CIS Misinformation Reporting
Trends and Information

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Background

- CIS facilitated communication between election officials, social media companies, and other partners to address election infrastructure misinformation
- Being the home of the EI-ISAC gave us the infrastructure and trusted relationships with state, local and federal election officials to quickly share information about potential mis and disinformation

Primary goal was to provide a central place for state and local election officials to report election infrastructure mis and disinformation
Our Beliefs

Misinformation is the frontier in election security and election integrity

State and local election officials are the source of ground truth and are the best resource for fighting election infrastructure mis and disinformation

We need to improve how we support and augment efforts by state and local election officials
## Some Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizen App</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook, Twitter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Google</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instagram</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Calls</td>
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<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text Messaging</td>
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<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TikTok</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>129</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website</td>
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<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>209</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awareness</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inaction</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Misinformation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Investigation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Action</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rejected</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>209</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trends

- Pre-Election Misinformation
- Election Day Misinformation
- Post Election Misinformation
- Conclusions and Next Steps
Pre-Election Misinformation
“Multiple ballots mailed to me”

- Misinformation
  - Multiple ballots were mailed to me
  - Security around mail ballots is lacking
  - Dead people receive ballots

- Truth
  - Exaggerated claims
  - Ballot requests instead of ballots
“Absentee ballot fraud”

- Misinformation
  - Backdoor way of disenfranchising voters through online voter registration portal

- Truth
  - The voter information that can be accessed online is publicly disclosable by law
  - Can’t change mailing address in the online portal without entering in Driver’s License or state ID and the issuance date.

- Other Notes
  - Began on 4chan – unmoderated platform – spread to other outlets like The Gateway Pundit
  - Exposed a gap in enforcement policies
“Early Results”

- **Misinformation**
  - falsified/photoshopped poll numbers to boost a particular candidate’s write-in campaign

- **Truth**
  - Results are not known before election night
  - Ballots are not tabulated until after 8 p.m. election night
Election Day Misinformation
Ballot box security

- Misinformation
  - Ballot boxes are being moved
  - Ballot boxes thrown away
- Truth
  - Claims are false
- Other Notes
  - Use of photos and videos out of context
I am the bad guy

- Misinformation
  - I threw out ballots
  - I voted multiple times

- Truth
  - Claims are false
“Provisional ballots aren’t counted”

- Misinformation
  - Provisional ballot or ballots put in emergency ballot bins aren’t counted

- Truth
  - Provisional ballot rules vary by state; they are reviewed for eligibility and, assuming they’re eligible, counted consistent with state law
  - Ballots in emergency ballot bins are counted
Polling Place Conditions

- Misinformation
  - Wrong polling place closing time or conditions

- Truth
  - Polling places close in Ohio @ 7:30pm local time
Post Election Misinformation
“Machine Vote Flipping”

- **Misinformation**
  - Machines were intentionally flipping votes from one candidate to another

- **Truth**
  - Machines are rigorously tested and verified before use
  - Machine counts were consistent with audited results
Ballots > Registered Voters

- **Misinformation**
  - There were more ballots than registered voters

- **Truth**
  - Voter registration numbers being used were outdated and/or incorrect
Conclusions and Next Steps
Conclusions

Election infrastructure and disinformation isn’t going away

- Central reporting is beneficial for election officials
- Need to improve efficiency and scale operation for future elections