

CHANGING MODELS FOR JOURNALISM: FUNDING, STANDARDS, AND ADVOCACY

Brant Houston

University of Illinois

brant.houston@gmail.com

THE NEW WAYS

- Donors, Owners, and Donors
Pooling Funds
- Making Credibility and Trust
Standards Clear
- The Rise of Advocacy Newsrooms
- Solutions Journalism or Traditional
Muckraking?

BUT FIRST SOME NEWS



EXTREMISM IN THE RANKS

Part One

Chicago police with extremist ties have troubling records

An investigation by WBEZ, Chicago Sun-Times and the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project found allegations of excessive force, improper searches and racist comments on the job.

By [Dan Mihalopoulos](#), [Tom Schuba](#), and [Kevin G. Hall](#)

Edited by [Angela Rozas O'Toole](#), [Tony Arnold](#) and [Dan Haar](#)

Published October 22, 2023



[Read-only version](#)

CURRENTLY READING

PART ONE: Who are they?

At least 27 Chicago police officials appeared in leaked rosters for the Oath Keepers, an anti-government extremist group. At least nine are still with the department.

PART TWO: Still on the force

Chicago police have not aggressively investigated cops linked to extremist groups, even as newly elected Mayor Brandon Johnson vowed to fire them.

PART THREE: Lives changed

Jyran Mitchell was a star football player when he was injured while being detained by a state trooper tied to extremism. Officers across Illinois have joined the Oath Keepers.

Key Findings


- Officials closed a probe into Chicago cops' ties to the Oath Keepers last year without finding any wrongdoing or even investigating most of the officers linked to the group.
- Many of the cops on the Oath Keepers' rolls worked in the Special Operations Section, which was disbanded amid revelations that some members committed brazen robberies and the purported ringleader

HOW THEY DID IT

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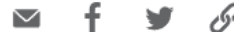
[Politics](#) • [Extremism in the Ranks](#)

How we investigated cops with ties to the Oath Keepers

Reporters with WBEZ and the Chicago Sun-Times filed more than 200 open records requests with the Chicago Police Department and other law enforcement agencies across Illinois.

By [Dan Mihalopoulos](#), Tom Schuba | Chicago Sun-Times

Oct 22, 2023, 6:00am CT



WBEZ, SUN-TIMES, OCCRP

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Months after the Oath Keepers played a major role in the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, a list of about 38,000 people from across the country who had joined the anti-government extremist group emerged publicly through the nonprofit journalist collective Distributed Denial of Secrets.

Since then, the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project has obtained more detailed Oath Keepers membership data from a law enforcement source. That broader data set and another, newer list obtained by OCCRP span from 2009 — shortly after the Oath Keepers were founded — through 2018.

COLLABORATION UPON COLLABORATION

ddosecrets.com/wiki/Distributed_Denial_of_Secrets

Distributed Denial of Secrets

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Distributed Denial of Secrets

Distributed Denial of Secrets is a journalist 501(c)(3) non-profit devoted to publishing and archiving leaks, and to the free transmission of data in the public interest.

We aim to act as a beacon of information and to avoid political, corporate or personal leanings. As a transparency collective, we don't support any cause, idea or message beyond ensuring that information is available to those who need it most—the people.

You can read more about our collective [here](#). At its core, our mission is simple:

Veritatem cognoscere ruat cælum et pereat mundus



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Chicago Police Officers Appeared on Membership List of Extremist Oath Keepers Group

A membership list for the extremist, anti-government Oath Keeper group included names of Chicago police officers. Some are still on the beat, despite a...


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Kevin G. Hall (OCCRP), Tom Schuba (Chicago Sun-Times), and Dan Mihalopoulos (WBZZ)

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projects.iq.harvard.edu/futureofmedia/index-emerging-nonprofit-media-and-donors

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The Future of Media Project

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Index of Emerging Nonprofit Media and Donors

Our second index offers insights into the emerging digital nonprofit news landscape. With failing revenue models for journalism, many donors have come forward to fund journalism, sometimes around a specific issue or cause. As legend, we have highlighted some of the biggest donors:

American Journalism Project (AJP) is funded by millions of dollars [from Facebook](#) and [Google](#) and Pierre Omidyar's Democracy Fund, Craig Newmark Foundation, The Knight Foundation and Arnold Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and the Institute of Nonprofit News ([which is funded by everyone above as well.](#)) Google and Facebook also fund many of these nonprofits directly.

The Lenfest Institute is funded by a major \$40 million gift from the late cable giant, Gerry Lenfest, and they have also received funding from the Knight Foundation, Facebook, and Google.

NewsMatch funders frequently listed below include Knight Foundation, Google News Initiative, Facebook Journalism Project, Democracy Fund, Hewlett Foundation, Wyncote.

Solutions Journalism Network funds solutions-driven stories in major media outlets. Includes Barr Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Catherine Hawkins Foundation, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Democracy Fund, Einhorn Family Charitable Trust, Emerson Collective, Enlight Foundation, Fidelity Charitable, Ford Foundation, Google News Initiative, Heising-Simons Foundation, Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, Knight Foundation, Jonathan Logan Family Foundation, Endowment For Health Novo Foundation, Paul Dosberg Charitable Fund, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr., Rita Allen Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation,

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US MEDIA OWNERSHIP

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The Fund For Nonprofit News At The Miami Foundation. A coalition of Democracy Fund, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Inasmuch Foundation (formerly The Ethics and Excellence In Journalism Foundation), The Facebook Journalism Project, The Colorado Media Project, The John D. and Catherine T. Macarthur Foundation, The Jonathan Logan Family Foundation, The Rita Allen Foundation, The Wyncote Foundation, and The Present Progressive Fund At Schwab Charitable.

These funders are incredibly transparent, even if their new donor programs such as AJP, Solutions Journalism, and NewsMatch require another layer of digging for source funding. **The Miami Foundation** appears regularly with its **NewsMatch program**, created by many of the same big funders above. It is harder to track as it is a charity with donor-advised funds. Many of these nonprofits listed are Institute of NonProfit News Members (INN) members. We collected this donor data directly from the news websites between March-April 2021.

In comparison, the news orgs, on the [Index of Mainstream Media Ownership](#), **where we had the hardest time identifying ownership and funding were right-leaning media organizations such as NewsMax, Brietbart, The Blaze, the Charlemagne Institute's Chronicles, The American Mind, The American Spectator, and Epoch Times.**

The most active donors in nonprofit news, who appear more than 10 times, are in **bold**.

SAMPLE OF DONOR POOLS

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US MEDIA OWNERSHIP					
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				San Benito Realty Teknova	
19	Block Club Chicago	Non Profit	Chicago, IL	Civil Joyce Foundation McCormick Foundation Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation Patrick Corcoran Conant Family Foundation Knight Foundation Lenfest Institute For Journalism Report For America	Digital Only
20	Borderless	Non Profit	Chicago, IL	The Reva & David Logan Foundation Robert R. McCormick Foundation The Lumpkin Foundation Solutions Journalism Network Pulitzer Center For Crisis Reporting David and Elizabeth Steinglass. Arnold Ventures	Digital Only
21	Borderzine	Non Profit	El Paso, Texas	<u>2019-2020</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NewsMatch campaign \$19,000 • The Jonathan Logan Family Foundation gave \$5,800 in matching donations in support of our NewsMatch campaign in 2018. • A Dow Jones News Fund grant for the Dow Jones News Fund Multimedia Journalism Training Academy. \$30,000. The grant supported supplies and training for 12 college journalism faculty from Hispanic-serving Institutions. This year we expanded on digital animation training and mobile reporting tools. 	Digital Only

SAMPLE OF DONOR POOLS

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30	Caribbean Investigative Journalism Network	Non Profit	Cover Caribbean	Media Institute of The Caribbean	
31	Center for Investigative Reporting aka REVEAL	Non Profit	Emeryville, CA	Arnold Ventures Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Catherine Hawkins Foundation Craig Newmark Philanthropies The David and Lucile Packard Foundation Democracy Fund The Elizabeth R. and William J. Patterson Foundation Emerson Collective Ford Foundation Fthree Foundation Fund For Nonprofit News At The Miami Foundation (Newsmatch) Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Gruber Family Foundation Heising-Simons Foundation Hellman Foundation Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation Inasmuch Foundation (formerly Ethics & Excellence in Journalism) John D. and Catherine T. Macarthur Foundation John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Jonathan Logan Family Foundation Marty & Dorothy Silverman Foundation The Nathan Cummings Foundation Open Society Foundations Park Foundation The Reva and David Logan Foundation Robert Wood Johnson Foundation The San Simeon Fund	

SAMPLE OF DONOR POOLS

	Index of Seven Big Owners of Dailies	Political Donations by News Media	el Tribunal Supremo De Puerto Rico	Leyes De Puerto Rico Instituto De Formación Periodística Fundación Para El Nuevo Periodismo Iberoamericano	
35	Chalkbeat	Non Profit	Brooklyn, NY	American Journalism Project Emerson Collective Knight Foundation Adam & Jill Barkin Arnold Ventures Bezos Family Foundation Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Bloomberg Philanthropies Bohemian Foundation Boykin Curry Brett Family Foundation Buell Foundation Carnegie Corporation of New York Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Charles H. Revson Foundation Christopher Gabrieli, Community Foundation For Southeast Michigan Community Foundation of New Jersey Debra and Paul Applebaum Democracy Fund Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, Inc. Emma Bloomberg Fry Foundation Fund For Nonprofit News at The Miami Foundation Gates Family Foundation Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation as A recommendation from The New Jersey Local News Lab Fund of The Community Foundation of New Jersey Heckscher Foundation For Children Independence Public Media Foundation J.R. Hyde III Family Foundation Donor Advised Fund	Digital Only

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152	Reveal	Non Profit	Emeryville, CA	Reveal Is Part of The Center For Investigative Reporting. Donors: Arnold Ventures Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Catherine Hawkins Foundation Craig Newmark Philanthropies The David and Lucile Packard Foundation Democracy Fund The Elizabeth R. and William J. Patterson Foundation Emerson Collective Ford Foundation Fthree Foundation Fund For Nonprofit News At The Miami Foundation (Newsmatch) Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Gruber Family Foundation Heising-Simons Foundation Hellman Foundation Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation Inasmuch Foundation John D. and Catherine T. Macarthur Foundation John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Jonathan Logan Family Foundation Marty & Dorothy Silverman Foundation The Nathan Cummings Foundation Open Society Foundations Park Foundation The Reva and David Logan Foundation Robert Wood Johnson Foundation The San Simeon Fund Tides Foundation W.K. Kellogg Foundation Wellspring Philanthropic Fund					

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WHY PRESS FORWARD PRIORITIES VISION GET INVOLVED COALITION

Democracy flourishes when people have access to reliable information.

Today, we're experiencing a crisis in news and information.

As local newsrooms have disappeared across America, communities have witnessed fading civic engagement, eroding social bonds, surging misinformation, and dwindling governmental accountability.

That's why a coalition of funders is taking action.

Building on years of work and investments, a growing group of national, regional, and local funders have come forward to invest in local news and information. [Read the announcement.](#)

THE GRAND PLAN

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Press Forward »

WHY PRESS FORWARD PRIORITIES VISION GET INVOLVED COALITION

Our Funding Priorities

While philanthropic support for journalism has grown over the past decade, overall giving to local news falls short of what is needed. Press Forward funders are ready to move from individual grantmaking strategies to a shared vision and coordinated action that ensures individuals are informed and engaged on issues that affect their everyday lives.

Strengthening local newsrooms that have the trust of local communities

There is a growing movement of community-focused journalism across the nation that is shifting how the critical stories of our time are being told. We need to make bold investments in local news organizations and the networks that support and grow them.

Closing longstanding inequalities in journalism coverage and practice

We must move resources to newsrooms and organizations that are improving diversity of experience and thought along with the availability of accurate and responsive news and information in underserved communities and economically challenged **news deserts**.

Accelerating the enabling environment for news production and dissemination

We need to scale the infrastructure required to support a thriving, independent local news sector, expanding shared services and tools—from legal support to membership programs.

Advancing public policies that expand access to local news and civic information

We need new frameworks and robust coalitions to advance policy ideas that expand access to news and information while strengthening the First Amendment and protecting the independence of local journalists.

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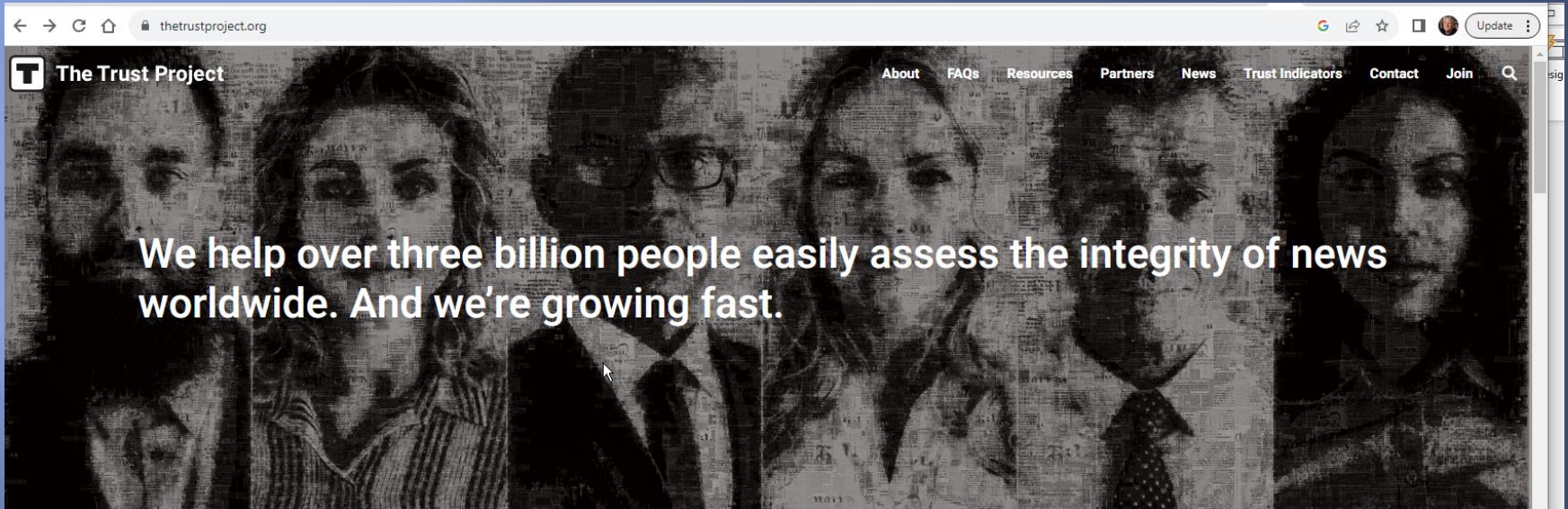
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HOW TO TRUST THE NEW WAYS



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We help over three billion people easily assess the integrity of news worldwide. And we're growing fast.

We Stand for Integrity

Look for our 8 [Trust Indicators](#), now presented on hundreds of news sites. They are the first global transparency standard that helps people know who and what is behind a news story: policies to ensure honesty, accuracy and fairness, commitments to own up to mistakes, details about ownership, info on a journalist's expertise, and more.

The Trust Project built the [Trust Indicators](#) by asking people what they value in the news – and what wins and loses their trust. Then we married their insights with bedrock journalism values to come up with eight core disclosures that



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3:04

ROBERTO BERNABÒ

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The Trust Project is an international consortium of news organizations building standards of transparency and working with technology platforms to affirm and amplify journalism's commitment to transparency, accuracy, inclusion, and fairness so that the public can make informed news choices. It was founded and is led by award-winning journalist Sally Lehrman.

OUR FUNDERS

Craig Newmark, founder of craigslist, was our original funder, through the Trustworthy Journalism Initiative of Craig Newmark Philanthropies. Google followed with their financial support. Today's funders also include the Democracy Fund, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and Facebook.

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The 8 Trust Indicators

Los 8 Indicadores de Confianza [Descargar](#)

We asked people what they look for in trusted media – and from their answers, we created “Trust Indicators” for the press to build into news sites.

Best Practices

- Who funds the site? What is its mission?
- What standards and ethics guide the process of gathering news?
- What happens if a journalist has ties to the topic covered?

Journalist Expertise

- Who made this?
- Are there details about the journalist, including contact information, areas of knowledge and other stories they've worked on?

Type of Work

- What is this?
- Do you see story labels with clear definitions to distinguish opinion, analysis and advertiser (or sponsored) content from news reports?

Citations and References

- What is the source?
- Does the site tell you where it got its information?
- For investigative, controversial or in-depth stories, are you given access to the original materials behind the facts and assertions?

Methods

- Why was it a priority?
- For investigations, in-depth or controversial stories, why did they pursue the topic?
- How did they go about the process?

Locally Sourced

- Do they know the community?
- Was the reporting done on the scene?
- Is there evidence of deep knowledge about the local situation or community?

Diverse Voices

- What are the newsroom's efforts and commitments to bring in diverse perspectives across social and demographic differences?
- Are some communities or perspectives included only in

Actionable Feedback

- What does the site do to engage your help in setting coverage priorities, asking good questions and finding the answers, holding powerful people and institutions accountable and ensuring

THE TRUST PROJECT

The 8 Trust Indicators®

Los 8 Indicadores De Confianza

[Descargar](#)

Use these to know which news stories you can trust.

1

Best Practices

DO YOU KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THE NEWS?

If a journalist's organization has rules they must follow to make sure their reporting is independent, accurate and honest, then their news will be more trustworthy.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ►

2

Journalist Expertise

WHO MADE THIS?

We are rarely there to see events in the news for ourselves, so we rely on the journalist. They should follow strict standards for gathering solid evidence and multiple perspectives.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ►

3

Labels

NEWS? OPINION? OR WHAT?

4

References

WHAT'S THEIR SOURCE?

THE TRUST PROJECT

3

Labels

NEWS? OPINION? OR WHAT?

It's important to know whether your news is impartial or deliberately biased. Stories should be clearly labeled if they are designed to persuade us to agree. If it's journalism, then it's meant to help us develop our *own* opinions.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ▶

4

References

WHAT'S THEIR SOURCE?

When a journalist is developing a news story, they may use information from eye witnesses, documents and other places – called *sources*. When a journalist shows their sources, we can check their reliability for ourselves.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ▶

5

Methods

HOW WAS IT BUILT?

If we know why a journalist chose a particular story and how they reported it, it's easier to interpret it. A journalist's methods help us know how fast-moving, well-researched or impartial the story may be.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ▶

6

Locally Sourced

DO THEY KNOW YOU? YOUR COMMUNITY?

If a journalist knows and lives in the community, they can explain an event or issue more sensitively and accurately. If not, they can improve their reporting by going there and speaking to others who have local and community knowledge.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ▶

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7

Diverse Voices

WHO'S IN THE NEWS? WHO'S MISSING?

If certain voices or experiences are missing from the news, we don't get the full picture. Look for voices less commonly heard in society, often because of race, class, generation, gender, sexual orientation, ideology or the region they live in.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ▶

8

Actionable Feedback

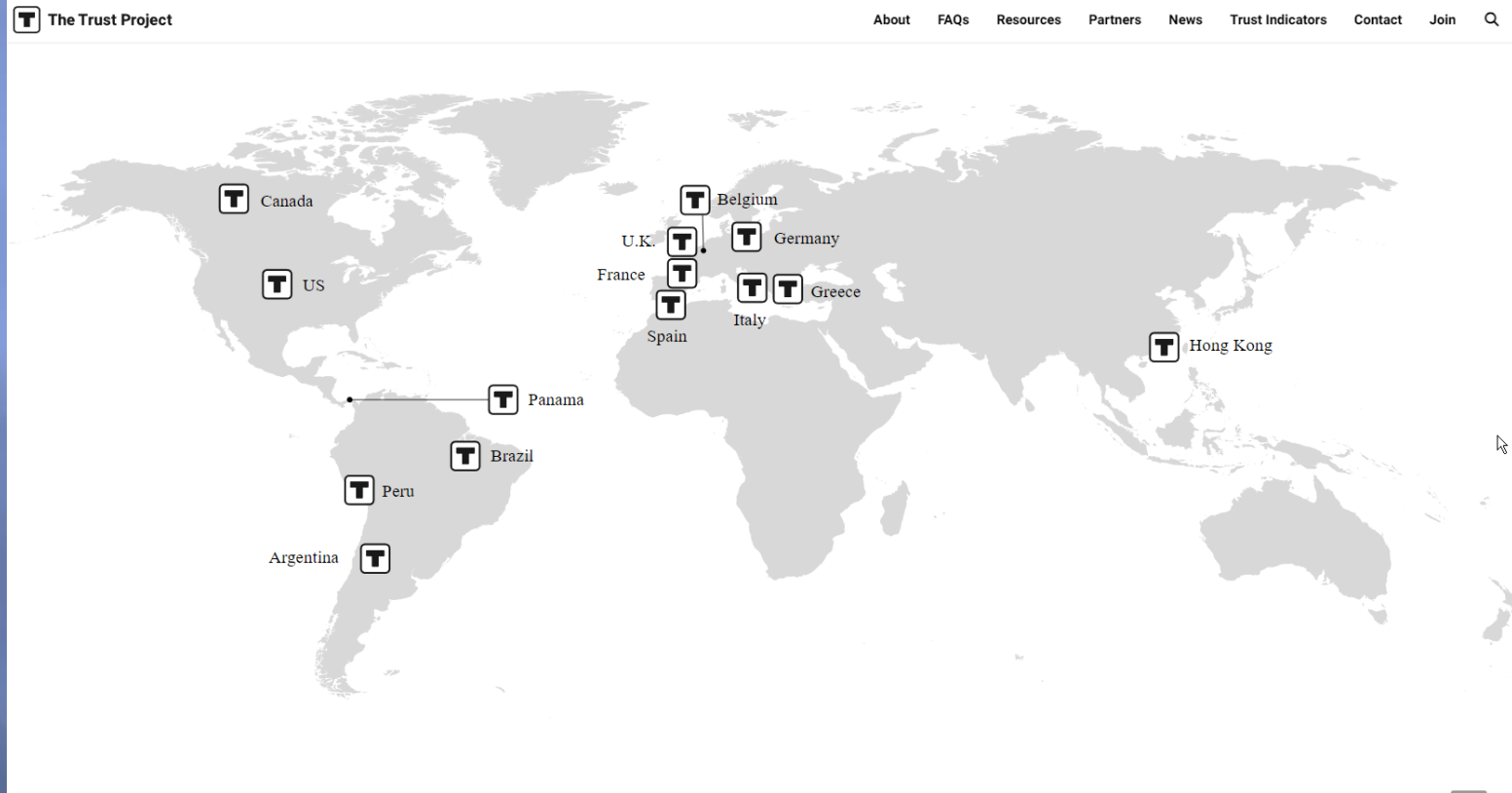
DOES THIS NEWS SITE LISTEN TO ME?

By inviting and listening to public feedback, journalists can make sure their work is accurate and complete. The public also might help them find important news they had overlooked.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ▶

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THE TRUST PROJECT



THE TRUST PROJECT

A warm welcome to 11 new sites and gratitude for \$500,000 in new funding

Today we expand our reach into community-serving and issue-oriented news with 11 new sites in the United States, Canada, Brazil and Europe. We also thank longtime supporter Craig Newmark for a generous gift of \$500,000. These funds strengthen our initiatives in research, training, public outreach and technical capacity.

According to 2023 data from [Knight Foundation/Gallup](#), more than half of Americans have lost faith that news organizations put the public interest first. Such lack of trust globally has led to severe polarization, Edelman warns in its [latest report](#), and weakens the social fabric that underpins democratic institutions. Through the [8 Trust Indicators®](#) and our hands-on guidance, news outlets can rebuild their relationship with the public.

As of today, the Trust Indicators® are shown for the first time on a tribal nation's news site, [Osage News](#), and a Canadian Francophone site, [FrancoPresse](#). [AzMina](#) covers gender issues in Brazil. [Euractiv](#), [Euractiv Germany](#) and [Euractiv France](#) cover the European Union, and [MindSite News](#) which covers mental health, is the Trust Project's first entirely health-focused news site. The [Dallas Free Press](#), [Eye on Ohio](#), [Investigate MidWest](#) and [The Texas Tribune](#) represent vital, independent regional and local news sources.

We also welcome three new staff members: New Program Director (Product) [Pier Paolo Bozzano](#) promotes technical solutions to support publisher benefits and ease Trust Indicator® implementation. Network Lead and Researcher [Teresa Trumbly Lamsam](#) coaches news sites and contributes research expertise. [Christin Smith](#), researcher-in-residence, leads the exciting studies that underpin all Trust Project work, strengthen its impact and contribute to journalism globally.

We hope to see you in person at the following events this spring.

- [The International Journalism Festival](#) (April 10-23, Perugia, Italy)
- [INMA World Congress of News Media](#) (May 25, New York City)
- [Nobel Prize Summit](#) (May 26, Washington D.C.)

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Trust Project News Partners commit to principles of socially responsible journalism, show the 8 [Trust Indicators™](#) on their pages and pass our compliance review. Want to know more? Select a news outlet below to learn about them, subscribe or donate, or click on “feedback” to share ideas or report errors.

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NATIONAL

Why is accurate data about Black farmers so hard to get?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a history of discrimination. Legislators are pressing it to release more data that could show what progress it's making.

by **April Simpson**, Center for Public Integrity

October 17, 2023

REGION

Three Nebraska tribes are buying back farmland, and attempting to reverse history

by **Destiny Herbers**, Flatwater Free Press

October 16, 2023



LABOR

The ultimate price

Two Mexican farmworkers died in a trailer fire in North Carolina. Their story illustrates how the nation's most important agricultural visa program is failing the workers it is supposed to protect.

by **Esther Honig**, for Investigate Midwest, and **Johnathan Hettinger**, Investigate Midwest

October 26, 2023

ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS



Farmworker Housing

To better understand farmworkers' housing conditions, Investigate Midwest is obtaining inspections from dozens of states. View our map of housing inspections — including violations inspectors noted — and read our coverage.

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ABOUT US

Investigate Midwest is an independent, nonprofit newsroom. Our mission is to serve the public as a watchdog over influential corporations and institutions through in-depth and data-driven investigative journalism. [Learn more »](#)

INVESTIGATE MIDWEST

than any other checkoff. Critics say it favors Big Pork.

The pork checkoff gave at least \$17 million in agriculture research grants to land-grant universities over the last decade, almost twice as much as the second-highest.

by [Talia Duffy, Investigate Midwest](#) September 21, 2023



INVESTIGATE MIDWEST NEWS

100 attend a rainy but festive Sunset on the Farm

The annual event in Iowa City supports nonprofit investigative journalism on the ag industry.

by [Investigate Midwest news](#) September 14, 2023



patch bumblebee

September 20, 2023

Big Meat rooting for Triumph Foods to torpedo Massachusetts Question 3

September 6, 2023

Opinion: Another day, another U.S. Supreme Court power grab?

August 30, 2023

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Editorial Standards

Investigate Midwest is pleased to be a member of the [Trust Project](#) and to support efforts to increase transparency and trust in journalism.

As part of this commitment, here is a summary of our editorial standards and practices and policies on ethics, diversity, corrections, unnamed sources and fact-checking, plus information about our staffing and funding.

Mission statement

Investigate Midwest is an independent, nonprofit newsroom. Our mission is to serve the public as a watchdog over influential corporations and institutions through in-depth and data-driven investigative journalism.

We were founded in 2009.

We serve an audience interested in U.S. agricultural power and practices. Our online content is free, though [we ask people to register on our site](#). Unregistered users are limited to five articles a month

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October 18, 2023



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October 18, 2023



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Why is accurate data about Black farmers so hard to get?

October 17, 2023



REGION

Three Nebraska tribes are buying back farmland, and



INVESTIGATE MIDWEST

Ownership

Investigate Midwest has federal 501(c)3 status and thus donations made to Investigate Midwest are tax deductible.

We are committed to transparency in every aspect of funding our organization. [Read our full policy here.](#)

Accepting financial support does not mean we endorse donors or their products, services or opinions.

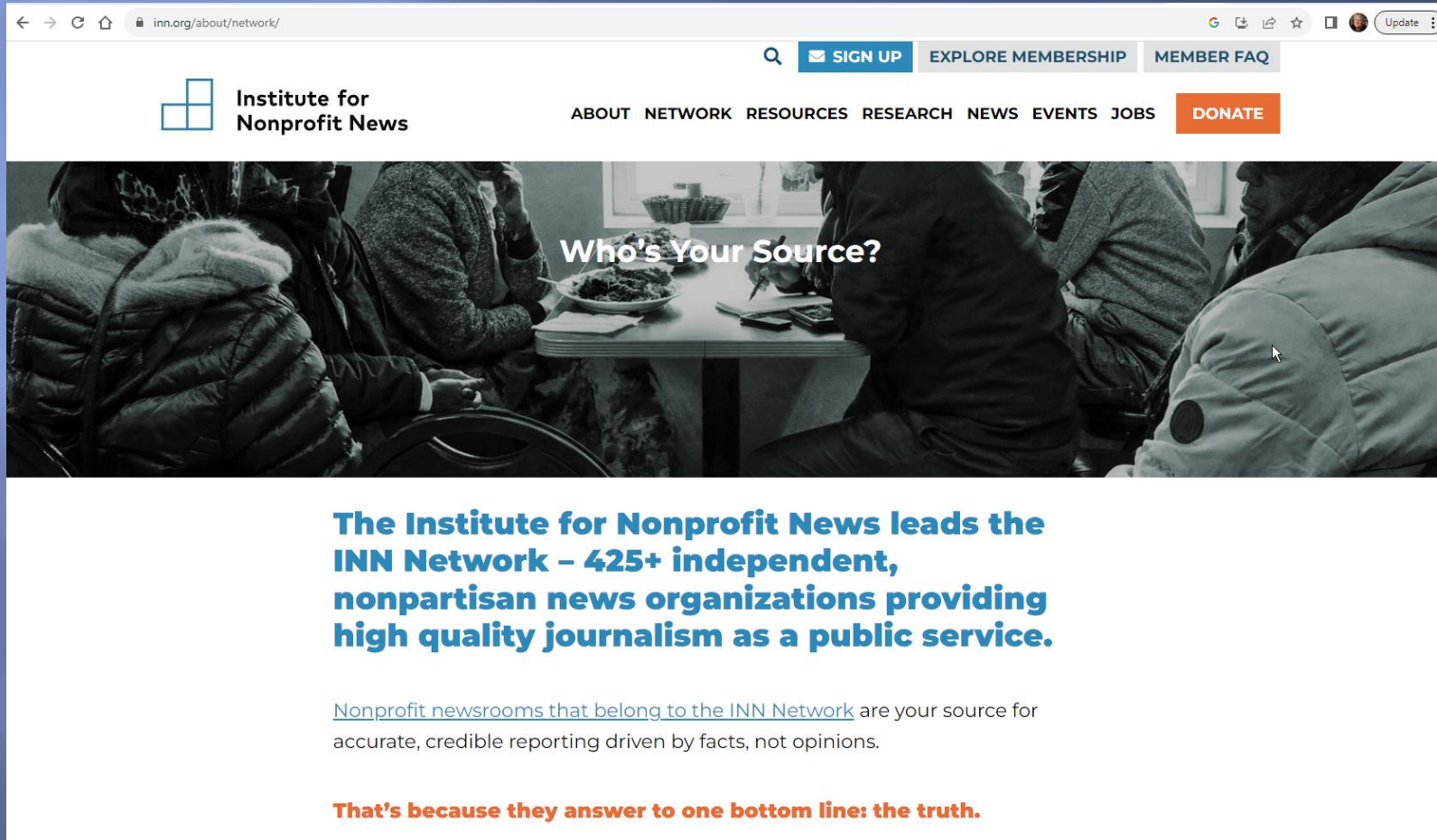
We accept gifts, grants and sponsorships from individuals, organizations and foundations to help with our general operations, coverage of specific topics, and special projects. Our news judgments are made independently – not based on or influenced by donors. We do not give supporters the rights to assign, review or edit content.

Donations of over \$5,000 can be found [here](#).

[Read our Editorial Independence Policy here.](#)

Investigate Midwest also pursues collaborations with college journalism programs, nonprofit news organizations, citizens, and media outlets, such as ProPublica, a nonprofit news outlet, and Circle of Blue is a news organization focused on climate change and its effects on water.

INSTITUTE FOR NONPROFIT NEWS



The screenshot shows the website's header with a search icon, a 'SIGN UP' button, and links for 'EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP' and 'MEMBER FAQ'. The main navigation menu includes 'ABOUT', 'NETWORK', 'RESOURCES', 'RESEARCH', 'NEWS', 'EVENTS', 'JOBS', and a prominent orange 'DONATE' button. The main banner features a black and white photograph of people at a table with the text 'Who's Your Source?' overlaid.

The Institute for Nonprofit News leads the INN Network – 425+ independent, nonpartisan news organizations providing high quality journalism as a public service.

[Nonprofit newsrooms that belong to the INN Network](#) are your source for accurate, credible reporting driven by facts, not opinions.

That's because they answer to one bottom line: the truth.

INSTITUTE FOR NONPROFIT NEWS



Institute for
Nonprofit News



SIGN UP

EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP


MEMBER FAQ

ABOUT NETWORK RESOURCES RESEARCH NEWS EVENTS JOBS

DONATE

Nonprofit news is created for, supported by, and committed to the communities it serves. Through reporters who have deep community ties and topical expertise, nonprofit news elevates untold stories, exposes wrongdoing, and provides the facts we need to make informed decisions. And because most of this content is available without paywalls or subscription fees, nonprofit news makes essential information available to everyone – not just those who can afford it.

Why does it matter for a community to have a trusted source of news? Because research shows that when people follow local news sources closely, they are more likely [to vote](#) in local elections, to vote [across party lines](#) and to feel attached to their communities. And at the state and local level, nonprofit news organizations focus on the investigative reporting that holds those in power to account.

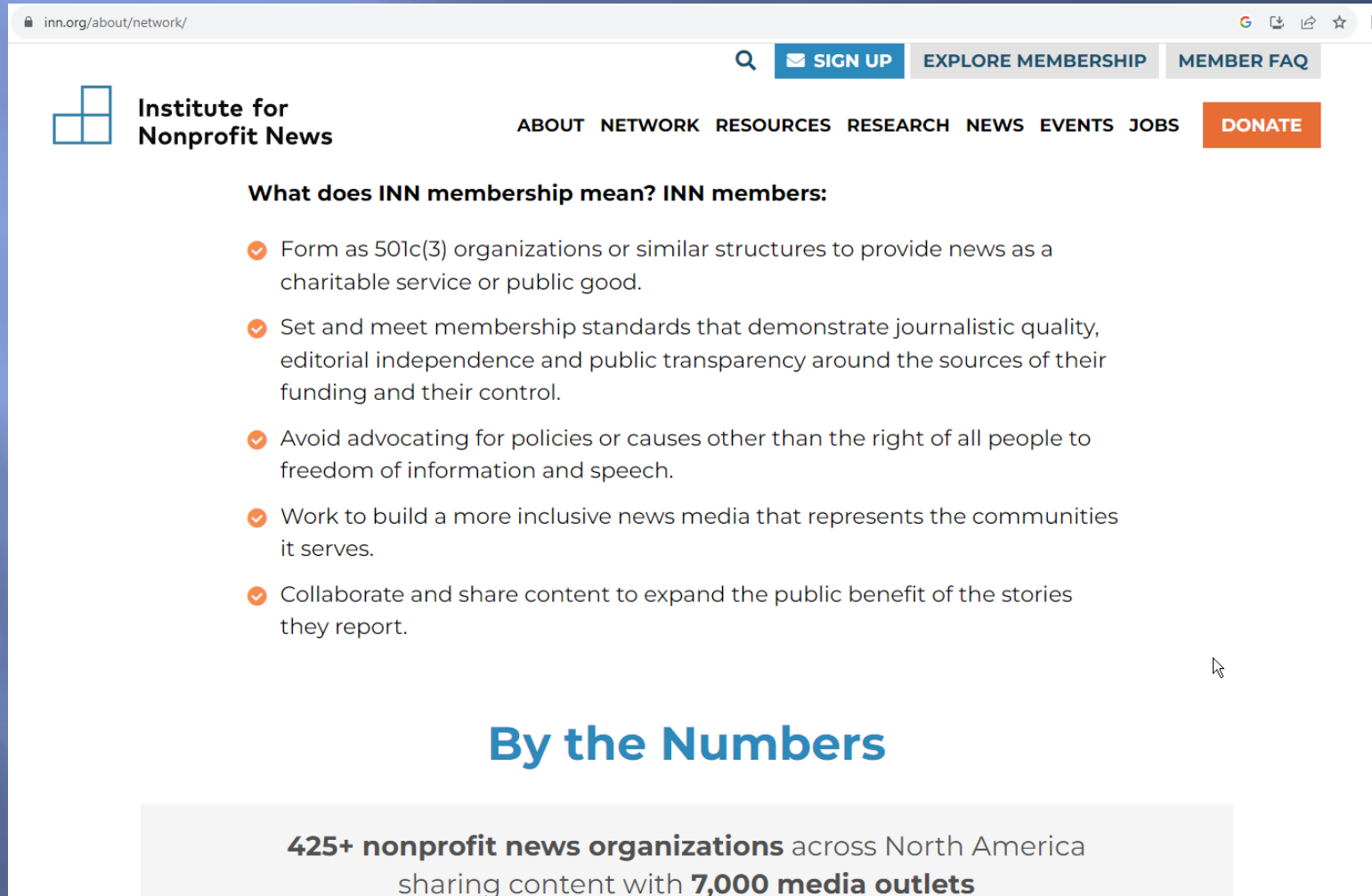


**Who's your
source?**

Make the case for nonprofit news
in your community with our free
Communications Toolkit.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT


INSTITUTE FOR NONPROFIT NEWS



The screenshot shows the website for the Institute for Nonprofit News. The browser address bar displays 'inn.org/about/network/'. The navigation menu includes 'SIGN UP', 'EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP', and 'MEMBER FAQ'. The main navigation bar contains 'ABOUT NETWORK RESOURCES RESEARCH NEWS EVENTS JOBS' and a 'DONATE' button. The page content is titled 'What does INN membership mean? INN members:' and lists five requirements for membership. Below this is a section titled 'By the Numbers' with a light gray background, stating that there are 425+ nonprofit news organizations across North America sharing content with 7,000 media outlets.

inn.org/about/network/

SEARCH SIGN UP EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP MEMBER FAQ

 **Institute for Nonprofit News**

ABOUT NETWORK RESOURCES RESEARCH NEWS EVENTS JOBS **DONATE**

What does INN membership mean? INN members:

- ✓ Form as 501c(3) organizations or similar structures to provide news as a charitable service or public good.
- ✓ Set and meet membership standards that demonstrate journalistic quality, editorial independence and public transparency around the sources of their funding and their control.
- ✓ Avoid advocating for policies or causes other than the right of all people to freedom of information and speech.
- ✓ Work to build a more inclusive news media that represents the communities it serves.
- ✓ Collaborate and share content to expand the public benefit of the stories they report.

By the Numbers

425+ nonprofit news organizations across North America
sharing content with **7,000 media outlets**

NEWS GUARD

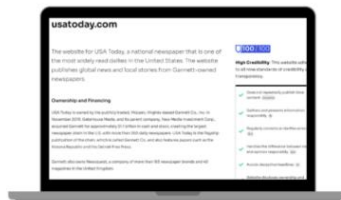


NewsGuard Ratings

Transparent, accountable trust ratings for news

Our trained journalists have rated and reviewed all the news sources that account for 95% of online engagement.

Each site is rated using nine basic, apolitical criteria of journalistic practice. Based on the [nine criteria](#), each site gets a trust score of 0-100 points and a detailed "Nutrition Label" review explaining who is behind the site, what kind of content it publishes, and why it received its rating — with specific examples of any trust issues our team found.



NEWS GUARD

Introducing: NewsGuard

We help you decide which news sources to trust — with scores from humans, not algorithms.

NewsGuard gives you all the context you need as you read news online. **Try NewsGuard today for free with a two-week trial.** After two weeks, membership costs just \$4.95/month in the U.S. and Canada, £4.95 in the UK, €4.95 in the EU, or \$6.95 in Australia and New Zealand.



How It Works

- NewsGuard's browser extension displays NewsGuard trust score icons next to links on search engines, social media feeds, and other platforms.
- Hover over an icon to see a summary of NewsGuard's assessment of each site—written by trained analysts with journalism experience.
- Click through to see a detailed review and “Nutrition Label” for the site written by NewsGuard's analysts.

NEWS GUARD

Why Should You Trust Us?

- **Because we are trained journalists who have spent our careers dedicated to the profession.** We care deeply about reliable journalism's pivotal role in democracy. (In case you're wondering, our experienced journalists come from diverse backgrounds and have no political axes to grind.)
- **Because you can see the credentials and backgrounds of everyone responsible** for every NewsGuard reliability rating and Nutrition Label that you read. For the names and biographies of our staff and contributors, [click here](#).
- **Because we have an ethics and conflicts of interest policy** to which all of our analysts and editors have to agree. You can read that policy [here](#).
- **Because we are totally transparent about how we make all of our decisions.** Our Nutrition Label write-ups explain what is behind our decisions. We disclose and explain in detail the [nine criteria we use to rate each news site](#) on its journalistic practices. We're not a black box algorithm.
- **Because we make concerted attempts to get comment** from every website's editor or manager before we write anything negative about the site, and always include the comment in our Nutrition Labels (or make changes after weighing the comment and realizing our initial conclusion was wrong). Algorithms don't call for comment.
- **Because we will post any complaints from website proprietors about anything we have**

NEWS GUARD

The criteria below are listed in order of their importance in determining a site's 0-100 score.

Last updated February 3, 2023

Criteria

Does not repeatedly publish false or egregiously misleading content: The site does not repeatedly and currently produce content that has been found to be clearly and significantly false or egregiously misleading, and which has not been quickly and prominently corrected. There is a "high bar" for failing this criterion. In practice, it means that on any given day the website is likely to display significantly false or egregiously misleading content. **(22 Points.)**

[See Details](#) [+](#)

Gathers and presents information responsibly: Content providers are generally fair and accurate in reporting and presenting information. They reference multiple sources, preferably those that present direct, firsthand information on a subject or event or from credible secondhand news sources, and they do not egregiously distort or misrepresent information to make an argument or report on a subject. **(18 Points)**

[See Details](#) [+](#)

Regularly corrects or clarifies errors: The site has effective practices for identifying errors and for publishing clarifications and corrections, transparently acknowledges errors, and does not regularly leave significant false content uncorrected. **(12.5 Points)**

NEWS GUARD

Score and Rating Levels

Rating Criteria

Scoring Process

Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly: Content providers who convey the impression that they report news or a mix of news and opinion distinguish opinion from news reporting, and when reporting news, do not egregiously cherry pick facts or stories to advance opinions. Content providers who advance a particular point of view disclose that point of view. **(12.5 Points)**

See Details [+](#)

Avoids deceptive headlines: The site generally does not publish headlines that include false information, significantly sensationalize, or otherwise do not reflect what is actually in the content under the headline. **(10 Points)**

See Details [+](#)

Transparency

Website discloses ownership and financing: The site discloses in a user-friendly manner its ownership and/or financing, as well as any notable political affiliations or financial interests relevant to the site's coverage held by those with a significant financial interest in the site. Put simply, the reader should know who is funding the content and what relevant interests the owner or funder might have in the content. **(7.5 Points)**

NEWS GUARD

See Details +

Clearly labels advertising: The site makes clear which content is paid for and which is not. **(7.5 Points)**

See Details +

Reveals who's in charge, including possible conflicts of interest: Those in charge of the content are identified on the site, and there is a way for readers to contact the site about editorial issues. In other words, the reader is told who is in charge of deciding what content is published. **(5 Points)**

See Details +

The site provides the names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information: Information about those producing the content is made accessible on the site, and it is generally clear who produces which content. **(5 Points)**

See Details +

Scoring Process

Our scoring process is designed to ensure our nine journalistic criteria are applied equally and accurately to all sites, regardless of the site's topic, tone, or political leaning if any, and



ADVOCACY NEWSROOMS: GREENPEACE

The screenshot shows the UNearthed website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'JOIN US' and 'ABOUT' buttons, the 'UNEARTHED' logo, and a search bar. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with categories: HOME, ENERGY, FORESTS, OCEANS, UK, BRAZIL, INVESTIGATIONS, VIDEOS, and MORE. The main content area features a large article with a dark background image of an industrial facility. The article title is 'Carbon freebies: How UK firms can close factories and make millions on the carbon market'. Below the title, it says 'UK Investigation' and '23.10.2023'. To the right of the main article is a sidebar titled 'More on finance' with three article teasers, each starting with a red arrow icon. At the bottom left, there is a newsletter sign-up section with the text 'Get stories like this in your inbox every week' and an 'Email*' input field. At the bottom right, there are four small thumbnail images: a landscape with green and brown stripes, a dense green forest, a snowy mountain range, and a large blue lake in a valley.

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 unearthed.greenpeace.org

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Carbon freebies: How UK firms can close factories and make millions on the carbon market

UK Investigation 23.10.2023

More on finance

- UBS and Santander's 'green' bonds linked to deforesters and rancher accused of slave labour in Brazil
- Offsetting projects with high forest loss still on the market
- Top hedge funds made \$1.9bn on grains ahead of the Ukraine war food price spike

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October 29, 2023

Israel/Palestine: Grave Concerns for Civilians in Ground Offensive

Israel began major ground operations in the Gaza Strip on October 28, 2023. During the last major Israeli ground operation into Gaza in July and August 2014, Israeli forces committed numerous violations of the laws of war – including fatally firing on civilians – that amounted to war crimes.



ADVOCACY NEWSROOMS: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

METRO DETROIT NEWS NEWS

An ACLU of Michigan investigation has found a stream of irregularities in Flint's water tests

Lead astray

By Curt Guyette on Wed, Sep 16, 2015 at 5:00 pm

SEND A NEWS TIP



Despite claims by city and state officials that the water supply in Flint is safe to drink, a recent analysis by independent researchers shows that city's drinking water is contaminated with dangerously high levels of lead and others metals.

Researchers at Virginia Tech studied water samples from more than 275 homes in Flint over the past several weeks and have concluded that, unless run through a filter designed to capture toxic heavy metals, the water is unsafe for drinking or cooking.

That judgment, reached after a group of residents collected water samples from 277 homes and sent them to VT for analysis, stands in stark contrast to the position held by city officials and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), which maintain that the water is safe.

TRENDING



Detroit News fires Charlie LeDuff over c-word insult

By Steve Neavling Oct 23, 2023




Detroit artists push for transparency and fair pay after mystery murals crop up downtown

By Randiah Camille Green
Oct 24, 2023

Ad 1 of 1 (0/15)



ADVOCACY NEWSROOMS: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION



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NEWS & COMMENTARY

Leonardo Castañeda

Investigative Journalist
ACLU of New Mexico

BIO

FEATURED WORK

Bio

Leonardo Castañeda is an investigative journalist at the ACLU of New Mexico with a focus on immigration. Prior to joining the ACLU, he was a reporter at The Mercury News and East Bay Times in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he covered the disparate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color, economic inequality, and the way large landowners had shaped the development of Silicon Valley. He was part of reporting teams that provided an in-depth look at the Bay Area’s response to the COVID pandemic, which revealed how health officers failed to protect the region’s most vulnerable Latino residents.

Before The Mercury News, Leonardo worked at inewssource, a nonprofit investigative news organization in San Diego, Calif. There he reported on government accountability and campaign finance and was the lead data reporter on a collaborative project mapping the construction of the U.S.-Mexico border wall. Originally from Mexico City, he grew up in San Diego and graduated from San Diego State University with degrees in journalism and economics.

BETTER GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Past Events

The Better Government Association was founded in 1923 and will celebrate its 100th anniversary of serving Illinois residents in 2023. The BGA publishes [Illinois Answers Project](#), an investigative and solutions-focused news outlet launched in 2022, as well as [BGA Policy](#), which advocates for more transparent, accountable and equitable government through public policy reform.

Mission

The Better Government Association is a non-partisan, nonprofit news organization and civic advocate working for transparency, equity and accountability in government in Chicago and across Illinois.

BETTER GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

→ ↻ 🏠 🔒 bettergov.org/better-government-association/history/ 🔍 📄 📄 📄

History

Explore More

History

Financials & Annual Reports

2022 Donor List

Awards & Recognitions

Past Events

For nearly 100 years, the Better Government Association has fought corruption, waste, secrecy and inequity by shining a spotlight on the workings of government in Illinois.

The BGA was founded in 1923 by a small group of clergymen, lawyers and businessmen. The founders believed that “public officials under close scrutiny would serve the public better; that the best voter was an informed one and the best citizen was an involved one.”

In the mid-1950s, that scrutiny began to take the form of investigative reporting, leading to some of the most significant journalistic exposés published in Illinois.

Today, the BGA has grown to comprise nine investigative journalists. With growing expertise in data journalism, this team digs in deeply to access and analyze public records, revealing stories and connections that legacy media no longer have the time and resources to pursue.

BETTER GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AND SUN-TIMES

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

THE WATCHDOGS NEWS CHICAGO

The costly toll of dead-end drug arrests – a Sun-Times / BGA special report

In Chicago, thousands of drug possession arrests are routinely tossed out every year, a Chicago Sun-Times-Better Government Association investigation finds. The cost to taxpayers? Millions. To those arrested? The loss of jobs, housing, freedom.

By Frank Main, Casey Toner and Jared Rutecki | Better Government Association | Dec 3, 2021, 5:30am CDT

BETTER GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AND SUN-TIMES

BGA forms Illinois Solutions Partnership with \$10 million grant from McCormick Foundation

posted on [November 22, 2021](#) at 6:00 am by [Robert Feder](#) [SHARE](#) [0](#)



David Greising


Chicago's Better Government Association, the nonprofit investigation journalism and government watchdog organization, is about to expand dramatically, thanks to the largest gift in its 98-year history – a \$10 million grant from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Over the next five years, the grant will be used to more than double the investigative and enterprise reporting staff of the BGA and broaden its mission to encompass "solutions

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

ewg.org/news-insights/news/2023/08/new-lede

KNOW YOUR ENVIRONMENT. PROTECT YOUR HEALTH. CREATORS OF SKIN DEEP DATABASE TAPWATER DATABASE EWG VERIFIED THE NEW LEDE

 Who We Are ▾ Areas of Focus ▾ Consumer Guides Research News & Insights ▾ TAKE ACTION DONATE

NEWS & INSIGHTS / NEWS / 2023 / 08

The New Lede

Redefining environmental journalism

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

The nonprofit news outlet [The New Lede](#), launched as an EWG project in May 2022, is a recognized and trusted source for in-depth reporting on important environment and human health stories across the U.S. that other outlets are overlooking.

TNL's team of seasoned reporters is committed to filling this information gap with rigorous investigative journalism, insightful analysis, commentary and clear explanations about a wide spectrum of environmental issues impacting communities across the country.

They strive every day to uphold the principles of objectivity and an unwavering commitment to the truth. TNL's reporting is designed to give readers valuable insight into the pressing issues that shape public policy, impact our health, and will determine the future of our planet for generations to come.

“The New Lede grew out of our realization that critical environmental and public health issues weren't getting the attention they deserve,” says EWG President [Ken Cook](#).

“Underfunded and overstretched newsrooms are cutting back on covering stories on these core quality of life issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

“From its launch more than a year ago, The New Lede has pursued the highest standards of journalism, science and objectivity to explain how we got here – and where we go from here.”

TNL and its journalists function independently of EWG’s operations, with complete editorial independence from the organization.

The many issues TNL covers include the damage of pesticides to people’s health, the ballooning crisis of the “forever chemicals” known as PFAS contaminating nation’s drinking water supply, the harmful effect of corporate agriculture on our air and water, climate change, and investigations uncovering corporate polluter coverups, among other topics.

TNL’s reporting is regularly featured on other prominent news sites, including The Guardian and Environmental Health News, and the Society of Environmental Journalists often cites TNL’s articles.

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

theneuledge.org



THE NEW LEDE

Redefining environmental journalism – An initiative of EWG

[NEWS](#) [OPINION](#) [ABOUT US](#) [WORK WITH US](#)



PFAS chemicals linked to thyroid cancer, human data suggests

October 26 2023

By Shannon Kelleher

Exposure to some per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) may increase thyroid cancer risk, according to a study published Tuesday.

The analysis, which compared blood samples from 88 people who developed thyroid cancer with samples from people who did not, is the first to document an association between PFAS and thyroid cancer, which had been previously hypothesized. Past research has linked these endocrine-disrupting chemicals to thyroid disease, a condition in which the gland produces too many or too few hormones. The new research adds to a growing list

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[OPINION](#)

Postcard from California: State takes on Big Oil for decades of climate lies

Letter from the editor: The saga of Syngenta, a scientist, and a subpoena

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J
MENU

Transforming news is critical to building a more equitable and sustainable world.

The Solutions Journalism Network is leading a global shift in journalism, focused on what the news misses most often: how people are trying to solve problems and what we can learn from their successes or failures.

[Learn More](#)

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Everyone

SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM

What is Solutions Journalism?

Rigorous and compelling reporting about responses to social problems, which includes these key elements:

1

RESPONSE

Focuses on a response to a social problem — and on how that response has worked, or why it hasn't

2

INSIGHT

Shows what can be learned from a response and why it matters to a newsroom's audience

3

EVIDENCE

























Provides data or qualitative results that indicate effectiveness (or lack thereof)

4

LIMITATIONS

Places responses in context; doesn't shy away from revealing shortcomings

SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM FUNDERS

 <p>BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation</p>	 <p>EMERSON COLLECTIVE</p>	 <p>ENLIGHT FOUNDATION</p>	 <p>Fetzer Institute</p>
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 <p>TIDES A Force for Social Good</p>	 <p>WILLIAM + FLORA Hewlett Foundation</p>		

OR TRADITIONAL MUCKRAKING?

Investigative Advocacy: The Mechanics of Muckraking

Patrick Barry

Before there could be action, there must be information and exhortation. Grievances had to be given specific objects, and these the muckraker supplied. It was muckraking that brought the diffuse malaise of the public into focus.¹

— Richard Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform* (1955)

A well-written legal complaint is like a good piece of investigative journalism. It's full of facts. It exposes injustice. And it tells a compelling story. The best can even trigger a favorable settlement. Faced with a powerfully made case, the other side might read the document and realize that going to trial isn't going to end well for them. That's when the complaint transforms into something powerful: leverage.

I use excerpts from one of these leverage-creating complaints to teach law students about the mechanics of muckraking, that longtime journalistic practice of using the printed word to target corruption and bring about reform. I tell them to summon their inner Ida Tarbell.

Most famous for her exposé of John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company in the early 20th century, Tarbell remains synonymous with muckraking over a century later. Yet she was never

KEEPING UP WITH CHANGES AND ISSUES

- [Columbia Journalism Review](#)
- [Nieman Journalism Lab](#)
- [American Press Institute](#)
- [Institute for Nonprofit News](#)
- [LION – Local Independent Online News Publishers](#)

KEEPING UP WITH CHANGES AND ISSUES

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