

CHANGING MODELS FOR JOURNALISM: NEW WAYS FLOURISH

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THE NEW WAYS

- The rise of the digital non-profit newsrooms
- University newsrooms increase coverage of community
- Public broadcast newsrooms increase coverage of community
- Billionaires and families maintain or create newsrooms

THE NEW WAYS

- For profits beg for donations or turn into nonprofits
- Blogging turns into news and newsrooms
- Tech giants make give back – a little

THE NEW WAYS

- Increased collaboration and cooperation
- Advocacy organizations adopt journalistic standards and do original reporting
- Hubs for networks are created for digital newsrooms and/or public broadcast newsrooms increase coverage of community

BUT NONPROFIT IS NOT NEW

- Associated Press
- NPR
- PBS
- Magazines such as Mother Jones
- Investigative Reporting Centers
- University and student newspapers and newsrooms

A GLOBAL NONPROFIT NEWS NETWORK BEGINS A NEW PHASE

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN). The top navigation bar includes language options: اردو, العربية, বাংলা, English, Français, Español, Português, Українська, Türkçe, हिन्दी, Русский, Africa, Deutsch, Indonesia, and 中文. A search bar is on the left, and the GIJN logo with a globe icon and a 'Menu' button is in the center. A 'Donate' button is on the right. The main content is divided into three sections: 'Stories', 'Resource Center', and 'GIJN Hub'. The 'Stories' section features a large image of a woman speaking at a microphone, with the headline 'Freelancing Survival Tips for Investigative Reporters' by Raúl F. Pérez Lira, dated October 12, 2023. The 'Resource Center' section highlights a 'GIJN Reporter's Guide to Investigating War Crimes' guide, noting it is a 16-chapter guide with expert advice from over 20 specialists and journalists. The 'GIJN Hub' section includes a call for feedback for the '2023 Global Investigative Journalism Conference' held from September 19-22, 2023, and a 'SOCIAL MEDIA' section promoting the network's multilingual presence in 14 languages.


اردو العربية বাংলা English Français Español Português Українська Türkçe हिन्दी Русский Africa Deutsch Indonesia 中文

Search

Global Investigative Journalism Network Menu

Donate

Stories




GETTING STARTED IN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM, GIJC23

Freelancing Survival Tips for Investigative Reporters

by Raúl F. Pérez Lira · October 12, 2023

From cold-pitching to collaborating, and from promoting your work to getting top commissions, being a freelancer brings a whole series of challenges, especially for investigative journalists.

Resource Center



GUIDE, RESOURCE

GIJN Reporter's Guide to Investigating War Crimes

This comprehensive, 16-chapter guide includes expert advice from more than two dozen specialists and journalists.

18 CHAPTERS


Reporter's Guide to Investigating War Crimes: Preface by Nobel Peace Prize Winner Nadia Murad

Reporter's Guide to Investigating War Crimes: Introduction

Reporter's Guide to Investigating War Crimes: What Is Legal in War?

15 more →

GIJN Hub



Information

GIVE US FEEDBACK:

2023 Global Investigative Journalism Conference

19–22 September 2023

If you attended GIJC23, please take the time to fill out our post-conference survey, which was emailed to all attendees. If you did not receive an email, please reach out to us at gjic23@gijn.org. Thanks!

SOCIAL MEDIA

العربية
বাংলা
Global
中文
Deutsch

Follow GIJN

GIJN publishes in 14 languages every day on multiple platforms

GLOBAL INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM NETWORK – 243 NEWSROOMS

Our Network



Click on the map to explore our network

THE GLOBAL NONPROFIT NEWS NETWORK IN 90 COUNTRIES

The screenshot displays the website for the Global Investigative Journalism Network. At the top, there is a navigation bar with language options: اردو, العربية, বাংলা, English, Français, Español, Português, Українська, Türkçe, বাংলা, Русский, Africa, Deutsch, Indonesia, and 中文. Below this is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the text "Search". The logo for the Global Investigative Journalism Network is centered, featuring a globe icon and the text "Global Investigative Journalism Network" with a "Menu" icon to its right. A "Donate" button is located in the top right corner.

The main content area is divided into two sections. On the left, a sidebar titled "Our Members" lists 243 member organizations in view. The list includes:

- Tucson Sentinel
- The Public Source
- Environmental Investigative Forum
- The Outlaw Ocean Project
- Indonesian Data Journalism Network
- Belarusian Investigative Center
- Maldita.es
- JournaFONDS
- Bivol.bg
- Viewfinder
- Turkmen.News
- The Reporters' Collective
- The Marshall Project
- Studio Monitor
- Siena
- Global Press
- Danwatch
- Zamaneh Media
- Nepal Investigative Multimedia Journalism Network (NIMJN)
- MUSEBA Journalism Project
- Media Development Center/Birzeit University
- Lighthouse Reports

On the right, a world map shows the locations of these member organizations. The map is color-coded by region: North America (yellow), Europe (orange), Africa (light green), and Asia (light blue). Black circles of varying sizes are placed on the map to indicate the number of members in each country. The largest circles are in the United States (12), Poland (11), and the United Kingdom (8). Other countries with multiple members include Ireland (7), Spain (4), Greece (4), and Turkey (3). Many other countries have 2 or 3 members, including Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, and the Republic of the Congo. A hand cursor is visible over the map near the Republic of the Congo.

THE GLOBAL NONPROFIT NEWS NETWORK BEGINS IN 2003



Global Investigative Journalism Network

Menu

A Brief History of GIJN

The Global Investigative Journalism Network was founded in 2003 when more than 300 journalists from around the world gathered for the second Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Copenhagen. Since then it has grown to 244 member organizations in 90 countries.

Every two years, GIJN holds the [Global Investigative Journalism Conference](#), which has brought together more than 8,000 journalists from 140 countries since 2001. GIJN also co-hosts the [Asian Investigative Journalism Conference](#), and its member organizations hold regional conferences such as the [African Investigative Journalism Conference](#) sponsored by Wits University in Johannesburg. The initial global conference was held in Copenhagen in 2001; Other conferences have been held in Copenhagen (2003), Amsterdam (2005), Toronto (2007), [Lillehammer](#) (2008), [Geneva](#) (2010), [Kyiv](#) (2011), [Rio de Janeiro](#) (2013), [Lillehammer](#) (2015), [Johannesburg](#) (2017), and [Hamburg](#) (2019).

At the Kyiv conference, delegates decided to create a provisional secretariat to better manage the GIJN's conferences and increase its capacity to support investigative journalism around the world. The secretariat was officially launched in February 2012; its executive director is [David Kaplan](#). The executive director and secretariat report to the GIJN Board, which consists of members elected by GIJN membership representatives.

“By every measurement, GIJN is a remarkable success. Donors and civil society actors are recognizing this as a unique global who’s who of today’s best investigative journalists, joining forces to extend and build the profession... GIJN is perfectly positioned to serve the field, as cross-border, collaborative investigative work generates new excitement, counteracting the fake news and other media distractions that are disrupting the ability of publics to hold the powerful accountable... GIJN has barely begun to fulfill its potential.”— Ellen Hume, International Media Development Advisers

CREATION OF THE INSTITUTE FOR NONPROFIT NEWS (INN)

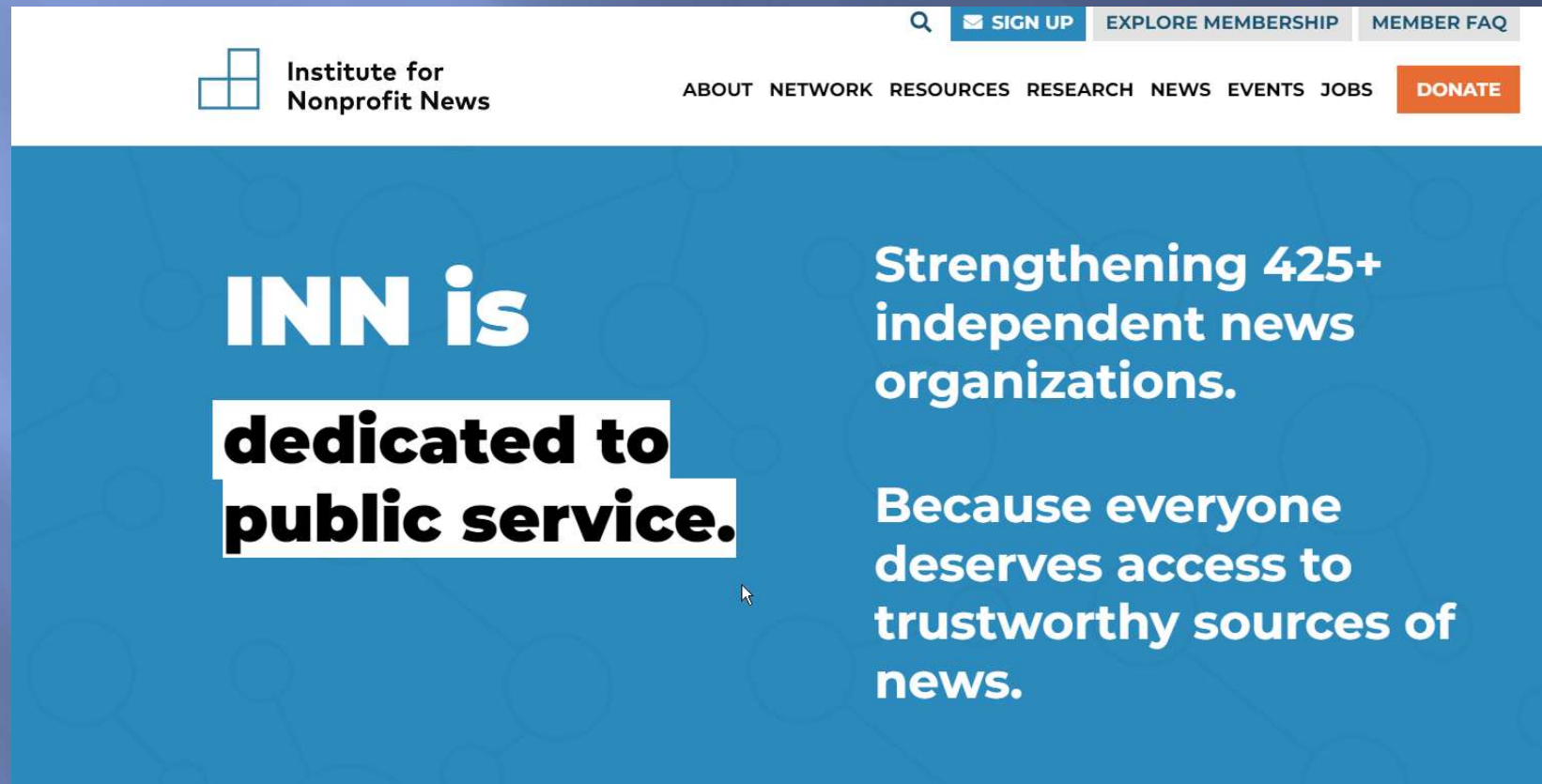
INN History

In 2009, journalists from 27 nonpartisan, nonprofit news organizations gathered at the Pocantico Center in New York to plan the future of investigative journalism. The result of that meeting, the [Pocantico Declaration](#), established the Investigative News Network (now named the Institute for Nonprofit News) and laid a foundation of collaboration among a new collective of nonprofit newsrooms dedicated to serving the public interest.

"We, representatives of nonprofit news organizations, gather at a time when investigative reporting, so crucial to a functioning democracy, is under threat. There is an urgent need to nourish and sustain the emerging investigative journalism ecosystem to better serve the public." — The Pocantico Declaration



CREATION OF THE INSTITUTE FOR NONPROFIT NEWS (INN)



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the INN website. On the left is the logo, a stylized grid of four squares, followed by the text "Institute for Nonprofit News". To the right of the logo is a search icon and three buttons: "SIGN UP" (blue), "EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP" (grey), and "MEMBER FAQ" (grey). Below the logo and search area is a horizontal menu with links: "ABOUT", "NETWORK", "RESOURCES", "RESEARCH", "NEWS", "EVENTS", and "JOBS". To the right of this menu is an orange "DONATE" button.

INN is
dedicated to
public service.

Strengthening 425+ independent news organizations.

Because everyone deserves access to trustworthy sources of news.

LION PUBLISHERS – NONPROFIT AND FOR-PROFIT

lionpublishers.com


Lion
PUBLISHERS

NEWS LEARN ABOUT US COMMUNITY

SEARCH DONATE JOIN

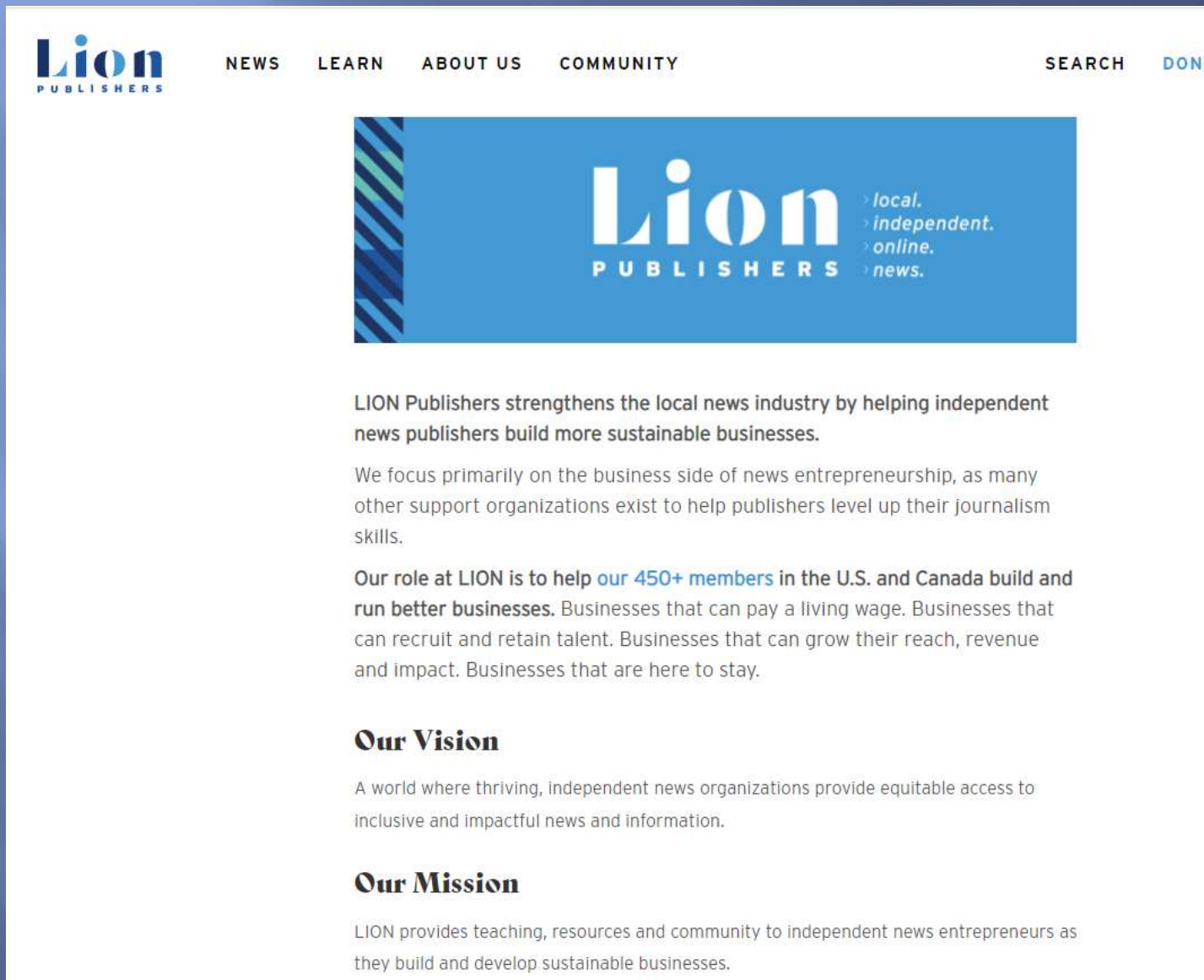
Creating and **supporting** independent news entrepreneurs

- > **Launch** my news startup
- > **Make** my news organization sustainable
- > **Learn** more about journalism entrepreneurship



Fernando Soto of Nuestro Estado speaking to Pete Buttigieg

LION PUBLISHERS WITH 450+



The screenshot shows the homepage of Lion Publishers. At the top left is the logo "Lion PUBLISHERS". To its right are navigation links: "NEWS", "LEARN", "ABOUT US", and "COMMUNITY". Further right are "SEARCH" and "DONATE". Below the navigation is a large blue banner with the "Lion PUBLISHERS" logo and the tagline: "local. independent. online. news." Below the banner is a paragraph: "LION Publishers strengthens the local news industry by helping independent news publishers build more sustainable businesses." This is followed by another paragraph: "We focus primarily on the business side of news entrepreneurship, as many other support organizations exist to help publishers level up their journalism skills." The next paragraph states: "Our role at LION is to help our 450+ members in the U.S. and Canada build and run better businesses. Businesses that can pay a living wage. Businesses that can recruit and retain talent. Businesses that can grow their reach, revenue and impact. Businesses that are here to stay." Below this are three sections: "Our Vision" with the text "A world where thriving, independent news organizations provide equitable access to inclusive and impactful news and information.", "Our Mission" with the text "LION provides teaching, resources and community to independent news entrepreneurs as they build and develop sustainable businesses.", and a final paragraph.

Lion PUBLISHERS

NEWS LEARN ABOUT US COMMUNITY SEARCH DONATE

Lion PUBLISHERS local. independent. online. news.

LION Publishers strengthens the local news industry by helping independent news publishers build more sustainable businesses.

We focus primarily on the business side of news entrepreneurship, as many other support organizations exist to help publishers level up their journalism skills.

Our role at LION is to help our 450+ members in the U.S. and Canada build and run better businesses. Businesses that can pay a living wage. Businesses that can recruit and retain talent. Businesses that can grow their reach, revenue and impact. Businesses that are here to stay.

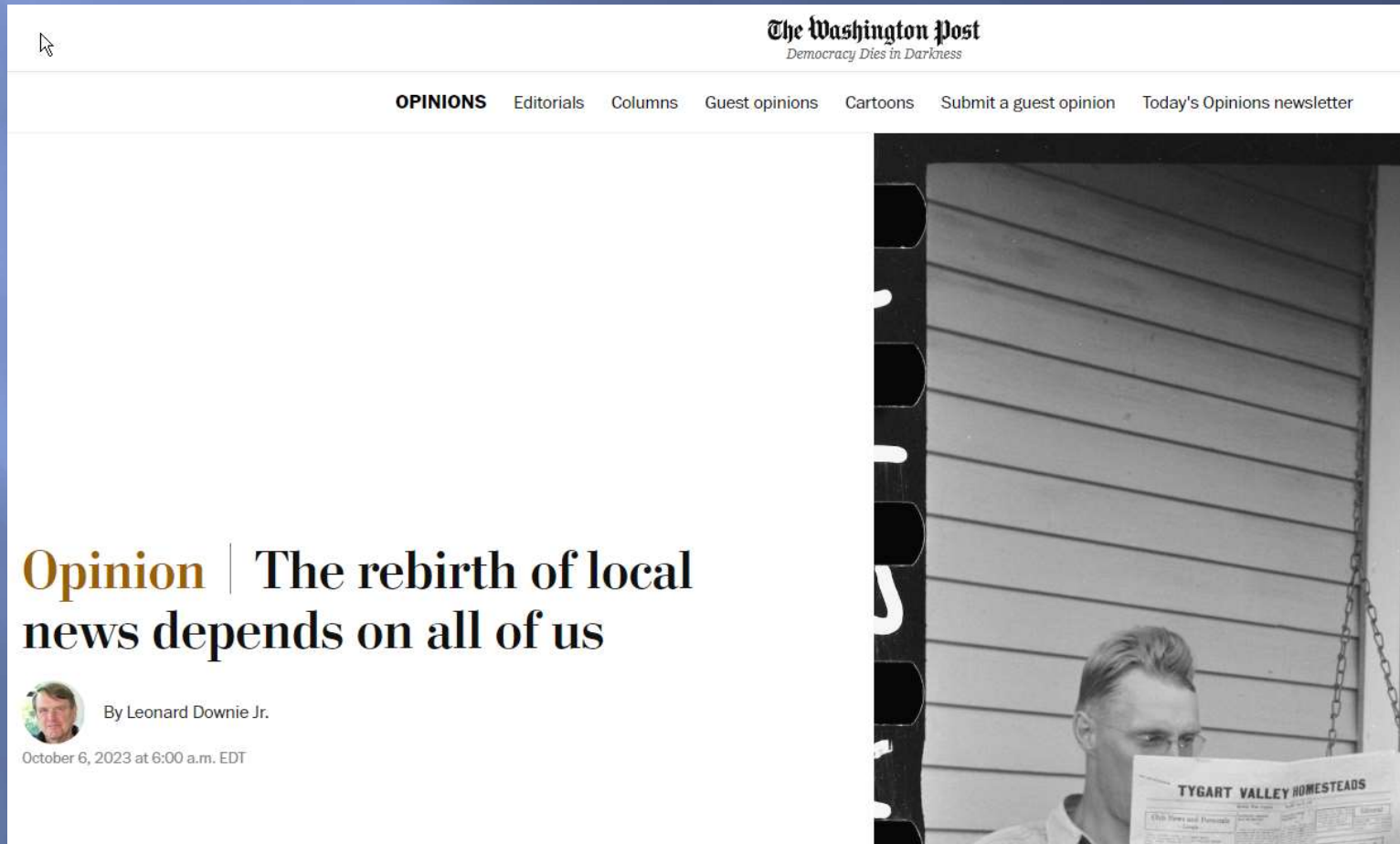
Our Vision

A world where thriving, independent news organizations provide equitable access to inclusive and impactful news and information.

Our Mission

LION provides teaching, resources and community to independent news entrepreneurs as they build and develop sustainable businesses.

NEWS IN THE NEWS: RECONSTRUCTING LOCAL NEWS



The screenshot shows the top portion of a web browser displaying the Washington Post website. The masthead at the top center reads "The Washington Post" in a serif font, with the tagline "Democracy Dies in Darkness" underneath. To the right of the masthead is a navigation menu with the following items: "OPINIONS", "Editorials", "Columns", "Guest opinions", "Cartoons", "Submit a guest opinion", and "Today's Opinions newsletter".

The main content area on the left features an opinion article. The word "Opinion" is written in a large, bold, orange font, followed by a vertical line and the title "The rebirth of local news depends on all of us" in a black serif font. Below the title is a small circular profile picture of Leonard Downie Jr., followed by the text "By Leonard Downie Jr." and the date "October 6, 2023 at 6:00 a.m. EDT".

On the right side of the page, there is a large black and white photograph. It depicts a man with short hair and glasses looking down at a newspaper he is holding. The newspaper's masthead is visible and reads "TYGART VALLEY HOMESTEADS". The background of the photo shows horizontal siding on a building.

NEWS IN THE NEWS

You've heard local news is dying. In fact, it might just be evolving.

Look around: Online nonprofit local and state news sites are proliferating. Some family newspaper owners are purchasing and investing in endangered small-town papers. A few billionaires have bought large metropolitan dailies. Some public radio stations, local television stations and even universities are getting into the act. Much of this is being seeded and nourished by philanthropic foundations and nonprofits.

American local newspapers had long depended on an economic model primarily supported by advertising and print subscriptions, both largely destroyed by the digital revolution. By contrast, the nascent revival of local news media is dependent on a variety of still evolving models. Here is a sampling of what is working and where.

NEWS IN THE NEWS

Nonprofit local news websites. Several hundred nonprofit local and state digital news sites have sprouted throughout the nation, with more coming online all the time. They range from small start-ups with a handful of staff to award-winning newsrooms of several dozen journalists. They are financed by foundations, philanthropists, digital subscriptions, memberships and advertising. Their journalists focus on what was not being covered in their communities, in addition to investigative reporting.

NEWS IN THE NEWS

Nonprofit digital news sites covering entire states include the Texas Tribune, VTDigger in Vermont, Mountain State Spotlight in West Virginia and WyoFile in Wyoming. Mississippi Today, a nonprofit with one of the largest newsrooms in that state, won a 2023 Pulitzer Prize for local reporting for an investigation of how the state's governor diverted millions of dollars in federal welfare money to his family and friends, including Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Brett Favre.

NEWS IN THE NEWS

Nonprofit newspapers. A handful of metropolitan-area newspapers have become nonprofits. Last year, the venerable Chicago Sun-Times merged into the nonprofit Chicago Public Media, owner of the city's top-rated morning news station, WBEZ public radio. It has enabled the Sun-Times to expand its newsroom and share content with WBEZ.

In 2016, the Philadelphia Inquirer was donated to the Philadelphia Foundation by H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest, who had bought the newspaper in 2014. The Inquirer is now a public benefit corporation within a nonprofit, which means any profit it does make must be reinvested. Its newsroom has stabilized.

Investor Paul Huntsman purchased the Salt Lake Tribune from a media group majority-owned by the hedge fund Alden Global Capital in 2016 and successfully petitioned the Internal Revenue Service for nonprofit status in 2019. One of the newest metropolitan nonprofits is the Portland Press Herald in Maine. This year, it was acquired, along with four other daily and 17 weekly newspapers, by the two-year-old National Trust for Local News. With the exception of the Bangor Daily News, all of Maine's dailies are now nonprofits.

Many for-profit newspapers also now solicit and depend on foundation grants and charitable donations to underwrite local and specialized reporting they could not have done otherwise.

NEWS IN THE NEWS

Family newspaper owners. Family owners are saving local for-profit newspapers in many parts of the country. The Manigault family is expanding local news coverage at its award-winning Post and Courier newspaper in Charleston, S.C., and smaller papers scattered across that state. It has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations from the public to help finance investigative and other reporting by its newspapers.

In some large cities, billionaires have bought newspapers and invested significantly in them. John W. Henry, principal owner of the Boston Red Sox, acquired the Boston Globe in 2013. That same year, Jeff Bezos, the Amazon founder, purchased The Post. Minnesota business magnate Glen Taylor, principal owner of the Timberwolves and Lynx professional basketball teams, acquired the Minneapolis Star Tribune in 2014. Biotech entrepreneur Patrick Soon-Shiong bought the Los Angeles Times in 2018.

NEWS IN THE NEWS

Specialized nonprofits. In recent years, philanthropic foundations and individual donors have financed a half-dozen national nonprofit news sites specializing in reporting on undercovered subjects. As they expanded, they created local newsrooms and websites in places where more coverage of those subjects was needed, often working with and contributing news to existing local media.

NEWS IN THE NEWS

University student-produced local news. University journalism students are reporting increasing amounts of local news for public consumption in many parts of the country. At about 100 universities and colleges, students produce an estimated 10,000 stories that appeared in more than 1,000 local news outlets, with more than 14 million page views last year, according to a study by the University of Vermont's Center for Community News.

NEWS IN THE NEWS

State government support for local news. Recently, several state legislatures have voted to provide modest support for local news reporting. California, New Mexico and Washington state lawmakers established programs to give paid fellowships to local reporters in their states' newsrooms. In California, the legislature allocated \$25 million to the University of California at Berkeley for three-year fellowships for local news reporters. It also approved \$10 million for grants to ethnic news media covering underserved communities.

NEWS IN THE NEWS

Philanthropic support. Philanthropic support for local nonprofit news has grown steadily over the past five years, according to a recent survey of 129 funders and 431 news organizations by the NORC research organization at the University of Chicago. And that was before the newly formed Press Forward group of 22 foundations recently announced its commitment of at least \$500 million to support and expand local news over the next five years. That's in addition to the American Journalism Project, which has invested in more than 40 nonprofit local news sites across the country.

INN INDEX



Institute for
Nonprofit News



SIGN UP

EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER FAQ

ABOUT NETWORK RESOURCES RESEARCH NEWS EVENTS JOBS

DONATE

[Home](#) | [Research](#) | [INN Index](#)

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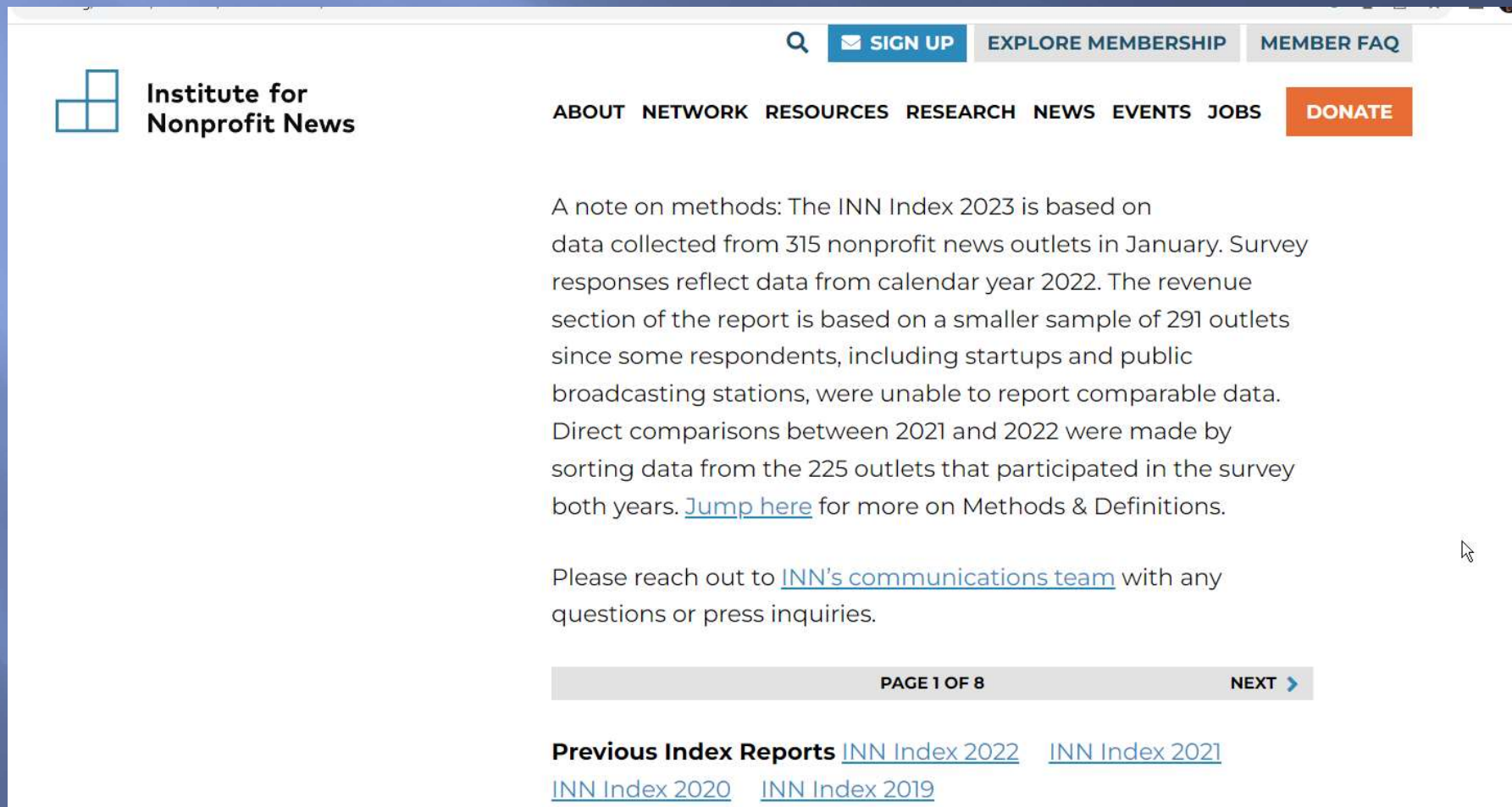
The Index is the most comprehensive study of the state of nonprofit news.

As the nonprofit news field rapidly changes and grows, INN tracks and studies what's happening behind-the-scenes. Through exploring Index data, you can learn what drives nonprofit news, how it's funded, who it serves, and how we can continue expanding sources of high-quality information for the public.

Index Reports and Fact Sheets

In the past, some observers have wondered whether a growing nonprofit news sector could be matched by growing capital support. But, new data from the INN Index 2023, the sixth annual survey of nonprofit news organizations across North America, suggest that as the nonprofit journalism field expands, the resources to sustain this field are expanding, too.

THE INN INDEX TRACKS NONPROFIT NEWS



The screenshot shows the website for the Institute for Nonprofit News. At the top left is the logo, a blue square divided into four smaller squares, followed by the text "Institute for Nonprofit News". To the right of the logo is a search icon and three buttons: "SIGN UP" (blue), "EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP" (grey), and "MEMBER FAQ" (grey). Below these is a navigation bar with links for "ABOUT", "NETWORK", "RESOURCES", "RESEARCH", "NEWS", "EVENTS", "JOBS", and a prominent orange "DONATE" button. The main content area features a paragraph of text explaining the methodology of the INN Index 2023 report, followed by a call to action to contact the communications team. At the bottom, there is a pagination bar showing "PAGE 1 OF 8" and a "NEXT >" button. Below the pagination bar are links for "Previous Index Reports" including "INN Index 2022", "INN Index 2021", "INN Index 2020", and "INN Index 2019".

Institute for Nonprofit News

SEARCH SIGN UP EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP MEMBER FAQ

ABOUT NETWORK RESOURCES RESEARCH NEWS EVENTS JOBS DONATE

A note on methods: The INN Index 2023 is based on data collected from 315 nonprofit news outlets in January. Survey responses reflect data from calendar year 2022. The revenue section of the report is based on a smaller sample of 291 outlets since some respondents, including startups and public broadcasting stations, were unable to report comparable data. Direct comparisons between 2021 and 2022 were made by sorting data from the 225 outlets that participated in the survey both years. [Jump here](#) for more on Methods & Definitions.

Please reach out to [INN's communications team](#) with any questions or press inquiries.

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Previous Index Reports [INN Index 2022](#) [INN Index 2021](#)
[INN Index 2020](#) [INN Index 2019](#)

THE INN INDEX

INN membership saw 17% growth in the number of digital-first news outlets between 2021 and 2022. That growth did not translate into more competition over a static or shrinking pool of resources. We estimate that fieldwide revenue for INN members grew about 19% in the same period, now totalling to just under \$500 million.

THE INN INDEX

- Overall staffing numbers are also in line with that rate of revenue and outlet growth, representing a 15% increase in workforce size compared to the previous year. We estimate that INN's digital-first members employ nearly 4,000 people. Of those, roughly two-thirds (2,700) are editorial staff including reporters, editors and other kinds of journalists.
- The growth we are seeing isn't confined to our larger, more established members, but rather is relatively spread out across the entire field. More than 80% of the outlets surveyed either grew total revenue or maintained revenue over a one-year period (from 2021 to 2022). The data don't indicate why some outlets experienced growth while a smaller portion saw declines. Outlets in both the growth and decline categories are generally representative of the field as a whole with a mix of local, state and national/global outlets.

THE INN INDEX

REVENUE CHANGE

% OF OUTLETS WHOSE REVENUE ___ BETWEEN 2021 AND 2022

■ Increased ■ Stayed flat ■ Decreased



Chart: N=225 outlets participated in both 2021 & 2022 surveys. Because of rounding, not all numbers add up to 100%.

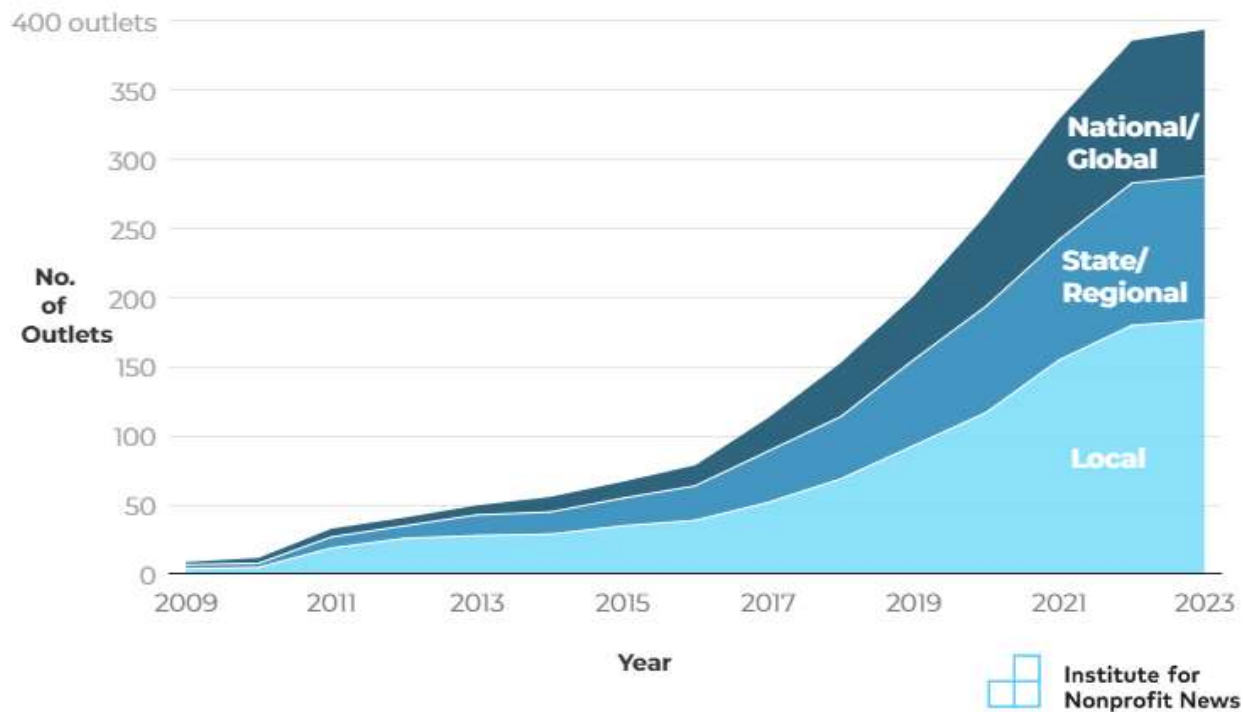


**Institute for
Nonprofit News**

60% of outlets in our sample grew total revenue by 10% or more from 2021 to 2022

THE INN INDEX

GROWTH IN NUMBER OF NONPROFIT NEWS OUTLETS BY GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE (2009 - 2023)



THE INN INDEX



Institute for
Nonprofit News

ABOUT NETWORK RESOURCES RESEARCH NEWS EVENTS JOBS

DONATE



SIGN UP

EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER FAQ

[Home](#) | [Research](#) | [INN Index](#) | [Quality of Coverage](#)

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- **The State of Nonprofit News**
 - Executive Summary
 - **Quality of Coverage**
 - Revenue Growth
 - Staffing & Capacity
 - Audience & Distribution
 - About the 2023 Index
 - Methods and Definitions

← PREVIOUS

NEXT →

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Quality of Coverage

MAY 23, 2023

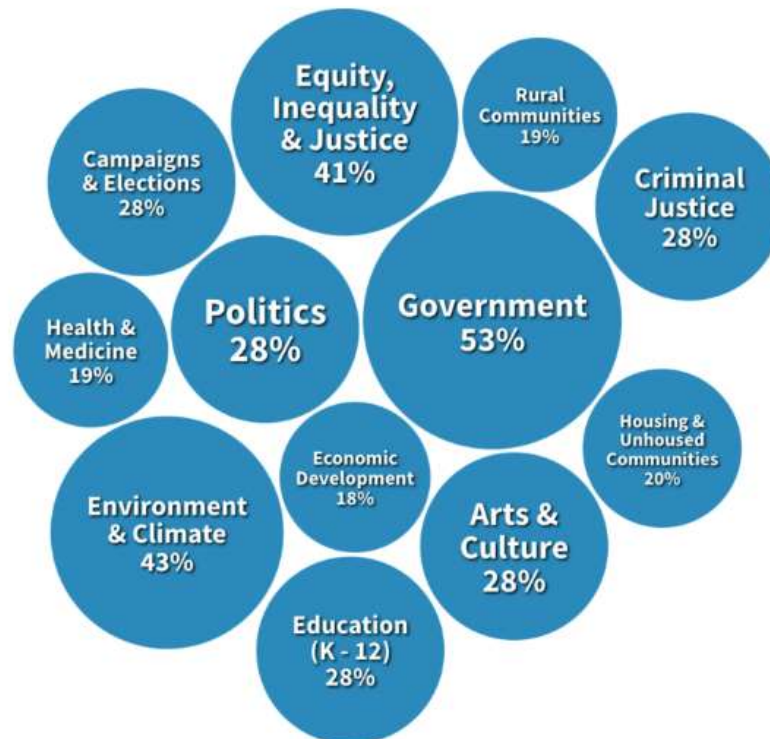
Nonprofit news produces in-depth reporting

While some nonprofit outlets focus on reporting the news of the day, the sector is primarily made up of organizations that contribute in-depth, time-intensive news — investigations, enterprise and explanatory reporting. Many focus on covering and explaining complicated issues like local politics and government, environment and climate, and matters of inequality, justice and equity. Topics rarely prioritized by the sector, signaling an opportunity for the field, include faith and religion, childcare and caregiving, technology, and military and veterans issues.

THE INN INDEX

PRIMARY TOPICS OF COVERAGE BY INN MEMBERS

% OF MEMBER OUTLETS PRIMARILY REPORTING ON __



THE INN INDEX

PRIMARY MISSION

% OF OUTLETS FOCUSING ON ___ REPORTING



 Institute for
Nonprofit News

STORIES PRODUCED MONTHLY BY PRIMARY MISSION

THE INN INDEX

STORIES PRODUCED MONTHLY BY PRIMARY MISSION

Primary Mission	Median # of Stories
Investigative Journalism	8
Explanatory Content and Analysis	20
Current News & Events	49

Table: N = 315



Many nonprofit news outlets say they produce this in-depth journalism for populations historically underserved by commercial media, including people of color as well as rural and low-income communities. About 40% of outlets say rural communities are a primary target audience of their coverage. INN's [Rural News Network](#) (RNN) — a reporting consortium connecting about 70 outlets serving rural communities — is leveraging a network approach to sustainable news operations, story generation and dissemination.

THE INN INDEX

STORIES PRODUCED MONTHLY BY PRIMARY MISSION

Primary Mission	Median # of Stories
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THE INN INDEX

Most news outlets grow or sustain total revenue over time

Median revenue per outlet is about \$475,000, representing growth from the roughly \$370,000 median reported the previous year. State and regional outlets are driving this gain, growing their median revenue by 36% in a one-year timeframe. A major driver: Foundations investing in larger, more established state and regional outlets. Our data don't explain why foundation support to state and regional newsrooms is growing, but our reporting indicates a shift in philanthropic attention to statehouse coverage.

THE INN INDEX

REVENUE STREAMS BY OUTLET TYPE

% OF TOTAL REVENUE FROM ____

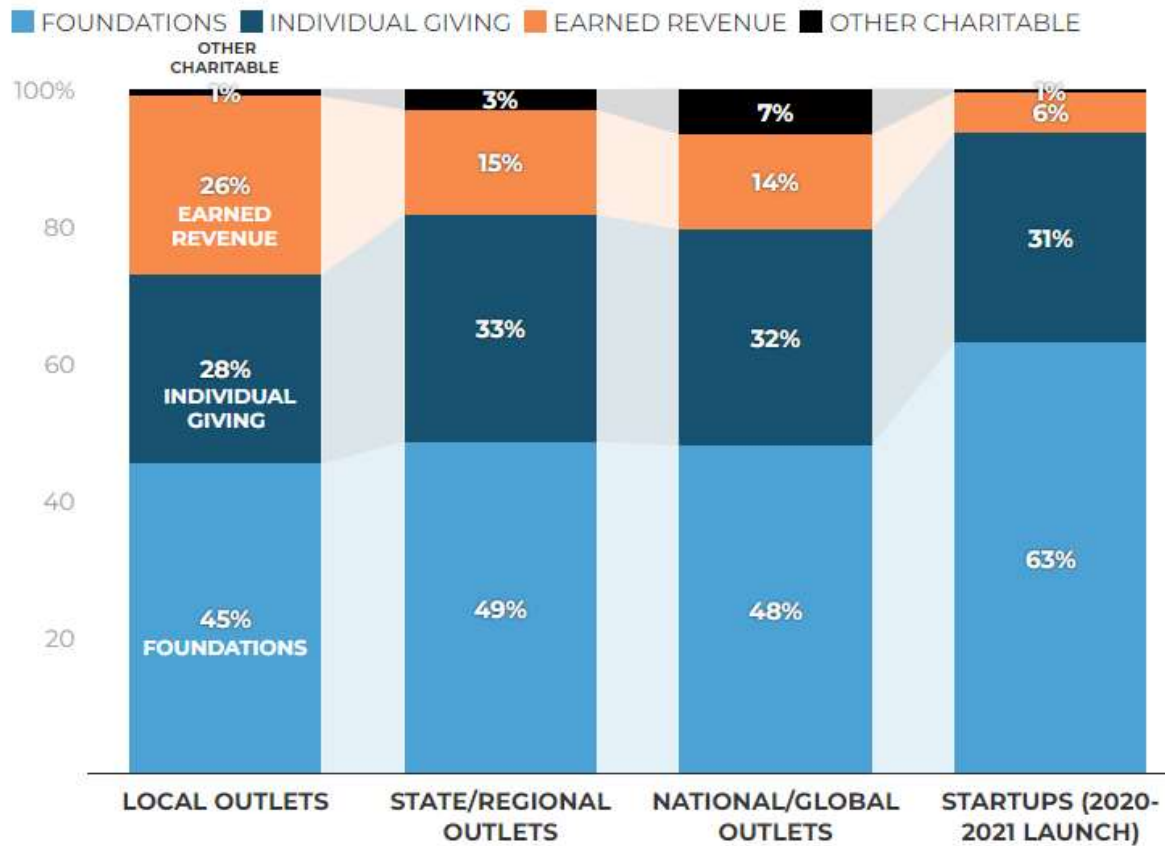
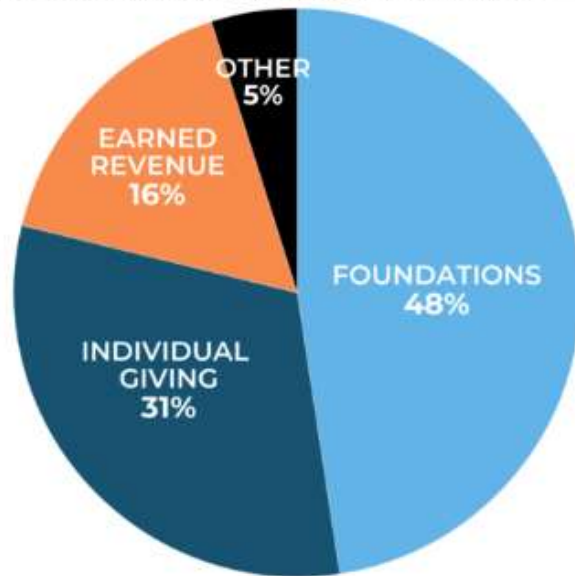


Chart: Percentages may not add up to 100 because of rounding. We consider startups as outlets launched between 2020 and 2022. However, outlets launched in 2022 were not included in this chart because they were not able to provide full-year revenue data.

THE INN INDEX

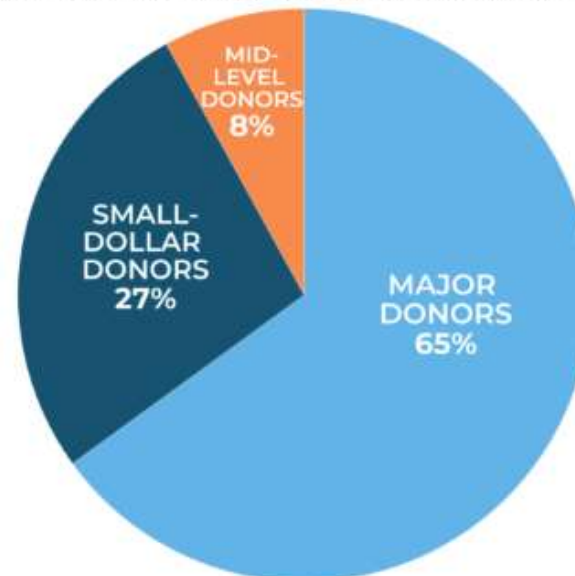
REVENUE STREAMS

% OF TOTAL NONPROFIT NEWS REVENUE FROM ____



INDIVIDUAL GIVING

% OF TOTAL INDIVIDUAL GIVING REVENUE FROM ____



Small-dollar donors: Less than \$1,000 per year
Mid-level donors: \$1,000 to less than \$5,000
Major donors: \$5,000 or more

THE INN INDEX

LOCAL NEWS OUTLOOK

COVID-19 and its related economic forces put a lot of strain on the local news sector, causing widespread contraction and closures in recent years. While this trend has affected commercial newsrooms, nonprofit, digital-first local outlets are expanding in number and growing in capacity. Forty-six percent of outlets surveyed in 2022 focused on local news, up from 42% reported in 2021. About half of surveyed local outlets serve larger communities (defined as a population of 100,000 or more), and half serve smaller communities of 100,000 or less.

THE INN INDEX

PAGE 5 OF 8

Staffing & Capacity

MAY 23, 2023

The nonprofit news workforce expands

As the number of outlets has increased along with associated capital investment, so too has the size of the workforce in nonprofit journalism. We estimate that INN's digital-first members (not including public media organizations) employ nearly 4,000 people, including both editorial and non-editorial staff. Of those, roughly two-thirds are editorial staff. The overall staffing number represents a 15% increase in workforce size compared to the previous year. That increase is generally in line with the rate of growth in fieldwide revenue as well as the number of new entrants into the INN fold.

THE INN INDEX

For newsletter focused outlets, over half grew newsletter subscribers, over a third stayed steady, with a smaller percentage (7%) experiencing declines.

MEDIAN AVERAGE MONTHLY UNIQUES (WEB TRAFFIC) & NEWSLETTER LIST SIZE BY OUTLET TYPE - 2022

Outlet Type	Average Monthly Uniques	Newsletter List Size
All outlets	30,000	5,200
Local outlets	18,250	2,500
State and Regional outlets	24,700	6,000
National and Global outlets	75,000	13,750

Table: N = 315

BLOCK CLUB CHICAGO

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 blockclubchicago.org

Block Club Chicago Become a member [Learn more →](#)

☰ MENU NEIGHBORHOODS LATEST STORIES PROUD CITY 'ON THE BLOCK' NEWS TIPS NEWSLETTERS SHOP SUBSCRIBE DONATE 🔍

THE LATEST

ARTS & CULTURE

Lit & Luz Celebrates 10 Years Of Connecting Mexico And US-based Creatives
Joanna Hou 8:33 AM CDT

LOOP


Christkindlmarket's Fast Pass Lets You Skip Lines — And Get Dibs On The Souvenir Mugs
Aviva Bechky 8:00 AM CDT

CITYWIDE

Parents, Pregnant People Struggle To Find RSV Vaccine Even As Health Officials Recommend They Get It
Joanna Hou 9:12 AM CDT

ARTS & CULTURE


Open House Chicago Returns This Weekend With 33 New Sites



PILSEN, LITTLE VILLAGE, BACK OF THE YARDS


Impacted By Summer Flooding? You Have Until Monday To Apply For Federal Relief

Cook County residents whose homes were damaged by intense storms June 29-July 2 are eligible to receive grants for temporary housing and home repairs. The deadline is Oct. 16.



CITYWIDE

39 Things To Do In Chicago This Weekend: Open House Chicago, Harvest Fest, Thrift Crawl And More
Leen Yassine 9:00 AM CDT



ARTS & CULTURE

Chicago Film Fest's 'All Happy Families' Spotlights Growing Up At Any Age
Atavia Reed 11:51 AM CDT

VERMONT DIGGER

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HEALTH

Nearly 9,000 Vermonters will be reimbursed for more than \$1.5 million in wrongly billed contraceptive care

Under state and federal law, Vermonters are entitled, with rare exception, to free contraceptive services. But the Department of Financial Regulation found they faced improper out-of-pocket costs in more than 14,000 cases across four years.

By Sarah Mearhoff
October 12, 2023, 4:47 pm



ENVIRONMENT

Environmental groups allege that Casella has violated its water quality permit

The Conservation Law Foundation and Vermont Natural Resources Council allege that Casella launched a project to remove PFAS from landfill leachate without final approval

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REGION

Oklahoma's permit system ushered in new wave of industrial poultry farm growth


Without notice, some Oklahomans find new farms next door that bring flies, feathers, odors and water pollution.

by Ben Felder, Investigate Midwest
October 5, 2023

GRAPHIC OF THE WEEK

GRAPHIC: How the rail industry's shrinking workforce is impacting wheat production

by Ben Felder, Investigate Midwest
October 3, 2023




ENVIRONMENT

Farmers, Illinois officials say Spire hasn't done enough to fix damage from STL Pipeline

Illinois' attorney general has filed a petition against Spire, saying the company hasn't made good on its promise to limit the pipeline's

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.

[Click here to see more](#)

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

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News [Race & Health Equity](#)

Minnesota makes plan to reduce disparities in cardiovascular health and diabetes statewide

By [Ava Kian](#) | Staff Writer

Oct. 12, 2023

From 2018-2021, Black adults ages 35-64, died from heart disease at approximately two times the rate of Minnesotans overall.



The Glean: Latest headlines from around Minnesota

Minneapolis DSA condemns Hamas, clarifies earlier statement

1 hour ago

Plus: Rosemount residents concerned over Meta's proposed data processing plant; AG settles with California company over alleged student loan forgiveness fraud; Andrea Jenkins

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The Mission

To expose abuses of power and betrayals of the public trust by government, business, and other institutions, using the moral force of investigative journalism to spur reform through the sustained spotlighting of wrongdoing.

ProPublica is an independent, nonprofit newsroom that produces investigative journalism with moral force. We dig deep into important issues, shining a light on abuses of power and betrayals of public trust — and we stick with those issues as long as it takes to hold power to account.

With a team of more than 100 dedicated journalists, ProPublica covers a range of topics including government and politics, business, criminal

CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY

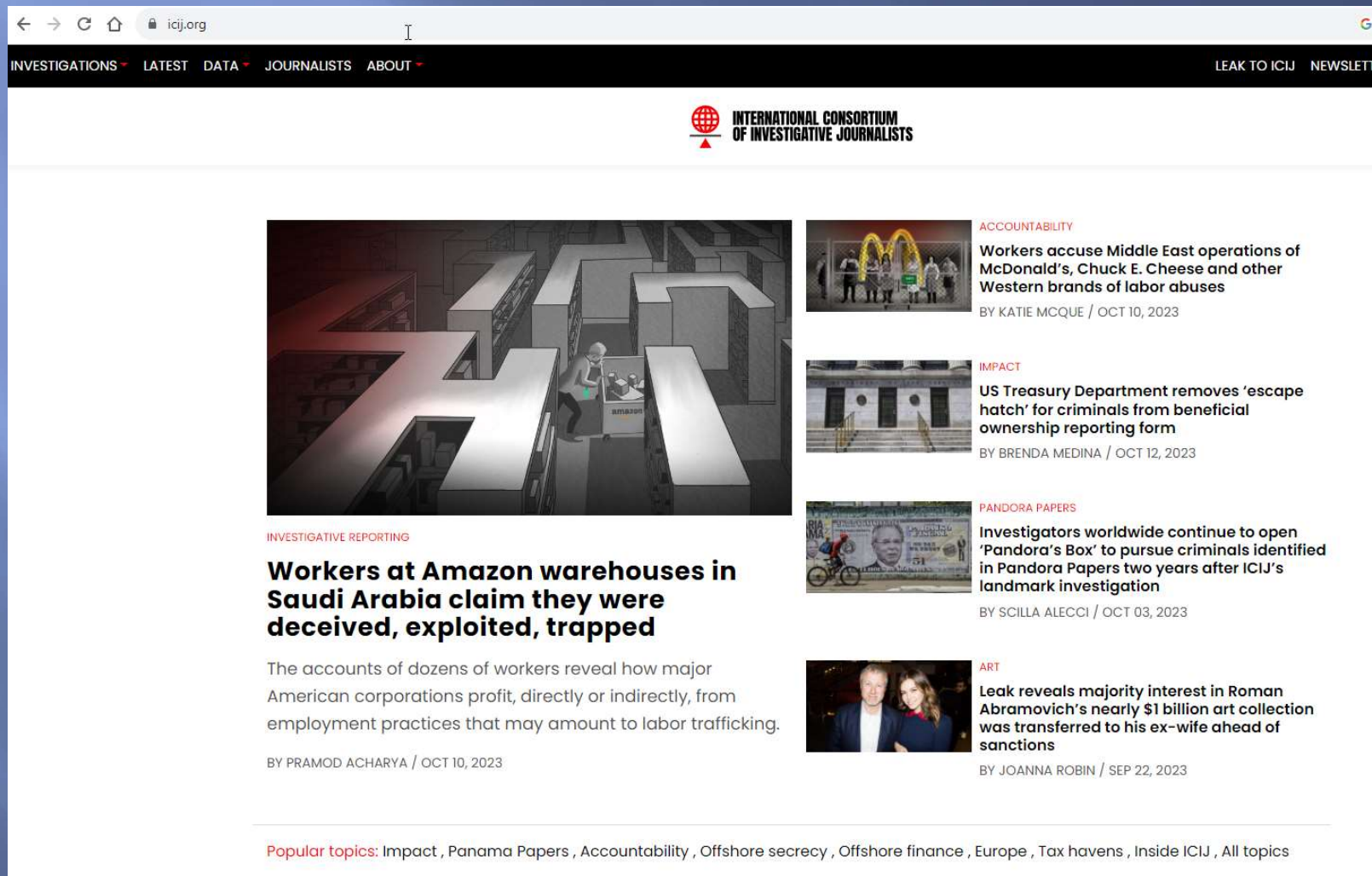
The screenshot shows the website publicintegrity.org. The navigation bar includes links for About Us, Newsletters, Podcasts, Data Tools, and Archive. The main header features the Center for Public Integrity logo with the tagline 'Investigating inequality' and a menu with categories: DEMOCRACY, ECONOMIC WELL-BEING, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, and HEALTH. A red 'DONATE' button is also visible.

The main content area features a large article with a red fountain pen resting on a 'VISA APPLICATION FORM'. The article title is 'How families fleeing violence won — then lost — the green card lottery'. The form text includes 'PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION VERY CAREFULLY', 'VISA APPLICATION FORM', and 'CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:'. Below the form, there is a small text block: 'For more information, contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at 1-800-375-5282 or visit uscis.gov. If you are a U.S. citizen, please call 1-800-375-5282 for more information.' Below the article is a 'PODCAST' section with three items:

- The Heist: Season 3**
- Heist Season 3: Who's who**
- 'Black farmers and ranchers, it's a dying deal.'**


At the bottom of the podcast section, there is a partial view of another item: '10 things you need'.


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 INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS




INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Workers at Amazon warehouses in Saudi Arabia claim they were deceived, exploited, trapped

The accounts of dozens of workers reveal how major American corporations profit, directly or indirectly, from employment practices that may amount to labor trafficking.


BY PRAMOD ACHARYA / OCT 10, 2023



ACCOUNTABILITY

Workers accuse Middle East operations of McDonald's, Chuck E. Cheese and other Western brands of labor abuses


BY KATIE MCQUE / OCT 10, 2023



IMPACT

US Treasury Department removes 'escape hatch' for criminals from beneficial ownership reporting form


BY BRENDA MEDINA / OCT 12, 2023



PANDORA PAPERS

Investigators worldwide continue to open 'Pandora's Box' to pursue criminals identified in Pandora Papers two years after ICIJ's landmark investigation

BY SCILLA ALECCI / OCT 03, 2023



ART


Leak reveals majority interest in Roman Abramovich's nearly \$1 billion art collection was transferred to his ex-wife ahead of sanctions

BY JOANNA ROBIN / SEP 22, 2023

Popular topics: Impact , Panama Papers , Accountability , Offshore secrecy , Offshore finance , Europe , Tax havens , Inside ICIJ , All topics

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📅 FEB. 6, 2017

Making headlines: VCU journalism students are covering the General Assembly for 90 news outlets and feeding stories to the Associated Press



COVERING LOCAL NEWS IN CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

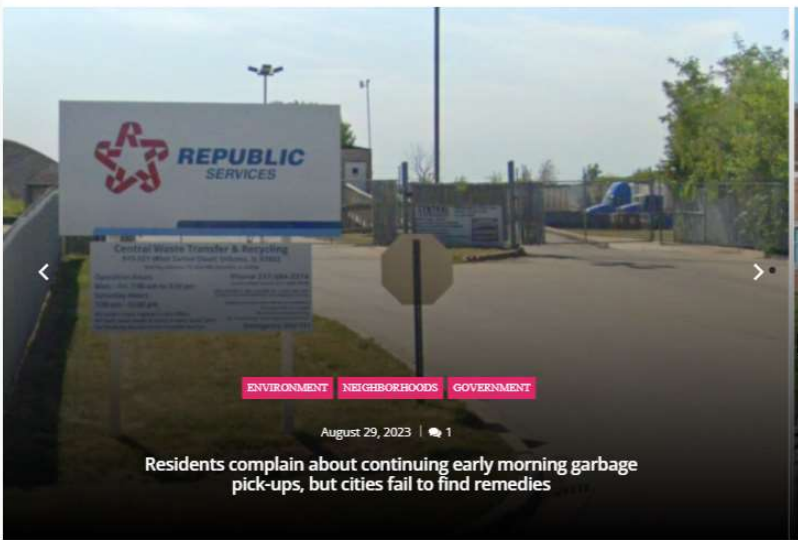
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Watchdog news & community issues

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ENVIRONMENT NEIGHBORHOODS GOVERNMENT


August 29, 2023 | 1

Residents complain about continuing early morning garbage pick-ups, but cities fail to find remedies

About Us

CU-CitizenAccess is an online newsroom devoted to community and watchdog reporting by journalism students at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

The newsroom focuses mostly on Champaign County and central Illinois, but produces occasional regional, national and international stories.



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Government employee [salary guide](#) with searchable databases available!

CU-Citizen October 13, 2016 | 0

A primer on the Freedom of Information Act

TRACKING NEWS FROM COLLEGE STUDENTS

uvm.edu/ccn

More than 14 million Americans get their news from student reporters.

We document where university-led programs exist and provide resources to support, encourage and grow more partnerships with local news.

ARE STUDENT REPORTERS PROVIDING YOUR NEWS?
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PUBLIC BROADCASTING PURCHASES

SUN-TIMES




CHICAGO (January 31, 2022) – Chicago Public Media announced today that the *Chicago Sun-Times* is now a nonprofit, as a subsidiary of Chicago Public Media – marking the beginning of a landmark partnership between two storied news brands, the *Chicago Sun-Times* and WBEZ Chicago, to grow and strengthen local journalism in Chicago. This creates one of the largest nonprofit news organizations in the country and the organization will reach more than 2 million Chicagoans a week.

Chicago Public Media also announced that it has raised \$61 million in philanthropic support for this transformational opportunity for Chicago from national and local foundations and individual donors who share a belief in journalism's critical role in informing the public, strengthening local communities, and safeguarding democracy.

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LEADERSHIP

Billionaire Glen Taylor To Buy Star Tribune

If the deal proceeds, it's expected to close "by late spring"; financial terms have not been disclosed.

April 11, 2014

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SALT LAKE TRIBUNE GOES NONPROFIT

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL sltrib.com/nonprofit/. The page features the Salt Lake Tribune logo and a red 'SUBSCRIBE' button. The main content is organized into two sections: 'Our Mission' and 'Our Nonprofit Model'. The 'Our Mission' section includes a paragraph about the newspaper's commitment to journalism. The 'Our Nonprofit Model' section includes a paragraph about the newspaper's transition to nonprofit status and a blue 'DONATE TODAY' button. Below the button, there are three paragraphs detailing the newspaper's operations as a nonprofit, including its Board of Directors and its reporting focus.

sltrib.com/nonprofit/

The Salt Lake Tribune

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Our Mission

The Tribune is Utah's essential voice. Building on a legacy of watchdog journalism, we strive to tell stories that are interesting and inclusive. Dedicated to fairness and accuracy, we aim to empower our community with news and information.

Our Nonprofit Model

In a historic move, the IRS approved nonprofit status for The Salt Lake Tribune in October 2019, making it the first legacy newspaper in the U.S. to transform from a for-profit news organization to a 501(c)3 nonprofit

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The Tribune continues to offer subscriptions and accept traditional advertising. The newspaper also receives donations from donors who can then receive a tax deduction. The Tribune is responsive to the community it serves - readers across Utah and beyond - and its fiscal stewardship is in the hands of a 10-person Board of Directors.

As a nonprofit, The Tribune's editorial board –which operates independently of the news staff – no longer makes candidate endorsements. Nonprofits cannot do so under federal law.

The Tribune offers unmatched reporting on federal, state and local government, the environment, education, religion, criminal justice, sports and many rich stories about the people and places that make Utah special.

NEWSROOMS SET UP FUNDS

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INJUSTICE THRIVES WHEN MET WITH SILENCE

SMART GIRLS

NEWSROOMS SET UP FUNDS

PROJECTS

Seattle Times impact journalism initiatives investigate what is – and isn't – working to address pervasive problems in our region and surface solutions. Explore current funded projects that are making an impact in our community.

**MENTAL HEALTH
PROJECT**

EDUCATION LAB

TRAFFIC LAB

PROJECT HOMELESS

INVESTIGATIVE
JOURNALISM FUND

MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

surfaces solutions to improve mental health care, resources, treatments, systems and policies to address the growing mental health crisis that poses specific challenges to the Puget Sound region. [Read Mental Health Project stories.](#)



NEWSROOMS SET UP FUNDS

The Seattle Times investigative team

Community support has made us one of the few regional newspapers in the country able to add news staff at this time – Investigative Journalism Fund donations directly fund six of our 10 investigative positions. Meet our nationally award-winning team.



TAYLOR BLATCHFORD
Engagement editor



SYDNEY BROWNSTONE
Investigative reporter



LAURA GREANIAS
Deputy investigations editor



PATRICK MALONE
Investigative reporter



JONATHAN MARTIN
Investigations editor



REBECCA MOSS
Investigative reporter



LULU RAMADAN
Investigative reporter



MIKE REICHER
Investigative reporter



MANUEL VILLA
Data journalist



MIYOKO WOLF
News researcher

Next class: Newsletters, blogs, news hubs, funding emerging media

The move to newsletters, new kinds of blogs and news hubs created by pooled foundation and donor funds are key parts of the emerging media.