

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

Citizens Commission  
January 31, 2019 4:45 pm

Name	David Ropeik
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
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Citizenship Affirmation	I am a U.S. Citizen
Residency Affirmation	I am a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Statement of Intent	I intend to comply with and advance the policy established by this Act.

**Statement of Interest**

I spent the first part of my professional life as a journalist in Boston (as a reporter at Channel 5). It felt like high public service, and gave me a rich familiarity with the Commonwealth; its people and communities as well as its politics and government. I then taught at Harvard, on environmental issues and critical thinking. That too felt like a contribution to the wider community. Retired now, and troubled by the divisions tearing America apart, I want to devote my energy and experience to the high goal of restoring public faith in democracy and government. That's why I coordinated the communications effort that helped pass Question Two and enabled this commission. I want to do more.

I have never been involved in politics or government. I have been steadfastly unaffiliated with any party. But my society now needs the civic engagement of anyone who believes, as I do, that money has corrupted politics and government, fueling a divisiveness that has eroded faith in the 'e pluribus unum' idea of America, that despite our differences, we are one. The idea of this Commission, to restore true democracy to America, has such broad bipartisan appeal that it promises to heal some of those divisions. What could be more important at this moment in our history?

I propose that my communications skills, background, and political independence provide a unique set of qualifications that will be critically important to the Commission's work. I would be honoured to contribute.

Résumé or Summary of Qualifications Upload	<a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/474240240/71887710_resume_-_ropeik.doc">https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/474240240/71887710_resume_-_ropeik.doc</a>
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Political Party Affiliation, if any, over the previous five years	Unenrolled
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City or Town where you reside	CONCORD
Employment Status	Unemployed

David P. Ropeik



#### Current

- **Consultant and public speaker** on risk communication and the psychology of risk perception to governments, businesses, trade associations, health care organizations, consumer groups and educational institutions
- **Author** *How Risky Is It, Really? Why Our Fears Don't Always Match the Facts*, (McGraw Hill, 2010)
- **Principal co-author** - *RISK, A Practical Guide for Deciding What's Dangerous and What's Safe in the World Around You*, (Houghton Mifflin, 2002)
- **Freelance science journalist**

#### 2002-2017

- **Instructor** Harvard University, Extension School, Environmental Management Program.
- **Blogger** at Psychology Today, *How Risky Is It Really?*, contributing blogger at Huffington Post, Nature, New York Times/DotEarth, Scientific American, Columbia Journalism Review, Cognoscenti, Climate Central
- **Judge** for the Oakes Environmental Journalism Award program. Screening judge for the DuPont Columbia Awards for Broadcast Journalism

#### 2006-2008

- **Risk communication member** of the congressionally mandated Veterans Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction, which oversaw the joint Department of Defense and Veteran's Administration program to compensate veterans exposed to nuclear radiation.

#### 2004 - 2006

- **Instructor at the Harvard School of Public Health** and Co-Director/Principal Faculty Member of the professional education course 'The Risk Communication Challenge'.
- **Creator and director** of the program "Improving Media Coverage of Risk", a training program for journalists. Taught about basic risk science to journalists or journalism students in more than 30 newsrooms, professional journalism organizations, or journalism education programs.

#### 2000 - 2004

**Director of Risk Communication**, Harvard Center For Risk Analysis, part of the Harvard School of Public Health.

#### 2000 - 2002

- **Author of sports column** “The Fenway Insider”, The Boston Globe
- **Guest host of the nationally-syndicated NPR public radio program** “The Connection”
- **Guest host of a radio talk show** on WBZ AM, Boston.

#### 1978-2000

**Broadcast Journalist** for the ABC affiliate station in Boston, specializing in coverage of environmental and science issues. Full range of on-air duties, including daily reporting, investigative reporting, documentaries, news anchoring. Winner of two DuPont-Columbia Awards (often cited as the Pulitzer Prize for broadcast news), National Headliner Award, Gabriel Award, seven regional EMMY Awards.

#### 1991-2000

**Board of Directors, Society of Environmental Journalists.** First Vice President, 1998-2000.

#### 1998 – 2000

**Author** of science column “How and Why” in The Boston Globe, syndicated by The New York Times. Column appeared on MSNBC.com from 2000-2002.

#### 2000 – Present

- **Cited Expert** on issues of risk perception and risk communication in: The Economist, Atlantic Monthly, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, USA Today, The Los Angeles Times, TIME Magazine, the Associated Press, Bloomberg, Reuters, The San Francisco Chronicle, The San Jose Mercury News, The Boston Globe, The Providence Journal, The Baltimore Sun, The Atlanta Journal Constitution, The St. Louis Post Dispatch, The Oregonian, The Seattle Intelligencer, The Miami Herald, The Denver Post, The Baltimore Sun, Macleans Magazine, New Scientist Magazine, Prevention Magazine, Psychology Today, Conde Nast Traveler, Money Magazine, NPR, CBS, ABC, NBC, Fox News, CNN, CNN International, BBC, CBC, CNBC, Voice of America, Focus (the German newsmagazine), Al Jazeera US, and dozens of regional radio stations nationwide.

#### 2000 – Present

Consulting clients (teaching, speaking, training, advising on risk perception and risk communication issues, some compensated/some not)

- The Office of the White House Communications Director
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- The National Academy of Sciences
- The Federal Aviation Administration
- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- The EPA, Washington D.C. office
- The EPA, Region 1
- The EPA, Region 7

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency
- The National Center for Food Protection and Defense
- The University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Hospital Authority
- The American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Harvard University
- Yale University
- MIT
- The University of Michigan Risk Science Center
- The University of Guelph
- The University of Tokyo
- Yokohama National University
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität - Munich
- Dickinson College
- Emerson College
- Simmons College
- Boston University School of Medicine
- Michigan State University
- The Cyprus International Institute for Public Health
- The U.S. Public Affairs Council
- Swiss RE
- State of Florida Department of Public Health
- State and local health officers of Arizona
- The U.S. and International Plasma Protein Therapeutics Associations
- The Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association
- The American Meat Institute
- The Consumer Federation of America
- The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry
- The American Nuclear Society (northeast chapter)
- BioSecurity 2002 and 2003 international conferences
- The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia
- The 2004 conference of the Institute of Food Technologists
- The Japanese dairy industry
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (West Nile virus)
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Safety (terrorism and homeland security)
- The Heart Rhythm Society
- Illinois food safety officials
- Dow Chemical
- DuPont
- Entergy Power Corp.
- The Edison Electric Institute
- The Electric Power Research Institute
- ValueMedics
- Environmental Health and Engineering, Inc.
- The Environmental Institute for Risk Management of Denmark
- The American Dental Association
- The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
- The International Association for Public Participation

- State and local health and public safety officials of Utah
- Ministry of Environment, Province of Ontario
- The Guidant Corporation
- Society of Toxicology Annual Conference Keynote Address
- Grand Rounds, Boston University Medical School
- Bayer CropScience
- The Society for Risk Analysis
- The Institutional Review Board, Partners HealthCare
- The National Nanotechnology Initiative
- The Pennsylvania Dentists Association
- The Center for Risk Communication
- Washington state departments of Public Health and Agriculture
- The Nuclear Energy Institute
- The C8 Science Panel, epidemiologists studying PFOA in West Virginia
- Air and Waste Management Association, NE chapter
- Massachusetts General Hospital, Clinical Research Dept., Education program
- The Consumer Specialty Products Association
- The Research Institute for Fragrance Materials
- The Council of Scientific Society Presidents
- The Focus Group
- Boston Scientific
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations
- The International Atomic Energy Agency (multiple projects)
- The European Society of Toxicology
- Wegmans Food Markets
- L'Oreal
- Abbott
- International Conference on Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies
- American College of Toxicology
- The Humphrey Center of the University of Minnesota
- NYU
- The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority
- The University of Massachusetts School of Public Health
- National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Professionals
- Sherrin and Lodgin, LLC.
- CO<sub>2</sub> Capture Project
- American Institute for Biological and Medical Engineering
- The World Bank
- Northwest Suburban Health Alliance
- Education Development Center
- CropLife
- George Washington University
- Duke University
- Canadian Blood Services
- DelValle Institute/Boston Public Health Department
- Delft University of Technology
- International Life Sciences Institute Research Foundation
- International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization

- American Institutes for Research
- Metcalfe Institute
- Massachusetts Environmental Health Association
- World Conference of Science Journalists
- Susquehanna University
- Risky Business conferences
- Secure World Foundation (space sustainability issues)
- Coca-Cola
- Bergamo Science Festival
- Texas Dept. of Transportation
- Breakthrough Institute
- Wilderness Risk Management Conference
- Karlsruhe Dialogues
- University of Ottawa
- Texas Municipal Traffic Safety organization
- University Foreign Travel Program
- Brookfield Energy
- Patton Boggs
- American Chemistry Council
- The Water Research Foundation
- MIT climate change program
- Donaghue Foundation
- Harvard Humanist Club
- New York City Green Council
- Five Colleges Consortium
- North Shore (MA) Public Health Officers
- Natura Cosmetics
- NStar
- World Conference of Science Journalists
- Natural Hazards Workshop
- Colorado Oil and Gas Association
- Bayer Crop Science
- Water Resources Foundation
- UNESCO – Science journalism courses in Serbia, Montenegro
- Lexington Adult Education
- First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, Concord, MA
- Concord, MA Public Library lecture series
- Massachusetts Licensed Site Professionals Association
- City University of New York
- Mt. Sinai Hospital, Toronto
- IPCC - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – Working Group 2 FAQs
- WPX energy
- The Association for Environmental Health and Sciences
- European Crop Protection Association
- Canadian Health Physics Society
- Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
- Cosmetics Europe

- SEURAT-1 (European consortium developing techniques for non-animal toxicology)
- Council of State Legislators – Eastern Region
- Fondation Merieux (conference on vaccine hesitancy)
- The Chinese Biotechnology Society
- State Agricultural and Rural Leaders
- Biotech Bootcamp – UC Davis
- Massachusetts Annual Adult Immunization Conference
- State Street Bank
- Boston Skeptics Society
- CAMECO
- SETAC
- Energy and Environment Symposium, Colorado Mesa University
- National Conference of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
- Women in Nuclear national conference
- Robinson and Cole law firm
- Covestra
- European Chemical Association
- International Food Information Council (training course for China FDA)
- The Franklin Institute

#### Additional Professional Experience

- **Contributing expert** to the Department of Homeland Security Task Force that designed changes to the “color coded alert” Homeland Security Advisory System.
- **Member of the National Academies of Science Steering Committee** on the Public Response to Alerts and Warnings on Mobile Devices.
- **Advisory Board member** of the “America Prepared” campaign for terrorism and natural disaster preparedness, a joint effort of the Department of Homeland Security, the Advertising Council, the Sloan Foundation, and a consortium of businesses and individuals.
- **Guest lecturer on media coverage of risk** at the Harvard School of Public Health, the Kennedy School of Government, the Neiman Fellowship Program at Harvard, the Knight Science Journalism Fellowship program at MIT, Boston University’s Program in Science Journalism, the Emerson College program in Health Communication, and to the National Association of Science Writers, the Council for the Advancement of Science Writers, and the Society of Environmental Journalists.
- **Instructor of journalism** Boston University, Tufts University, and MIT.
- **Faculty member**, UNESCO training course for Eastern European science journalists

#### Education

- BS Journalism 1972, MS Journalism 1973, Northwestern University. Medill School of Journalism.
- Knight Science Journalism Fellow at MIT, 1994-95
- National Tropical Botanical Garden Fellow, Hawaii, 1999.



## Publications

- Ropeik, D “In Labeling Coffee a Carcinogen, California Leaps Ahead of the Science” Undark magazine 5/18/2018 <https://undark.org/article/in-labeling-coffee-a-carcinogen-california-leaps-ahead-of-the-science/>
- Ropeik, D “School shootings are extraordinarily rare. Why is fear of them driving policy” Washington Post OpEd 3/8/2018 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/school-shootings-are-extraordinarily-rare-why-is-fear-of-them-driving-policy/2018/03/08/f4ead9f2-2247-11e8-94da-ebf9d112159c\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.dfc2bc39dc97](https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/school-shootings-are-extraordinarily-rare-why-is-fear-of-them-driving-policy/2018/03/08/f4ead9f2-2247-11e8-94da-ebf9d112159c_story.html?utm_term=.dfc2bc39dc97)
- Ropeik, D “Who’s in Charge, Your Mind or Your Brain?” Psychology Today, 9/27/17 <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/how-risky-is-it-really/201709/whos-in-charge-your-mind-or-your-brain>
- Ropeik, D “Fear of radiation is more dangerous than radiation itself” AEON July 5, 2017 <https://aeon.co/ideas/fear-of-radiation-is-more-dangerous-than-radiation-itself>
- Ropeik, D “Clean Energy Mind Games” Issues in Science and Technology, National Academies of Science Magazine, Summer 2017, pp 59-64
- Ropeik, D. “Know This First. Risk Perception is Always Irrational” Undark magazine, 4/11/2016 <http://undark.org/article/know-this-first-risk-perception-is-always-irrational/>
- Ropeik D. “On the roots of, and solutions to, the persistent battle between ‘chemonoia’ and rationalist denialism of the subjective nature of human cognition.” Human and Environmental Toxicology. v 34, iss 12, pp 1272-8, Dec 2015
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- Ropeik D. “Risky Business. Psychology can teach us much about why many people fear GM foods.” COSMOS Magazine, Feb, 2014 <http://www.cosmosmagazine.com/features/risky-business/>
- Ropeik D, “Fear vs. Radiation: the Mismatch”, NYT OpEd, Oct 21 2013 [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/22/opinion/fear-vs-radiation-the-mismatch.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/22/opinion/fear-vs-radiation-the-mismatch.html?_r=0)
- Ropeik D. “When Past Disasters are Prologue”, Nautilus, Iss. 4, Aug. 8, 2013, <http://nautil.us/issue/4/the-unlikely/when-past-disasters-are-prologue>
- Ropeik D. “How Society Should Respond to the Risk of Vaccine Rejection” Human Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics, Vol 9, Issue 8, Aug 3 2013, pp 1815,1818
- Ropeik D. “A Counter Perspective on GMOs”, Concord Journal Oct. 13, 2013 <http://www.wickedlocal.com/concord/news/lifestyle/columnists/x915432580/A-counter-perspective-on-GMOs>
- Ropeik D. “Both Sides Have Something to Fear” New York Times Room for Debate, Jan 7, 2013, <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/01/06/what-the-fight-over-guns-is-really-about/on-gun-policy-both-sides-have-something-to-fear>
- Ropeik D. “How Do We Perceive Risk” NOVA, Dec 21, 2012 <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/body/risk-perception.html>

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlFT6nEFaLQ>
- Ropeik D. "Superstorm Sandy reminds us why it's so easy to underestimate danger", Washington Post Outlook Section, Nov. 2, 2012  
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- Ropeik D. The Tribal Roots of Team Spirit, South Writ Large, Fall 2012  
<http://southwritlarge.com/articles/the-tribal-roots-of-team-spirit/>
- Ropeik D. "Inside the Mind of Worry" New York Times Sunday Review, Sept 28, 2012  
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- Ropeik D. "Risk, Fear, and Nuclear Power" Los Angeles Times Apr 13, 2012  
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- Ropeik D. "Eco angst", New York Times, Opinionator column Feb 26, 2012  
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- Ropeik D. "Public Health: Not Vaccinated? Not Acceptable" Los Angeles Times, July 18, 2011 <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/jul/18/opinion/la-oe-ropeik-vaccines-20110718>
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- Ropeik D. "The EPA's 'cancer premium' shows how fear overshadows the greater risks", Washington Post Outlook Section, Feb 13, 2011
- Ropeik D. "Risky Business", Newsweek Magazine online. Nov. 24, 2010
- Ropeik D. "Why Are We Afraid of Nuclear Power", Project Syndicate; international news syndication, August 2010
- Ropeik D. "The Irrational Fear of Our State Rock", Los Angeles Times, July 27, 2010
- Ropeik D. "Toyota's Congressional Hearing: 'How Risky Is It', CNBC website Feb 19, 2010 (<http://www.cnbc.com/id/35479126>)
- Ropeik D. "Hands-free phoning is still distracting", opinion essay, Boston Globe, Feb. 11 2010

- Ropeik D. "Understanding Our Risky Business", NPR website opinion page, Feb 3, 2010
- Ropeik D. "Fear vs. facts: The brain clouds our thinking about terrorism", opinion essay, USA Today, Jan 6, 2010
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- Ropeik D, "Risk Communication, An Overlooked Tool for Improving Public Health", chapter for textbook Maxcy-Rosenau-Last - Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Last J, Wallace R (eds) 15<sup>th</sup> ed., 2007
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- Gray G, Ropeik D, “Risk Analysis and Food Safety”, NFPA Journal, September, 2000
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