

FAQs:

STOPPING ELECTION DISINFORMATION

We're in This Together.

Disinformation Stops with You.

What are the different types of false information?

- **Misinformation:** Information that is false, but not created or shared with the intention of causing harm.
- **Malinformation:** Information that is based on fact, but used out of context to mislead, harm, or manipulate a person, organization, or country.
- **Disinformation:** False information that is deliberately created to mislead, harm, or manipulate a person, social group, organization, or country.

Who are the primary malign actors associated with the spreading of election-related disinformation?

Russian, Chinese, and Iranian state-sponsored elements, as well as domestic extremist groups.

What are these malign actors trying to accomplish by spreading disinformation?

Their goal is creating chaos, confusion, and division. They also want to degrade confidence in U.S. institutions and democratic processes, which in turn undermines our ability to effectively carry out an election.

Who else is spreading disinformation?

Scammers, cyber criminals, and con artists are also taking advantage of a lack of understanding of new processes and fears surrounding the election and the voting process.

How is false information spread?

All kinds of false information are spread through a variety of mediums, including mainstream media, social media, word of mouth, online forums, texts, and emails. Some of the most damaging disinformation spreads rapidly via shared posts when people may be unaware of the true source of a link or email.

What can you do to stop the spread of disinformation? We all play a role in stopping the spread of disinformation.

- Rely on trusted sources such as the state and local election authority websites and verified social media. For updates on health and safety, rely on state and local health officials.
- Be a prepared, participating, and patient voter who gets involved, and is knowledgeable of current plans and processes, and how to cast your vote.
- Think twice before sharing content online.
- Be careful about posting personal information. Your identity, photos, or other information could be used to propagate disinformation.
- Be on the lookout for content that seems manipulative or overly emotional. Be especially careful of content that attempts to make people angry or create division.



BEST SOURCES FOR ACCURATE & RELIABLE ELECTION INFORMATION

- State election authority
- State and local official elections websites and social media pages
- Elections Assistance Commission (www.eac.gov)
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (www.cisa.gov/protect2020)

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