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Our Mission

ProPublica exposes abuses of power and betrayals of the public trust by governments, businesses and other institutions, using the moral force of investigative journalism to spur reform through the sustained spotlighting of wrongdoing.

Who We Are

We are an independent, nonprofit news organization that produces investigative journalism with moral force. Our journalists dig deep into important issues, shining a light on abuses of power and betrayals of the public trust. Our reporting has contributed to the passage of new laws; reversals of harmful policies and practices; and accountability for leaders at local, state and national levels.

ProPublica was founded in 2008 to fill a growing hole in journalism: Newsrooms are shrinking, and legacy funding models are failing. Deep-dive reporting like ours is slow and expensive, and investigative journalism is a luxury in many newsrooms today — but it remains as critical as ever to democracy and our civic life.

Today, over 15 years (and seven Pulitzer Prizes) later, ProPublica has built one of the largest investigative newsrooms in the country, with a team of more than 150 editorial staffers — based in New York and working from state and regional offices in the Midwest, South, Southwest, Northwest, Texas, and Washington D.C. entirely devoted to investigative reporting.

How We Work

As a nonprofit, ProPublica's work is powered primarily through donations. The vast bulk of the money we spend goes directly into world-class, award-winning journalism. We are committed to uncovering the truth, no matter how long it takes or how much it costs, and everything we publish is available for free on our site. We practice transparent financial reporting so donors know how their dollars are spent.

ProPublica regularly collaborates with other news organizations to report and publish our journalism, extending the reach of each story and maximizing impact.

Our local news initiatives include a growing team of journalists reporting from communities across the country, including a partnership with The Texas Tribune. Our Local Reporting Network gives local news organizations, which have been particularly hard hit by the decline in local journalism, the opportunity to tackle big, yearlong investigative stories that are crucial to their communities. Selected reporters work in and report to their home newsrooms while receiving extensive support and guidance from ProPublica.



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Cover: In March 2025, a truck with a digital billboard drove around the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau offices in Washington, D.C., promoting ProPublica's tip line for former and current federal employees. Lexey Swall for ProPublica

This page: In April 2024, the EPA announced new regulations that will drastically reduce cancerous air pollution from chemical plants like the Denka Performance Elastomer facility in LaPlace, Louisiana, which emits chloroprene. Kathleen Flynn, special to ProPublica.

Investigative Journalism: The Last Bulwark of a Functioning Democracy

The 2024 annual report is a testament to our mission of using the moral force of investigative journalism to spur reform. Last year, our investigations uncovered abuses of power and systemic failures that jeopardize public trust and accountability. And our journalism inspired action. In this report you'll see our impact at every scale, in state and federal policies, and at the kitchen table. For instance, in 2024, the Department of Justice and eight states sued the maker of a rent-setting software, and six of the nation's largest landlords, following our 2022 investigation into how the software's algorithm boosts profits. The lawsuit asserted that the software facilitated illegal price-fixing, reduced competition among landlords, and resulted in higher rents.

We are mindful that we may be entering a new era, one without precedent. There are far fewer guardrails in the second Trump presidency. The Supreme Court's decision granting presidents immunity from prosecution for official acts and the return of Republican control of the Senate and the House, mean there will be few, if any, checks on the power of the president.

That leaves journalism.

Independent reporting, particularly by nonprofits, is one of the last bulwarks of accountability right now. It is more critical than ever that news outlets refuse to bend a knee to power, to political or corporate pressure, or to the priorities of their owners and shareholders. Here at ProPublica, we can continue to be fearless because we answer to the public.

ProPublica's work is powered primarily through donations. And a lot of our funding comes from our members (over 70,000 of you!). We have a policy of transparent financial reporting, issuing public annual reports that show the impact of our work, along with our annual financial statements. Supported by the public, our newsroom works in the public interest. We are not beholden to individual benefactors. Funders have no say in what we cover. No one, including our board and our donors, gets to see our stories until we publish.

ProPublica remains a beacon of accountability in an age where misinformation is pervasive and institutional trust is eroding. Our structure sets us apart from many of our media colleagues. Nonprofits aren't beholden to a corporate owner, page views or advertisers. Our job is to give readers an independent, verifiable account of what's happening, and we bring the receipts to every story we publish. ProPublica's independence enables us to report without fear or favor, following investigations wherever they lead.

There is a critical need in this country for more independent, investigative journalism. The kind that demands accountability, protects the vulnerable and ensures that powerful institutions serve the public, not their own interests. The kind we have been producing for nearly two decades. In unprecedented times, we are ready to meet the moment.





Ron Spartman Stepher Engel

Robin Sparkman, President

Stephen Engelberg, Editor-in-Chief



Audience members at the December 2024 premiere of ProPublica's feature documentary "Before A Breath." The film was inspired by ProPublica's groundbreaking reporting on the stillbirth crisis, which was a finalist for a 2023 Pulitzer Prize. Liz Moughon/ProPublica

Growing to Meet the Moment: Our 5-year plan

ProPublica is proud to be one of the largest and most trusted nonpartisan, nonprofit investigative newsrooms in the country. But in times like these, critical issues that need our attention outpace our capacity. There are more stories we need to tell.

In 2024, we began implementing an ambitious fiveyear plan to strengthen ProPublica's investigative journalism where it's most needed. Our vision is to reimagine how news is gathered and told — strengthening our national reporting, energizing local journalism and expanding our audience to grow into a truly national investigative news network that inspires change and drives accountability. Here are just some of the growth priorities we've set into motion in the last year:

Boost National Reporting

We enhanced our national reporting by putting more resources toward critical beats with broad resonance - including democracy, health care, immigration and the environment. We also expanded our presence in Washington, D.C., with veteran journalist Ronnie Green leading a new bureau of investigative reporters assigned to cover politics and the federal government. Our deeply sourced team will bring ProPublica's accountability lens to the enormous changes unfolding in Washington in a way that will make clear who's benefiting and who's being harmed. Reporters will be looking into structural issues within national and state government; federal agencies and policies; corporate accountability as it relates to the government; and the implications for rule of law, environment, health care, education, immigration, business and foreign affairs, among other issues.

Energize Local Journalism

We launched a 50 State Initiative to strengthen local accountability reporting and news ecosystems nationwide. ProPublica has spent the past eight years refining our approach to local journalism, opening five hubs across the country and creating the Local Reporting Network to empower underresourced news outlets to pursue accountability reporting. So far, we have partnered with 85 local newsrooms around the country. And we've committed to support at least 10 new local projects a year through the end of 2029, launching investigations in all 50 states. We also recently created a sustainability desk that will provide continued support for LRN alumni. We can't fill all of the gaps created by the withering media landscape, but ProPublica and its partners are making a very real difference in small towns and regions across the country.

Engage a Larger Audience

We set an ambitious five-year goal of doubling our audience in order to reach more people and spur more impact. Over the last year, our audience team has been expanding and building out our infrastructure to reach new readers and broaden the demographics of our audience. We've attracted more than 2 million followers on 11 social media sites. In 2024, we published over 70 unique short videos, which have received over 10 million views total across platforms. Views of ProPublica journalism across TikTok, Instagram and YouTube are up 73% compared to last year, helping us reach new demographics, including younger and more diverse audiences.

Reporting Highlights

In 2024, ProPublica's reporting spotlighted the systemic inequalities, policy failures and deceptive practices that pervade America's health care system. And, as this annual report shows, many of these stories spurred action, with regulators introducing reforms and lawmakers taking steps to address the injustices we exposed.

Candace Fails holds a photograph of her daughter Nevaeh Crain, who died last year after seeking help from two hospitals for pregnancy complications. Danielle Villasana for ProPublica

Shining a Light on Health Care Injustice

Abortion Ban Consequences

ProPublica repeatedly uncovered the heartbreaking realities of restrictive abortion laws, breaking story after story that laid bare their life-threatening consequences. From the tragic death of Amber Thurman in Georgia to heart-wrenching accounts of women denied critical care during medical emergencies, our investigations illuminated the profound human cost of these policies. We exposed the chilling impact on medical professionals forced to choose between their oath and the law, the anguish faced by families caught in the crossfire, and the broader erosion of women's health and autonomy. Through relentless reporting, we brought these hidden crises into the national spotlight, sparking urgent dialogue and calls for change.

Mental Health Care Failures

ProPublica has been exposing the systemic obstacles preventing millions of Americans from accessing essential mental health care. Our investigations uncovered the labyrinthine "ghost networks" that left patients searching in vain for care, and the devastating consequences for those unable to find help. Our reporting further revealed how insurers leveraged a patient's progress as grounds to deny continued mental health coverage, often overruling therapists' recommendations and leaving patients vulnerable to setbacks when treatment was abruptly cut off. ProPublica not only gave voice to those struggling in silence but also compelled policymakers and regulators to confront a mental health system designed to deny rather than deliver care.

Deceptive Health Insurance Practices

Over the last few years, ProPublica has revealed how health insurers systematically deny coverage for critical treatments and prioritize cost savings over patient care. Our investigation exposed how a Cigna medical directors denied claims without ever opening patients' files, relying instead on automated systems to reject requests en masse. Another report revealed how EviCore, a contractor for major insurers like UnitedHealthcare and Aetna, uses algorithms to manipulate approval rates for prior authorizations with lucrative contracts tied to cutting medical spending and a promised 3-to-1 return on investment for insurers. The impact of this series was seen in Michigan last year, where state regulators ultimately mandated that insurers cover proven cancer treatments previously denied to patients. By spotlighting these failures, our reporting forced a reckoning with an insurance system that too often prioritizes profits over people.

Impact

The most important measure of our work is whether it has impact. We measure impact not in terms of audience size or honors, but in real-world changes to behaviors, policies or legislation. Our journalism in 2024 spurred change in a number of important areas.

Brian Coughlin initially had no idea that the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians was involved in the small loan he took out with a high interest rate. He filed for bankruptcy, but an LDF partner still hounded him to pay. Bob Croslin for ProPublica

Business and Labor



The LDF Business Development Corp.'s office in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin, is the home base for the tribe's national lending operations. Tim Gruber, special to ProPublica

A Tribal Lender Charging 800% APR Has Agreed to Stop Operating in Minnesota

The Lac du Flambeau tribe of Wisconsin has agreed to cease lending operations in Minnesota following a settlement with the state's attorney general over its lending practices that charged Minnesotans between 200% and 800% annual interest. The civil suit alleged that the tribe's interest rates violated state law, which caps annual percentage rates at 36% in many instances. The state also claimed LDF had violated statutes on consumer fraud, deceptive trade and false advertising. The move by Minnesota to cut off lending companies controlled by LDF comes after ProPublica reported that over the past decade, the tribe has grown to become one of the leading players in the tribal lending industry and built a lending empire on high-interest loans, relying on its sovereign rights to avoid state interest rate caps. In the consent decree, LDF's top official denied the allegations but formally agreed to stop lending to people in Minnesota unless the tribe adheres to the state's strict usury laws and other regulations, including licensing requirements.

DOJ Reaches Agreement With Wisconsin Sheriff's Office to Improve Language Access Services

The Dane County Sheriff's Office in Wisconsin has agreed to make a series of reforms meant to ensure that residents who speak little or no English can get the services they need. The agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice resolves a civil rights inquiry that followed 2023 ProPublica reporting on how the sheriff's office had mistakenly blamed an immigrant worker for his 8-year-old son's death on a dairy farm in 2019. Our reporting revealed that a language barrier between the worker and a sheriff's deputy had led to the misunderstanding. As part of the agreement, Dane County said it will finalize a language access policy that includes staff training, quality controls and outreach initiatives. Our reporting shined a light on the dangerous working conditions and lack of protections for dairy farm workers and has led to other reforms, including an \$8 million fund for farmworker housing in Wisconsin and measures to improve access to government services for people who don't speak English.



A rally in front of the office of the New York State Department of Labor in lower Manhattan in October 2022. Proposed legislation would bolster the power of state agencies to crack down on wage theft. Marcus Baram/Documented

Proposed Wage Theft Legislation Would Strip Violators of Their Ability to Do Business in New York

New York lawmakers proposed three new bills in January 2024 to combat wage theft violations in response, in part, to reporting by ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner Documented that revealed rampant wage theft in New York and the state's failure to protect workers. By analyzing data obtained from the U.S. and New York Labor department, we found that more than 127,000 New Yorkers had been victims of wage theft during a recent five-year period, and that the New York State Department of Labor was unable to recover \$79 million in back wages owed to the workers.

Senate Investigation "Casts Fresh Doubt" About the Validity of Harlan Crow's Yacht Tax Deductions

A key congressional committee pressed billionaire Harlan Crow for answers after investigators turned up additional evidence they say shows that he misrepresented his yacht as a business to score a tax break. Pro-Publica reported in 2023 that Crow had taken millions in questionable tax deductions related to his yacht. The inquiry is part of the congressional investigations of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas' gifts from billionaires, which were prompted by our 2023 bombshell reporting into undisclosed gifts to justices from wealthy political donors. Crow's office responded with a <u>statement</u> that said "Mr. Crow engages professional accounting firms to prepare his tax returns and complies with tax law in good faith. Any suggestion to the contrary is baseless and defamatory."

Customer Service Company Will Pay \$2M to Workers to Settle Lawsuit Over Pay Practices

In March 2024, we reported that Arise Virtual Solutions, a work-at-home customer service company, will pay \$2 million to workers in the District of Columbia to settle a lawsuit alleging the company failed to pay minimum wage and overtime. The company, which did not admit to wrongdoing, will pay an additional \$940,000 to the District of Columbia in civil penalties and stop operating there. The lawsuit by the D.C. attorney general was sparked by a 2020 ProPublica investigation into the secretive world of work-at-home customer service that proliferated during the pandemic. Our reporting showed how Arise helped major corporations like Comcast and Disney shed labor costs by outsourcing customer service to a vast network of agents who work as independent contractors, who don't have the right to minimum wage, overtime and other legal protections provided to employees.

Sports Team Owners Face New Scrutiny From IRS Over Tax Avoidance

The IRS launched a campaign to examine whether wealthy taxpayers are violating the law when using their ownership of sports teams to save millions in taxes. The initiative comes after ProPublica, drawing on leaked IRS data, revealed how <u>billionaire team</u> owners often report incomes for their teams that are vastly lower than their real-world earnings. Our 2021 reporting showed how the U.S. tax code allows team owners to deduct almost the entire purchase price of the business against their income. This allows owners to pay lower tax rates than their millionaire players and often lower even than the rates paid by the workers who staff their stadiums.

FTC Orders Maker of TurboTax to Cease "Deceptive" Advertising

In January 2024, the Federal Trade Commission ordered the maker of TurboTax to stop what it called years of widespread deceptive advertising for "free" tax-filing software. The order was accompanied by a 93-page opinion that harshly criticized Intuit, the Silicon Valley company behind TurboTax. The order capped off a process that started four years earlier when the FTC launched an investigation in response to a series of ProPublica stories documenting Intuit's

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Last year, I focused on how design can shape the way people experience a story. For the "<u>Why I Left the Network</u>" story, that meant creating a visual metaphor to show the impact of mental health providers dropping out of insurance networks. Across projects, my goal as a designer is to clarify the narrative without competing with it. None of it happens alone. Every project is a close collaboration, working with editors and reporters to make our stories more engaging and accessible.

—Zisiga Mukulu, Interactive Story Designer



Sen. Richard Blumenthal. Photo illustration by ProPublica. Ukrinform/NurPhoto via Getty Images.

ad tactics. Our reporting revealed how millions of Americans were systematically tricked into paid tax preparation products even though they were eligible to file for free through a government-sponsored program. Over the years, our reporting also led to an investigation by state attorneys general that resulted in a \$141 million settlement with Intuit and the development of an experimental online tool that would allow Americans to file taxes directly with the IRS for free. In a statement, Intuit said it planned to appeal the order in federal court. "There is no monetary penalty in the FTC's order, and Intuit expects no significant impact to its business," the statement said, adding that the company "has always been clear, fair, and transparent with its customers."

Senator Slams Gun Industry Sharing of Customer Data With Political Operatives

In October 2024, we revealed how for years, America's most iconic gun-makers, including Smith & Wesson and Remington, handed over hundreds of thousands of names, addresses and other private data — without

customer knowledge or consent - to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, which then entered the details into what would become a massive database. The database was used to rally gun owners' electoral support for the industry's candidates running for the White House and Congress. Weeks after the story published, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., criticized the gun industry for secretly collecting personal information from firearm owners for political purposes, calling it an "invasive and dangerous intrusion" of privacy and safety. Blumenthal, who chairs a Senate subcommittee on privacy, questioned the legality of the "covert program" in a letter sent to the NSSF. Our reporting into this clandestine sharing of gun buyers' identities marks a significant departure for an industry that has long prided itself on thwarting efforts to track who owns firearms in America. In a statement, the NSSF defended its data collection and said any suggestion of "unethical or illegal behavior is entirely unfounded." The gun industry companies either did not respond to ProPublica or declined to comment, noting they are under different ownership today and could not find evidence that customer information was previously shared.

Children and Families



Law enforcement stands outside of Robb Elementary School in Uvalde on the day of the shooting in 2022. Pete Luna/Uvalde Leader-News

Uvalde City Officials Release Shooting Records That Provide New Details, Reaffirm Previous Reporting

In August 2024, city officials in Uvalde, Texas, released police video, audio, texts and emails that offered new details into the 2022 Robb Elementary School shooting while also largely reaffirming reporting from our collaboration with The Texas Tribune and FRONTLINE about law enforcement's failure to engage a gunman who killed 19 children and two teachers. The release was the first major disclosure of documents by a government agency involved in the flawed response to the school shooting. It was part of a settlement agreement following a yearslong legal battle involving nearly two dozen news outlets, including ProPublica and the Tribune. The news organizations filed the lawsuit after government agencies denied public information requests that sought records that would bring more clarity to law enforcement's more than one-hour delay in confronting the shooter. Three other government agencies — the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District and the Uvalde County Sheriff's Department — continue fighting the release of records.

New Utah Law Prioritizes Child Safety in Custody Courts

Following ProPublica's reporting on Utah courts' handling of custody cases involving allegations of violence, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox signed into law a bill in March 2024 that aims to prioritize child safety in custody courts. The new law codifies parts of the federal Violence Against Women Act and mandates, among other things, that judges deciding custody first consider risks to the child's safety. Our reporting revealed instances where judges had ordered children to participate in so-called reunification therapy with fathers who had been accused of abusing them. The new law will limit the use of reunification therapies and increase scrutiny of expert witnesses in such cases.



Above: A strip of wood that was laser etched in the Pierceton Woods vocational program area. The Indiana Department of Child Services continued sending boys to the facility even after hearing reports of abuse there. Kelly Wilkinson/IndyStar

Right: While working as a youth treatment specialist at Pierceton Woods Academy in Indiana, Alexandra Chambers pushed to make sure an abuse allegation was reported to the Department of Child Services. Shelby Tauber for ProPublica

Indiana Enacts Law to Allow State Child Services to Investigate More Abuse Claims at Youth Centers

Following a ProPublica-IndyStar investigation that uncovered more than two dozen allegations of sexual abuse or inappropriate behavior by employees at Pierceton Woods Academy, an Indiana residential treatment center for boys, Gov. Eric Holcomb signed into law legislation intended to increase oversight and curb abuse at these kinds of facilities. Our 2023 investigation found that the Indiana Department of Child Services failed to investigate some of the abuse allegations at the academy, and that the staff and managers at the center repeatedly ignored signs of abuse. Pierceton Woods CEO Tim Smith has denied failing to protect minors from sexual abuse. In an email, company spokesperson Curtis Smith, who is not related to Tim Smith, said, "The reason we supported this bill from the beginning is that we serve, support, and treat all our residents with unconditional respect, and always have."





Alyssa Davis, a mother living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, applied for public assistance for herself and her son Zeppelin. Adria Malcolm for ProPublica

More States Allow Child Support Payments to Reach Children

Since we reported in 2021 that child support payments totaling \$1.7 billion annually were redirected into state coffers, at least six states have rewritten their laws and policies to allow that money to flow directly to children. Our investigative series examining child welfare across the Southwest found that states were seizing child support headed to families as reimbursement for the mother having received welfare. New Mexico, where we focused our reporting, changed its law shortly after our story was published. As of May 2024, an additional five states — Wyoming, Illinois, Michigan, Vermont and California — will now see more child support going to children.

Thailand Bans Advertising for Toddler Milk

New regulations in Thailand will force baby formula companies to stop advertising for so-called toddler milk, which experts say can contribute to growing obesity and other health problems among the nation's children. The action follows a ProPublica investigation that revealed how U.S. trade officials worked to weaken Thailand's last major attempt to ban such advertising, in 2017. Pro-Publica documented roughly two dozen interventions around the globe where the U.S. government used its muscle to advance the interests of large baby formula companies, often undermining public health measures like marketing bans. Health officials and activists say formula advertising can mislead parents and even prompt mothers to abandon breastfeeding, depriving children of a range of health protections.

Criminal Justice



Municipal attorney Tyler Wright, right, at the Boney Courthouse in Anchorage, Alaska in September 2024. Wright handled the dismissal of dozens of city misdemeanor cases at weekly hearings before he left municipal court to enter a private practice. Loren Holmes/Anchorage Daily News

After Mass Dismissals in Anchorage, Alaska Officials Step in to Help Prosecute Crimes

Alaska officials announced plans to help Anchorage city prosecutors take criminal cases to trial days after we reported that the municipality dropped hundreds of cases due to insufficient staffing of prosecutors. With Local Reporting Network partner Anchorage Daily News, we reported that from May 1 through Oct. 2, the Anchorage municipal prosecutor's office dismissed more than 930 misdemeanor criminal cases because the state's 120-day deadline to bring defendants to trial had expired or was about to expire. Those cases included hundreds of defendants charged with serious crimes, including domestic violence. The state offered to send up to 10 prosecutors to Anchorage to aid the city government, and over the next six months, the two governments planned to work together to stem the wave of dismissals.

Soldiers Charged With Violent Crimes Will Now Face More Scrutiny Before They Can Simply Leave the Army

As of April 2024, the U.S. Army no longer allows military commanders to decide on their own whether soldiers accused of certain serious crimes can leave the service rather than go on trial. The decision came one year after ProPublica, The Texas Tribune and Military Times published an investigation that revealed how hundreds of soldiers charged with violent crimes were administratively discharged instead of facing a court-martial. We found that more than half of the 900 soldiers who were allowed to leave the Army in the previous decade rather than go to trial had been accused of violent crimes, including sexual assault and domestic violence. Choosing to handle such cases administratively instead of through the courts has allowed soldiers to escape potential legal consequences: Those who may have been convicted of sexual assault would not have to register as sex offenders, and those who could have been found guilty of domestic abuse would not be subject to federal restrictions prohibiting them from owning firearms.



Men who were wrongfully convicted — from left, Anthony Legion, Darrell Siggers, Ramon Ward and Eric Anderson — stand in front of a crowd during the Organization of Exonerees Gala and Fundraiser at Huntington Tower in Detroit in October 2023. In March 2024, Anderson testified for a bill to reform the Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation Act. Sarahbeth Maney/ProPublica

Michigan Lawmakers Working to Fix a Program That Failed to Compensate the Wrongfully Convicted

In March 2024, Michigan legislators introduced a bill that would substantially reform the Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation Act, the focus of a ProPublica investigation published earlier in the year. The act established a fund seven years ago to help wrongfully convicted people rebuild their lives, but our reporting found that narrow criteria and confusion over eligibility requirements have resulted in delays in compensation, partial settlements or even complete denials — undermining the intent to help correct an injustice for these former prisoners.

Maryland Is on Track to Process a Nearly 50-Year-Old Backlog of Rape Kits

Maryland was on track to process one of the country's oldest backlogs of untested rape evidence by the end of 2024, following new laws that expedited the testing of over 1,400 cases dating back to 1977. The old samples weren't considered part of the state's official backlog of untested rape kits, which are subject to legal protections and speedy-processing requirements, and they were in danger of being destroyed until ProPublica exposed this gap in our "Cold Justice" series, prompting a new law that brought them under the umbrella of sexual assault kits. Our 2021 reporting told the extraordinary story of a doctor who began quietly preserving DNA evidence from

rape victims, starting in the 1970s, years before police began to preserve forensic DNA. Decades later, Baltimore police began using the samples, one at a time, to connect cases, reshape conventional wisdom about rapists and solve more than 80 cold cases. This included securing a confession to a 1983 murder after ProPublica's reporter asked police about the results of her investigation. Following our reporting, Maryland extended legal protections to these samples and established a new tracking system for survivors to check their case status, and it is now considered one of 20 states to achieve "full legislative rape kit reform."

Medical Examiner, Whose Testimony Helped Convict a Man in 2004 of Killing His Baby, Now Says He Was Wrong

Former Nashville medical examiner, Dr. Bruce Levy has recanted his testimony that helped convict Russell Maze of murdering his infant son 24 years ago, now stating there was no evidence of shaken baby syndrome and that the child's death in 1999 was likely due to natural causes. Levy's testimony was crucial in convicting Maze, who continues to serve a life sentence in prison for the alleged crime. Levy's recantation follows a ProPublica and New York Times Magazine investigation that examined new scientific evidence suggesting the child died from an undiagnosed medical condition rather than abuse. That evidence first came to light when the Nashville district attorney's office, through its conviction-review unit, began reinvestigating the case in 2023. Our reporting explored the challenges in overturning convictions, even when prosecutors themselves determine that the underlying evidence no longer stands up to scrutiny. The case is now before the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, which must decide whether to remand it back to the trial court for reconsideration based on this new evidence.

NYPD Restores Thousands of Missing Records but Removes Case Numbers From Its Discipline Database

The New York Police Department restored more than 2,000 previously missing discipline records to its public database of uniformed officers in June 2024, weeks after a ProPublica report revealed data reliability issues that dogged the site for almost two years. Three years after the NYPD launched its database to



Russell Maze holds his newborn son, Alex, in the neonatal intensive care unit at Baptist Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, on March 25, 1999. Photo illustration by Andrea Wise/ProPublica. Source image: Courtesy of Kaye Maze.

SUPPORTER FEEDBACK

ProPublica is one of the only news agencies I see that is clearly, consistently and bravely investigating US politics and situations. You are holding our public servants accountable to the truth, and that is a commendable thing on any day, but is most especially important now. Thank you.

—ProPublica donor in New Mexico



Former New York Police Department Commissioner Edward Caban. Lev Radin/Sipa USA via AP Images

allow citizens to look up officers' discipline records, we found that the information routinely disappears from the system, obscuring the misconduct histories for officers of all ranks, including its most senior uniformed officer. As part of our reporting scrutinizing the NYPD's broader discipline process, we separately revealed how the NYPD commissioner secretly buried dozens of discipline cases involving NYPD officers, ensuring that those cases would never appear in the online database.

New York Lawmakers Call for Police Commissioner to Be Stripped of Power to Bury Brutality Cases

New York City lawmakers have called for the NYPD police commissioner to be stripped of his power to bury officer misconduct cases. And the Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD has launched an investigation into the commissioner's use of the practice, known as "retention." The actions come in response to our reporting in June 2024 that revealed how then-Commissioner Edward Caban exercised this little-known authority to prevent dozens of

cases of alleged abuse from getting a public hearing, often resulting in no discipline for officers. Our reporting found that Caban, appointed to the position in 2023 by Mayor Eric Adams, retained far more cases than his predecessors, preventing those of more than 50 officers from going to trial in his first year in office. Caban has defended his use of retention, putting out a five-page statement in the wake of ProPublica's investigation saying that his actions were "in compliance" with the memorandum of understanding. Adams also said he supported Caban's handling of officer discipline.

DOJ Reverses Position on Baltimore Man's Conviction

In February 2024, we published an article detailing the contradictory prosecutions presented by the Department of Justice in the case of a Baltimore man convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm even though the DOJ separately prosecuted a detective for planting the gun. Two days later, the DOJ reversed its previous position and conceded that the Baltimore man's conviction should be thrown out.

Education



Amara Harris fist bumps her attorney, Juan Thomas, in August 2024 after being found not liable for the theft of AirPods at Naperville North High School in Illinois. Taylor Glascock, special to ProPublica

Idaho Legislature Approves \$2 Billion for School Repairs

Spurred by our reporting, Idaho lawmakers approved \$2 billion for school districts to repair and replace aging and overcrowded buildings - an amount they said would mark the largest investment in school facilities in state history. ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner Idaho Statesman revealed that Idaho spends less, per student, on schools than any other state, and that restrictive policies created a funding crisis that's left rural schools with collapsing roofs, deteriorating foundations and freezing classrooms. Citing our reporting, Idaho Gov. Brad Little announced in his 2024 State of the State address that he wanted to make funding for school facilities "priority No. 1." The new bill will redirect \$500 million from other programs in addition to providing new funding, bringing the total value to \$2 billion over 10 years. In May 2024, we reported that the Salmon School District in Central Idaho will finally get a new school after failing for decades to pass around a dozen bonds to replace its dilapidated schools. Our reporting last year highlighted the school district as an example of Idaho's restrictive policies as one of two states that require two-thirds of voters to support a bond in order to fund school repairs.

School District Agrees to Reform How It Disciplines Disabled Students

An Illinois school district that had the nation's highest student arrest rate in the country has agreed to reform how it disciplines students with disabilities. The agreement with the U.S. Department of Education will end a federal civil rights investigation into the Four Rivers Special Education District that was launched in response to a 2022 ProPublica and Chicago Tribune investigation. Our reporting found that the Garrison School for students with disabilities turned to police with stunning frequency to discipline students, resulting in the highest arrest rate of any district in the country. In one recent year, half of the students at the Garrison School were arrested. In announcing the agreement, the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights said it found that Garrison routinely sent students to police for noncriminal conduct that could have been related to their disabilities - something ex-



Collage by Alex Bandoni/ProPublica. Source images: CSA Archive/Getty Images and a ticket issued by a police officer stationed at Palatine High School/obtained by ProPublica.

plicitly prohibited by federal law. Four Rivers District Director Tracey Fair did not comment on the agreement or respond to questions from ProPublica about plans to help students going forward. She previously told the Tribune and ProPublica that administrators call police only when students are being physically aggressive or in response to "ongoing" misbehavior. Fair signed the civil-rights agreement.

Illinois' AG Said It's Illegal for Schools to Use Police to Ticket Students

In yet another impact stemming from our 2022 investigation, "The Price Kids Pay," the Illinois attorney general has declared that the practice of school districts asking police to ticket misbehaving students — still being used across the state — is illegal and should stop. The attorney general's office, which had been investigating student ticketing in one of Illinois' largest high school districts, found that Township High School District 211 in Palatine broke the law when administrators directed police to fine its students for school-based conduct, and that the practice had an "unjustified disparate impact" on Black and Latino students. Our award-winning investigative series with the Chicago Tribune found that the practice of student ticketing was rampant across Illinois with students unnecessarily ensnared in a quasi-judicial system meant for adults, and without legal protections. We also found that Black students were twice as likely to be ticketed at school than their white peers. In response, Gov. JB Pritzker and two state superintendents of education said schools should not rely on police to handle student misconduct. State lawmakers tried several times to pass legislation intended to stop the practice by specifically prohibiting schools from involving police in minor disciplinary matters, but the bills stalled. Rep. La Shawn Ford, a Democrat from Chicago, told ProPublica that he plans to try again in 2025. The district has denied wrongdoing. A district spokesperson declined to answer questions from ProPublica and instead provided a letter an attorney for the district wrote to the attorney general's office criticizing the findings. The district's letter says it will review its student handbooks and policies. However, high school handbooks at the time of publication still stated that students could be sent to police for having vaping products.



Shrub Oak International School, a private, for-profit boarding school for students with autism in Westchester County, New York. Liz Moughon/ProPublica

Three States Have Warned Against Unregulated Boarding School for Youth With Autism

Three states have warned against sending students to Shrub Oak International School, a New York boarding school for youth with autism that was the subject of a ProPublica investigation that uncovered reports of abuse and neglect. Officials in Connecticut, Washington and Massachusetts have either alerted school districts to troubling conditions at Shrub Oak or said they plan to pull publicly funded students from the school. Based on records from school districts, court documents, and interviews with dozens of families and workers, we reported in May 2024 that parents repeatedly asked New York authorities to investigate their concerns of abuse at the school, to no avail. We also revealed that no New York government agency oversees Shrub Oak International School because it is not an approved special-education program and is not licensed as a residential facility. As a result, it has received no meaningful oversight and state officials have had no authority over the school — who works there, whether money is spent properly, or if the curriculum and services are appropriate for students with disabilities. Shrub Oak spokesperson Richard Bamberger previously said that the school contacts police and fires employees who are "involved in an issue." He has said

that the school enrolls students whom other schools have rejected. Many of them have complex needs and struggle with self-injurious behaviors, aggression and property destruction, Bamberger has said.

Liberty University Hit With Record Fines for Failing to Handle Complaints of Sexual Assault, Other Crimes

Spurred by a ProPublica investigation, the federal Department of Education has announced a historic \$14 million fine against Liberty University for failing to properly handle reports of sexual assault and other campus safety issues. The DOE concluded that the Christian evangelical university had fundamentally failed to support victims of violence as required by law. Our 2021 investigation revealed how school officials had discouraged and dismissed women who tried to come forward with accounts of sexual assault. threatening them with punishment for breaking the university's strict moral code, known as "The Liberty Way." Our reporting sparked widespread outrage and demands by U.S. senators for the DOE to investigate. In response to the government's report, Liberty University said in a statement that it faced "unfair treatment." But the school also admitted to mistakes and committed to spending \$2 million to improve campus safety.

Environment



A river of oil spills across the Cymric field near McKittrick, California, in June 2019. Obtained by The Desert Sun and ProPublica via a Public Records Act request

Chevron Will Pay Record Fines for Oil Spills in California

More than three years after an investigation by Pro-Publica and Local Reporting Network partner The Desert Sun found that oil companies were profiting from illegal spills in California and the state's oversight of the industry was lax, Chevron has agreed to pay a record-setting \$13 million to two California agencies for past oil spills. Our reporting found that state regulators have allowed companies like Chevron to make millions from inland oil spills that can endanger workers and harm the environment. At least one of Chevron's spills in the state was still running more than 21 years after it began. In an email, Chevron North America spokesperson Sean Comey said the settlements "demonstrate our continuing commitment to take action to address issues and prevent similar incidents in the future."

Oregon Lawmaker Pushes to Restore Timber Taxes and Curtail Tax-Funded Lobbying

Repeatedly citing our coverage as essential reading for lawmakers, Oregon state Sen. Jeff Golden introduced legislation to address some of the key issues raised by "The Cutting," an award-winning 2020 investigative series by ProPublica, Local Reporting Network partner Oregon Public Broadcasting and The Oregonian/ OregonLive. The bill, which was weakened and died in committee, would have raised taxes that were slashed for timber companies in the 1990s and restored some of the money lost for public services in communities where timber is harvested. It also would have eliminated a public agency that the news organizations revealed to be a de facto lobbying arm of the timber industry. Our previous reporting revealed that timber companies, increasingly dominated by Wall Street real estate trusts and investment funds, are reaping the benefits of timber tax cuts that have cost Oregon counties at least \$3 billion in the past three decades.

EPA Proposes Ban on Pesticide Widely Used on Fruits and Vegetables

After months of questioning by environmental scientists and ProPublica, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a near-total ban of a toxic pesticide widely used on fruits and vegetables. In April 2024, ProPublica revealed the agency was proposing to ease restrictions on acephate with a plan that would have allowed 10 times more of the pesticide on food than is acceptable under the current limits. Acephate, which was banned by the European Union more than 20 years ago, has been linked in studies to developmental problems in children.

U.S. Senator Urges EPA to Release "Science-Based" Report on Formaldehyde Health Risks

Citing a ProPublica investigation published weeks prior, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., urged the EPA to issue a final report on the health risks of formaldehyde that is "science-based" and "as strong as possible," calling on the agency to protect the public from the chemical. Our December 2024 reporting found that despite formaldehyde causing more cancer than any other toxic air pollutant, little has been done to curb the risk. We reported that federal regulators have known for more than four decades that formaldehyde is toxic, but their attempts to limit the chemical have been repeatedly thwarted by the many companies that rely on it. The EPA issued a draft report in March 2024, which we found used unusual techniques to underestimate formaldehyde risks. The agency issued a final report in early January 2025 that will inform future restrictions on the chemical.

EPA Finalizes New Standards for Cancer-Causing Chemicals

Two years after ProPublica's groundbreaking "Sacrifice Zones" investigative series mapped toxic air pollutants across the country, the EPA announced new regulations that will drastically reduce cancerous air pollution from chemical plants. The new standards specifically target ethylene oxide, which our analysis found was the single biggest contributor to excess industrial cancer risk from air pollutants nationwide. The EPA expects that under the new regulation, annual emissions of ethylene oxide will fall by 80%. Our analysis identified more than a thousand toxic hot spots that

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Revisiting the community of Flint, Michigan, for the 10-year commemoration of the water crisis was a personal endeavor for reporter Anna Clark and me. Having both worked in Flint before, we wanted people to know that generations of residents are still navigating physical and psychological challenges. Telling the story required months of on-theground reporting and building relationships with people who have faced repeated betrayal. This story, which transformed into an interactive event and photo gallery, was a reminder of how crucial it is to feel connected, seen and represented as fellow neighbors and human beings.

—Sarahbeth Maney, Diamonstein-Spielvogel Visual Fellow



Workers pull plastic bags off a conveyor belt as they sort through recyclable materials at Recology's Recycle Central in San Francisco, California. Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

elevate the cancer risk of millions of Americans, and found that the level of cancer risk from industrial air pollution in majority-Black census tracts is more than double that of majority-white tracts. Within weeks, our reporting spurred impact and reforms, with the potential to benefit millions of people across the country including an expansion of air monitoring, a new wave of unannounced inspections of polluters, two state cancer studies and the EPA's rejection of a less stringent health standard for ethylene oxide.

ExxonMobil Accused of "Deceptively" Promoting Chemical Recycling as a Solution for the Plastics Crisis

The attorney general of California <u>filed a lawsuit</u> accusing ExxonMobil of "deceptively" promoting chemical recycling as a solution for the plastics crisis, citing ProPublica's recent reporting. In June 2024, we examined the oil giant's claim that it had <u>trans</u>formed discarded plastic into new fruit cups through an "advanced" chemical recycling technology called pyrolysis. We broke down the math to show just how little recycled content winds up in products made this way and how companies inflate that percentage in their marketing. Following our report, the EPA took its first federal action against misleading recycled content claims in plastic products by prohibiting the use of this controversial accounting method in its "Safer Choice" program. The EPA's new standards require products to contain at least 15% postconsumer recycled content by weight to qualify for the "Safer Choice" label, effectively excluding products made through chemical recycling technologies like pyrolysis and setting a potential precedent for future federal regulations on plastic recycling claims. In a statement, an ExxonMobil spokesperson insisted that advanced recycling works and that California officials have known for decades that the state's recycling system isn't effective. "Instead of suing us, they could have worked with us to fix the problem," the statement said.



The Chevron refinery in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Jonathan Bachman/Reuters

U.S. Agency Is Pushing for Storm Drain Safety Measures

Following our December 2021 investigation into the long-neglected problem of uncovered storm drains, which have been responsible for at least three dozen deaths during flash floods since 2015, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development implemented a new federal rule in May 2024. Officials overseeing HUD-funded projects in flood-prone areas are now required to consider safety measures for drain openings, such as protective grates. The rule comes after HUD officials read our investigation and spoke with officials from Denver's Mile High Flood District who were featured in our story. Our reporting found that despite records of horrific cases that span the country and stretch back decades — and the scientific consensus that climate change will only worsen flooding - federal, state and local government agencies have failed to take simple steps to prevent these tragic deaths from happening.

EPA Says It Plans to Withdraw Approval for Chevron's Plastic-Based Fuels That Are Likely to Cause Cancer

The EPA announced plans to withdraw its approval for Chevron to produce 18 plastic-based fuels, including some with extremely high cancer risks, after our 2023 investigations. Our reporting with The Guardian found that one of the chemicals intended to serve as jet fuel was expected to cause cancer in 1 in 4 people exposed over their lifetime, according to the agency's own records. Another of the plastic-based chemicals, an additive to marine fuel, was more than 1 million times higher than the agency usually considers acceptable, according to EPA calculations - so high that everyone exposed continually over a lifetime would be expected to develop cancer. After we reported on Chevron's plan to make the chemicals out of discarded plastic, a community group near the refinery in Pascagoula, Mississippi, sued the EPA in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Chevron, which has not begun making the chemicals, did not respond to a question about their potential health effects. The company emailed a statement saying that "Chevron understands [that the] EPA told the court that the agency had over-estimated the hazards under these permits."

Government



The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that Angela Gladwell, left, was stepping down as head of a claims office compensating victims of the Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon wildfire. Adria Malcolm for ProPublica

Texas Voter Reinstated After Being Incorrectly Flagged as a "Noncitizen"

In October, we partnered with The Texas Tribune and Votebeat to investigate Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's claim that the state removed more than 1 million ineligible voters from its rolls, including more than 6,500 potential noncitizens. As Texas officials, including the attorney general, pushed the narrative that noncitizens were registering en masse with plans to vote in U.S. elections, our reporting identified large discrepancies in the governor's numbers. The figures provided to Abbott by his secretary of state put the number of potential noncitizens who were registered to vote closer to about 600. Ultimately, the news organizations found that at least 10 U.S. citizens had been incorrectly labeled as noncitizens. One such voter was Mary Howard-Elley. She was initially kicked off the rolls because officials said she did not submit her U.S. birth certificate in time but was reinstated after the news organizations intervened.

FEMA Leader Overseeing \$4 Billion Fund to Pay Victims of New Mexico Wildfire Steps Down

The director of a Federal Emergency Management Agency office overseeing a multibillion-dollar compensation fund for victims of a New Mexico wildfire that was accidentally triggered by the U.S. Forest Service stepped down last year. Her reassignment followed months of reporting by ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner Source New Mexico detailing FEMA's problems in providing temporary housing and in paying victims for damages. Our investigation found that more than a year after the fire ripped through the mountains of northern New Mexico and destroyed at least 430 homes, FEMA's claims office had paid less than 1% of the total allocated. FEMA also faced lawsuits accusing it of missing legally required deadlines to make payment offers. As of January, things had improved: The agency had paid 33% of the allocated money, but it still faced accusations that it was missing payment deadlines.



A sign for Scott Beard's campaign for City Council outside the Hope 4 Life Church in Abilene, Texas, in April 2023. Beard was fined for accepting donations from churches and posting campaign signs on church property. Emil T. Lippe for ProPublica and The Texas Tribune

West Texas Pastor Who Used Illegal Donations From Churches to Campaign for Office Is Fined \$3,500

A West Texas pastor who used his parish's resources to campaign for office and several pastors from other churches who donated to him were fined after the state's ethics commission determined that each violated election law. The fines followed reporting by ProPublica and The Texas Tribune that revealed that three churches donated to the campaign of Scott Beard, founding pastor at Fountaingate Fellowship church, despite state and federal prohibitions on such activity. Our reporting found that the donations represent a new level of brazenness as some churches across Texas and the U.S. become more active in political campaigns. Beard did not respond to a request for comment regarding the fine, but he previously told ProPublica and the Tribune in a phone interview that the churches did not know they weren't allowed to donate to him and that he had sent the checks back.

School Districts Post Campaign Finance Disclosures Online, as Required By Law

For decades, the vast majority of Texas' more than 1,200 school districts were not required to post campaign finance reports online, requiring the public to file a Public Information Act request to see who donated to their local officials. Legislators changed the law in 2023 to mandate the posting of such reports. ProPublica and The Texas Tribune examined a sample of 35 districts and found that none were following the law. State officials were unaware of the violations because they were not monitoring compliance. Several district leaders told the newsrooms they knew of the new requirement but still had not posted the records. Most said they learned about the mandate for the first time from the reporters. Nearly all posted the missing records after the reporters contacted them. The work continues to reverberate as more districts post their reports online.



Photo illustration by ProPublica. Source images: Eric Lee/Bloomberg via Getty Images, Chris Goodney/Bloomberg via Getty Images

Senate Probe Finds Crow Provided Thomas at Least 3 Previously Undisclosed Private Jet Trips

Billionaire political donor Harlan Crow provided at least three previously undisclosed private jet trips to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas in recent years, an investigation by Senate Judiciary Committee Democrats has found. The flights, which were detailed by Crow's lawyer in response to inquiries from the committee, took the justice to destinations including the region near Glacier National Park in Montana and Thomas' hometown in Georgia. The committee launched its investigation in response to ProPublica reporting in 2023 that revealed numerous undisclosed gifts Crow provided to Thomas, including private school tuition for a relative and luxury vacations virtually every year for more than two decades. Democrats on the committee authorized a subpoena for information from Crow last November, but the subpoena was not issued, and the new information came as a result of negotiations between the Senate and Crow's attorneys. It's possible more revelations are yet to come. Crow's office said in a statement that he

gave the senators information covering the past seven years and that the committee "agreed to end its probe with respect to Mr. Crow." "Despite his serious and continued concerns about the legality and necessity of the inquiry, Mr. Crow engaged in good faith with the Committee," the statement said. Thomas did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Justice Clarence Thomas Acknowledges He Should Have Disclosed Free Trips From Donor

In June 2024, Thomas acknowledged for the first time that he should have told the public about food and lodging he received from Crow on a pair of free vacations, both of which were first uncovered by ProPublica. Thomas said he "inadvertently omitted" the gifts on previous financial disclosure filings. Thomas had not reported the recent private jet trips from Crow, which many legal experts have described as a violation of the federal financial disclosure law. Thomas' attorney <u>maintained</u> that the justice did not need to report the free flights.



Top: The New York State Court of Appeals in Albany. John Carl D'Annibale/Albany Times Union via Getty Image Right: Dominic Bodden, special to ProPublica

Courts Appoint Special Counsel to Oversee Reform of New York's Guardianship System

In 2024, we revealed how New York's guardianship system has failed to protect thousands of aging and sick New Yorkers whom judges have declared incapable of managing their own affairs. We found that elderly and infirm New Yorkers were living in dire conditions while under court-mandated guardianships and that weak oversight enabled guardians to abuse, neglect and defraud the very people they were supposed to care for. In response to our reporting, New York's top judicial leaders are moving to reform the system and have created two new oversight positions, including a special counsel for guardianship matters and elder justice. We previously reported that the chair of the New York City Council's Committee on Aging introduced a resolution calling on Gov. Kathy Hochul and legislative leaders to overhaul the state's guardianship system. And following our profile of one

woman's decadelong journey through guardianship, a New York judge ordered a guardianship company to <u>return thousands of dollars</u> that it took from her in fees for services it never provided.



Health



Photo illustration by Lisa Larson-Walker/ProPublica. Source images: Illustration by Vanessa Saba, special to ProPublica, photos by Eric J. Shelton/Mississippi Today, documents obtained by Mississippi Today and ProPublica.

Mississippi Lawmakers Move to Limit the Jail Detentions of People Awaiting Mental Health Treatment

Citing our reporting with Local Reporting Network partner Mississippi Today, lawmakers in Mississippi overhauled the state's civil commitment laws to limit when people can be jailed without criminal charges as they await court-ordered psychiatric treatment. The new law went into effect over the summer. Our 2023 investigation found that local officials in Mississippi routinely jailed people awaiting mental health treatment for days or even weeks even though they hadn't been charged with a crime.

Idaho Approves Secure Mental Health Facility

On the heels of ProPublica's <u>reporting</u> that revealed how Idaho has detained psychiatric patients in maximum security prison cells since the 1950s, Gov. Brad Little <u>signed into law</u> a bipartisan bill allocating \$25 million to build a dedicated mental health facility. Our December 2023 investigation found that Idaho would soon be the only state still using prisons to house patients who face no criminal charges and that Idaho state lawmakers and officials ignored repeated warnings for decades that locking away patients without a conviction could violate their civil rights.

Maine Proposes Major Staffing Increases for Assisted Living and Residential Care Facilities

In the first major update to assisted living and residential care regulations in more than 15 years, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services proposed increasing staffing requirements, among other changes. The proposed changes followed an 18-month investigation with Local Reporting Network partner The Maine Monitor that found dozens of violations at the state's largest facilities, including incidents of abuse and neglect, more than 100 cases in which residents wandered away from their



Amanda Duffy, whose daughter was stillborn in 2014, marches on the National Mall in Washington, calling on Congress to pass stillbirth legislation. Jenn Ackerman, special to ProPublica

facilities, and hundreds of medication and treatment violations. Our reporting revealed that the number of nursing home beds across Maine has plummeted, leaving thousands of aging Mainers in assisted living and "nonmedical" residences that aren't equipped to handle intensive health needs. The proposed changes would increase the number of direct care workers at these residential care facilities.

Bill to Fund Stillbirth Prevention and Research Signed into Law

In June 2024, Congress passed the Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act, which ensures that federal maternal and child health dollars can be used for stillbirth prevention efforts. Members of Congress, who credited our reporting, introduced the bipartisan legislation aimed at reducing the more than 20,000 pregnancies that end in stillbirth every year in the U.S. Our reporting over the past few years found that among wealthy countries, the U.S. ranks as one of the worst in reducing its stillbirth rate and that 1 in 4 stillbirths may be preventable. We reported that <u>lack</u> of comprehensive action, research and awareness, as well as <u>stark racial disparities</u>, have all contributed to a stillbirth crisis in this country.

FDA Finally Moves to Scrutinize Specialized Health Screenings

The Food and Drug Administration issued a rule in April 2024 that brings new scrutiny to a range of critical lab-developed tests, marking a massive shift in the FDA's approach to a sector that touches millions. The new rule cited coverage of the issues by ProPublica articles: One story revealed problems with prenatal genetic screenings and the other reported on faulty lab-testing for COVID-19 that was overseen by one company. The ProPublica investigation on prenatal genetic screenings referenced by the FDA revealed how certain tests fall into a regulatory void, with no federal agency checking the accuracy of the tests before they reached patients or evaluating marketing claims made by the companies that sell them.



Amber Thurman's sister, Cjauna Williams, visits Thurman's grave in McDonough, Georgia. Nydia Blas for ProPublica

Lawmakers in at Least Seven States Seek Expanded Abortion Access

Over the past few years, ProPublica has been doggedly tracking the consequences of overturning Roe v. Wade and the abortion bans that have gone into effect across the country. In the fall, we began publishing stories that make clear, for the first time, that in the wake of these bans, women are losing their lives in ways that experts have deemed preventable. Our reporters found that at least five women — three in Texas and two in Georgia - died after they could not access timely reproductive care in states that ban abortion. Their stories ignited outrage around the country, became talking points during the presidential election and are spurring impact. Lawmakers are filing more than a dozen bills to expand abortion access in at least seven states. Some were filed in direct response to ProPublica's reporting on the fatal consequences of such laws, including in Texas, Florida, Kentucky and North Dakota. A Senate Finance Committee investigation, launched in response to our reporting, released a 29-page report in December 2024 that found that hospitals are providing minimal guidance to doctors navigating abortion restrictions, often leaving them without clear protocols in life-or-death situations. The report provides a new layer of insight into the sometimes chaotic and dysfunctional hospital landscape in states with abortion bans, as well as a fresh opportunity for hospitals to consider reforms and provide proactive and transparent guidance to patients, doctors and other hospital staff.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



When the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and states began banning abortion, experts warned this would lead to preventable deaths. But we soon learned that state maternal mortality review committees were years behind on reviewing cases — plus their findings may be limited and never reach the public. So we decided to investigate ourselves. The work was like locating a needle in a haystack. We had to wrestle death records free from reluctant public offices, scour them for clues, gain the trust of hesitant families, gather hospital records and then review them with dozens of experts across the country to understand what happened.

The response from readers was overwhelming, and many people wanted to know how they could stay safe if they experienced a pregnancy loss in a state that banned abortion. We followed up with an educational guide on how abortion care intersects with miscarriage care, and we are continuing our reporting on the implications of these laws on this critical procedure for maternal health.

 Kavitha Surana,
Reporter covering reproductive health care



Betty VanPatten holds a photo of herself and her husband, Forrest, outside of her home in Sparta, Michigan. Forrest VanPatten died in 2020 after his insurer refused to pay for a potentially lifesaving treatment. Kristen Norman for ProPublica

Michigan Insurance Regulator Says Health Plans Can't Dodge Paying for Cancer Treatments

A state lawmaker introduced a bill in March 2024 that would require health plans in the state to cover cutting-edge cancer treatments, including genetic and immunotherapies. The bill was spurred by our November 2023 investigation into a 50-year old Michigan resident who died from lymphoma after his insurance company refused to cover the CAR-T cell therapy treatment prescribed by his oncologist. Weeks after our reporting, the state's top insurance regulator told health insurers that they had to cover clinically proven cancer treatments, including genetic and biologic therapies. This new bill aims to codify that guidance.

SUPPORTER FEEDBACK

Truly nonpartisan, independent journalism is vanishing. Keeping outlets like ProPublica working to report the stories corporate media won't touch is imperative to securing our democracy.

-ProPublica supporter in Illinois



In June 2021, Philips Respironics recalled millions of breathing machines, including the popular DreamStation. Three years later, Philips reached an agreement with the U.S. Justice Department to institute new safety measures. Liz Moughon/ProPublica

Senate Veterans' Affairs Chair Calls for More Mental Health Care Providers in Rural Areas

In January 2024, a ProPublica investigation revealed serious lapses in the psychiatric care two veterans received at a Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Chico, California, both of whom shot and killed their mothers during mental health crises in January 2022. A ProPublica analysis of over 300 reports published by the VA's inspector general since 2020 pointed to systemic shortfalls across the department's sprawling health care network, including inadequate mental health staffing, outdated policies and the inability to enforce high standards across a large, decentralized health care network. Weeks after our report, the nation's top VA official, Secretary Denis McDonough, visited the California clinic and pledged to address concerns about inadequate staffing in the facility's mental health unit. In April 2024, citing ProPublica's reporting, the chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Jon Tester, sent a letter to McDonough raising concerns about mental health staffing shortages nationwide and asking him to increase the number of mental health providers in rural parts of the country.

Philips Halts Sale of Breathing Machines in U.S.

Philips Respironics agreed to stop selling sleep apnea machines and other respiratory devices in the United States under a settlement with the federal government that will all but end the company's reign as one of the top makers of breathing machines in the country. The company will additionally be required to institute new safeguards, capping one of the most catastrophic medical device recalls in decades. In 2023, ProPublica and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette began publishing a series of investigations that revealed how the global company withheld thousands of warnings about its widely used CPAP machines and ventilators, which were capable of spewing hazardous particles and fumes into the masks of patients. We reported that Philips, which has long dominated the market, kept secret more than 3,700 complaints about the faulty devices over the course of 11 years before launching a recall in 2021. Citing our reporting, federal lawmakers called for a criminal probe of Philips by the Department of Justice, and the Government Accountability Office announced an investigation of the FDA's oversight of medical device recalls for the first time in years. Philips did not respond to questions about the consent decree. The company has previously said that tests on the original foam caused no "appreciable harm" to patients. And in an online video about the settlement, Chief Patient Safety and Quality Officer Steve C de Baca said the silicone-based foam in the replacement machines was also safe. Philips has "not identified any safety issues" with the replacement machines, he said, and "their use is not impacted" by the consent decree.

Housing



Above: Landlords in Los Angeles have turned rent-controlled apartments, like 1940 Carmen Ave., into vacation rentals in apparent violation of the law

Right: Kelly Adams and her family live in a one-bedroom apartment in Venice, California. Venice has more home-sharing registrations than any other community in the city. Barbara Davidson for ProPublica

Los Angeles Considers Crackdown on Illegal Vacation Rentals

As Los Angeles prepares to host tens of thousands of visitors for the 2028 Summer Olympics, city officials are proposing stronger enforcement measures against illegal vacation rentals, including stiffer penalties and an electronic system that would automatically reject bookings at properties that aren't approved for short-term rental. The proposals follow a July 2024 investigation by ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner Capital & Main that uncovered over 60 rent-controlled buildings being illegally listed on booking sites despite LA's Home Sharing Ordinance, which prohibits such stays in rent-controlled apartments. The investigation revealed enforcement failures and communication breakdowns between city departments, leading to few citations being issued even as property owners continued illegal rentals. The enforcement crisis threatens LA's ability to preserve affordable housing as the city faces a soaring housing market and near-record homelessness.




A HomeVestors sign in Bellingham, Massachusetts. Peter DiCampo/ProPublica

Minnesota Lawmakers Pass Bill to Reform Controversial "Contract for Deed" Home Sales

Following a 2022 investigation by ProPublica and Sahan Journal that revealed questionable real estate transactions that left members of Minnesota's Somali and Hispanic immigrant communities at risk of losing their homes, the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau issued new guidance in August 2024 that affirms that federal home-lending rules and laws like the Truth in Lending Act cover contract-fordeed agreements. Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz signed a bill into law in May 2024 to reform controversial contract-for-deed real estate deals and include greater protections for buyers. Our report revealed how a contract-for-deed deal — an alternative home sale agreement made directly between a seller and a buyer — can lock purchasers into inflated prices and unfavorable terms, and sometimes lead to eviction and the loss of their life savings. Following an investigation prompted by our reporting, the Minnesota attorney general also sued home seller Chadwick Banken, alleging violations of lending law and religious discrimination by Banken and six of his limited liability corporations. Banken denied

misleading anyone and the lawsuits were settled. Banken did not return calls or respond to a detailed list of questions for this story.

"We Buy Ugly Houses" Company Overhauls Policies

In January 2024, HomeVestors of America, the self-described largest homebuyer in the country, announced that it would overhaul some of its business practices in the wake of a ProPublica investigation that revealed predatory tactics toward homeowners in vulnerable situations. The reforms include establishing a three-day window for home sellers to terminate a sales contract, creating an ethics hotline and using a team of auditors to better police franchise activities. Our 2023 investigation found that the company trains its nearly 1,150 franchisees to zero in on homeowners' desperation, including targeting elderly homeowners who did not understand the contracts they signed. Following our reporting, Congress and federal regulators called for more scrutiny of the company and other houseflipping franchises, and the president and CEO of HomeVestors of America stepped down.



Photo illustration by ProPublica. Photo by Sipa USA via AP Images.

DOJ Files Antitrust Suit Against Maker of Rent-Setting Algorithm

The Department of Justice and eight states filed a lawsuit against RealPage, a Texas-based tech company, accusing it of taking part in an illegal price-fixing scheme to reduce competition among landlords so they can boost prices — and profits. The DOJ alleged that RealPage's software enabled landlords to share confidential data and charge similar rents, effectively reducing competition. The antitrust lawsuit followed a 2022 ProPublica investigation that detailed how RealPage used algorithms to recommend rents to landlords across the country. Critics say the software may be helping big landlords collude to push rents above competitive levels in some markets. Since our reporting, senators have introduced legislation

seeking to ban such practices, tenants have filed dozens of federal lawsuits and San Francisco's Board of Supervisors moved to bar landlords from using similar algorithms to set rents. This case has become central to the Justice Department's efforts to strengthen antitrust enforcement, particularly in applying old laws to new technologies used for price coordination. RealPage, which is owned by the private equity company Thoma Bravo, did not immediately respond to ProPublica's request for comment. It has previously denied wrongdoing. In a statement published on its website in June 2024, the company said its landlord clients are free to accept or reject its advice and that its impact on the national rental market is smaller than portrayed by the software's critics. It has previously said it will fight antitrust litigation.

Racial Justice



Christopher Newport University's campus displaced a Black neighborhood in Newport News, Virginia. Daily Press Media Group

Virginia Lawmakers Approve Commission to Examine Universities' Displacement of Black Communities

The Virginia legislature has approved a statewide commission to investigate the role of public colleges and universities in displacing Black communities. The action is in response to a 2023 series by ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner Virginia Center for Investigative Journalism at WHRO, which focused on how universities nationwide have uprooted tens of thousands of families of color, contributing to Black land loss and lagging rates of Black home ownership. The series, which detailed how the creation and expansion of Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia, swallowed up a Black neighborhood, spurred city and university leaders there to create a similar task force in January 2024.

Legislation Would Expand Access to Disaster Relief, Help With Titles for Large Number of Black Landowners

In April 2024, federal lawmakers introduced legislation that would expand heirs' property owners' access to disaster relief and provide assistance in clearing titles. Heirs' property refers to land that has been passed down informally within families; without clear titles, owners can be ineligible for government aid and their land vulnerable to forced sales. Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, a Democrat from Texas, decided to introduce legislation after reading a collaboration between ProPublica and The New Yorker on the legal and financial risks of holding land as heirs' property. More than a third of Blackowned land in the South is heirs' property. The practice of conveying land without a will dates to Reconstruction, when many Black families did not have access to courts, and it continued through the Jim Crow era. Our reporting examined how heirs' property owners can be locked out of federal assistance and compelled by courts to sell their land against their will.



Top Left: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University. Top Right: Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, urged institutions to devote more resources to fulfilling tribes' repatriation requests.. Photo illustration by Lisa Larson-Walker/ ProPublica. Photos by Sophie Park for ProPublica, Tierney L. Cross/Bloomberg via Getty Images.

Bottom Right: In January 2024, Chicago's Field Museum shrouded dozens of display cases in its ancient Americas, northwest coast and Arctic exhibits. Kevin Serna for ProPublica

New Federal Rules Speed the Repatriation of Native Remains

In January 2023, we began publishing "The Repatriation Project," which revealed that remains of more than 110,000 Native Americans were still being held by prominent institutions across the U.S. despite a 1990 law requiring their prompt return to Indigenous communities. The series included a dozen stories and an interactive database that allows the public to see the status of repatriation in their communities and led to widespread impact and acknowledgment of past failures. More than 70 news outlets cited Pro-Publica's database to report the repatriation progress of institutions in their communities. Following the publication of our series and decades of Indigenous activism, American museums and universities repatriated more ancestral remains and sacred objects to tribal nations in 2023 than at any point in the past three decades, transferring ownership of an estimated 18,800 Native American ancestors. New federal rules aimed at speeding repatriations of Native remains and burial items went into effect in 2024, after which some of the nation's largest and most prominent museums, including the American Museum of Natural History in New York, Field Museum in Chicago, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University, announced that they will close exhibits or remove sensitive Native American items from display as they assess their compliance with the law.



Technology



Photo Illustration by Andrea Wise/ProPublica. Source photo: imagoDens/Getty Images.

Microsoft Bundling Practices Focus of Federal Antitrust Probe

The Federal Trade Commission launched an antitrust investigation into Microsoft, focusing in part on how the company bundles its Office products with cybersecurity and cloud services. The probe follows ProPublica's November 2024 investigation that revealed how, beginning in 2021, Microsoft used this bundling strategy to vastly expand its government contracts, hooking federal agencies with free security upgrades that were nearly impossible to back out of when the trial ended. We showed that the deals moved forward despite concerns from Microsoft's own lawyers, who worried they might violate antitrust laws. Microsoft's offer not only displaced existing cybersecurity vendors but also took market share from cloud providers such as Amazon Web Services. Company spokesperson David Cuddy did not comment on the specifics of the investigation but said the FTC's demand is "broad, wide ranging, and requests things that are out of the realm of possibility

to even be logical." He declined to provide on-the-record examples. The FTC declined to comment.

The FTC probe comes amid heightened scrutiny of Microsoft's security practices. Our prior reporting exposed how the company had ignored a former employee's warnings about a critical product flaw for fear of alienating government customers and hurting its chances of winning a massive federal contract for cloud computing services. Years after the employee's warnings, Russian hackers exploited the flaw in the SolarWinds attack, which, as ProPublica revealed, breached sensitive agencies including the National Nuclear Security Administration. Microsoft has defended its decision against addressing the Solar-Winds-related flaw, telling ProPublica in June 2024 that the company's assessment included "multiple reviews" at the time and that its response to security issues is based on "potential customer disruption, exploitability, and available mitigations." It has pledged to put security "above all else."



Rose Wong for ProPublica

Chime to pay California regulator \$2.5M over customer service flaws

Nearly three years after **ProPublica** revealed that the popular banking app Chime had racked up an unusually large number of consumer complaints about locked accounts, inaccessible funds and slow resolution time, the company was found to have violated consumer protections provided by the California Consumer Financial Protection Law. Chime agreed to pay a \$2.5 million penalty and take steps to enhance its customer service. In its initial statement to Pro-Publica, Chime portrayed the customer complaints as largely driven by the company's attempts to crack down on accounts that use fraudulently obtained unemployment insurance or federal stimulus payments. In a statement to Banking Dive, Chime said that the settlement "reflects the reality of operating at a large scale in a highly regulated industry, and our belief that timely response to customer complaints is critically important."

SUPPORTER FEEDBACK

In a country filled with propaganda, disinformation, made-up reality and lies, it's important to have factual information to help navigate your life. ProPublica delivers that.

-ProPublica supporter in Texas

Trump Administration

Words of Conviction

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more than a decade, a train ead across the country an



Environment

The Cold War Legacy Lurking in U.S. Groundwater

n and Alex Micrieski, video by Gerardo del Valle, Liz Moughon and Mauricio Rodriguez Pont Dag. 3, 2021 6 a m. EST

Recognition for Our Work

The Figh Age-Old Block An From Vo

by Aliyya Swaby and Sept. 12, 2022, 5 G7 a This year ProPublica received many of journalism's highest honors, including the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for public service. A <u>full list of awards</u> that ProPublica and partners won is on our website. Here are some of the year's highlights.

Collage by Jana Flynn for ProPublica

Pulitzer Prize — **Public Service** "Friends of the Court"

Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute Pictures of the Year International Competition — Documentary Journalism

"Uprooted" (with Virginia Center for Investigative Journalism at WHRO)

George Polk Award — Multiple Categories

"Friends of the Court" for national reporting

"With Every Breath" (with the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette) for medical reporting

"Juvenile Injustice, Tennessee" (with WPLN, Serial) for podcast reporting

Collier Prize for State Government Accountability "Someone Tell Me What to Do" (with The Texas Tribune and FRONTLINE)

National Magazine Award — Reporting "Under the Gun" (with The Texas Tribune)

Education Writers Association National Award for Education Reporting — Collaborations "Uprooted" (with Virginia Center for Investigative Journalism at WHRO)

Indigenous Journalists Association — Richard LaCourse Award for Investigative Journalism "The Repatriation Project"

IRE Award — Print/Online, Division 1 "Friends of the Court"

Military Reporters and Editors Journalism Contest — Best Enterprise Writing, Non-Deadline, Division 1 "The Inside Story of How the Navy Spent Billions on the 'Little Crappy Ship'"

News and Documentary Emmy Award — Multiple Categories

"The Night Doctrine" for Outstanding News Discussion and Analysis: Editorial and Opinion, Outstanding Graphic Design: News, and Outstanding Music Composition: News

Online News Association Online Journalism Award — Multiple Categories

"Afghanistan Night Raids" (with The New Yorker) for digital video storytelling, long form, small/medium newsroom "Someone Tell Me What to Do" (with The Texas Tribune, FRONTLINE) for explanatory reporting, large newsroom ProPublica for social media engagement

Edward R. Murrow Award — Multiple Categories

"As Rail Profits Soar, Blocked Crossings Force Kids to Crawl Under Trains to Get to School" (with Gray TV/ Investigative TV) for TV network hard news

"The Uvalde Response" (with The Texas Tribune, FRONTLINE) for TV network news documentary

"How Columbia Ignored Women, Undermined Prosecutors and Protected a Predator for More Than

20 Years" (with New York Magazine) for large digital organization investigative reporting

"How Columbia Ignored Women, Undermined Prosecutors and Protected a Predator for More

Than 20 Years" (with Wondery) for large digital organization podcast

ProPublica for overall excellence in smaller digital organization

Scripps Howard Journalism Award — Multiple Categories

"The 20 Farming Families Who Use More Water from the Colorado River Than Some Western States" (with The Desert Sun) won the excellence in innovation award, honoring Roy W. Howard category

"Friends of the Court" for Ursula and GilbertFarfel prize — national/international investigative reporting

Sidney Hillman Foundation Award — October Sidney Award "Life of the Mother"

Society of Environmental Journalists Award — Outstanding Beat Reporting, Large "The Long Burn" (with Source New Mexico)

Gerald Loeb Award for Distinguished Business and Financial Journalism — Personal Finance and Consumer Reporting "Unactured" (with The Capital Forum)

"Uncovered" (with The Capital Forum)

USC Annenberg Center for Communication and Journalism — Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting

"Friends of the Court"



Partners have been a vital part of ProPublica since our founding. In 2024 we partnered with 61 publishing and reporting partners. Fourteen of those organizations were new to us. All told, we have collaborated with 319 organizations since our 2008 founding.

In "Why I Left the Network," Melissa Todd, a psychologist in Eugene, Oregon spoke to ProPublica and NPR about her decision to leave UnitedHealthcare: "I felt all this pressure to say the right thing to be able to keep giving my client what she needed." Tony Luong, special to ProPublica



Roseann Marmor, a therapist in Portland, Oregon, left three insurance networks beginning in 2021. Tony Luong, special to ProPublica

Partner Spotlight: NPR

In the "America's Mental Barrier" series, a group of ProPublica reporters examined how insurance companies interfere with access to mental health care across the United States. For the first story in the series, "Why I Left the Network," they teamed up with NPR to provide readers and public radio listeners with a unique glimpse into the painful decision that many mental health providers had to make to best serve their patients: leaving their insurance networks. The story also featured immersive photography and visual storytelling. Photographer Tony Luong aimed to capture portraits of the therapists in their office environments, showing how they might appear to patients, while also focusing on close-up images that highlighted their faces. Interactive story designer Zisiga Mukulu created visual cards that highlight the reasons the therapists decided to leave, showing how, one by one, providers left their networks. Audio from interviews with therapists was also included in a segment on "PBS NewsHour." The story reached wider audiences with features on "Apple News Today" and "Noticias Univision 24/7." NPR also collaborated with ProPublica on an Instagram post. The story reached ProPublica's top 10 social media posts with the most engagement for 2024.

In September, ProPublica published a searing, heartwrenching <u>narrative</u> by reporter Max Blau about the struggles of Ravi Coutinho, who tried to use his insurance plan to find treatment for depression and alcohol addiction, but after multiple frustrating attempts to access care, he died. NPR's Rhitu Chatterjee interviewed Coutinho's mother for a segment, and the story was also featured on "Weekend Edition." ProPublica's reporting from the series has been widely shared among professional associations, presented at state board meetings and cited by legislators as a prompt for bolstering enforcement.



Mary Howard-Elley, a Splendora, Texas, resident, was removed from the state's voter rolls after being inaccurately labeled as a noncitizen. Danielle Villasana for ProPublica and The Texas Tribune

Partner Spotlight: Votebeat

In October, ProPublica and The Texas Tribune teamed up with Votebeat to investigate Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's claims about noncitizen voting. Reporters discovered that the claims were inflated and, in some cases, simply wrong. They identified at least 10 U.S. citizens who were incorrectly labeled as noncitizens, among them Mary Howard-Elley. The lifelong Republican voter didn't realize her registration was canceled until the news organizations contacted her. Election officials in her county said that Howard-Elley could not register again in time for the election, but the news organizations pointed to a provision in state law and a Texas secretary of state advisory that required she be allowed to vote. The county ultimately reinstated her, and she voted in November. Through the collaboration, the reporting reached readers in Texas and across the country who care about voting issues. Reporters Vianna Davila and Lexi Churchill, Tribune reporter James Barragán and Votebeat reporter Natalia Contreras discussed their investigation on numerous local television stations; the "Texas Standard," a statewide radio program carried by NPR affiliates; and a program on the Pacifica radio network. National publications, such as Politico Playbook and The Hill, highlighted the reporting. It also was cited by attorneys in a Supreme Court brief opposing improper voter roll purges in Virginia.

All Partners, 2024

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Collage by Jana Flynn for ProPublica

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Audience Snapshot

ProPublica disseminates its findings to both the broader public, especially communities affected by our investigations, and key decision-makers in a position to make reforms. We reach audiences directly, through our own platforms — including our website, mobile app, newsletter and social media channels — and by partnering with other news organizations and aggregation platforms, such as Apple News, to help extend our reach.

3 million	Average monthly on-platform visitors Our unique reach on ProPublica's web and mobile platform increased, despite downward or flat industry trends. Up 4% vs. 2023.
1.9 million	Average monthly off-platform visitors Our unique reach on third-party platforms, such as Apple News and SmartNews declined. Down 25% from 2023.
11.2 million	Average monthly views Our total views on ProPublica's web and mobile platforms and third-party platforms, such as Apple News and SmartNews, declined, mostly driven by off-platform falloff. Down 10% compared to 2023.
14.1 million	Total video views Video views on the website and all social networks spiked. Most of the audience came from YouTube, Instagram and TikTok. Views tripled compared to 2023.
2.6 million	Total social media followers We established a strong presence on Bluesky, added Instagram followers and increased our audience slightly on Facebook. Up 30% from 2023.
632,000	Unique newsletter subscribers The number of unique readers who subscribe to at least one of our major newsletters increased 9% from the end of 2023.
1,377	Republished articles Republished articles include local, national and international print and digital publications that republish our work. Down 13% from 2023.
93,874	Media mentions Mentions of our work on TV, radio and podcasts, and in print and digital outlets.
5,339	Event attendees We held 17 in-person and virtual events.

Financial Information, 2024

Thanks to a burst of end-of-year support, 2024 revenue came in at \$50.4 million. Cumulative reserves were valued at \$50.5 million at the end of 2024, representing unrestricted cash equivalents and investments not needed for immediate business use. The reserve provides an essential cushion against a prolonged economic downturn or other reverses in future fundraising unrelated to our work.

Revenues

Board of Directors contributions and related grants	\$6,810,000
Foundations	\$15,451,000
Individuals (\$10,000 and above)	\$13,731,000
Individuals (less than \$10,000)	\$12,212,000
Other grants and gifts	\$ 1,378,000
Earned income and interest	\$881,000
Total	\$50,463,000*

Expenses

News salaries and benefits	\$29,226,000
Non-news salaries and benefits	\$6,829,000
Partner payments and freelance reporting	\$1,667,000
Online publishing, design and visuals	\$1,254,000
Travel, research and all other editorial expenses	\$1,965,000
Occupancy	\$1,506,000
Occupancy Insurance, legal, accounting and banking	\$1,506,000 \$1,270,000
Insurance, legal, accounting and banking Fundraising, IT and all other administrative	\$1,270,000

Total donors: more than 70,000

*Revenue includes money allocated for future years.

All figures are preliminary and unaudited, rounded to nearest \$1,000.

Cumulative reserves are calculated as the value of unrestricted cash/cash and investments at year end that are not needed for immediate business use.

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ProPublica reporters, seated from left, Alex Mierjeski, Justin Elliott, Kirsten Berg, Joshua Kaplan and Brett Murphy celebrate with staff after receiving the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for public service. Sarahbeth Maney/ProPublica

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- Add ProPublica to your will: Speak with your attorney about adding a simple amendment (codicil) to include ProPublica in your current estate plans.
- Leave a specific bequest: Designate a specific dollar amount or asset in your will to ProPublica.
- Name ProPublica as a residuary beneficiary: After other specific bequests are fulfilled, leave the remainder (or a percentage) of your estate to ProPublica.
- Make a contingent bequest: Ensure your legacy supports investigative journalism by naming ProPublica as a beneficiary if other heirs cannot inherit your estate.

Your planned gift will help ProPublica remain fearless, independent and focused on stories that matter most — those that challenge the status quo, expose wrongdoing and spark lasting reform.

Creating your legacy is easier than you think. Contact our development team at <u>donate@propublica.org</u> or visit propublica.org/support to learn more about your options.

Together, we can secure a future where independent media thrives, truth holds power accountable and democracy remains strong. Leave your mark. Defend independent journalism. Build a legacy of truth and impact.



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