

Applied OSINT For Politics: Turning Open Data Into News

@lloydamiller

github.com/lloydamiller

Transparency is the point

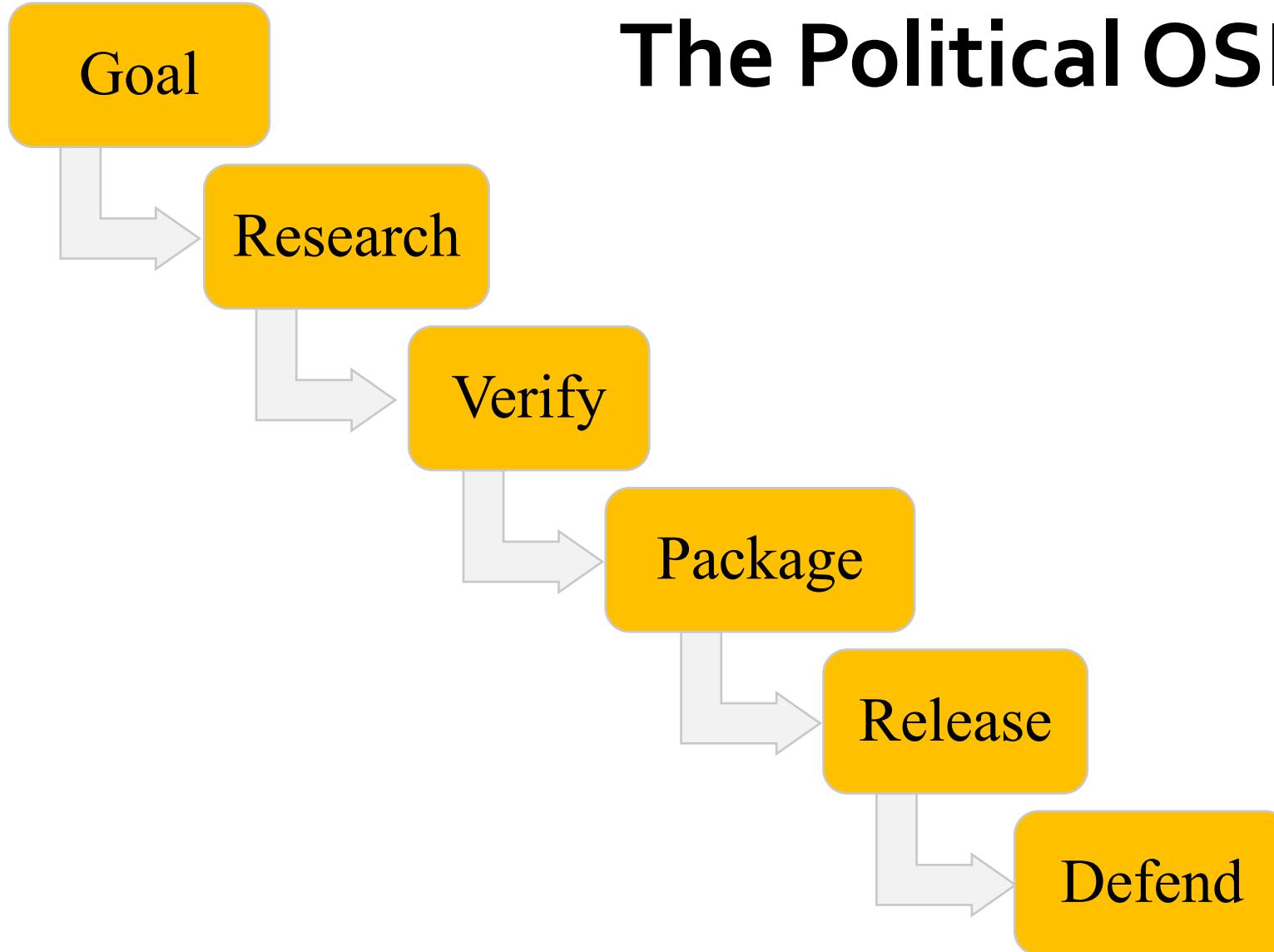
These records exist to be examined by the
public

Use them responsibly

What We Will Cover Today

1. Process for looking into elected officials' public records
2. OSINT resources unique to public figures
3. What to do if you find something
4. It really works (the case studies)

The Political OSINT Process



OSINT Sources & Tools For Politics

- Campaign Finance
- Personal Financial Disclosure
- Legislative Office Disbursements
- Voter Records
- Business & Property Records
- Public records request



Campaign Finance Reports

From Federal Election Commission (FEC) or state elections office

- Donors (addresses, employers)
- Campaign Staff (addresses, salaries)
- Vendors
 - Consultants
 - Software
 - Office Space

Full Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) HICKS, HOPE, , ,			Date of Disbursement M M / D D / Y Y Y Y 12 09 2016
Mailing Address [REDACTED]			FEC Identification Number C [REDACTED]
City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]	Zip Code [REDACTED]	Transaction ID : SB23.461186 Amount of Each Disbursement this Period 11666.67
Purpose of Disbursement COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING		Category/ Type	Memo Item
Candidate Name			
Office Sought: <input type="checkbox"/> House <input type="checkbox"/> Senate <input type="checkbox"/> President	Disbursement For: 2016 <input type="checkbox"/> Primary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Other (specify) ▾		
State:	District:		

Financial Disclosures

- Owned property
- Business interests
- Income sources
- Mortgages, car loans
- Bank, retirement, and investment accounts
- Financial transactions

Wells Fargo, IRA
Wells Fargo
Old Orchard Land Trust
Aurilia Properties LLC
Menards Peoria LLC
Citizens Equity First Credit Union

Legislative Office OSINT

From administrative office of legislative body

- Staff (names, titles, salaries)
- Travel (and who paid for it)
- Vendors and equipment

	01/03/18	03/31/18	SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR	12,555.57
BLAKE,KRISTENE	01/03/18	03/31/18	DIR OF ADMIN OPERATIONS	33,000.00
BLANKENSHIP, APRIL L.	01/03/18	03/31/18	FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR	5,576.03
BUCK,BRENDAN K	01/03/18	03/31/18	COUNSELOR TO THE SPEAKER	42,166.67
BURKS,JONATHAN	01/03/18	03/31/18	CHIEF OF STAFF	42,166.67
BUSH,NICHOLAS J	01/03/18	03/31/18	SHARED EMPLOYEE	24,444.43
CALLAS,GEORGE A	01/03/18	03/31/18	CHIEF TAX COUNSEL	41,725.70
CAMERON,JESSICA E	01/03/18	03/31/18	LAW CLERK	13,444.43
CHAMBERS, KELLY A.	01/03/18	03/31/18	SHARED EMPLOYEE	24,444.43
COYLE,SARAH M	01/03/18	03/31/18	FLOOR ASSISTANT	12,454.44
DEM HERRERA, NEW, S.	01/03/18	03/31/18	STAFF ASSISTANT	2,886.88

Voter Registrations

From County Offices

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Address
- Partisanship
- Voting History And Type

Numbered rows 1 through 7 and 12 must be completed for a new registration.

Florida Voter Registration Application
Part 2 – Form (DS-DE #39, R1S-2.040, F.A.C.) (eff. 10/2013)

The downloadable/printable online form is available at:
<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/pdf/webappform.pdf>

This is: New Registration Record Update/Change (e.g., Address, Party Affiliation, Name, Signature) Request to Replace Voter Information Card

1	Are you a citizen of the United States of America?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	OFFICIAL USE ONLY
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I affirm that I am not a convicted felon, or if I am, my right to vote has been restored.			
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I affirm that I have not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or, if I have, my right to vote has been restored.			
4	Date of Birth (MM-DD-YYYY)	0 1 - 0 1 - 1 9 4 5	FVRS No:	If no FL DL or FL ID, then provide Last 4 digits of Social Security Number
5	S 1 2 3 - 4 5 6 - 4 5 - 7 8 9 - 0			<input type="checkbox"/> I have NONE of these numbers.
6	Last Name SAMPLE	First Name JOHN	Middle Name EX	Name Suffix (Jr., Sr., I, II, etc.): JR
7	Address Where You Live (legal residence-no P.O. Box) 123 ANY STREET	Apt/Lot/Unit	City ANYTOWN	County VOLUSIA Zip Code 32100
8	Mailing Address (if different from above address)	Apt/Lot/Unit	City	State or Country Zip Code
9	Address Where You Were Last Registered to Vote	Apt/Lot/Unit	City	State Zip Code
10	Former Name (if name is changed)	Gender <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	State or Country of Birth	Telephone No. (optional) ()
11	<input type="checkbox"/> Email me SAMPLE BALLOTS if option is available in my county. (See Public Record Notice above) My email address is:			
Party Affiliation (Check only one. If left blank, you will be registered without party affiliation)		Race/Ethnicity (Check only one)	(Check only one if applicable)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Florida Democratic Party <input type="checkbox"/> Republican Party of Florida <input type="checkbox"/> No party affiliation <input type="checkbox"/> Minor party (print party name):		<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Black, not of Hispanic Origin <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> White, not of Hispanic Origin <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-racial <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> I am an active duty Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine member <input type="checkbox"/> I am a spouse or a dependent of an active duty uniformed services or merchant marine member <input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.	
12	Oath: I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida, that I am qualified to register as an elector under the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, and that all information provided in this application is true.			SIGN/ MARK HERE
<i>John Ex Sample, Jr</i>				Date 01/01/2014

So you think you found
something in the public
interest?

Now what?

What You Need To Consider When You Fleshing Out A Story

- How much of the story is missing?
- Has this happened before?
- Who is your intended audience and why will they care?
- Who knows more about this subject than you?

Order Of Attention

Reprehensible

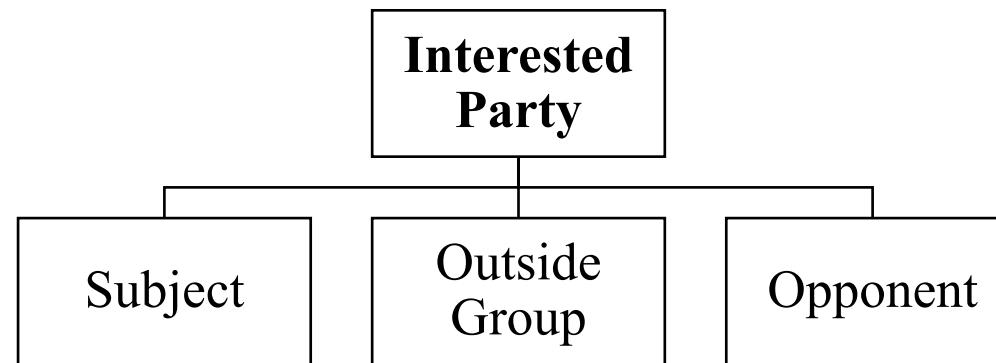
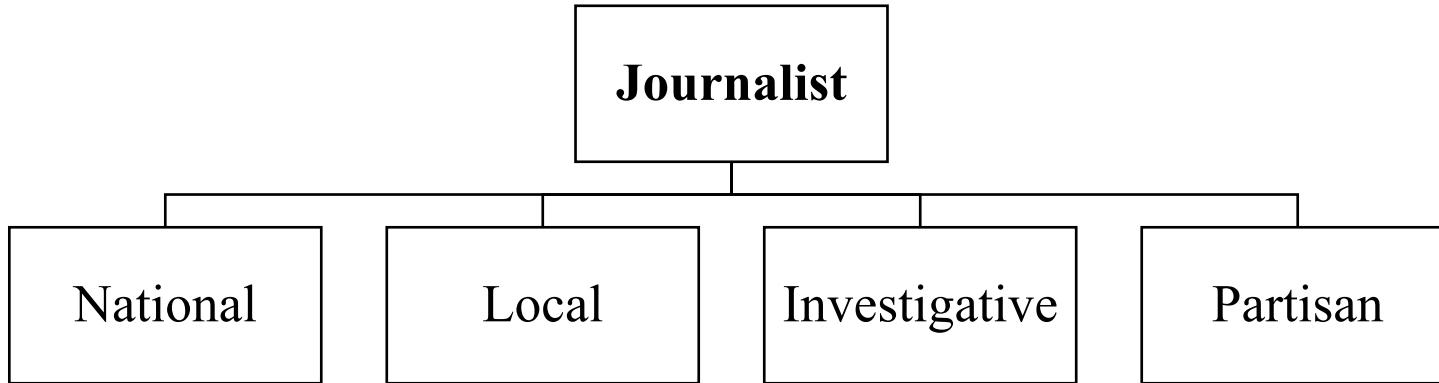
Hypocritical

Immoral

Illegal

Unethical

Who Do You Tell?



Pitching A Story

- Know the reporter
- Start small
- Be prepared
- Don't over-promise
- Be honest about your interest

Self-Publishing

- Keep It Simple
- Verify
- Visualizations help
- Be cautious with humor
- Your existing audience ≠ your target audience
- Promote and pitch
- Prepare to become part of the story

OSINT In Action

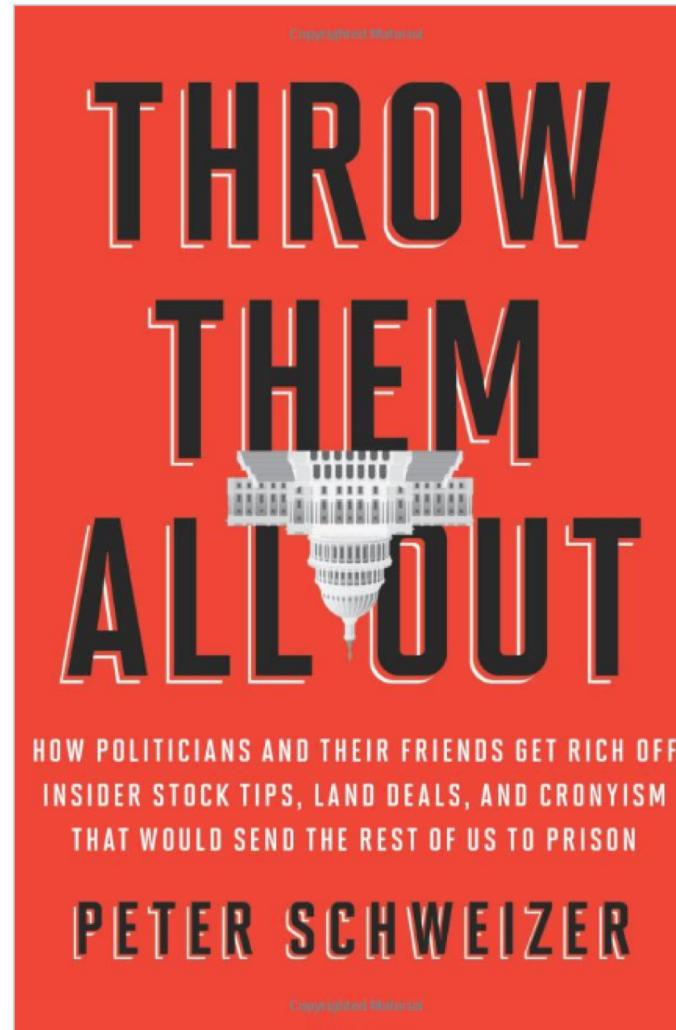
Selling Out Before The Financial Crisis

What Happened: A member of the United States Congress may have been used insider information gained as a Member of Congress of the impending financial crisis, and sold off significant stock holdings before those warnings were made public.

Selling Out Before The Financial Crisis

Credit Suisse Group common stock	Purchase,Sale	1/2/2008	2/21/2008	\$1,001 - \$15,000 (Purchase & Sale)
CVS Caremark Corp common stock	Sale		9/17/2008	\$1,001 - \$15,000
Deere and Co. common stock	Sale		9/3/08, 9/17/08	\$1,001 - \$15,000
Edison International common stock	Sale		9/17/2008	\$1,001 - \$15,000
Exxon Mobil Corp. common stock	Purchase,Sale	7/17/2008	1/2/08, 2/14/08, 9/17/08	\$1,001 - \$15,000 (Purchase & Sale)
Franklin Resources Inc. common stock	Purchase,Sale	7/29/2008	9/17/2008	\$1,001 - \$15,000 (Purchase & Sale)
General Dynamics Corp. common stock	Sale		9/17/2008	\$1,001 - \$15,000
Goldman Sachs Group Inc. common stock	Sale		9/17/2008	\$1,001 - \$15,000
Halliburton Co. common stock	Purchase,Sale	2/14/2008	7/17/08, 8/13/08, 9/17/08	\$1,001 - \$15,000 (Purchase & Sale)
Hartford Financial Services Group Inc. common stock	Purchase,Sale	1/2/2008	3/6/2008	\$1,001 - \$15,000 (Purchase & Sale)
Hess Corp. common stock	Sale		5 Sales	\$1,001 - \$15,000
Hewlett Packard Co. common stock	Sale		9/17/2008	\$1,001 - \$15,000
International Business Machines common stock	Sale		5/15/08, 7/17/08, 9/17/08	\$1,001 - \$15,000
Johnson & Johnson common stock	Sale		9/17/2008	\$1,001 - \$15,000
JPMorgan Chase & Co. common stock	Purchase,Sale	1/2/2008	9/17/2008	\$1,001 - \$15,000 (Purchase & Sale)
Kimberly Clark Corp common stock	Sale		7/17/08, 9/17/08	\$1,001 - \$15,000
Kroger Company common stock	Sale		9/17/2008	\$1,001 - \$15,000
Lincoln National Corp. common stock	Purchase,Sale	1/2/08, 2/14/08	9/17/2008	\$1,001 - \$15,000 (Purchase & Sale)
Lockheed Martin Corp. common stock	Sale		9/17/2008	\$1,001 - \$15,000
McDonalds Corp. common stock	Sale		1/2/08, 6/16/08, 8/13/08	\$1,001 - \$15,000
Merck & Co common stock	Purchase,Sale	4 Purchases	7/29/08, 9/17/08	\$1,001 - \$15,000 (Purchase & Sale)

Selling Out Before The Financial Crisis



Family Money Laundering Campaign Contributions

What Happened: Congressman's campaign committee illegally received \$355,000 in campaign contributions from the candidate's parents through checks they wrote from a family account they controlled.

Family Money Laundering Campaign Contributions

Full Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) Frank Quinta			Date of Receipt M M / D D / Y Y Y Y 0 9 / 1 0 / 2 0 1 0		
Mailing Address [REDACTED]			Transaction ID: SA13A.9070		
City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]	Zip Code [REDACTED]	Amount of Each Receipt this Period 50000.00		
FEC ID number of contributing federal political committee.	C H0NH01217				
Name of Employer N/A	Occupation Former Mayor of Manchester NH				
Receipt For: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> General Other (specify) ▼	Election Cycle-to-Date ▼ 355000.00				

How To Save \$300,000 On A Home

What Happened: A Senator purchased a brand new home at 33% below market value from a major campaign supporter.

[View 2017 Property Record Card](#)

[Property Features](#)[Values, Exemptions and Taxes](#)[Sales Analysis](#)[Location Info](#)[Market Stats](#)[Update Information](#)

Parcel Sales History

Sale Date	Sale Amount	Instrument #	Book/Page	Seller(s)	Buyer(s)	Deed Code	Vac/Imp
11/01/2011	\$717,800	20110590335	10292 / 2708	Donor	U.S. Senator	Special Warranty <small>(i)</small>	Improved

Sales In Subdivision Within Last 1 Year

[Sales Report](#) [Sales Analysis Tool](#)

Address	Sale Date	Sale Amount	\$/SQFT	Deed Code	Beds/Baths	Instrument #	Book/Page
There are no similar sales to display							

Price / Tax History

[Price History](#)[Tax History](#)

Find assessor information on the [county website](#)

YEAR	PROPERTY TAXES	CHANGE	TAX ASSESSMENT	CHANGE
2017	\$12,784	--	\$925,600	+2.1%
2016	\$12,784	+0.3%	\$906,800	+2.1%
2015	\$12,746	-2.0%	\$887,800	+10.2%
2014	\$13,012	+7.2%	\$805,900	+21.0%
2013	\$12,137	-1.2%	\$666,048	-0.5%
2012	\$12,287	-41.1%	\$669,375	-37.4%
2011	\$20,862	--	\$1,068,981	-12.4%
2009	--	--	\$1,220,000	+307%
2008	\$5,550	--	\$300,000	--

Downtown Abbey on Capitol Hill

What Happened: A Congressman allegedly tried to cover up his spending on lavish office decorating, filing false reimbursements for mileage, and using campaign money for personal use.

Voter Fraud Is Real

Types of voter fraud to find with OSINT

- Duplicate Voting
- False Registration
- Ballot Petition Fraud

Tools:

Voter Registration Forms & Histories

Property Tax Records

Public Records Requests

Other OSINT Applied To Politics

Resume Exaggeration: stolen valor and resume inflation

Straw Donors: lower wage workers donating large sums to same politician as the company CEO

Plagiarism: matching unique phrases in writing authored by a public figure (speeches, too)

Planes And Yachts: tracking movements of the wealthy

Web Research: DNS records, google tracking codes, archived pages

Now go out there and do some good.