



PROPUBLICA

REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS
JANUARY-APRIL 2020

In a Moment of Crisis

The current crisis has transformed American life; ProPublica is, of course, no exception. As rampant uncertainty has unleashed an onslaught of official and unofficial misinformation, people are turning to journalists for facts. At ProPublica, our goal for the biggest story of our time is to do what we've always done: offer readers reporting that spurs change, is not being done elsewhere and holds power accountable.

Over the past few months, our newsroom — while reinventing our work practices — has produced stories that help people understand the stakes and consequences of COVID-19 and the national response to it. Through gripping narratives, we are telling the story in original, compelling ways. By holding fast to the accountability reporting and moral force that have long powered ProPublica, our work is making a real-world difference.

Cover: *Video journalist Katie Campbell films in New York City's Times Square for a documentary about COVID-19 deaths in the epicenter of the coronavirus.*
(Michael Werner)

Early Efforts

Our first coronavirus investigation, published on Feb. 28, reported on grave [missteps at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) that hampered officials' ability to track and contain the virus's spread in the United States. Reporters Caroline Chen, Marshall Allen, Lexi Churchill and Isaac Arnsdorf revealed that the CDC shunned World Health Organization test guidelines used by other countries, insisting on creating its own test. But when it was sent to labs across the country, the test didn't work as expected — and it took weeks to figure out fixes.

This loss of invaluable time, combined with almost systematic official inaction, put the country behind the rest of the world in responding to the coronavirus. Within days of ProPublica's reporting, the House Oversight Committee announced an investigation into the test kits' role in delaying the Trump administration's response to the coronavirus.

We have directed the established expertise of ProPublica's health care reporters toward stories that clearly explain COVID-19 to readers. This has been particularly crucial as a consistent stream of inaccurate information — much of it coming from the White House — flows through the news cycle. Deputy managing editor and longtime health reporter Charles Ornstein cut through the bluster with a series of illuminating pieces on why, [despite attempts by Trump and others to compare the coronavirus to the flu, this disease is nothing like earlier outbreaks](#). Caroline Chen's articles on the key questions she's asking about [the coronavirus](#), having lived through SARS in Hong Kong and reported on the 2014 Ebola crisis,



This illustration accompanied ProPublica health reporter Caroline Chen's explanation of what we need to understand about asymptomatic carriers in order to beat coronavirus. (Kevin Whipple, special to ProPublica)

and what we need to understand about [asymptomatic carriers](#) and [serology tests](#) similarly countered oversimplified headlines and misleading statistics with accurate, fact-based journalism.

Drawing on her long experience reporting on women's health issues, Nina Martin's work on pregnancy and the coronavirus, including [guidance for expectant mothers](#) on how to prepare for delivery during a pandemic, was aimed at the nearly one million women who will give birth over the next few months. Marshall Allen and Lisa Song put their backgrounds in health and science writing toward an early story warning consumers that they might be buying up price-gouged hand sanitizer that, without the CDC's recommended minimum of 60% alcohol, [won't actually protect against the coronavirus](#).

Telling Readers' Stories

We also drew on our newsroom's advantage in collecting and organizing tips from people on the front lines. After our engagement reporting team issued a callout for ideas, insights and information from public health workers, medical providers, elected officials, patients and other experts, tips flooded in. By the end of April, we had received nearly 8,000 responses, including from almost 2,000 doctors, nurses and other health-care providers.

Critical stories resulted. Joaquin Sapien and our video team powerfully told the story of a respondent to one of our callouts, a woman who [rescued her father from an overwhelmed nursing home](#).

Lizzie Presser's piece in which [a medical worker describes terrifying lung failure from COVID-19](#), even in his young patients, became ProPublica's most widely read story of all time with more than 3.6 million views. Another narrative came from a [New York](#)



In our reporting on racial disparities in COVID-19 illnesses and deaths, Milwaukee offered a glimpse into the disproportionate destruction the virus is inflicting on black communities nationwide. (Darren Hauck, special to ProPublica)

[City Fire Department chief](#) responding to a devastating influx of “dead on arrival” calls, which we followed up with a data story, also one of the first of its kind, about a [spike in people dying at home](#) in several cities, indicating that coronavirus deaths are higher than reported.

Our coverage of the virus and the ensuing economic crisis necessarily returned to themes that we have long covered: the plight of the working poor, America’s racial disparities, and corruption in politics and business.

Robert Faturechi and Derek Willis reported in March that [Senate Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr](#) sold off up to \$1.7 million of stock after receiving

early classified intelligence briefings on the serious health threats of COVID-19. A week after Burr sold his holdings, the stock market began a sharp decline. The response to our reporting was swift and bipartisan, with other members of the Senate calling for an investigation. Fox News host Tucker Carlson called for the senator’s resignation. Burr himself asked for an investigation into his stock trading by the Senate Ethics Committee. CNN later reported that the Justice Department is reviewing stock trades by Burr and other lawmakers who may have sought to profit from the information they obtained in non-public briefings about the coronavirus epidemic.

ProPublica was also one of the first news organizations to report on the [racial disparities in COVID-19 illnesses and deaths](#), specifically as it concerns black Americans. An article by Akilah Johnson and Talia Buford focused on Milwaukee, one of the few places in the U.S. that was then tracking the racial breakdown of infections, offering a glimpse at the disproportionate destruction that the coronavirus is inflicting on black communities nationwide.

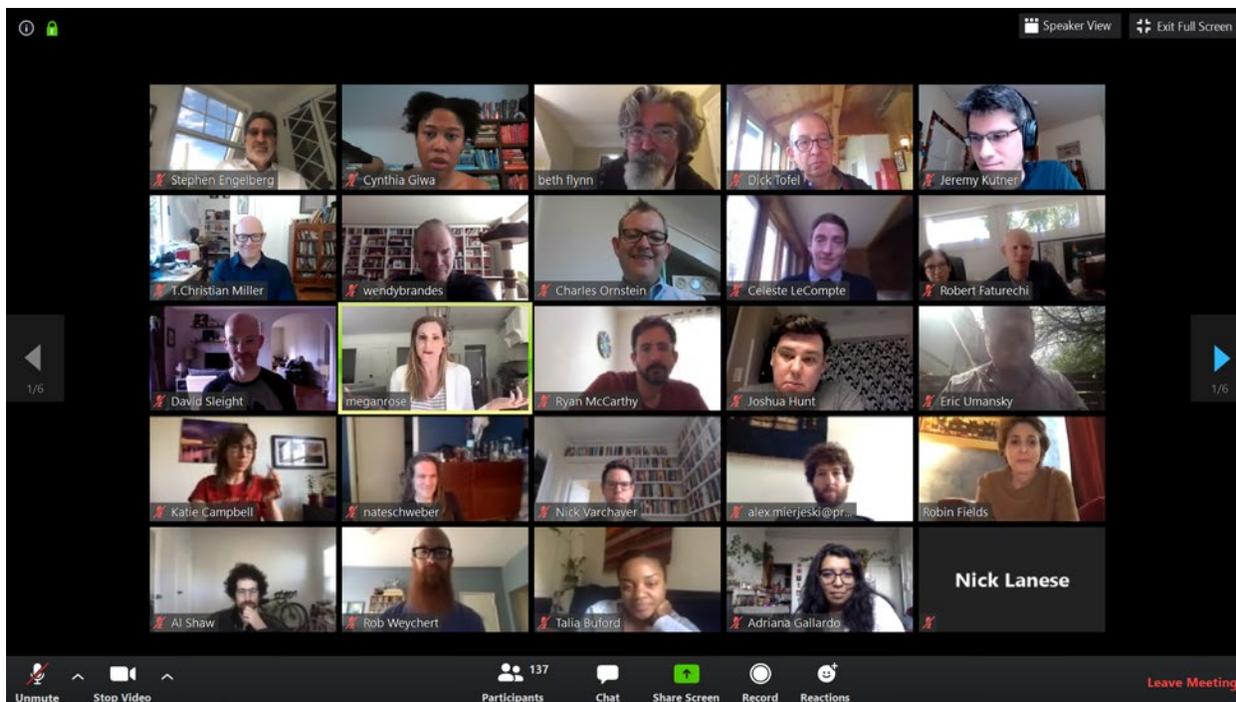
Our news apps developers swiftly built a national look-up tool to help readers determine [whether hospitals near them were ready for the virus](#), based on the potential speed of the virus’s spread and the number of open hospital beds available. For residents in New York City, the global epicenter of the coronavirus, we compiled citywide data to power [an app showing New Yorkers how many confirmed cases are in their ZIP code](#) and how that number compares with the rest of the city. ProPublica Illinois also built a tool [showing state residents whether there were enough ventilators and hospital beds near them](#).

Meanwhile, and Moving Forward

In the first four months of the year, ProPublica reported on other important subjects, including [an investigation on the child car seat maker Evenflo](#) and how it put profits over child safety by marketing its booster seats as “side-impact tested” despite side-impact tests showing that children could be injured or killed in the seats. We also published a story on how [Trump political appointees blocked a criminal prosecution of Walmart](#) over its suspicious opioid prescriptions.

Investigative projects we began before the country was overwhelmed by the crisis continue. And in the middle of the pandemic, we launched our new investigative reporting unit in Texas, jointly operated with our friends and partners at the Texas Tribune.

Just as we were preparing to publish this report, it was announced that ProPublica had won its sixth Pulitzer Prize, and that a first Pulitzer had been awarded to a member of our Local Reporting Net-



ProPublica staff virtually celebrating the announcement of our sixth Pulitzer Prize. (Cynthia Giwa)

work. The 2020 Pulitzer gold medal for Public Service, the nation’s highest journalistic honor, was awarded to the Anchorage Daily News in collaboration with ProPublica for our Local Reporting Network series, “Lawless,” on deficiencies in rural policing in Alaska. A 2020 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting was awarded to our series “Disaster in the Pacific,” about safety problems in the Navy’s Seventh Fleet and the problematic response of the Navy high command.

It is hard to say exactly what lies ahead. But we are determined that ProPublica will stay at it, shedding light on both the health crisis and its economic fallout, acting as a watchdog as the presidential campaign, the stimulus programs and the widening inequalities all play out, staying true to our mission of publishing journalism with the potential and the power to change our society for the better.

Impact

The most important test of ProPublica is whether our work is having impact. We measure our impact not in terms of audience size or honors, but in real-world change. In addition to the impact previously mentioned, our journalism in the first few months of 2020 spurred such change in a number of important areas.

After Dubious Conviction (and 33 Years), a Release from Prison

In 2018, ProPublica published an investigation, in partnership with the New York Times Magazine, about a beloved Texas high school principal named Joe Bryan who was convicted of his wife's 1985 murder. His conviction rested largely on bloodstain-pattern analysis, a dubious forensic practice. The state denied Bryan parole seven times, including most recently in 2019, after the bloodstain-pattern analyst who testified against Bryan admitted that his conclusions were wrong. In March 2020, the parole board reversed course and — 33 years after his conviction, at age 79 — Bryan was released on parole.



Joe Bryan, left, embraced by family at the Texas State Penitentiary. (Courtesy of Celestina Rossi)

Salaries and Benefits for ER Providers Protected

In March, ProPublica reported that the medical staffing company Alteon Health would cut salaries, time off and retirement benefits for emergency room doctors and nurses. Citing lost revenue as hospitals postpone elective procedures and non-coronavirus patients avoid emergency rooms, Alteon and other staffing companies announced pay and benefits cuts to ER providers dealing with an onslaught of coronavirus patients and shortages of protective equipment. After our reporting, the company said it will not cut medical professionals' stipends by 20% as planned

and will continue offering paid time off. And while Alteon will defer matching 401(k) contributions, it won't eliminate those contributions, as it had announced.

Chicago's Punitive Ticketing Practice Outlawed

In 2018, a ProPublica Illinois and WBEZ investigation showed that Chicago uses aggressive ticketing practices and punitive collection measures to boost revenue, disproportionately targeting poor, minority residents and trapping them in spiraling debt. Our



ProPublica Illinois revealed how Chicago's aggressive ticketing practices leave the city's working poor with more fines and fees — and spiraling debt. (Rob Weychert/ProPublica)

reporting sparked numerous changes to the system. Most recently, in January, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed the License to Work Act into law, which ends the practice of suspending driver's licenses over unpaid parking tickets and other non-moving violations.

Victim of Prosecutorial Misconduct Walks Free After 18 Years

As part of a 2012-13 series on prosecutorial misconduct in New York, ProPublica profiled the case of Tyrone Johnson. Johnson was convicted of murder in 2002 and spent the next 18 years in jail, even though prosecutors failed to disclose key evidence, including witness statements that would have cleared him of the crime. ProPublica also reported that the original prosecutor had been stripped of his license for other cases of misconduct. In February 2020, seven years after our story, Johnson was released on parole. He credits the ProPublica investigation, which he included in a packet of materials submitted to the parole board, with helping secure his release because it offered the “most thorough example of the truth of what happened.”

Congress Opens Investigation into Child Car Seat Maker and Calls for Federal Car Seat Rules

In February, ProPublica published an investigation revealing that the child car seat maker Evenflo put profits over child safety, marketing its “Big Kid”

booster seats as “side-impact tested” despite internal video of side-impact tests showing that children could be injured or killed in the seats. Our reporting highlighted the corporate disregard and regulatory failures that allowed the booster seats to be sold even after serious injuries to children resulted. Within a week of our reporting, the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform’s Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy opened an investigation of Evenflo, requesting the company’s records related to the marketing of the Big Kid and other boosters. Sens. Maria Cantwell and Tammy Duckworth, members of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, also called on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to finalize side-impact crash test standards for children’s car seats, which Congress mandated 20 years ago.

Wi-Fi Installed in Rural School District

In March, ProPublica Illinois and the Chicago Tribune reported on learning challenges in southwestern Illinois’ Trico school district, following coronavirus-related school closures. While students were expected to learn remotely, many families in the district lack computers or internet connections, and Trico did not have a single publicly accessible Wi-Fi hot spot. Without access to technology, teachers distributed nearly 6,000 pages of paper lessons to the district’s K-12 students just before they left school. Weeks after the story, a local internet provider moved to install Wi-Fi service to connect families to the district network, and an anonymous donor pledged to donate a dozen hot spots. In addition, a school district in Chicago’s suburbs said it would ship about 250 used Chromebooks to Trico when the computers are replaced after this school year.

Gag Gift Shop Finally Closes Amid Coronavirus Fears

Acting on a tip from staff members fearful of contracting COVID-19, we reported in March that novelty store Spencer’s remained open even after a national emergency was declared. While other chains shut down amid the pandemic, Spencer’s forced its staff to work — selling gag gifts and sex toys — with little or no protection. ProPublica contacted the company, and within hours of our publishing deadline, it shuttered its more than 650 stores, promising to pay staff at least through the end of the month.

Telework for VA Administrative Staff Instituted

ProPublica and New Mexico In Depth, a ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner, reported in March that the U.S. Veterans Health Administration had banned most administrative staff from working at home, despite calls from public health officials and the White House for more Americans to stay home during the COVID-19 pandemic. VA employees expressed alarm to our reporters that they might be unnecessarily exposed. After the article, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reversed course to allow some administrative staff to work from home.

Illegal Eviction Filings Reversed

ProPublica reported that landlords in at least four states (Georgia, Oklahoma, Texas and Florida) have violated the eviction ban passed by Congress in March, moving to throw more than 100 people out of their homes. With no clear enforcement mechanism for the CARES Act, building owners face no apparent consequence for simply not following the law. After being contacted by ProPublica and informed they were illegal, four landlords said they were withdrawing their eviction filings.

Medicaid Benefits for Uninsured Retiree Reinstated

In March, ProPublica reported on one of the millions of Americans facing the coronavirus threat with chronic illnesses and no insurance. Medicaid had abruptly canceled coverage for Judith Persutti in November 2019. The 64-year-old retiree, who gets by on Social Security and food stamps, had appealed the decision unsuccessfully for months using a process that the Trump administration has called a “guardrail” to protect citizens as states try to apply more stringent requirements for Medicaid. Days after our story, Persutti’s Medicaid benefits were reinstated.

Illinois School Board Begins Phase-out of Isolated Timeouts

ProPublica Illinois partnered with the Chicago Tribune for a 2019 investigation into the routine and illegal use of “isolated timeout” rooms within Illinois public schools. We found that children as young as 5 were sent to seclusion rooms, sometimes for hours on end, for minor infractions. In January, educators testified before Illinois lawmakers at legislative hear-



A seclusion room at Braun Educational Center in Oak Forest, Illinois. (Zbigniew Bzdak)

ings on reform bills, urging an end to the practice. Two U.S. senators and 10 members of the House of Representatives (all but one from Illinois) asked the U.S. Department of Education to institute a national ban on the use of student seclusion rooms and physical restraints that restrict breathing. The Illinois State Board of Education conducted the first review of isolated timeouts in schools throughout the state, finding that six of the eight districts they examined violated state law by placing children in seclusion for improper reasons, for too long or without properly notifying parents. In February, the Illinois State Board of Education voted unanimously to permanently prohibit the use of locked seclusion rooms and stop schools from using face-down restraint — but quietly reversed its decision in April, after a few small schools mounted letter-writing campaigns to appeal. Schools will now be allowed to use face-down restraints for one more school year, aiming to phase out its use by July 2021.

Lawsuit Filed Against Trump Organization for Overcharging Inaugural Committee

Our “Trump, Inc.” collaboration with WNYC reported in 2018 and 2019 that the Trump Organization overcharged the nonprofit presidential inauguration committee for rooms, meals and event space at the company’s Washington hotel and that Ivanka Trump was involved in negotiating the price the hotel charged the inaugural committee. In January, the Washington, D.C., attorney general filed a civil lawsuit charging the inaugural committee and the Trump Or-



Our Local Reporting Network collaboration with the Sacramento Bee exposed the unintended consequences of California's efforts to reduce the population of state prisons: overcrowded, violent and increasingly deadly conditions in its county jails. (Greg Betza, special to ProPublica)

ganization with using around \$1 million of charitable funds to improperly enrich the Trump family.

Federal Audit of TurboTax Confirms Deceptive Practices

In 2019, ProPublica revealed how the tax prep software TurboTax uses deceptive design, misleading ads and technical tricks to get people to pay to file their taxes, even when they are eligible to file for free. In February, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration released a scathing audit of TurboTax-maker Intuit, H&R Block and other companies, which found that 14 million taxpayers paid for tax prep software in 2019 that they could have gotten for free. The audit also confirmed ProPublica's reporting that so few taxpayers use the Free File program because of tax prep companies' use of confusing design and persistently lax oversight by the IRS.

Opportunity Zone Abuses Investigated

In 2019, ProPublica reported on several examples of politically connected billionaires benefiting from the opportunity zone tax break, a 2017 anti-poverty measure meant to attract businesses to low-income communities. In response to requests by congressional Democrats who cited ProPublica's stories, the Treasury Department's inspector general announced in January that the agency would investigate the Opportunity Zone program and publish the results.

Congressional Investigation Into Sex Offenders on Dating Apps Opened

In 2019, ProPublica reported, in partnership with Columbia Journalism Investigations, on the use of online dating apps by sex offenders to attack other users and the billion-dollar industry's resistance to legislation to improve the safety of their products. In January, the House Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy responded to our reporting with an investigation into the safety of online dating apps, including the use of dating sites among minors, the sale or dissemination of users' personal information and the presence of registered sex offenders on free dating sites. Lawmakers submitted letters to the top executives at sites like Match Group, Bumble, Grindr and The Meet Group, requesting information on how (and if) they screen for sex offenders or individuals convicted of violent crimes.

Closer Scrutiny and Tougher Consequences Proposed for California's County Jails

In 2019, ProPublica and the Sacramento Bee, a ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner, published a series of investigations that exposed how California's efforts to reduce the population of state prisons have led to overcrowded and dangerous, increasingly deadly, conditions in its county jails. In January, California Gov. Gavin Newsom submitted a 2020 budget that would give more authority to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) that oversees jails, empowering it to take more aggressive and transparent steps when its inspectors find conditions that violate state standards. In February, the BSCC proposed tougher scrutiny and consequences for dangerous conditions in California's county jails. The board is also revising the standards used by its inspectors to evaluate jails, and California Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager has demanded audits of several sheriffs' offices, with regard to how they used state funding they received since 2011 to implement improvements to county jails.

Justice Department Investigates Deadly Mississippi Prisons

In 2019, ProPublica and the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting, a ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner, investigated the Mississippi prison system, which has one of the highest incarceration rates in the United States and has been plagued by accusations of brutality, corruption and abuse. In

February, after a letter from prison reform organizations that cited our series, the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division opened an investigation into four of Mississippi's prisons to determine whether prisoners were adequately protected from physical harm by other prisoners, if proper suicide prevention measures were taken and if adequate mental health care was provided.

Newark Hospital Investigation Finds Transplant Program Put Patients at Risk

In 2019, ProPublica published an investigation of the transplant team at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center that revealed attempts to artificially increase the program's survival rate, an important indicator used by federal regulators. In one egregious case, it kept a patient alive in a vegetative state for a full year without consulting his family about treatment decisions or explaining their options for care. After an investigation, spurred by ProPublica's articles, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services found that the transplant program was putting patients in "immediate jeopardy" and directed the hospital to implement corrective measures.

First Research Study on FBI Photo Analysis Method Released and Finds Serious Flaws

In 2019, ProPublica investigated a technique the FBI Laboratory has used for decades to identify criminals, purporting to match their bluejeans with those photographed in surveillance cameras. After our story, which raised questions about this photo analysis, researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, tested the FBI's method and found several serious flaws. Published in February in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, it is the first known independent research on the technique's reliability, even though the courts have allowed it as trial evidence for years.

New York Mayor Seeks Criminal Investigation on Trump's Tax Inconsistencies

In 2019, ProPublica and WNYC reported that President Donald Trump's company made its New York properties appear more profitable to lenders and less to tax officials. In January, New York City conducted an investigation based on our reporting and, according to Mayor Bill de Blasio, the city sent its findings to the Manhattan district attorney "because there is a possibility of a criminal act having been committed."



A patient suffered brain damage during a heart transplant at Newark Beth Israel and never woke up. We reported that, while barely consulting his family, doctors kept him alive for a year to avoid federal scrutiny. (Carlo Giambarresi, special to ProPublica)

VA Secretary Under Investigation After Misconduct Allegations

ProPublica reported in February that, according to an anonymous complaint, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie personally sought damaging information about a congressional aide who said she was sexually assaulted in a VA hospital. In response to the story, the inspector general for the VA Department opened an investigation into the allegations.

Legislation Introduced to Improve Alaska Public Safety

The Anchorage Daily News, a member of the ProPublica Local Reporting Network, partnered with us for a project that uncovered a sexual assault crisis in rural Alaska and how it is compounded by a profound lack of public safety services. Almost all of these remote communities are primarily Alaska Native and often have no local law enforcement. In the wake of our investigation, in February a task force of Alaska legislators filed bills that would overhaul key elements of the state's failing Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program, which uses state money to train and pay officers working in remote villages. Among other recommendations, the group's legislation would define VPSO's law enforcement power and duties to avoid any ambiguity and remove the cap on overhead costs that VPSO employers can bill the state.

What People Are Saying

We ask donors why they gave to ProPublica. Here's a sampling of recent answers.

“Thank you for your contribution to society. I just sent you as a donation the stimulus payment that I received from the government. Of course I could spend it myself. But the country as a whole will benefit a lot more if you spend it. Thank you for all you do.”
— **Stephanie T.**

“Over the last several months, I've seen ProPublica open up closed doors, shine a light into the back of the closet and carefully process information in a credible, understandable and accessible way that only highlights the quality work being done. For those of us who have neither the wealth or power to alter events, you are the ally we need to fight against the tyrants, greedy and corrupt. Don't stop.” — **Ken C.**

“I respect ProPublica because you discover and dig deep into long-term stories. I respect that you partner with local news organizations to focus on stories that otherwise would be overlooked. I admire conscience, courage, tenacity, character, curiosity, compassion, perseverance and conviction.” — **Deborah**

“Thank you so much for the investigative journalism that you do to keep the U.S. administrations — whichever party is in power — accountable to the people. ProPublica is helping to support and sustain the greatest democracy and Constitution in the world. It is a privilege to help your work go forward.” — **Karyn P.**

“I've been reading ProPublica investigative reports for several years and have been very impressed time and again with the coverage, most of which is not reported on anywhere else or at such depth. My main interests are environment, environmental justice, and African American issues. I also appreciate the investigations of the current administration. I have intended to donate before but kept procrastinating. The last straw for me was reading the article ‘Early Data Shows African Americans Have Contracted and Died of Coronavirus at an Alarming Rate.’ I haven't seen this important topic discussed in any other media. Immediately after reading this article, I decided I had to donate now. It's a bit personal for me because my grandfather lost many of his relatives during the 1917/18 flu epidemic. Now my siblings and I all have underlying health issues putting us at high risk for coronavirus. Thank you for the good work.” — **Bonnie R.**

“I donated today because of your story about Intelligence Chair Richard Burr’s stock selloff before the crisis. This reporting is exactly the kind we need!”
— **Charles S.**

“I was not familiar with ProPublica until I started investigating the virus more in depth. As a 70-year-old who has been a newspaper reporter and now a magazine editor (thankfully working from home), I found your information to be well researched, objective, non-sensational and written so readers can begin to understand the enormity of this pandemic. I hope more people discover your site and benefit from your investigations and reporting. Thank you all for your dedication to high standards of journalism.” — **Danielle C.**

“ProPublica’s journalism is shaped by facts — balance, details, integrity, grit, incisiveness — on topics of importance. I supported ProPublica last year as well and intend to continue an annual donation. I have been particularly informed by your coverage of the Border Patrol and the Navy. Thank you for what you’re accomplishing.” — **Joseph M.**

“Your story on the deaths of six Marines during a training exercise off Japan was one of the most powerfully and beautifully written stories I’ve read this year, or possibly ever. The research was impeccable and the narrative gripping. My compliments. I donated because I hope to read more such intellectually satisfying and emotionally affecting work in future.”
— **Stephen O.**

Honors

Much of our best work from last year has been honored in recent months.

“Lawless,” a ProPublica Local Reporting Network project with the Anchorage Daily News that uncovered **sexual assault in rural Alaska and how it is compounded by a lack of public safety services**, won the Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Public Service. The series won the Paul Tobenkin Memorial Award, the Al Nakkula Prize for Police Reporting, the Scripps Howard Impact Award, the Scripps Howard Award for community journalism, the News Leaders Association’s Frank Blethen Award for Local Accountability Reporting - Small, and the John Jay/Harry Frank Guggenheim Award in Criminal Justice Reporting Award for series, and was a finalist for the Goldsmith Prize for investigative reporting and the Michael Kelly Award.

Our series on **deadly accidents in the Navy and Marines caused by inadequate training and faulty equipment** won the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting, and the series’ first story, “Fight the Ship,” won the News Leaders Association’s Deborah Howell Award for Writing Excellence. The series was also a finalist for the Scripps Howard Award for investigative reporting and is a finalist for the National Magazine Award for public interest.

Our story on **African American land loss in the South**, co-published with the New Yorker, won the George Polk Award in Journalism for magazine report-



The Alaska State Troopers were formed to protect Alaska Native villages, but instead patrols mostly white suburbs. (Marc Lester/Anchorage Daily News)

ing, was a runner up for the MOLLY National Journalism Prize, and was a finalist for the News Leaders Association’s Dori J. Maynard Award for Justice in Journalism.

“The Quiet Rooms,” a ProPublica Illinois series with the Chicago Tribune about **the unlawful use of isolated timeouts in Illinois schools**, won a News Leaders Association’s Frank Blethen Award for Local Accountability Reporting, the Anthony Shadid Award for Journalism Ethics and the Illinois Press Association Knight Chair Award for investigative/enterprise reporting. It received honorable mention in the the Dart Award for Excellence in Coverage of Trauma; won second place for

the National Headliner Award for public service in newspapers; was a finalist for the MOLLY National Journalism Prize, the Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting, an Investigative Reporters and Editors Award for print/online; was on the shortlist for the Sigma Award for data-driven reporting; and is a finalist for the National Award for Education Reporting for public service, the Peter Lisagor Watchdog Award, and the Peter Lisagor Awards for best multimedia collaboration, best data journalism, best education reporting, and best series — non-deadline reporting.

Our reporting on **the pervasive use of jailhouse informants**



Judy Kennedy flips through pictures of her granddaughter Gabrielle. The baby was killed when a driver delivering Amazon packages crashed a rented truck into the back of her mother's Jeep. (Sarah Rice, special to ProPublica)

to secure convictions, co-published with the New York Times Magazine, won the MOLLY National Journalism Prize, the Taylor Family Award for Fairness in Journalism, the Hillman Prize for magazine journalism, and an Investigative Reporters and Editors Award for print/online, and was a finalist for the News Leaders Association's Deborah Howell Award for Writing Excellence - Large.

"Profiting From the Poor," a ProPublica Local Reporting Network project with MLK50: Justice Through Journalism that exposed **predatory debt collection practices by the largest health care system in Memphis, Tennessee**, won the Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting, an Investigative Reporters and Editors Award for print/online and the Association of Health Care Journalists Award for business

journalism, and was a finalist for the Scripps Howard Award for community journalism.

"A 911 Emergency," a ProPublica Local Reporting Network project by the Public's Radio on **how inadequate training and oversight harms emergency medical care in Rhode Island**, won the Scripps Howard Award for radio/audio and was a finalist for the Scripps Howard Impact Award, as well as an Investigative Reporters and Editors Award for radio/audio.

Our reporting on **President Donald Trump's tax inconsistencies** won the Society of American Business Editors and Writers' Best in Business Award for banking/finance.

"**The Extortion Economy**," our story on how insurance companies are fueling a rise in ransomware attacks, won the Society

of American Business Editors and Writers' Best in Business Award for technology.

Our collaboration with BuzzFeed News on the grueling, sometimes deadly conditions endured by **drivers who work in Amazon's delivery network** won the Society of American Business Editors and Writers' Best in Business Award for retail.

Our reporting with the Sacramento Bee on **how California's efforts to reform the state prison system left its county jails more deadly**, a project of the ProPublica Local Reporting Network, won the California Journalism Award for investigative reporting.

An investigation by NPR Illinois, a Local Reporting Network partner, into the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's handling of **sexual harassment complaints against faculty**

won the Illinois Associated Press Broadcasters Association Award for best investigative report.

Our reporting with the Connecticut Mirror, a ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner, on how **state and local officials blocked affordable housing in affluent Connecticut towns**, won the New England Newspaper & Press Association Award for investigative/enterprise reporting.

“The TurboTax Trap,” our series that revealed that TurboTax sold taxpayers a service they could have received for free, was a finalist for the Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting and the Scripps Howard Award for business/financial reporting, and received honorable mention in the Society of American Business Editors and Writers’ Best in Business Award for government.

Our visualization of **the spread of the natural gas industry across West Virginia**, created in partnership with ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner the Charleston Gazette-Mail, is a finalist for the National Magazine Award for digital innovation.

Our collaboration with WNYC, **“Trump, Inc.,”** is a finalist for the National Magazine Award for podcasting.

Our reporting on how **the transplant team at a Newark hospital kept a vegetative patient on life support to boost its survival rate** received honorable mention in the Society of American Business Editors and Writers’ Best in Business Award for health/science. Caroline Chen, who reported the story, is a finalist for the Livingston Awards for Young Journalists.

Our reporting with American Banker on **how Trump’s political appointees intervened to reduce sanctions against two large banking organizations** involved in trading risky securities received honorable mention in the Society of American Business Editors and Writers’ Best in Business Award for banking/finance.

ProPublica Illinois is a finalist for the Peter Lisagor Award for General Excellence in Online Journalism. **“You’re Destroying Families,”** co-published by ProPublica Illinois and the Chicago Sun-Times, on the failures of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to serve Spanish-speaking families, is a finalist for the Peter Lisagor Watchdog Award. The collaboration also is also a finalist for best non-deadline reporting and best illustration, while **“Financial Aid Loop-hole,”** a ProPublica Illinois series revealing that well-off families were transferring guardianship of their college-bound teenagers to qualify for financial aid, is a also finalist for best non-deadline reporting, **“The Legend of A-N-N-A,”** a ProPublica Illinois story on **the history of “sundown towns,”** is a finalist for best feature story or series, and **“The Bad Bet”** by ProPublica Illinois and WBEZ Public Radio, is a finalist for the best graphics.

Our reporting on white supremacist groups for ProPublica’s **“Documenting Hate”** series was recognized as a finalist for the News Leaders Association’s Batten Medal for Courage in Journalism.

Our reporting on **invasive TSA searches that transgender people often face at airports**

was a finalist for the GLAAD Media Award for outstanding digital journalism article.

Our collaboration with PBS Frontline on **problems with a New York City policy to move mentally ill people into private apartments** is a finalist for the National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation’s Research and Journalism Award in the television and radio journalism category.

Our Local Reporting Network collaboration with AL.com on **Alabama sheriffs’ release of sick inmates** to avoid the cost of medical care won third place for the National Headliner Award for health, medical and science writing.

“Polluter’s Paradise,” a Local Reporting Network Project with the Times-Picayune and the Advocate about **the environmental impact on the petrochemical industry’s growth in Louisiana**, won a Society for News Design Bronze Medal for maps and was selected for the Sigma Awards shortlist for visualization.

Our Instagram video, which told the story of **a 16-year-old migrant who died while in Border Patrol custody**, won a Society for News Design Bronze Medal for social media design.

Our reporting on **politically connected billionaires benefiting from the Opportunity Zone tax break** intended as an anti-poverty measure was selected for the Sigma Awards shortlist for data-driven reporting.

“Aggression Detectors,” our investigation on unproven surveillance technology schools are using to monitor students, was selected for the Sigma Awards shortlist for innovation.

ProPublica Partners, January–April, 2020

- Advocate [New Orleans/Baton Rouge]
 - AL.com
 - Anchorage Daily News
 - **Arizona Daily Star**
 - Arizona Republic
 - **Asbury Park Press**
 - Atlantic
 - Boston Globe
 - BuzzFeed News
 - CBS News
 - Chicago Sun-Times
 - Chicago Tribune
 - Chronicle of Higher Education
 - CT Mirror
 - Fortune
 - **The Frontier [Oklahoma]**
 - Guardian
 - Houston Chronicle
 - **Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting**
 - Louisville Courier-Journal
 - Miami Herald
 - Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting
 - MLK50 [Memphis, Tennessee]
 - **New Mexico in Depth**
 - New York Times
 - **Nieman Lab**
 - Oregonian
 - **Oregon Public Broadcasting**
 - Post and Courier [Charleston, South Carolina]
 - The Public’s Radio [Rhode Island]
 - Raleigh News & Observer
 - Sacramento Bee
 - Seattle Times
 - South Bend Tribune
 - Southern Illinoisan
 - Texas Monthly
 - Texas Tribune
 - Univision
 - Vox
 - WBEZ
 - WNYC
- New partners marked in **bold**.*

ProPublica by the Numbers

10,400,000	Page views on ProPublica platforms per month on average	UP 119%
10,600,000	Off-platform pages viewed on Apple News, Microsoft News, Google News and SmartNews per month on average	UP 101%
7,600,000	Unique visitors to ProPublica.org per month on average	UP 203%
829,000	Pages republished under Creative Commons per month on average	UP 238%
336,000	Email subscribers	UP 32%
859,000	Twitter followers	UP 4%
450,000	Facebook followers	UP 3%
16,000+	Donors	