Dirk VanderHart

(radio and print journalist)

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Experience

Oregon Public Broadcasting / Politics Reporter Portland, Ore.
MARCH 2018 - PRESENT
Produce state-leading coverage on the governor and Legislature for Oregon's main NPR affiliate. File daily radio spots, web stories and audio features, with a focus on scoops and in-depth reporting. I also script and host a weekly state politics podcast.

The Portland Mercury / News Editor, Reporter Portland, Ore.
MARCH 2013 – MARCH 2018
Anchored a two-person news team at this alternative weekly, focusing coverage on City Hall, the city's homelessness and housing crisis, and the criminal justice system. Produced award-winning reporting while editing the remainder of the news section, managing freelancers, and writing a weekly column on city politics.

Springfield News-Leader / Courts Reporter Springfield, Mo.
JULY 2007 – OCTOBER 2009
Day-to-day courts coverage gave way to deeper enterprise reporting and a strong understanding of the criminal justice system.

Intern & Freelance
Held reporting internships at The Houston Chronicle's DC bureau, The Columbus Dispatch, and Crain's Detroit Business. Freelance work has appeared in The Oregonian and The New York Times.

Education

Michigan State University / B.A. in Journalism
Graduated with honors. MSU Dean's List eight of nine semesters. Worked five semesters at the university's student newspaper. External specialty in American Indian Studies.

Activities

Ravitch Fiscal Reporting Program New York City
JANUARY 2017
A week-long seminar through the City University of New York consisting of deep dives into public budgets, municipal bonds, education spending, and much more—all led by experts in those fields.

Washington Center for Politics & Journalism Washington, DC.
FEBRUARY 2006 – MAY 2006

Awards

First place, government & politics reporting | 2025 SPJ Excellence in Journalism Awards, Northwest region,

First place, government & politics reporting | 2024 SPJ Excellence in Journalism Awards, Northwest region,

First place, government & politics reporting | 2020 SPJ Excellence in Journalism Awards, Northwest region,

First place, health & science reporting | 2017 SPJ Excellence in Journalism Awards, Northwest region, Medium newsroom

Tools

Adobe Audition, InDesign | Microsoft Excel, Word |Arc XP content management system | Dalet Galaxy | Google sheets, forms| Datawrapper