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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **New Jersey Civic Information Consortium expresses deep concern over The Star-Ledger's print halt, urges action to support local news**

**October 30, 2024** — The New Jersey Civic Information Consortium is deeply concerned over The Star-Ledger's [announcement](#) to cease print publication as of January 1, 2025. As New Jersey's largest newspaper, The Star-Ledger has long served as a vital source of local journalism, covering state issues, community developments, and public affairs. The halt in its print operations marks a significant loss for the Garden State's news ecosystem.

The decline of traditional local news outlets threatens to leave New Jersey residents with limited access to essential, fact-based information about their communities, particularly those who do not have, or know how to browse, the internet. Seniors, low income residents, and others who may pick up a paper occasionally all will feel the loss. This trend highlights the urgency of the Consortium's mission to bolster and sustain quality, accessible news and information throughout the state.

"This is more than a business decision—it has a direct impact on New Jersey's communities that depend on robust local reporting to stay informed and engaged," said Chris Daggett, Board Chair and Interim Executive Director of the Consortium. "Without strong and continued public funding and support, we risk facing a New Jersey where essential local news coverage fades, leaving an information gap that undermines our democracy."

The Consortium is working to fill these gaps through grants and partnerships that fund innovative news initiatives, promote civic engagement, and provide coverage for underserved communities across the state. Since its founding, the Consortium has invested \$7.5M in grants statewide, supporting news organizations, journalists, and nonprofits committed to keeping New Jerseyans informed.

As the Star-Ledger transitions to digital-only, the Consortium encourages community members, policymakers, and philanthropic partners to invest in the future of local news through sustainable funding mechanisms. By supporting public initiatives like the Consortium, we can

help ensure that essential news and information continue to serve all New Jersey residents, both in digital and print forms.

**About the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium:** The [New Jersey Civic Information Consortium](#) is a first-of-its-kind initiative established by the State of NJ to support the revitalization of local news and information across the state. The Consortium provides funding to projects that meet the information needs of underserved communities, encourage civic engagement, and strengthen local journalism. By investing in innovative and sustainable local news models, NJCIC is committed to ensuring every New Jersey resident has access to reliable and trustworthy community-based news and information.

For more information on the Consortium's work and impact, please visit [www.njcivicinfo.org](http://www.njcivicinfo.org).