Elections integrity:

Ad tech companies funding disinformation websites



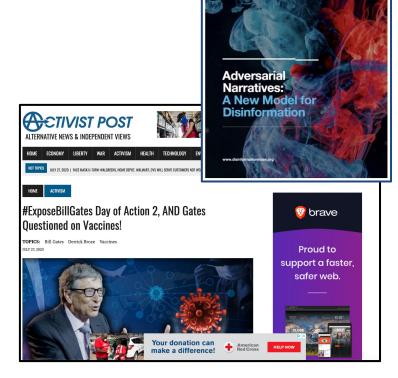
Monetisation of elections integrity disinformation

- This deck highlights the role of ad tech suppliers in funding disinformation related to the U.S. 2022 midterm elections.
- The ad-funded disinformation examples shown in this deck are adversarial towards democratic institutions and seek to undermine the legitimacy of the democratic process of elections.
- Despite the recent inclusion of "misinformation" in the <u>GARM brand safety framework</u>, GDI continues to observe ad tech vendors placing ads against content agreed by the ad industry to be "not appropriate for advertising support."
- Evaluation of ad tech vendors' policies related to elections integrity shows clear policy gaps and inadequate enforcement of <u>existing policies</u>.
- The examples provided in this deck were captured through monitoring of websites previously rated by GDI as having a high-risk for disinformation.
- Websites are manually assessed by GDI using our <u>adversarial narrative conflict framework</u> to determine disinformation risk.



How GDI defines disinformation

- Identifying disinformation is more complex than fact-checking or calling something "fake news."
- Any definition must account for misleading presentation or omission of certain facts in service of a narrative.
- GDI views disinformation through the lens of <u>adversarial</u> <u>narrative conflict</u>. Adversarial narratives are:
 - Intentionally misleading;
 - Financially or ideologically motivated;
 - Aimed at fostering long-term social, political or economic conflict;
 - Creating a risk of harm by targeting at-risk individuals, groups or institutions.
- This definition allows us to explicitly identify disinformation by adversarial narrative topic.



GD



Brands unwittingly funding disinformation:

















Policies of featured ad tech vendors

Vendor	Specific publisher policy?	Most relevant policy wording
Ad Roll	X	No relevant publicly available policy.
Google	✓	We do not allow content that: Makes claims that are demonstrably false and could significantly undermine participation or trust in an electoral or democratic process. Examples: information about public voting procedures, political candidate eligibility based on age or birthplace, election results, or census participation that contradicts official government records
Yahoo	X	Politically Sensitive Content Any site or blog the majority of whose editorial content is aimed at furthering the cause of any established political party, organized, or informal pressure group especially where the views espoused therein are likely to cause offence.

GDI

Note: Policies correct as of 10.26.22





Brand: Jimmy Choo

Ad served by:

△ AdRoll

Site:

American Greatness

Disinformation:

Elections integrity

amgreatness.com/2022/10/22/not-consensus-but-truth/



We know that if Joe walks into a candy store and pockets some M&M's without paying for them, he has stolen the M&M's. What if he stays in his basement during an election and somehow accrues 81 million votes and manages to win several key states late at night only after a series of strange interventions in a handful of key cities? Might that also be a kind of

Perhaps the title of Mollie Hemingway's Rigged: How the Media, Big Tech, and the Democrats Seized Our Elections puts it more precisely. The election was not stolen outright. It was misappropriated by the forces Hemingway identifies: the media, which hated Trump, Big Tech (Mark Zuckerberg, Twitter, etc.), and the Democrats, who in several states used the COVID emergency as an excuse to circumvent the Constitution and change election procedures by executive fiat rather than (as mandated by the Constitution) through the state legislatures.

ELECTIONS

Not Consensus, But Truth

Thoughts on some senses of the word "steal" (with a brief excursus on "consensus").





October 22, 2022



e use the word "steal," as we use many words, in several distinct but related senses. Here is an illustration of the core meaning. Joe goes into a candy store, looks around furtively (from the Latin für, "thief") and then, when he sees that the shopkeeper is distracted, pockets some M&M's and walks out. Joe just stole the M&M's.

That act of theft is simple. There are plenty of more complex and nuanced ones, but the element of assuming as one's own something that rightfully belongs to another is key.

Our elaborate and often convoluted financial system is replete with examples. So is our political life.

Perhaps the most popular meme floating about in polite society today is the contention that any hint of the 2020 presidential election being tainted is a "Big Lie." It is so popular, in fact,







d.adroll.com/click/?adroll_insertion_id=b607c5e548d8789c780e518c0c605b41&adroll_bo_xt=90&adroll_width=728&site_url=http%3A//amgreatness.com&adroil_ad_payload=_HiAycBkwHFAXTAxAAAYYTT2gcVRzemcQiFKyNuKAHyUHEQ3bm_ZnZnYmGMLvZuCTb3c2mTdwgLm_evNkdu_MnOzPaXIMS

GDI

Date of Capture: Oct 25, 2022



porter

Brand: Porter

Ad served by:

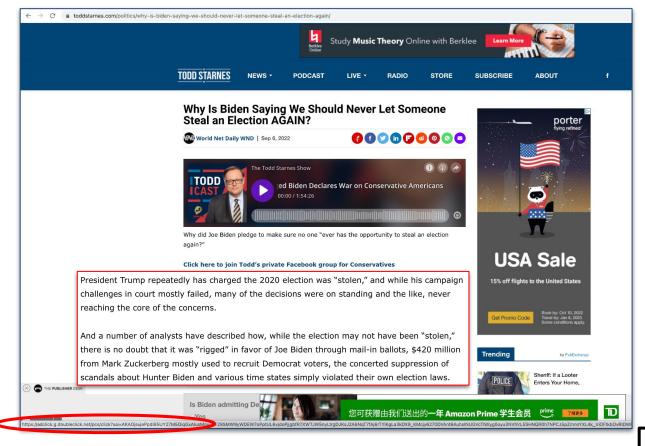
Google

Site:

Todd Starnes

Disinformation:

Elections integrity





Date of Capture: Oct 10, 2022





Brand: Hulu

Ad served by:

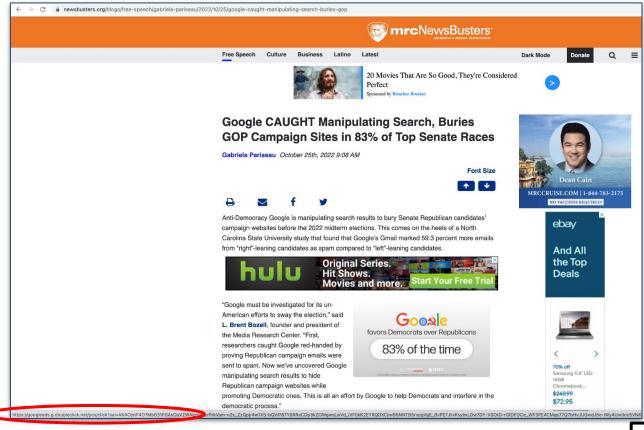
Google

Site:

NewsBusters

Disinformation:

Elections integrity





Date of Capture: Oct 18, 2022



MERRELL.

Brand:

Merrell

Ad served by:

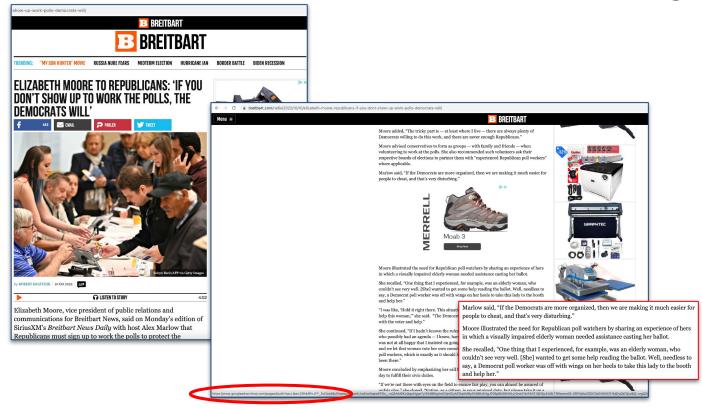
Google

Site:

Breitbart

Disinformation:

Elections integrity





Date of Capture: Oct 11, 2022





Brand: Audible

Ad served by:

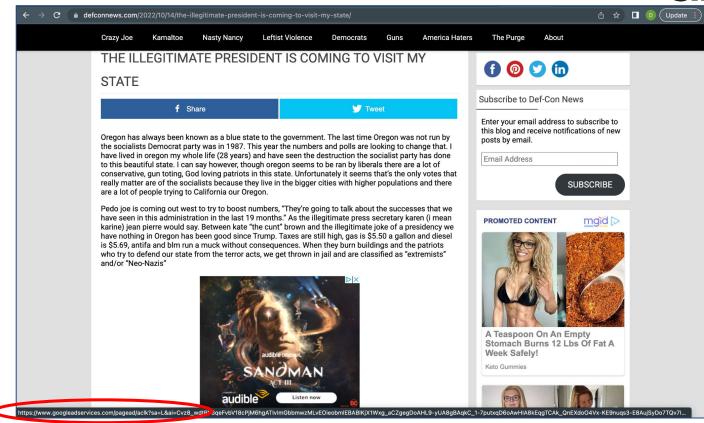


Site:

Def-Con News

Disinformation:

Elections integrity





Date of Capture: Oct 20, 2022





Brand: Hiscox

Ad served by:

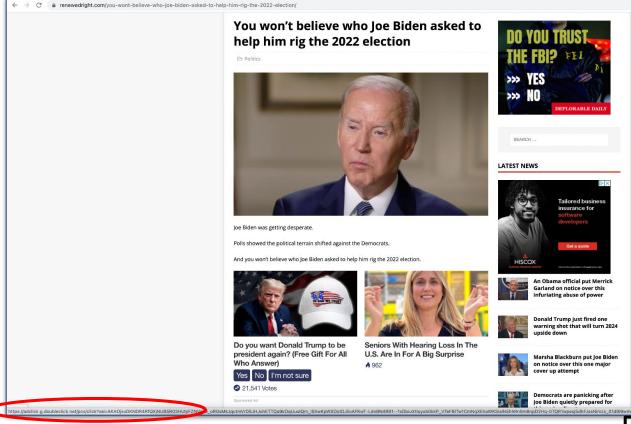


Site:

Renewed Right

Disinformation:

Elections integrity





Date of Capture: Oct 26, 2022





Brand: Sobeys

Ad served by:

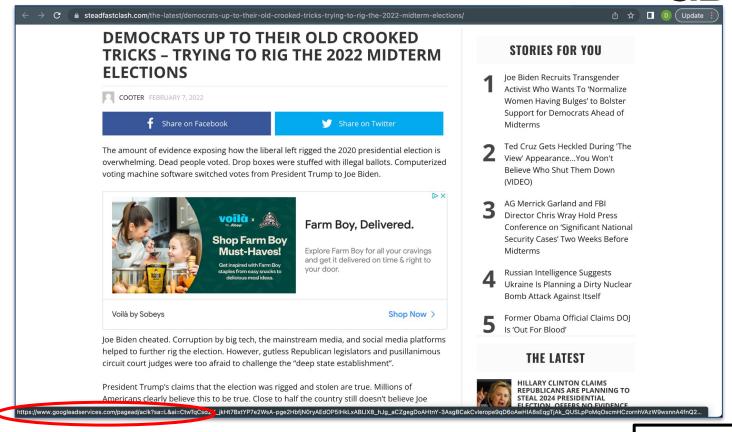


Site:

Steadfast Clash

Disinformation:

Elections integrity





Date of Capture: Oct 26, 2022



UNITED

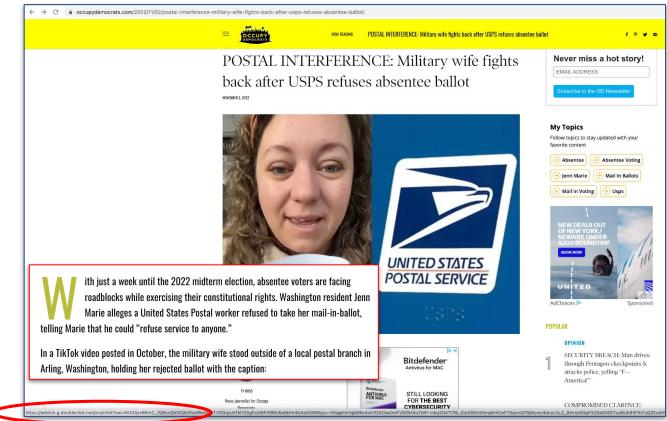
Brand: United Airlines

Ad served by:



Site:
Occupy Democrats

Disinformation: Elections integrity





Date of Capture: Oct 26, 2022



Microsoft 365

Brand: Microsoft

Ad served by:

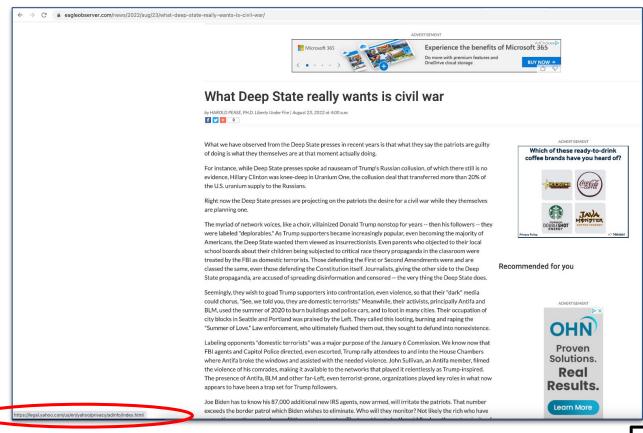
yahoo!

Site:

Eagle Observer

Disinformation:

Elections integrity





Date of Capture: Oct 20, 2022

For more information:

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