



PROPUBLICA

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Winner of the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service



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 eight Pulitzer Prizes) later, ProPublica has built one of the largest investigative newsrooms in the country, with a team of more than 180 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.

Learn how you can support ProPublica's independent, investigative journalism by visiting propublica.org/support or scanning the QR code.

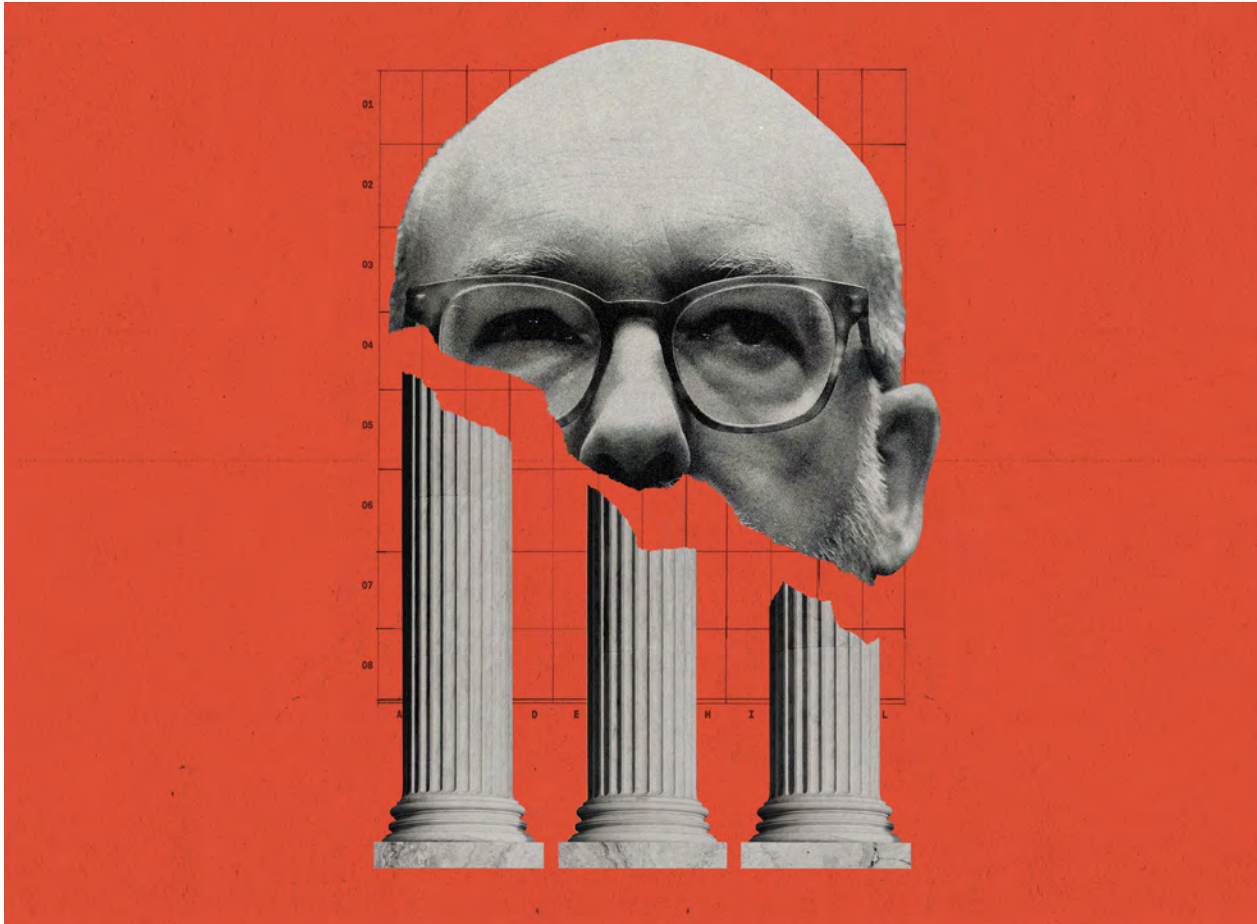




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Cover: Juan José Ramos Ramos, who was held in a maximum-security prison in El Salvador known as CECOT, is back home in Guatire, Venezuela. *Adriana Loureiro Fernández for ProPublica and The Texas Tribune*

This page: The Bonneville Power Administration Troutdale substation and transmission towers in Oregon in March 2023. *Kristyna Wentz-Graff/Oregon Public Broadcasting*



In October 2025, ProPublica published a deep dive into how director of the Office of Management and Budget, Russell Vought, became Trump’s “Shadow President”, consolidating power to an extent that insiders said makes them feel like “he is the commander in chief.” *Photo illustration by Mike McQuade. Source photographs from Alamy, Getty.*

Investigative Reporting That Counts

At the start of 2025, we set out to document how President Donald Trump’s second administration was [radically reshaping the federal government](#) and the far-reaching implications for communities around the country. We investigated the administration’s efforts to expand executive power, carry out mass deportations and reshape the American economy. We documented the federal [policies](#) and [practices](#) being upended, the [agencies](#) and [protections](#) being dismantled, and the [key people in positions of power](#) driving these deci-

sions. Our reporters tapped into [networks of sources](#) they had spent years building in federal agencies, and we developed new and innovative ways to connect with federal workers, allowing us to quickly report out what we were learning.

Our reporting focused on the consequences of these drastic changes: both the quantitative impacts — particularly as the federal government [slashed teams](#) that might have collected and distributed this data — and their real-world human impact. Much of this work

required a deceptively simple tool: counting. We calculated that the Trump administration fired or pushed out [more than 20,500 federal health workers](#), leaving agencies less equipped to conduct studies, perform inspections and combat deadly outbreaks. We detailed the [94 million pounds of food aid](#), down to the number of eggs, that never reached food banks due to the administration's cuts. And because the government [does not track how often](#) immigration agents hold American citizens, ProPublica made its own count and [found more than 170 such incidents](#). Among those detained were nearly 20 children, including two with cancer. And more than 20 citizens have reported being held for over a day without being able to call their loved ones or a lawyer.

With everything we count, and publish, impact remains at the core of our mission. At the beginning of 2025, we expected that it might be more difficult to produce the same amount of impact as in previous years given the incoming administration's open hostility to the press and the political polarization in Congress and other legislative bodies. As this annual report shows, that has not been the case. Our reporting has led to meaningful progress across a number of areas, as well as concrete policy and legislative changes — much of it with bipartisan support.

One example with stunningly quick impact: The Trump administration reversed course and [dropped plans to cut Social Security disability benefits](#) for older workers less than two weeks after we, and others, reported that at [least 830,000 mostly older blue-collar workers](#) would be at risk of losing disability benefits. And our [yearlong investigative series on stillbirths](#) prompted significant federal action and resource mobilization in an increasingly austere budgetary environment: The National Institutes of Health [launched a five-year, \\$37 million federally funded consortium](#) to reduce what it has called the country's "unacceptably high" stillbirth rate. "There's no question that the ProPublica reporting was intimately tied to this," one expert said.

We are particularly proud of the impact of our local reporting this year, where we've seen concrete policy and legislative changes across the country, on matters as politically fraught as [abortion laws in Texas](#) and [gun control in Tennessee](#). State laws were passed with bipartisan support that will [reform Idaho's coroner system](#); [strengthen police accountability in Louisiana](#); [increase oversight of sober living homes in Arizona](#); [overhaul towing policies in Connecticut](#); [ban any-](#)

[mous child abuse complaints in New York](#) to prevent misuse and weaponization; and [ban school-based police ticketing in Illinois](#).

Underlying all of our work is the sincere belief that people of good faith, whether they are in red states or blue states, will work to fix problems that come to light. In our 18 years of publishing, we have seen this happen over and over again, and 2025 was no different. Thank you for sharing our belief that accountability journalism is vital to the health and resilience of our communities and a bedrock of a strong democracy. At few times in history, if ever, has a free and independent media been under greater pressure. With support from readers like you, we're growing larger, getting stronger and spurring more impact than ever before.



Robin Sparkman

Robin Sparkman,
President



Stephen Engelberg

Stephen Engelberg,
Editor-in-Chief



Absentee ballots are prepared for mailing in Raleigh, North Carolina. *Allison Joyce/Getty Images*

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. In times like these, independent, fact-based accountability reporting is more critical than ever. Investigative journalism is an essential component of a functioning democracy, holding the powerful to account while counteracting misinformation and polarization.

In 2024, we began implementing an ambitious five-year plan to strengthen ProPublica's investigative journalism where it's most needed. Our vision is to reimagine how news is gathered and told — deepening our national reporting, bolstering local journalism and expanding our audience to grow into a truly national investigative news network that inspires change and drives accountability. Thanks to early supporters of this plan, we are making excellent progress in our growth priorities:

Boost National Reporting

We have dedicated more resources to critical beats with broad resonance — including [government oversight](#), [voting and elections](#), [immigration](#), [health care](#) and the [environment](#). We launched a bureau of investigative reporters in Washington, D.C., to deepen our coverage of the profound changes taking place in our nation's capital. Our reporters across the newsroom are documenting the Trump administration's efforts to radically reshape the federal government, helping readers understand this pivotal moment and its implications for communities around the country.

Energize Local Journalism

Bolstering the local news ecosystem remains central to our mission. We have spent the past nine 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. We launched the 50 State Initiative, which scales this work to establish partnerships in all [50 states](#) by the end of 2029. Through the LRN, we have partnered with 93 newsrooms across 38 states. We created a sustainability desk that is providing continued support for LRN alumni. While we can't fill all of the gaps left by contractions in local newsrooms, 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. We continue to build and leverage partnerships, explore new platforms for delivering the findings of our investigations and incorporate more visual storytelling to reach new audiences. We are translating more of our investigations to short-form video, helping us reach new and diverse audiences on [TikTok](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). In 2025, we produced roughly 100 videos, including short-form videos for social media and mid-length, documentary-style videos. This investment is paying off: In 2025, ProPublica videos captured 35 million views, a 150% increase year over year. We are building an in-house audio team, launched a [narrated feed](#) of our journalism and will soon begin an original weekly podcast. We are also working to get our reporters in front of new audiences across podcasts, TV and radio.



Reporting Highlights

Throughout 2025, our reporters paid close attention to President Donald Trump's immigration policy agenda. We started the day Trump was sworn in, with "Four Years in a Day," which explained the breadth of the changes in immigration policy that were set in motion by the dozens of executive orders he signed on day one. We spent the rest of the year tracking their consequences.

Leonardo Garcia Venegas was detained by immigration agents while filming a raid on his worksite, despite having a REAL ID on him and telling the officers he was a citizen. *Sarahbeth Maney/ProPublica*

Spotlight on Our Immigration Reporting

In 2025, as masked immigration agents conducted sweeping and high-profile raids in cities and towns across the country, the government often released little information about the people who were arrested, what they were charged with or where they were detained. So we set out to document who was getting caught in the mass deportation dragnet. We identified nearly a [dozen immigrants who were flown to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba](#), where attorneys were denied access to their clients. After 238 Venezuelan immigrants were deported to a maximum-security prison in El Salvador, we published a [first-of-its-kind, case-by-case investigation](#) that examined the Trump administration’s claims that these immigrants are all “sick criminals” and “terrorists” and that [showed what they suffered](#) during months in one of the region’s most notorious prisons. We documented [more than 170 U.S. citizens who had been held by immigration agents](#). And we reported that [Immigration and Customs Enforcement sent 600 immigrant kids to detention in federal shelters in 2025](#), more than the previous four years combined.

To better understand the growing infrastructure of immigration enforcement, and those exerting influence within it, we traced how the Trump administration is [building a violent, shadowy federal police force](#) and examined how much power the administration could wield at the [intersection of counterterrorism and immigration](#). We also delved into the [privately held company making billions running tent](#) detention facilities to hold immigrants entering the U.S. at the border, and we brought readers [inside ICE Air](#), where flight attendants on deportation planes were saying disaster is “only a matter of time.”

We also paid close attention to the tactics used by immigration agents making arrests and documented their [increasingly aggressive practices](#). We published a sweeping investigation into the high-profile raid on an apartment building in Chicago, tracking down the Venezuelan immigrants affected by the raid to tell their stories — and finding little evidence to support the government’s claims that the complex was filled with Tren de Aragua gang members. And in a collaboration with FRONTLINE, we examined how federal immigration forces are [deploying so-called less lethal weapons in dangerous ways](#), skirting rules and maiming protesters.

We took great care to show how the government’s aggressive immigration crackdown is reshaping the lives of migrants. Personal narratives were a significant part of that work. With FRONTLINE, we published a short film, “[Status: Venezuelan](#),” that follows one family on the front lines of the Trump administration’s move to strip protections from hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan families living in the United States. We also introduced readers to [Ayman Soliman](#), a 51-year-old Muslim cleric working as a chaplain at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. The government had detained and was seeking to deport Soliman, but its case had come under scrutiny from supporters and legal advocates. Soliman’s detention sparked a community uproar and became a test of counterterrorism powers in immigration court.

Ten days after our story was published, [Soliman was released from an Ohio jail](#), as the Department of Homeland Security abruptly withdrew its case against him. “This is beyond my dreams,” Soliman told ProPublica in a call minutes after he was freed. “I’m still overwhelmed by the surprise.” Soliman’s asylum status was reinstated and his application for a green card has been revived. He said he was “out of words” for the support system that sprang to his defense.



The End of Aid

When Trump officials began dismantling the U.S. Agency for International Development, they said lifesaving programs would still remain operational. Reporters Anna Maria Barry-Jester and Brett Murphy quickly learned that wasn't true. They published stories showing that officials slashed programs despite dire warnings that people would die. And even as officials insisted that nobody died from aid cuts, the reporters showed they were wrong.

Rose Natabo holds her youngest son, Santo, at their home in Kakuma, a sprawling refugee camp in Kenya.



More than 300,000 people in Kakuma depended almost entirely on U.S. aid for food. When Trump officials cut off funding, aid workers reduced the already basic rations to the point that half the camp received no food at all, forcing people like Natabo to make impossible choices. Working with photographer Brian Otieno, the reporters traveled the camp to meet those affected by the cuts and document what happened to them. Above, an August food distribution line.



As food rations dwindled, families starved. Natabo had seen other mothers lose their children and was determined to save hers. Even as she carried little Santo to the hospital for severe malnutrition, she worried about her other boys, James, 5, and Lino, 7.

After the story ran, the reporters learned that Santo had died. He was 3 years old.





SOUTH SUDAN
NURSES AND
MIDWIVES
ASSOCIATION

WORLD CELEBRATION
FROM 5TH - 12TH MAY
BENTIU STATE - BENTIU



Tor Top is a tall, graceful farmer who lived steps from a clinic supported by USAID. After the funding cuts, the clinic was padlocked. When Top's mother fell ill with cholera, he rented a canoe and tried to paddle her eight hours to the nearest hospital. She died along the way.

In response to questions from ProPublica, a senior State Department official said fast, drastic changes to foreign aid were necessary to reform a “calcified system.” The world, especially U.S. interests, will be better for it in the long run, the official said, despite “some disruptions in the short term.”

The stories sparked immediate outcry. Readers asked how to send money to the nonprofits and families we profiled.

Rep. Gregory W. Meeks, ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, delivered multiple letters to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, citing ProPublica’s coverage and pressing him on his repeated claims that no deaths have resulted from foreign aid cuts.



After Barry-Jester and Murphy discovered that USAID staff were told to shred and burn classified documents, legal experts filed complaints with the National Archives, and Democracy Forward and the Public Citizen Litigation Group filed a motion for an emergency temporary restraining order to stop the destruction of federal records.

And after ProPublica raised separate questions about an Agent Orange cleanup in Vietnam that had stalled due to funding cuts, putting hundreds of thousands at risk for poisoning, the project received some U.S. funds to continue operating.

A top U.S. official praised the reporting team for “meticulously documenting the facts” of USAID’s destruction. Another said they “wept tears of joy” that these events were now in the public record.

Pages 10-11: photography by Brian Otieno for ProPublica. Pages 12-17: photography by Peter DiCampo, ProPublica

The series has been honored with a George Polk Award for international reporting. An exhibition of the photography will be featured at the 2026 edition of Photoville in Brooklyn.







Impact

The most important measure of our work is whether it has impact. We evaluate impact not in terms of audience size or honors but in real-world changes to behaviors, policies or law. Here are highlights from our work.

Jimmie Duncan hugs his parents, Sharon and Bennie, upon his release from prison in December 2025. A Verite News and ProPublica investigation examined the reliability of the key forensic evidence used to convict him. *Jamal Barnes for the Innocence Project*



Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., requested records and information about two Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration employees' interactions with the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, an influential pipeline industry group. *Kayla Bartkowski/Getty Images*

Amid Trump's Proposed Pipeline Safety Rollbacks, Senator Questions Regulators' Industry Ties

Following ProPublica's November reporting on their close ties to the pipeline industry, two Trump administration appointees at the nation's pipeline regulator faced [ethics questions](#) from a top lawmaker on the Senate committee that oversees their agency. Sen. Maria Cantwell, a Democrat from Washington and the ranking member of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, sought records of interactions between two Transportation Department regulators and an influential pipeline industry group, the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America. Cantwell cited ProPublica's investigation into the dozens of DOT political appointees with close industry ties and financial links. Under the Trump administra-

tion, the DOT has overseen an unprecedented push to shrink the agency's regulatory authority, targeting a host of safety and reporting requirements that pipeline safety advocates view as critical. The changes overwhelmingly align with the interests of INGAA and the pipeline industry. The two officials did not respond to a request for comment, but a Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration spokesperson said that they "are in full compliance with federal ethics requirements." A spokesperson for INGAA said the organization intends to respond to Cantwell but did not otherwise comment.

DOE Fined Baker College in Michigan for Deceptive Marketing

The Department of Education [fined Baker College in Michigan \\$2.5 million](#) for years of deceptive marketing. The federal review was launched following a [joint inves-](#)

tigation by ProPublica and the Detroit Free Press in 2022 that detailed the college’s low graduation rates and the heavy debt that many students shoulder. The investigation detailed how, for decades, the college promoted having a near-100% employment rate, which we found was based on shaky, self-reported data. Our reporting also found that the nonprofit college regularly spent more on marketing than on financial aid, and experts identified conflicts of interest in its governance structure. In 2023, the news organizations — along with The Chronicle of Higher Education — reported on [growing financial problems](#) at the institution. Baker College President Jacqui Spicer said in a statement that the college maintains that it did not make any misrepresentations and that the settlement contains no admission of wrongdoing. “Baker College is committed to continuous improvement and meeting and exceeding DOE’s expectations and has already taken steps consistent with that commitment,” Spicer said.

We Investigated How Oil Companies Take Millions From Mineral Owners. Now, Some Lawmakers Push for Change.

In [August 2025](#), ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner North Dakota Monitor investigated how oil companies are [holding back a large portion of revenue payments](#) to the North Dakota mineral owners they lease drilling rights from, often with little explanation. We found that the oil industry has an outsize influence in the state, and public officials have for years refused to take action. Now, some state lawmakers are [pushing for change](#). In response to our reporting, more than a half dozen lawmakers said a committee should study the issue and propose solutions before the next legislative session in 2027. Others suggested changes to state law, including one proposal to prohibit deductions unless a lease specifically allows them and another that would require companies and royalty owners to renegotiate their contracts every few decades. Ron Ness, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, an organization that lobbies on behalf of more than 550 oil and gas companies, said many of the proposals would be a “substantial infringement” on mineral owners’ property rights.



Neil Christensen and his family started noticing deductions from their royalty payments about a decade ago. North Dakota mineral owners have asked state leaders for help with the issue, but they say an oversight program has fallen short. *Sarahbeth Maney/ProPublica*

SUPPORTER FEEDBACK

I can trust the information I read in ProPublica. Today, there is no higher praise for a source of news.

—Pam in Virginia



Connecticut state Rep. Aimee Berger-Girvalo, D-Ridgefield, right, embraces state Sen. Christine Cohen, D-Guilford, after a towing reform bill passed in the Senate in May 2025. *Shahzad Rasekh/CT Mirror*

Connecticut Legislature Passes Bill Overhauling Century-Old Towing Laws

Connecticut lawmakers passed the most significant reform to the state's towing policies in decades following a January 2025 investigation by ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner The Connecticut Mirror that revealed how state laws have come to favor towing companies at the expense of low-income residents. We reported that tow companies are allowed to seek permission from the DMV to sell some vehicles just 15 days after towing them — one of the shortest such periods in the country — which particularly affects low-income residents. The legislation addresses most of the issues raised in our reporting and would extend the time before vehicles can be sold, require acceptance of debit and credit card payments, allow drivers to retrieve their belongings and implement numerous other consumer protections to prevent predatory practices. The bill also created a DMV working group to examine portions of the state's towing law that could potentially lead to additional reforms. In addition, after we reported in March 2025 on a Connecticut DMV employee accused of using his position to garner steep discounts

on cars he bought from a towing company, the employee was fired. The employee said he had appealed and maintained that he hadn't done anything wrong. The agency declined to comment on the firing and to answer specific questions about the investigation. The DMV commissioner has proposed additional reforms in the 2026 legislative session.

The Art Institute of Chicago Returns a Stolen Sculpture to Nepal

The Art Institute of Chicago announced in March 2025 that it had returned to Nepal a sculpture that had been in its collection for at least a quarter century. It was among more than a dozen pieces identified by ProPublica and Crain's Chicago Business in 2023 that may have been looted from other countries, including Nepal. The piece had been a gift from Chicago philanthropists James and Marilyn Alsdorf, who we reported built their collection of hundreds of South Asian works in sometimes questionable ways. Our reporting found that the Art Institute has lagged behind some other museums in weeding out and repatriating looted artifacts.



Hundreds of flowers, toys and candles surround the crosses memorializing the 21 victims of the 2022 Robb Elementary School shooting. *Evan L’Roy for The Texas Tribune*

New Uvalde Records Reveal Details About School Safety Concerns and Shooter’s Behavioral Issues

City officials in Uvalde, Texas, released additional documents in August and September 2025 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 latest release is 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 clarity to law enforcement’s more than one-

hour delay in confronting the shooter. Although the news organizations had previously obtained many of the records that government agencies withheld from sources, the newly released documents include undisclosed internal communications that offer deeper insight into the inner workings of the school district. Among the latest revelations, the records show the unraveling of the district’s support for Police Chief Pete Arredondo, campus safety concerns over doors that failed to lock and additional details around the shooter’s troubled history, including how his mother sought help from police three months before the shooting, saying she was scared of her son. Arredondo has also previously asserted that he did nothing wrong on the day of the shooting. The district, its attorney and former leaders involved did not respond to renewed requests for comment.



The entrance to a Bronx mother’s apartment. Police and child protective services caseworkers repeatedly searched the home without a warrant following anonymous complaints made about the mother to the state child abuse and neglect hotline. *Stephanie Mei-Ling, special to ProPublica and NBC News*

New York Bans Anonymous Child Welfare Reports

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul signed into law a ban on anonymous complaints to the state child abuse hotline, requiring callers to provide their name and contact information when making allegations. This development comes a year and a half after a ProPublica investigation revealed how the system was being weaponized by domestic abusers and others making baseless claims. We reported that even if a caller didn’t leave their name or any details, and even if the same allegation had repeatedly been investigated and found to be unsubstantiated, it automatically triggered an invasive search of the accused’s home and often a strip search of the children. Our investigation documented cases like that of a Brooklyn mother whose home was searched dozens of times without warrants, often after midnight, because an angry former acquaintance repeatedly made anonymous calls about her, despite no evidence of child mistreatment ever being found. A committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights published an analysis in May 2024 that cited our reporting and called on New York to abolish anonymous reporting. Our articles were also circulated among lawmakers and legislative staff in Albany. A spokesperson for New York City’s Administration for Children’s Services said that the agency supports anonymous reporting reform with the perspective that protections for children who are in danger should also be preserved.

SUPPORTER FEEDBACK

ProPublica is able to dig deeper into issues that matter to me. They don’t stop at whatever press release or canned comment is given them. They find the sources and information they need, even if it takes extra time or effort. The payoff, in the form of the investigations they perform and the articles they produce, is brilliant journalism that shines a light on problems that most people would choose to ignore.

—Kate in Wisconsin



A report commissioned by Columbia found that a culture of silence allowed OB-GYN Robert Hadden to abuse more than 1,000 patients during his career. *Photograph by Bing Guan*

In Judge Orders Navy to Provide Military Court Records to Public

A federal judge has ruled in favor of ProPublica and ordered the Navy to provide public access to military court records, bringing the service more in line for the first time with the transparency required in civilian courts. ProPublica first sued the Navy in 2022 over its refusal to release any court documents associated with a [high-profile arson case](#). The order affirms the arguments ProPublica made for more than three years during the lawsuit that the Navy was violating the First Amendment right of public access to criminal courts. The Navy's long-standing policy was to withhold all documents from preliminary hearings and provide a tiny percentage of records from trials long after they were over — and only if they ended in a guilty finding. Now the Navy is required to give advanced notice of preliminary hearings and provide the full name of defendants as well as the charge

sheets. The service also must provide all nonclassified records from those hearings, including the hearing officer's report recommending whether criminal charges should proceed. The Navy had previously withheld those reports, a crucial milestone in criminal cases. Transcripts from hearings and trials must be turned over as soon as possible but no later than 30 days after a request, and other court records must be provided as soon as possible but no later than 60 days. The Navy did not respond to requests for comment on the judge's order.

Columbia Will Pay Survivors of Abusive Doctor \$750 Million

Columbia University has agreed to a [\\$750 million settlement](#) with 576 patients of a former doctor who sexually abused patients for decades while working at the school. The settlement follows a 2023 ProPublica investigation, published with [New York Magazine](#), that revealed how Columbia had [ignored women](#),



These men allege that ex-therapist Scott Owen sexually abused them in his roles as their therapist, church leader or relative. In March, they gathered at the Provo, Utah, courthouse as Owen was sentenced to prison after he admitted to sexually abusing patients during therapy. *Francisco Kjolseth/The Salt Lake Tribune*

undermined prosecutors and ultimately protected OB-GYN Robert Hadden, who worked at the university for 20 years. Weeks after ProPublica's investigation, Columbia announced a sweeping series of changes following outrage and protests. The university said it would open a \$100 million survivors' settlement fund and would commit to an external investigation to examine systemic failures that allowed Hadden's abuse to continue.

Utah Former Therapist Sentenced to Prison for Sexually Abusing Patients

In March 2025, former Utah therapist Scott Owen was sentenced to prison after he admitted to sexually abusing patients during sessions. Provo police began investigating Owen in 2023 after ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner The Salt Lake Tribune re-

ported on a range of sexual abuse allegations against Owen, who had built a reputation over his 20-year therapy career as a specialist who could help gay men who were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Some of the men who spoke to the Tribune and ProPublica said their bishop used church funds to pay for sessions in which Owen allegedly also touched them inappropriately. Our investigation found that Owen was allowed to continue practicing for years after allegations of sexual abuse, underscoring a flawed system that adds to our previous reporting on Utah's troubling handling of sexual assault. The church said in response to that reporting that it takes all matters of sexual misconduct seriously, and that in 2019 it confidentially annotated internal records to alert bishops that Owen's conduct had threatened the well-being of other people or the church.

A Death Row Inmate Was Released on Bail After His Conviction Was Overturned. Louisiana Still Wants to Execute Him.

In November 2025, death row inmate Jimmie “Chris” Duncan was [released on bail](#) after a Louisiana judge vacated his [murder conviction and death sentence](#), citing doubts about the evidence used to convict him. Duncan’s 1998 conviction for killing his girlfriend’s toddler was based in part on bite mark evidence that experts now say is junk science. The decision comes after a March 2025 [investigation](#) by ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner Verite News that examined the questions surrounding Duncan’s conviction as Gov. Jeff Landry, a staunch death penalty advocate, prepared to expedite executions after a 15-year pause. We reported that nine prisoners had been exonerated after being convicted in part on inaccurate evidence presented by dentist Michael West or pathologist Steven Hayne, while Duncan remained the only person still facing execution based on their testimony. We also reported that Louisiana has one of the nation’s highest rates of death row exonerations, having freed 11 wrongfully convicted people facing execution over the past three decades. Prosecutors have asked the state Supreme Court to reinstate Duncan’s death sentence. Duncan’s attorneys declined to make him available for an interview. West did not respond to previous requests for comment. Hayne died in 2020.

Former NYPD Commissioner Accuses Mayor Adams of Running “Criminal Enterprise”

Former NYPD Commissioner Thomas Donlon [filed a lawsuit](#) against former Mayor Eric Adams in July 2025, accusing him of running the police force as a “criminal enterprise” to “consolidate power, obstruct justice and punish dissent.” The complaint alleges that Adams used the NYPD’s Community Response Team as his personal political tool and cited a [ProPublica investigation](#) published last year that revealed Adams’ unusually close relationship with the unit. We reported how the secretive unit has been championed by Adams and tasked to carry out his priorities, despite a pattern of aggressive and often abusive policing flagged by department officials. We found that the mayor even had special access to a livestream of



New York City Mayor Eric Adams. *Barry Williams/New York Daily News/Tribune News Service via Getty Images*

SUPPORTER FEEDBACK

I am so impressed with the reporting on situations where the powerful are taking advantage of the weak that is done in the shadows. Without light being shined on them the harm will continue with no consequences.

—Kenneth in New Jersey



Shantel Arnold was repeatedly slammed against the ground by a Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputy, *Julio Alvarado*, in 2021.

the team's body-worn cameras and that more than half of the officers assigned to the unit have been found to have engaged in misconduct in their careers (compared with 15% of officers across the NYPD). In the wake of our reporting, lawmakers and civil rights advocates have called for the CRT to be disbanded and a monitor appointed by a federal court found that the unit has been unjustly stopping and searching New Yorkers, almost all of them Black and Hispanic men. In a statement, the office of then-Mayor Adams dismissed Donlon's claims. Adams has previously defended the CRT. The NYPD did not respond to requests for comment about the suit.

Four Years After Cop Was Filmed Slamming Black Woman to the Ground, Louisiana Passes Accountability Law

Louisiana passed a new [police accountability law](#) following allegations of civil rights violations against a sheriff's deputy [caught on video dragging a Black woman by her hair and slamming her head into the ground](#). The woman, Shantel Arnold, [sued the deputy and the sheriff](#), accusing the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office of conspiring to cover up the 2021 assault. The

office agreed in March to pay Arnold \$300,000 after three days of trial but before jury deliberations began, Arnold's attorney said. After the incident, ProPublica, with Local Reporting Network partners WRKF, WWNO and The Times-Picayune, published an [investigation detailing the long history of excessive-force complaints against Deputy Julio Alvarado](#). Arnold's attorney, state Sen. Gary Carter, D-New Orleans, said he [introduced the legislation](#) after it emerged that Alvarado had [failed to write a report about his encounter with Arnold](#) despite the department's policy that officers document each time they use force. The new law, passed unanimously by state legislators and signed by Gov. Jeff Landry in June, will require all law enforcement agencies to report every time an officer's use of force results in serious injury. Neither the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office nor Alvarado's attorney responded to requests for comment or an interview.

The Head of a Tennessee Youth Detention Center Will Step Down After "Loss of Confidence" in His Leadership

Following a 2023 investigation by ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner WPLN/Nashville Pub-



Former Chicago police Officer Eric Tabb leaves the George N. Leighton Criminal Courthouse in Chicago after a hearing in his case on March 4, 2025. *Jamie Kelter Davis for ProPublica*

lic Radio that revealed a Tennessee youth detention center was illegally using solitary confinement on children, the longtime superintendent of the facility, Richard L. Bean, announced that he would be stepping down. The announcement came after the Knox County mayor said he had lost confidence in Bean's leadership. County commissioners have also voted to transfer control of the Richard L. Bean Juvenile Service Center to the sheriff's office starting January 2026, to dissolve the existing board of trustees and to create a new oversight board of directors. Our investigation found that state officials had repeatedly put the Bean center on corrective action plans and had documented its improper use of seclusion yet continued to approve the center's license to operate without the facility changing its ways. Immediately following our investigation, a group of 16 Tennessee lawmakers sent a letter to the state Department of Children's Services demanding an audit of the use of seclusion inside all juvenile detention facilities in the state. Bean did not respond to requests for comment about his retirement, but in an interview for the 2023

investigation he defended his treatment of the children at his facility.

Former Chicago Cop Pleads Guilty to Aggravated Battery of Two Female Colleagues

In June 2025, a former Chicago police officer pleaded guilty to felony charges in connection with two incidents of sexual misconduct involving female colleagues. The case against Eric Tabb was highlighted in an investigation with Local Reporting Network partner Invisible Institute that found that Chicago police officials have frequently failed to vigorously investigate allegations of sexual misconduct made against city officers. Reporters reviewed more than 300 sexual misconduct and assault complaints against Chicago officers, finding that complaints were often downplayed or ignored, sometimes allowing officers to abuse again and again. We found that over a dozen officers faced multiple sexual misconduct allegations and that, in Tabb's case, police officials failed to intervene when they had a chance and head off potential



Kyla Chamberlin alleged that Clint Massie, a member of the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church, sexually abused her when she was a child in South Dakota. Massie has denied abusing her. *Leila Navidi/The Minnesota Star Tribune*

harm alleged by several women. In a statement, the office of the Cook County state’s attorney noted the courage of the survivors to come forward and said that Tabb is prohibited from future police service. Tabb and his attorney, Dan Herbert, declined to comment, but Herbert had previously said Tabb was innocent.

Lawmaker Calls for Stronger Mandatory Reporting Rules Following Our Investigation Into Church Abuse Case

After an investigation by ProPublica and the Minnesota Star Tribune found that a Duluth church had protected a child predator for years, a Minnesota senator said she will move to strengthen state laws to hold adults accountable for failing to report suspected child abuse. The news organizations revealed in a November investigation that preachers in Duluth’s Old Apostolic Lutheran Church knew for years about allegations that a member had been sexually abusing young girls in the congregation. Instead of notifying police, church leaders encouraged victims to forgive their abuser and stay silent. Our reporting also found that Minnesota’s mandatory reporting law has proved

to be an ineffective mechanism for holding accountable those who fail to report child abuse. A spokesperson for the church in Duluth said that it “has fully complied with the law in the referenced case.”

Chicago Cop Who Falsely Blamed an Ex-Girlfriend for Dozens of Traffic Tickets Pleads Guilty but Avoids Prison

Prosecutors in Illinois have dropped at least 92 traffic and criminal court cases that hinged on the word of a former Chicago police officer who acknowledged repeatedly lying under oath to avoid paying dozens of speeding and other traffic tickets, a ProPublica analysis found. Retired officer Jeffrey Kriv faced trial for perjury and forgery but instead made a deal with prosecutors in which he pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of felony theft and avoided jail time. ProPublica and the Chicago Tribune previously detailed Kriv’s long history of alleged misconduct as an officer, shedding light on the city’s troubled history of police accountability. Kriv and his attorney declined to comment.



Susan M. Carney, chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. *Loren Holmes/ADN*

Anchorage Rebuilds Its Prosecutor’s Office After Our Reporting Revealed Hundreds of Criminal Case Dismissals

In July 2025, Mayor Suzanne LaFrance of Anchorage, Alaska, announced that the city has [hired a full roster of 12 prosecutors](#) and is no longer dropping criminal charges due to short-staffing. The announcement came nine months after ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner Anchorage Daily News reported that city prosecutors [dropped hundreds of misdemeanor cases](#) because there weren’t enough attorneys on the payroll. We found that between May 1 and Oct. 2, 2024, the city dropped more than 250 domestic violence assault cases and more than 270 drunken driving cases because of an inability to meet the 120-day deadline Alaska sets for upholding a defendant’s right to a speedy trial. Days after our investigation was published, the state of Alaska offered to [help prosecute city cases](#) to avoid speedy-trial dismissals.

Alaska Supreme Court Places New Limits on Trial Delays

Alaska’s Supreme Court has [placed new limits](#) on how long criminal cases can be postponed, part of an effort to reduce the time criminal defendants wait to face trial in the state. The court’s order directs state judges to allow no more than 270 days of new delays for criminal cases filed in 2022 or before. The move follows [reporting](#) by ProPublica and Local Reporting Network Partner Anchorage Daily News that found some cases have spent as long as a decade waiting to reach juries, potentially violating the rights of victims and defendants alike. We found that the time it takes to resolve Alaska’s most serious felony cases, such as murder and sexual assault, nearly tripled from 2013 to 2023. These delays might be requested because defense attorneys are waiting for prosecutors to share evidence or because attorneys have high caseloads to juggle, or even as a tactic to weaken the prosecution’s case with the passage of time. In 2026, the head of Alaska’s House Judiciary Committee went a step further toward addressing the problem, calling for a doubling of prosecutors and public defenders in response to our stories.



Junior, 11, was arrested for allegedly making a threat of mass violence. His family agreed to a settlement in its lawsuit against his school. *Andrea Morales for ProPublica*

Illinois Lawmakers Ban Police From Ticketing and Fining Students for Minor Infractions in School

Ending a practice that harmed students across Illinois, Gov. JB Pritzker signed a law in August 2025 explicitly preventing police from ticketing and fining students for minor misbehavior at school. The new law would apply to all public schools, including charters. The legislation was prompted by a ProPublica-Chicago Tribune investigation, “The Price Kids Pay,” that revealed that even though state law bans schools from fining students directly, districts skirt the law by calling on police to issue citations for violating local ordinances. The 2022 investigation also found that Black students were twice as likely to be ticketed at school than their white peers. In response to our investigation, the governor, state superintendent and lawmakers urged schools to stop the practice, but previous legislative efforts repeatedly stalled. The new law would require school districts, beginning in the 2027-28 school year, to report to the state how often they involve police in student matters each year and to separate the data by

race, gender and disability. The state will be required to make the data public. The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police opposed the legislation and said in a statement that school-based officers should have the option to issue citations for criminal conduct as one of a “variety of resolutions.”

A Tennessee School Agreed to Pay \$100,000 to Family of 11-Year-Old Student Arrested Under School Threats Law

A Chattanooga, Tennessee, public charter school has agreed to pay the family of a student \$100,000 to settle a federal lawsuit claiming that it wrongfully reported the boy, who was 11 at the time, to police for an alleged threat of mass violence. The school also agreed to implement training on how to handle these types of incidents, including reporting only “valid” threats to police. ProPublica and WPLN/Nashville Public Radio wrote about the case in October 2024 as part of a larger investigation documenting how a 2024 law that made threats of mass violence at school a felony led to stu-



Gabriella Trujillo, special to ProPublica

dents being arrested based on rumors and for noncredible threats. We reported that the boy, who is autistic, was tracked down at a family birthday party, handcuffed and locked in the back of a patrol car by police despite school administrators looking into the incident and determining that he could return to school. The school did not respond to requests for comment.

A New Mexico School District Says It's Reduced Harsh Discipline of Native Students

A New Mexico school district that we investigated for disproportionately harsh punishments of Indigenous students said that it has dramatically cut down on long-term suspensions for Indigenous children and implemented policy reforms, although the state had not provided access to data to verify those claims. The reforms asserted by the district follow a 2022 investigation by ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner New Mexico In Depth that found that Indigenous children in New Mexico faced higher rates of harsh school punishment. We reported

that one district, which includes large swaths of the Navajo Nation in northwestern New Mexico, enrolled a quarter of the state's Native students but was responsible for at least three-quarters of Native expulsions in the 2016-17 to 2019-20 school years. The reporting triggered a state Department of Justice civil rights inquiry into the discipline practices of the Gallup-McKinley County school district, which was largely responsible for the disparity. (A final report has yet to be released.) In a January 2024 email exchange, Superintendent Mike Hyatt pushed back on the reporting, asserting that discipline practices at Gallup-McKinley were not as harsh as the district's past reports to the state suggested.

Legislation Introduced in Illinois to Add Oversight of Homeschooled Children

An Illinois lawmaker introduced legislation that would add oversight of families who homeschool their children, aiming to ensure these students receive an education and are protected from harm. The

legislation follows an [investigation by ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner Capitol News Illinois](#) that revealed how Illinois is among a small minority of states that has virtually no rules for parents who homeschool their children: Parents don't have to register with any state agency or school district, and authorities cannot compel them to track attendance, demonstrate their teaching methods or show student progress. We found that education and child welfare agencies lack the authority to intervene when parents claim they are homeschooling, leaving children at risk of "no-schooling" and, in some cases, abuse and neglect. Under the bill, which stalled, the state would have been required to collect and report annual data on homeschooled students and education authorities would have been able to intervene and request evidence of teaching materials when concerns arise. Homeschool families and advocates fought the measure, which they argued would infringe on parental rights.

Texas Lawmakers Want a Charter School to Stop Paying Its Superintendent Nearly \$900K

Texas lawmakers and an advocacy group representing charter schools called for greater state oversight and reduced pay for a small charter school network superintendent after ProPublica and The Texas Tribune revealed that he was making up to \$870,000 annually, an amount that is among the highest in the country. The district had publicly reported paying its superintendent, Salvador Cavazos, less than \$300,000 per year. We found that bonuses and one-time payments roughly tripled his income for running a district that has fewer than 1,000 students. Cavazos has declined multiple interview requests. A spokesperson for Valere Public Schools said the charter district did not, at the time, have plans to change its practices. Our reporting highlighted larger transparency and accountability challenges that could follow as Texas adopts a voucher-like program that would allow the use of public funds for private schools. Valere Public Schools board members have defended his compensation, explaining that he is also the charter network's CEO and his contributions justify his pay. The members also said that a "significant" part of Cavazos' compensation comes from private donations, but they would not provide evidence to support their claim.



Superintendent Salvador Cavazos runs Valere Public Schools' three charter campuses, which serve fewer than 1,000 students. Cavazos has taken home up to \$870,000 annually. *Lauren Crow for ProPublica and The Texas Tribune*

SUPPORTER FEEDBACK

I admire your collaboration with other news outlets, large & small. Those collaborations bring stories to wider public awareness than wouldn't be possible without your work.

—Barbara in California



The Detroit Dam on the North Santiam River in Oregon poses a major obstacle for tiny juvenile salmon as they attempt to migrate downstream. *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

New Legislation Halts Plans for a Salmon-Migration Proposal on Oregon’s Willamette River

In January 2025, outgoing President Joe Biden [signed into law a bill](#) that will halt plans by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a salmon-migration proposal on Oregon’s Willamette River, which critics have called costly and ineffective. The new legislation follows reporting from ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner Oregon Public Broadcasting that underscored the risks and costs associated with the plan to migrate salmon past hydroelectric dams using a giant fish collector and

tanker trucks in an effort to prevent the extinction of threatened runs. The new law mandates studying what the river system would look like without hydropower and including that scenario in the long-term designs for the waterway. Tribal leader Kathleen George credited our reporting for bringing public attention to the issue. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, who have fished the Willamette for thousands of years, have urged the Corps to return the river closer to its natural flow. A spokesperson for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said in a January 2025 statement that the agency was still reviewing [the law’s language](#).



Rep. Chellie Pingree of Maine is demanding answers about an EPA report on the toxicity of the forever chemical PFNA that the agency has completed but not released. *Robert F. Bukat/AP*

House Rep Demands Answers About Delayed EPA Report on PFNA, a Toxic Forever Chemical

The ranking member of a key House subcommittee demanded answers from the Environmental Protection Agency about why it had yet to make public a report documenting the health risks posed by a “forever chemical” found in the water of millions of Americans. In an October 2025 letter to EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, Rep. Chellie Pingree, D-Maine, cited a ProPublica story published the week prior that quoted scientists familiar with the assessment saying that the report on the toxicity of PFNA was ready to publish in April but the Trump administration had yet to release it. Agency scientists found that PFNA could cause developmental, liver and reproductive harms. The report calculated the amount of PFNA that people can be exposed to without being

harmed — a measurement that could prove critical to communities around the country as they battle pollutants over who will pay to remove PFNA and other forever chemicals from the environment. An EPA spokesperson told ProPublica that the report on PFNA would be published when it was finalized but did not answer questions about what still needed to be done or when that would likely happen. The agency’s press office did not respond to questions about Pingree’s letter.

Top Democrat on Oversight Committee Demands Trump Administration Account for Wildland Firefighter Vacancies

The top Democrat on a House committee demanded that Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins account for discrepancies between her public statements about



The Bonneville Power Administration Troutdale substation and transmission towers in Oregon in March 2023. *Kristyna Wentz-Graff/Oregon Public Broadcasting*

wildland firefighter staffing and a July 2025 [ProPublica report](#) showing there were thousands of vacancies in the Forest Service’s firefighting workforce as peak wildfire season approached. In June, the Forest Service claimed it had reached 99% of its hiring goal for its wildland firefighting workforce, but our reporting found that the agency was selectively counting firefighters, presenting an optimistic assessment to the public while as many as 27% of jobs were vacant as of July 17, 2025. Rep. Robert Garcia, a Democrat from California and the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, wrote that the Trump administration’s staffing decisions are exacerbating an already dire situation, with the Forest Service’s firefighting capacity dangerously hampered by Department of Government Efficiency layoffs and resignations just as climate change is extending the fire season. When asked to support its claims that the agency’s fire service is fully staffed, a spokesperson wrote that the agency is “fully prepared and operational” and has “over 19,000 workers, both in and out of the Fire and Aviation Management group, who hold incident response qualifications.”

Oregon Governor Issued Executive Orders to Speed Up Renewable Energy Development

After ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner Oregon Public Broadcasting published a series of articles highlighting obstacles to green energy growth in the Northwest, Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek issued two executive orders to fast-track permits and speed up renewable energy development. Our reporting identified barriers in federal and state bureaucracies that delayed improvements to the power grid, resulting in Oregon and Washington lagging behind most of the nation in clean energy growth despite internal mandates to go green. Kotek acknowledged the role of our reporting when asked what prompted the changes, saying that the state must “get out of our own way” to meet its clean energy mandates. A Dec. 1 report by a Washington state working group also cited this reporting and called for a dedicated state entity focused on increasing transmission capacity. Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson created the working group in response to 2024 reporting by ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner The Seattle Times on the energy consumed by data centers, which receive generous state tax breaks.



Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who along with Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, called for a federal investigation into the killing of hundreds of contracts for the Department of Veterans Affairs. *Bill Clark/CQ-Roll Call, Inc via Getty Images.*

Senators Demand Investigation Into Canceled VA Contracts

Citing ProPublica’s June 2025 reporting, senators have called for a federal investigation into the Trump administration’s killing of hundreds of contracts for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Democrat Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Angus King, a Maine independent, wrote to the VA inspector general asking for the investigation, highlighting “damning reporting from ProPublica” on the cancellations, including how the Department of Government Efficiency used an artificial intelligence tool that marked contracts as “MUNCHABLE.” Our investigation found that a DOGE staffer with no government or health care experience created an error-prone AI tool that flagged contracts for possible cancellation, including those related to cancer treatment, blood sample analysis and nursing care. Lawmakers in Congress have been seeking more information from the VA on the canceled contracts in an attempt to assess whether the cuts have put veterans’ well-being in jeopardy.

The VA has not responded to our request for comment about the senators’ letter. Previously, press secretary Pete Kasperowicz said that decisions to cancel or reduce the size of contracts are made after multiple reviews by VA employees, including agency contracting experts and senior staff.

A New Lawsuit Alleges the Gun Industry Exploited Firearm Owners’ Data for Political Gain

In September 2025, two major law firms accused the National Shooting Sports Foundation of violating the privacy rights of millions of gun owners by running a decades-long program that sent their information to political operatives without their consent. The allegations in the lawsuit closely mirror the findings of a 2024 ProPublica investigation that detailed the secret program operated by the gun industry’s largest trade group. We revealed how for years America’s most iconic gunmakers, including Smith & Wesson and Remington, handed over hundreds of thousands



Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem speaks with U.S. Border Patrol agents while filming an ad at Mount Rushmore. *Tia Dufour/Department of Homeland Security*

of names, addresses and other private data — without customer knowledge or consent — to the NSSF, 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. Representatives from gun violence prevention groups called the lawsuit a major development in trying to hold the gun industry responsible for the data sharing. In response to our reporting, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat, **slammed the data sharing**. And a prominent gun owner rights organization, Gun Owners for Safety, cited our reporting in a letter sent to three federal agencies **calling for an investigation** into the covert program. Most of the companies named in the NSSF documents, including Glock and Smith & Wesson, previously declined to comment or did not respond to ProPublica. Remington has since been split into two companies and sold. RemArms, which owns the old firearms division, previously said it was unaware of the company’s workings at the time. The other portion of the company is now owned by Remington Ammunition, which said it had “not provided personal information to the NSSF or any of its vendors.”

Lawmakers Call for Probe of How Firm Tied to Kristi Noem Got Piece of \$220 Million DHS Ad Contracts

Democratic lawmakers have called for a **formal investigation** into how a firm closely tied to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem ended up receiving money from a \$220 million, taxpayer-funded ad campaign. The demands came in response to a November 2025 **ProPublica story** that revealed that the Republican consulting firm had been **secretly working on the ads**, which star Noem. The company, called the Strategy Group, has long-standing personal and business ties to Noem and her senior aides at DHS. Under Noem, DHS bypassed the normal competitive bidding process when awarding the contracts — allocating the majority of the money to a mysterious Delaware LLC that was created days before the deal was finalized. Senate Democrats on the homeland security committee have called for an investigation into whether DHS officials violated federal laws and contracting regulations “designed to prevent self-dealing.” The Strategy Group did not respond to questions. DHS has denied wrongdoing and said it is not involved in selecting subcontractors.



Photo illustration by Lisa Larson-Walker/ProPublica. Photos by Bill Clark/CQ-Roll Call, Inc via Getty Images (Sen. Ron Wyden) and Tom Williams/CQ-Roll Call, Inc via Getty Images (Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Jack Reed).

Senators Call on DOJ to Investigate Potential DOGE Conflicts of Interest

Three Democratic senators [asked the Justice Department and other federal authorities to investigate whether members of the Department of Government Efficiency violated conflict-of-interest laws by holding stocks in companies that their agencies regulate.](#) The May 2025 letter was sent by Sens. Elizabeth Warren, Ron Wyden and Jack Reed and [cited ProPublica reporting on how one such aide assigned to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau helped oversee the mass layoffs of the agency’s staff while holding as much as \\$715,000 in stocks that bureau employees are prohibited from owning.](#) The lawmakers’ letter added to a growing [chorus of good-government groups that have cited our report while calling for an outside investigation into the 25-year old DOGE aide’s actions at the CFPB.](#) The Department of Justice and the Office of Government Ethics declined to comment. The Treasury Department, the IRS, DOGE and the CFPB did not respond to requests for comment. The White House has previously said that the aide “did not even manage” the layoffs and still had time to divest.

Governor’s Task Force Calls on New York to Bolster Funding, Oversight of Guardianships

A task force appointed by New York Gov. Kathy Hochul recommended that the state spend at least \$15 million per year and create state-level oversight to bolster its troubled guardianship system, in which judges assign individuals or organizations to care for some 30,000 residents deemed incapable of looking after their own affairs. The recommendations mark the first time Hochul’s administration has addressed problems with the state’s guardianship system since ProPublica investigated it extensively in a [series of stories in 2024.](#) Our reporting found [claims of spectacular abuse and neglect,](#) prompting the courts to appoint a special counsel to oversee guardianship reforms and Attorney General Letitia James to [launch an investigation into some providers.](#) If adopted, the plan would represent a major change in how the state government cares for some of its most vulnerable residents.



New York Gov. Kathy Hochul’s Master Plan for Aging was created to map out the needs of the state’s aging population and suggest how best to serve older adults. *John Lamparski/Getty Images*

House Committee Leader to Investigate Agency for Preferential Treatment of Politically Connected Startup

The ranking member of the House Oversight Committee is [launching an investigation](#) into whether the General Services Administration has given preferential treatment to a politically connected technology startup competing for a lucrative government contract. The committee’s action follows reporting by ProPublica in April 2025 that revealed [the GSA was eyeing New York-based payments company Ramp](#) to remake a massive, \$700 billion federal credit card program known as SmartPay. Our reporting showed that senior GSA officials met with Ramp executives at least four times before publicly opening up a SmartPay contract opportunity. We reported that the little-known firm is backed by investors linked to the Trump administration, including Peter Thiel, the billionaire venture capitalist who provided crucial early support to Trump and spent millions on Vice President JD Vance’s Ohio

SUPPORTER FEEDBACK

We desperately need a news source that holds high powered people and the government in check. These in-depth stories are making a difference.

—Sarah in Indiana



Collage by ProPublica. Source images: MirageC and anilakkus/Getty Images.

Senate run. A spokesperson for Thiel did not provide a comment. Ramp did not respond to a request for comment about the investigation. Asked about Ramp for a previous article, a GSA spokesperson told ProPublica that the agency “refutes any suggestion of unfair or preferential contracting practices.”

Ethics Watchdog Group Seeks Investigation Into Border Czar and Contracts Following ProPublica Report

The nonpartisan government watchdog Campaign Legal Center called for an [inspector general investigation](#) into potential conflicts of interest and ethics violations in the office of border czar Tom Homan related to government contracting. This followed reporting from ProPublica revealing a [web of past business relationships](#) involving Homan, his senior adviser Mark Hall, and consultants and firms seeking Department of Homeland Security contracts. Homan, Hall and the inspector general’s office did not respond to requests for comment on the letter. A White House spokesperson dismissed calls for an inquiry into Homan’s office, saying that Homan has no involvement in awarding government contracts and Hall has not been authorized to represent him.

North Carolina Lawmakers Ask for Investigation Into Funding Disruptions for Sexual Abuse Survivors

In response to ProPublica’s [March 2025 reporting](#) on disrupted funding for sexual abuse survivors in North Carolina, a bipartisan committee of state senators requested a [state audit](#) of how \$15 million meant to combat human trafficking was managed. Our investigation revealed that the Republican-dominated legislature redirected these funds from Democratic-led agencies that had long overseen such money to a tiny commission in the Republican-led state court system, resulting in payment delays that forced crisis centers to cut vital services. The reporting highlighted how, for years, North Carolina’s Republican-majority legislature has taken steps, both big and small, to wrench power from Democratic governors and the agencies under their control. Republican State Auditor Dave Boliek told the senators he had read our investigation and that a “rapid response team” was looking into the issues raised. A spokesperson for the court system declined to comment for this article, pointing to its [past statements](#), in which it told ProPublica that “our experience is that support for fighting human trafficking is nonpartisan in the legislature as it is in the Judicial Branch.” The auditor’s office told ProPublica in late 2025 that the investigation was ongoing.



Kimberly Jones-Mbuyi, left, and KiAndrea Jones, Michaela Carter’s mother and sister, hold a photograph of Carter, who was one of at least 75 people killed in domestic violence shootings in Nashville, Tennessee, since 2007. *William DeShazer for ProPublica*

North Carolina Lawmakers Introduce Bill to Stop Votes From Being Discarded Based on Postelection Rule Changes

North Carolina Democrats [introduced](#) the Voter Protection and Reliance Act in April 2025 in response to ProPublica’s reporting on a right-wing strategy to invalidate ballots based on postelection rule changes. The legislation would ensure votes are not discarded based on such changes, or on technical or clerical errors in the state’s voter database. Our [December 2024 reporting](#) detailed how Republican Judge Jefferson Griffin used this controversial strategy to try to overturn his narrow loss to Democrat Allison Riggs in a state Supreme Court race, following discussions among conservative election activists about using this approach. Griffin waged a six-month legal battle, conceding only after a federal judge ordered North Carolina’s election board to certify Riggs’ victory. Though some North Carolina and national Republicans have criticized Griffin’s challenges, the Democratic-sponsored bill did not advance in the GOP-controlled legislature. A spokesperson for Griffin declined to respond to comments from the bill’s primary author or to questions from ProPublica, citing North Carolina’s Code of Judicial Conduct that prohibits judges and judicial candidates from stating a position on issues that could come before the court.

A County’s Move to Protect Domestic Violence Victims Is Spreading Across Tennessee After Legislative Delay

A move to protect domestic violence victims is spreading across Tennessee following [reporting](#) by ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner WPLN/Nashville Public Radio that found the state’s lax gun laws and enforcement have allowed firearms to remain in dangerous hands. Tennessee is one of few states that allows someone under a court order to give their guns to a third party without requiring the third party’s identity to appear in official documents. The state consistently has one of the highest rates of women killed by men, and our analysis found that about 1 in 4 people killed in domestic violence gun homicides were killed by someone barred from having a firearm. In response to our reporting, two Republican lawmakers [introduced legislation](#) last year that would have required accountability from people ordered to give up their guns, but the [bill was pushed to 2026](#) after opposition from the Tennessee Firearms Association and the NRA. Now, judges across Tennessee are [taking action](#) on their own. At least nine counties, including Tennessee’s two largest, Davidson and Shelby, have amended the state’s gun dispossession affidavit to require information about who will be taking possession of the weapon. Other counties are also considering the change.



The Texas House of Representatives' initial budget proposal included funding for kits that are meant to help find missing children. The money was not included in the final budget. *Eddie Gaspar/The Texas Tribune*

Texas Lawmakers Pull Funding for Child Identification Kits Again After Newsrooms Report They Don't Work

Texas state legislators dropped efforts to spend millions of dollars to buy what experts call ineffective child identification kits weeks after ProPublica and The Texas Tribune reported that lawmakers were again trying to fund the program. This is the second legislative session in which the lawmakers considered purchasing the products, which promise to help find missing children, only to reverse course after the news organizations documented the lack of evidence that the kits work. We first reported in 2023 that the Waco-based company that distributes the kits had used exaggerated and outdated statistics and that Kenny Hansmire, a former NFL player who runs the company, had a string of failed businesses plagued by legal and financial problems. That investigation also spurred opposition in Pennsylvania, which was considering purchasing the same child ID kits. Legislators declined to answer questions about why the funding was pulled. In a previous statement, Hansmire told the newsrooms he'd resolved his financial troubles and said that his company's kits have helped identify missing children, though he did not provide any concrete examples.

Texas Lawmakers Push to Enforce Election Transparency Law After Newsrooms Found School Districts Failed to Comply

Texas lawmakers introduced legislation that would impose steep penalties on local governments that don't post campaign finance reports online, following an investigation by ProPublica and The Texas Tribune that found nearly three dozen school districts weren't complying with transparency requirements that went into effect in September 2023. Republican state Rep. Carl Tepper, who authored the original online posting requirement, cited our investigation in a written explanation of why the state needs to implement greater enforcement. His proposed legislation would have required the Texas Ethics Commission to monitor thousands of local government websites statewide and fine noncompliant agencies after a 30-day notice period. The legislation also recommended funding for two additional staff members to oversee compliance across the state's 254 counties and roughly 1,200 cities and towns. The legislation cleared the Texas House but did not advance through the Senate.



President Donald Trump with Secretary of State Marco Rubio, left, and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth. *Tasos Katopodis/Getty Images*

Trump Signs Defense Bill Prohibiting China-Based Engineers in Pentagon IT Work

In December 2025, President Donald Trump signed into law a measure that prohibits anyone based in China and other adversarial countries from accessing the Pentagon’s cloud computing systems. The ban, included in the \$900 billion defense policy law, was enacted in response to a ProPublica investigation that exposed how Microsoft used China-based engineers to service the Defense Department’s computer systems for nearly a decade — a practice that left some of the country’s most sensitive data vulnerable to hacking from its leading cyber adversary. Within days of our July investigation, Microsoft announced that it would stop using China-based engineers to service Defense Department cloud systems. The reporting prompted an immediate response from the Pentagon, which opened an investigation to determine if national security was compromised and tightened cybersecurity requirements for its cloud services providers. Microsoft declined to comment on the new law. Following the earlier changes, a spokesperson said the company would “work with our national security partners to evaluate and adjust our security protocols in light of the new directives.”

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



When a source told me that Microsoft, the largest provider of IT services to the federal government, was routing computer support through China to save money, I was intrigued. We dug in and ultimately exposed how the tech giant relied on China-based engineers to service Defense Department computer systems for a decade — a practice that flouted Pentagon rules and left the nation’s most sensitive data vulnerable to hacking from its leading cyber adversary. The arrangement was so low-profile that even the Pentagon’s IT agency had never heard of it. The impact of our investigation was immediate. Shortly after publication, Microsoft announced that it would stop using China-based engineers to support Defense Department systems. In December, President Donald Trump signed a law barring anyone based in China and other adversarial countries from accessing the Pentagon’s cloud computing systems, officially closing the door on the practice. This series is an example of how ProPublica’s reporting reverberates at the highest levels of government, helping safeguard our national security.

—Renee Dudley,
reporter focused on technology
cybersecurity and business

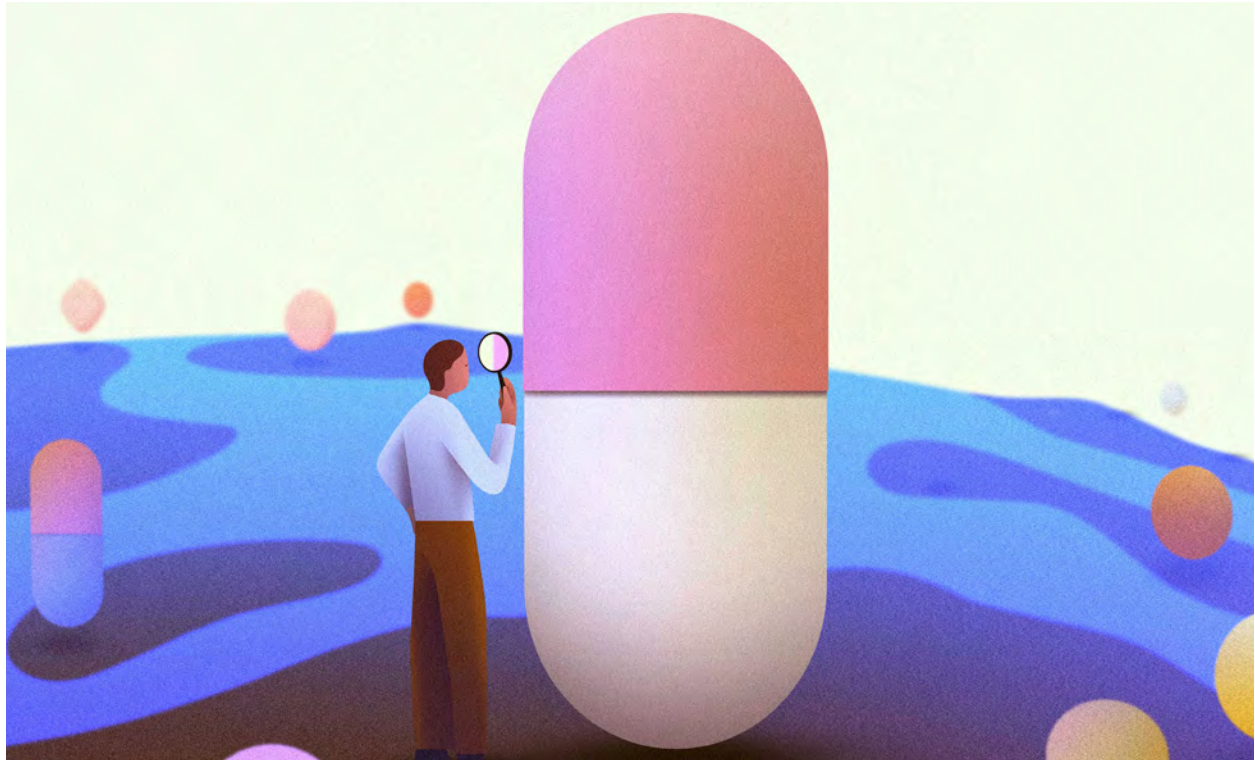


Illustration by Sophi Miyoko Gullbrants for ProPublica.

Lawmakers in at Least Seven States Seek Expanded Abortion Access

Lawmakers [filed more than a dozen bills](#) to expand abortion access in at least seven states in 2025. Some bills, including those in Texas, Florida, Kentucky and North Dakota, were filed in direct response to ProPublica’s Pulitzer Prize-winning reporting on the fatal consequences of overturning *Roe v. Wade* and the strict abortion bans that have gone into effect across the country. In June, [Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 31, called the Life of the Mother Act, into law](#). The law aims to prevent maternal deaths under the state’s strict abortion ban by clarifying that a life-threatening medical emergency doesn’t need to be “imminent” for doctors to legally intervene, and it represents a significant reversal for Republican leaders who had for years insisted no changes were needed. The Texas law also

[mandated training](#) for doctors on when they can legally terminate a pregnancy to protect the life of a patient — guidance physicians have long sought.

Senators Propose Sweeping Changes to Generic Drug Oversight

Lawmakers have proposed a [sweeping series of changes](#) that could transform the way the government safeguards the quality of essential generic drugs. Citing a recent [ProPublica investigation](#), the bipartisan group of senators is calling on the Food and Drug Administration to conduct more drug testing and to alert hospitals and other purchasers when foreign manufacturers with safety failures are given a special pass to send their products to the U.S. Our reporting found that, since 2013, the FDA quietly allowed more than [20 troubled overseas factories](#), mostly in India,

to continue to send certain medications here even after those facilities were banned because of concerns about contamination and other breaches. The agency didn't actively track whether the imported drugs were harming users and kept the practice largely hidden from the public and Congress. Sens. Rick Scott, R-Fla., and Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., both members of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, criticized the FDA for failing to notify Congress about the practice, calling it a "failure on the FDA's part to protect public health." The FDA has said that the exemptions were granted to prevent shortages and that manufacturers were required to conduct extra quality testing with third-party oversight to ensure the medications were safe.

The FDA Rarely Forces Manufacturers to Recall Dangerous Medical Devices, Watchdog Report Finds

A new report by the Government Accountability Office found that the Food and Drug Administration rarely uses its authority to pull dangerous medical devices off the market and is so poorly staffed that it's sometimes unable to make sure companies are taking critical steps to protect patients. The inquiry by the congressional watchdog was requested nearly two years ago by members of the Senate in the wake of a ProPublica and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette investigative series on the 2021 recall of Philips Respironics breathing machines that threatened the health of millions of Americans. Following the GAO report, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., introduced legislation that would require the FDA to address some of the GAO's most pressing concerns. The Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the FDA, said it would assess the need for additional staff and greater legislative authority to better manage recalls. The FDA previously defended its handling of the Philips recall, saying it acted as soon as it learned of safety concerns.

Trump's VA Made It Harder for Male Veterans to Get Treatment for Breast Cancer. Lawmakers Want to Fix That.

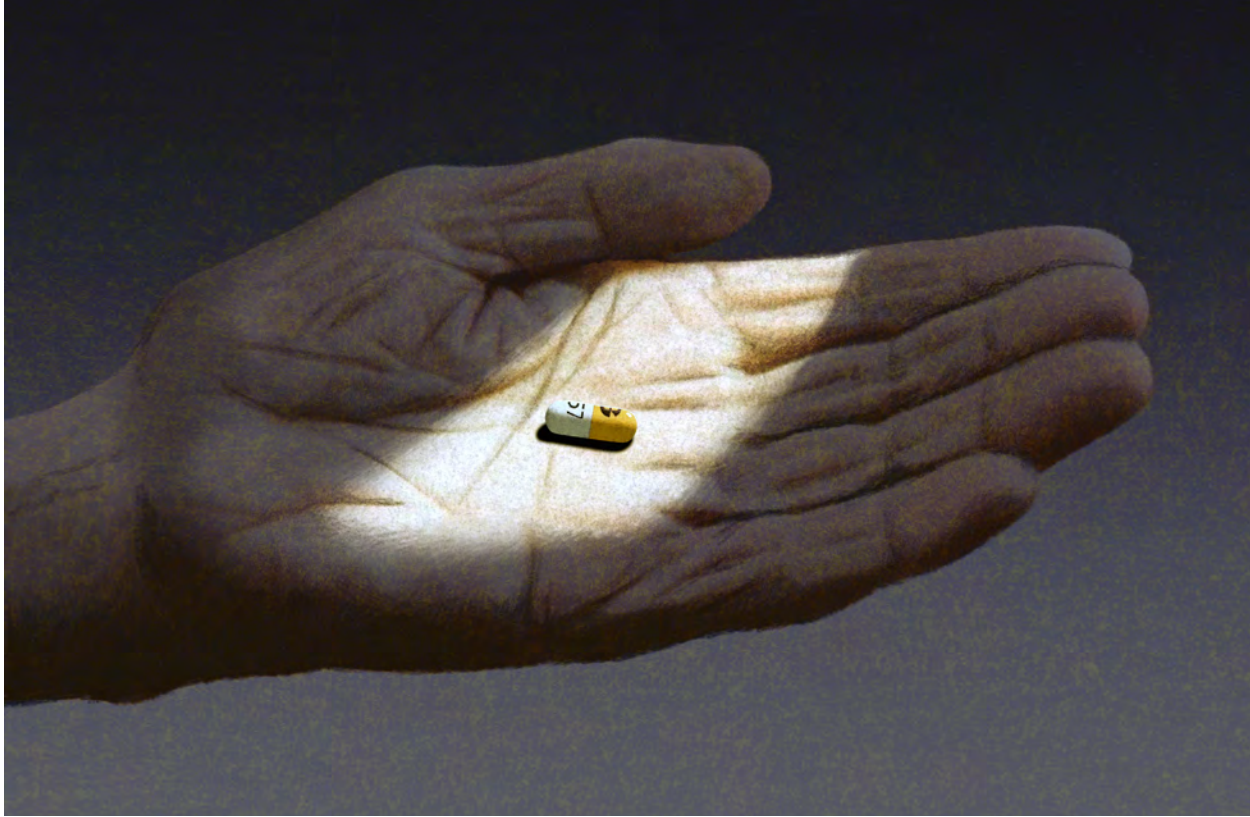
More than two dozen Democrats in the House are pressing the Trump administration to reverse a new policy at the Department of Veterans Affairs that makes it harder for male veterans with breast cancer to get health coverage. The demand, issued in a November 2025 letter to VA Secretary Doug Collins, follows a

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Sick in a Hospital Town" began as COVID-19 coverage, when Albany, Georgia, experienced one of the highest case rates in the world, and Managing Editor Ginger Thompson traveled there to find out why. Many residents suffered from chronic illnesses, and we wondered how this could happen in a place where the largest, most powerful institution was a hospital. My initial research steps are always the same: framing questions and determining where to find evidence-based answers. As a nonprofit hospital, I knew that Phoebe Putney Memorial would file forms with the IRS that disclose how much they spend on helping the poor; I dug into state and federal data on existing underlying conditions and used Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services data and incident reports to reveal quality of care. The data helped to show how a hospital without competition has few incentives to lower costs or improve care.

—Doris Burke,
Senior Research Reporter



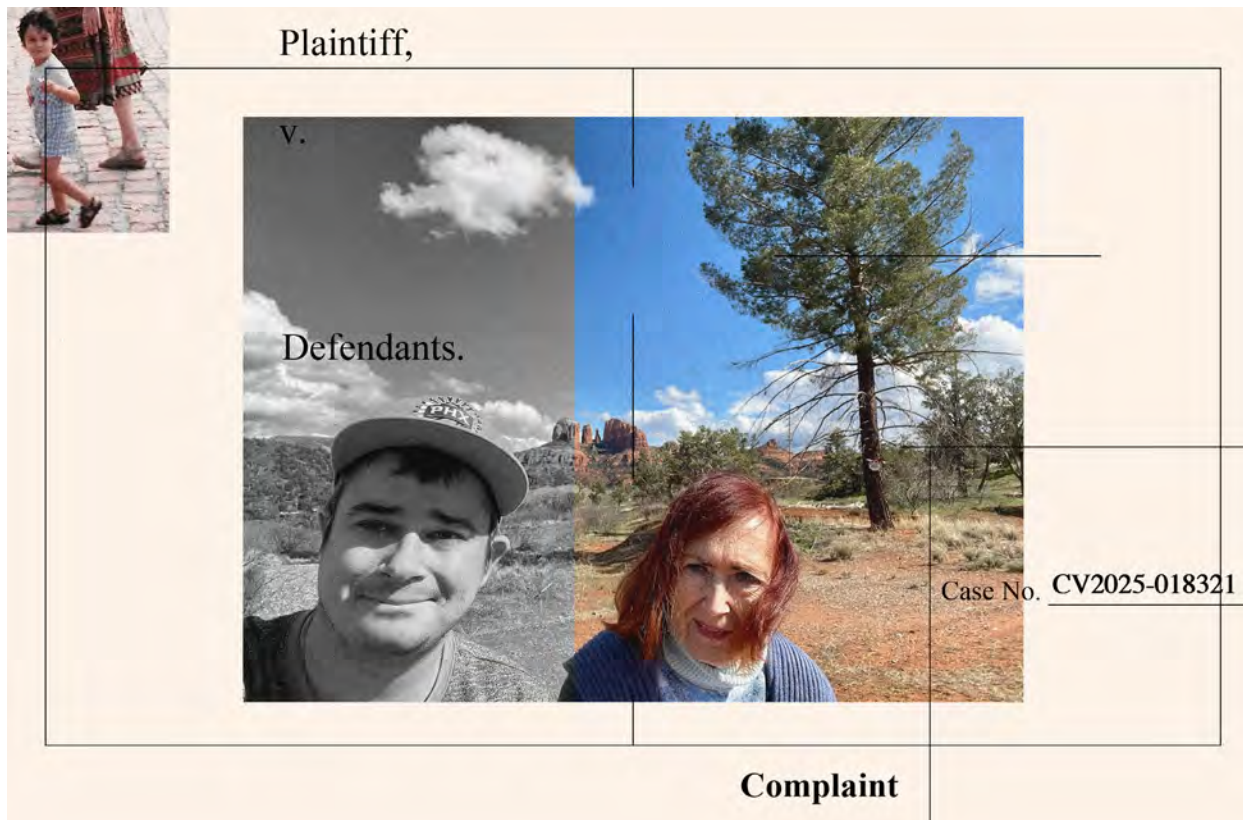
Dadu Shin, special to ProPublica

[ProPublica story](#) that revealed the change. We reported on an internal VA memo that erects new roadblocks to care for male veterans with the rare but deadly disease — potentially affecting the roughly 100 male veterans who are diagnosed each year. The directive cited no new science but rather an executive order from President Donald Trump titled: “[Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government](#).” Separately, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat from Connecticut and the ranking member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, introduced a bill that would require the government to disclose when it is changing benefits for veterans exposed to toxins. The VA continues to defend the policy change.

The FDA Is Cracking Down on an Indian Drugmaker

The Food and Drug Administration is [cracking down on a generic drugmaker](#) that was the subject of a [ProPublica investigation](#), citing problems with safety tests

that delayed the recall of a medicine with a potentially deadly flaw. In December 2024, ProPublica reported that a Glenmark Pharmaceuticals factory in central India was responsible for an outsized share of recalls for pills that didn’t dissolve properly and could harm American patients. Yet, FDA inspectors hadn’t set foot in that facility for more than four years, ProPublica found. Two months after that story was published, FDA inspectors showed up at the plant and [found serious problems](#). Glenmark subsequently [recalled an additional two dozen medicines](#) made there and sold to U.S. patients, including a wide range of commonly prescribed ones that treat epilepsy, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, heart disease and high blood pressure. The FDA sent Glenmark a warning letter citing significant violations of federal requirements, including the company’s failure to promptly test pills to ensure they dissolve properly during their shelf life. The agency warned that it may bar drugs made at the factory from entering the U.S. if the problems aren’t fixed. A spokesperson for Glenmark said in a written statement



The mother of Ravi Coutinho, the subject of a ProPublica investigation, is suing Centene for publishing “misleading” information that gave her son a false impression about the kinds of mental health care that were actually available. *Photo illustration by ProPublica. Source images: Courtesy of Barbara Webber.*

that the company is “actively engaging with the U.S. FDA and has initiated corrective actions to address the agency’s observations. Patient safety, product quality and regulatory compliance are foundational to how we operate.” Citing ongoing litigation the company faces, the spokesperson declined to comment further. The FDA didn’t respond to questions, but after its inspectors found problems at the plant last year, a spokesperson said the agency can only discuss ongoing compliance matters with the company involved.

Lawsuit Says Health Insurer Is to Blame for Man’s Death

The mother of an Arizona man who died after being unable to find mental health treatment is [suing his health insurer, Centene](#), saying it broke the law by publishing false information that misled its customers. Ravi Coutinho was the subject of a [ProPublica investigation](#) that showed how he was trapped in what’s

commonly known as a “ghost network,” where health providers that his insurance company listed as accepting its insurance were not actually able to see him. The reporting was part of our 2024 series “[America’s Mental Barrier](#),” which investigated how insurers interfere with mental health treatment, including employing aggressive tactics that [push therapists out of network](#); deploying an [algorithmic system to limit coverage](#); allowing for [ghost networks](#); cutting access to [treatment for children with autism](#); relying on [doctors whose judgments have been criticized by courts](#); and using patients’ [progress to justify denials](#). Echoing the findings of our series, a January 2025 report by the Department of Labor found [widespread noncompliance and violations of federal law](#) in how health plans and insurers cover mental health care. The federal agency also said it was investigating the oversight of doctors hired by insurance companies who repeatedly deny mental health coverage, as we reported. Centene and Health Net of Arizona, the subsidiary that oversaw Coutinho’s

plan, didn't respond to multiple requests for comment on the lawsuit.

How the Trump Administration Abandoned Plans for a Major Cut in Disability Benefits for Older Workers

After reporting by ProPublica and other publications, the Trump administration is dropping an effort that could have led 830,000 people, disproportionately blue-collar workers in red states, to lose eligibility for Social Security disability payments. In October 2025, we reported that administration officials were rewriting the disability eligibility rules, ostensibly to modernize the program, in ways that would make it even harder for older blue-collar workers — including coal miners, factory workers and other manual laborers — to get benefits. Weeks after our story, which profiled a disabled former coal miner in Arkansas as an example of the kind of person who would be affected by the rule change, top government officials, including federal budget chief Russell Vought, informed disability rights groups that they have decided not to pursue the disability cuts. Spokespeople for the Social Security Administration and the White House Office of Management and Budget did not respond to questions from ProPublica.

New Law Increases Oversight of Arizona Sober Living Homes

Following ProPublica and the Arizona Center for Investigative Reporting's January 2025 investigation into a \$2 billion Medicaid fraud scheme targeting Native Americans seeking substance abuse treatment, the director of Arizona's Medicaid agency, Carmen Heredia, resigned in May, as she was expected to face questions from lawmakers about her efforts to address the crisis. Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs signed legislation in April 2025 to increase oversight and regulation of sober living homes in the state. We reported that people were lured into substance abuse treatment programs and housed in sober living homes where operators allowed continued substance use. Some operators fraudulently billed Medicaid's American Indian Health Program for treatments never delivered. We found that at least 40 Native Americans died in Arizona's sober living facilities between 2022-24 and that state officials for years failed to act on evidence that rampant fraud was imperiling the care of those paid for by the agency.



Frank Bisignano, commissioner of the Social Security Administration. *Eric Lee/Bloomberg/Getty Images*

SUPPORTER FEEDBACK

Fearless, independent investigative journalism that takes deep dives into thorny topics is more vital than ever. We don't need more clickbait; we need reporting that uncovers the truth and provides the receipts.

—Michael B., Washington



The Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in Anna, Illinois, is one of three state-run institutions that the federal Department of Justice says is part of a wide-ranging investigation into Illinois' treatment of people with developmental disabilities. *Whitney Curtis for ProPublica*

The state's Medicaid agency, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, acknowledged the fraud's cost but has not accounted publicly for the deaths tied to the scheme. The agency declined to comment or to make Heredia available for an interview because of an ongoing lawsuit.

The Department of Justice Is Investigating Illinois' Treatment of Disabled Patients

The U.S. Department of Justice launched a [comprehensive investigation](#) into Illinois' treatment of people with developmental disabilities, examining whether the state unnecessarily institutionalizes individuals and fails to protect residents from harm in state-run facilities. This federal probe follows [extensive reporting](#) by ProPublica, Local Reporting Network partner Lee Enterprises Midwest and Capitol News Illinois that documented widespread abuse of patients and a cover-up at Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center, a state-run facility in Anna, Illinois, intended to care for people with mental and developmental disabilities. The investigative series sparked [immediate outrage](#) and led to [calls for hearings](#) by Illinois lawmakers, a plan to relocate [roughly half the](#)

[residents in the facility](#) and the removal of Choate's director. The Illinois governor [signed a bill into law](#) in 2023 that strengthens the range of penalties for health care employees who conspire to hide abuse or interfere with investigations.

NIH Launches New Multimillion-Dollar Initiative to Reduce U.S. Stillbirth Rate

The National Institutes of Health launched a [five-year, \\$37 million stillbirth consortium](#) in a pivotal effort to reduce what it has called the country's "unacceptably high" stillbirth rate. The consortium follows a national shift in the conversation around stillbirth, which has long been a neglected public health concern. ProPublica began [reporting on stillbirths](#) in 2022 and, in 2025, [released a documentary](#) following the lives of three women trying to make pregnancy safer in America. Our reporting found that [lack of comprehensive action, research and awareness](#), as well as [stark racial disparities](#), have all contributed to a stillbirth crisis in the U.S., and that 1 in 4 stillbirths may be preventable. One leading stillbirth expert credited our reporting for the consortium, saying, "There's no question that the ProPublica reporting was intimately tied to this." Members of Congress also credited our reporting when

s. There is therefore no reason to mandate its performance. Although it may be used by some practitioners, there are known pitfalls to keep in mind with any findings, cannot be interpreted in isolation. Those who use the test should be accepting the results when it conforms to their summation of the findings, and not if it conflicts; a "test" used in such fashion inevitably becomes more useful.

When making a diagnosis of liveborn neonate versus a stillborn fetus, the forensic pathologist should recognize that this diagnosis may have serious legal implications. The pathologist must exercise the highest degree of certainty is required to make the determination of liveborn and all other competing diagnoses should be excluded. If the autopsy and investigative findings do not bear and convincing evidence of live birth, it is recommended to default to a diagnosis of fetal death (stillbirth).



Photo illustration by ProPublica. Source images: Illustration by Chantal Jahchan for ProPublica, National Association of Medical Examiners.

the Maternal and Child Health and Stillbirth Prevention Act was passed in June 2024, which ensured that federal maternal and child health dollars can be used for stillbirth prevention efforts.

Medical Examiners Warn That Controversial Lung Float Test Could Be Dangerous

Following a ProPublica investigation into a centuries-old forensic test that has contributed to cases in which pregnant women have been charged with murder, the nation's largest organization for medical examiners issued a warning in October 2025 that the controversial lung float test can be dangerous and is of "questionable value." ProPublica's 2023 reporting found that the deeply flawed test — meant to determine if a baby was stillborn or was born alive and took a breath — has helped put at least nine women behind bars since 2013, despite medical experts' warnings that the results are unreliable and inaccurate. Our reporting also prompted a group of medical and legal experts to

convene a study group, which is ongoing, to examine the lung float test and determine whether it should be used in court. The October warning by the National Association of Medical Examiners is particularly relevant in the wake of a growing concern around criminalizing pregnancy loss following the Supreme Court's decision to eliminate a constitutional right to abortion.

Texas Overhauls Anti-Abortion Program That Spent Tens of Millions of Taxpayer Dollars With Little Oversight

Texas health officials are overhauling a program funding anti-abortion crisis pregnancy centers after a ProPublica and CBS News investigation found the state had funneled tens of millions of taxpayer dollars into the effort with little oversight. Our investigation revealed that the program was riddled with waste, with some organizations exploiting a flat-rate billing system to charge the state more than services actually cost to provide — and keeping the difference. Pregnancy resource centers and anti-abortion activists lobbied



Illustration by Andrea Wise/ProPublica. Source images: Getty Images.

Republicans to block the policy change during the most recent legislative session, but lawmakers did not stop the new rules. Organizations must now document all expenses and will only be reimbursed for state-approved services, while Texas opened the program to competitive bidding instead of automatically renewing contractor agreements.

Idaho Passes Legislation to Reform Its Coroner System

Idaho's governor signed a bipartisan bill into law in March 2025 that aims to improve the state's system for investigating deaths, following reports by ProPublica and a state oversight agency that identified major problems with its coroner system. In November 2024, we reported on two grieving parents' experience with a coroner who did little to investigate what caused their baby's death. We found that Idaho law does not require coroners to follow national standards for death investigations and that a child who dies unexpectedly or outside of a doctor's care in Idaho is less likely to be

autopsied in Idaho than anywhere else in the country. We also reported that for decades, Idaho's patchwork of 44 coroner's offices has left parents without answers in their children's deaths, has created disparities in coroners' investigations based on where a person dies and may even allow murderers to escape prosecution. The new law clarifies coroners' responsibilities and makes clear that a law enforcement investigation doesn't take the place of a coroner's investigation and that the two should happen in parallel. The legislation failed to address some key problems flagged by state researchers and by ProPublica's reporting, but its sponsor characterized the law changes as a starting point for reform. [More work is underway](#) to mandate autopsies, help pay for them and give coroners incentives to meet national standards. State Sen. Melissa Wintrow, who's helping lead the reform effort, said ProPublica's stories raised awareness of the harms of a faulty system for death investigations. "Here's the system going wrong, and your reporting shines a light on it," she said.



Yuki Iwamura/Bloomberg via Getty Images

DOJ and RealPage Agree to Settle Rental Price-Fixing Case

In November 2025, the Department of Justice and Texas software-maker RealPage announced that they [reached a settlement](#) in a case involving price-fixing allegations in some of the nation's largest rental markets. The settlement is the latest development following a [2022 ProPublica investigation](#) that showed RealPage was helping landlords set rents in a way that legal experts said could result in cartel-like behavior. Under the proposed agreement, RealPage will stop offering software that uses nonpublic, "competitively sensitive" data shared among landlords to recommend how much to charge tenants. The company also must remove or redesign software features that restrict rent

decreases or align pricing among competitors. The Justice Department said in a statement that "the proposed settlement would help restore free market competition in rental markets for millions of American renters." The settlement did not include admissions of wrongdoing, RealPage said, and does not involve financial penalties. In the wake of our reporting, the DOJ also [sued six big landlords](#), accusing them of using algorithmic software to work together and raise rents. Some have reached settlements with prosecutors, including [Greystar](#), the nation's [largest landlord](#). Senators have introduced [legislation seeking to ban such practices](#), tenants have filed [dozens of federal lawsuits](#) and cities around the country, including San Francisco, Philadelphia and Minneapolis, have also moved to bar landlords from using similar algorithms to set rents.



Chris Harnan for ProPublica

Representatives Demand Housing Agency Halt Any Cryptocurrency Experiments

In a letter to Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Scott Turner, three federal lawmakers demanded the agency stop any initiatives involving cryptocurrency and the blockchain, saying crypto is volatile and vulnerable to fraud and should be kept far away from the agency’s work overseeing the nation’s housing sector. The Democratic representatives, all members of the House Financial Services Committee, sent the April 2025 letter in response to reporting by ProPublica describing meetings in February 2025 in which officials discussed incorporating the blockchain — and possibly a type of cryptocurrency known as stablecoin — into the agency’s work. The discussion at one meeting centered on a pilot project involving one HUD grant, raising alarm among some officials that programs supporting affordable housing might one day be paid in an unstable currency.

Asked for comment on the letter, HUD spokesperson Kasey Lovett referred ProPublica to a prior comment by Turner, in which he said, “There’s no merit to it.” Lovett previously told ProPublica: “The department has no plans for blockchain or stablecoin. Education is not implementation.”

SUPPORTER FEEDBACK

I support ProPublica because truth and honesty matter, and shining a light on corrupt influences and practices is vital to an informed citizenry.

—Chuck in Rhode Island



Seibel Photography via Getty

Immigration Agents Have Often Grabbed and Mistreated Citizens, Congressional Investigators Find

Prompted by ProPublica's reporting, an investigation by Senate Democrats [documented the experiences of nearly two dozen citizens](#) wrongly detained by immigration agents, contradicting the Trump administration's claims that it only detains immigrants. Citizens told congressional investigators that immigration officers had dragged them from cars, detained them for days, fabricated claims of assault, routinely used excessive force and denied medical care. The congressional [investigation was launched](#) days after ProPublica revealed in October that [immigration agents detained more than 170 Americans](#) in 2025, including nearly 20 children, and held individuals for days without access to lawyers or family. Members of Congress have also cited our reporting to [demand a full accounting](#) from the Department of Homeland Security of all cases in which U.S. citizens have been detained. The government [does not track](#) the number of Americans wrongly detained by immigration agents, and the Trump administration in turn has denied that it happens. A DHS spokesperson has denied that ICE is targeting U.S. citizens or making unconstitutional arrests.

Immigration Agent Publicly Reprimanded After Being Filmed Throwing a Distraught Mother to the Ground

An immigration agent was [briefly removed from his position](#) after a ProPublica reporter and others filmed the agent throwing a distraught mother to the ground at a New York City courthouse in September 2025. The [footage](#) went viral, sparking national attention and public outcry amid Immigration and Customs Enforcement's increasingly aggressive tactics. In a rare move, the Department of Homeland Security publicly reprimanded the officer, calling his conduct "unacceptable" and saying he would be relieved of his duties pending an investigation. Within days, the agent was reinstated.

Ohio Chaplain Freed From Jail as DHS Drops Deportation Case

An Egyptian chaplain whose detention sparked a community uproar and became a test of counterterrorism powers in immigration court was [released from an Ohio jail](#) in September as the Department of Homeland Security abruptly withdrew its case against him. The outcome was a victory for Ayman Soliman, a

popular Muslim cleric whose hundreds of supporters included families he counseled at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. The DHS move to restore his asylum status and drop deportation efforts came 10 days after ProPublica reported on Soliman’s case, [detailing a series of errors and inconsistencies](#) in the government’s evidence portraying him as a terrorist. Legal scholars were monitoring the case as a gauge of how much power the Trump administration could wield at the intersection of counterterrorism and immigration. A DHS official said immigration authorities “cannot discuss the details of individual immigration cases and adjudication decisions.”

Connecticut Attorney General Warns Avelo Airlines That ICE Deportation Contract Could Jeopardize State Support and Tax Breaks

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong warned low-cost carrier Avelo Airlines that its new contract to conduct deportation flights for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement could [jeopardize its state tax breaks and local support](#). Tong’s letter cited ProPublica’s April 2025 [reporting](#) about concerns from flight attendants on ICE flights, including worries over how they would evacuate shackled passengers in an emergency. Connecticut Democrats moved to expand sanctuary laws to penalize companies like Avelo for working with federal immigration authorities, while public opposition to Avelo’s ICE contract has grown, with protests spreading across multiple cities and an online petition gathering nearly 35,000 signatures. Our reporting drew on interviews with seven former flight attendants at GlobalX, another ICE deportation flight contractor; some of those employees remembered hearing they would be working charter flights for celebrities and sports teams. The investigation provided a window into a part of the deportation process that is rarely seen and little understood. In an emailed statement, an Avelo spokesperson told ProPublica that “regardless of the administration or party affiliation, when our country calls our practice is to say yes. We follow all protocols from DHS and FAA.”

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



I was observing immigration court when I happened to catch the testimony of Albert, a Venezuelan man accused of belonging to a gang because of his tattoos and a TikTok video he’d made of himself dancing to a popular audio clip of somebody shouting, “Te va agarrar el Tren de Aragua,” which means “The Tren de Aragua is going to get you.” It was meant to ridicule the notion that all Venezuelans are gang members. (Albert denied belonging to the gang.) I was fascinated. Days later, the Trump administration took the extraordinary measure of banishing more than 230 Venezuelan men to a foreign prison. Albert was among them, to my shock. Eventually, my colleagues and I worked with a team of independent Venezuelan journalists to examine the administration’s claims about the men. The stories and database we produced — including an essay about Albert — are among the work I am the most proud of helping produce in my eight years at ProPublica.

**—Melissa Sanchez,
reporter covering immigration
and labor**



Throughout 2025, our reporting has been fueled by hundreds of federal employees who shared their experiences, advice and inside knowledge with us. When employees of the U.S. Agency for International Development were given 15 minutes to clear out their personal belongings from the soon-to-be-shuttered agency headquarters in Washington, D.C., ProPublica was there. We rented a truck with a digital billboard to advertise our tip line: "Are (were) you a government worker? ProPublica journalists want to hear from you." When Consumer Finance Protection Bureau staffers cleaned out their desks a few weeks later, our truck was stationed outside once again, with reporters handing out business cards and collecting stories. This fall, we put ads in Washington, D.C., Metro lines, inviting commuters to reach out: "Someone on this train has the next big story. Is it you?"

Photo by Outfront Media

Trump Administration

Words of Conviction

Tracing a Junk Science Through the Justice System

The Insurrection

The Effort to Overturn the Election

more than a decade, a trail of program known as 911 call analysis and its methods h
read across the country and grew deep into the justice system.



Environment

The Cold War Legacy Lurking in U.S. Groundwater



by Mark Hilde, Bill Simon and Alex Miorjeski, video by Gerardo del Valle, Liz Moughon and Mauricio Rodriguez Pons

Dec. 3, 2022, 6 a.m. EST

Recognition for Our Work

Last year ProPublica received many of journalism's highest honors, including winning the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for public service. A full list of awards that ProPublica and partners have won is on our website. Here are some of the year's highlights.

Democracy

The Fight
Age-Old E
Block Am
From Voti

by Aliyya Swaby and An

Sept. 12, 2022, 5:07 a.m.

Pulitzer Prize — Public Service

“Life of the Mother”

Pulitzer Prize Finalist — Explanatory Reporting

“America’s Mental Barrier”

George Polk Award — Medical Reporting

“Life of the Mother”

Columbia Journalism School — Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award

“We Don’t Talk About Leonard” (with On The Media | WNYC Studios)

American Society of Magazine Editors — National Magazine Award, Multiple Categories

ProPublica for general excellence in news, sports and entertainment

“The Year After a Denied Abortion,” “Abortion Bans Have Delayed Emergency Medical Care. In Georgia, Experts Say This Mother’s Death Was Preventable” and “A Pregnant Teenager Died After Trying to Get Care in Three Visits to Texas Emergency Rooms” for public interest

Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute — Pictures of the Year International, Multiple Categories

“The Year After a Denied Abortion” for online storytelling project of the year

“The Right Way” (with The Texas Tribune) for documentary news reporting

“Cookie & Zo’e: A Georgia Family Wrestles With School Choice 60 Years After Desegregation” for documentary daily life

Barlett and Steele Awards — Global/National

“The Price of Remission” and “What a \$2 Million Per Dose Gene Therapy Reveals About Drug Pricing”

Poynter Institute — The Batten Medal

“Life of the Mother”

The Nieman Foundation for Journalism — Multiple Categories

“Life of the Mother” was awarded the Worth Bingham Prize for Investigative Journalism and Taylor Family Award for Fairness in Journalism

Scripps Howard National Journalism Award — Excellence in Narrative Human-Interest Storytelling

“The Year After a Denied Abortion”

RFK Journalism Awards — Multiple Categories

“The Year After a Denied Abortion” was named the grand prize winner and won the domestic photography award

“He Was Convicted of Killing His Baby. The DA’s Office Says He’s Innocent, but That Might Not Be Enough.” (with The New York Times Magazine) for reporting on incarceration and criminalization

Edward R. Murrow Awards — Multiple Categories

“He Was Convicted of Killing His Baby. The DA’s Office Says He’s Innocent, but That Might Not Be Enough.” (with The New York Times Magazine) for excellence in writing

“What happened when immigrants came to Whitewater, Wisconsin?” (with On Point/WBUR) for news documentary

Online News Association Online Journalism Award — Multiple Categories

“Del Rio, Texas: How a Race for Sheriff Became a Referendum on Immigration” (with The Texas Tribune) and “The Rise and Fall of Terrorgram” (with FRONTLINE) for digital video storytelling, long form, large newsroom

“Zero Trust: Inside Microsoft’s Cybersecurity Failures” for excellence in technology reporting, media newsroom

“Swept Away: When Cities Take Belongings From Vulnerable Residents” for the AI Neuharth Innovation in Investigative Journalism Award, medium newsroom

“Life of the Mother” for the University of Florida Award for Investigative Data Journalism, small/medium newsroom

NABJ Salute to Excellence Award — Television — Top 15 Markets — Feature: Long Form

“Cookie & Zo’e: Segregation 60 Years Apart” (with Georgia Public Broadcasting)

Education Writers Association National Award for Education Reporting — News, Large Newsroom

“Crackdown on Student Threats: Tennessee’s Harsh Punishment of Kids” (with WPLN News)

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

“Friends of the Court”



Partners

Partners have been a vital part of ProPublica since our founding. In 2025 we partnered with 74 publishing and reporting partners. We collaborated with 25 new partners, bringing our historic total to 344 organizations.

Following an investigation by the Connecticut Mirror and ProPublica, the Connecticut legislature passed a bill overhauling century-old towing laws. News of the towing reform bill's passage brought relief to Melissa Anderson, who was featured in the story after her car was towed and sold from her Hamden apartment because of an expired parking permit. "I'm glad we made a difference," Anderson said. "This is going to help a lot of people." *Shahrazad Rasekh/CT Mirror*



Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Tony Guerrero. Shahrzad Rasekh/CT Mirror

Partner Spotlight: The Connecticut Mirror

In 2025, Local Reporting Network partner The Connecticut Mirror and ProPublica investigated towing practices in Connecticut. The reporting team found that many laws favored towing companies at the expense of low-income residents, who were losing their cars because they couldn't afford the recovery fees or were unable to pay within the 15-day window before companies were allowed to sell their vehicles. Through a series of investigations, the news organizations exposed a wide range of abuses due in part to a lack of oversight from the DMV.

A day after the first story's publication, the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles said the agency would undertake a "comprehensive review" of towing practices. The state legislature also responded by passing a bill to address a number of issues raised in the CT Mirror and ProPublica investigation. In January 2026, DMV Commissioner Tony Guerrero laid out additional recommendations he plans to make for the

legislature to consider during its session that began in February. His recommendations will require towing companies to make more efforts to notify owners that their cars have been towed and streamline the process by which the firms can sell unclaimed vehicles.

Throughout the extensive reporting process, reporters Dave Altimari and Ginny Monk discussed their findings on WSHU Public Radio and Connecticut Public. Their ongoing reporting was republished in the Hartford Courant, The Boston Globe and News From The States. Stories from the series were shared with automotive industry readers through American Towman Magazine, Jalopnik and Road & Track.

All Partners, 2025

ABC15 Arizona

Alianza Rebelde Investiga

Anchorage Daily News

APM Reports

Arizona Center for Investigative Reporting

Arizona Luminaria

Bangor Daily News

Block Club Chicago

Blue Ridge Public Radio

Capital & Main

Capitol News Illinois

Cazadores de Fake News

Chalkbeat National

Chicago Sun-Times

Chicago Tribune

City Cast Las Vegas

Detroit Free Press

El País

Flatwater Free Press

Fort Worth Report

Frontline

High Country News

Honolulu Civil Beat

Houston Chronicle

Idaho Statesman

Inside Climate News

Investigative Center for Jan Kuciak

Invisible Institute

Jacksonville Journal-Courier

KUOW

KYUK

Medill Investigative Lab

Mississippi Today

MLK 50: Justice Through Journalism

Montana Free Press

New Mexico in Depth

New York Amsterdam News

New York Focus

North Dakota Monitor

Northern Journal

NPR News

NPR's Station Investigation Team

Oregon Public Broadcasting

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Saluki Local Reporting Lab

States Newsroom

Street Roots

Tennessee Lookout

The Advocate | The Times-Picayune

The Assembly

The Chronicle of Higher Education

The Connecticut Mirror

The Current

The Frontier

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*New partners marked
in **bold**.*

Collage by Jana Flynn for ProPublica

Audience Snapshot

ProPublica disseminates its findings to the public, especially communities affected by our investigations, and to key decision-makers in a position to implement 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.

4.3 million

Average monthly on-platform visitors

Our unique reach on ProPublica’s web and mobile platform increased, despite downward or flat industry trends. Up 42% vs. 2024.

1.9 million

Average monthly off-platform visitors

Our unique reach on third-party platforms, such as Apple News and SmartNews declined. Down 5% from 2024.

13.9 million

Average monthly views

Our total views on ProPublica’s web and mobile platforms and third-party platforms, such as Apple News and SmartNews, increased as interest in the news grew. Up 16% compared with 2024.

35.4 million

Total video views

Video views on the website and all platforms continued to significantly grow, with most of the audience coming from TikTok and Instagram. Up 151% from 2024.

3.2 million

Total social media followers

We drove significant growth on nearly all social platforms, with TikTok audience doubling and Bluesky and Instagram up more than 65% each. Up 35% from 2024.

664,000

Unique newsletter subscribers

The number of unique readers who subscribe to at least one of our major newsletters increased 5% from the end of 2024.

3,236

Republished articles

Republished articles include local, national and international print and digital publications that republish our work. Up 135% from 2024.

73,939

Media mentions

Mentions of our work on TV, radio and podcasts, and in print and digital outlets. Down 21% from 2024.

8,990

Event attendees

We held 12 public in-person and virtual events. Attendance was up 68% from 2024.

Financial Information, 2025

Thanks to a surge in individual support in 2025, along with new foundation investments in our journalism, ProPublica’s 2025 revenue came in at \$70.5 million. Board-designated reserves were valued at \$70.9 million at the end of 2025, 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	\$ 8,318,000
Foundations	\$21,708,000
Individuals (\$10,000 and above)	\$19,506,000
Individuals (less than \$10,000)	\$16,518,000
Other grants and gifts	\$3,196,000
Earned income and interest	\$1,224,000
Total	\$70,470,000*

Total donors: More than 80,000

**Revenue includes money allocated to the strategic plan campaign.*

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

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

Expenses

News salaries and benefits	\$32,611,356
Non-news salaries and benefits	\$7,241,866
Partner payments and freelance reporting	\$2,483,705
Online publishing, design and visuals	\$1,482,590
Travel, research and all other editorial expenses	\$2,168,036
Occupancy	\$1,490,112
Insurance, legal, accounting and banking	\$1,619,781
Fundraising, IT and all other administrative expenses	\$1,824,236
Capital costs	\$426,896
Total	\$51,348,578

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Seated from left, ProPublica reporters Mariam Elba, Cassandra Jaramillo, Lizzie Presser and Kavitha Surana celebrate after winning the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for public service for the series “Life of the Mother” at the ProPublica office in New York on May

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





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