

## **COS Newsmaker: Story Pitch Ideas**

### **1. Positive Community stories (individuals or groups)**

- a. Community garden
- b. Picking up litter
- c. Neighborhood daycare, carpool, etc.
- d. “Good Samaritan”: foster care, sponsoring addiction recovery, helping someone ‘down on their luck’, etc.

### **2. Positive Governance**

- a. An official who goes above and beyond: helpful county clerk, friendly mailman, etc.
- b. Local governments (county, city, township...) effecting beneficial change: revitalizing a local park
- c. A politician keeping their promises
- d. An office holder or government entity demonstrating transparency: a school district disclosing contracts

### **3. Political Issues**

- a. Taxes, or proposed taxes, are too high
- b. Local government chooses to tolerate drug use
  - i. Recreational marijuana, “safe shoot-up zone”, etc.
- c. Infrastructure: worn roads & sidewalks, dilapidated parks, general eyesores
- d. Advocating for State term limits
- e. Advocating for the city, county, township, etc. to run a balanced budget

### **4. Negative Governance**

- a. Lack of transparency
  - i. Budget: spending, contracts, etc.
  - ii. Lobbying records & expenditures
  - iii. Access to meetings/minutes
  - iv. Little to no interaction with the public (mayor, councilman, manager, representative, etc.)
- b. Corruption, nepotism: taking money from outsider groups, appointing close friends, allies, donors to insider positions
- c. Government has lack of movement on important issue: not responding to a health crisis at local elementary school
- d. Office holder going back on promises, being openly rude/hostile to constituent