

EIP Post-Election Updates

November 9, 2022

This report was created by analysts from the <u>Election Integrity Partnership</u> (EIP), a non-partisan coalition to empower the research community, election officials, government agencies, civil society organizations, social media platforms, and others to defend our elections against those who seek to undermine them by exploiting weaknesses in the online information environment.

Noteworthy Incidents & Rumors

- → Conspiracism in Nevada around counting delays due to mail-in ballots
- → Florida as prime example of "honest elections"
- → Voters encouraged to document WiFi at polling stations
- → Kari Lake suggests during press conference Katie Hobbs should recuse herself and places blame due to voting machine breakdowns
- → Misleading graphs of vote counts on LindellTV
- → Project Veritas video on alleged electioneering in Philadelphia

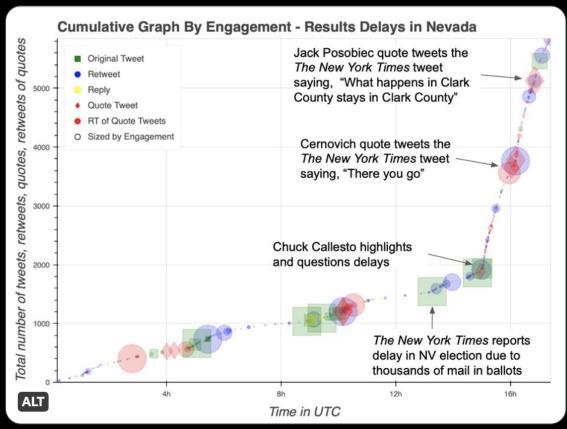
Noteworthy Incidents & Rumors

The EIP team identifies and analyzes the spread of rumors that suppress voting, reduce participation, confuse voters about election processes, delegitimize election results, or threaten election workers. Some of the rumors highlighted contain factual elements, or are, as of the time of writing, currently uncorroborated. These rumors may turn out to be true, false or contain a mixture of elements.

1. Conspiracism in Nevada around counting delays due to mail-in ballots

 As we detailed last week in a <u>Twitter thread on election results</u>, delays in the publication of results have been framed as evidence of fraud in Nevada.

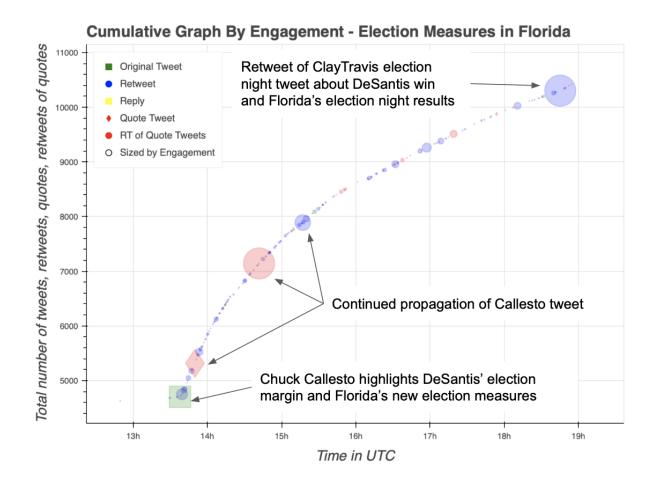
In reviewing discussion of Nevada's election results this morning, we have seen a spike in online engagement about the delays following the publication of a New York Times article and its reframing by right-wing influencers.



- We expect additional misleading claims to circulate online over the next few days, framing delays as valid evidence of fraud. Be sure to verify sources and review official election tallies as misleading narratives on delayed election results are likely to persist.
- Read more of EIP's analysis here.

2. Florida as prime example of "honest elections" leading to Republican victories

Two pieces of media circulating on social media imply that various election measures implemented by Gov. Ron DeSantis in Florida lead to "cleaner", "honest" elections and Republican election gains. One is a photo of ballot margins for DeSantis and Democratic challenger Charlie Crist (60% vs 40%) with the caption: "Florida BANNED Mass mail-in ballots, BANNED ballot harvesting, REQUIRES voter ID, and Gov. DeSantis created an ELECTION POLICE FORCE. Paying attention yet??" The other piece of media circulating, with the same general text as the previous photo, is a post from @DC_Draino originally on Truth Social where the influencer writes: "Florida banned mass mail-in ballots, banned ballot harvesting, require voter ID, and Gov. DeSantis created an election police force. Florida also just had historic win margins across the state for Republicans, while Democrats somehow won close races elsewhere across America during a horrific economy. Do the math." The meme seems to have originated from an Instagram story based on visual information, though the original user was removed.



3. Voters encouraged to document WiFi at polling stations

There has been a persistent rumor, at least since the 2022 primaries, that one can detect malicious activity at polling sites by checking the available WiFi networks next to a polling station. If there are unsecured WiFi networks nearby, as there are likely to be for many reasons, especially in denser areas, then people may claim this is an indication that results are being tampered with remotely (or downloaded, etc.). Screenshots from our early monitoring show this claim going around in Facebook groups in the week before the election, and we see it spread a bit further among low-follower users and influencers on Twitter on the day before the election.

Individuals heading to the polls were encouraged to check their WiFi settings for available networks at the polling stations which are not secure. TrumperMel, who leads Clean Elections USA, is encouraging people to then return on Wednesday and take another screen grab of the available networks at the polling station, with the implication that after election day they will no longer be insecure networks, and that during the voting process networks would be interfered. Users on Truth Social are claiming that during the 2020 election they were able to document WiFi networks that were turned to a nonsecure mode for voting day and are encouraging others to use a WiFi analyzer app, which allegedly shows hidden services.

Engagement with the narrative has generally been low, particularly on Facebook and Twitter, with some higher engagement on alt-platforms.

4. In Arizona, Kari Lake suggests Katie Hobbs should recuse herself and places blame due to voting machine breakdowns

In a video shared by Tommy Robinson News, Kari Lake is seen at a press conference asking Arizona voters if they think the breakdown of voting machines in Maricopa County is "normal," implying that the machine malfunctions are an indicator of fraud. During the interview says that they aren't seeing any breakdowns of machines in liberal areas, insinuating that the breakdowns are happening systematically in specific locations to rig the election in favor of Katie Hobbs.

In another video on Rumble from the same press conference, Kari Lake says that her opponent Katie Hobbs should recuse herself because "she's unethical." The calls for recusal stem from Katie Hobbs position as Arizona's secretary of state, which Lake believes is a conflict of interest.

An article from <u>The Gateway Pundit</u> discusses the calls for recusal and implies her current lead in the Arizona election is linked with her recusal rejection. Discourse around this incident can be found on both mainstream and alt platforms including Twitter, Facebook, Telegram, TruthSocial, and Rumble.

5. Misleading graphs of vote counts on LindelITV

- Like 2020, we're seeing images & videos of graphs misrepresenting common variations in how votes are counted & visualized. As vote count claims spread on Twitter, Telegram & alt platforms, note that they can be misleading. We recommend looking at many news sites & not just one.
- These misleading claims appear to originate from Mike Lindell's widely shared livestream. Lindell is a popular right-wing influencer, who has a history of using supposed statistical and technical evidence to allege election fraud in the 2020 election.
- Vote count changes can be misrepresented in many ways: 1) misinterpreting how mail-in ballots are counted in diff. states; 2) confusing the order that counties publish batches of results & partisan skew; 3) not accounting for randomness & clerical errors; 4) nonsensical terms.
- Read more of the EIP's analysis of statistical misrepresentations here.

6. Project Veritas video on alleged electioneering in Philadelphia

A <u>Project Veritas video</u> allegedly showing electioneering was published on social media, in this case depicting undercover video of people handing out democratic leaflets outside a polling location in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The video was published on various social media platforms including YouTube, Gettr, and Telegram. It was subsequently shared on Telegram and Twitter by verified users. The Project Veritas video on Facebook now has over 150,000 views and is slowly growing on YouTube with 48,000 views and on Twitter with around 30,000 related tweets, retweets, quotes and retweets of quotes.

How to Connect With the EIP

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