

CHANGING MODELS FOR JOURNALISM: NEW OWNERS AND NEW FORMATS

Brant Houston

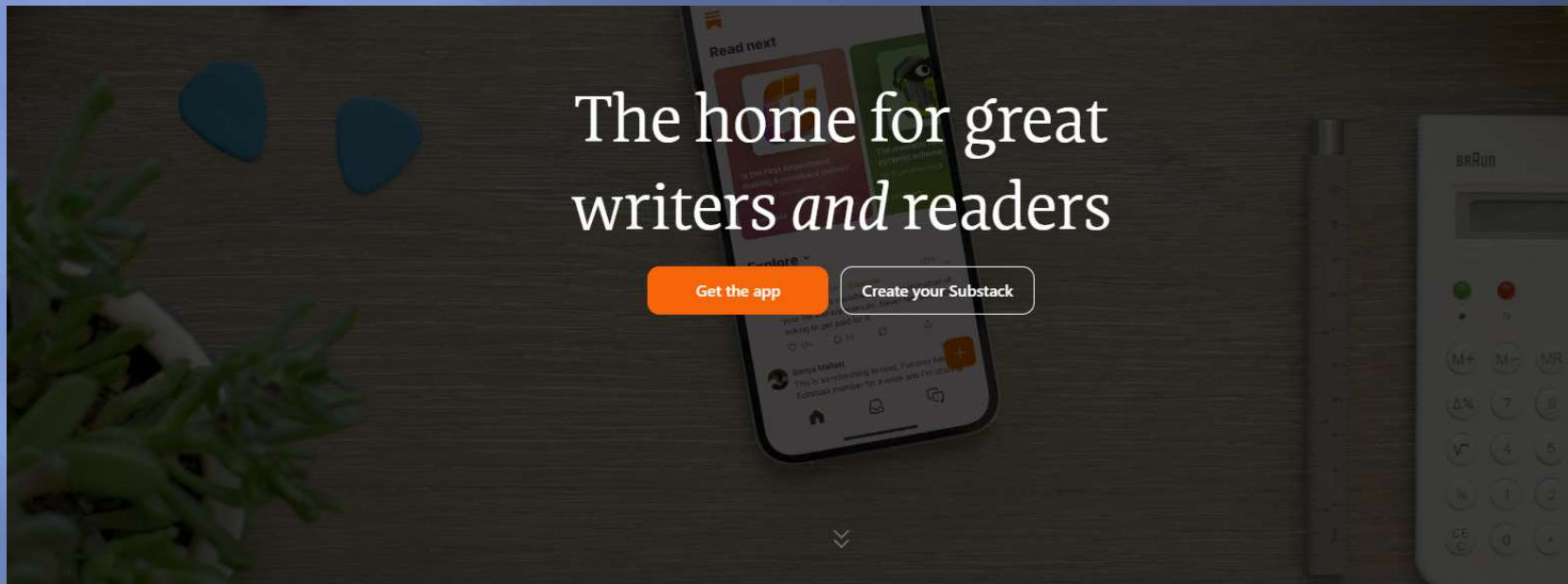
University of Illinois

brant.houston@gmail.com

THE NEW WAYS

- Blogs
- Blogs turned into news websites and newsletters
- News Hubs
- Networks
- Donors, Owners and Donors Pooling Funds

BLOGS TURNED INTO NEWS SITES



The subscription network for
independent writers and
creators

BLOGS

Building a new economic engine for culture



You wrote it, you own it.

You always own your intellectual property, mailing list, and subscriber payments. With full editorial control and no gatekeepers, you can do the work you most believe in.

[Create your Substack](#) →



Grow your audience.

Marketing isn't all on your shoulders. More than 40% of all new free subscriptions and around 20% of paid subscriptions to Substacks come from within our network.

BLOGS

substack.com

What is a Substack?

Substack helps anyone set up a blog and email newsletter. No tech knowledge is required. Without ads and algorithms to get in the way, you can sustain a direct relationship with your readers and retain full control over your creative work.

Do I need to pay for Substack?

It's free to get started on Substack. If you turn on paid subscriptions, Substack will keep a 10% cut of revenues for operating costs like development and customer support. There are no hidden fees and we only make money when writers do.

Do I own what I publish on Substack?

You will always own your content and your relationships with your subscribers. We make it easy to import and export your archive, email list, and payments information to and from other platforms.

Will Substack help me grow my audience?

Yes. More than **40% of all new free subscriptions** and around 20% of paid subscriptions to Substacks come from within our network.

How do I move my past work to Substack?

If you already have an audience on Wordpress, Mailchimp, Ghost, Medium, Tumblr, or another platform, you can easily **import your posts and your email list** in the Substack setup process.

BLOGS TURNED INTO NEWS SITES



POWDER KEG 30 HOSTAGES CHILDREN IDF GREEN LIGHTS GAZA MOVE ***DRUDGE REPORT***



[FBI wrongly questioned Biden staffer about Capitol pipe bombs...](#)



[Silicon Valley Ditches News, Shaking Unstable Industry...](#)



[REVEALED: Thiel was FBI informant...](#)

[POLL: Trump Leading Biden in Key Swing States...](#)

[USA warns every American abroad to be cautious...](#)

[GALLUP: Trust in Media Record Low...](#)

[Homeless pedophile camped near SF school with signs for meth, 'free fentanyl'...](#)



BLOGS TURNED INTO NEWS SITES

TPM

ABOUT TIPS SIGN IN



EDITORS' BLOG

54m ago

Listen To This: Biden's Biggest Climate Win Is In Danger



By Jackie Wilhelm

Kate chats with Vox Senior Reporter Rebecca Leber about how the Inflation Reduction Act is faring a year after passage, and the threats that lie ahead as Republicans try to take back the White House.

kingpointsmemo.com/where-things-stand/sen-laphonza-butler-wont-run-to-permanently-fill-feinsteins-seat

Speaker Race Back In Limbo As Republicans Shut Down Empowering McHenry



4m ago | Where Things Stand

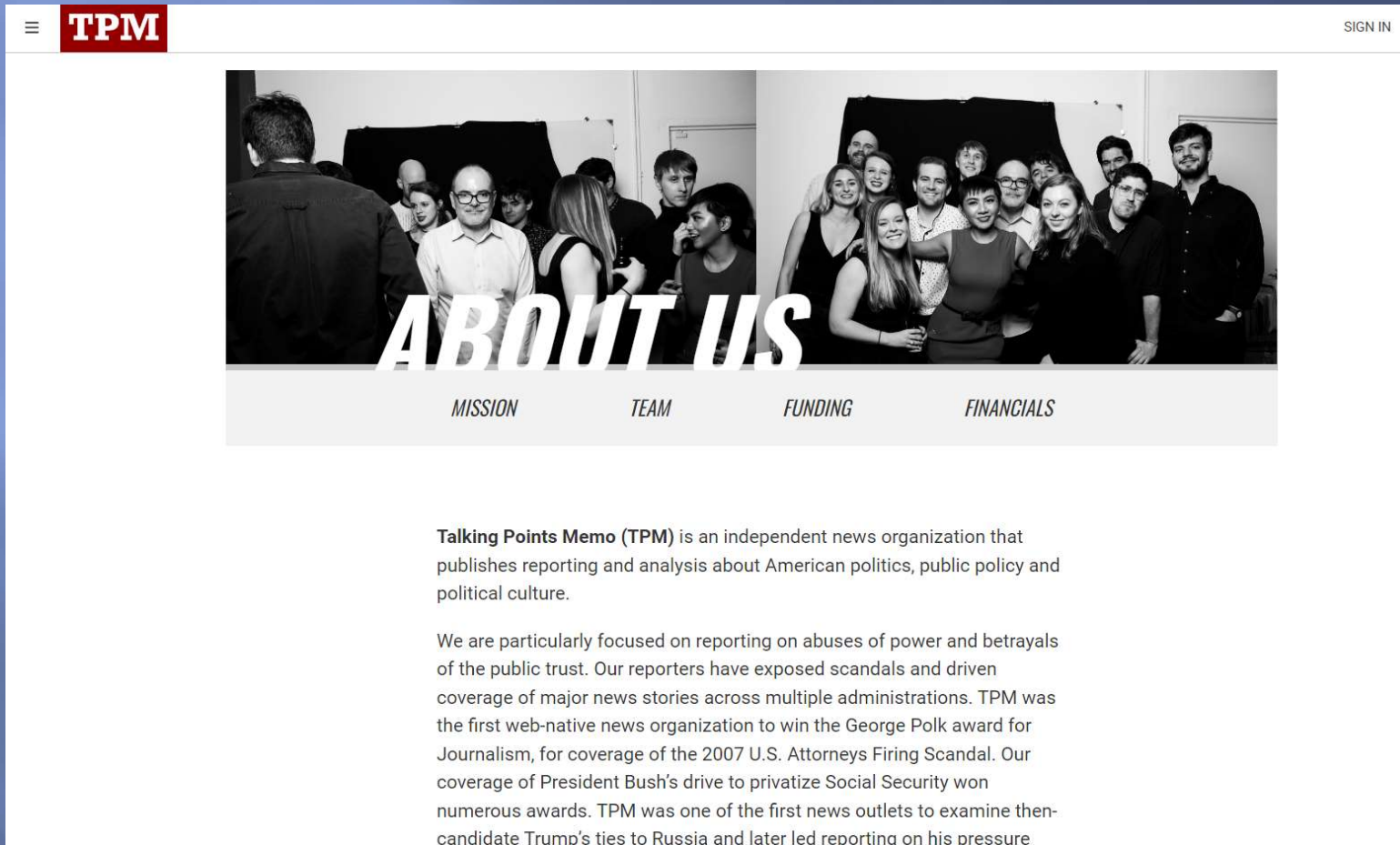
Sen. Laphonza Butler Won't Run To Permanently Fill Feinstein's Seat

This is your TPM evening briefing.




3h ago | News

BLOGS TURNED INTO NEWS SITES



≡ **TPM** SIGN IN



MISSION *TEAM* *FUNDING* *FINANCIALS*

Talking Points Memo (TPM) is an independent news organization that publishes reporting and analysis about American politics, public policy and political culture.

We are particularly focused on reporting on abuses of power and betrayals of the public trust. Our reporters have exposed scandals and driven coverage of major news stories across multiple administrations. TPM was the first web-native news organization to win the George Polk award for Journalism, for coverage of the 2007 U.S. Attorneys Firing Scandal. Our coverage of President Bush's drive to privatize Social Security won numerous awards. TPM was one of the first news outlets to examine then-candidate Trump's ties to Russia and later led reporting on his pressure

BLOGS TURNED INTO NEWS SITES

FINANCIALS

74% of revenue goes to employee salaries

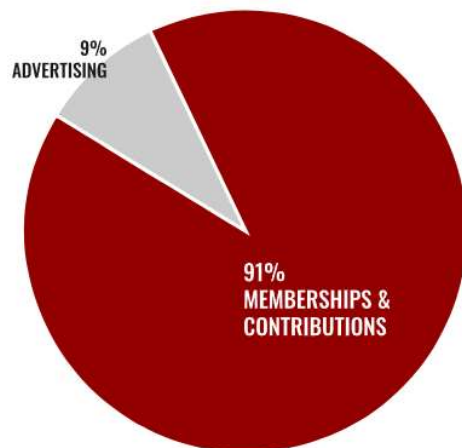
11% of revenue goes to rent

5% of revenue goes to web hosting and associated tech expenses

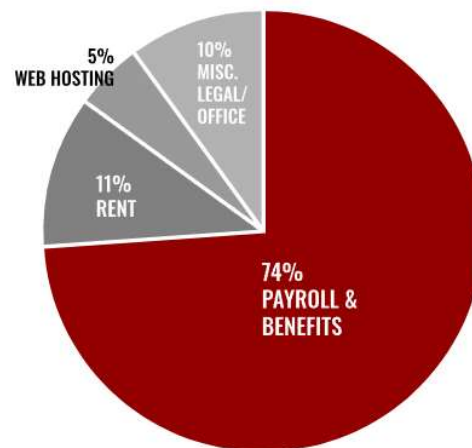
10% of revenue goes to administrative office and legal expenses

We are a lean enterprise. We take our profits and use them to grow our journalistic resources. TPM's editorial staff is also proudly part of the Writers Guild of America, East. When you support TPM, you can rest assured your support is funding journalists.

REVENUE



EXPENSES



VENTURE GROUPS

The screenshot shows the homepage of the American Journalism Project. The browser address bar displays 'theajp.org'. A blue banner at the top contains the text 'READ: Building sustainable local news: AJP's pathway to impact'. The main navigation menu includes 'WHY LOCAL NEWS', 'WHAT WE DO', 'OUR PORTFOLIO', 'NEWS, INSIGHTS & RESEARCH', and 'ABOUT', followed by a 'GET INVOLVED' button and a search icon. The logo 'American Journalism Project' is in the top left. The main content area features the text: 'Empowering communities. Preserving democracy. Rebuilding local news.' with a blue vertical bar at the end of the last line. A blue arrow points downwards on the right side. A black footer bar at the bottom contains the text 'We need local news,'.

theajp.org

READ: Building sustainable local news: AJP's pathway to impact

American Journalism Project

WHY LOCAL NEWS WHAT WE DO OUR PORTFOLIO NEWS, INSIGHTS & RESEARCH ABOUT GET INVOLVED Search

Empowering communities.
Preserving democracy.
Rebuilding local news.










We need local news,

AJP SUPPORTERS

American Journalism Project

WHY LOCAL NEWS WHAT WE DO OUR PORTFOLIO NEWS, INSIGHTS & RESEARCH ABOUT GET I

\$1,000,000+

 KNIGHT FOUNDATION	 Arnold Ventures	 Emerson Collective
 QUADRIVIUM	 OpenAI	Craig Newmark Philanthropic Fund
 democracy fund	 Skyline FOUNDATION	Popplestone Foundation
 Seedlings Foundation	 California COMMUNITY Foundation	ABRAMS FOUNDATION

AJP SUPPORTERS

MacArthur
Foundation

Christopher Buck and
Dr. Hara Schwartz

Horace W. Goldsmith
Foundation

HELLMAN
FOUNDATION

Google
News
Initiative

FACEBOOK
JOURNALISM
PROJECT

\$200,000 to \$999,999

Arthur Vining Davis Foundations | Simone Coxe | Ford Foundation | The Hearthland Foundation | William & Flora Hewlett Foundation | Kaplen Brothers Fund | Lumina Foundation | Erin and John Thornton | Natasha and Dirk Ziff

\$5,000 – \$199,999

Bruce Aidells & Nancy Oakes | The Alderyn Fund | Allen & Company | Pam & Larry Baer | Baskin Family Foundation | Harris A. Berman & Ruth E. Nemzoff Family Foundation | Eliot Brown | Cat's Ear Account | Dana Devon and Neil Sand | Adam Entous | Erkiletian Family Foundation | Freedom Forum | Ann B. and Thomas L. Friedman Family Foundation | Girl Reporter Fund | Good

AJP SUPPORTERS

American
Journalism
Project

WHY LOCAL NEWS

WHAT WE DO ▾

OUR PORTFOLIO

NEWS, INSIGHTS & RESEARCH ▾

ABOUT ▾

GET INVOLVED



We're building a future for local news

We make grants to nonprofit news organizations, partner with communities to launch new organizations, and coach leaders as they grow and sustain their newsrooms. Read more about our programs below.

AJP STATES NEED

We need local news, but it's *under threat*.

Local journalism keeps communities informed and holds the powerful accountable. It is the key to an informed citizenry and provides the tools to safeguard a healthy democracy — but the industry is in crisis.

[Learn how nonprofit news is solving the local news crisis](#)

2,100

newspapers have closed

1,800

communities are without a
local newsroom

60%

of journalism jobs no longer exist

Decline in original reporting.

AJP MISSION

[READ: Building sustainable local news: AJP's pathway to impact](#)

American
Journalism
Project

[WHY LOCAL NEWS](#)

[WHAT WE DO](#) ▾

[OUR PORTFOLIO](#)

[NEWS, INSIGHTS & RESEARCH](#) ▾

[ABOUT](#) ▾

[GET INVOLVED](#)

Q

News & Insights



Featured Post August 30, 2023

[Building sustainable local news: AJP's pathway to impact](#)

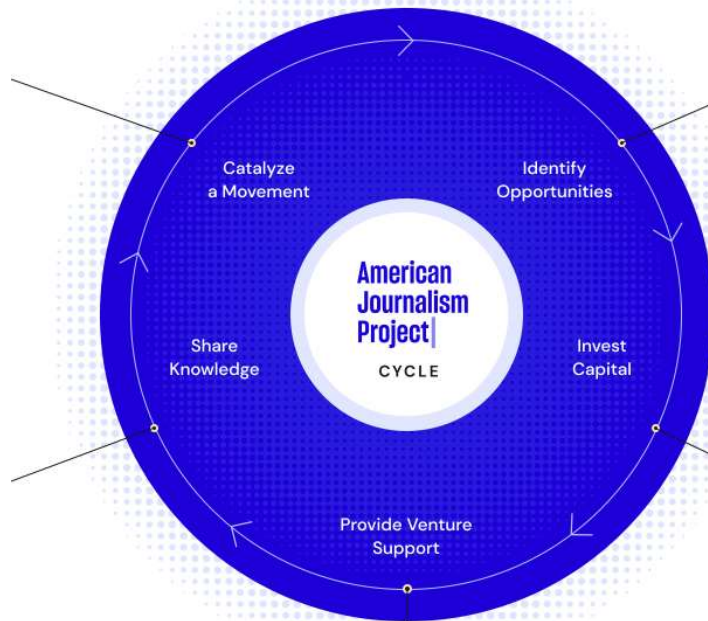
SARABETH BERMAN

Since our launch in 2019, we've codified the focal areas of our work, grown our team, and invested in 41 nonprofit news organizations — with strong results. Since our work has grown in its complexity and breadth, we're taking a moment now to share more details about how we work.



AJP PLAN

Raise national dollars, cultivate local champions, attract outstanding talent, and advocate for local news as a public good



Identify growth potential in existing organizations, incubate outstanding startup leaders, and partner with local philanthropy

Document and share new knowledge and learning practices to the field

Partner with grantees through operational and strategic support, curate best practices from across the sector, and foster peer learning across our portfolio

Make transformative investments for the business and operational capacity of local news organizations to grow and scale sustainably

AJP PLAN

American
Journalism
Project

WHY LOCAL NEWS

WHAT WE DO

OUR PORTFOLIO

NEWS, INSIGHTS & RESEARCH

ABOUT

GET INVOLVED



Partner with local philanthropy

We are working with local philanthropy to identify and address information gaps in their communities.

[Learn more about our local partnerships](#)

Launch startup organizations

We help build new newsrooms from the ground up.

[Learn more about our startup studio](#)



AJP STATES

American Journalism Project

WHY LOCAL NEWS WHAT WE DO ▾ OUR PORTFOLIO NEWS, INSIGHTS & RESEARCH ▾ ABOUT ▾ [GET INVOLVED](#)

Explore this map to see where our grantees are making an impact.

The map shows the following states in dark blue: Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Connecticut. The following states are in light blue: Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Hawaii. A mouse cursor is visible over the map.

AJP COMMUNITIES

American
Journalism
Project

[WHY LOCAL NEWS](#)

[WHAT WE DO](#)

[OUR PORTFOLIO](#)

[NEWS, INSIGHTS & RESEARCH](#)

[ABOUT](#)

[GET INVOLVED](#)

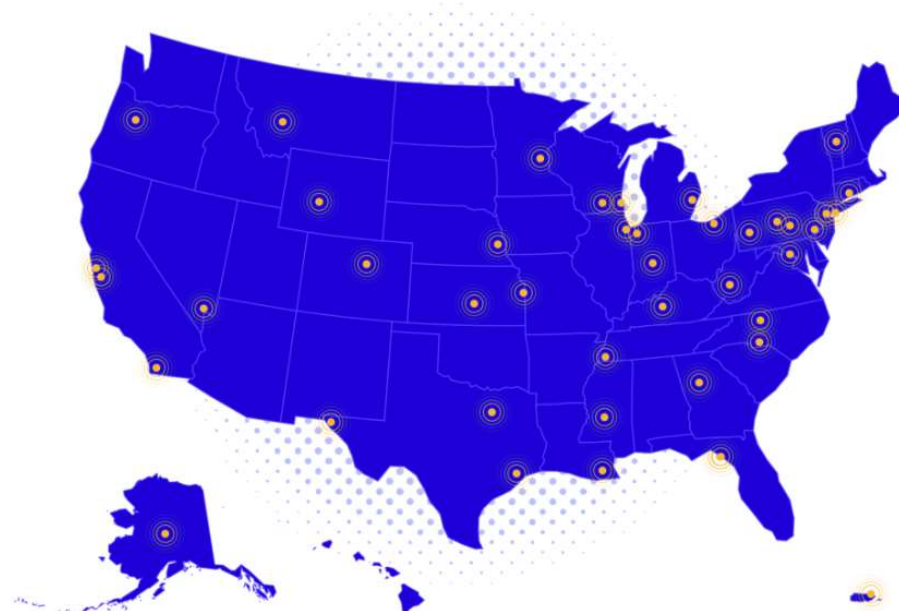
[Q Search](#)

We are investing in the future, today.

We are a venture philanthropy investing in and building digital nonprofit newsrooms that are governed by, are sustained by, and look like the public they serve.

[What we do](#)

[Apply for funding](#)



POOLING LOCAL FUNDS

Our Impact

We're helping to build a new generation of newsrooms

Each of our grantees has an ambitious vision. We help them achieve it.

168M

raised for local
nonprofit news

41

nonprofit news organizations
backed:

37 established organizations and 4
startups currently being incubated

4

newsrooms launched

AJP AND KANSAS

[READ: Building sustainable local news: AJP's pathway to impact](#)



American
Journalism
Project

[WHY LOCAL NEWS](#)

[WHAT WE DO](#) ▾

[OUR PORTFOLIO](#)

[NEWS, INSIGHTS & RESEARCH](#) ▾

[ABOUT](#) ▾

[GET INVOLVED](#)

[Q Search](#)



The Beacon

Wichita, KS / Kansas City, MO

Focus

Building a regional nonprofit news network to serve Kansas and Missouri.

Established

2020

[Visit the Kansas City](#)

[Beacon](#) ↗

[Visit the Wichita](#)

[Beacon](#) ↗

[Donate](#) ↗

AJP AND THE SOUTH

[READ: Building sustainable local news: AJP's pathway to impact](#)



American
Journalism
Project

[WHY LOCAL NEWS](#)

[WHAT WE DO](#) ▾

[OUR PORTFOLIO](#)

[NEWS, INSIGHTS & RESEARCH](#) ▾

[ABOUT](#) ▾

[GET INVOLVED](#)

[Search](#)



Deep South Today

New Orleans, LA / Mississippi

Focus

A networked hub of nonprofit newsrooms serving readers in the Deep South

Established

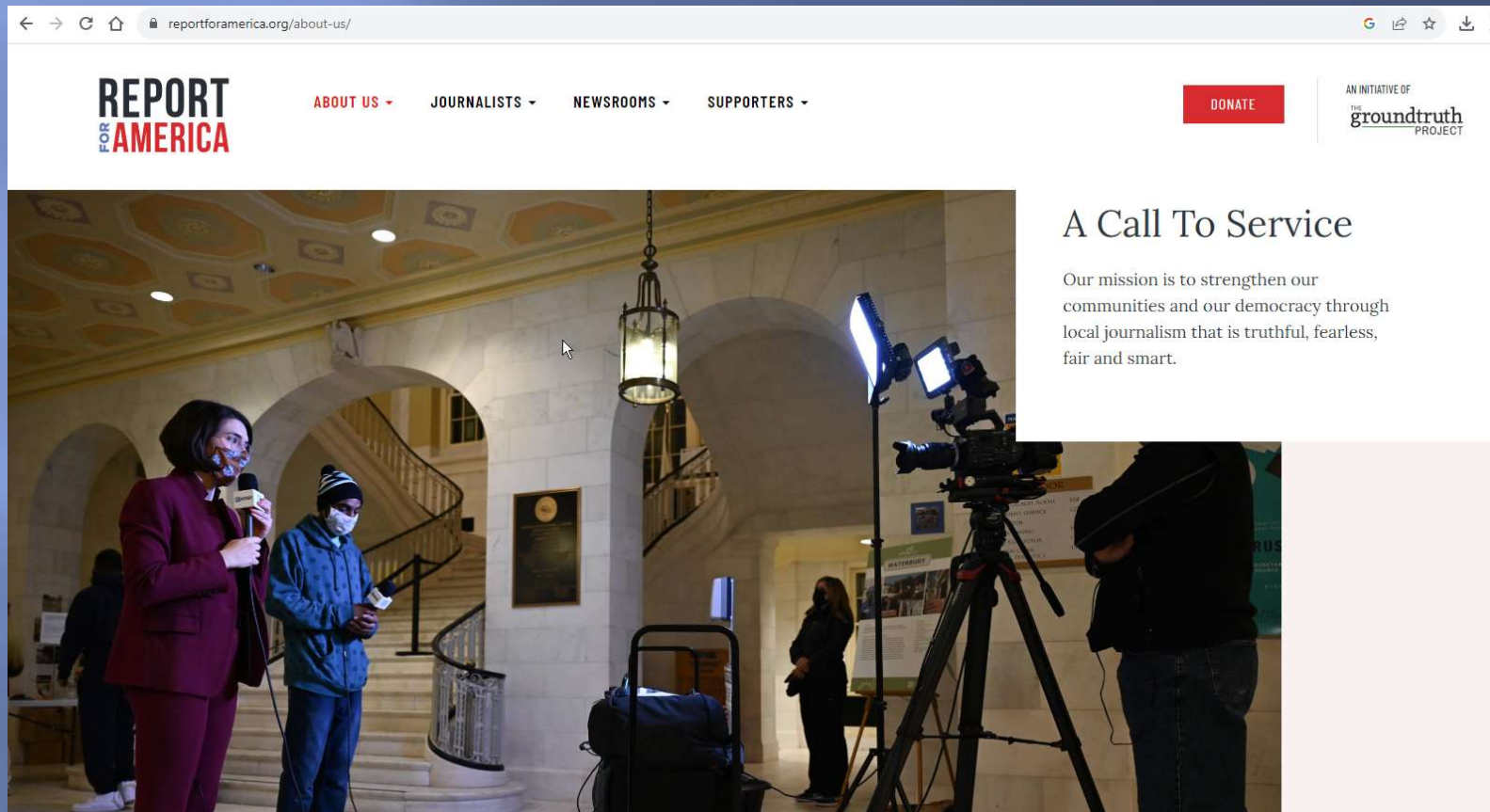
2019

[Deep South Today](#) ↗

[Mississippi Today](#) ↗

[Verite](#) ↗

REPORT FOR AMERICA



The screenshot shows the website for Report for America. The browser address bar displays "reportforamerica.org/about-us/". The navigation menu includes "ABOUT US", "JOURNALISTS", "NEWSROOMS", and "SUPPORTERS", each with a dropdown arrow. A red "DONATE" button is located on the right side of the navigation bar. Below the navigation bar, there is a large video player area. The video shows a woman in a maroon suit speaking into a microphone, with a man in a blue jacket and mask standing next to her. A professional video camera on a tripod is visible in the foreground, and a person is partially visible on the right side of the frame. The background is an ornate interior space with arches and a staircase.

REPORT FOR AMERICA

ABOUT US - JOURNALISTS - NEWSROOMS - SUPPORTERS -

DONATE

AN INITIATIVE OF
the **groundtruth**
PROJECT

A Call To Service

Our mission is to strengthen our communities and our democracy through local journalism that is truthful, fearless, fair and smart.

THE CRISIS STATED AGAIN

The screenshot shows the Report for America website. The navigation bar includes the logo, 'ABOUT US', 'JOURNALISTS', 'NEWSROOMS', 'SUPPORTERS', and a 'DONATE' button. The main content area features a section titled 'The Crisis' with text explaining the decline of local journalism and its impact on democracy. To the right is an infographic titled 'The Collapse of Local Reporting' showing a 57% drop in newspaper employees, a 62% drop in reporters per 100,000 people, and a 67% drop in reporters per 100 million in state and local government spending. Below the text is a photograph of a reporter in a purple cap talking to a man in a plaid shirt in an orchard. The 'The Solution' section describes the national service program and includes a 'Join the corps' link.

The Crisis

The collapse of local journalism has created a crisis for democracy. Residents no longer get the information they need to understand the critical issues facing their community, to make good decisions for their family, and hold elected officials accountable.

This problem is not going to be solved by a new phone app or an increase of a few pennies in digital ad rates. It's time to try something dramatically different.

The Collapse of Local Reporting

From 2004 to 2020, the number of...

Newsroom employees dropped	Reporters per 100,000 population dropped	Reporters per 100 million in state and local government spending dropped
57%	62%	67%

The Solution

Report for America is a national service program that places journalists into local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues and communities. An initiative of the nonprofit media organization, The GroundTruth Project, it is structured to harness the skills and idealism of an emerging group of journalists plus the creative spirit of local news organizations.

[Join the corps](#)

REPORT FOR AMERICA

American
Journalism
Project

WHY LOCAL NEWS

WHAT WE DO

OUR PORTFOLIO

NEWS, INSIGHTS & RESEARCH

ABOUT

GET INVOLVED

Nonprofit newsrooms are filling the information gap.

A new generation of digital, nonprofit news models has taken hold across the country, showing us a path to not only rebuild what was lost, but reimagine local news in service of all communities.

[View our portfolio of grantees](#)



We're proving that every community can have an independent, resilient and representative civic press.

[See our impact](#)

168M

dollars raised for local

41

nonprofit news organizations

REPORT FOR AMERICA

REPORT FOR AMERICA

ABOUT US ▾

JOURNALISTS ▾

NEWSROOMS ▾

SUPPORTERS ▾

DONATE



Become A Corps Member

We are looking for talented, ethical, insanely hard-working, gutsy, open-minded, service-oriented journalists to cover under-reported issues and communities in towns and cities throughout the country and hold powerful institutions accountable.



Become A Host Newsroom

We'll recruit for you talented journalists with the skills you need to cover critical beats. We'll pay roughly half their salary. And we'll help you fundraise more effectively. To date, we've helped unlock nearly \$22 million for Report for America newsrooms.



Subscribe to our newsletter

Subscribe

REPORT FOR AMERICA

← → ↻ 🏠 reportforamerica.org

REPORT FOR AMERICA


ABOUT US ▾ JOURNALISTS ▾ NEWSROOMS ▾ SUPPORTERS ▾

DONATE

AN INITIATIVE OF
THE groundtruth PROJECT

Local Journalism, National Service

Learn more →

An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood. The houses are mostly two-story structures with various roof colors like grey, brown, and green. There are green lawns, trees, and winding roads. The overall scene is a typical residential area.

REPORT FOR AMERICA

The screenshot shows the 'about-us' page of reportforamerica.org. The navigation bar includes the logo, 'ABOUT US', 'JOURNALISTS', 'NEWSROOMS', 'SUPPORTERS', and a 'DONATE' button. The main content features a circular graphic titled 'We Help Pay Reporters' Salaries' with a breakdown: 50% from Report for America, 25% from News Organizations, and 25% from Local Donors. To the right, the 'How it Works' section explains the two-step competition process and the two-year commitment for corps members.

reportforamerica.org/about-us/

REPORT FOR AMERICA ABOUT US JOURNALISTS NEWSROOMS SUPPORTERS DONATE

We Help Pay Reporters' Salaries

50%	REPORT FOR AMERICA
25%	NEWS ORGANIZATIONS
25%	LOCAL DONORS

How it Works

We hold two competitions. In one, news organizations make the case that they have urgent gaps in coverage and a plan to deploy the Report for America corps member. In the second, talented emerging journalists apply to serve these communities.

Report for America pays about half the salary. The other half is paid by the local news organization but we work with them to raise half of their half from local donors, small and large.

The Report for America corps members get world class training, at the beginning of the term and throughout the service years. The term is a two-year commitment between the corps member and newsroom with an option for a third year.

Become a host newsroom →

REPORT FOR AMERICA

REPORT FOR AMERICA

ABOUT US ▾

JOURNALISTS ▾

NEWSROOMS ▾

SUPPORTERS ▾

DONATE

Reporting with Real Impact



Lawmakers take steps to overhaul Maine's troubled legal defense system

Samantha Hogan's investigation uncovered sweeping errors in the financial oversight of the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services, revealing overbilling of up to \$2.2 million by lawyers defending Maine's poor. Her continued coverage, still



A corruption scandal mobilizes a community and sparks bipartisan action

Corps members **Brandon Pho**, **Hosam Elattar** and **Noah Biesiada** at Voice of OC have spent months covering developments in Anaheim, California, a city turned upside down by an FBI public corruption probe. The corps members' continued reporting has

REPORT FOR AMERICA

By The Numbers

Our reporters in the field today are covering critically important beats across the United States, Puerto Rico and Guam. That's just the beginning. Next year, we'll send even more reporters throughout the country. We aim to place 1,000 reporters and strive to fundamentally transform local news business models and ecosystems. Since launching in 2017:

604

JOURNALISTS PLACED IN NEWSROOMS

338

NEWSROOM PARTNERS SUPPORTED

\$21M

RAISED LOCALLY FOR NEWSROOMS

REPORT FOR AMERICA COMMUNITIES

REPORT FOR AMERICA


ABOUT US ▾

JOURNALISTS ▾

NEWSROOMS ▾

SUPPORTERS ▾

DONATE



Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage, AK
Associated Press, 18 statehouses throughout U.S.
Baltimore Sun, Baltimore, MD
Casper Star-Tribune, Wind River Reservation, WY
Centro Del Periodismo Investigativo, San Juan, PR
Chicago Sun Times, Chicago, IL
Columbus Dispatch, Columbus, OH
Community Voice, Wichita, KS
Dallas Morning News, Dallas, TX
Delaware Public Media, Dover, DE
El Nuevo Herald, Miami, FL
FlintBeat.com, Flint, MI
Fresno Bee, Fresno, CA
Houston Public Media, Houston, TX
Iowa Public Radio, Des Moines, IA
Kansas City PBS, Kansas City, MO
Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting, Louisville, KY
KUER, Salt Lake City, UT
La Noticia, Charlotte, NC
Miami Herald, Miami, FL
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Milwaukee, WI
New Mexico In Depth, Rio Rancho, NM
Oklahoma Watch, Oklahoma City, OK
South Dakota Public Broadcasting, Vermillion, SD
Spokesman-Review, Spokane, WA
Star Tribune, Minneapolis, MN

Our Newsroom Partners

Participating newsroom partners include nonprofit and for-profit organizations, daily and weekly newspapers, digital only newsrooms, TV and radio stations. They've been in every state, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam.

[Learn more](#)

RFA MODEL

The traditional, advertising-centric business model for local news is broken. Report for America is dedicated to supporting a new model—one that promotes local philanthropy as part of what fuels a healthy, thriving information ecosystem.

Our Model

Report for America leverages a three-to-one funding match model:

- The '**National Share**': Report for America's contribution towards the corps member's salary. One-half of salary the first year (up to \$25,000), one-third the second year, and one-fifth the third year.
- The '**Local Share**': 25% of reporter salary — also referred to as the Minimum Fundraising Requirement.
- The '**Newsroom Share**': The final portion of the corps member's salary, which grows every year as the National Share declines. Newsrooms should aim to fundraise for this expense, above and beyond the Local Share.

This approach promotes new models for shared investment in local reporting, increasing the chances of sustaining public service journalism, for the community, by the community.

In our 2022-23 program year, Report for America's local newsrooms raised \$7.9 million for local news — \$3 million more than the 2020-21 program year.

Most of this support came from individual donors—teachers, plumbers, lawyers, librarians, car dealers, nuns, and more—who understand the vital role local journalism plays in their community and who are willing to make an investment if only asked.

Collaborations between local newsrooms and community foundations have also proven to be sustainable paths forward for journalism philanthropy. Learn more about what we've found in **our latest "Community News Funds" report**.

[Read the report →](#)

RFA FUNDING

Thank you to the supporters who make this possible

\$500,000+

Meta Journalism Project – \$6.5M

Knight Foundation – \$5M

Vere Initiatives

Anonymous

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – \$1.5M

Google News Initiative – \$1.25M

Joyce Foundation – \$1M

Craig Newmark Philanthropies – \$855,000

Jonathan Logan Family Foundation – \$800,000

Microsoft – \$716,000

Corporation for Public Broadcasting – \$648,912

Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation – \$660,000

The Hearthland Foundation – \$600,000

Tow Foundation – \$600,000

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative – \$550,000

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation – \$500,000

Heising-Simons Foundation – \$500,000

Lumina Foundation – \$500,000

\$50,000 – \$499,999

University of Missouri School of Journalism & the Walton Family Foundation – \$480,000

Posner Foundation – \$450,000

Evelyn Y. Davis Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee – \$435,000

LOR Foundation – \$120,000

Galloway Family Foundation – \$120,000

Commonwealth Fund – \$100,111

Anonymous – \$100,000

NETWORKS OF NEWSROOMS

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL inn.org/news/institute-for-nonprofit-news-launches-ruralnewsnetwork-org/. The page features a white header with the INN logo (three squares) and the text "Institute for Nonprofit News". Navigation links include "ABOUT", "NETWORK", "RESOURCES", "RESEARCH", "NEWS", "EVENTS", "JOBS", and a prominent orange "DONATE" button. A search bar and buttons for "SIGN UP", "EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP", and "MEMBER FAQ" are also present. The main content area has a blue grid background with the headline "Institute for Nonprofit News launches RuralNewsNetwork.org". Below this is a breadcrumb trail: "Home | News | Institute for Nonprofit News...". The article text begins with the date "MAY 10, 2023" and a paragraph about rural news coverage. Social media share icons for Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Print are visible on the right. The article text continues with a paragraph about funding from the Knight Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, and Walton Family Foundation.

inn.org/news/institute-for-nonprofit-news-launches-ruralnewsnetwork-org/





SEARCH SIGN UP EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP MEMBER FAQ

Institute for Nonprofit News

ABOUT NETWORK RESOURCES RESEARCH NEWS EVENTS JOBS DONATE

Institute for Nonprofit News launches RuralNewsNetwork.org

Home | News | Institute for Nonprofit News...

SHARE    

MAY 10, 2023

Rural Americans are among the most impacted by the decline of traditional newspapers. Even where news outlets still exist, their coverage may not reflect the diversity of rural populations today or go deep into the issues that disproportionately affect rural regions, such as climate change, access to health care, and the economics of Indigenous communities.

Thanks to dedicated grants from the Knight Foundation, MacArthur Foundation and the Walton Family Foundation, and generous general operating and series support from other funders, the Institute for Nonprofit News (INN) is expanding

RURAL NETWORK



Institute for
Nonprofit News

ABOUT NETWORK RESOURCES RESEARCH NEWS EVENTS JOBS

DONATE

subset of the 400+ members of the [INN Network](#).



Locally sourced, collaborative reporting
from and for rural America.



© Christopher Robinson for Center Place

BRING INN TO YOUR INDEX

LATEST NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

ENLACE LATINO NC

¿Qué significa el fin del Título 42?

MAY 8, 2023

La orden permitió a las autoridades expulsar rápidamente a los migrantes que trabajaban de cruzar de manera irregular, las fronteras terrestres de EE.UU.

IMMIGRATION

THE CONVERSATION U.S.

These four challenges will shape the next farm bill – and how the U.S. eats

MAY 8, 2023

Together, these newsrooms seek to redefine current mainstream narratives of the lived experiences of the 46 million people who live in rural areas, a quarter of whom identify as people of color. To date, the consortium has produced five collaborative series centering rural voices, hired a dedicated editor, [Alana Rocha](#), invested \$300,000 in local newsrooms, and facilitated republication of the series in more than 100 news outlets, including major national publications like The New York Times.

UNIVERSITY AND NEWSROOM NETWORK

agwaterdesk.org





Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk

An independent reporting collaborative from the Missouri School of Journalism with Report for America and the Society of Environmental Journalists

[Run our stories for free →](#)

Our Latest Reporting

Click on an image to read the story, or click the link above to see more recent headlines.



UNIVERSITY AND NEWSROOM NETWORK

journalism.missouri.edu/real-world-experiences/centers-and-institutes/mississippi-river-ag-water-desk/

Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk



The Missouri School of Journalism's Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk is a **collaborative reporting network** providing **in-depth journalism** and **communication about water, agriculture and environmental issues across the Mississippi River Basin**.

As environmental problems continue to mount, the **public's need for fact-based information increases**. This is not a farm problem or a city problem. Everybody lives in a watershed; it's everyone's problem, and it needs more attention.

Through a partnership with Report for America, **reporters create local and regional stories in collaboration with the Desk**. Additionally, **we work with some of the strongest established reporting outlets and journalists in the region**. Plus, the Desk works with the Society



PUBLIC BROADCASTING HUBS

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Grant Gerlock / Special to Harvest Public Media

News

Plans for carbon dioxide pipelines raise safety concerns for small town responders in the Midwest

October 9, 2023

Proposed projects would add more than 3,000 miles of new carbon pipelines through rural parts of the Midwest. Some emergency officials are concerned about safety, especially after a rupture on a similar pipeline three years ago.

▶ LISTEN • 4:20

HARVEST
PUBLIC MEDIA

Covering our food system from the Heartland

[About Us](#)

Contact Harvest Public Media

Meet The Team

Maria Altman
Editor, Harvest Public Media

PUBLIC BROADCASTING HUBS



The screenshot shows the website for St. Louis Public Radio (s|t|l|p|r) and NPR. The navigation bar includes the station's name and the slogan "All Things Considered". Below this is a sub-header for "Inside St. Louis Public Radio" with a subtext: "Stay up to date with the latest news and information about St. Louis Public Radio." The main headline reads "NPR Announces Midwest Regional Journalism Hub". The byline is "St. Louis Public Radio | By Madalyn Painter" and the publication date is "Published May 19, 2020 at 10:21 AM CDT". Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email are visible. The main image is a black and white photograph of a news crew on location, featuring a woman in the foreground looking at a smartphone, surrounded by cameras and boom microphones.

s|t|l|p|r npr

St. Louis Public Radio
All Things Considered

s|t|l|p|r **Inside St. Louis Public Radio**
Stay up to date with the latest news and information about St. Louis Public Radio.

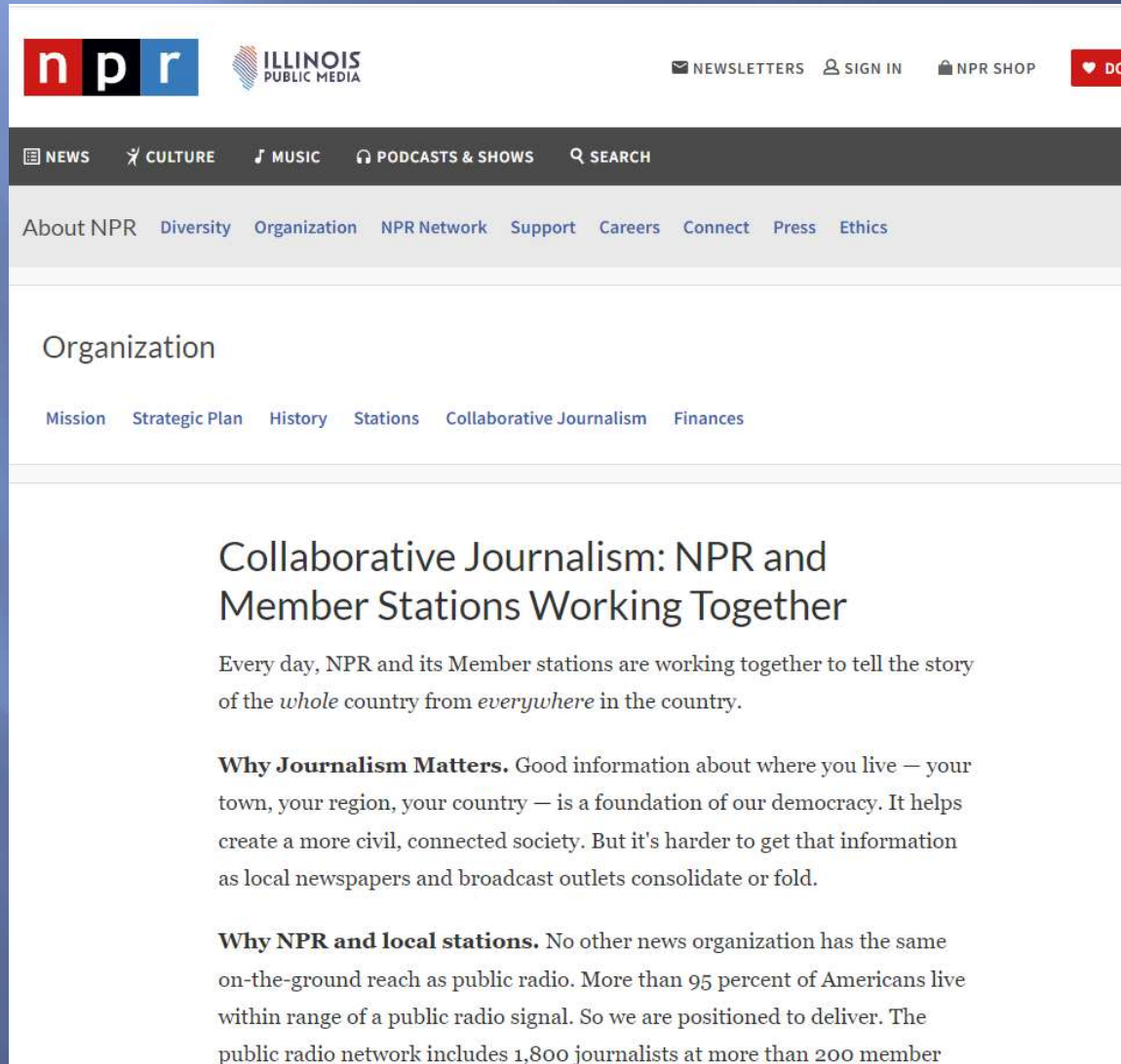
NPR Announces Midwest Regional Journalism Hub

St. Louis Public Radio | By Madalyn Painter
Published May 19, 2020 at 10:21 AM CDT

f t in ✉



PUBLIC BROADCASTING HUBS



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the NPR website. On the left are the NPR logo and the Illinois Public Media logo. On the right are links for NEWSLETTERS, SIGN IN, NPR SHOP, and DONATE. Below this is a dark navigation bar with links for NEWS, CULTURE, MUSIC, PODCASTS & SHOWS, and SEARCH. A secondary navigation bar contains links for About NPR, Diversity, Organization, NPR Network, Support, Careers, Connect, Press, and Ethics. The main content area is titled 'Organization' and includes sub-links for Mission, Strategic Plan, History, Stations, Collaborative Journalism, and Finances. The featured article is titled 'Collaborative Journalism: NPR and Member Stations Working Together' and discusses the partnership between NPR and its member stations to provide comprehensive coverage of the United States.

npr ILLINOIS PUBLIC MEDIA

NEWSLETTERS SIGN IN NPR SHOP DONATE

NEWS CULTURE MUSIC PODCASTS & SHOWS SEARCH

About NPR Diversity Organization NPR Network Support Careers Connect Press Ethics

Organization

Mission Strategic Plan History Stations Collaborative Journalism Finances

Collaborative Journalism: NPR and Member Stations Working Together

Every day, NPR and its Member stations are working together to tell the story of the *whole* country from *everywhere* in the country.

Why Journalism Matters. Good information about where you live — your town, your region, your country — is a foundation of our democracy. It helps create a more civil, connected society. But it's harder to get that information as local newspapers and broadcast outlets consolidate or fold.

Why NPR and local stations. No other news organization has the same on-the-ground reach as public radio. More than 95 percent of Americans live within range of a public radio signal. So we are positioned to deliver. The public radio network includes 1,800 journalists at more than 200 member

PUBLIC BROADCASTING HUBS



Station Investigations Team

Led by Cheryl W. Thompson, an award-winning investigative reporter and 22-year veteran of The Washington Post who joined NPR in 2019, the Station Investigations Team works with Member stations to report ambitious investigative projects. The team, funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, includes a producer and a data editor who will advise reporters who'd like technical help with skills such as data collection and analysis and freedom of information requests. The team also helps facilitate stations' opportunities to localize NPR investigations through webinars and open-source data.

Regional Newsrooms

MIDWEST

All 25 public radio stations in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska serving some 63 cities will have access to content produced by the Midwest Newsroom, which will be led by managing editor Holly Edgell. The newsroom partners include the largest public media stations in the region--[KCUR in Kansas City](#), [St. Louis Public Radio](#), [Iowa Public Radio](#) and [Nebraska Public Media](#)--with NPR as the national partner.



[READ MORE](#)

Holly Edgell Will Lead Midwest Newsroom Collaboration as Managing Editor



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\$4.7 Million Grant From Eric & Wendy Schmidt to NPR Collaborative Journalism Network

PUBLIC BROADCASTING HUBS

GULF STATES

Public media stations in Birmingham, Alabama (WBHM); Jackson, Mississippi (Mississippi Public Broadcasting); and New Orleans (WWNO) and Baton Rouge (WRKF), Louisiana, have joined together to launch the Gulf States Newsroom under the leadership of managing editor Priska Neely.



[READ MORE](#)

**The Gulf States Newsroom
Builds Connections for
Better Journalism**



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**CPB, NPR Partner with
Public Media Stations to
Launch Gulf States
Newsroom**

CALIFORNIA

Public radio stations across California have teamed up with NPR on a regional newsroom to increase coverage of statewide issues and boost reporting from and for underserved regions across the state.



[READ MORE](#)

**Public Radio Veteran
Adriene Hill to Lead
California Statewide
Regional Newsroom**

Led by KQED in San Francisco, the collaboration partners include KPBS, CapRadio, KPCC/LAist and KCRW, along with NPR. The California Newsroom led by managing editor [Adriene Hill](#) serves all 17 public radio stations across the state that broadcast in 50 cities.

TEXAS

[Corrie MacLaggan](#) is the statewide managing editor for The Texas Newsroom, a collaboration led by the state's four largest public radio stations — [KERA](#) in Dallas, [KUT](#) in Austin, [Texas Public Radio](#) in San Antonio, and [Houston Public Media](#). The partners plan coverage together, share resources, and produce six live statewide newscasts every weekday. Smaller Texas stations also contribute reporting and air the [statewide newscasts](#).



[READ MORE](#)

**Texas Public Radio Stations
And NPR Launch
Collaborative Statewide
Newsroom**

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES

FREE PRESS INDIANA

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

Local News Serving Indiana

We're on a mission to make sure every resident of Indiana has the local news they need.

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Our Strategy



Fill Gaps

We're going to launch community-centered nonprofit newsrooms where needed around the state, beginning with a robust newsroom in Central Indiana.



Facilitate Investment

Rally philanthropic support for partner news organizations to strengthen their news and their impact.



Foster Collaboration

Support the local ecosystem in coordinating collaboration to close coverage gaps, share content and make more local journalism available to all Hoosiers who need it.

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES

The screenshot displays the 'Board' section of the Free Press Indiana website. At the top left is the 'FREE PRESS INDIANA Board' logo. In the top center is a 'SIGN UP FOR UPDATES' button. At the top right is a hamburger menu icon. The board members are arranged in two rows of three. Each member's name and title are listed below their circular portrait.

FREE PRESS INDIANA Board [SIGN UP FOR UPDATES](#) ☰

Karen Ferguson Fuson
Board chair, Free Press Indiana
Former Publisher, Indianapolis Star

Carolene Mays
Former State Representative & President
of the Indianapolis Recorder

Mark Miles
Chief Executive Officer, Penske
Entertainment Corp

Michael Ouimette
Chief Investment Officer, American
Journalism Project

Melissa Proffitt
Partner-in-Charge of Client Relations, Ice
Miller LLP

Myrta Pulliam
Journalist and Community
Leader

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES

FREE PRESS INDIANA

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES



Local News Matters

Unbiased, nonpartisan, contextual journalism is a vital part of our local communities and for democracy.



"Free and open access to local news is a foundational part of our communities and democracy. This initiative is a first step in ensuring this vital community asset can continue to exist, and serve all Hoosiers."

Tamara Winfrey-Harris,
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER

PHOTO: MAXINE WALLACE



"We need knowledgeable and responsible reporters to help [residents] stay informed and connected, which strengthens the community."

Jane Howard,
MARION COUNTY RESIDENT, COMMUNITY LISTENING
AMBASSADOR

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES

FREE PRESS INDIANA

Tamara Winfrey-Harris,
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

Jane Howard,
MAHON COUNTY RESIDENT, COMMUNITY LISTENING
AMBASSADOR



We want to hear from you.

Tell us what matters most to you, and
how you want to receive updates



PHOTO: MAXINE WALLACE



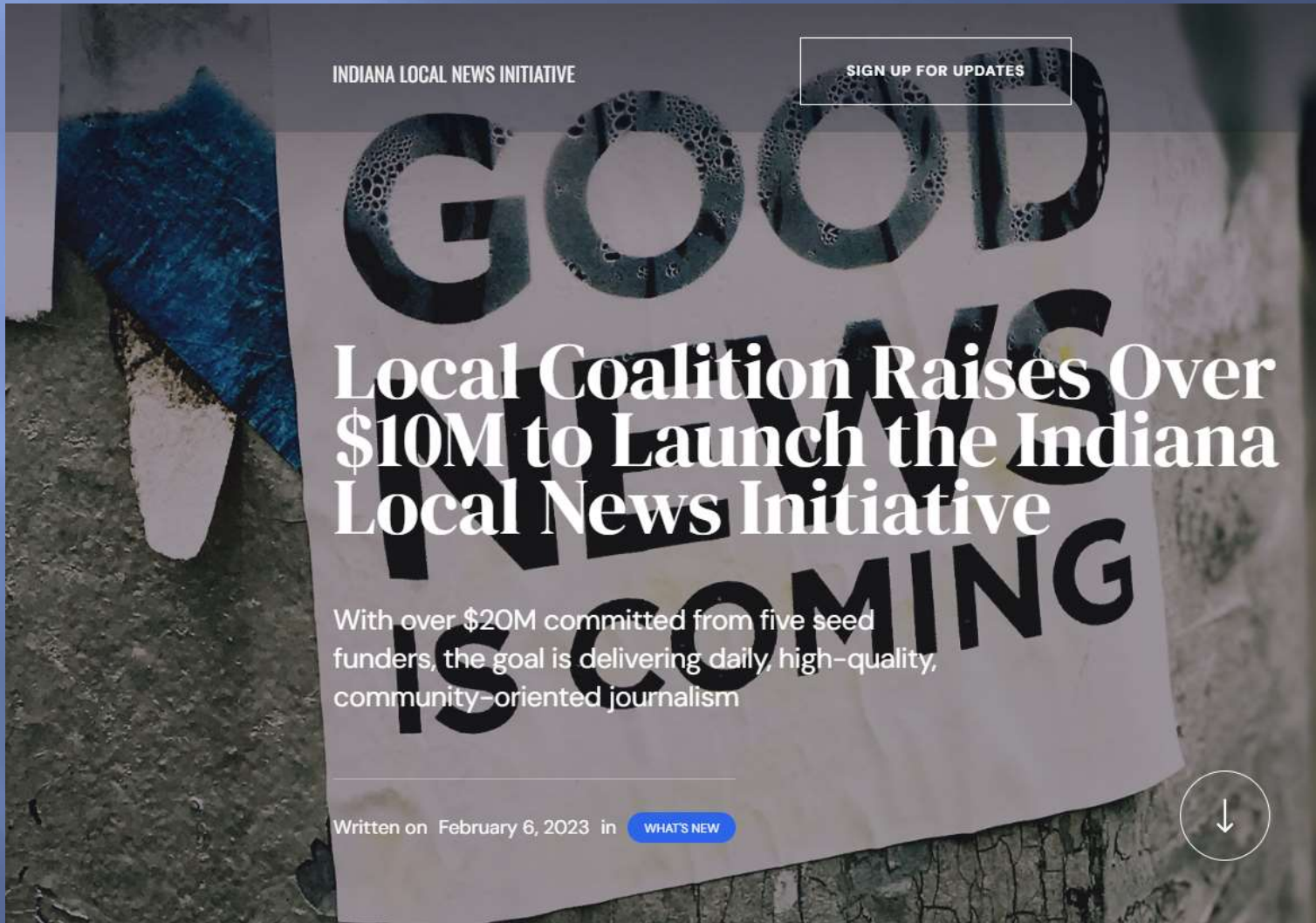
**Local Coalition Raises Over
\$10M to Launch the Indiana
Local News Initiative**



PHOTO: MAXINE WALLACE

LEARN MORE

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES



INDIANA LOCAL NEWS INITIATIVE

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

Local Coalition Raises Over \$10M to Launch the Indiana Local News Initiative

With over \$20M committed from five seed funders, the goal is delivering daily, high-quality, community-oriented journalism

Written on February 6, 2023 in [WHAT'S NEW](#)

↓

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES

INDIANA LOCAL NEWS INITIATIVE

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

With support from Lumina Foundation and Joyce Foundation, **Capital B will launch a new local newsroom serving Gary**, which will deliver trusted and high-quality reporting tailored to the needs of Black communities in Gary and the Northwest Indiana region. As Capital B's second location after Atlanta, the new newsroom will publish critical information about affordable housing, applying for benefits, voting and more. It will produce civic journalism and accountability reporting with an editorial strategy informed by intensive community listening and engagement.

TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students, which previously charged newsrooms for rights to its award-winning coverage of state government, has received support from Lumina Foundation to make its content available free to members of the Hoosier State Press Association, greatly increasing the availability of critical statehouse coverage for all Hoosiers. The grant also supports TheStatehouseFile.com's partnership with **The Indiana Citizen**, an award-winning nonprofit news and civic engagement organization focused on providing reporting from the Indiana Statehouse and news and information on civic life in Indiana.

The Indianapolis Recorder, one of the oldest surviving African American newspapers in the country, has received a grant from The Indianapolis Foundation, an affiliate of the Central Indiana Community Foundation, to add two new roles to its staff as part of the initiative, and will be able to remove its paywall as a result of the support.

Indiana News Service, a bureau of Public News Service, is a newswire that is heard, read and seen through nearly 70 media outlets across the entire state, the majority of which serve rural areas. Indiana News Service has received support from Lumina Foundation to expand original Indiana reporting, air a statewide newscast Monday to Friday, collaborate with local news outlets, and distribute the reporting to media outlets across Indiana, for free.

Other partners include WFYI Public Media, one of the longest standing, independent

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES

INDIANA LOCAL NEWS INITIATIVE

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Newsroom partners will include:

- Arnolt Center for Investigative Journalism at Indiana University
- Capital B Gary
- Chalkbeat Indiana
- Circle City Broadcasting
- Hoosier State Press Association
- Indiana Capital Chronicle
- The Indiana Citizen
- Indiana News Service
- The Indianapolis Recorder
- Indianapolis Star
- TheStatehouseFile.com
- WFYI Public Media
- WISH-TV

About the Indiana Local News Initiative

The [Indiana Local News Initiative](#) is a nonprofit organization based in Indianapolis, fiscally sponsored by the American Journalism Project. With \$10 million raised so far, it is on a mission to ensure all residents of Indiana have the local news and information they want and need, and is filling information gaps with the launch of a robust newsroom in Central Indiana, facilitating investments in journalism outlets around the state, and fostering collaboration among Indiana outlets to amplify local journalism for all Hoosiers, especially underserved communities. The initiative receives support from a broad coalition of philanthropies.

About the American Journalism Project

The [American Journalism Project](#) is a venture philanthropy dedicated to local news. We believe in civic journalism as a public good and are reimagining its future by building a model to finance and sustain the local news our democracy requires. We make grants to

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES

AXIOS Indianapolis

[News](#) [Things to Do](#) [Food and Drink](#) [Politics](#) [Real Estate](#) [Business](#) [Sports](#)

Oct 19, 2023 - News

Indianapolis news nonprofit raids IndyStar's staff



James Briggs



Illustration: Megan Robinson/Axios

The Indianapolis Star is bleeding staff to a news nonprofit that has only just begun its hiring
spring

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES

The Indianapolis Star is bleeding staff to a news nonprofit that has only just begun its hiring spree.

Why it matters: Gannett-owned IndyStar faces perhaps the most competition for staff, readers and advertisers since it combined operations with the Indianapolis News, a newspaper that closed in 1999.

Driving the news: Free Press Indiana, a nonprofit with \$10 million, has hired away three IndyStar editors as it builds a news site called Mirror Indy.

- Bro Krift, IndyStar's former executive editor, is CEO.
- Oseye Boyd, former public engagement editor, is editor-in-chief.
- Chris Sikich, former enterprise editor overseeing politics and government, is managing editor.

State of play: Mirror Indy is joining the Indiana Capital Chronicle, State Affairs and Axios as [newcomers to the Indianapolis media scene](#).

- The nonprofit, [formerly known as the Indiana Local News Initiative](#), has said it is building a 25-person newsroom, which would put Mirror Indy on a scale approaching IndyStar's news staff.

🗨️ **James' thought bubble:** Free Press Indiana has a [formal partnership](#) with IndyStar, but it's looking more like a hostile takeover as it raids staff for [job openings](#) listed at six figures for editors and up to \$80,000 for reporters.

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES

The other side: "We are actively recruiting for all open positions at The Indianapolis Star, including the role of executive editor, and across the USA TODAY Network," Gannett told Axios in a statement.

Between the lines: Gannett's 2019 merger with Gatehouse created a massive company intended to position 200-plus newspapers, including IndyStar, as dominant forces for local news and advertising.

- The proliferation of local news outlets has eroded IndyStar's market power even beyond the [already dire trends](#) for newspapers.

The big picture: Gannett has shed about half its workers since that merger, [Axios' Sara Fischer Kerry Flynn report](#), and CEO Mike Reed said earlier this year he "would entertain bids on any of our markets."

The bottom line: Mirror Indy is siphoning IndyStar's staff without the troubles or costs of an acquisition.

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES



[About](#) [Jobs](#) [How to Support](#)

An aerial photograph of a building facade covered in a large, colorful mural. The mural features various symbols, including a rainbow flag, a hand holding a heart, a rose, and abstract geometric patterns. The text "Local journalism in service of Ohio communities." is overlaid in white on the lower portion of the image.

**Local journalism in service of
Ohio communities.**

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES

We want to ensure every resident of Ohio has the local news they need.

Signal Ohio, formerly known as the Ohio Local News Initiative, is a network of independent, community-led, nonprofit newsrooms backed by a coalition of Ohio organizations, community leaders and the American Journalism Project. It's one of the largest local nonprofit news startups in the country, with a newsroom in Cleveland and one upcoming in Akron, a staff of 19 and more than \$13 million raised so far.

The newsrooms produce high-quality accountability journalism while working directly with residents to produce and distribute community reporting, employing innovative models for local journalism that are directly responsive to local information needs. Information that is produced for communities by Signal Ohio is free to access and available for republishing.

Signal Ohio receives support from a broad coalition of local and national philanthropies, organizations, and individuals for its mission to ensure every resident of Ohio has the local news and information they need.

The organization is governed by a board that is representative of Ohio's diverse communities and is an independent 501(c)(3) organization.

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES



UNK budget woes have small-town students asking: What about me?

The University of Nebraska campus plans to end or cut deeply into several programs in the arts and humanities. Leaders say there's little choice and the programs have low enrollments.

Natalia Alamdari and Evelyn Mejia • Oct 19



'This one is going to get nasty': Going inside the ropes of Omaha's pro wrestling scene

Brady Oltmans • Oct 20



An Alexander Payne comeback? Famed Omaha director returns after 6 years gone from big screen.

Leo Adam Biga • Oct 13

Close and personal: Nebraska couple telling, and showing, bison story to visitors

Nebraska faces a child care crisis. These companies are easing the pain for working parents.

Three Nebraska tribes are done losing land. Now they're buying.

'Toxic algae' fouling Nebraska lakes, raising water quality concerns

'Unbelievable' insurance increases are walloping Nebraska homeowners. Climate change is a big reason why.

Flatwater Free Conversation: Josh Jones and Dirk Chatelain

Fort Kearny superintendent still relishes role after 51 years at Nebraska state park

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES

SUPPORTERS

Support Nebraska Journalism

The Nebraska Journalism Trust is supported by Nebraskans from all across the state, holding diverse political perspectives, and donating in amounts large and small. Donations support the [Flatwater Free Press](#), [Silicon Prairie News](#), efforts to make government more transparent, and community events where Nebraskans meet our journalists in-person. Consider supporting this important work today.

DONATE

Founders Society

The Nebraska Journalism Trust was founded in April 2021, and our flagship publication, the Flatwater Free Press, published its first stories in September 2021. The founding fundraising campaign received \$2.7 million from 1,490 donors. [Read the Founders Society list here.](#)

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- CQuence Health Group
- Emerson Collective
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- Google News Initiative
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- Humanities Nebraska
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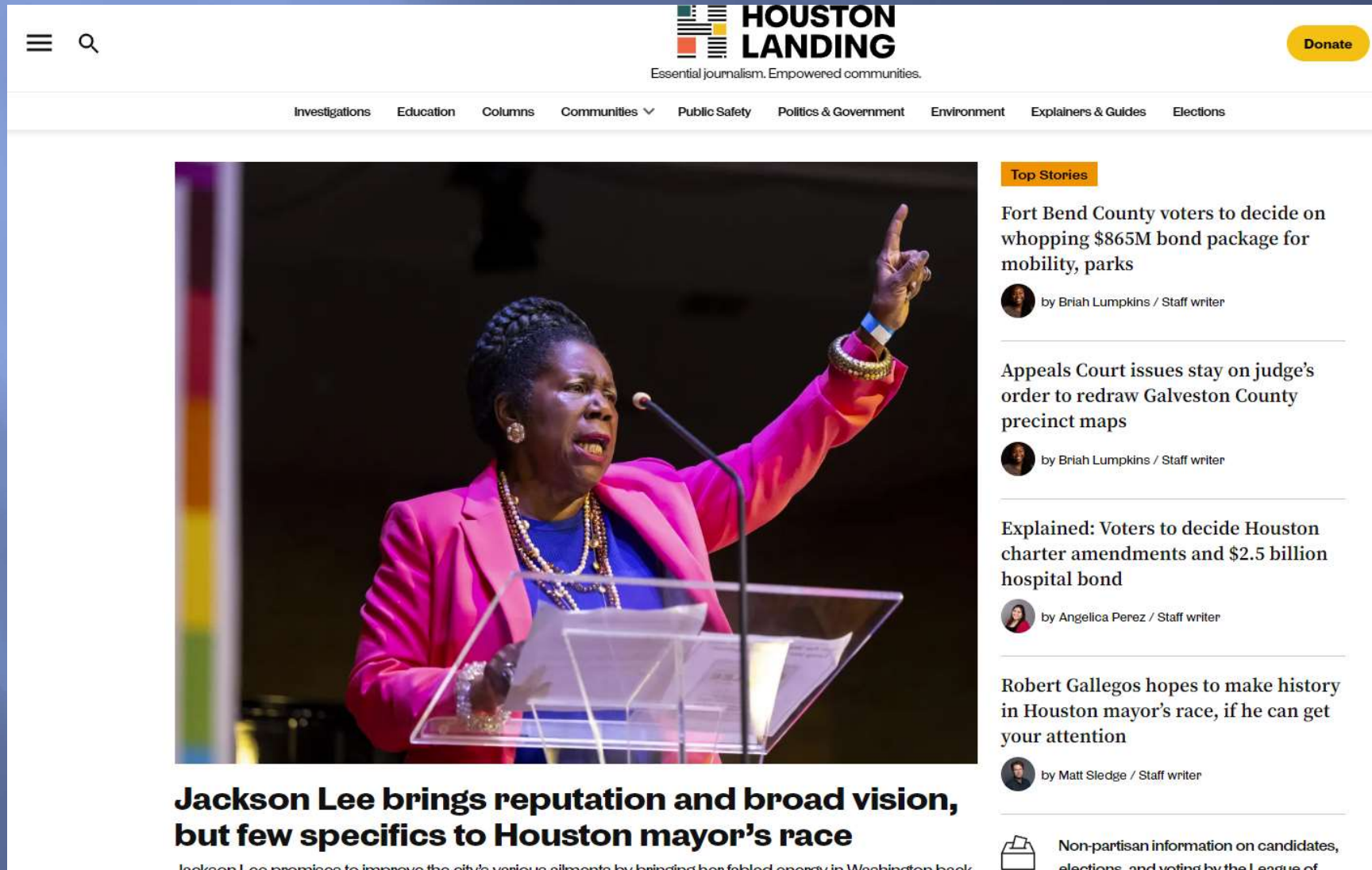
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LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES



The screenshot displays the Houston Landing website interface. At the top, the logo for Houston Landing is centered, with the tagline "Essential journalism. Empowered communities." below it. A navigation menu includes categories such as Investigations, Education, Columns, Communities, Public Safety, Politics & Government, Environment, Explainers & Guides, and Elections. A "Donate" button is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a large image of Jackson Lee speaking at a podium. Below the image is the headline: "Jackson Lee brings reputation and broad vision, but few specifics to Houston mayor's race". To the right of the main article is a "Top Stories" section with three items: "Fort Bend County voters to decide on whopping \$865M bond package for mobility, parks" by Briah Lumpkins, "Appeals Court issues stay on judge's order to redraw Galveston County precinct maps" by Briah Lumpkins, and "Explained: Voters to decide Houston charter amendments and \$2.5 billion hospital bond" by Angelica Perez. A fourth story, "Robert Gallegos hopes to make history in Houston mayor's race, if he can get your attention" by Matt Sledge, is partially visible. At the bottom right, there is a small icon of a ballot box and text: "Non-partisan information on candidates, elections, and voting by the League of".

HOUSTON LANDING
Essential journalism. Empowered communities.

Investigations Education Columns Communities Public Safety Politics & Government Environment Explainers & Guides Elections

Top Stories

Fort Bend County voters to decide on whopping \$865M bond package for mobility, parks
by Briah Lumpkins / Staff writer

Appeals Court issues stay on judge's order to redraw Galveston County precinct maps
by Briah Lumpkins / Staff writer

Explained: Voters to decide Houston charter amendments and \$2.5 billion hospital bond
by Angelica Perez / Staff writer


Robert Gallegos hopes to make history in Houston mayor's race, if he can get your attention
by Matt Sledge / Staff writer

Jackson Lee brings reputation and broad vision, but few specifics to Houston mayor's race
Jackson Lee promises to improve the city's various ailments by bringing her fabled energy in Washington back

Non-partisan information on candidates, elections, and voting by the League of

LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES


Sponsored Message




HALTOM'S
FINE JEWELERS SINCE 1893

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FOR 130 YEARS

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FORT WORTH REPORT

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LOCAL AND STATE INITIATIVES

How are you funded?

We secured initial seed funding to launch this digital newsroom, thanks to a generous donation from The Burnett Foundation. Like other successful public-supported news nonprofits emerging around the country, our revenue model has grown to include individual contributions and membership, major gifts, and grants from local and national foundations. We also offer local businesses corporate sponsorship opportunities. Our commitment to financial transparency is detailed in our [donor transparency policy](#). Donating [individuals](#) and [organizations](#) are publicly available. Our IRS 990 tax filings are also shared here for [2019](#), [2020](#), and [2021](#).

BULK BUYS

nytimes.com/2023/07/11/business/media/maine-newspapers-nonprofit.html

DIA

The New York Times

Nonprofit Buys 22 Newspapers in Maine

The National Trust for Local News will take over five of the six daily papers in the state and 17 weeklies.

Share full article



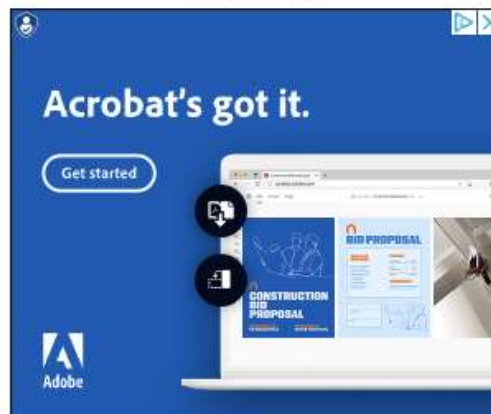
The National Trust for Local News is buying newspapers from Masthead Maine, a private company. Pat Wellenbach/Associated Press

BULK BUYS

In addition to the Press Herald, Brower's Masthead Maine included the Sun Journal in Lewiston, the Kennebec Journal in Augusta, the Morning Sentinel in Waterville, the Times Record in Brunswick and 17 weekly papers in southern and western Maine, including the Forecaster group.

The papers are now part of the Maine Trust for Local News, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Local News, a nonprofit founded in 2021, which also owns a chain of [24 community newspapers](#) in suburban Denver.

Advertisement



The Maine Trust for Local News is an L3C, or low-profit liability company, with a mission of supporting educational or charitable purposes similar to a public benefit corporation.