

# AI, Disinformation, and the 2024 Elections



## Agenda

- Introduction from David Evan Harris
- Why we should be concerned about AI & Elections
- About the CITED package of bills currently in Sacramento
- Bonus: Brennan Center for Justice's AI Election Report



# Common Cause

- About the Speaker: David Evan Harris
  - Chancellor's Public Scholar at UC Berkeley
  - Senior Policy Advisor to CITED, California Common Cause
  - Senior Advisor to Brennan Center for Justice, NYU Law



California Common Cause works to build a democracy and a government that reflects our communities and is accountable to

**CITED** [✓]

California Initiative for Technology & Democracy

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# The threat of election disinformation turbocharged by AI is too grave

Business as usual is over. CITED is leading the fight for solutions, from the cradle of technology.

**NETFLIX**





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# MINORITY REPORT

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# AI GENERATED



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### Headline News



**Yemen Ship Attack: Growing Threat To Maritime Trade And Security In The Red Sea And Gulf Of Aden**  
32 MINS AGO

**Maryland Sheriff Advises Joggers To Alter Routines After Recent Murders On Popular Trails**  
2 HOURS AGO

**First Amendment Fight: Attorney Sues Police Department For Retaliation In Profanity-Laden Encounter**  
5 HOURS AGO

### Featured



## Commander Of Ukrainian Forces Missing After Dispute In Command Center Amid Reshuffling Of Leadership

Commander of a Ukrainian Armed Forces battalion disappeared near Avdiivka in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) in early February. This was reported by the Associated Press (AP) agency, citing documents....

### Newsbeat



**FAKE**

DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA

# Following Elon Musk's lead, Big Tech is surrendering to disinformation

Facebook and YouTube are receding from their role as watchdogs against conspiracy theories ahead of the 2024 presidential election

By [Naomi Nix](#) and [Sarah Ellison](#)

Updated September 1, 2023 at 11:04 a.m. EDT | Published August 25, 2023 at 6:00 a.m. EDT



So whose job is it to protect our communities from these threats?

**Provenance, Authenticity, and Watermarking Standards (AB 3211, Wicks)**

Require generative AI companies to embed digital provenance data within the digital media they create, so we know which images, video, and audio were digitally created, when they were created, and who they were created by. Modeled off of upcoming rules in the EU's AI Act.

**Deepfake Labeling on Social Media (AB 2655, Berman)**

Fight online election disinformation by requiring social media platforms to label election-related deepfakes posted by users, and ban the worst, most obvious cases close to elections, in a narrowly tailored way that respects the First Amendment.

**Deepfake-Free Campaigning Close to Elections (AB 2839, Pellerin)**

Ban the use of deepfakes that deceive voters about candidates and elections officials in political mailers, robocalls, and TV ads, in a narrowly tailored way that respects the First Amendment.

**"Know Your Customer" Requirement for Online Platforms (SB 1228, Padilla)**

Fight anonymous trolls and disinfo spreaders by requiring social media platforms to seek escalating levels of identifying information from their largest users. Users that fail to provide identity info are not banned but labeled "identity unverified," protecting anonymous speech in compliance with the First Amendment but providing the rest of us more information on which power users will stand by their statements.

Re: AB 730 (2019) "Deepfake  
Law"

Recommendation: wait until Aug/Sep  
outcome of AB 2930 (2024), if not passed,  
consider for SF

**AI-GENERATED  
FOR EDUCATIONAL  
PURPOSES ONLY**

of Arizona Secretary of  
State Adrian Fontes.



# **How Election Officials Can Identify, Prepare for, and Respond to AI Threats**

# Preparation Checklist for EOs

- Understand what AI can do.
- Take control of your online presence.
- Prepare for rapid-response communications.
- Adopt cyber and physical security best practices.
- Build and strengthen relationships with local media and other partners.
- Create escalation plans.
- Prepare legal support networks.

# Example Crisis Scenario

## HOW IT COULD HAPPEN

A fake post purporting to originate from the election office says that people without citizenship documentation may be subject to detention and interviews from ICE if they are at or near a polling place. The post appears as a social media screenshot and includes a fake website that looks just like the election office website but ends in .com instead of .gov. The account itself uses an official-sounding username and even has platform verification, which is available to purchase on specific platforms.



AI-generated content was created for the AZ TTX and then used as examples for the report.

# Crisis Scenario: How to Respond

- **Document the attack.** Be sure to collect both screenshots and links to all social media content and the offending website.
- **Escalate to appropriate authorities.** Escalate to your chief state election official's office, the EI-ISAC, CISA, your attorney, and social media platforms.
- **Implement online damage control.** Have a plan for notifying social media platforms and website hosting companies of false or misleading information that could disenfranchise voters.



# Any Questions?

