Local news, in crisis before the pandemic, is now facing a cataclysm. Ad revenue has been decimated and consolidation has driven record job cuts. Access to critical trustworthy information for millions of Americans is declining at alarming rates across the country. Into that void has entered partisan information sources, often riddled with falsehoods. Local reporters were unprepared to address the onslaught of misleading and false content that spread on social media and via word-of-mouth accounts on testing, masks and vaccines, complicating the information ecosystem even more.

Selected Experts on the Topic:

Elizabeth Green
Co-founder & CEO, Chalkbeat. @elizwgreen

Graciela Mochkofsky
Executive Director for Center for Community Media and Spanish Language program director, Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY. @gmochkofsky

Tracie Powell
founder of All Digitocracy and a John S. Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford, Program Officer, Borealis Philanthropy. @TMPowell

Jim Steyer
founder, Common Sense Media. @jimsteyer @CommonSense

Margaret Sullivan
Washington Post. @Sulliview

Steven Waldman
President & Co-founder, Report for America. @stevenwaldman

Reading Resources:

Losing The News: The Decimation of Local News and the Search for Solutions (PEN America—Full report)

A New Tool To Measure The Health Of Local News Ecosystems (Knight Foundation)

Give local journalism a fighting chance by creating a demand for it (Alan Miller, Poynter)

It’s Bigger than Fox News: Time for Mainstream Journalism to Reckon with Monetizing Disinformation and Eroding Truth (Farai Chideya, Medium)

How the government can help save local news without endangering its editorial independence (Poynter, Steven Waldman, Report for America)

Watch Author Margaret Sullivan Explain How the Decline of Local Journalism Undermines American Democracy (Margaret Sullivan, Time)

News And America’s Kids: How Young People Perceive And Are Impacted By The News (Common Sense Media)