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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Longtime WGBY Newsman Jim Madigan to Retire

Western New England's public television and PBS station bids farewell to its accomplished Director of Public Affairs.



*CAPTION: Jim Madigan, WGBY's
Director of Public Affairs and host of
Connecting Point.*

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. — After nearly 27 years informing local citizens about western New England news and politics, longtime WGBY producer and journalist Jim Madigan will retire from public broadcasting.

Madigan joined public television and PBS station WGBY in December of 1990 as a senior producer of public affairs, and he leaves the station nearly 27 years later as its Director of Public Affairs. During that time, explains WGBY General Manager Anthony V. Hayes, Madigan had a profound impact on local news and politics.

"For nearly three decades, Jim Madigan connected western New England," Hayes says. "A man of Jim's caliber is valuable in any field, but especially valuable in journalism and public media."

Longtime friend and colleague Lynn Page, the station's deputy general manager, echoes Hayes' sentiments. "Of course, we'll miss Jim's wisdom and guidance here at the station, but the viewers at home are really going to miss him, too," she says. "Jim wasn't afraid to ask the tough questions and really work on behalf of the public at getting the information we need to keep us informed. He's been in our homes for 27-plus years."

In a statement to colleagues, Madigan called it his "honor and privilege and pleasure" to serve public television to western New England. "I will miss everyone," his statement read, "especially the best production crew in all of television—bar none."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to hosting [WGBY's Connecting Point](#), a local public affairs series, Madigan is also producer of [The State We're In](#), a weekly segment focusing on regional, state, and national politics.

Madigan has produced and/or moderated numerous major political debates as well, including a January 2010 program with the Massachusetts U.S. Senate candidates in the special election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Kennedy. Madigan has moderated a total of seven gubernatorial debates over the last 20 years, along with a 1996 debate in the U.S. Senate race between Sen. John Kerry and Gov. William Weld and a U.S. Senate debate between Sen. Scott Brown and Elizabeth Warren in October 2012.

Prior to joining WGBY, Madigan was a reporter and back-up anchor for WGGB-TV/ABC 40 in Springfield, Mass., where he specialized in political reporting and coverage of the Mass. Legislature. This included coverage of the 1988 Republican National Convention in New Orleans and the presidential campaign of Mass. Governor Michael Dukakis.

Before his role in television, Madigan served as news director for WLDM Radio in Westfield/Springfield, Mass. and a staff member for the New York State Senate Minority Leader in Albany.

Connecting Point Executive Producer Tony Dunne credits Madigan for providing “the most knowledgeable and unbiased political analysis and commentary in the region.” He adds, “Universally respected by politicians, pundits, and his colleagues in the media, Jim’s voice will truly be missed amongst the political dialogue and discourse in Western New England.”

AWARDS

In November of 2015, Madigan was an inductee of the prestigious Silver Circle Award of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Boston/New England Chapter. The Gold and Silver Circle Awards are a special recognition to honor television professionals who have “made significant contributions to their community and to the vitality of the television industry,” according to NATAS.

In 1992, Madigan was honored with both a New England Regional Emmy® and a National Public Service Emmy® as a co-producer of the documentary “Out of Work,” a co-production with WGBH-Boston, WGBY-Springfield, and WHYY-Philadelphia.

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ABOUT WGBY

WGBY (wgby.org) is a community-supported public broadcasting organization connecting the people of western New England to events, ideas, and each other through national PBS programming and locally produced content. With four digital television channels, video on demand, podcasting, and streaming video, WGBY is one of the region’s most accessible community institutions. WGBY is available over the air on digital channel 57-1 and on cable throughout western Massachusetts and northwestern Connecticut and can be seen in high definition in western Massachusetts at Comcast 857, Time Warner 1807, Charter 782, and over the air on channel 57.

ABOUT CONNECTING POINT

The WGBY series, [*Connecting Point*](#), is a half-hour, magazine-style program focusing on the stories of the western New England community: its people, its ideas, and its current affairs. *Connecting Point* serves not only the region’s public television viewing audience, but also its online and multimedia content consumers as well. *Connecting Point* and its [*The State We’re In*](#) segments are available online

at wgby.org/connectingpoint or on WGBY's YouTube channel (youtube.com/wgby). Social media users can engage with *Connecting Point* content using the Facebook and Twitter hashtag #CPonWGBY.