

davidharrisjr.com

A conservative site run by health and media entrepreneur David Harris Jr. that has published false and misleading stories.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 10/100

Ownership and Financing

DavidHarrisJr.com is owned by California-based entrepreneur David James Harris Jr. through DJHJ Media, LLC, a private company registered in Nevada. Harris is listed as the company's manager. Harris also owns DJHJMedia.com, another conservative news site, through the DJHJ Media.com company.

Harris is the co-founder and CEO of Uncorked Health & Wellness, a private company that sells health supplements, apparel, and beverage containers. Harris is also a fellow at the Falkirk Center for Faith and Liberty, a think tank run out of Liberty University that says that it "exists to uphold the Christian faith and defend America's Constitution." He is also on the advisory board of Black Voices for Trump, a coalition that is part of U.S. President Donald Trump's 2020 reelection campaign, and on the board of the BLEEXIT Foundation, a conservative nonprofit geared toward Black communities.

Harris self-published a book in 2019 titled, "Why I Couldn't Stay Silent: One Man's Battle as a Black Conservative."

DavidHarrisJr.com earns revenue through advertising, including for Uncorked Health & Wellness, membership fees, and an online store.

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✓ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✗ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✗ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Content

DavidHarrisJr.com primarily publishes news covering U.S. politics from a conservative perspective. Articles are generally based on reports from other conservative news sites such as FoxNews.com, Breitbart, The Blaze, The Daily Caller, and The Western Journal. They occasionally also cite local media outlets. Many contain commentary and first-person references.

Typical headlines have included “Black Lives Matter Protester Charged with Attempted Murder After Shooting Driver in the Head,” “POLL: 55% of Americans Believe Joe Biden Suffers From Dementia,” and “No Pandemic Exemption to the US Constitution’...DOJ Warns CA Governor He’s Discriminating Against Churches.”

In addition to its written content, DavidHarrisJr.com features episodes of Harris’ podcast, “The David J. Harris Jr. Show.” The podcast also primarily provides conservative commentary on U.S. politics and has featured interviews with figures such as actor Isaiah Washington and White House counselor Kellyanne Conway.

Credibility

DavidHarrisJr.com has published false or unproven claims. For example, a June 2020 article titled, “For Democrats the Writing is on the Wall. Too Bad They Can’t Read,” claimed without evidence that Democrats were trying to “cheat” the 2020 presidential election by promoting mail-in voting. The article said, “Look at the Democrat governors of the nation, with their crazed executive-order insanity, busily knocking down Constitutional limitations to keep their own citizens under house arrest, fully face-masked, fearful of going to the polls and dependent on mail-in voting. It has been their plan for some time because mail-in voting is how the Democrats expect to cheat to beat Donald Trump in November.”

There is no evidence that Democratic governors and other party leaders are plotting to use mail-in voting to “cheat to beat Donald Trump” in the presidential election. While President Trump has publicly warned in 2020 that mail-in voting could facilitate widespread voter fraud, there is scant evidence to support that theory. A Washington Post analysis conducted with the Electronic Registration Information Center, a nonprofit that works to increase U.S. voter roll accuracy and voter registration access for eligible U.S. citizens, found that there were “just 372 possible cases of double voting or

voting on behalf of deceased people out of about 14.6 million votes cast by mail in the 2016 and 2018 general elections, or 0.0025 percent.”

An April 2020 article titled, “Sources Think Pandemic Virus Came From Chinese Lab As Part of China’s Efforts To Compete With The U.S.,” claimed that the COVID-19 virus originated in a lab in Wuhan, China, “as part of China’s effort to show the world that its ability to identify and combat viruses are equal to or even better and more efficient than the United States.” The article stated, “It is said that the virus that has shut down the world started in a Wuhan laboratory. That is no longer up for dispute.” The article also said, “China tried to show up the United States on how to handle a virus, and they botched it. The rest was a cover-up to get away with what they did.”

Contrary to this article’s claim, there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus was developed in a Wuhan lab as part of a Chinese government effort to compete with the U.S.

Scientific studies in 2020 have determined that the virus has natural origins. A March 2020 study published in the journal Nature Medicine concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal Nature, found that the COVID-19 virus is “96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.” In an April 2020 statement, the U.S. intelligence community said it “concurs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified.”

The DavidHarrisJr.com article referenced an April 2020 FoxNews.com article that, citing anonymous government sources, said there was “increasing confidence” that the virus originated in a Wuhan lab. However, FoxNews.com’s story stressed that these sources did not claim to definitively know the origin of COVID-19, a point that the DavidHarrisJr.com article did not make. “Some inside the administration and the intelligence and epidemiological communities are more skeptical, and the investigation is continuing,” the FoxNews.com article said.

In 2018, NewsGuard found three DavidHarrisJr.com stories that described Parkland, Florida, school shooting survivor and activist David Hogg as a “crisis actor.” An April 2018 article said that Hogg “is allegedly a survivor of the Parkland, Florida school shooting” that killed 14 people in February 2018. The article added, “...there are many theories that may disprove his validity of even being a student at the school and not just a crisis actor.”

Multiple fact-checking organizations have debunked the “crisis actor” hoax attributed to Hogg and other shooting survivors. Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School officials said in 2018 that Hogg was among several students who have been alleged to be “crisis actors” who were students at the school and present on the day of the shooting.

An article published in April 2018 headlined “Nancy Pelosi: Dementia Or Botox Poisoning?” made the unsubstantiated suggestion that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi has Alzheimer’s disease, saying, “Pelosi has found that Alzheimer’s does have it’s (sic) advantages. She gets to meet new people every day and she can even throw herself a surprise party. I wonder what would happen if the Democrats retake the House and make her Speaker? I mean, she can’t speak. Maybe they could make her Slurrer of the House instead.”

During a June 2020 review of the website, NewsGuard found that these articles above, as well as additional false articles on DavidHarrisJr.com, had been removed from the website. However, no retractions or correction notes were issued.

Because DavidHarrisJr.com has regularly published false and unsubstantiated claims, including in articles that it deleted without issuing corrections, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content and does not gather and present information responsibly.

The site’s About page states that Harris is “open about his love for God, having had an encounter that can only be described like that of Saul in the Bible. However, the

page does not disclose an overall political orientation.

Although some opinion articles are clearly labeled, the site's news coverage frequently contains the authors' opinions.

For example, a July 2020 story that appeared in the site's Politics section titled "Supreme Court Grants NY Prosecutors Access to Trump's Tax Returns, Rebuffs Congress" said that Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, whose office subpoenaed President Trump's accounting firm for Trump's tax returns and other financial records in August 2019, "has the ethics of an alley cat."

A June 2020 story titled "Criminals Announce They will Tear Down Lincoln Statue in DC on Thursday at 7 p.m.," stated, "You don't have to be a total idiot to be a BLM or Antifa member, but it certainly doesn't hurt."

Another June 2020 story, headlined "D.C. Reporter Says Democrats Quietly Admit Biden Lacks 'Mental Acuity'" said of former U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden Jr., "It is no secret to anyone who has seen and heard Joe Biden that the elevator doesn't quite reach the top floor if you know what I mean."

Because DavidHarrisJr.com does not disclose its perspective and frequently includes opinionated statements in news articles, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

DavidHarrisJr.com updates articles and publishes corrections when an error has been made, typically at the top of the story in question. However, because the site has also deleted content that contained false information without alerting readers, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not meet its criteria for noting corrections in a transparent manner.

In August and September 2018, NewsGuard sent two messages through the site's contact form, and messaged Harris' Facebook page, to inquire about the false and misleading content on the site, its mixing of news and opinion, and failure to issue transparent corrections. NewsGuard received an automated reply

from Harris' Facebook page teasing a story from the website and asking the recipient to, "Please share this everywhere!", but did not receive responses to its questions. Another message sent through the site's contact form and to Harris' Facebook page in July 2020 did not elicit a further response.

Headlines on DavidHarrisJr.com generally represent content on the site, and do not typically contain the false information that appears within the articles. For example, the false claim referenced above that Democrats are trying to "cheat" the 2020 presidential election through the use of mail-in voting did not appear in the article's headline — "For Democrats the Writing is on the Wall. Too Bad They Can't Read."

Transparency

DavidHarrisJr.com only discloses its ownership by DJHJ Media, LLC in a small copyright mark at the bottom of each page and in the site's privacy policy. This does not meet NewsGuard's standards for clear disclosure of ownership.

Harris' biography appears on the site's About page, but no other information about the site's staff, including its editorial leadership, is provided. His biography describes him as an "entrepreneur for over 20 years" and states that he "is a passionate pursuer of life, love, and hope, and seeks to use his platform as Founder/CEO of Uncorked Health & Wellness, Inc. to help individuals lead happier, healthier lives." However, it does not state whether he is in charge of editorial content on DavidHarrisJr.com or explain his role on the site, which does not meet NewsGuard's standards for revealing who is in charge.

Articles on DavidHarrisJr.com name the author and link to an archive of the writer's work. However, most authors do not provide biographical or contact information. Some only go by first names or initials, such as "Jesse," "Kari," or "DW & BJ."

Most advertisements are distinguished from editorial content. However, some sponsored content embedded in articles is labeled as "Promoted Content," or as

produced “by mgid,” a native advertising company, which does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for clearly labeling advertising.

In August and September 2018, NewsGuard sent two messages through the site’s contact form, and messaged Harris’ Facebook page, to inquire about the site’s transparency practices. The only reply NewsGuard received was an automated reply from Harris’ Facebook page teasing a story from the website and asking the recipient to, “Please share this everywhere!” Another message sent through the site’s contact form and to Harris’ Facebook page in July 2020 did not elicit a further response.

History

The DavidHarrisJr.com domain name was created in November 2016. In the first half of 2017, the site was produced in the style of a personal blog. By January 2018, it had adopted its current news and commentary format.

Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on July 13, 2020, with new examples of content on the website. Its rating has been changed to reflect NewsGuard’s determination that the website does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for disclosing ownership. The criteria checklist has been updated accordingly.

Written by: [Sam Howard](#), [Melissa Goldin](#)

Edited by: [Macaela Bennett](#), [Amy Westfeldt](#)

Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

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