Local Government Accountability Reporter

The successful candidate will know how to balance rapidly developing news, issues and trend stories, deep-dive enterprise and watchdog stories, and will understand how to tailor high-concept and complex stories to a general readership, showing why local government matters to everyone.

The reporter is a problem-solver with the ability to work quickly and thoughtfully, adjusting based upon the needs of the story; a problem-solver with excellent writing and editing skills and a nose for news and features and the ability to develop relevant contacts; loves the mix of local reporting we do at the Fort Worth Report, where we live at the intersections of people and public policy. Our nonpartisan reporting centers on civic life, including government accountability, education, business, arts and culture, the environment, health and religion.

In all of our reporting, we want to amplify the voices of Fort Worth and Tarrant County residents. Our journalists are required to live in Tarrant County and be embedded in our communities.

We are a nonprofit and nonpartisan all-digital news organization focused on producing strong local journalism leading to better public policy and improved civic engagement. Our audience describes us as “refreshing” because we focus on reporting the facts and all sides of an issue rather than offering our own opinions. This is a full-time position with good company benefits, including major medical, a matching 401k plan and a generous PTO policy.

The successful candidate will be a problem-solver with excellent writing and editing skills and a nose for news. The person loves the mix of local reporting we aspire to do at the Fort Worth Report, as outlined in our reader research and posted at fortworthreport.org. The goal is to produce world-class journalism that expands Fort Worth Report’s relevance, impact and reach.

This reporter will be part of a two-person government accountability reporting team collaborating with a team at our nonprofit partner, public broadcasters
KERA. We are independent news organizations, but the Report and KERA see the benefit of collaborating to further our shared missions of providing local journalism that makes a difference in our audiences’ lives. To further this effort, some KERA journalists are working out of the Report’s newsroom in Fort Worth.

The Fort Worth Report offers deep coverage of civic issues, local government, education, business, and arts and culture in an all-digital platform.

**MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Write quick-hitting daily stories about high-impact news that rapidly develops in a booming city and county.

- Cultivate expertise in local government policy and issues to generate ideas for high-impact stories, including meeting with sources, background research, submitting public records requests, and other investigative functions.

- Routinely hold public officials accountable through smart use of the Texas Open Meetings Act and the Public Information Act and use of database reporting.

- Value, contribute to and sustain Fort Worth Report’s commitment to a culture of belonging that sees our culture’s history of power and privilege and seeks to balance that with the inclusion of many diverse experiences and perspectives.

- Provide digital storytelling (by gathering audio, taking photos, producing videos and embedding graphics online using tools like Infogram) with clear, concise writing that makes complicated issues accessible and informs our audience why a story is important to them.

- Integrate audience interaction with reporting by working with the editors and other staff members. Specifically, the reporter will promote stories by posting them on the company’s social media platforms and by appearing on KERA, Texas Standard and other outlets that ask about the Fort Worth Report’s work. This reporter will also respond to and gather ideas from readers’ comments in person, on the phone and online.
Schedule flexibility. This reporter will generally work 40 hours a week. Work schedule will be determined by reporting, meetings and assignments, so there will be some evening, weekend and holiday work.

All staff members are expected to live in Fort Worth or Tarrant County.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Good-natured, ambitious and ready to grow with our new journalism initiative.
- Proven ability to use databases and other investigative reporting tools. We expect our stories to go deep and lead to change in public policy.
- 5 years reporting experience.
- Varied multimedia experience, including video, audio and web storytelling. Photography is a plus.
- Excellent communication skills and ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously and work under deadline pressure.
- Multiplatform experience, including writing and AP Style, shooting video, taking photos, posting to social media and on content management systems.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with an ability to work cross-functionally with different departments and work styles.
- Must be comfortable with fast-moving organizational culture.
- Handle other duties as may be assigned by senior editors.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- Good written/verbal communication skills.
- Driver’s license, reliable transportation and current automobile insurance.
Along with ample opportunity for growth in the country’s 13th-largest city, we offer a competitive salary, plus health insurance (medical, dental, vision), generous holiday, sick and vacation leave, and flexible work hours.

There are great candidates who might not check all these boxes or who hold important skills we haven’t listed. Don’t hesitate to apply and tell us about yourself. FWR is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to hiring employees from diverse backgrounds. People of color, women, LGBTQ+, and differently-abled people are strongly encouraged to apply.

As a start-up, we’re often called to wear many hats and jump in to help each other when the situation calls for it. We’re committed to maintaining a healthy work-life balance and providing a place for staff to feel supported in their professional growth and achieve ambitious goals.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

● Apply by email to hello@fortworthreport.org and Managing Editor Thomas Martinez, thomas.martinez@fortworthreport.org. You also may upload your material to our jobs portal at Fort Worth Report.org. Please send a resume, cover letter and work samples.