

JOHN M. FORBES

Multimedia Journalist

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Summary

John is a highly passionate and motivated journalist with extensive reporting, research, and multimedia storytelling experience. He has worked as a news editor in Denton, TX; freelance journalist in South Bend, IN; intern in the United States Senate in Washington, D.C.; reporting fellow for the Fort Worth Report; and now a freelance journalist based in DFW.

For John, journalism is the obvious result of a gravitational pull to public service and a love for storytelling. Each story in this ever-changing field offers inspiration to keep pursuing impactful truth.

Professional Experience

Freelance Journalist | January 2026 - Present

- I am currently operating as a freelance journalist in the DFW metroplex as I finish out my second degree from the University of North Texas.
- I am currently:
 - Fact-checking multiple stories a week for the Dallas Free Press' Dallas Documenters project.
 - Covering underreported committee meetings in Dallas.
 - Pursuing multiple longform investigative pieces in the health beat.

Fort Worth Report | August 2025 - December 2025

- As a reporting fellow with the Fort Worth Report, I cover as many topics as I can, including education, environment, business and arts & culture.
- A few examples of my reporting with the Fort Worth Report:
 - Local THC shops face new federal regulations that would decimate their business.
 - Dallas-Fort Worth is emerging as a hub for driverless trucking, experts say it could improve safety and ease traffic.
 - A shortage of male mentors forces young boys to wait twice as long as girls for a mentor through Tarrant County's Big Brothers Big Sisters program.
 - Fort Worth's smoke shops navigate through a recent ban on THC-containing vape pens.

South Bend Tribune | May 2025 - August 2025

- As a freelance reporter for the South Bend Tribune, I covered community-driven stories while sharpening my reporting and photography with a legacy USA Today network paper.
- A few examples of my reporting with the Tribune include:
 - A story covering Notre Dame's commencement ceremony and keynote speaker Christopher Grady, vice chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.
 - A story spotlighting how fireworks affect veterans.
 - A business profile of a man's leap of faith turned widely successful business.
 - A story covering how two Notre Dame professors plan to communicate scientific crisis through musical symphony.

Intern in the United States Senate | Jan. 27, 2025 - April 11, 2025

- As the primary correspondent for constituents contacting the office, I provided strictly nonpartisan work:
 - Organized and managed the large influx of calls, emails, and physical mail.
 - Attended and took notes on various Senate committee hearings for office staff.
 - Conducted policy, issue and background research to assist legislative assistants.

Professional Experience - Continued

News Editor/Staff Writer • North Texas Daily | January 2024 - December 2024

- Led and organized news coverage for the largest writing section at the *Daily*.
- Coordination with other members of the editorial board in editing, coordinating large coverage projects and the creation of a cohesive weekly edition.
- Some articles published during my tenure include stories:
 - Investigating multiple instances of sexualized photos of women taken at the university's gym and published on an online forum.
 - Investigating the city's affordable housing incentive program, finding that their metric to determine affordability is based on much wealthier areas in the DFW area.
 - Covering the university's new restrictive guidelines to faculty research to comply with anti-DEI legislation.
- My personal reporting at the North Texas Daily includes wide-ranging coverage of news including breaking news, higher education, municipal government and politics, national issues, local and national political races and in-depth investigative pieces.
- A few examples of my personal reporting at the Daily includes:
 - A breaking story uncovering the UNT College of Education's scrubbing of DEI from course curricula.
 - How, as a direct result of this coverage, national civil liberty organizations slammed the University of North Texas for scrubbing DEI from the College of Education's course curricula.
 - A column series entitled "Local Lens" which analyzed how presidential policies on various topics would affect Denton and Texas locally.
 - A story highlighting the over 1,000 abruptly fired employees after Alamo Drafthouse franchise owner filed for bankruptcy.

Education

University of North Texas • 2021 - Present

Bachelor's degrees:

- Political science
- Digital/print journalism

Expected graduation: May 2026

Skills

- Breaking news reporting
- investigative news reporting
- Editing
- Research
- Photography
- Videography



Research conducted:

Hostage taking and hostage diplomacy; an analysis

- Research poster presented at the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago • April 4, 2024.

Certifications & Awards

- Investigative Reporters & Editors Accessfest25 fellow
- Social & Behavioral Research certification through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (Citi) program.
- Fall 2023 Dean's List
- Spring 2024 President's List

