# Thomas Wilburn Data journalist and news developer

#### Civic News | Senior Data Editor

2021 - present

At Civic News I manage a team that handles data analysis, visualization, and special projects for Chalkbeat's national desk, its eight local bureaus, and Votebeat.

- Led the design and development on Chalkbeat's first large-scale visual storytelling projects, on <u>school curriculum challenges</u> and <u>cafeteria fridges</u>
- Built newsroom tools, such as a <u>social card image generator</u> that used custom elements as an expressive canvas layout language.
- As data editor, organized and coordinated the visualization and analysis for major news events across bureaus, such as <u>the release of national test scores</u> or <u>pandemic-era teacher turnover</u>

#### **NPR** | Senior News Apps Developer

2018 - 2021

Taking over primary development duties just before the 2018 election, I revitalized the tools, technology, and workflow of the industry-leading NPR News Apps team.

- Worked with NPR reporters and editors to tell dynamic, engaging stories in a web-first format, including <u>herd immunity against COVID-19</u>, <u>flooding in small-town America</u>, <u>recycling</u>, <u>climate change in Mongolia</u>, and the Pulitzer-finalist <u>White Lies</u> podcast.
- Redesigned the much-beloved NPR Book Concierge using <u>cutting edge techniques</u>, delivering seven years of filterable, explorable book recommendations to audiences from a single page.
- Designed and built <u>a new liveblog publishing tool</u>, used for primary election and debate coverage, including tens of thousands of concurrent readers on Super Tuesday.
- Built and maintained all-new <u>primary</u> and <u>general</u> election rigs that delivered some of the fastest and most accessible live election results in the world.
- <u>Rebuilt NPR's dailygraphics rig</u> as a modern Node app, including support for live reload, JavaScript bundling, and in-browser UI for graphic creation, duplication, and deployment.

#### The Seattle Times | News Developer

2014 - 2018

2009 - 2012

As a founding member of the paper's Interactives team, I created award-winning digital storytelling, built newsroom tools, and served as a technical resource for reporters and editors. Among other things, I led development for stories on

<u>high-priced surgical misconduct, public transit funding, book recommendations</u>, and the <u>Profanity Peak</u> wolves

#### ArenaNet | Web Programmer2012 - 2014

Working on a small team within the studio, I built and maintained web apps and middleware for account management, marketing, API access, and in-game UI.

## CQ Roll Call | Multimedia Team Lead

As head of the Multimedia Team, I created interactive data visualizations for CQ Weekly, our news magazine covering government policy and legislation.

## Skills

**Front-end development**: Expert with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Experience with Vue, Leaflet, React, D3, SVG, and WebGL.

Accessibility: Knowledgeable about building rich pages and UI components that can meet or exceed WCAG standards.

**Other languages**: Python, Visual Basic, PHP, Java. Experienced in building back-end systems in Node using Express, Hapi, and the core library.

**Data and geospatial analysis**: Excel, PostgreSQL, Google Sheets, Open Refine, QGIS

**System administration**: Linux (CentOS and Ubuntu), AWS (EC2, S3, IAMS, and CloudFront), Apache, nginx, Vagrant

**Management**: Experienced trainer, project lead, and public speaker

## Accomplishments

**Caret**: Primary developer of this Chrome OS-based text editor, with more than a quarter of a million active users

**Open source**: Developer of multiple open-source front-end libraries, including custom elements for powering maps and visualizations

**Public speaking**: Presenter at SRCCON, SeattleJS, CascadiaFest, Hacks/Hackers Seattle, and NICAR

**Teaching**: Guest lecturer at the University of Washington, instructor at Seattle Central College from 2012 to 2015

Awards: Recognized for work by Associated Press Sports Editors, Online News Association, Socity for Professional Journalism, the White House Press Photographers Association, and the Society for News Design