



Journalistic Integrity, Donation Acceptance, and Transparency

Mid-Iowa Community News, Inc. is committed to journalistic independence and nonpartisanship. Through journalism, the organization helps its readers understand a wide variety of public policy issues, aiming to enlighten public debates and bring a diversity of viewpoints to them. Mid-Iowa Community News shall not take institutional positions on matters of public policy and shall not expressly advocate for those positions.

Mid-Iowa Community News fulfills its mission by relying on the tenets and ethics of independent journalism. The organization advocates for nonpartisan press freedoms and protections, including the First Amendment, freedom of information, transparency in public institutions, and people's rights to participate in the democratic process.

As a nonprofit organization, Mid-Iowa Community News will not conduct lobbying or otherwise attempt to influence legislation (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code Section 4945(d)(1)), nor shall the organization seek to influence the outcome of any specific public election or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive (within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code Section 4945 (d)(2)).

JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY

Donations or promises of donations shall not influence the editorial decision-making process.

Donors may be able to sponsor or underwrite specific topic areas, events, or reporting modalities, such as data-focused reporting or watchdog reporting. Donors and prospective donors shall not have special influence over any content, sources, or tone. Similarly, any fiscal sponsor, vendor, or volunteer shall not have special influence over editorial decisions other than the same opportunity to suggest story ideas that are made available to all readers.

Mid-Iowa Community News may divide work between staff and volunteers primarily responsible for journalism and those primarily responsible for fundraising and other business operations.

Per the organization's bylaws, members of the Board of Directors shall avoid exercising control over journalistic decisions, including, but not limited to, the selection of story ideas, publication dates and formats, and publication partners.

DONATION ACCEPTANCE & TRANSPARENCY

Accepting financial support shall not constitute an endorsement of donors or their products, services, or opinions. Accepting financial support shall not confer editorial influence. Mid-Iowa Community News does not regard financial support as endorsing specific editorial decisions.

Building trust with readers, donors, and partners requires transparency. Mid-Iowa Community News:

- Will not provide confidentiality or anonymity to any institutional or individual donor who contributes more than \$5,000 in a calendar year.
- Will publish on its website the names of all institutional and individual donors who give more than \$5,000 in a calendar year. This public list shall be updated at least annually.
- Will offer anonymity to donors who contribute \$5,000 or less in a calendar year and choose to do so confidentially, but without donors making this express preference, donors may be publicly recognized.
- Will not accept anonymous or confidential donations in aggregate that total more than 5% of its annual revenue.
- Will publish its most recently filed IRS Form 990 on its website. When a Form 990 is unavailable, the organization will post similarly detailed financial information, including a balance sheet, statement of activities, and statement of functional expenses, within a reasonable timeframe after these documents are finalized.
- Will also post online other key corporate documents, including its articles of incorporation, bylaws, and Board of Directors roster.

Approved May 17, 2024