

JOHN M. FORBES

Multimedia Journalist

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Summary

John is a highly passionate and motivated journalist with extensive experience in reporting, research, and multimedia storytelling. Previous positions include freelance journalist based in South Bend, IN; news editor in Denton, TX; and intern in the United States Senate in Washington, D.C. He currently serves as a reporting fellow for the Fort Worth Report, a nonprofit newsroom in Fort Worth, TX, partnered with the Texas Tribune and ProPublica.

Professional Experience

Fort Worth Report | August 2025 - Present

- As a reporting fellow with the Fort Worth Report, I cover a wide variety of topics from business to arts & culture.
- A few examples of my reporting with the Fort Worth Report so far include:
 - An article examining how some Fort Worth smoke shops have navigated a recent ban on THC-containing vapes
 - An article that covers how recent construction delays have halted an already congested school's expansion
 - An article spotlighting how young boys applying for a mentor with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program wait twice as long as girls due to a shortage of male mentors.

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.

North Texas Daily | Jan. 2024 - Dec. 2024

- 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 reporting at the Daily includes:
 - A breaking story uncovering the UNT College of Education's scrubbing of DEI from 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.

Professional Experience - Continued

News Editor • North Texas Daily | May 2024 - December 2024

- Led and organized news coverage for the largest writing section at the *Daily*.
- Coverage included:
 - City politics and government affairs
 - Human interest stories
 - Higher education and events pertinent to the university
- 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.

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

- As the primary correspondent for constituents contacting the office, I:
 - Organized and managed the large influx of calls, emails, and physical mail
 - Wrote letters on various issues to be sent to constituents via automatic reply/emails sent en masse.
- Research for legislative assistants:
 - Conducted research into bills, policies, reporters, topics, etc. to help the office's legislative aids.

Education

University of North Texas • 2021 - Present

Bachelor's degrees:

- Political science
- Digital/print journalism

Expected graduation: May 2026

Research conducted:

Hostage taking and hostage diplomacy; an analysis

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

Skills

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

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

