic diversity at the top of mind as we go through our daily news planning, when reporters craft in-depth features, when we decide which issues deserve broader coverage, and who we bring on our air for discussion. We then work out how we fold social media and blogs into the coverage. Not only does Rhode Island Public Radio (RIPR) post its stories on Twitter, but its reporters often use Twitter to report live from the scene, as we did with: campaign coverage and on election night, sessions of the General Assembly, snow storm coverage, and major announcements on the state budget, to name a few examples. On our blogs and our web site we aim to post source documents, charts, links, photos and extra audio to reach those interested in education, politics, the environment, and health care issues. We also use Facebook, Twitter, and our web site and our blogs to find voices that make it into our coverage.
2. Rhode Island Public Radio's key partnerships were with: The New England News Exchange, The Rhode Island Foundation, The RI Philharmonic and The Providence Athenaeum. With Brown University, we have partnered in the past with The Taubman Center for Public Policy and the School of Public Health to host events on issues that are important to our listeners. RIPR also holds several public forums a year with the non-profit Providence Athenaeum. In FY 2017 we discussed the presidential election and state politics, and, in a forum co-hosted by the New England News Collaborative, we looked at the issue of immigration and sanctuary cities. RIPR partnered with the Rhode Island Foundation and the Rhode Island Philharmonic to broadcast a live summer pops concert with a special intermission program focused on the arts. RIPR also partnered with the town of Johnston to host a discussion of the town's support for Donald Trump in the presidential election, following a newsroom series focused on the town. The New England News Exchange is a group of eight public media companies across New England, joining together to tell stories of a changing region with support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. All stations broadcast stories from our partners around the region and post them online. Each station has dedicated one full-time reporter to work for the collaborative. Another key initiative in FY2017 was to provide comprehensive local coverage of the presidential election, including top issues for voters, local and national races and ballot issues.
3. We consistently see strong attendance at our policy forums at the Providence Athenaeum, giving hundreds of residents an opportunity to hear the discussion and take part in the Q&A segment afterward, and these forums are broadcast to our large listening audience. Our public discussions of the presidential election and immigration under President Trump generated lively discussion from packed audiences. Our town hall meeting in Johnston allowed a local audience to reflect on how the presidential election affected their town. Our newsroom features and commentary regularly receive positive feedback from the community.

4. In our education, politics and health care reporting, we've regularly featured minority voices. We profiled women and students who became politically active in response to the Trump administration. We also made a concerted effort to include diverse views on our air during the election, including Democrats, Republicans, young people, Latinos and Muslim. We worked hard to include voices from many different geographic areas of our coverage area. Since the election, we have profiled undocumented immigrants in the DACA program, who fear the loss of their protected status under a Trump presidency, a reality that came to pass, and one which we have continued to cover in FY18. We ran a two-part series on Newport's Latino community and the important role it plays in the state's hospitality industry. We received a Metcalf Award for reporting on diversity for a series that revealed a loophole in state law on reporting child sexual abuse. Our coverage led advocates to campaign and successfully change state law to make sure that school staff is required to report suspected abuse by teachers and other school employees, an effort that we also covered. Through our partnership with the New England News Collaborative, we participated in the launch of the series "Facing Change," which chronicles demographic changes across our region and their impact on residents, jobs and the economy. The series is ongoing.

5. CPB funding is critical to RPR as we continue to mature as a station and reach more listeners. We are continuing to expand our audience on air and online. In the last year, we've continued to add new members who support Rhode Island Public Radio. It takes time for a listener to move from being a casual public radio listener, to a more frequent public radio listener, and then eventually to be a public radio supporter. CPB funding provides a steady base for us to grow through these stages. There are a number of programs and activities that do not directly result in revenue for the station, but are an important public service for our audience. For example, we host public discussions on a variety of topics such as education, health care, politics and the environment. If every story we did had to have a direct relationship to revenue, we would not be able to provide the same breadth of coverage.