

# thewashingtonsentinel.com

A conservative news and commentary site covering U.S. news and politics that has published false and misleading information and does not disclose its agenda.



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

Score: 32/100

## Ownership and Financing

The Washington Sentinel is owned by Bravera Holdings, a privately held company registered in Delaware that states that it was founded “for the purpose of disseminating political news via a network of websites.” Bravera Holdings’ website lists eight conservative sites that are part of its network, including Freedom Outpost and Eagle Rising. However, most of the URLs for those sites redirect users to TheWashingtonSentinel.com.

Gary DeMar, Bravera Holdings’ CEO, is a writer who advocates for incorporating Christian principles into civil government. He formerly served as the president of the Christian nonprofit American Vision.

The Washington Sentinel generates revenue through advertising and an online store operated by Republican Legion, a self-described “conservative and Christian” merchandise brand.

## Content

The Washington Sentinel states on its About Us page that it “was birthed out of a desire to provide a balanced view of the news, accompanied by timely and insightful commentary.” Articles are often based on reporting from established media outlets, such as CNN and Fox News, with the site’s added conservative commentary.

Typical headlines have included: “NYTimes Story Attacks ‘Armed Right-Wingers,’ But Offers NO Proof They Exist;” “Oregon Governor Blames Trump for Trump Supporter Murdered by Left-Wing Antifa;” and “Los Angeles Teacher Criticized for Wearing Anti-Police ‘Blue Lives Murder’ Shirt.”

Much of The Washington Sentinel’s content is written by Warner Todd Huston, a Chicago-based writer who is the editor of Godfather Politics, another site owned by



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.](#)

Bravera Holdings. Huston also owns the conservative blog PubliusForum.com and is a frequent contributor to the conservative news site Breitbart. Other writers for The Washington Sentinel include Alicia F. Luke, who owns the conservative commentary site Barracuda Brigade.

#### Credibility

TheWashingtonSentinel.com articles are generally fact-based, citing reputable media outlets, experts, and other credible sources. Headlines typically reflect content on the site. However, The site occasionally publishes false or unsubstantiated content and promotes conspiracy theories, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, a July 2020 article, titled “Ohio Outlaws, Then Rescinds Ban on Hydroxychloroquine to Treat COVID-19,” stated: “There is only ONE reason why hydroxychloroquine would so suddenly be banned. Hate of Donald Trump.... There is no science that says hydroxychloroquine is ineffective or dangerous. Indeed, there is decades of proof that it is part of a useful treatment regime.”

Hydroxychloroquine is a widely available drug that is used to treat malaria, lupus, and rheumatoid arthritis, and studies have found that the drug is effective for treating these diseases. President Trump has touted the drug as a treatment for COVID-19.

However, multiple studies have found that hydroxychloroquine is not an effective treatment for COVID-19. For example, a trial involving 400 patients, conducted by researchers at the University of Minnesota and published in July 2020 in the Annals of Internal Medicine, found that hydroxychloroquine did not decrease the severity of COVID-19 symptoms over 14 days any better than a placebo in patients who were not hospitalized. Another trial, published in the New England Journal of Medicine in July 2020, included 600 hospitalized patients in Brazil with “mild-to-moderate COVID-19. The study found that hydroxychloroquine “did not improve clinical status at 15 days as compared with standard care.”

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said at a July 2020 congressional hearing: “Any and all of the randomized, placebo-controlled trials — which is the gold standard of determining if something is effective — none of them have found any efficacy for hydroxychloroquine.”

An August 2020 article, titled “Defected Chinese Scientist Says China Created COVID-19 ‘In a Military Lab,’” reported that Li-Meng Yan, a Chinese virologist, told the Taiwanese news outlet Lude Press that she “had clearly assessed that the virus came from a Chinese Communist Party military lab” and that the “Wuhan wet market was just used as a decoy.” According to the article, “Rumors have persisted since this began that the virus came from the military weapons lab near Wuhan. All this makes perfect sense. But we will likely never know for sure.”

The site did not challenge Yan’s claims about the virus’ origins or present any evidence calling her theory into question. In fact, multiple studies have concluded that the virus had natural origins. For example, a study published in the journal *Nature* in February 2020 found the new virus’ genome is “96 percent identical” to a bat coronavirus. A March 2020 study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” In an April 2020 statement, the U.S. intelligence community said it “concur[s] with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified.”

The Washington Sentinel has also promoted conspiracy theories about George Soros, claiming that the liberal billionaire philanthropist has used his personal fortune and his foundations’ resources to create and fund protest movements, including anti-police protests and anti-Trump rallies.

For example, a September 2020 article, titled “AGITATORS: Almost ALL the Rioters Arrested in Kenosha Lived Outside Wisconsin,” stated: “We all know that most of the criminals and scumbags that flock to cities to burn them down are left-wing Antifa

and Black Lives Matter terrorists who are paid to destroy America's cities. These are all George Soros operatives.”

Fact-checks by Reuters, PolitiFact, and Snopes have all found no evidence to support the claim that Soros has provided financial incentives to protesters. Soros' main organization, the Open Society Foundations, has repeatedly stated that it has never paid people to participate in demonstrations. A June 2020 Reuters report, headlined “Fact check: False claims about George Soros,” described as “unfounded” allegations that Soros funded protests after Donald Trump's election in 2016; demonstrations after the police killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014; and protests during the September 2018 Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings for then-Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

A June 2020 PolitiFact article addressed the claim that Soros used his Open Society Foundations to fund nationwide protests after the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May 2020. PolitiFact said it examined records of the group's grants and found no donations to protestors involved in the marches and protests, some of which led to looting and violence. PolitiFact said that the Open Society Foundations' most recent contribution relating to the Black Lives Matter movement was a \$279,860 grant given in 2018 to Release Leads, a UK group that recruits members of the BLM movement for public speaking events.

Because The Washington Sentinel occasionally publishes inaccurate and misleading claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not gather and present information responsibly.

The Washington Sentinel has a dedicated opinion section. However, articles outside of this section labeled only by subject matter also frequently include opinion.

For example, a September 2020 article labeled “Black Lives Matter” and titled “Joe Biden Will Kneel At Debate With Trump To Show Solidarity With BLM, Sources

Claim,” stated that “Biden already can barely hold events in front of his supporters without making a fool of himself.”

Another September 2020 article, labeled “liberalism” and titled “Washington D.C. City Council Wants to Demolish Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial,” stated: “Democrats, liberals, and the media despise everything about this country.”

Another September 2020 article, labeled “politics” and headlined “1,666 Uncounted Ballots From NJ Primary Found In A Bin,” stated: “President Trump will win by a huge landslide on election night because most pro-Trump voters will go to the polls since they don’t trust Democrats. Democrats will then try to argue that they have some unknowable number of mail-in votes that overturn the election. Nobody will believe them.”

Because The Washington Sentinel includes opinion in articles published outside of the Opinion section, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

The Washington Sentinel does not articulate a corrections policy and the most recent correction NewsGuard found on the site was published in 2012. Therefore, the site does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for regularly issuing corrections.

NewsGuard sent two messages through the site’s contact form and two Facebook messages to Warner Todd Huston, a frequent contributor to The Washington Sentinel and the editor of Godfather Politics, another conservative news site owned by Bravera Holdings, inquiring about its editorial process. None of the messages drew a response.

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Transparency

TheWashingtonSentinel.com does not disclose its ownership by Bravera Holdings and does not identify its editorial leadership. Readers can contact The Washington Sentinel through a general feedback form provided on the Contact page.

Although some articles on TheWashingtonSentinel.com name the author, others only provide the writer's first name or initials. Some authors include a link to their Facebook or Twitter profile at the bottom of their articles, but most writers do not provide biographical or contact information. Therefore, the site does not meet NewsGuard's standard for disclosing information about content creators.

Some sponsored content on the site is labeled only as "featured product," or "promoted content," which does not meet NewsGuard's standard for clearly labeling advertising.

NewsGuard sent two messages through the site's contact form and two Facebook messages to Huston, inquiring about the site's transparency practices, but did not receive a response.

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#### History

TheWashingtonSentinel.com was launched in June 2019, although many stories, which appear to have been published on the site retroactively, are dated from as early as 2013.

**Written by:** [Shayna Elliot](#)

**Edited by:** [Melissa Goldin](#), [Eric Efron](#)

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

## Sources

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#### Ownership and Financing

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Credibility

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