



OPEN THE
BOOKS™

Every Dime. Online. In Real Time.



AMERICA'S NEXT

250

REAL TIME TRANSPARENCY FOR AMERICA'S THIRD CENTURY

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“

*Every dollar saved in Washington is a dream
realized somewhere in America.*

“

I hold the maxim no less applicable to
public than to private affairs, that
honesty is always the best policy.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

First President of the United States



FREEDOM · COURAGE · SELF-DETERMINATION

INNOVATION · HEALTHY DEBATE

A Letter to Fellow Patriots

Dear Fellow Patriot,

This year America turns 250 — and we find ourselves where our Founders once stood: at the beginning of something. They were the great innovators of their age, and they wrote transparency into the Constitution before the Bill of Rights, because a free people must be able to see their own government.

None of the work in these pages is possible without you. Every investigation, every bill advanced, every dollar returned to the taxpayer — your partnership made it happen. When we say this is **your** work, we mean it plainly.

Our job isn't to cater to power but to speak truth to it, and to follow the data wherever it leads. Transparency 1.0 put government spending online. Transparency 2.0 makes it intelligent and real time — the difference between a filing cabinet and a searchlight.

We carry this forward in the spirit of our founder, Adam Andrzejewski, who believed that **every dollar saved in Washington is a dream realized somewhere in America.**

America's first 250 years proved that self-government works when citizens can engage in it. The next 250 depend on what we build now — together. Thank you for standing with us.



Craig Mijares

CO-FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN & CEO



“Open the Books is doing the work I envisioned... putting sunlight through a magnifying glass.”

DR. TOM COBURN · former U.S. Senator & Honorary Chairman Emeritus

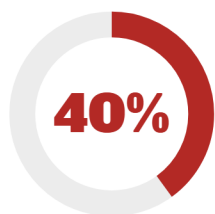
Real Impact, Quantified

WHAT THEY
DON'T WANT YOU
TO SEE

60,000+

FOIA REQUESTS ANNUALLY

to supplement publicly available data



OUR DATA
COVERAGE OF
ALL U.S.
ECONOMIC
ACTIVITY

TRILLIONS IN COVERAGE

\$44.6T

FINANCIAL RECORDS

\$10.6T

PUBLIC SALARIES

\$33.9T

LINE-BY-LINE SPENDING

\$12T

ANNUAL ACTIVITY

CHANGING THE CONVERSATION

38.6B editorial reach

700+ investigations

Top 1% of all Substacks

4.19M impressions

1M+ monthly visits

24,710 media mentions

CNN

'Use it or lose it': Pentagon
spending binge set record in
final days of fiscal year

March 2026

FOX NEWS

Federal employees in the hot
seat as GOP senator pushes
transparency proposal

December 2025

New York Post

Feds forked over \$4.6B for
new furniture since 2020 —
despite half showing up:
watchdog

April 2025

Transparency

Two hundred fifty years of American freedom — and the golden thread of transparency that secures a bright future. Open the Books seeks a civic renaissance of citizen engagement and fact-based discussion of policy tradeoffs.

PAST · THE CONSTITUTION

“...A regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.”

U.S. CONSTITUTION · ART. I, SEC. 9, CL. 7

PRESENT · A REFORMER

“With transparency comes accountability... [prior law has] proven woefully inadequate at providing citizens timely and complete information on their government.”

SEN. TOM COBURN · 2006

FUTURE · OPEN THE BOOKS

“Our Founders wrote transparency into the Constitution before the Bill of Rights because it is a First Principle. Had they had today’s technology, they would have insisted on real-time transparency.”

OPEN THE BOOKS

“It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes — a principle which, if acted on, would save one-half the wars of the world.”

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Your partnership helps us keep alive the spirit of the American Revolution — where every dollar saved in Washington is a dream realized somewhere in America.

THE GOLDEN THREAD OF TRANSPARENCY

50 BC

CICERO

The moral case for accountability — rulers bound by a higher, universal law.

1215

MAGNA CARTA

The sovereign is bound by law: no taxes without common counsel.

1644

AREOPAGITICA

Milton on open information — hiding facts breeds corruption.

1789

CONSTITUTION

A public ‘Statement and Account’ of all public money.

We Open Them

so citizens can demand better

\$20,474

in federal spending for every person in America
— **up 9,700% even adjusted for inflation.**

34%

of state revenue now comes from Washington
— a fiscal disaster there rolls through every level
of government.

FY2025 FEDERAL BUDGET

OUTLAYS \$7T · REVENUE \$5.2T · DEFICIT \$1.8T

MANDATORY \$4.1T

DISCRETIONARY \$1.9T

INTEREST \$1T

Total outlays of \$7 trillion against \$5.2 trillion in revenue — a \$1.8 trillion deficit. Mandatory spending shown excluding net interest.

Congress could cut all discretionary spending — the bulk of what most Americans picture as their government — and we would **still be in the red**. The interest on our debt alone is now more than we spend on national defense.

We have a moral obligation to the next generation to preserve a free and prosperous country — yet we continue to saddle them with obligations we never intend to pay.

2006

TRANSPARENCY 1.0

The Funding Accountability & Transparency Act puts all federal spending online.

2014

OPEN THE BOOKS

Adam Andrzejewski & Craig Mijares build the nation's largest private spending database.

2026

TRANSPARENCY 2.0

The Founders' vision realized — real-time, AI-powered, a surveillance citizenry.

Future

A CIVIC RENAISSANCE

Citizen engagement reborn — We The People back at the center of the debate over how our money is spent.



IN THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENS

Driving the Conversation in Washington

Your support didn't just expose waste, fraud, and abuse — it put verified, line-item data inside the halls of power where reform is possible. We've spent years learning to communicate the harmful effects of Washington's spending addiction to members and their staff. In a free society, you cannot have accountability without visibility.

APRIL 2025

Open the Books testified before the House DOGE Subcommittee on the federal real estate portfolio, detailing billions spent “decorating and redecorating the administrative state” — including **\$4.6 billion on new furniture since 2020**. Coverage followed in the New York Post, The Federalist, Roll Call, C-SPAN's Washington Journal, and FOX News' The Ingraham Angle.

DEC 2025

We testified before the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship at “Running Government Like a Small Business: Cut Waste, Crush Fraud,” contrasting the discipline of small businesses with a federal government that “does less with more” — framing every dollar saved in Washington as a dream realized somewhere in America.

MARCH 2026

During the Sunshine Week of America's 250th anniversary year, our case for real-time transparency reached the floor: the bipartisan **Expedited Transparency Act** (Reps. Jimmy Panetta, D-CA, and Josh Brecheen, R-OK) would cut federal spending disclosure from 30 days to three.

They Don't Just Make Headlines — They Make Bills

Each of these was introduced or advanced as a direct result of our research.

STOP SECRET SPENDING ACT OF 2025 · SEN. JONI ERNST

Proposed in 2025 and passed the Senate in June 2026, it closes a loophole abused by the Administrative State to avoid scrutiny — requiring all previously unpublicized “Other Transaction Agreements” on USAspending.gov. Likely to be signed by President Trump in 2026.

ROYALTY TRANSPARENCY ACT

SEN. RAND PAUL

Advanced 12–0 through the Senate Homeland Security committee in August 2025, with senators crediting Open the Books on the record.

MAKE DOGE PERMANENT ACT

REP. CHIP ROY

Invoice-level visibility into every federal payment over \$25,000 — a direct result of our “America’s Checkbook” advocacy.

TRACKS ACT

SEN. ERNST & REP. STEFANIK

Requires disclosure of grant and contract dollars flowing to countries of concern — building on our finding that \$1.3 billion reached Chinese and Russian entities.

WHERE’S WALDO ACT

SEN. JONI ERNST

Answers our finding that federal workforce redactions exploded from 2,300 names in FY2016 to more than 350,000 by FY2022.



“Open the Books, through a Freedom of Information Act request, discovered that 2,400 NIH scientists received more than \$300 million in royalty payments during the last decade.”

SEN. RAND PAUL (R-KY)



“I would like to recognize the great work of the nonpartisan group, Open the Books, that is working to put every dime the government spends online in real time, to hold Washington accountable.”

SEN. JONI ERNST (R-IA)

Four Institutions Changed — This Is Your Work

01

CASE STUDY

Embracing Meritocracy



James Ryan, University of Virginia President, resigned July 2025

Photo: AP

Three years of relentless documentation of DEI spending across America's public universities produced institutional change at five major schools in a single year. At the University of Virginia, our exposé of a \$1 billion DEI program with \$20 million in annual DEI payroll preceded the board dismantling the DEI office — and the president's resignation. The UNC system banned DEI offices across 16 campuses after our report documented \$90 million a year and 686 DEI staffers. Within a month of our UCLA report, \$350 million in grants were cancelled.

OUTCOME · Five universities changed course. One report can move a senator. Three years of reports can move an institution.

02

CASE STUDY

A Legacy of Searching for the Truth



Dr. Anthony Fauci

Photo: ABC News

Adam Andrzejewski's last published investigation — litigated with Judicial Watch — forced the NIH to reveal more than \$325 million in private royalty payments flowing to government scientists across 56,000 transactions, and kept producing results long after his passing. In August 2025 the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee advanced the Royalty Transparency Act unanimously, with Sen. Rand Paul crediting Open the Books on the record and Sen. Joni Ernst entering a tribute to Adam into the Congressional Record.

OUTCOME · We helped reveal one of the largest potential sources of conflicted interest for key government bureaucrats at NIH.

From Schoolhouse to Statehouse

03

CASE STUDY

Looking Out for the Next Generation



Photo: Shutterstock

As 12,531 school districts welcomed students back in September 2025, we compared payroll growth against student performance on the Nation's Report Card. State by state, rising payrolls were associated with falling rankings. The New York Post broke our findings — and then its editorial board built its own argument on our data: **"America's schools need to stop spending money on staff that worsen kids' learning."**

OUTCOME • One of America's most influential newspapers adopted our analysis as its editorial position — the highest form of earned media a watchdog can earn.

04

CASE STUDY

Capturing the Moment



Photo: Yelp

When the largest welfare fraud scandal in American history broke open in Minnesota, Open the Books was ready to contribute — our reporting on federal funds flowing into the state's programs helped surface the patterns long before the national press arrived. By spring 2026, the House Oversight Committee had called the governor and attorney general to testify, and **federal regulators moved to defer \$259 million in Medicaid reimbursements to the state.**

OUTCOME • Congressional hearings, federal action, and a national case study in what citizen-accessible data makes possible.



REINFORCEMENTS FOR THE WAR ON WASTE

Your support supplies the ammunition

\$93.4B

USE IT OR LOSE IT: THE PENTAGON'S SEPTEMBER PROBLEM

Decades-old “use-it-or-lose-it” rules push every agency to spend down its accounts before the fiscal year closes. Our analysis found the Pentagon obligated **\$93.4 billion in grants and contracts in September 2025** — more than half in the final five working days, with line items from \$6.9 million in lobster tail to a \$98,329 grand piano. Independent fact-checkers confirmed our data straight from the government’s own books, and the story reached tens of millions of Americans. You cannot fix year-end spending sprees you cannot see.



THE COST OF FRAUD

Our new 2026 series tallies the hidden fees fraud adds to every tax return — opening with roughly \$200 million in improper Medicaid autism payments across four states, \$77.8 million in Colorado alone, and building on our 2025 finding of \$925 billion in improper payments.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ME

In January 2026 we found 24 senators — 13 Democrats, 11 Republicans — requested \$636 million in earmarks for universities they personally attended. When it’s waste, we point it out, regardless of party.

38.6 Billion Reasons the Story Got Through

38.6B

in potential editorial reach

24,710

total media mentions

\$255M

paid-ad value of earned coverage

More important than any single mention is a deliberate “quality over quantity” strategy: rather than optimize for clip counts, we work to land the right stories in the right outlets at the right moments — placements that don’t just generate headlines but bend the editorial agenda, mobilize policymakers, and produce measurable real-world results.

“ WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING



“Before DOGE there was Open the Books. For some 20 years they have been bringing the receipts.”

BILL MARTINEZ · The Bill Martinez Show



“You’re revered in DC. You’re the gold standard for rooting out the corruption and the abuse of taxpayers.”

ELIZABETH MACDONALD · FOX Business



“Open the Books has done a phenomenal job for years on calling to our attention the waste, fraud, and abuse.”

EMILY COMPAGNO · FOX Outnumbered



“Open the Books was DOGE before there was DOGE.”

VICKI MCKENNA · radio host



The Amplification Engine

When our investigations are packaged for the platforms where Americans already are, they travel. Elon Musk’s amplification of our “Cash for Migrants” findings reached **39 million views** — the largest single audience in our history. Sens. Mike Lee and Joni Ernst, Mollie Hemingway, Steve Forbes, and dozens of national voices shared our work, giving each investigation a second life.



Photo: Politico

Top 1%
OF ALL SUBSTACKS
116,000+ subscribers, 4.19M views — up 101% YoY.

423%
INSTAGRAM REACH
Adapting to shifting media habits.

110,767
TESTIMONY VIEWS
Proceedings made accessible.

THE MONTHLY AUDIT • A branded email landing the final weekend of each month — our accountability work, a Waste of the Day, a data visual, and a TV clip, all in one place.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

JUDICIAL WATCH	CITIZEN PORTAL	POLCO
STAND TOGETHER	REALCLEARPOLITICS	SINCLAIR



⚙️ AI AND THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM

Clean Data for a **Parched Public Square**

Just as the Roman aqueducts changed civilization by carrying clean water into the cities, our AI and the Future of Freedom project carries clean data into a parched public square — raising a new generation of superintelligent activists that manifest a **surveillance citizenry**, not a surveillance state.

MONEYBALL FOR GOVERNMENT SPENDING

The statistics are all around us; the first to see the unseen trend wins the debate. With the largest spending database in human history and an all-star partner list, we can begin **predicting the effect of spending policy before it becomes law**.

THE RIGHT COALITION

Breaking through polarization takes relentless cooperation and cross-ideological dialogue. In April 2026, we and our partner Citizen Portal convened **75 policy and tech leaders at Old Parkland in Dallas** — the first of many gatherings growing the movement for accountable, transparent, efficient government.

Paul Allen · Citizen Portal · Co-founder, Ancestry.com

Nick Mastronardi · Polco, Hoover Institution

Galen Hines-Pierce · Recoding America, Minerva Fund

O.J. Oleka · State Financial Officers Foundation

Bill Beach · Fiscal Lab · Former BLS Commissioner

Travis Oliphant · OpenTeams · Python contributor

Kelsey Murray & Glyn McKay · Club for Growth Foundation

Tanner Jones · Vulcan AI



A superintelligent citizenry is the surest defense a free republic has ever had.

THE OLD PARKLAND CONVENING · DALLAS · APRIL 2026

The Torch He Lit

Adam Andrzejewski · 1969–2024

Adam Andrzejewski walked away from business with a singular idea: hold government accountable to the taxpayers it serves. He built Open the Books from a gathering of concerned parents at a neighbor’s kitchen table into the nation’s largest private database of public spending. In the words of the Wall Street Journal, “Open the Books has fomented a revolution in fiscal transparency.”

Adam believed every dollar saved in Washington was a dream realized somewhere in America. Two years after his passing, his work is still saving dollars. His final published investigation — the NIH royalties exposé — advanced through a Senate committee unanimously in 2025. The database he built, which we now call **Project Adam**, grows every single day.



ADAM ANDRZEJEWSKI · FOUNDER

“Our founders knew that knowledge is power. They recognized the power of transparency — and they wrote it into our founding documents.”

ADAM ANDRZEJEWSKI · HILLSDALE COLLEGE ADDRESS

THE ADAM ANDRZEJEWSKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

\$25K

Awarded each year to a current or incoming college student who demonstrates a commitment to transparency as a First Principle. The first generation of transparency revolutionaries built the database — the scholarship ensures the next generation builds what comes after.

Our Leadership

Saving the country from fiscal collapse is hard work — but we've built the right team to get us back on track. From ensuring our data is complete and accurate to crafting the right message, we're ready to put We The People back at the center of the conversation about how our tax dollars are spent.



Craig Mijares

CO-FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN & CEO



Matt Carnovale

DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIPS



Talya Messeri

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



Christopher Neefus

VP OF COMMUNICATIONS



Rachel O'Brien

NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON



Aran Spence

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

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Jameson Campaigne · Treasurer

Chuck Chokel

Lisa Markham

Richard Weiss

Craig Mijares · Executive Chairman & CEO

☆ JOIN THE TRANSPARENCY REVOLUTION

The Next 250 Years Start With You

As a nonprofit, we operate solely from charitable donations. We receive no government funding. Our mission is made possible by you, our partners — and the work in these pages is your work.

America's first 250 years proved that self-government works when citizens can see their government. The next 250 depend on what we build together: every dime, online, in real time — and intelligent tools that put that power in every citizen's hands.

“We don't have a trillion-dollar debt because we have not taxed enough, but because we spend too much.”

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN · 1982

It's YOUR Money. Give today at [OPENTHEBOOKS.COM/DONATE](https://openthebooks.com/donate)



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Every Dime. Online. In Real Time.

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