



 PROPUBLICA

JANUARY-APRIL 2019

Report to Stakeholders

Beyond Words

At ProPublica, many of the stories we report are told through powerful, award-winning writing. But as an online news organization, we also use other storytelling media, including data visualization, interactive design, photography, illustration, audio and video.

These techniques are increasingly important in our efforts to identify and expose abuses of power. Audio we obtained of sobbing children separated from their parents at the border prompted President Donald Trump to abandon the policy. A few weeks after we revealed footage of two police officers beating a handcuffed man in Elkhart, Indiana, the city's police chief resigned. (In March, the officers were also indicted on civil rights charges.)

ProPublica has recently expanded its capability in visual investigations with two newly hired journalists dedicated to obtaining visual and audio evidence from an array of sources — from insiders to social media to government agencies.

Cover: *Reporters Hannah Dreier, left, whose reporting on MS-13 won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for feature writing, and Ginger Thompson, right, lead on our family separation coverage, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer gold medal for public service and won the first-ever Peabody “Catalyst” Award.*
(Demetrius Freeman for ProPublica)



ProPublica used geodata to create a graphic simulating the collision of the USS Fitzgerald and a container ship, one of the Navy's worst accidents at sea. (Xaquín G.V. for ProPublica)

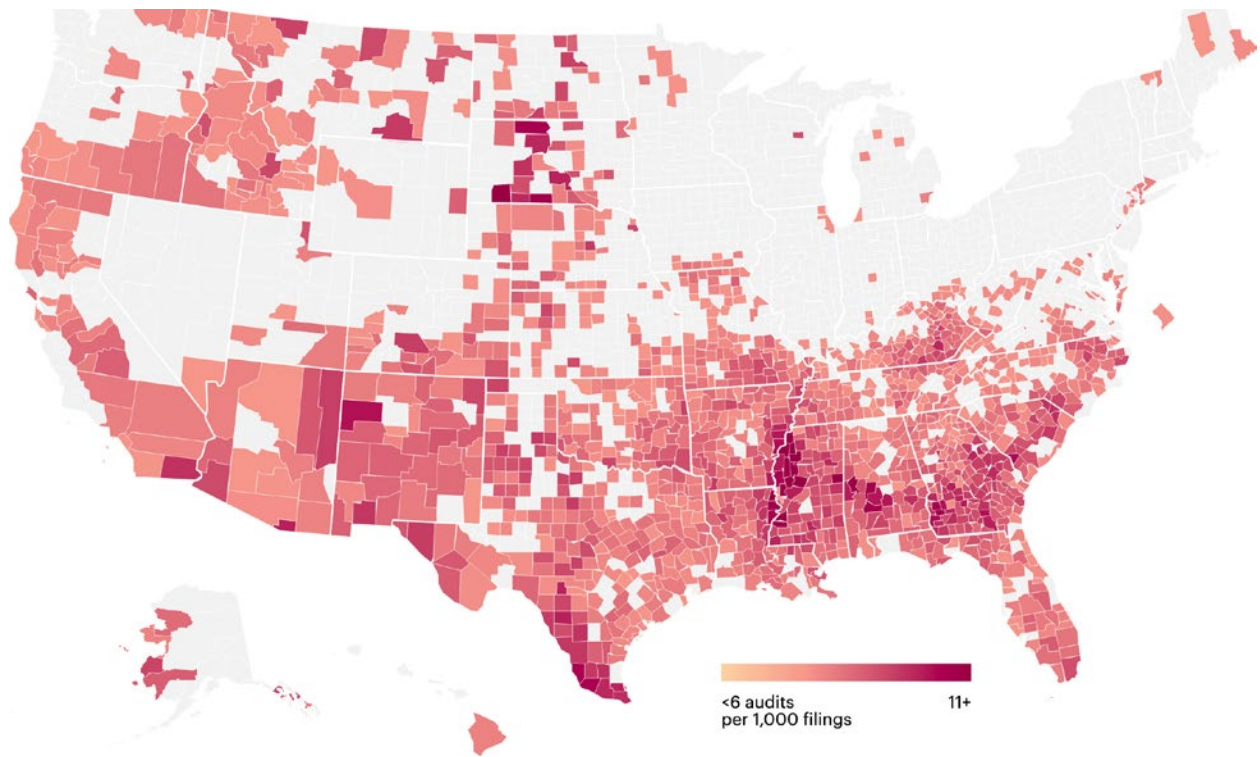
Visualizing a Naval Disaster

In February, we published “Fight the Ship,” a multimedia story that reconstructed a 2017 crash involving the USS Fitzgerald, one of the deadliest accidents in the history of Navy. The story, by reporters T. Christian Miller, Megan Rose and Robert Faturechi, showed that the accident was entirely preventable, and that the Navy’s senior leadership had endangered the warship by sending an overworked, shorthanded and undertrained crew to sea with outdated and poorly maintained equipment.

To help readers understand what happened — the scale of the crash and why, given all the technology at their disposal, the Fitzgerald’s crew members couldn’t tell they were headed for a collision with an enormous container ship — ProPublica hired designer Xaquín G.V. to help show it. Working with visual investigations producer Lucas Waldron, Xaquín used

geodata on the ships’ locations, mapped the path of each vessel and created a graphic that simulated the crash, down to the moment the Fitzgerald was sent spinning out of control, rotating 360 degrees.

The team also collected radar images and obtained video taken inside the ship, elements of visual evidence that allowed them to portray the disaster from the perspective of the sailors onboard. Citing ProPublica’s reporting — and specifically our simulation — the House Armed Services Committee convened a panel weeks after the story’s publication to question senior Navy leaders on the status of reforms that were promised in the wake of the deadly collision.



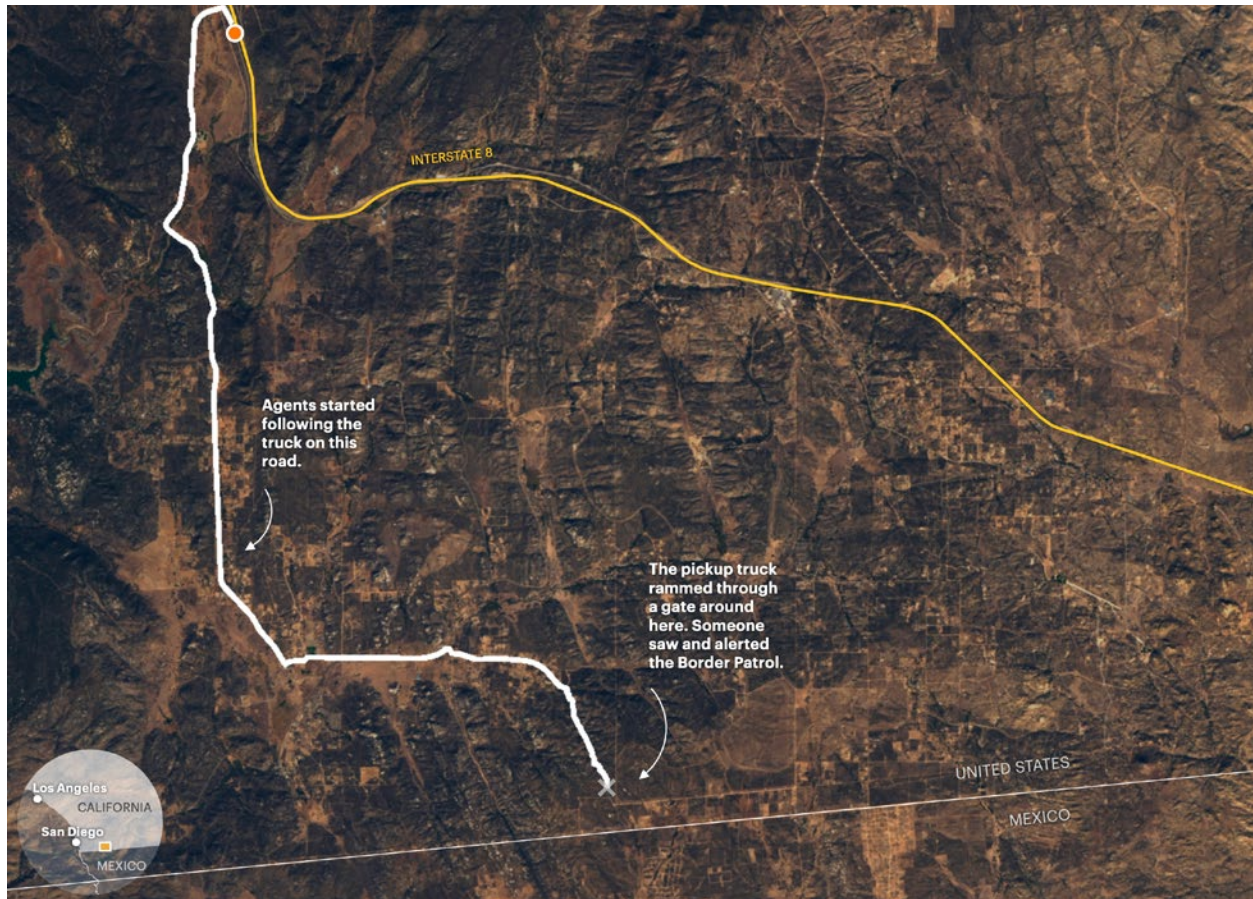
Our map showing counties where income tax filings were audited at a higher rate than the nation as a whole revealed the IRS' disproportionate emphasis on auditing the working poor. (Hannah Fresques/ProPublica)

Telling Maps

Also in February, ProPublica news applications developer Al Shaw created a visualization of the spread of the natural gas industry across West Virginia. Shaw assembled every single aerial image taken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to build a map showing the location of more than 5,000 permitted natural gas wells. The interactive graphic — created in partnership with the Charleston Gazette-Mail, a participant in the ProPublica Local Reporting Network — allowed residents to search for well permits near their homes. For the first time, people across the state had the data to know how close they were living to potentially harmful fracking operations.

In April, ProPublica continued its investigation of the IRS' disproportionate emphasis on auditing the tax returns of the working poor. Reporter Paul Kiel and data reporter Hannah Fresques discovered that the agency audits Americans living in poorer counties far more frequently than in the richest — and they wanted to make this disparity starkly apparent.

To do so, Kiel and Fresques created two interactive maps: one showing where the IRS audits more, the other showing where the IRS audits less. The first map, of the most intense auditing activity, mirrored patterns of poverty in America, with rural counties in the Deep South, Appalachia and Native American reservations in the West bearing the greatest brunt. The most heavily audited county in the country, it turned out, was a largely African American community in Mississippi. The second map, of less scrutinized locales, highlighted places with middle-income, largely white populations such as New Hampshire, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The visuals were so striking that Congress held two hearings. Rep. Charlie Crist, D-Fla., used a blown up copy of the ProPublica maps as he grilled the IRS commissioner on how the agency plans to avoid “implicit or explicit” bias in its future audits.



Our investigation with the Los Angeles Times found that every nine days, on average, a Border Patrol car chase ends in a crash. An animated map re-created the events of one such chase. (Agnes Chang/ProPublica)

Looking Hard at Border Crashes

A collaboration with the Los Angeles Times in April showed how Border Patrol agents engage in high-speed vehicle chases of people suspected of entering the country illegally, leading to gruesome injuries and deaths. Many police departments have sharply restricted high-speed pursuits, but the Border Patrol has continued the practice. The story by ProPublica fellow Kavitha Surana and Times reporters Brittny Mejia and James Queally examined 500 Border Patrol chases, with one in three ending in a crash. One accident sparked a fire that spread over more than 20 acres. Another injured a dozen bystanders and six immigrants, including a 6-year-old girl who wound up on life support.

Video journalist Nadia Sussman and visual investigations producer Waldron went to the U.S.-Mexico border, camera in tow, and filmed the path followed by several of the chases. Their footage showed the long distances such confrontations can cover and was part of a map that re-created the events of a chase that ended in a crash. After a FOIA request, Waldron also gained access to a startling video showing an SUV being chased by Border Patrol and, ultimately, crashing through a highway guardrail down a ravine, killing its 18-year-old driver and two passengers. The layout, by editorial experience designer Agnes Chang, integrated the text of the story with the video graphic, giving readers an immersive experience.

Seeing Through the Eyes of Partners

Our continued collaborations with other news organizations also led to revelatory video journalism. Our series on video gambling in Illinois, by ProPublica Illinois' Jason Grotto and Sandhya Kambhampati and WBEZ's Dan Mihalopoulos, examined how the state installed more than 30,000 video slot and poker machines at locations such as truck stops, restaurants and hair salons since 2012. Gamblers in Illinois lost more than \$5 billion at the machines, yet the state has done little to address the issue of addiction. A video explainer by former Vox-ProPublica video fellow Ranjani Chakraborty helped readers understand why video gambling, described as “electronic morphine,” is so seductive to the human brain. The video showed how the software running the machines is designed to accelerate the pace of play, extend the time people spend on them and increase the amount of money they wager.

In partnership with PBS Frontline, ProPublica reporter Joaquin Sapien investigated a New York policy to move people out of institutions and into private apartments. He found that social workers felt pressured to move people into apartments even when they were not good candidates for living on their own. Lacking the structure of the institutions, some of these people suffered dehumanizing, sometimes fatal harm. Bringing the reality of the program's failures into discomfiting focus, a documentary done in partnership with the PBS program Frontline — “Right to Fail” — captured the neglect and squalid conditions experienced by many of New York City's most vulnerable citizens.

Other important stories from the first months of 2019 included a scoop on Purdue Pharma, showing how Richard Sackler embraced the plan to conceal OxyContin's potency from doctors; a powerful essay on the resurgence of violent crime in Baltimore following Freddie Gray's death in 2015; a collaboration with the New York Times profiling seven women who came forward accusing philanthropist Michael



Diagnosed with schizophrenia, Nestor Bunch struggled with hunger and violence when he was transferred from a group home to his own unsupervised apartment. (George Etheredge, special to ProPublica)

Steinhardt of sexual harassment; and a piece on the Transportation Security Administration's full-body scanners that frequently give false security alarms for hairstyles popular among black women. We also kicked off a second year of our Local Reporting Network, with our first reports by The Public's Radio — an investigation into Rhode Island's 911 emergency system, illuminating the poor training of its operators resulting in unnecessary deaths — as well as a Sacramento Bee examination of how California's efforts to reform the state prison system left its county jails more deadly and a Charleston Post and Courier report on how complaints against South Carolina's circuit judges are handled in secret under a system that shields the accused.

Many more investigations are underway. Stay tuned.

Impact

The most important test of ProPublica is whether our work is having impact. We measure our impact not in terms of audience size or honors, but in real-world change. In the first few months of 2019, our journalism spurred such change in a number of important areas.

Discriminatory Facebook Policies Terminated

In 2016, ProPublica reported that Facebook allowed advertisers to buy credit, housing and employment ads that exclude anyone with African American, Asian American or Latino affinities from seeing them. Our 2017 follow-up found that the social network had not remedied the problem. In March, the company announced that Facebook advertisers can no longer target users by age, gender and ZIP code for housing, employment and credit offers — sweeping changes included in a major settlement with civil rights organizations. A week later, however, the Department of Housing and Urban Development sued Facebook for violating the Fair Housing Act, alleging that the social network’s ad system discriminates against users even when advertisers did not choose to do so.

Police Charged with Misconduct

The South Bend Tribune, a member of our Local Reporting Network, partnered with ProPublica for a 2018 investigation that uncovered deep flaws and abuses of power in the criminal justice system in Elkhart, Indiana. Among other revelations, the series surfaced video showing two Elkhart police officers repeatedly punching a handcuffed man — an incident for which the officers had been issued only reprimands, and which only became public after ProPublica and the Tribune began investigating. In March, a federal grand jury indicted the two police officers on civil rights charges.



Confidential records revealed the traumatic experiences of children separated from their parents in suburban Chicago during the Trump administration’s zero-tolerance crackdown. (Lydia Fu for ProPublica Illinois)

Unsafe Children’s Shelters Closed

ProPublica Illinois reported extensively in 2018 on conditions inside the state’s shelters for immigrant children, finding problems including sexual abuse, lax supervision and runaway children. In March, Heartland Human Care Services, which managed some of the shelters featured in this reporting, announced plans to close four of its shelters in suburban Chicago and add staff, training and other resources at its remaining five facilities.



TurboTax steered low-income tax filers away from the government-sponsored free option and made them pay. (Richard Borge, special to ProPublica)

Duped TurboTax Filers Refunded

In April, we showed how TurboTax uses deceptive design and misleading ads to get people to pay to file their taxes, even when they are eligible to file for free. Our story detailed how the website steers lower-income tax filers to paid versions of its service. We later revealed that Intuit, the maker of TurboTax, was deliberately hiding the free edition from Google search by adding code on its site telling Google and other search engines not to list TurboTax Free File in search results. In response to our stories, scores of readers called TurboTax to complain — and the company agreed to refund their money. “I just had to mention ProPublica,” one reader said. Intuit also changed the code on the TurboTax Free File page so that it is no longer hidden from search engines.

Medical Conflicts of Interest Curtailed

In September 2018, ProPublica published a series of investigations with the New York Times detailing undisclosed relationships between Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and for-profit health care companies, highlighting conflicts of interest. In January, MSK announced that it would bar its top executives from serving on corporate boards of drug and health care companies. Hospital officials also told the center’s staff that the executive board had formalized a series of reforms — including prohibiting board members from investing in startup companies that MSK helped found and preventing

hospital employees who represent MSK on corporate boards from accepting equity stakes or stock options from the companies.

Election Board Restructured

ProPublica, in partnership with the Lexington Herald-Leader, detailed Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes’ use of the voter registration system to look up the voting records of state employees, job applicants and political rivals. The news organizations 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. In March, 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. The secretary of state is now a nonvoting member of the SBE, and the board will include two former county clerks, one from each party.

Biased Police Practice Abandoned

In 2018, ProPublica and the Philadelphia Inquirer reported on tactics used by state and local police officers in Pennsylvania to help U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement round up immigrants for deportation. In February, the Pennsylvania State Police implemented a new policy that bans some of the most egregious behaviors profiled in our reporting, including questioning Latino motorists about immigration issues during routine traffic stops. Under the new policy, state troopers are also prohibited from detaining or arresting foreign nationals simply for being in the country illegally.

Uncertified State Emergency Leader Fired

The Public’s Radio, a partner in the ProPublica Local Reporting Network, began its investigation this year into Rhode Island’s 911 emergency system with a story showing how poor training of its operators — as well as insufficient instructions given to callers, and a lack of doctors involved in supervising the system — is resulting in unnecessary deaths. Even before the story was published, the head of Rhode Island’s 911 system was fired when our request for information led to the discovery that his Red Cross certification had expired.

Following publication, the head of the state police pledged to review procedures and training of 911 call takers and recommended that they be certified in providing emergency medical instructions over the phone before first responders arrive. Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo supported the recommendation and said in a statement that her office is working with the legislature to secure the additional funding.

Violent Vigilante Sentenced to Prison

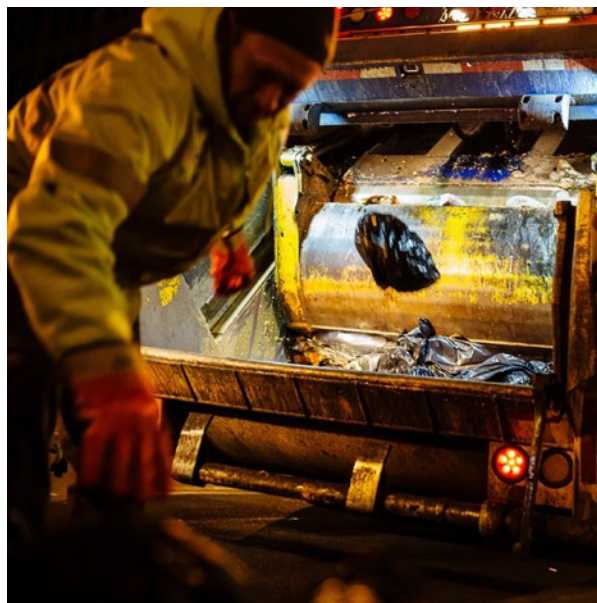
In one of ProPublica's early investigations from 2010, exploring New Orleans police violence in the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we reported that white vigilantes organized an armed group to keep African Americans from entering the neighborhood of Algiers Point. While the enclave was supposed to serve as an official evacuation zone for flood victims, vigilantes shot African Americans who approached seeking transportation. In February 2019, a federal judge sentenced Roland Bourgeois Jr., who ProPublica identified as a participant in the incident, to 10 years in prison for his role in the shootings.

Hospital's Management Team Replaced

In 2018, ProPublica collaborated with the Houston Chronicle to report on pervasive problems with St. Luke's Medical Center's once-renowned heart transplant program, which in recent years had some of the worst outcomes in the country. This January, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services sent a team of 11 federal and state inspectors to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the hospital. Also in January, St. Luke's board replaced the hospital's president, chief nursing officer and senior vice president of operations after yet another patient died, this time after receiving a transfusion with the wrong blood type.

Oversight for Private Garbage Collection Tightened

In 2018, ProPublica profiled dangerous practices and conditions in the world of private commercial garbage collection in New York City, including fatal accidents, "sham" unions and checkered oversight. In February, the New York City Council passed a bill authorizing the Business Integrity Commission to directly police the labor unions at private trash companies across the city, empowering the agency to remove officials with criminal convictions, as well as officials who

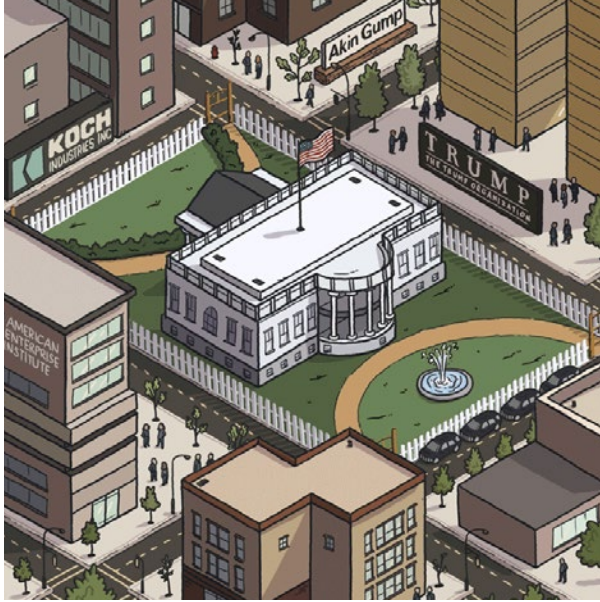


By nightfall, private haulers collect New York City's commercial trash, often working at breakneck speeds with few protections for workers. (Michael Santiago for ProPublica)

associate with members of organized crime or anyone convicted of a racketeering activity. In March, Commissioner Daniel Brownell of the BIC — after months of embarrassing news coverage and calls for the agency to step up its oversight — resigned.

Inaccurate Gang Database Assailed

In 2018, ProPublica Illinois investigated Chicago's gang database — which has been accessed more than 1 million times over the last decade by immigration officials, the FBI and scores of other agencies — and found that it is riddled with dubious entries, discrepancies and outright errors. ProPublica was the first news organization to obtain and publish the contents of the database. In April, Chicago's inspector general released a 159-page report confirming the errors and finding that the Chicago Police Department has done little to make sure the information is accurate. In a letter to the inspector general's office, police superintendent Eddie Johnson wrote that the department is retooling its data system to create clearer standards, improve officer training, perform regular audits and implement an appeals process for those wrongly listed in the database.



ProPublica's "Trump Town" is the first comprehensive and searchable database of the president's political appointees, along with their federal lobbying and financial records. (Susie Cagle, special to ProPublica)

CEO of Troubled Nonprofit Resigns

Our 2018 investigation "Unprotected," co-published with Time magazine, looked into an acclaimed charity called More Than Me. Founded by American Katie Meyler, the Liberian school promised to rescue some of the world's most vulnerable girls from life on the streets, but from the very beginning, children placed under its care were being raped by one of the nonprofit's leaders. Days after our investigation, Meyler temporarily stepped aside as CEO, remaining on leave of absence for six months amid protests and outcry in Liberia. In April, she resigned.

Role of School-Based Police Officers Limited

In a 2018 article co-published with New York Times Magazine, ProPublica told the story of Alex, a Long Island high school student who was accused of gang membership and deported to Honduras for drawing a devil, his school mascot but also an MS-13 symbol. A school-based police officer reported the doodle, circumventing privacy protections. In response to the story, this January the Huntington school district,

which Alex had attended, removed police from school buildings. Along with other Long Island districts, it also sought a formal agreement with the police limiting officers' roles in schools.

Broken Crime Reporting Process Reformed

ProPublica partnered with Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting and Newsy for a 2018 investigation on local law enforcement's widespread use of "exceptional clearances" to close rape cases without actually resolving them. The story prompted the Austin Police Department to request an independent audit by Texas officials, which found that Austin police had improperly cleared nearly a third of sexual assault cases from 2017, a misclassification that made the department's rate of solving rape cases appear higher. In January, the Police Department announced it had called on a third party to examine how it handles rape investigations from the initial call to the close of the case. Austin Police Chief Brian Manley also announced plans to implement sweeping reforms, including retraining the detective bureau and introducing a new computer system that requires detectives to answer four questions to show a case meets the FBI requirements before they can clear a case exceptionally.

Transparency on Political Appointees Championed

Last year, ProPublica launched Trump Town, a searchable database of the president's political appointees, along with their federal lobbying and financial records. In March 2019, the Government Accountability Office urged Congress to consider legislation that would require the federal government to make key information about political appointees — including their names, titles and financial disclosures — public. The GAO cited Trump Town as the only place to currently find much of this data and argued that the information is crucial to holding appointees to high standards and ensuring the integrity of actions taken on the public's behalf.

Additional examples of what we mean can be found at <https://www.propublica.org/about/impact/>, as can a white paper on how ProPublica thinks about impact and related questions.

What People Are Saying

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

“I have been meaning to send my yearly contribution, which is meager, as I am on fixed income. Your Nursing Home Inspect update prompted me to get right to it. What a needed public service. You have made this valuable information known, and your ordering, sorting, analysis and presentation of the data makes it wonderfully accessible, in short order, to those of us in the general public who are at the stage that we need to delve into this. Thank you. So glad you are there. —Kathy

“With tears in my eyes, I’ll use a Navy phrase, “Bravo Zulu” — well done — for ProPublica’s articles on the Navy’s readiness, or lack thereof. My wife and I are both retired Naval Officers. The truth is painful to read, but dearly necessary and heartbreaking. I thank you and your colleagues for avoiding the sensational but bringing forward the facts to speak, and scream, for themselves.” —Ted

“Your article on the Weirton shooting was, in spite of the outcome that night, a tremendous encouragement — it was so well and so diligently done. But what made it a gift to me was that I found myself reading as a mere human being. You allowed me to read as neither a Republican nor a Democrat, pro- or anti-gun control, pro- or anti-military and so on. You were not afraid to lend dignity to all who were involved that night, or who became involved later. Rather than inducing me to despise people on one side or the other, I felt I was being encouraged to understand.” —Eric

Honors

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

Three articles in our **“Trapped in Gangland” series on MS-13 by reporter Hannah Dreier** — co-published with New York magazine, Newsday and the New York Times Magazine, respectively — won the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing. The series also won the John Bartlow Martin Award for Public Interest Magazine Journalism, the Hillman Prize for magazine journalism, the John Jay College/Harry Frank Guggenheim Award for Excellence in Criminal Justice Journalism in the series category, the Fair Media Council’s Folio Award for story of the year, the Daniel Schorr Journalism Prize and the Shorty Award for social media. The series was a finalist for the Peabody Award for radio/podcast, the National Magazine Award for public interest, the Anthony Shadid Award for Journalism Ethics, the News Leaders Association’s Batten Medal for Courage in Journalism and the Ancil Payne Award for Ethics in Journalism, and it is a finalist for the Michael Kelly Award and the National Award for Education Reporting for feature.

Our series examining the **impact of Trump’s “zero tolerance” immigration policy at the border** was a finalist for the Pulitzer Gold Medal for public service. The series won the first-ever Peabody “Catalyst” Award, the George Polk Award for immigration reporting, the Paul Tobenkin Memorial Award and the Investigative Reporters and Editors Award for breaking news, and it was a finalist for the Goldsmith Prize for investigative reporting.

“Unprotected,” an investigation co-published with Time magazine, as well as a ProPublica documentary, on abuse at an American charity for vulnerable girls in Liberia, won the Society of American Business Editors and Writers’ Best in Business Award in the international category, a National Press Photographers Association Award



An acclaimed American charity said it was saving Liberia’s most vulnerable girls from sexual exploitation. But from the very beginning, girls were being raped. (Kathleen Flynn, special to ProPublica)

for online video storytelling, the World Press Photo Digital Storytelling Prize and Pictures of the Year Award for documentary journalism, was a finalist for the National Magazine Award for reporting, the News Leaders Association’s Dori Maynard Award for Justice in Journalism, the Overseas Press Club’s Madeline Dane Ross Award for best international reporting on human rights, the Taylor Family Award for Fairness in Journalism and World Press Photo’s online video of the year, is a finalist for the Webby Award for longform documentary, and received honorable mention



Our reporting podcast with WNYC, “Trump, Inc.,” examines the relationship between Donald Trump’s presidency and his family’s business empire. (Lincoln Agnew)

for the National Press Photographers Association Award for online visual presentation. Photojournalist Kathleen Flynn won the National Press Photographers Association Humanitarian Award for her work on the project.

“Stuck Kids,” a ProPublica Illinois series on **children held in psychiatric hospitals after they’ve been cleared for release**, won the Award for Excellence in Health Care Journalism for health policy and the Society of Professional Journalists’ Sigma Delta Chi Award for online non-deadline reporting, and it is a finalist for the Better Government Association’s Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Investigative Reporting and the Chicago Headline Club’s Peter Lisagor Award for best non-deadline reporting series.

“**Blood Will Tell**,” a collaboration with the New York Times Magazine, won the Scripps Howard Award for human interest storytelling.

“**Documenting Hate**,” a video collaboration between ProPublica and Frontline featuring reporter A.C. Thompson, won the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism in the category of individual achievement by a national journalist, and it was a finalist for the Scripps Howard National Journalism Award in the category of

broadcast — national, international coverage, and the National Magazine Award for social media.

Our collaboration with WNYC, “**Trump, Inc.**,” won the **Society of the Silurians Excellence in Journalism Medallion** for radio feature news.

Our Local Reporting Network collaboration with the Santa Fe New Mexican on **nuclear worker safety** won the Award for Excellence in Health Care Journalism for public health and the National Headliner Award in the television/environmental category.

Our reporting on the **underrepresentation of African American patients in clinical trials** of new cancer drugs won the American Association for Cancer Research’s June L. Biedler Prize for Cancer Journalism for online/multimedia and was a finalist for the Society of American Business Editors and Writers’ Best in Business Award for health/science.

“**Health Insurance Hustle**” won the Society of American Business Editors and Writers’ Best in Business Award for health/science.

Our Local Reporting Network collaboration with the South Bend Tribune, “**Accused in Elkhart**,” won the Indiana Society of Professional Journalists’ Best in Indiana contest for Story of the Year, and it was a finalist for the Goldsmith Prize for investigative reporting, the News Leaders Association’s Frank Blethen Award for Local Accountability Reporting and the Indiana Associated Press Media Awards for investigative reporting and enterprise reporting.

“The Right to Fail,” a project with PBS Frontline on **problems with a New York City policy to move mentally ill people into private apartments**, won the Folio Awards’ Robert W. Greene Award in Investigative Reporting and is a finalist for the Deadline Club Award for local news reporting.

The ProPublica Illinois and WBEZ series “**Driven Into Debt**” won the Society of Professional Journalists’ Sigma Delta Chi Award for online investigative reporting (independent), received honorable mention in the Society of American Business Editors and Writers’ Best in Business Award in the investigative category, and is a finalist for the Better Government Association’s Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Investigative Reporting and the Chicago Headline Club’s Peter Lisagor Award for best investigative/public service, best investigative reporting, best data journalism and best use of features video.

“Dr. Death,” a collaboration with Wondery, won the American Society of Journalists and Authors’ June Roth Memorial Award for an Outstanding Medical Article and won third place for the Award for Excellence in Health Care Journalism in the investigative category.

“Fuel to the Fire,” co-published with the New York Times Magazine, won the Overseas Press Club’s Whitman Bassow Award for best international environmental reporting.

Our story on law enforcement’s practice of **closing rape cases without actually resolving them**, a collaboration with Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting and Newsy, won the Society of Professional Journalists’ Sigma Delta Chi Award for online investigative reporting (affiliated).

“Inside Trump’s VA” received honorable mention in the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting.

A Local Reporting Network project with the Charleston Gazette-Mail on **the effects of the natural gas industry on communities** was a finalist for the Scripps Howard National Journalism Award for environmental reporting.

“The Waiting Game,” an immersive news game by ProPublica and WNYC, was a finalist for the National Magazine Award for digital innovation and the News Leaders Association’s Punch Sulzberger Award for Innovative Storytelling.

Our collaboration with the Investigative Fund, **“Trashed: Inside the Deadly World of Private Garbage Collection,”** was a finalist for the News Leaders Association’s Frank Blethen Award for Local Accountability Reporting and the Investigative Reporters and Editors Tom Renner Award, and it received an honorable mention for the John Bartlow Martin Award for Public Interest Magazine Journalism.

“I Don’t Want to Shoot You, Brother,” a collaboration with Frontline Dispatch, was a finalist for the News Leaders Association’s Deborah Howell Award for Writing Excellence.

Our **“Trump Town”** news app, tracking lobbyists and Washington insiders who have been appointed across the federal government, was a finalist for the News Leaders Association’s First Amendment Award.

“The \$3 Million Research Breakdown,” a ProPublica Illinois series investigating how a star psychiatrist at the University of Illinois at Chicago



“The Waiting Game,” an experimental news game created by ProPublica and WNYC, simulates the experience of trying to seek asylum in the United States. (Sara Santini)

violated protocols and put children at risk, is a finalist for the National Award for Education Reporting in the single-topic news category and for the Chicago Headline Club’s Peter Lisagor Award for best feature story, best multimedia feature presentation and best series.

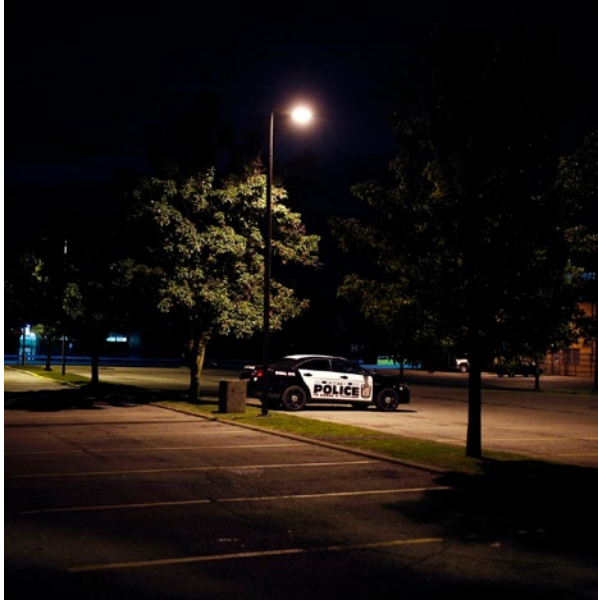
Our “Miseducation” project examining **racial disparities in educational opportunities and school discipline** is a finalist for the National Award for Education Reporting for public service.

Our collaboration with the New York Times on the **Trump administration’s pullback on civil rights in education** is a finalist for the National Award for Education Reporting in the single-topic news category.

Our reporting on **the troubling way that police investigate the murders of trans women** was a finalist for the GLAAD Media Award Outstanding Digital Journalism.

“Heart Failure,” a collaboration with the Houston Chronicle, was a finalist for the National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation’s Health Care Print Journalism Award.

“Sloan Kettering Cancer Center’s Crisis,” a collaboration with the New York Times, is a



In partnership with the Frontline Dispatch, we investigated a fatal police shooting in West Virginia and the shocking ramifications of its aftermath. (Luke Sharrett)

finalist for the Deadline Club Award for business investigative reporting.

“The Billion-Dollar Loophole,” co-published with Fortune, is a finalist for the Deadline Club Award for business feature.

A ProPublica Illinois series on the **secretive network of Illinois detention facilities for immigrant children** is a finalist for the Chicago

Headline Club’s Peter Lisagor Award for best investigative reporting and best illustration.

ProPublica Illinois is a finalist for the Chicago Headline Club’s Peter Lisagor Award for general excellence in online journalism.

“Politic-IL Insider,” a ProPublica Illinois column by Mick Dumke, is a finalist for the Chicago Headline Club’s Peter Lisagor Award for best continuing blog and best individual blog post.

Our Local Reporting Network collaboration with WMFE-FM on **PTSD in first responders** was a finalist in the Florida Associated Press Professional Broadcasters Contest.

Our Local Reporting Network collaboration with the Southern Illinoisan on **public housing failures in southern Illinois** was a finalist for the Illinois Associated Press Media Award for investigative reporting.

ProPublica president Richard Tofel was honored with the **CUNY School of Journalism Newmark Journalism Award.**

ProPublica Editor-in-Chief Stephen Engelberg won the **New England First Amendment Coalition’s Stephen Hamblett First Amendment Award.**

Our news applications and data visualizations won 22 Society for News Design Awards of Excellence for features, coverage, multimedia, graphics, story page design, maps, new tools, use of data, national, local issues, social media and the individual portfolio of news applications developer Al Shaw, and six Malofiej Awards for infographics.

ProPublica Partners January–April 2019

New partners marked in **bold**.

- Atlantic
- Charleston [WV] Gazette-Mail
- Chicago Sun-Times
- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Frontline
- **Guernica**
- Houston Chronicle
- HuffPost
- **Lexington Herald-Leader**
- Los Angeles Times
- Malheur [OR] Enterprise
- Newsy
- New York Magazine
- New York Times
- NPR News
- **The Oregonian**
- Philadelphia Inquirer
- Politifact
- Post and Courier
[Charleston, SC]
- **The Public's Radio
[Rhode Island]**
- Reveal
- Sacramento Bee
- South Bend Tribune
- Southern Illinoisan
- Stat
- Vox
- Washington Post
- WBEZ

By the Numbers, January–April 2019

4.4 MILLION	Page views on ProPublica platforms per month on average:	UP 34% VS. 2018
4.5 MILLION	Off-platform pages viewed on MSN, Apple News, Google Play Newsstand, and SmartNews per month on average	UP 688% VS. 2018
237,000	Pages republished under Creative Commons per month on average	DOWN 3% VS. 2018
1,967,000	Unique visitors to ProPublica.org per month on average	UP 44% VS. 2018
140,000	Email subscribers	
788,000	Twitter followers	UP 2% SINCE DECEMBER 2018
426,000	Facebook likes	UP 6% SINCE DECEMBER 2018
11,000+	Donors	