



# Oregon's Local News & Information Ecosystem

Access to trusted journalism leads to healthy democracy

## Why It Matters

Access to trusted, quality local news is essential to the civic health of our communities. But across Oregon—particularly in rural and marginalized communities—local journalism is struggling. News outlets are closing in some communities, shrinking in many others, leaving many issues unexplained and many stories untold. Public confidence in news deteriorates, leading many Oregonians to turn to low-quality alternatives for news and information.

**Public policy can help bolster quality local news in ways that are non-partisan, content-neutral, and ensure editorial independence.**

## New Federal Initiatives

The Community News and Small Business Support Act (H.R.4756) will provide payroll tax credits to news organizations to hire and retain local reporters, and tax credits for small businesses that advertise in local news outlets.

## Efforts by our neighbors

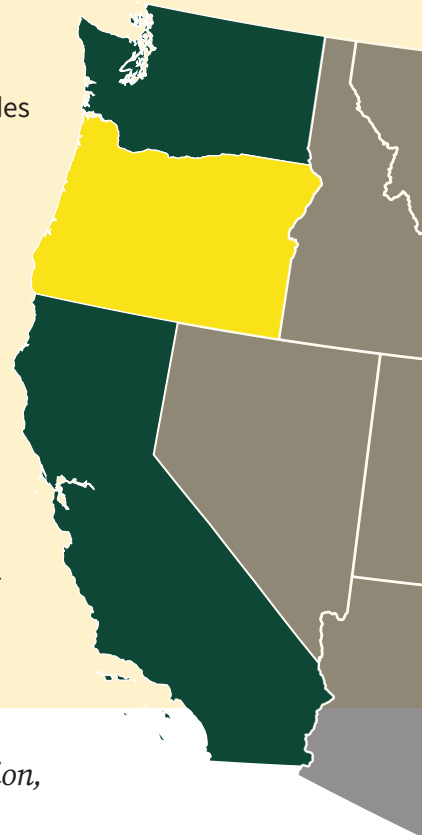
Our neighbors to the north in Washington state, and to the south in California, have already begun creating policies to provide more resources for local news – funding to bolster local journalism provided via university partners.

### Washington

- 2023 biennial budget includes \$2.4 million for paid journalism fellowships focused on civic affairs.

### California

- 2023 allocation of \$25 million to fund paid fellowships to serve “news deserts.”
- California Journalism Preservation Act would require big tech to compensate news organizations for content.



*“We have a moment to support the reimagination, revitalization, and rapid development of local news.”*

— MacArthur Foundation