

Point by Point

Our mission at ProPublica remains steadfast: to expose abuses of power and betrayals of the public trust. But to do this we must constantly upgrade the tools at our disposal. Our newsroom's use of data and social science — finding new methods for collecting, processing and analyzing complex information, then making it accessible through groundbreaking visuals and news apps — quantifies problems that were previously anecdotal. It equips the public and those in power with hard facts. In 2021, ProPublica employed these tools in creative ways, producing some of our most vital, game-changing investigations.

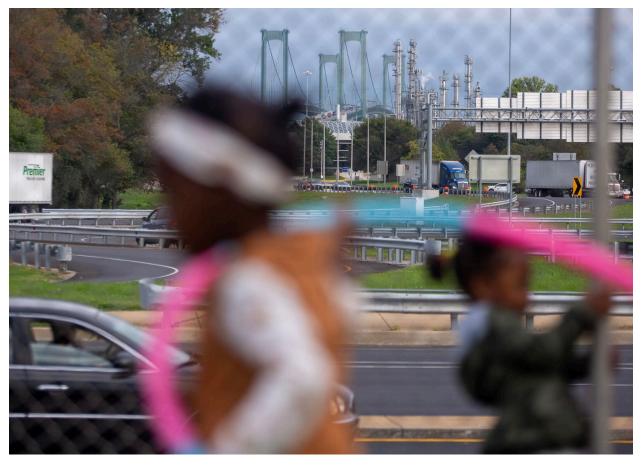
1,000 Hot Spots

In one groundbreaking example of data journalism, ProPublica showed how industrial polluters are turning vulnerable communities into "sacrifice zones" where residents breathe in carcinogens. Murky data, manipulated science and impenetrable rule-making had long allowed industry and government to escape accountability and leave residents in the dark. Powered by a first-of-its-kind analysis and interactive map, the series — by Lylla Younes, Al Shaw, Ava Kofman, Lisa Song, Max Blau, Kiah Collier, Ken Ward Jr., Alyssa Johnson, Maya Miller and Lucas Waldron — provided the public with a revolutionary view of the industrial emissions reaching people, what chemicals they contain and which polluters were to blame.

The "Sacrifice Zones" series grew out of a 2019 project that mapped dangerous concentrations of industri-

al emissions in Louisiana's "Cancer Alley." Led by Shaw and Younes, the team recognized the need for a deeper national analysis and embarked on a two-year endeavor. They analyzed nearly 7 billion rows of Environmental Protection Agency data to generate estimated cancer risks from industrial emissions across the country. They also used U.S. Census data to determine racial disparities. The end result: the most detailed map of cancer-causing industrial air pollution in the country revealing more than 1,000 hot spots. The data showed that in predominantly Black census tracts the estimated cancer risk is more than double that in majority-white tracts.

The project led to the kind of impact environmental advocates said they had been working for decades to achieve. Within weeks of the investigation, EPA ad-



Children play at Cradles To Crayons Early Learning Center in New Castle, Delaware. The center is located about a mile from Croda Inc.'s chemical plant. (Kathleen Flynn)

ministrator Michael Regan visited several of the communities featured in our reporting, and, in what environmental experts called a radical change in tone, he pledged to ramp up the agency's enforcement activities. Our investigation also led to a groundswell of activism among residents, many of whom said they

had been unaware of the dangers they were facing. Empowered with the truth about how pollution impacts their neighborhoods, they lobbied for air monitoring, packed town halls, circulated petitions and started neighborhood health surveys.

Forecast: Black Snow

In collaboration with The Palm Beach Post, a Pro-Publica Local Reporting Network partner, we investigated how regulators have allowed the sugar industry to burn crops at the expense of poor communities of color in Florida's heartland. For years, residents living near Florida's sugar fields have complained about cane burning, a harvesting method that helps produce more than half of America's cane sugar but chokes Black and Hispanic communities near the Everglades with smoke and ash. They call it "black snow." All the while, politically powerful sugar companies and state regulators have reassured residents

that the air is healthy to breathe. Over 18 months, Lulu Ramadan of The Palm Beach Post, along with ProPublica's Ash Ngu and Maya Miller, tested that proposition.

The team interviewed dozens of people living amid the cane fields and obtained hundreds of public records from environmental and public health agencies. They did their own air monitoring, consulting with six experts in air quality and public health from universities across the country and installing sensors at homes in one of the state's most underserved communities. The readings showed repeated spikes in pollution on days when the state had authorized cane burning and when smoke was projected to blow toward the sensors. These short-term spikes often reached four times the average pollution levels in the area — enough that experts said they posed health risks. To gauge the effects of cane smoke in the community, the team also created an automatic text messaging tool that surveyed residents whenever our sensors detected a spike in pollution. Some residents

reported that they were coughing and had trouble breathing, while others shared pictures of smoke plumes looming over the area.

The investigation found that state regulators were relying on data from a single malfunctioning monitor to track air quality across the sugar-growing region. The reporters also found that regulators had already banned cane burning at times when the wind blew toward the wealthier, whiter communities east of the cane fields. It was only after the team started asking questions that Florida officials replaced the unfit monitor the team had identified in the Glades, and leading members of Congress called for the Environmental Protection Agency to investigate air monitoring in Florida and change national pollution standards. The Palm Beach County Department of Health upgraded air monitoring equipment, which will allow them to enforce federal pollution standards, and officials said they were in talks with the EPA to expand air monitoring in the state.

Citizen Science

Our investigation of America's fractured, ineffectual food safety system is another powerful example of ProPublica's pioneering work. While investigating COVID-19 outbreaks in meatpacking plants in 2020, reporters Bernice Yeung and Michael Grabell began to wonder about the safety of America's food supply chain. Was the food sold in supermarkets and at restaurants as safe as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's seal of approval implied?

Yeung and Grabell began combing through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention outbreak reports and came across a drug-resistant salmonella strain that had run rampant through the country's chicken supply, affecting the entire industry. The reporters looked deeper, analyzing USDA's bacteria sampling results as well as genomic sequencing data that is maintained by the National Institutes of Health. Their analysis showed that while the CDC had closed its salmonella investigation in 2019, the dangerous strain of salmonella continued to be found frequently by USDA inspectors in chicken samples, where it sickened tens of thousands of people.

To help consumers understand where their chicken comes from and what risks they may face, news apps developers Andrea Suozzo and Ash Ngu, along with engagement reporter Maryam Jameel, did what the government hadn't. They assembled federal inspection data to build Chicken Checker, an interactive database that allows users to look up the salmonella records of the plants that produced their chicken or turkey. Through the app, the team received nearly 900 submissions from people across the country who collected information from packages of poultry, which allowed us to see which supermarkets had received poultry from the most problematic plants.

A week before the series' first story was published, the USDA announced that it was rethinking its approach to salmonella and asked an advisory committee for suggestions on how to improve its testing program. The agency said it specifically wanted recommendations on how to focus on the riskiest types of salmonella, how much salmonella was present and how to better control the bacteria on farms — all vulnerabilities highlighted by ProPublica's reporting.

Diving into Data

ProPublica also used new datasets for "The Secret IRS Files," our investigation into the tax records of America's most wealthy. The project began with an anonymous source who entrusted our newsroom with a vast trove of data disclosing the income taxes paid by thousands of the nation's wealthiest citizens over more than 15 years — representing by far the biggest leak of confidential tax information in U.S. history.

Poring over the reams of numbers, the team — including Jesse Eisinger, Paul Kiel, Jeff Ernsthausen, Justin Elliott, James Bandler, Patricia Callahan, Robert Faturechi, Ellis Simani and Doris Burke — realized that the ultrawealthy had paid a stunningly small amount of taxes as they amassed fortunes worth billions of dollars. In some years, business leaders such as George Soros, Jeff Bezos, Michael Bloomberg, Carl Icahn and Elon Musk owed not a single dollar in income tax to the U.S. Treasury. But these billionaires weren't cheating on their taxes.

They were avoiding the burdens borne by nearly every other wage-earning American, using completely legal strategies. The data offered an opportunity to trace the battle between lawmakers trying to create a modern state and titans who had the means to shape the tax code to their advantage. The goal of "The Secret IRS Files" was to use the individual examples of tax avoidance found in the data to trace that larger story.

In 2021, we also harnessed shoe-leather reporting to tell readers about America's unregulated shadow foster care system; the devastating consequences of pandemic-related delays in cancer diagnosis and treatment; a harsh juvenile justice system that jailed children with no oversight; and many other important stories. In the coming year, our newsroom is excited to produce more rigorous journalism that makes a difference.



A video in our "Secret IRS Files" series shows how billionaire sports team owners pay lower tax rates than athletes and concessions workers. (Nadia Sussman, Mauricio Rodríguez Pons, Joseph Singer and Kristyn Hume)

Highlights of the Year at ProPublica

Impact

Our work spurred a host of real-world changes in 2021. ProPublica's coverage of the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol was used to identify and charge suspects, and it was cited in more than 20 subpoenas from the House committee investigating the event. Florida dramatically reformed a deeply flawed program that failed to provide benefits for parents of brain-damaged newborns after we drew attention to it. Illinois lawmakers banned the use of restraints and seclusion in public schools and ended the discriminatory practice of suspending drivers' licenses for unpaid tickets. The federal government extended PPP loans to thousands of borrowers who had filed for bankruptcy, and our reporting helped solve the cold case of a 1983 murder in Baltimore.

Important Stories

Our journalism shined light on a massive trove of secret IRS data, revealing systemic inequities that allow America's wealthiest citizens to pay little or nothing in federal taxes. We identified more than 1,000 hot spots of cancer-causing industrial air pollution across America; showed that salmonella is running rampant and unchecked through the chicken industry; and investigated how Liberty University discourages, dismisses and threatens to punish students who report rape. Other memorable stories included an examination of America's unregulated, often dangerous shadow foster care system, the pandemic's toll on the emotional health of teenagers and a heart pump that was implanted in thousands of people despite the federal government's knowledge that it had potentially deadly problems.

Local Focus

ProPublica hired 15 new reporters to complete our regional reporting units in the Midwest, South and Southwest, and 15 reporters began new or continued projects with the ProPublica Local Reporting Network. Stories from the Local Reporting Network in 2021 exposed a Tennessee county's harsh juvenile justice system that jailed Black children for a crime that didn't exist; air pollution and health risks posed by sugar cane burning in Florida; impunity afforded by sheriff's deputies in Louisiana accused of excessive force; and the fight for racial justice in a small North Carolina town. Other local work included stories on government failures to protect Texas communities



Jacorious Brinkley was incarcerated as a child through a vague system that allowed the Rutherford County juvenile detention center to jail kids deemed a "true threat." (Stacy Kranitz, special to ProPublica)



Reporter Ava Kofman asks EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan a question in Louisiana's Cancer Alley. (Kathleen Flynn)

from carbon monoxide poisoning and deaths, and how dozens of Missouri homeowners who used state-supported "clean energy" loans to fix their houses ended up trapped in debt.

Award-Winning

ProPublica won a News & Documentary Emmy our fourth Emmy Award and first solo Emmy — for the video "Rescuing Her Father From an Assisted Living Facility in the Coronavirus Epicenter." Our investigative work on the coronavirus pandemic was a finalist for the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, with stories about disproportionate deaths among Black Americans and how the meatpacking industry ignored pandemic warnings winning a George Polk Award in Journalism. We also won five National Magazine Awards recognizing work on racial disparities in diabetic amputations and kidney care, how the coronavirus was killing young Black men with deadly efficiency, a Michigan teen jailed for failing to complete online schoolwork, the erosion of Hawaii's beaches, and the portraits and stories of 29 Alaskan sexual assault survivors.

Partnerships

Our publishing partnerships continued to grow, with 71 in 2021 alone. Partners over the past year included The New York Times, The Washington Post, The New Yorker, Univision, Time and Vox.

Engaged Events

We expanded our events program with 28 virtual and in-person events in 2021. Topics included the over-incarceration of children in Tennessee's juvenile justice system, affordable housing in Nevada, surges in violence against Asian Americans, how white environmental groups have marginalized Black farmers in Illinois, the record detention of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border and the unequal impact that climate change is having on people of color in a Southern California town. Among others, event partners included Bridge Michigan, Climate One, Code For America, Flint Beat, Grist, Nashville Public Radio, Nevada Humanities and Outlier Media.

Impact

The most important test at ProPublica is whether our work is making an impact. We measure impact not in terms of audience size or honors, but in real-world changes to behaviors, policies or legislation. We published more than 470 stories in 2021. Those articles led to the resignation of ineffective officials, the passage of new laws and other changes at the local, state and national levels. Here are highlights from our work.

Rioters Charged and Trump Official Subpoenaed Over Jan. 6

On Jan. 6, 2021, a source shared with ProPublica thousands of videos that were publicly uploaded by rallygoers and insurrectionists to the social media site Parler. (The videos had been archived by a programmer before the site was taken offline by its host.) Nearly 50 members of ProPublica's reporting staff worked together to quickly publish an interactive timeline of more than 500 videos taken at or around the Capitol, a collection that provided one of the most comprehensive historical records of the infamous day. Clips from the videos have been used by the FBI to identify and charge suspects, and in February, images from ProPublica's timeline were also used by House managers during the second impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump. In June, the Senate Homeland Security and Rules committees recommended reforms to the Capitol Police in a report that extensively cited ProPublica's coverage of the department's failures in preparing for and responding to the riot. In June, ProPublica reported that senior Trump aides knew the "Stop the Steal" rally that preceded the attack on the Capitol could get chaotic. We revealed how rally organizers fooled the Capitol Police and welcomed white supremacists to increase their crowd sizes, while White House officials worked to both

contain and appease the rallygoers. Citing our report, the U.S. House of Representatives select committee investigating the events of Jan. 6 issued a subpoena to former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, noting that there is "credible evidence" of Meadows' involvement in events leading up to the attack on the Capitol. This was the first of 20 subpoenas from the committee that cited our reporting.

Far-Reaching Reforms (and a Resignation) in Florida Program for Injured Newborns

In April 2021, our Local Reporting Network partner the Miami Herald reported on Florida's Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association, a program created to reduce doctors' malpractice bills. Parents of brain-damaged newborns lose their right to sue when they join the program, which instead offers them a one-time payment and promises to cover future medical expenses. Yet NICA has frequently denied or delayed help for struggling families — sometimes spending tens of thousands more in legal fees fighting requests for benefits than it would have cost to help parents who depend on the program to care for their children. Hours after the initial story was published, Florida's chief financial officer initiated an audit of the program that, months later, would validate many of our



The NICA program was intended to provide a dignified existence and financial cushion for families crushed by the delivery of an infant with brain damage. But parents reported a program that was both indifferent to their fears and hostile to their needs. (Charlotte Ager, special to ProPublica)

findings. By the end of April, Florida lawmakers passed sweeping legislation to increase benefits and protections for NICA families, including offering money for mental health services, adding a parent representative to the program's board of directors and distributing retroactive compensation of \$150,000. The following day, the executive director of NICA announced a host of additional reforms that went beyond those mandated by lawmakers. In June, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the new legislation, approving the most far-reaching reform in the program's history. In September, the program's executive director resigned after leading the organization for nearly two decades. NICA announced additional reforms later in the year, including dropping a much-despised policy requiring parents seeking therapy and medicine for their kids to try to get it first from Medicaid, which can delay care by months. The board also voted unanimously to lobby the legislature to amend the NICA law further to make even more reforms.

Illinois Lawmakers Ban Use of Restraints and Seclusion in Public Schools

In November 2019, ProPublica and the Chicago Tribune investigated Illinois public schools' misuse of "isolated timeout" rooms, wherein children as young as five were sent to seclusion rooms alone, sometimes for hours on end. Our reporting prompted lawmakers to call for a national ban on the use of student seclusion rooms and physical restraints and spurred the Illinois State Board of Education to take emergency action, unanimously voting to permanently prohibit the use of locked seclusion rooms and stop schools from using prone restraint. However, in May 2021, ProPublica reported that Illinois schools nevertheless continued to use restraints and seclusion more than 15,000 times during the 2020/2021 school year, even as most schools were closed due to the pandemic. Following our report, Illinois lawmakers passed legislation that requires schools to make a plan to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of restraints and seclusion over the next three years. In August, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed the bill. In addition, efforts to ban seclusion and limit the use of restraints nationally moved forward in May when House and Senate Democrats jointly introduced the Keeping All Students Safe Act.

Unqualified COVID-19 Contractor Pleads Guilty to Fraud

In May 2020, ProPublica published an investigation into government contracts for personal protective equipment, uncovering individuals profiting from the government's bungled handling of the pandemic. In one investigation, we reported that a vendor with no experience in providing medical supplies received \$38 million in federal contracts to provide N95 masks at inflated prices to Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals. In the course of our reporting, we asked the VA about this deal. It terminated the contract almost immediately and referred the case to the inspector general for investigation. In February, the contractor, Robert Stewart Jr., pleaded guilty to three counts of making false statements, wire fraud and theft of government funds in U.S. District Court, including charges that he lied to the VA.

Federal Government Extends PPP Loans to Borrowers in Bankruptcy

In March 2021, ProPublica investigated a Small Business Administration rule that disqualified individuals or businesses in bankruptcy from getting relief through the Paycheck Protection Program. The agency had battled in court against bankrupt companies attempting to apply for the program, and it didn't change course even after Congress explicitly passed legislation last December allowing it to do so. Two weeks after our story, however, the SBA quietly reversed the policy by releasing new guidance. With that change, thousands of debtors who filed under Chapters 11, 12 and 13 became eligible for PPP loans.

Congressional Investigators Confirm Our Findings on COVID-19 Profiteers

In 2020, ProPublica reported that, soon after the COVID-19 crisis set in, the federal government tossed aside its many rules on contracting to give out billions of dollars to just about anyone who said they could provide supplies necessary to combat the coronavirus.

In one story, we showed how the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services paid tens of millions of dollars to develop low-cost portable ventilators that the contractor never delivered. In March, House Democrats investigating the response to the COVID-19 pandemic released their early findings. According to correspondence obtained by congressional investigators, Trump trade adviser Peter Navarro, the point person on the ventilators deal, pressured various agency officials to reward politically connected or untested companies with hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts.

New Law Stops Discriminatory Driver's License Suspensions

In 2018, ProPublica and WBEZ reported on how Black motorists on Chicago's West and South sides are disproportionately harmed by license suspensions over unpaid tickets, reporting that was part of a series on how the city's ticketing and debt collection systems have burdened the poor and led to tens of thousands of bankruptcies. In February 2021, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed a massive criminal justice bill that, among other measures, put an end to suspending driver's licenses for unpaid red light and speed camera tickets and restored the driving privileges of some 11,000 people. In October, the Chicago City Council approved a set of reforms proposed by Mayor Lori Lightfoot to lower ticket costs and provide some debt relief for low-income residents.

Missouri Lawmakers Reform Clean Energy Loan Program

In April, ProPublica published an investigation into a home-loan program in Missouri called Property Assessed Clean Energy, or PACE, that lets borrowers finance energy-efficient home improvements, like solar panels and heating systems, by repaying their loans through their annual property tax bills. We reported that the program put dozens of borrowers, many in Black neighborhoods, at risk of losing their homes due to the program's lack of effective oversight, which allowed private companies to charge high interest rates. Soon after, lawmakers in Missouri began exploring ways to rein in the state's clean energy loan program and, in June, Gov. Mike Parson signed into law a measure to add consumer protections and oversight to programs that make such loans in the state.



Fred Steese, who was granted a full pardon by the Nevada Board of Pardons Commissioners, hugs his lawyer, Lisa Rasmussen. Steese spent 21 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit. (David Calvert for ProPublica)

Reporting Helps Solve a 1983 Murder in Baltimore

In May 2021, ProPublica published a three-part tale about one doctor's pioneering effort to create what was effectively one of the first DNA databases and how, decades later, Baltimore police are using it to solve cold cases and insights from the collection are reshaping conventional wisdom about rapists. In the course of her reporting, Catherine Rentz helped solve one of these cold cases when she asked Baltimore police about a possible connection between serial rapist Alphonso Hill and the 1983 murder of Alicia Ann Carter, a 21-year-old college student. Rentz noticed that Carter's case fit with a pattern of offenses linked to Hill's modus operandi. Rentz asked Baltimore police if they had considered Hill as a suspect in her murder and if there was still DNA from Carter's case that could be tested. In June, the Baltimore County Police Department said that Hill had confessed to raping and murdering Carter, as

well as committing other crimes and rapes, after detectives informed him they had DNA evidence and offered him immunity in exchange for his confession. Hill, who was already in prison for other rapes, will not be eligible for parole until 2047, when he would be 95.

Wrongfully Convicted Man Compensated With \$1.4 Million

In a 2017 partnership with Vanity Fair, we reported on the case of Fred Steese, a Las Vegas man who spent 21 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit. Despite his being proven innocent, prosecutors demanded he agree to an Alford plea — a deal that allows defendants to maintain their innocence while at the same time pleading guilty and accepting the status of a convicted felon. After our story, Steese was granted a full pardon. Under a new Nevada law that compensates exonerees for each year wrongfully spent in prison, in March 2021 Steese

received \$1.35 million for his 18 years of imprisonment. The funds will give him a level of stability he hasn't had in nearly 30 years, including the ability to purchase a house of his own.

Alaska Attorney General Resigns (Again) After Sexual Misconduct Exposed

In August 2020, ProPublica and the Anchorage Daily News published an investigation showing that Alaska Attorney General Kevin Clarkson sent hundreds of text messages to a younger state employee (at least 558 messages in March 2020 alone) inviting her to come to his home. Hours after we published our story, Clarkson resigned. Clarkson was replaced by acting Alaska Attorney General Ed Sniffen, who resigned in January 2021 after ProPublica and the Daily News began

asking questions about allegations of sexual misconduct decades earlier with a 17-year-old girl. The state has also launched an investigation into the allegations against Sniffen.

Health Insurance Transparency Mandated

In February 2019, ProPublica and partner NPR News published an investigation documenting the hidden cash and gifts that health insurers pay to influence independent insurance brokers who advise employers on which insurance to choose for their staff. This influence ultimately helps determine the health coverage for about 150 million Americans. The 2021 coronavirus relief bill, signed by President Joe Biden, included a mandate that brokers must disclose to employers how much they make from insurance carriers and vendors.



Some NYPD officers who police the sex trade go undercover to round up as many "bodies" as they can with little evidence. Almost no one they arrest is white. (Daniel Stolle, special to ProPublica)

New Measures Address Racialized Policing of Sex Work

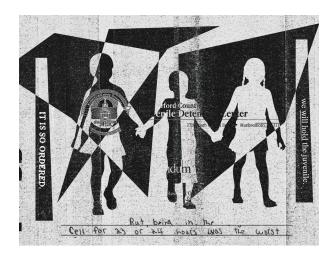
In December 2020, ProPublica revealed that undercover operations in New York City aimed at arresting sex workers or their clients have led to numerous allegations of false arrest and sexual misconduct. We reported that New York Police Department officers who police the sex trade, driven by overtime pay, routinely go undercover to round up as many "bodies" as they can with little evidence or oversight. Almost everyone arrested in these sweeps was a person of color. In January 2021, Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez announced that he was vacating more than 200 warrants related to prostitution and would dismiss the underlying charges. In February 2021, the state legislature repealed a law making it illegal to loiter for purposes of prostitution, which ProPublica reported had been used to discriminate against transgender people. In March 2021, then-Mayor Bill de Blasio released a second draft of his criminal justice reform plan that included his intention to form a task force to address problems with how the city polices the sex trade.

Watchdog Agency Charges NYPD Officer in Fatal Shooting, Judge Rules Department Withheld Footage

In December 2020, as part of our ongoing investigation into the NYPD, we analyzed the department's killing of Kawaski Trawick in 2019, revealing that the officers failed to follow procedures for de-escalating situations involving individuals struggling with mental illness. Trawick was one of 16 individuals experiencing mental health crises who were killed by the NYPD since new procedures and training were touted by the de Blasio administration. ProPublica's reporting brought renewed public attention to Trawick's death and outrage over the lack of accountability for officers using excessive force. In June 2021, New York's Civilian Complaint Review Board brought charges against the officer who shot and killed Trawick. Under new disciplinary guidelines adopted last year, the officer could be fired if found guilty by the CCRB. New York Lawyers for the Public Interest cited ProPublica's reporting in a suit brought against the NYPD to obtain the full footage of the shooting and its aftermath. In November 2021, a New York state judge ruled that the NYPD illegally withheld bodyworn camera footage in the killing.

Tennessee Judge Overseeing Juvenile Justice System Will Step Down Amid Growing Outcry

In October 2021, ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner Nashville Public Radio conducted an investigation into the juvenile justice system in Rutherford County, Tennessee. Under the watch of Judge Donna Scott Davenport, who oversees the system, the county locked up kids in nearly half the cases referred to juvenile court, in contrast to an average of just 5% in the rest of the state. For nine years, Rutherford County used an illegal "filter system," crafted by the director of its juvenile detention center, that allowed the facility to jail kids deemed a "true threat" — a vague standard that's not defined anywhere in the center's manual. Within days of the story's publication, there was an outcry from community leaders and Tennessee lawmakers. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund called for a federal civil rights investigation. Middle Tennessee State University, where Davenport taught a criminal justice class, announced that the judge "is no longer affiliated with the University." Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee's office called on judicial authorities to conduct a review of Davenport, and 11 members of Congress sent a letter asking the Department of Justice to open an investigation into Rutherford's juvenile justice system. Subsequently, Davenport announced that she will step down in 2022 rather than run for reelection.



Black children in Tennessee's Rutherford County were jailed for a crime that doesn't exist. Almost nothing happened to the adults in charge. (Mark Harris for ProPublica)

Maine Public Defense Lawyer Removed From Service

In October 2020, ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner The Maine Monitor investigated Maine's use of court-appointed private attorneys to provide legal services to the poor. Maine is the only state that does not have a public defender system. Our investigation found that these attorneys lack oversight and have disproportionately high levels of professional misconduct and criminal convictions. In response, Gov. Janet Mills called for a bipartisan effort to reform Maine's defense system and Executive Director John Pelletier resigned from the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services. In June 2021, reporters identified two defense lawyers who were on a list of attorneys eligible to take cases but who should have been ineligible due to their own criminal proceedings. One, a lawyer facing felony charges, was subsequently removed from service. In July 2021, Mills signed a bill allotting \$18.5 million in additional spending over the next two years to improve legal services for low-income residents.



Thousands of videos of ethnic minorities denying abuses against their community are showing up on Twitter and YouTube. They're part of an elaborate influence campaign by Chinese officials to counter reports of human rights violations in Xinjiang.

YouTube Removes Chinese Propaganda Videos

In June, ProPublica partnered with The New York Times to investigate China's efforts to counter reports of the persecution of members of the Uyghur community, an ethnic minority in northwest China. We reported that China was spreading propaganda videos of Uyghurs denying abuses against their community. Our investigation found a pattern of similar language used in the videos, which appeared on Twitter and YouTube, indicating that they are part of an elaborate influence campaign by Chinese officials to counter human rights concerns raised by foreign governments and corporations. In response, YouTube took down many of the videos we identified.

Rhode Island Votes to Certify 911 Call Takers in CPR

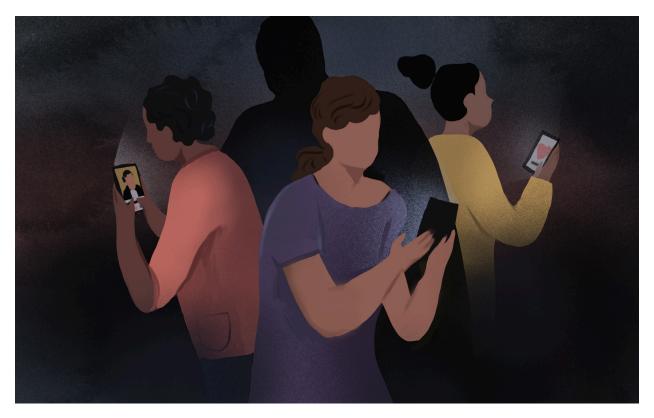
In 2019, ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner The Public's Radio published an investigation that revealed that poor training of Rhode Island's 911 call takers was resulting in unnecessary deaths. Our reporting had significant impact, including the replacement of the head of Rhode Island's 911 system, a review of procedures and training provided to 911 call takers, and lawmakers earmarking funds in their 2020 budget for training 911 call takers to provide CPR instruction (in an effort to counteract the lagging rates of cardiac arrest survival statewide). In May 2021, the Rhode Island House of Representatives unanimously approved a bill mandating that operators receive certification in emergency medical dispatch and provide CPR instructions and other emergency medical directions to callers.

Federal Agency Closes Legal Loophole

In October 2019, ProPublica co-published an investigation with ARD German TV into pharmaceutical companies luring Mexicans across the U.S. border on temporary visas to donate blood plasma. While other nations limit the frequency of paid plasma donations out of concern for donor health, the U.S. has comparatively loose standards. Whereas the U.S. caps donations at 104 a year, Europe's recommended frequency is 33 times per year and, in Mexico, selling plasma is banned entirely. In June 2021, U.S. Customs and Border Protection closed a legal loophole that allowed U.S.-based blood plasma companies to harvest plasma from thousands of Mexicans a day.

Telegram App Removes Fraudster Chat Rooms

In July, ProPublica investigated what might turn out to be the biggest fraud wave in U.S. history: bogus claims for unemployment insurance benefits



After our investigation, the dating site company Match Group announced new investments to help dating app users conduct background checks for sexual predators. (Nicole Xu, special to ProPublica)

filed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our reporting revealed that much of the fraud was organized — in the U.S. and abroad — and enabled by a burgeoning online infrastructure of chat rooms, computer algorithms and human labor farms. On the messaging app Telegram, fraudsters trade tips and share step-by-step guides, or "sauces," on how to exploit aging or obsolete state unemployment IT systems. Days after we published the story, Telegram removed several "secret sauce" chats mentioned in our reporting.

California Levies Fine on Oil Company

In March 2021, an investigation into California's oversight of oil companies by ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner The Desert Sun revealed lax enforcement and weakening transparency from the California Geologic Energy Management Division, including for wells that posed risks to drinking water aquifers and wells in urban neighborhoods in close proximity to homes and schools. In May, the agency ordered Nasco Petroleum, featured in our story, to pay almost \$1.5 million in fines for nearly 600

violations of state regulations, including the continuing operation of dangerous wells.

Dating Sites Invest in Background Checks for App Users

In a 2019 partnership with Columbia Journalism Investigations, ProPublica reported on how sex offenders used dating apps to attack other users, as well as on the billion-dollar industry's resistance to legislation that would improve the safety of its products. In March 2021, dating site company Match Group announced a seven-figure investment in Garbo, a nonprofit organization that helps dating app users conduct background checks, with plans to make it available to users in the future for an additional fee. Also in March, Rep. Jan Schakowsky introduced the Online Consumer Protection Act that would, among other things, require dating platforms to enforce their rules designed to prevent fraud and abuse and hold them accountable when they do not.

Prosecutor Issues Policy Against Charging Juveniles With Minor Offenses

In July of last year, ProPublica Illinois partnered with the Detroit Free Press and Michigan's nonprofit newsroom Bridge to report on Grace, a 15-year-old who was sent to juvenile detention for not doing her online coursework during the pandemic. Our story brought national attention to her plight, including sparking the trending #FreeGrace hashtag and local demonstrations, leading to her release that same month. In January, the Washtenaw County prosecutor cited ProPublica's reporting when announcing a new policy directive that instructs the prosecutor's office to avoid charging juveniles with minor offenses that are best resolved outside of the criminal justice system.

Young Woman Once in "Shadow" Foster Care System Receives Multimillion-Dollar Settlement

In December of 2021, ProPublica partnered with The New York Times Magazine for a report on America's shadow foster care system, an informal arrangement in which caseworkers remove kids from their homes and place them with friends or family without going through the courts. While some families prefer it to the formal foster care system, it offers few of the protections or benefits they get from formal care — no court hearings or lawyers, no services for kids, often no regular oversight or check-ins from caseworkers, and inadequate financial support for caregivers. There's also no judge deciding if a department has a legal basis to remove a child to begin with. An estimated 250,000 children are moved into this shadow system each year, roughly the same number as those who are removed from their homes and placed in formal foster care. Our story featured sisters Molly and Heaven Cordell who were illegally separated from their family and placed in hidden foster care when they were 15 and 14 years old. Molly, who had previously been suicidal, received no mental health care, lost access to her medication and was essentially homeless. Days after our reporting was published, North Carolina's Cherokee County agreed to a \$4 million settlement with 21-year-old Molly Cordell.

Sick Day Payouts for Cops Found to Be Illegal

In February 2021, the Asbury Park Press published an investigation in partnership with ProPublica's Local Reporting Network about how New Jersey police officers collect millions of dollars by exploiting their

union contracts for additional retirement benefits beyond their already-generous pensions. Problems included a retired officer who received a 14-karat solid gold badge worth \$7,000, as well as more common benefit payouts such as cashing in unused sick days, well-paid "extra duty" work and end-of-career payments. All these perks come at a major cost to New Jersey taxpayers. As of 2019, municipalities across the state were in debt for at least \$492 million for unused sick time and vacation days. We reported that a state law, passed in 2010, meant to stop huge retirement payouts for unused sick days was not being followed. In March 2021, New Jersey's acting state comptroller released a report examining one town that deemed the types of payments reported by ProPublica illegal. In a follow-up story, ProPublica identified 25 towns making such payments. Some said they would cease the practice and may require officers to repay the money.



ProPublica and Asbury Park Press' analysis of New Jersey police union contracts found that the public funds six-figure "sick day" payouts and \$2,500 "perfect attendance" bonuses. (Matt Chase, special to ProPublica)

As Audit Uncovers (More) Missing Money From California Regulatory Agency, Its President Resigns

In December 2020, ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner Bay City News published a story about whistleblower Alice Stebbins, a former executive director of the California Public Utilities Commission, which regulates privately owned public utilities. Stebbins was fired in 2020 after she reported \$200 million that was allegedly missing from accounts

meant to fund programs for the state's blind, deaf and poor. Our reporting uncovered flaws in the State Personnel Board investigation that led to her dismissal. A February 2021 audit conducted by the California Department of Finance echoed ProPublica's reporting, finding CPUC's accounting to be "inaccurate and incomplete." In October, Marybel Batjer announced her resignation as the president of the California Public Utilities Commission, less than one year into a six-year term. Batjer had purportedly spearheaded the termination of Stebbins, and under her leadership the agency struggled to contend with power grid issues and the repeated deadly wildfires caused by the state's largest utility, Pacific Gas & Electric.

Booster Seat Safety Law Introduced to Protect Children in Car Crashes

In February 2020, ProPublica published an investigation demonstrating that the child car-seat maker Evenflo had put marketing above the safety of children using their "Big Kid" booster seats — the company's own side-impact testing footage illustrated the dangers. Our reporting revealed the corporate obliviousness and regulatory failures that allowed the seats to be sold, even after serious injuries to children, including paralysis, resulted. In July 2021, a group of 18 state attorneys general signed a letter to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg criticizing the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for failing to mandate side-impact tests for children's car seats, despite a law requiring the agency to protect kids in such collisions. In October 2021, members of Congress introduced the Booster Seat Safety Act, which would establish the most sweeping safety rules for booster seats in more than two decades. The proposed law would force the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to create mandatory tests for booster seats that mimic the forces of side-impact crashes, issue guidelines for crash test dummies, establish minimum height requirement for the use of booster seats and mandate labeling for the proper use of car and booster seats. The new bill has the support of the American Academy of Pediatrics, prominent auto insurers, insurance industry groups and more than 10 consumer safety organizations.

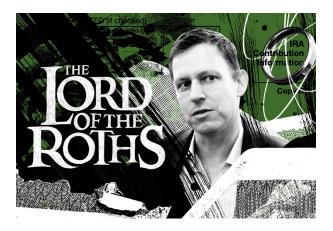
Congress Investigates Lender Responsible for Sending PPP Loans to Fake Companies

In May 2021, ProPublica reported that an online lending platform called Kabbage sent 378 Paycheck Pro-

tection Program loans worth \$7 million to fake companies. Many of these claimed to be farms with names such as "Deely Nuts" and "Beefy King." Through the PPP, the federal government provided \$800 billion in financial support to banks so they could vet and make low-interest loans to companies and nonprofit organizations in response to the economic devastation caused by the pandemic. In June, the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis opened a probe into loans by Kabbage and other non-bank financial technology companies, citing ProPublica's reporting. American Express, which acquired Kabbage in 2021, said it followed all fraud protocols.

Reforms Introduced to Rein in Mega IRAs

In June 2021, after a ProPublica investigation revealed how billionaire Peter Thiel converted his Roth IRA — a retirement vehicle intended to help average working Americans — into a mammoth onshore tax shelter, Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden said he was revisiting proposed legislation that would rein in tax breaks for gargantuan Roth retirement accounts. In July 2021, two members of Congress announced their intention to seek reforms to prevent the ultrawealthy from amassing billions in their Roth IRAs. Sen. Ben Cardin wants to ban shares in companies that are not publicly traded from being added to Roth IRAs, while House Ways and Means Chair Richard Neal wants to cap the amount that Roth IRA holders can save tax-free.



IRS records show tech mogul Peter Thiel and other ultrawealthy investors have used Roth IRAs to amass vast untaxed fortunes. (Lisa Larson-Walker/ProPublica. Photos: Visual China Group via Getty Images, Watoker Derrick Okello/Unsplash.)

Also in July, Wyden and Neal requested data on mega IRAs from the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation, which showed that the number of multimillion-dollar Roth IRAs has soared in the past decade as more wealthy Americans use them to shield fortunes from income taxes. The data revealed that the number of Americans with traditional and Roth IRAs worth over \$5 million tripled, to more than 28,000, between 2011 and 2019. Additionally, a staggering \$15 billion is stowed away in tax-free Roth accounts held by just 156 Americans. In September, Neal introduced reforms that would cap Roth IRA accounts at \$20 million for high-income individuals and compel the holders of the giant accounts to withdraw anything over that limit. The legislation would also bar individuals from using the accounts to either purchase certain non-public investments or buy stakes in companies in which they are an officer.

Lawsuit Challenges Nursing Home Liability Protections

In January 2021, ProPublica reported on laws that were hastily passed early in the pandemic with the goal of shielding health care workers and nursing homes from lawsuits. North Carolina's legislation offered broader protections than most states, shielding many institutions from liability if they were impacted by COVID-19. The law even applies in cases of gross negligence, which one family thinks contributed to the death of a woman named Palestine Howze. Howze's family believes she died from an improperly treated bedsore and the nursing home's unwillingness to send her to the hospital for treatment. In the wake of ProPublica's reporting, the Howze family is pursuing a case against the Treyburn Rehabilitation Center in Durham. This is the first lawsuit in the nation to challenge liability shield laws.

New York Attorney General Finds Nursing Home COVID-19 Policy Contributed to Deaths

Citing ProPublica's June 2020 investigation into the spread of COVID-19 within nursing homes, U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski joined other Republicans on the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis in urging the attorneys general of New York, California, Michigan, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to investigate these states' orders requiring long-term care facilities to accept COVID-19 patients and the impact of these policies on vulnerable nursing home populations. In January, the New York state attorney

general released a report echoing ProPublica's early reporting that this policy had likely contributed to a significant loss of life. The report also raised questions about the true number of nursing home residents in the state who have died of COVID-19, estimating that the state undercounted thousands of deaths.

Billions in Student Loans Forgiven for Disabled Borrowers

A 2011 ProPublica investigation, published in partnership with Columbia University's Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism, examined a flawed Education Department program for deciding whether severely disabled students qualify for having their student loans forgiven. The program was leaving many borrowers facing financial hardship from federal student loans when they were legally entitled to have them dismissed. In August 2021, the Education Department announced that under a new regulation, the department will automatically forgive the debt of borrowers who the Social Security Administration has identified as severely disabled, including \$5.8 billion in existing student loans that left many vulnerable borrowers mired in debt.

Unscientific Rule on NYC School Closures Reversed

In April 2021, deputy managing editor Eric Umansky reported on an unscientific New York City rule that ordered the closure of public schools if testing found two positive COVID-19 results, regardless of the school's size and even if the cases were apparently unlinked. ProPublica contacted 10 epidemiologists and physicians, nearly all of whom said the policy didn't make sense. Days after the story's publication, then-Mayor Bill de Blasio announced an end to the city's rule.

Oregon Lawmakers Seek to Reverse Timber Tax Cuts

In 2020, ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner Oregon Public Broadcasting joined with the Oregonian to investigate the timber industry, reporting on how the state's preferential treatment for wealthy corporations has had detrimental effects on both the local economy and the environment. Among other findings, the reporting team revealed that the tax-funded Oregon Forest Resources Institute worked to discredit academic research and acted as a lobbying and public relations arm for the timber industry. In February



An investigation into Oregon's timber industry showed how the state has prioritized wealthy corporations over the economy and environment. (Brooke Herbert/The Oregonian)

2021, Oregon's lawmakers filed dozens of bills aimed at reversing decades-old timber tax cuts that deprived counties of billions of dollars, as well as seeking to eliminate the quasi-governmental OFRI. This was the state's most consequential session for forest policy and will potentially funnel large sums of money back into local governments for schools, infrastructure and public safety needs that hadn't been adequately funded for years under the previous policies. Additionally, in July, an audit prompted by our investigation found that OFRI misled the public by presenting a biased view of forestry favoring the timber industry and may have violated state law.

State Audit Finds Officials Failed to Track Funds for Improving Jails

In 2019, ProPublica and The Sacramento Bee, a Pro-Publica 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, dangerous and increasingly deadly conditions in its county jails. Shortly after our reporting, state Sen. Sydney Kamlager requested that the state auditor's office conduct its own investigation. In March the auditor released its report, which found that the county commissions that monitor the California Board of State and Community Corrections failed to adequately track billions of dollars intended for improving county lockups and rehabilitating offenders.

Feds Investigate Lender That Sued Borrowers During Pandemic

In 2020, ProPublica and The Texas Tribune investigated Oportun Inc., a Silicon Valley-based installment lender that caters to Latino immigrants, and found that it was continuing to sue borrowers even after they lost jobs because of the pandemic. In March 2021 we reported that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau launched a federal investigation of the company in response to our reporting. Oportun denied wrongdoing.

Federal Election Commission Inspector General Calls for Internal Ethics Review

In October 2020, ProPublica reported that a top Federal Election Commission official, whose division regulates campaign cash, had undisclosed ties to Trump and his 2016 campaign attorney, raising questions about the agency's neutrality. In August 2021, following our report, the FEC inspector general called for the agency to review its policies and internal controls.

Lawmakers Urge EPA to Investigate Air Quality Monitoring in Florida and Change National Pollution Standards

In July, ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner The Palm Beach Post published a joint investigation that found a series of shortcomings in how authorities monitor the air in Florida's heartland, which is subject to regular pollution from pre-harvest burning of sugar cane. In August, leading members of Congress called for the Environmental Protection Agency to investigate air monitoring in Florida and to change national pollution standards. As the Post and ProPublica reported, the EPA allowed the state to use a single malfunctioning monitor to track air quality across a 400,000-acre sugar growing region for at least eight years. Our reporting also found that current standards fail to capture short-term spikes in pollution, a defining feature of Florida's sugar harvesting process, when burning releases bursts of harmful smoke.



Amberly Sanchez shared her alarming experience with the child support requirements of New Mexico's cash assistance program. (Adria Malcolm, special to ProPublica)

Senate Banking Chair Calls for Oversight of Banking Apps

In July, ProPublica investigated the banking app Chime after it racked up an unusually large number of consumer complaints about locked accounts, inaccessible funds and slow resolution times. In the months before the article's publication, Chime customers had filed 920 complaints with the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. With an estimated 12 million customers, Chime is the largest in its highly competitive category of fintech companies that serve low- to moderate-income individuals who are underserved by traditional financial institutions. Later that month, Senate Banking Chair Sherrod Brown cited our reporting when he asked the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to lay out a plan for overseeing neobanks like Chime and other banking apps.

New Mexico Child Support Agency Calls on State to Stop Intercepting Payments to Poor Families

In September 2021, ProPublica published a report on the government's harmful and sometimes bizarre approaches to providing - and then taking back money for poor families. The 1996 welfare reform law created the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which requires states to try to collect child support from fathers of children whose mothers applied for welfare. But in some states, that money never reaches the mothers or children. In New Mexico, mothers described recounting their sexual histories to state bureaucrats, a process they recalled as humiliating, invasive and sometimes terrifying. When the government is able to locate and secure funds from children's fathers, the state often keeps the funds as repayment for the cost of welfare, a critical source of revenue for many states and counties. In response to our investigation, Betina McCracken, acting director of the New Mexico Child Support Enforcement Division, and Kari Armijo, deputy Cabinet secretary of the state's Human Services Department, published an op-ed in the Santa Fe New Mexican pressing the state Legislature to let as much as \$6.9 million a year in child support collected from fathers flow directly to their families instead of diverting it into government coffers. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has said that she supports this policy change and would sign it into law.



Our reporting showed that the meatpacking industry ignored pandemic warnings, exposing essential workers and their communities to COVID-19. (Taylor Glascock)

FEC Complaint Filed Against Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene

In May 2021, we investigated an advertisement made by Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene for the Stop Socialism Now PAC. Greene worked with a Republican ad maker who has a history of racist remarks and ties to extremist gun groups. Our report revealed that Greene may have broken campaign finance rules by appearing in a solicitation for a group that accepts unlimited donations. Immediately following our reporting, and citing ProPublica's investigation, Common Cause filed a formal complaint with the Federal Election Commission.

Lawmakers Push Oversight for Overcharging Utility

In October 2020, ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner the Richmond Times-Dispatch investigated why Virginia residents were paying the highest electricity bills in the country. They reported that the state's largest utility, Dominion Energy, had influenced legislation that effectively hobbled the state agency responsible for regulating utilities. In January, a bipartisan group of Virginia lawmakers backed a legislative package that would restore authority to

Virginia's State Corporation Commission and potentially result in the return of millions of dollars of "over-earnings" to residents.

Congress Demands Answers on Meatpacking Industry's COVID-19 Deaths

In 2020, ProPublica published a series showing that meat companies' mismanagement of the pandemic and the federal government's failure to ensure that plants took appropriate precautions have contributed to the pandemic's dramatic toll on meatpacking workers and their communities. In February 2021, the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis announced an investigation into JBS, Smithfield Foods and Tyson Foods, three of the nation's largest meat companies, which Rep. James Clyburn said had "refused to take basic precautions to protect their workers" and had "shown a callous disregard for workers' health." The companies said that they responded appropriately to the pandemic. The subcommittee is also scrutinizing the government's shortcomings in protecting meatpacking workers.

South Carolina Governor, Legislators Act to Reform Magistrate Judge System

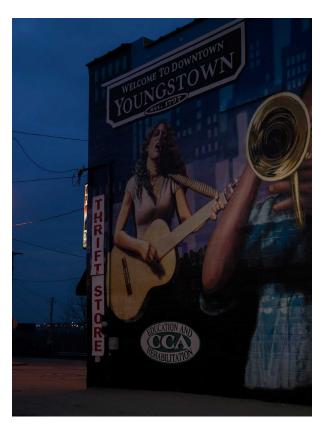
In November 2019, Charleston's Post and Courier, a Local Reporting Network partner, exposed how South Carolina's system for selecting magistrate judges is rife with politics and flawed oversight, providing fertile ground for incompetence and corruption on the bench. The investigation found that magistrates, who handle hundreds of thousands of lower court cases a year, are often politically connected insiders, most of whom have never practiced law. In January 2021, South Carolina lawmakers prioritized their scrutiny of local magistrate judges. More than a half-dozen prefiled bipartisan bills targeting magistrate reforms received endorsements in interviews with key members of the 23-person state Senate Judiciary Committee. (The committee reviews any proposal before a floor vote.) In addition, Gov. Henry McMaster included magistrate reform in his annual State of the State address, laying out a plan to require all magistrates to be practicing lawyers with a clean record.

Arkansas Pushes to Revoke Jail Time Statute for Falling Behind on Rent

In October 2020, ProPublica and the Arkansas Nonprofit News Network reported on a state law that effectively criminalizes poverty by allowing landlords to seek criminal charges — which can result in jail time — for tenants who fall even a single day behind on rent and do not vacate a property within 10 days. While other states paused evictions during the height of the pandemic in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's national moratorium on evictions, Arkansas continued to prosecute and evict tenants throughout the pandemic. Prompted by our reporting, in March 2021 state Rep. Nicole Clowney introduced a bill that would repeal the state's criminal "failure to vacate" statute. The bill faces considerable resistance from landlords whose cases are handled by local prosecutors, which allows them to avoid the cost of hiring attorneys for eviction proceedings in civil cases.

Youngstown, Ohio, Puts Company on Notice for Broken Promises

In 2020, The Business Journal and ProPublica examined the use of financial incentives in Youngstown, Ohio. The city bet big on Chill-Can, promoted as the world's first self-chilling beverage can, giving the developer massive tax breaks and \$1.5 million to



In Youngstown, Ohio, city officials gambled millions of dollars and demolished a neighborhood for a company that promised new jobs that were never created. (Maddie McGarvey for ProPublica)

build a \$20 million campus. It also purchased and demolished the homes of roughly a dozen residents to make way for the plant. In exchange, the company said it would create hundreds of jobs, but four years later, no jobs have materialized. In March 2021, city officials held a press conference and sent a letter to the developer and its CEO, putting them on notice that they may have to repay the \$1.5 million in grant funding, lose their tax incentives and face potential litigation for defaulting on their lucrative development agreements.

Senate Committee Chair Demands Answers on Facebook Censorship

In February 2021, ProPublica investigated how tech giants such as Facebook handle censorship requests made by authoritarian governments. We obtained internal emails showing that, in 2018, while Turkey was in the midst of a military offensive against Kurdish

minorities in neighboring Syria, Turkish government officials requested that Facebook block posts from the People's Protection Units, a mostly Kurdish militia group. In stark contrast to Facebook's public stance on freedom of speech, the company ultimately sided with Turkey's demand to block the pages. In March, Sen. Ron Wyden, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, demanded that Mark Zuckerberg provide answers to questions about the company's decision-making policies, saying, "Facebook's decision to censor content raises serious questions about the company's commitment to values like free expression, particularly as authoritarian leaders around the world grow bolder in their efforts to silence criticism."

Lawmakers Question California Cap-and-Trade Program Design

In April 2021, a joint investigation by ProPublica and the MIT Technology Review showed that the California Air Resources Board's landmark cap-and-trade program issued tens of millions of carbon credits that may not have provided real climate change benefits. In August 2021, California's Senate majority leader and two other legislators urged the Air Resources Board, which is the state's top climate regulator, to review its forest offset program in a letter that cited our report. "We're at risk of undermining the cap-andtrade market by allowing cheap, questionable offsets to substitute for real emissions reductions," said state Sen. Josh Becker in an interview. "That keeps the market price artificially low and reduces the incentives for companies to make the change we need to drive down emissions."

Federal Investigation Confirms Our Findings on Border Patrol Failures as Teen Died in Custody

In December 2019, ProPublica reported on the death of 16-year-old Carlos Hernandez Vasquez while in the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Video obtained by ProPublica showed that the Border Patrol held the sick teen in a concrete cell without proper medical attention and did not discover his body until his cellmate alerted guards. Border Patrol agents claimed that they conducted regular checks, but the video didn't match their account. A September 2021 report issued by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General echoed ProPublica's findings, detailing "deeply troubling failures" by the agency and noting that hourly welfare checks record-

ed by agents had not actually occurred while the boy died of the flu. The Justice Department has declined to prosecute the guards who falsified the records, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection is reviewing the inspector general's report to determine whether to take disciplinary action.

Facebook Removes More Than 100 Scammers From Marketplace

In September 2021, ProPublica reported on the rise of scammers using Facebook Marketplace to target users around the world. Based on internal corporate documents, interviews and law enforcement records, our reporting shows that the platform fails to protect buyers and sellers from scam listings, fake accounts and violent crime. We also discovered that users accused of violent crimes related to Marketplace transactions weren't banned from continuing to use the platform. After submitting questions to Facebook about these issues, Facebook removed the account of a man charged with the murder of a woman who came to his apartment to buy a fridge. In addition, the company removed thousands of listings and took other punitive action against more than 100 accounts after we identified listings that violated Facebook policies.



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital left some families so strapped for money that parents shared tips on spending nights in the parking lot. (Leland Foster, special to ProPublica)

St. Jude Hospital Increases Food Allowances and Housing Stipends for Families With Sick Children

In November of 2021, ProPublica published an investigation of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Con-

trary to the organization's marketing, we learned that families with sick children were struggling to support themselves and were incurring huge debts while their children were under the hospital's care. Pleas for financial assistance were denied, and in some cases the hospital referred families to other foundations to seek funds. After ProPublica reached out to St. Jude with questions about their support for families, the hospital announced immediate changes to its policies on food allowances and travel. It increased food allowances, switching from a \$50-a-day cap per family to providing \$25 a day to each family member. For a family of four, that would double the food benefit. A weekly stipend given to families in long-term housing was increased to \$150 from \$125.

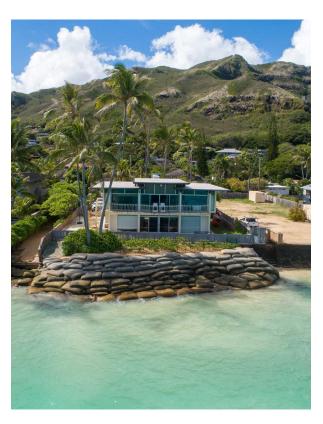
Lawmakers Call for Immediate Change at Shelter Housing Afghan Children

In October of 2021, ProPublica reported that dozens of traumatized Afghan kids were struggling inside a Chicago shelter that was ill equipped to care for them. As part of the evacuation from Afghanistan, these children were separated from family at Taliban checkpoints and airports, or later at U.S. military bases in other countries. The shelter was in chaos, and the staff were frustrated and overwhelmed, unable to even speak the children's languages. Many of the children resorted to violence, harming themselves, staff or other children. Almost immediately after our report was published, Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin asked the Department of Health and Human Services' inspector general to investigate the situation at the shelter, and Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth called on HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra to have the department's Office of Refugee Resettlement improve mental health services at the shelter. Interpreters who speak the children's languages, Pashto and Dari, were also placed in the building, addressing a major concern and having a calming effect on the children.

Government Report on Border Patrol Abuses Echoes Our Findings

In May 2021, ProPublica reported on a disturbing practice used by Customs and Border Protection staff to target and detain immigration attorneys. While crossing the border after visiting in Mexico, several U.S. citizens were interrogated by members of the secretive Tactical Terrorism Response Team, whose mission is to stop suspected foreign terrorists from entering the country. Although immigration policy

dictates that citizens are only supposed to be flagged for border interrogations when they are suspected of criminal activity themselves, the Response Team harassed American attorneys for explaining immigration law and in at least one case accessed privileged client information. In October, Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General released a report confirming that the counterterrorism team interrogated dozens of Americans, including activists and journalists, at the border as part of the Trump administration's response to fears about a large migrant "caravan" making its way to the country's southern border.



These emergency sandbags have sat on the public beach in Lanikai for 25 years. (Darryl Oumi, special to Honolulu Star-Advertiser)

Hawaii Cracks Down on Rich Homeowners Endangering Beaches

In 2020, ProPublica published a series with the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, a Local Reporting Network partner, that revealed how policymakers are undermining laws and regulations intended to protect Hawaii's critical beaches, which are eroding at an

alarming rate. The beaches in Hawaii are public, and the government is required to protect them, as they are important to Native Hawaiians, play a vital role in the health of local ecosystems, and are major drivers of tourism and the state's economy. Our team's stunning use of data and multimedia clearly showed the destruction resulting from seawalls built by wealthy landowners, which has already wiped out nearly a quarter of the state's beaches. Subsequently, the state Department of Land and Natural Resources pledged to revise its rules governing shoreline structures, including emergency permits for sandbags. In addition, state policymakers passed a bill in 2021 aimed at warning people who buy waterfront property of the risks of sea level rise so that they cannot make subsequent claims against the state. In October of 2021, ProPublica learned that Department of Land and Natural Resources officials in Hawaii are now taking action against residents who lined their oceanfront properties with sandbags, requiring homeowners to prove that a "bona fide planning effort" is underway, including employing professional planners,

engineers or consultants to develop and implement a long-term solution, which may involve relocation, abandonment, beach restoration or some other form of shoreline management.

Senators Call for Federal Investigation Into Liberty University's Handling of Sexual Assaults as School Promises Independent Probe

In October 2021, ProPublica published an investigation of Liberty University's handling of sexual assault on its campus. An evangelical Christian school founded by Jerry Falwell Sr., Liberty ignored reports of rape and threatened to punish accusers for breaking its moral code. Breaking the Liberty Way code, which prohibits drinking and fraternizing with the opposite sex, could lead to fines, required community service or even expulsion. Cases were dismissed, and alleged victims were discouraged from filing complaints. A Liberty official responsible for responding to ProPublica's pre-publication questions was ultimately fired for internally raising



More than a dozen women told ProPublica that Liberty University discouraged them from reporting sexual assaults. (Sarah Blesener)

concerns over Liberty's handling of these cases. He then became an informant for our reporting, calling Liberty's response to sexual assault allegations a "conspiracy of silence." Our report spurred immediate impact. Citing possible violations of federal law, three senators, including the two from Virginia, began pressing the U.S. Department of Education to investigate Liberty University's handling of sexual assault claims. Following a rally on the Lynchburg campus, Liberty's board voted to open an "independent and comprehensive review" of the school office tasked with handling discrimination and abuse.

Ethics Charges for Former Kentucky Secretary of State

In partnership with the Lexington Herald-Leader, in 2019 ProPublica detailed how Kentucky's then-secretary of state, Alison Lundergan Grimes, used the voter registration system to look up the voting records of state employees, job applicants and political rivals. We also dug into a no-bid election security contract that Grimes gave to an inexperienced campaign donor and allegations that she intentionally failed to comply with a federal consent decree to improve the state's voter rolls. Later that year, the Kentucky Legislature passed a bill, which the governor signed into law, that stripped Grimes of her authority over the State Board of Elections, restructured the SBE and made misusing the voter registration system a misdemeanor crime. In November of 2021, Kentucky's Executive Branch Ethics Commission filed an initiating order accusing Grimes of misusing her office for personal and political purposes. In addition, an initiating order was filed against Erica Galyon, who worked as assistant secretary of state under Grimes, claiming that she mishandled records requests in 2018 and 2019, including refusing to provide documents to ProPublica as part of a Freedom of Information Act request.

ACLU Calls for Federal Investigation Into Louisiana Sheriff's Office

In October 2021, ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner WRKF/WNNO published an investigation into complaints from Black residents about abuse and a lack of accountability in the Sheriff's Office of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Their reporting revealed harrowing incidents of racial profiling and

patterns of excessive force. Since the Jefferson Parish sheriff is elected, and Louisiana's Constitution blocks governmental or civilian oversight, there is currently no mechanism for accountability or transparency. Litigation from civil suits revealed that the department does not routinely conduct investigations into complaints of excessive force, even in the case of grievous injury or death, and few if any officers face discipline. Within weeks of our reporting, the ACLU of Louisiana called on federal prosecutors to launch an investigation into the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office.

After Keeping Quiet for Months, Hospital Officials Alert Law Enforcement About Sexual Assault of a Patient

A November 2021 investigation published by Pro-Publica revealed that the Roseland Community Hospital in Chicago had mishandled a recent case of possible sexual assault of one patient by another in its psychiatric unit. A man with a history of sexual violence and aggression was caught on surveillance video engaging in sexual activity with another man. Months after the incident, hospital officials hadn't identified the possible victim or even notified the regulators at the Illinois Department of Public Health. Only after ProPublica began asking questions did the health officials alert law enforcement. While IDPH told ProPublica that they are exploring changes to public health regulations, Illinois state Sen. Julie Morrison, chair of the Senate health committee, proposed legislation to require hospital employees to report suspected patient-on-patient sexual assaults to law enforcement.

University President Vows Sanctions for Chinese Students Who Report Classmates Exercising Free Speech

In November 2021, ProPublica reported on the Chinese government propaganda machine's influence at U.S.-based colleges and universities. Our investigation found that the regime of Chinese President Xi Jinping is ramping up efforts to control the nation's citizens wherever they are in the world, with Chinese intelligence officers using online surveillance and an array of informants to track perceived dissident activity at American universities. Our reporting featured a Chinese graduate student at Purdue University who had spoken out "on behalf of freedom and others martyred for advocating it" and was subsequently harassed by other Chinese students. His parents in

China were also visited by the feared Ministry of State Security. While many universities have been unwilling to speak out against this influence from the Chinese government, after our story published, Purdue President Mitch Daniels sent a letter to faculty, staff and students condemning the "atmosphere of intimidation" as "unacceptable and unwelcome," warning that the students who'd made the threats would face disciplinary action and vowing to sanction students who report classmates for exercising free speech.

Investigators Confirm Our Findings on Food Aid Program Mismanagement

In May 2020, ProPublica reported that the Trump administration's billion-dollar Farmers to Families Food Box program, meant to distribute fresh food to struggling food banks and other nonprofits dealing with increased food insecurity during the pandemic, was rife with problems, including an unusually fast bidding process that awarded contracts to many organizations who lacked experience or proper licenses. The program also left hard-hit areas like New York with less food than areas where the need was not as great, and it altogether bypassed the states of Maine and Alaska. In response to our reporting, both the House and Senate sent letters to the U.S. Department of Agriculture asking for an explanation of how it evaluated the bids, including whether it checked companies' licenses and considered equity across regions. The USDA committed to reviewing food

distribution to underserved areas during its next round of contracts and canceled the largest unlicensed contract, a \$40 million deal to an avocado grower profiled in our initial investigation. In October 2021, the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis published the results of a congressional investigation into the program, echoing ProPublica's findings that it was mismanaged and used for political gain.

LA Inspector General Investigates Allegations of Racist Policing

In September 2021, ProPublica and Local Reporting Network partner KPCC/LAist published a disturbing investigation of the ongoing targeting of Black and Latino residents by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in suburban Antelope Valley. Deputies disproportionately detained and issued citations to Black teens on public school campuses, often for minor infractions, such as getting in fights or smoking. Our research found that Black teenagers accounted for 60 percent of the deputy contacts on campuses but made up only about 20 percent of the enrollment in those schools. In November 2021, the chair of the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission asked Inspector General Max Huntsman's office to explore our findings in Antelope Valley. Huntsman said he was troubled by our reporting and is reviewing a proposed Sheriff's Department contract for the Antelope Valley Union High School District.

Recognition for Our Work

ProPublica's work was honored in 2021 as follows:

ProPublica's accountability journalism on the pandemic was a finalist for the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. The package of articles addressed some of the pressing problems of the pandemic, pinpointing how they occurred and who was responsible.

Our video "Rescuing Her Father From an Assisted Living Facility in the Coronavirus Epicenter" won the News & Documentary Emmy for Outstanding Business, Consumer or Economic Coverage — our first solo Emmy Award — and the National Press Photographers Association's Best of Photojournalism Award in the pandemic category.

"On the Line: How the Meatpacking Industry Became a Hotbed of COVID-19" won the George Polk Award in Journalism in the health reporting category, the MOLLY National Journalism Prize, the Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing's Best in Business Award for business investigative, the Association of Health Care Journalists Award for business and the National Institute for Health Care Management General Circulation Journalism Award.

"The Black American Amputation Epidemic" won the George Polk Award in Journalism for health reporting, the National Magazine Award for public interest and the Association of Health Care Journalists Award for health policy. It was also a finalist for the National Institute for Health Care Management General Circulation Journalism Award.



Black Americans with diabetes lose limbs at a rate triple that of others, a sign that quality preventive care isn't reaching the people who need it most. (Ruddy Roye for ProPublica)



Linda Rexford was one of 29 Alaskan sexual assault survivors who talked to ProPublica and Anchorage Daily News about what they experienced. (Marc Lester/Anchorage Daily News)

ProPublica Editor-in-Chief Stephen Engelberg won the **Goldsmith Career Award for Excellence in Journalism**.

"Unheard," a Local Reporting Network project with the Anchorage Daily News on Alaskan sexual assault survivors, won the National Magazine Award for community journalism, the Online News Association's Gather Award in Engaged Journalism, the Dart Award for Excellence in Coverage of Trauma, the Ancil Payne Award for Ethics in Journalism and the Society of Professional Journalists' Ethics in Journalism Award. It was a finalist for the Anthony Shadid Award for Journalism Ethics and received honorable mention for the National Press Photographers Association's Best of Photojournalism Award for innovation.

"Hawaii's Beaches Are Disappearing," a ProPublica Local Reporting Network project with the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, won the National Magazine Award for digital innovation, the Online Journalism Award for explanatory reporting, the Society of Environmental Journalists' Award for Reporting on the Environment for outstanding feature and a Malofiej gold medal in the innovation format category.

"How COVID-19 Hollowed Out a Generation of Young Black Men" won the National Magazine Award for coverage of race, and our video detailing the story won the National Press Photographers Association's Best of Photojournalism Award in the category of race and identity.

Our reporting on Grace, a Michigan teen jailed for failing to complete online schoolwork, won the National Magazine Award for social media and the Chicago Headline Club's Peter Lisagor Award for best non-deadline reporting in the online category. It was a finalist for the Taylor Family Award for Fairness in Journalism, the National Headliner Award for social media, the Sarah Brown Boyden Award for best series and for public service, and the Chicago

Headline Club's Watchdog Award for Excellence in Public Interest Reporting and its Lisagor Award for best investigative reporting and best non-deadline reporting series.

ProPublica won the Online Journalism Award for General Excellence.

Our investigation revealing how the **child car seat maker Evenflo put profits over child safety** won the Gerald Loeb Award in personal finance and consumer reporting and was a finalist for the Selden Ring Award for investigative reporting.

A story by ProPublica and The New York Times Magazine on climate migration, with support from the Pulitzer Center, won the the Society of Environmental Journalists' Nina Mason Pulliam Award, the SEJ Award for Reporting on the Environment in the explanatory reporting category, the Overseas Press Club Whitman Bassow Award for international environmental issues. National Association of Science Writers Award in the series category and the Covering Climate Now Journalism Award for special coverage, and an accompanying map won the Sigma Delta Chi Award for data visualization. It was also a finalist for the Columbia Journalism School's John B. Oakes Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism.

Our story on a **New York State Supreme Court judge with early onset Alzheimer's** won the Meyer "Mike" Berger Award.

"The NYPD Files" won the Al Nakkula Prize for Police Reporting, the News Leader Association's First Amendment Award, the Society of Professional Journalists' Sunshine Award, and the John Jay College/Harry Frank Guggenheim Award in Criminal Justice Reporting in the series category. It was a finalist for Online Journalism Awards' University of Florida Award in Investigative Data Journalism and the Investigative Reporters and Editors' FOI Award.

"The Secret IRS Files" won the gold category in the Barlett & Steele Awards for Investigative Journalism.

"The Cutting," a ProPublica Local Reporting Network project with the Oregonian/OregonLive and Oregon Public Broadcasting, won Columbia Journalism School's John B. Oakes Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism and the bronze category in the Barlett & Steele Awards for Investigative Journalism. It received an honorable mention in the Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing's Best in Business Award in the explanatory category.

"Inside the Fall of the CDC" won the Association of Health Care Journalists Award in the investigative category and received an honorable mention for the White House Correspondents' Association Katharine Graham Award for Courage and Accountability.

Reporting by the Connecticut Mirror, a ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner, on the connection between housing and school segregation won the National Award for Education Reporting in the investigative category and a New England Newspaper & Press Association Award for investigative/enterprise.

Our investigation into "What Parler Saw During the Attack on the Capitol" won the Online News Association's Al Neuharth Award for Innovation in Investigative Journalism.

Reporting by ProPublica and The News & Observer on police accountability, Black social movements and white power radicalization won the Online Journalism Award for excellence in social justice reporting.

The collaborative investigation between ProPublica and Nashville Public Radio into a **juvenile justice system in Tennessee with a staggering history of jailing** children won the Sidney Award.

"What Coronavirus Job Losses Reveal About Racism in America," an interactive graphic, won the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Award for COVID-19 data visualization.

Our series on **pandemic profiteers** won the Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing's Best in Business Award in the government category and the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Award for COVID-19 non-deadline reporting.

Our reporting on Trump political appointees who blocked a criminal prosecution of Walmart over its suspicious opioid prescriptions won the Society for



ProPublica provided a comprehensive look at meddling inside the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by a White House determined to prioritize the president's message over public health during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Leonardo Santamaria, special to ProPublica)

Advancing Business Editing and Writing's Best in Business Award in the retail category.

"How Dollar Stores Became Magnets for Crime and Killing," co-published with The New Yorker, won the Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing's Best in Business Award in the feature category and received an honorable mention in the contest's retail category.

A report by ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner Bay City News, "She Noticed \$200 Million Missing, Then She Was Fired," won the San Francisco Press Club Award for digital news story.

An investigation into **the business of Oklahoma's rural hospitals** by The Frontier, a ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner, won the Great Plains Journalism Award for project/investigative reporting.

"State of Denial," an Arizona Daily Star investigation with the ProPublica Local Reporting Network into Arizona's Division of Developmental Disabilities, was a finalist for the Anthony Shadid Award for Journalism Ethics and the Online Journalism Gather Award in Engaged Journalism.

Our investigation of a small-dollar loan company that sued thou-

sands of lower-income Latinos during the pandemic, co-published with The Texas Tribune, was a finalist for the George Loeb Award for personal finance.

Our reporting on the **mismanage**ment of federal COVID-19 contracts was a finalist for the Scripps Howard Award for excellence in business/financial reporting.

For "Defenseless," a ProPublica Local Reporting Network project that investigated how Maine handles legal services for the poor, Maine Monitor reporter Samantha Hogan and ProPublica data reporter Agnel Philip were named finalists for the 2021 Livingston Awards, which honors outstanding achievement by journalists under the age of 35. The investigation was also a finalist for the American Bar Association Silver Gavel Award for multimedia.

Our video "Deadly Restraint: How a Man in Psychiatric Crisis Died in Custody" won third place in the Pictures of the Year International competition for documentary news reporting and received honorable mention in the National Press Photographers Association's Best of Photojournalism Awards in the investigative edit category.

A piece on immigrant teens working dangerous factory night shifts won the Chicago Headline Club's Peter Lisagor Award for best feature story, best illustration and best online feature story or series.

"A Sundown Town Sees Its First Black Lives Matter Protest" won the Chicago Headline Club's Peter Lisagor Award for best individual affiliated blog post.

Our reporting on the **crisis of** undiagnosed cancers in the pandemic's second year won the Sarah Brown Boyden Award for health/science.

Our reporting on government and private sector neglect of Chicago's West Side won the Sarah Brown Boyden Award for features. The Richmond Times Dispatch, a ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner, won the Virginia Press Association Award for investigative reporting for a project about a utility company's lobbying efforts against legis-

lation meant to lower residents' electric bills.

A ProPublica and FRONTLINE investigation into **the rise of extremism in America** was a finalist for the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award.

"Thousands of Foster Children Were Sent Out of State to Mental Health Facilities Where Some Faced Abuse and Neglect" was a finalist for the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Awards for Investigative Reporting.

An analysis of Illinois' COVID-19 spending, in collaboration with the Chicago Tribune, was a finalist for the Peter Lisagor Awards for best data journalism and best illustration, as well as for the Sarah Brown Boyden Award for investigations.

"The Pandemic and Illinois Schools: A Digital Divide, Vulnerable Students and Hidden Data," a joint investigation with the Chicago Tribune, won the Chicago Headline Club's Peter Lisagor Award for best education reporting in the newspaper category.

Our series on "COVID-19 Inequities in Chicago" was a finalist for the National Award for Education Reporting in the news category, the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Investigative Reporting and the Chicago Headline Club's Watchdog Award for Excellence in Public Interest Reporting. The series' first story, "COVID-19 Took Black Lives First. It Didn't Have To," was a finalist for the Headline Club's Peter Lisagor Awards for best feature story and best online feature story or series.

A collaboration between Pro-Publica, New Mexico In Depth and the News & Observer on **how nursing homes became coronavirus hot spots** won the SPJ Top of the Rockies contest in the pandemic reporting category.

ProPublica Local Reporting Network partner New Mexico In Depth's reporting on an Albuquerque hospital where pregnant Native women were singled out for COVID-19 testing and separated from their newborns after delivery won the Society of Professional Journalists' Top of the Rockies contest in the public service reporting category.

Our news applications and data visualizations won 19 honors from the Society for News Design. Our story with the Honolulu Star-Advertiser on Hawaii's disappearing beaches won a bronze medal for page design, and our project on police use of force on protesters won a bronze medal for public service. We were recognized with SND Awards of Excellence in the categories of climate change, art direction, page design, infographics, illustrations, use of data, public service and the individual portfolios of Lena Groeger, Ash Ngu, Al Shaw and Moiz Syed. The data visualization "States Are Reopening: See How Coronavirus Cases Rise or Fall" won Malofiej's bronze medal in the features category.

Overview of Distribution

To reach the widest possible audience, we have always made our work available for republication under a Creative Commons license, and we regularly copublish major stories with leading news organizations.

71	Publishing partners in 2021		
9,122,000	Page views on ProPublica platforms per month on average	UP	1%
5,543,000	Off-platform pages viewed on Apple News, Microsoft News, Google News and SmartNews per month on average	DOWN	46%
3,613,000	Unique visitors to ProPublica.org per month on average	DOWN	16%
165,000	Pages republished under Creative Commons per month on average	DOWN	77%
481,000	Email subscribers	UP	21%
935,000	Twitter followers	UP	3%
462,000	Facebook followers	UP	0%
118,000	Instagram followers	UP	51%

Publishing Partners, 2021

ProPublica has had 248 publishing partners in 14 years. We choose each partner with an eye toward maximizing the impact of the story in question. Here is a list of our partners in 2021. **New partners marked in bold:**

- The Advocate [Baton Rouge/New Orleans, LA]
- AL.com
- Anchorage Daily News
- Arizona Daily Star
- The Arizona Republic
- Arkansas Nonprofit News Network
- Asbury Park Press [NJ]
- Bay City News [CA]
- Berkeley Journalism's Investigative Reporting Program
- Block Club Chicago
- Bridge Magazine [Detroit]
- The Business Journal [Youngstown, OH]
- CatchLight
- Chicago Tribune
- **■** Cincinnati Enquirer
- CoastAlaska
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Journalism Investigations

- The City [New York City]
- The Desert Sun [Palm Springs, CA]
- Detroit Free Press
- El Pais [Spain]
- El Paso Matters

- Eye on Ohio
- Frontline
- The Frontier [Oklahoma]
- Georgia Health News
- Honolulu Star-Advertiser
- KPCC [Pasadena, CA]
- KQED [San Francisco, CA]
- KUCB [AK]
- LAist
- Las Vegas Sun
- The Maine Monitor
- Miami Herald
- MIT Technology Review
- MLK50 [Memphis, TN]
- Mountain State Spotlight [WV]
- Nashville Public Radio
- NBC News
- New Mexico In Depth
- The News & Observer [Raleigh, NC]
- Newsv
- The New Yorker
- The New York Times
- National Public Radio
- The Oregonian
- Oregon Public Broadcasting
- Outlier Media [Detroit]

- Palm Beach Post [FL]
- The Philadelphia Inquirer
- The Post and Courier [Charleston, SC]
- The Public's Radio [Rhode Island]
- Richmond Times-Dispatch
- Reno Gazette Journal
- Retro Report
- The Sacramento Bee
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- Santa Fe New Mexican
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Financial Information, 2021

Revenue for 2021 came in at approximately \$45 million and reflects the support for our new hubs in the South and Southwest. Our cumulative reserve rose to \$44 million, which provides a cushion to protect us against economic volatility and any downturn in fundraising.

Revenues

\$5,252,000
\$5,252,000
\$5,325,000
\$28,449,000
\$6,175,000

Total donors: more than 43,000

All figures are preliminary and unaudited, rounded to nearest \$1000.

Cumulative reserves are calculated as total cash and investments valued at year end, less amounts needed for immediate short-term operations.

Expenses

News salaries, payments and benefits	\$24,305,000
Non-news salaries and benefits	\$4,035,000
Personnel support	\$1,911,000
Outreach	\$1,073,000
Professional fees	\$284,000
Occupancy/office	\$2,052,000
Capital costs	\$222,000
Taxes	\$43,000
Total	\$33,925,000

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