

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Pam Johnston to Lead Rhode Island's  
Merged TV, Radio Public Media Organization**  
*Senior Leader with Nearly 30 Years Experience  
in Journalism Tapped as New President and CEO*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – The joint board of Rhode Island's recently merged public media organization announced today that longtime news leader Pam Johnston will serve as their new President and CEO. Johnston comes to Rhode Island with nearly 30 years of experience in journalism, most recently as the general manager of News at GBH, the public media outlet in Boston.

“The possibilities before us for public media in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts are incredibly exciting, and Pam Johnston has the passion, expertise, and creativity to build a world class organization,” said **Elizabeth Delude-Dix**, co-chair of the organization's board and former chair of board of directors of The Public's Radio. “Pam is a visionary leader who has a deep understanding of audience engagement, practical expertise in digital transformation, and innovative ideas for the future.”

“Since announcing this merger, the overwhelmingly positive feedback from our team, viewers, listeners, and beyond has reinforced our belief that we will be stronger and more dynamic together,” said fellow co-chair **Dave Laverty**, who was formerly the chair of the Rhode Island PBS Foundation Board. “Pam recognizes the magnitude of this opportunity and will be ready on day one to bring people together, and leverage our collective strengths to lead a more powerful and trusted public media source to better serve the community.”

During her time leading GBH News, the team earned numerous awards and accolades, increased its digital output and reach, and doubled its total audience footprint. Prior to that role, Johnston was a senior leader at PBS's flagship investigative documentary series, FRONTLINE, where she focused on audience development and expanding journalism onto new platforms. She also held leadership roles with Lahey Health and Gather.com, both headquartered in Massachusetts. Earlier in her career, Johnston served as News Director at Boston's WLVI and was a producer at WRAL in Raleigh, North Carolina, and at WMTW in Portland, Maine.

“My passion for public media's mission and service to our local community has never been stronger. I am honored to be stepping into this role at such a vital moment,” said **Johnston**. “At a time when trust in the media is eroding and societal gaps are widening, public media can play a critical role in fostering understanding, goodwill, and connection. I believe that here in Rhode Island we have the team, talent, and resources to redefine the very best of what public media can be.”

Johnston takes the reins from David Piccerelli, formerly president of Rhode Island PBS, and Torey Malatia, formerly the president, CEO, and general manager of The Public's Radio. Piccerelli and Malatia served as co-CEOs in the months immediately following the merger approval and will be available to Johnston during the transition.

“This merger would not have been possible without the support and leadership of David and Torey. We are tremendously grateful to them both for getting us to this point and for putting the organization in the best possible position to bring our teams and operations together,” added Lavery.

Today’s announcement is the latest milestone in an ongoing effort to not only merge, but fortify, public media in the region. The boards of Rhode Island PBS and The Public’s Radio first announced their intention to merge in November 2023. The merger application was approved by the Federal Communications Commission in January 2024, and then by Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha in April 2024.

With a new CEO named, the merged organization will launch in the coming months an inclusive engagement process, steeped in listening and learning, which will involve staff and reporters, underwriters and supporters, and the community at large—to develop a new name and brand as the organization continues to bring together its teams, operations, and an enhanced slate of programming. Johnston will begin in her new role on August 19, 2024.