What: A Resource for the COS Grassroots Network

The **COS Community Newsmaker** tool is a news story pitching resource that COS affiliated grassroots can independently harness to advance community activism and self-governance in their communities by:

- **Elevating** local issues of importance
- **Celebrating** local heroes and patriots
- **Holding government accountable** and **promoting** government transparency
- **Highlighting** overlooked stories and **amplifying** marginalized voices

**Goal:**

✓ Cultivate and **empower activism**, civic engagement, and self-governance by **elevating awareness** around state and local community issues.

**How does it work?**

The **COS Community Newsmaker Program** starts with engaged citizens like you.

1. **You are the source**—Come across a story that needs telling? Attend a local meeting? Dig into government data on spending, contracts, or other issues? Report it!

2. **Pitch your story**—Use the COS Community Newsmaker Pitch Form to put your story in play. Think someone needs to answer some questions? Tell us who and what questions you want our reporters to ask.

3. **Watch Your Story Get Reported**—Your story will be assigned to a journalist who will conduct interviews, research, and write the story. In a few days, the story will be published on your community’s online news site. You will be informed when the story is published, and provided with a link that you can share with others.

**Who writes the articles?**

Story leads are drafted into stories by a **quality-reviewed** network of free-lance reporters across the country who adhere to strict journalistic standards — **no political bias, and a commitment to facts over opinion**. Additionally every story draft is reviewed by editorial staff to ensure it adheres to editorial standards.

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**Be a News Maker.**

Who’s behind the COS Community Newsmaker?

**COS Community Newsmaker** is a collaboration between **Citizens for Self-Governance** and the **Metric Media Foundation** to help restore local news in communities across America. The COS Community Newsmaker tool is a means to build a wide network of citizen community reporters.

Where will the articles be published?

As of now (March 2020), Metric Media maintains an established **network of local news sites** in the following states:

1. **Arizona** - 16 sites
2. **Delaware** - 5 sites
3. **Florida** - 49 sites
4. **Iowa** - 21 sites
5. **Kentucky** - 19 sites
6. **Michigan** - 38 sites
7. **Minnesota** - 19 sites
8. **Montana** - 8 sites
9. **New Mexico** - 10 sites
10. **N. Carolina** - 48 sites
11. **Texas** - 57 sites
12. **Washington** - 1 site

Stories can also be published to statewide “**Business Daily**” outlets in all 50 states.

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**Lone Star Standard**

**Business**

**Local Government**

**Politics**

**Real Estate**

**Taxes**

**Directory**

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**Former Speaker Joe Straus donates campaign cash to old allies**

Over two years ago, former Texas House Speaker Joe Straus declined he would be leasing the House, but he continues to assist his colleagues in the Texas Capitol for donating campaign cash to several associates that are still in the legislature.

By James Leinberger

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**Local Government**

**Tax issues for seniors, disabled roll politics in small town**

Health residents debate property tax freeze, homestead exemptions for elderly, disabled

By Tom Lawrence

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**From Urban Reform**

Houston is gentrifying faster than other Texas cities

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**Business**

**Oil and gas industries trend toward both promising and challenging outcomes.**

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**Need More Info?**

→ Check out the [#community_news_maker](https://www.CoS.CommunityNewsMaker.com) channel on COS/CSG Team Slack!

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**Be a News Maker.**