

# Poised with Potential Solutions

To address the local news and information crisis in Oregon

**Agora Journalism Center**

Director: Andrew DeVigal

Research Director: Regina Lawrence

# The “Headline”

- **The crisis in local news is real...and it's getting worse.**
- **Solutions are taking shape around the country.**
- **This is a critical moment for Oregon to take action that can measurably strengthen local news around our state.**

*"As local newsrooms have disappeared across America, communities have witnessed fading civic engagement, eroding social bonds, surging misinformation, and dwindling governmental accountability...."*

A 2022 AGORA JOURNALISM CENTER REPORT  
An interactive version of this report can be found at [sojc.link/news-eco-22](https://sojc.link/news-eco-22)

# **Assessing Oregon's Local News & Information Ecosystem**

*Connecting news,  
information, and  
civic health*

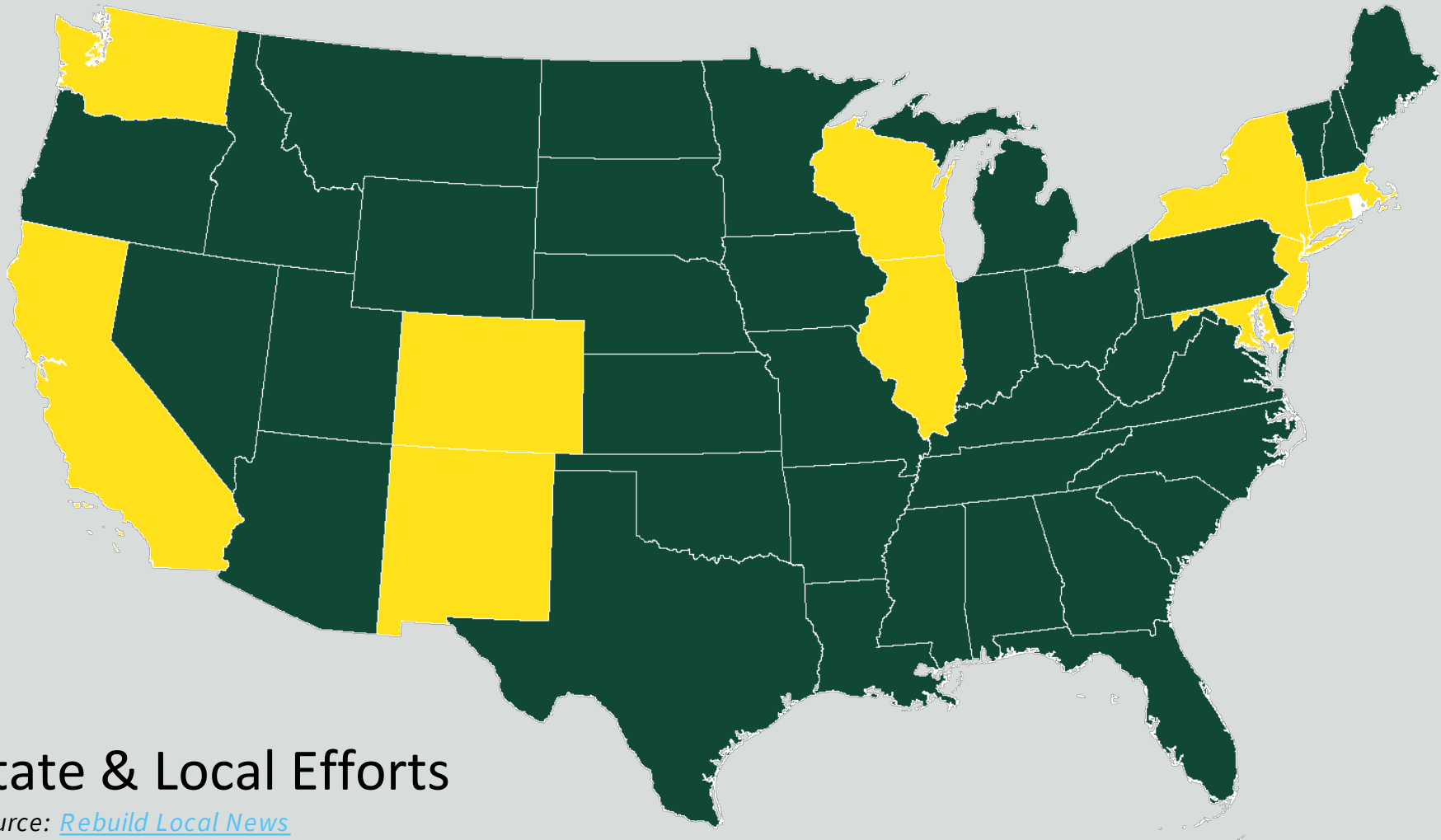
REGINA LAWRENCE, COURTNEY TABOR,  
MICHELLE NICOLOSI and ANDREW DeVIGAL

October 2022

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and Communication



- 1. Research demonstrates the connection between robust local news and levels of civic engagement, polarization, and corruption.**
- 2. Oregonians – especially in rural and marginalized communities – are unequally served by local news.**
- 3. A main reason Oregonians say they don't trust the media is lack of local coverage.**



# State & Local Efforts

Source: [Rebuild Local News](#)

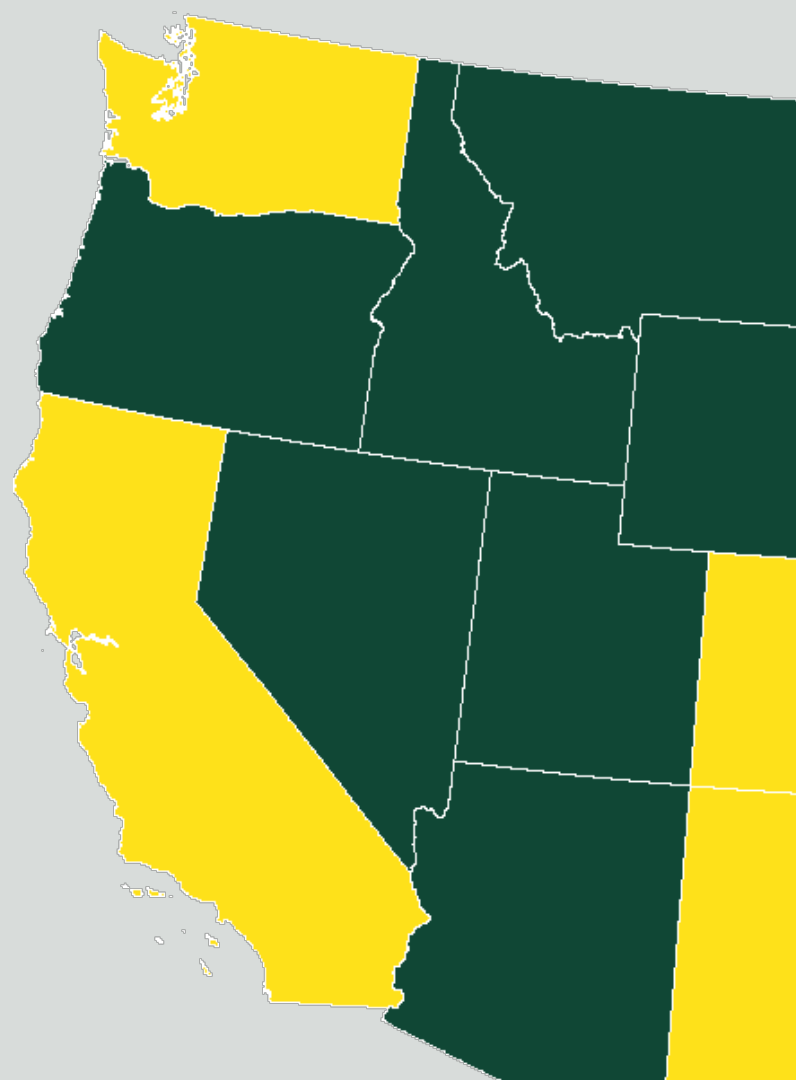
# Efforts by our Neighboring States

## WASHINGTON

- \$2.4 million over two years to support 8 journalists a year, paid \$55,000 each, through a fellowship program to be run by *Washington State University*.

## CALIFORNIA

- \$25 million over three years to *University of California - Berkeley* to provide fellowships to at least 40 reporters placed in local newsrooms around the state (2022)
- Allocate a portion of state advertising dollars to local, ethnic media as well as setting up a grant program for ethnic media (2023)



# Press Forward >>

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## Our Funding Priorities

While philanthropic support for journalism has grown over the past decade, overall giving to local news falls short of what is needed. Press Forward funders are ready to move from individual grantmaking strategies to a shared vision and coordinated action that ensures individuals are informed and engaged on issues that affect their everyday lives.

### Advancing public policies that expand access to local news and civic information

We need new frameworks and robust coalitions to advance policy ideas that expand access to news and information while strengthening the First Amendment and protecting the independence of local journalists.

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

— MacArthur Foundation, August 2023

*“There is a growing movement of community-focused journalism across the nation that is shifting how the critical stories of our time are being told.”*

**Press Forward** >>

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#### **Strengthening local newsrooms that have the trust of local communities**

There is a growing movement of community-focused journalism across the nation that is shifting how the critical stories of our time are being told.

organizations and the networks that support and grow them.





A 2023 AGORA JOURNALISM CENTER REPORT

## Redefining News: A Manifesto for Community- Centered Journalism

From Audience to Partners:  
Community-Centric Journalism  
and the principles that  
underpin it

DAMIAN RADCLIFFE  
with Regina Lawrence and Andrew DeVigal

September 2023

v1.03

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*“Journalists actively seek to build trust and credibility by listening to community concerns, directly addressing their known questions, and providing accurate and reliable information that is useful and actionable.”*



Menu ☰

# Local News: helping our communities think more like neighbors and less like political adversaries

We'd love to hear from you. Please [let us know](#) how we can help.

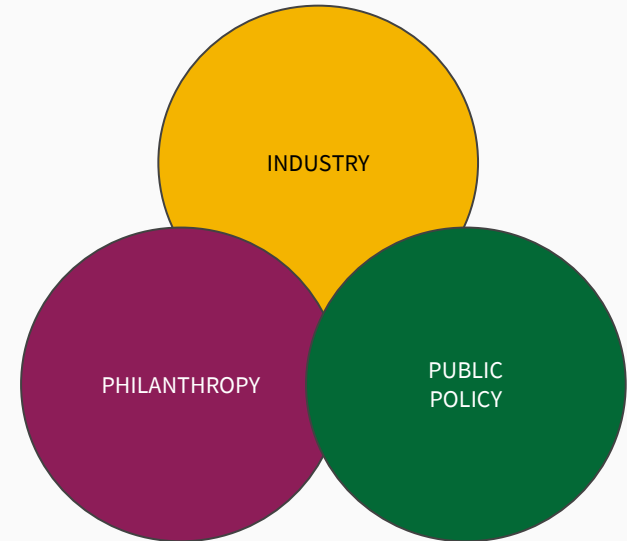
## Welcome to Gather

Gather is a project + platform to support community-minded journalists and other engagement professionals. Our mission: make journalism more responsive to the public's needs and more inclusive of the public's voices and diversity, by helping journalists, educators, and students who share these values find each other, find resources and best practices, and find support and mentorship. Learn more [about Gather](#).



# Agora Journalism Center is poised to...

- 1. Continue to assess the health of information ecosystems in Oregon and research public policy solutions across the country**
- 2. Develop and promote models of journalism that matters to communities**
- 3. Convene a coalition to rebuild robust local news and information for all Oregonians**



# Thank You!

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