



The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

2022 Impact Report

As if there were any doubt, 2022 proved Atlanta is the beating heart of our nation.

It's the center of the political universe, and will likely be a battleground state for years to come.

It's the capital of hip-hop and one of the world's largest film and TV production locations.

The food scene will make your mouth water, and it's home to iconic brands and extraordinary small businesses.

We've got world-class universities and award-winning hospitals. And the sports scene: Braves, Hawks, Falcons, Atlanta United, Georgia Bulldogs . . . need I say more?

There's a lot going on in Atlanta these days, and as always, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution is at the center of it all.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Andrew Morse in black ink.

Andrew Morse

*President + Publisher,
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

We've been part of the fabric of this city for more than 150 years. And in that time, we've evolved from a newspaper to a modern media company with a robust offering of products, including websites, podcasts, videos, events and e-editions.

We've got plans to keep growing and evolving, and you, our customers, will always be at the center of everything we do. That means creating first-class product capabilities and content you can't find anywhere else. Content that informs and entertains in formats you love.

As you can see from this year's Impact Report, storytelling is what we are known for and what makes us essential.

Thank you for helping us tell Atlanta's stories in 2022, and whether on a phone, a podcast, an event or a print edition, we look forward to bringing you many more in the decades to come.

Journalism is known as "the first rough draft of history," and this year The Atlanta Journal-Constitution was across our state, writing, recording and documenting all of it.

Our investigations exposed deplorable conditions for metro Atlanta residents (Dangerous Dwellings) and showed how Georgia's most vulnerable children can't get access to the mental health support they need (Children in Crisis).

We celebrated our Georgia Bulldogs, outstanding nurses, top workplaces and everyday heroes who make Atlanta — and the world — a better place to live and work every day.

We nurtured a groundbreaking news collaborative, a content-sharing network that delivers diverse and comprehensive stories to new audiences.

We gave back to our communities through volunteer opportunities, media sponsorships and in-kind donations.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution can be counted on to document our region's most important moments — our history in the making. Our coverage reaches 6 million visitors a month and makes a real impact on the lives of Atlantans. And it's all possible because of you.

Whether you are a subscriber or donor, whether you consume our journalism in traditional print or by podcast, newsletter or website, or if you have attended one of our new public events virtually or in person, your support of local journalism really matters.

Thank you.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Kevin Riley in black ink.

Kevin Riley

Editor, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Carrie Teegardin
Investigative Journalist

Top Investigations

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution is dedicated to doing the hard work of real journalism, of investigating the most pressing issues of our communities, and telling the stories that improve our lives. One way we do that is through our unmatched investigative coverage.

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Dangerous Dwellings

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution has been tracking homicides across metro Atlanta for years, and our investigative journalists noticed clusters of them at certain apartment complexes. In 2022, we set out to understand why.

For this yearlong character-driven investigation, we examined five years of code-enforcement records from 19 jurisdictions, lawsuits, property records, corporate documents and files from local and state housing agencies. After interviewing dozens of residents, housing experts, government officials and more, our team then identified more than 250 persistently unsafe and unhealthy complexes, including one address in southwest Atlanta where, during a single week in the spring of 2020, police officers were dispatched 44 times — on average, about six times a day.

Our Dangerous Dwellings series, reported by Willoughby Mariano, Alan Judd and Johnny Edwards, won a silver medal in the 2022 Barlett & Steele Awards, a coveted national journalism competition.



Photo by: Curtis Compton



Photo by Natrice Miller

Children in Crisis



Photo by Jason Getz

As rates of depression, anxiety and suicide among children across the nation and in Georgia continued to rise, our reporters sought to learn whether kids in crisis could access the care they needed — and how the system might be failing Georgia families.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Carrie Teegardin studied years of hospital admission statistics, inspection records, police reports, court records and more. She spoke with families in crisis, interviewed policymakers, and spent time with mental health providers and hospital executives.

Ultimately, Teegardin found most parents continue to struggle to gain access to the doctors, therapists and comprehensive child-centered programs they need, regardless of their insurance coverage. Children in crisis, we learned, routinely wait hours, or even days, in emergency rooms for a hospital bed to open. And there's a prevailing lack of oversight at our psychiatric hospitals — particularly those providing inpatient crisis care. In this essential series, Teegardin outlined how children's hospitals around the nation have addressed the critical gaps we so often witness in our state.



Tia Mitchell
Washington Correspondent

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Top Stories

For more than 150 years, we've been telling the stories that define Atlanta. Our experienced journalists provide you coverage and insights you won't find anywhere else.



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Ahmaud Arbery Case

In 2020, 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man from Brunswick, was chased and killed by white residents while jogging in his South Georgia neighborhood. After a grueling two-year struggle for justice, the three men responsible for Arbery's murder were found guilty of federal hate crimes and face life sentences.

Throughout the trial, our reporters kept a close eye on the racially charged case that thrust Georgia's justice system into the national spotlight. Bill Rankin, host of our award-winning podcast, "Breakdown," dedicated its eighth season to the gripping case.

Election 2022



Photo by Miguel Martinez

All eyes are on Georgia politics, but it's our team of local political reporters who continue to break news and deliver insights that matter. During this election cycle, our reporters relentlessly followed the candidates on the trail and analyzed and explained changing voting patterns.

Ahead of the 2022 general election in Georgia, we also partnered with Atlanta Civic Circle to launch a digital, nonpartisan voter guide featuring side-by-side looks at the candidates for office, their views on issues voters care about most, their party affiliation and their history in elective politics.

The guide was part of an enterprise wide effort to make the Georgia electorate as educated as possible, a cause our parent company, Cox Enterprises, and we hold dear.

Georgia Bulldogs

In those final 10 minutes of play against Alabama in January 2022, moments before the Georgia Bulldogs would become national champions for the first time since 1980, Atlanta Journal-Constitution sports reporters, photographers and editors poured all their adrenaline into cementing this victory in Georgia football history.

To commemorate the historic occasion, our team of journalists created a 16-page souvenir edition of the newspaper, offered subscribers 38 pages of bonus coverage on our ePaper and published a commemorative book packed with exclusive photos. And, as a new season began, we provided fans with coverage and insights that culminated with back-to-back national titles.



Photo by Curtis Compton

Celebrating ATL

Since the very beginning, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution has celebrated the people and places that make up the fabric of our city.

Celebrating Nurses

It's no secret that in recent history, our front-line workers — including our nurses — have had to go to extraordinary lengths to fulfill their calling. For the last 17 years, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution has been proud to share their stories and acknowledge the incredible contribution these health care workers play in our community.

2022 Celebrating Nurses By the Numbers

- 800+ nominations of heartfelt testimonials from patients, families, colleagues and supervisors eager to honor the exceptional nurses who serve metro Atlanta
- 10 outstanding nurses and one standout nurse leader selected by our independent panel of judges

Top Workplaces



For the past 12 years, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, in collaboration with our employment research partner, Energage, has evaluated regional companies of all sizes to identify the employers going above and beyond to meet the needs of their employees and customers.

2022 Top Workplaces By the Numbers

- 4,583 companies nominated or asked to participate
- 175 organizations named a Top Workplace
- 49 first-time winners and three 12-timers

Everyday Heroes

Everyday Heroes is an ambitious collection of uplifting stories celebrating the region's moments, milestones and, most importantly, its people. We launched a bold collaboration between The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and multiple news outlets across Georgia to highlight incredible people living in our communities. It featured more than 50 individual profiles of ordinary people and their extraordinary feats.

Our Partnerships

Meet Our News Partners

To improve and expand coverage of Georgia and its diverse tapestry of people and places — and to empower readers to connect with more communities, audiences and topics, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in 2022 partnered with more than 20 local news resources for an innovative, service-first content-sharing network.

Our growing list of news partners includes ArtsATL, the Savannah Morning News, the Reporter Newspaper group, Kennesaw's "Fresh Take Georgia," the University of Georgia, the Chattanooga Times Free Press, the Walton Tribune, the Carter Center, Georgia Health News, Mundo Hispanico, the Georgia Asian Times, Capital B, Southern Community Newspapers, the Marietta Daily Journal, Paste Magazine, The 19th, Rome News-Tribune, The Reckoning, the Telegraph, the Ledger-Enquirer, and soon, the National Association of Black Journalists.

So far, we've cross-published with Mundo Hispanico and the Georgia Asian Times — and collaborated on hyperlocal reporting with the Gwinnett Daily Post and the Marietta Daily Journal. Through our partnership with the University of Georgia, we launched a toolkit for journalists covering poverty in America. Our partnership with the Savannah Morning News led to a new destination page in the Sunday paper dedicated to coverage of coastal Georgia.

In addition to these partners, we supported a new coalition exploring ways to fill news gaps in underserved communities, the emerging Georgia News Collaborative.

Serving Our Community

Giving back is a vital part of our corporate culture. In 2022 we proudly donated nearly \$300,000 to causes across the region through in-kind advertising, sponsorships and media strategy.

Here are some highlights from our 2022 year of giving:



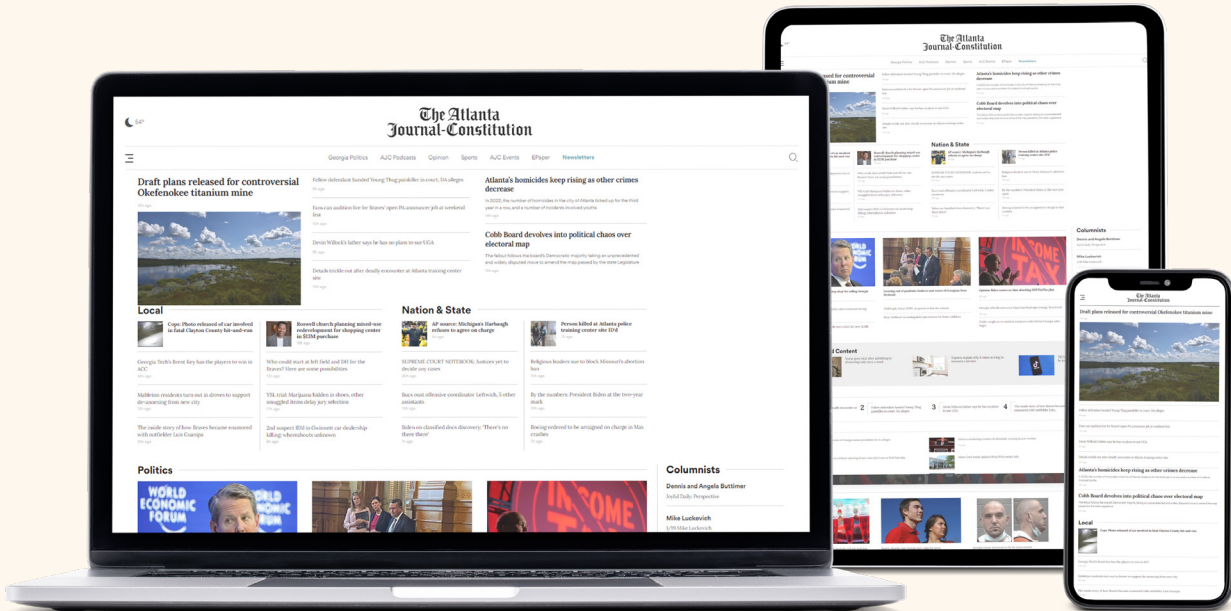
Photo by Jenni Girtman



Photo by VeloCity Move For Grady

Your News. Your Way.

We're delivering the news in more ways than ever before: through our website, social channels, podcasts, newsletters, e-editions, events, mobile apps and the print edition. That means we're also reaching more people than ever before. More than 6 million people use our products each month, and we're constantly making improvements to better serve you.



Audio Storytelling

In 2022, we doubled down on podcasts, hiring veteran radio broadcaster Jay Black at the end of 2021 to oversee development. Here's how we're growing to serve you:

- More than a dozen reporters were trained on audio reporting by NPR veteran Tamar Charney, who led a two-day master class tailored to helping print reporters develop audio storytelling skills.
- One of our Politically Georgia podcasts hit a record, earning more than 10,000 downloads in a single week.
- Our local podcasts topped 80,000 monthly downloads for the first time in October. Leading the pack is Politically Georgia, which has become the model for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's sound.
- For Season 9 of the award-winning Breakdown podcast, Bill Rankin and Tamar Hallerman explored every angle in the special grand jury investigation into President Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 Georgia election. The journalists produced 22 episodes, explaining the legal arguments, strategies and precedents in this unusual case that put Fulton County into the national spotlight.



Live Events

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's live events are interactive, on-the-record expressions of our journalism, featuring our reporters and editors in conversation with experts and thought leaders from politics, sports, education and more. In 2022, we produced dozens of timely events reflecting the breadth of our coverage. Just hours after the Supreme Court's decision overturning abortion, our reporters hosted a live conversation breaking down the decision and its likely effect on Georgians. Our Braves reporters hosted events before each playoff game, sharing stories and observations while on the road with the team. In September, we returned to in-person events. We hosted State of Our State, where former Gov. Roy Barnes and then Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan shared insights about Georgia and national politics. And a live recording of our Politically Georgia podcast packed the house at Manuel's Tavern — and included a surprise visit by Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens.

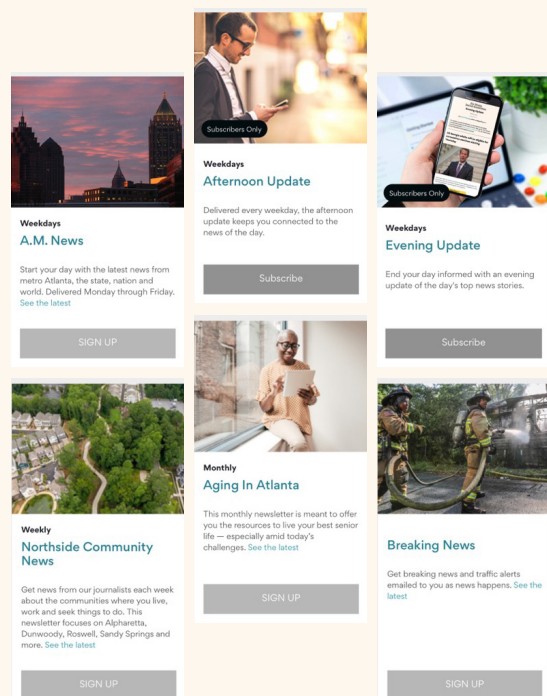
Commemorative Books

We published several successful books, including *"Against All Odds,"* which chronicles the Braves' 2021 World Series win, and *"A Tribute to the Hammer,"* about legendary Braves right fielder Hank Aaron. Our commemorative book published in collaboration with DawgNation, *"Top Dawgs: The Georgia Bulldogs' Remarkable Road to the National Championship,"* was a hit.

We were able to donate proceeds to the Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Foundation, which provides funding to programs supporting the achievements of youth with limited opportunities in the pursuit of their dreams.

Improving the Newsletter Experience

In 2022, we launched new newsletters and made upgrades to others. We continue to refine our morning newsletter to provide essential info as you start your day. Veteran sports reporter Mark Bradley took over Sports Daily with his personal touch, and co-hosts Nedra Rhone and Ernie Suggs continued exploring the stories, trends and events shaping Black culture in Atlanta through the Unapologetically ATL newsletter.



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Awards & Honors▶

2022 Barlett & Steele Awards (Silver Medal)

Dangerous Dwellings, Parts 1-3

Written by investigative reporters Alan Judd and Willoughby Mariano.

2022 David Lynch Award for Regional Reporters

Tia Mitchell

Our Washington correspondent, for political reporting.

Toner Prize for Excellence in Local Political Reporting

*For our coverage of the aftermath
of the 2020 elections.*

Reporters: David Wickert, Greg Bluestein, Mark Niese, Maya T. Prabhu, Tia Mitchell, Isaac Sabetai, Jim Galloway.

Editors: Susan Potter, James Salzer, Jim Denery

Photography: AJC staff, wire photos

Design and development: Pilar Plata, Dave Young, Donella Cohen