

# Where do you get your local info?

Presented By:

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# A little about us...



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**Where can I find local  
information?**



# Where do you get your local info?

- Local newspapers
- Social media
- Town newsletters
- Boston TV News
- Community Access Television
- Local e-newsletters / Substack
- Word of mouth
- Other?



# Media Literacy:

**What is it and why is it  
important?**



# Media Literacy

the ability to critically analyze stories presented in the mass media and to determine their accuracy or credibility.



## What does media literacy look like in practice?

- Applying critical inquiry: question everything you see, read and hear. What's the source? What's the POV? What's the message?
- Consuming media from diverse points of view
- Seeking primary sources when possible; watch that town meeting yourself and draw your own conclusions; trace quotes, claims, or secondary media to the original source
- Recognizing stereotypes, propaganda, and mis/disinformation for what they are - stay vigilant



# “Fake news!”

## Misinformation & Disinformation

Mis: inadvertent

Dis: purposeful





**Leading Report** ✓

@LeadingReport

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**BREAKING:** Republicans are introducing legislation to abolish the TSA.



2:12 PM · 27 Mar 25 · **26.2M** Views



# Who's Behind the (Mis)Leading Report?





Utah Senator Mike Lee (.gov)

https://www.lee.senate.gov › lee-and-tuberville-introduce...

## ✓ Lee and Tuberville Introduce Bill to Abolish the TSA

5 days ago — Lee and Tuberville Introduce Bill to Abolish the TSA. March 27, 2025  
airport security under federal oversight. WASHINGTON ...

MIKE LEE  
US SENATOR for UTAH

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## Lee and Tuberville Introduce Bill to Abolish the TSA

March 27, 2025

Bill would privatize airport security under federal oversight

WASHINGTON – Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) and Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) today introduced the Abolish the TSA Act, which would dissolve the bloated and ineffective Transportation Security Administration while allowing America's airports to compete to provide the safest, most efficient, and least intrusive security measures, under a new Office of Aviation Security Oversight.

"The TSA has not only intruded into the privacy and personal space of most Americans, it has also repeatedly failed tests to find weapons and explosives," said Sen. Lee. "Our bill privatizes security functions at American airports under the eye of an Office of Aviation Security Oversight, bringing this bureaucratic behemoth to a welcome end. American families can travel safely without feeling the hands of an army of federal employees."

"The TSA is an inefficient, bureaucratic mess that infringes on Americans' freedoms," said Sen. Tuberville. "It's a bloated agency—riddled with waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars—that has led to unnecessary delays, invasive pat downs and bag checks, and frustration for travelers. We need to focus on more efficient and effective methods to protect our country without sacrificing the liberties and freedoms of American citizens. The TSA should be eliminated and replaced with privatized solutions that are more targeted, streamlined, and where appropriate, accountable to limited government oversight."

BUR25286 W1L

S.L.C.

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

S. \_\_\_\_\_

To abolish the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LEE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL

To abolish the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Abolish TSA Act of  
5 2025".

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

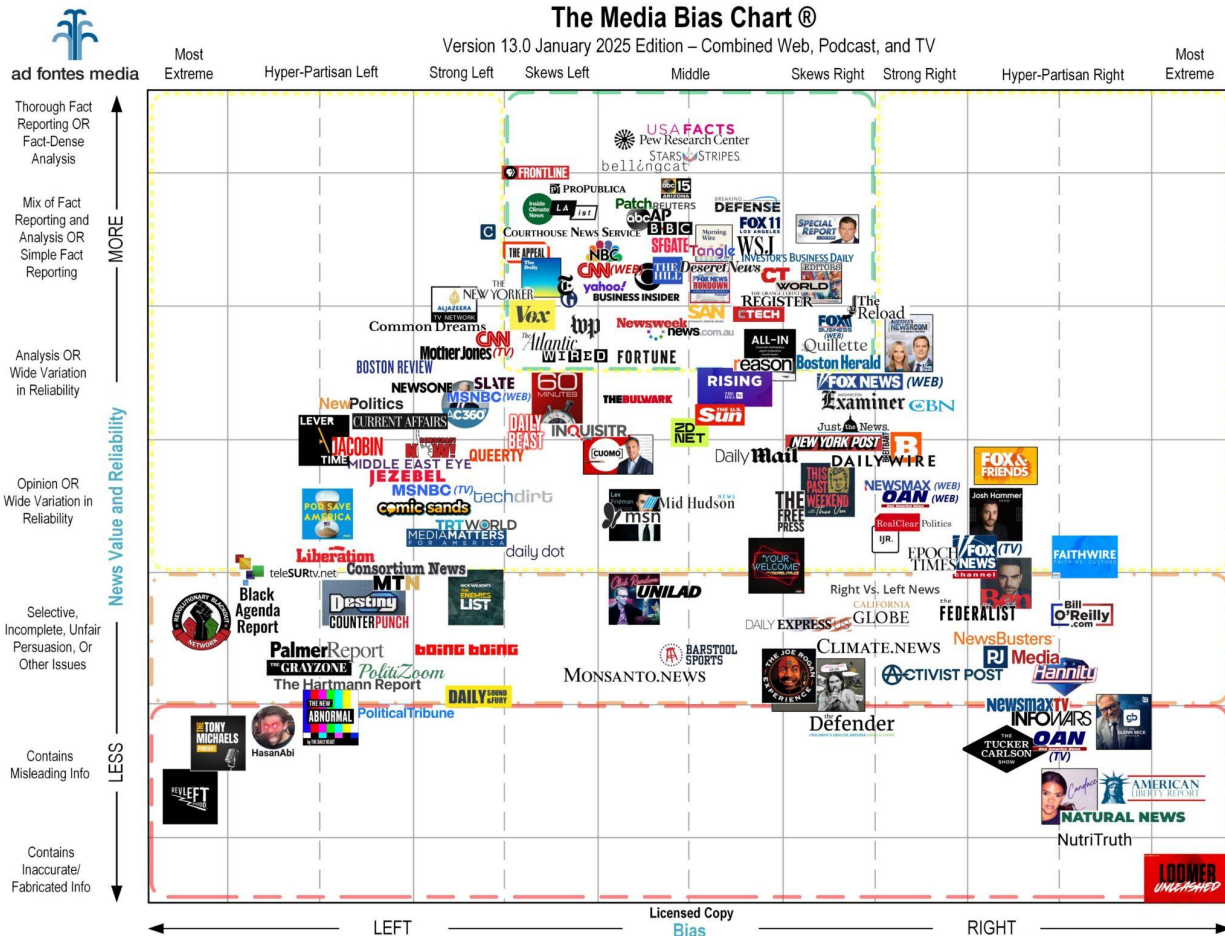
8 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term "Administra-  
9 tion" means the Transportation Security Adminis-  
10 tration.



**How can I stay well-informed  
using balanced, diversified  
sources?**



# Media Bias Chart 2025 (National)





Fact checking resources & vetting claims

- Ground News
- Factcheck.org
- The Trust Project

Seeking diverse points of view, especially on divisive issues

Question things like bias, message and audience when consuming media



# A little about Ground News

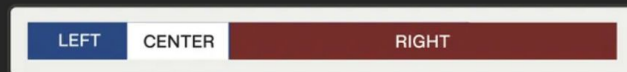
**Lateral reading:** a strategy that encourages readers to leave the news source they are reading to see what other digital sources say [about either the topic or the outlet itself - factuality, bias, etc.

- Knowing the bias of a media outlet can help understand how and why a story is being framed a certain way; factuality ratings provide insight into the reporting practices of the publication.

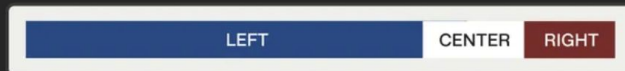
## Not all sources report on stories equally.

The Bias Bar puts news coverage in context, making it easy to spot media narratives and get a birds-eye-view of how sources are reporting on a story from across the political spectrum.

Right-leaning news outlets are covering this story the most.



Left-leaning news outlets are covering this story the most.







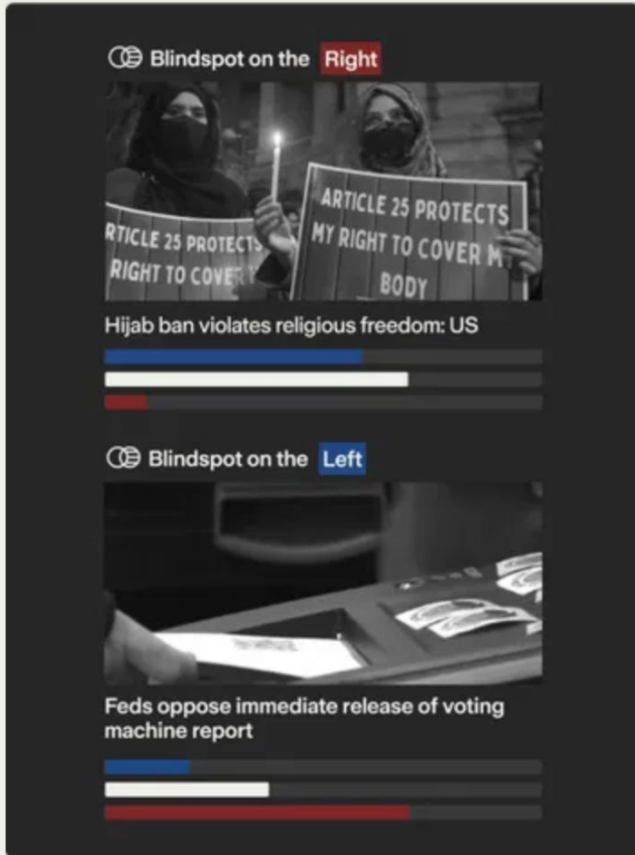
The distribution chart shows you all the sources reporting on the story and where they fall on the political spectrum.

Compare and contrast different perspectives by clicking the source icons to read their coverage of the issue.

\*While these are large, mostly national news sites, the same critical media literacy practices used when consuming national content can be easily applied to smaller local outlets and social media. Don't passively consume news and take all claims at face value. The more you practice *active* consumption of information (through questioning sources and thinking critically), the better!



# See Polarization in Action



The Blindspot feature highlights stories that are receiving lopsided coverage. This is a great way to talk about polarization, algorithms, and newsworthiness. What stories do media outlets choose to cover and why? How does this impact newsreaders?



# Massachusetts governor proposes that migrants in shelter be in country legally

## Coverage Details

Total News Sources	52
Leaning Left	9
Leaning Right	13
Center	11
Last Updated	2 months ago
Bias Distribution	39% Right

## Bias Distribution ↗

- 39% of the sources lean Right

L 27%

C 33%

R 39%



## Untracked bias





## Mass. Gov. Healey calls for residency requirement for shelter law

Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey called for “significant changes” to the state’s Right to Shelter Law on Wednesday, including a residency requirement long sought by Republicans and stronger criminal background checks.

3 months ago · Springfield, United States

[Read Full Article](#)

## Mass. Gov. Maura Healey proposes new changes to state shelter law

Less than a week after condemning security concerns surrounding a lack of background checks performed at shelters, Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey is proposing changes to the state’s right-to-shelter law.

2 months ago · Boston, United States

[Read Full Article](#)

## Massachusetts progressives boo Gov. Healey’s proposed emergency shelter changes: ‘Disconnected from reality’

The governor of Massachusetts on Wednesday proposed that at least one member of a family staying in emergency shelters be in the country legally, hardening her stance at a time when concerns are being raised about the safety at the facilities.

2 months ago · Boston, United States

[Read Full Article](#)



## Dem Gov Suddenly Changes Her Tune On Leaving Shelter Doors Open For Illegal Migrants After Huge Drug Bust

The governor of Massachusetts is now requesting that all family members living in any of the emergency shelters be in the U.S. legally, with few exceptions.

2 months ago · Washington, United States

[Read Full Article](#)

Critically reading about issues—especially with tools like Ground News—can help you easily see how issues can become polarized.

## Illegal Aliens Displacing U.S. Taxpayers from Shelter Beds

Former Massachusetts shelter director Jon Fetherston has raised concerns about the state's right-to-shelter laws, particularly focusing on the lack of vetting processes for undocumented immigrants who may be taking advantage of these policies. Fetherston, once at the helm of the Marlborough Holiday Inn shelter, argues that the surge in undocumented immigrants has placed an overwhelming burden on the state's resources. Massachusetts has allocated...

2 months ago

[Read Full Article](#)



# How does all of this relate to local news?

All news is local.

Things start on the ground level. Policy issues, elections, all of it – local is the level where we can effect the most change for our communities.

If you see a hot issue on your town's Facebook page, don't take it all for face value. Do your own research, ask questions, and draw your own conclusions.

Staying informed on your community's issues makes you better poised to be civically engaged. That is why local news matters!



# Discussion Questions



**Do you feel like you are fully informed about local issues that impact Cape Cod?**



# Discussion Questions



**When looking for information,  
what local sources do you turn  
to?**



# Discussion Questions



**What are some of the driving forces that keep you from going directly to local news outlets?**



# Discussion Questions



**When it comes to local news,  
what's working?**

**What's not?**



# Discussion Questions



**What would you like to see in the local news landscape that isn't currently available?**



# Discussion Questions



**What questions  
do you have for us?**