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**Date:** 2020/10/14 14:30:13

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** SkypeTeams.Message

<https://nypost.com/2020/10/14/obama-conference-call-leaked-to-burisma-biden-emails/>

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**Sender:** (b)(6)

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cc: Sendek, Sara (b)(6)  
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<b>Sent Date:</b>	2020/10/22 10:00:33
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Kolasky, Robert /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
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(b)(6) Chad /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group  
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3ca164c13018476c9cc1ea257946a985-Chad.Josiah  
<Chad.Josiah@cisa.dhs.gov>;  
Scully, Brian (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
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DHS-1255001802 08.31.2023

<b>Date:</b>	2020/10/22 16:49:03
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal
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Colleagues,

Please see updated reporting for this week below. Full report attached. Updates include,

- • Russia State-Backed Media Continues to Spread COVID Vaccine Disinformation
- • Facebook to Ban Ads Discouraging Vaccines
- • TikTok Is Banning Accounts That Spread QAnon Theories And Disinformation
- • QAnon-Conspiracy Forum 8kun Back Online With Help From Russian Internet Firm
- • QAnon Conspiracy Theory Explodes Ahead of the Election

## COVID-19 Countering Foreign Influence Task Force Reporting and Analysis

### Week of 10/19

(U) **Russia State-Backed Media Continues to Spread COVID Vaccine Disinformation:** As COVID-19 cases skyrocket across Europe, so does disinformation on the pandemic. Take, for example, a story claiming that Ukraine will buy a Russian vaccine and that the purchase will be made via European Union Member States. In reality, experts fear the approval of the Russian vaccine was premature. According to the Lancet, one of the world's best-known medical journals, at that time the vaccine had not even started phase 3 trials. Another difficulty with this claim is the fact that none of the Member States had announced their intention to buy it.

The story is part of a broader narrative asserting that Russia fights the pandemic more effectively than Western democracies, boosting the credibility of a Russian vaccine and undermining that of other (Western) vaccines.

How do you erode the credibility of Western vaccines?

An old trick is to administer a lie packed in a larger truth.

Successful campaigns often "shield a forgery under the armour of a larger truth", explains disinfo scholar Thomas Rid. His acclaimed book, *Active Measures*, showcases a spectacular example of World War II, the forged Tanaka Memorial. This document (allegedly from 1927) was instrumental in convincing many states that Japan elaborated a military strategy to achieve world domination. It was not authentic though.

Why was this false narrative so effective? Because it was rooted in Japan's actual assertive foreign policy of that time.

How do you apply this larger-truth method to Western vaccines?

To undermine the credibility of these vaccines, the pro-Kremlin media took part of the truth (the Oxford vaccine is developed using chimpanzee viral vector) to rebrand it as "the monkey vaccine". This enables the pro-Kremlin media to suggest that the British vaccine will turn people into monkeys and also tap into criticism of animal rights supporters and anti-vaxxers.

However, a point of no small irony: the principles behind the Sputnik V vaccine are, in most respects, the same as Oxford's. Monkey see, monkey do?

The monkey narrative tries to erode the credibility of the Western vaccines. Despite all this ambitious monkey business, one should remember a good old Jamaican proverb: the higher a monkey climbs, the more exposed he is. (Source: EU vs Disinfo)

(U) **Facebook to Ban Ads Discouraging Vaccines:** Facebook Inc. said it would ban ads that discourage immunization, part of a broader effort to combat misinformation about health vaccinations in the coronavirus pandemic.

The tech giant has previously faced criticism from health professionals and users that it failed to curb the spread of false claims about the safety and importance of vaccines on its platforms. (Source: The Wall Street Journal)

(U) **TikTok Is Banning Accounts That Spread QAnon Theories And Disinformation:** In an election cycle that has seen major social media firms seek to stop the spread of QAnon that has grown in popularity across the different platforms, TikTok is ramping up its existing restrictions and is banning content and accounts that spread the sprawling and unfounded conspiracy theory, NPR reports.

"Content and accounts that promote QAnon violate our disinformation policy and we remove them from our platform," TikTok confirmed to *Forbes* in a statement.

The company added that it took "significant steps" to make QAnon content and hashtags harder to find, with the platform redirecting related terms to their community guidelines.

NPR reports that accounts sharing content related to the pro-Trump conspiracy theory, which has exploded in popularity in recent years, will be deleted.

TikTok told *Forbes* that the policy had been in place "for a while", however, the move appears to have been "quietly" confirmed to Media Matters earlier this month, before being confirmed to NPR on Sunday.

**BIG NUMBER**

488 million. That's how many combined views were racked up across 14 QAnon-related hashtags on TikTok as of June this year, according to Media Matters. (Source: Forbes)

(U) **QAnon-Conspiracy Forum 8kun Back Online With Help From Russian Internet Firm:** 8kun — the controversial online imageboard originally known as 8chan— which has been linked to the QAnon movement and multiple mass shootings, came back online on Monday following a brief disruption during the weekend, with help from a Russian internet firm called 'ddos-guard'.

The platform was knocked offline on Sunday evening after the owner of Oregon-based CNServers which helped host 8kun found out that his company was helping keep QAnon online, cybersecurity journalist Brian Krebs reported.

CNServers helped prevent 8kun from being hit with distributed-denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, a type of cyber attack that seeks to overwhelm a website's servers taking it down in the process.

After 8kun was briefly knocked offline, the imageboard switched over to using St. Petersburg, Russia-based ddos-guard.net to protect itself from cyber-attacks. (Source: Forbes)

(U) **QAnon Conspiracy Theory Explodes Ahead of the Election:** What began as a single conspiracy theory linking Hillary Clinton to child trafficking four years ago is now part of a convoluted web of falsehoods being spread to undermine Joe Biden.

The big picture: In a year of unrest and expected election turmoil, experts are concerned that belief in QAnon could be another instigator of violence in some communities if Trump loses in November.

- "That's the question that keeps me up at night," said Bryce Webster-Jacobsen of the cyber threat intelligence firm GroupSense, which specializes in disinformation.
- Tracking these kind of local, potentially militant groups is difficult, he said, because recruitment is often both online — where most of the QAnon community lives — and offline.

By the numbers: New polling provided exclusively to Axios by HOPE not hate, a U.K.-based anti-extremism nonprofit, found more than a third of Americans saying that they believe it's at least probably true that elites "are secretly engaging in large scale child trafficking and abuse."

- 10% said they are at least "soft" supporters of QAnon, specifically.
- The QAnon theory is based on a sprawling online network that analyzes cryptic messages in remote online forums by an anonymous figure "Q," who claims, without evidence, to be a Trump administration official with high-level clearance.

Driving the news: Recent reports about what was purported to be Hunter Biden's computer hard drive have sparked renewed activity from Q, with more concrete ideas to latch onto.

- On the day the New York Post reported on the alleged hard drive, Q posted 16 times, per GroupSense.

The backstory: In 2016, the Pizzagate conspiracy theory claimed that elites and Hillary Clinton's campaign manager were involved in a child sex trafficking ring being operated out of a popular pizza place. It was a niche conspiracy theory, but it led someone to show up to a pizzeria in Washington DC with guns. (Source: Axios)

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Best Regards,

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Analyst, Countering Foreign Influence Task Force  
National Risk Management Center (NRMC)  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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[sp.dhs.gov/EA/External%20Affairs%20Branded%20Templates/New%20CISA%20Logo%20Roll%20Out%20Package/CISA%20Logo%20email%20signature.png](https://nppd-sp.dhs.gov/EA/External%20Affairs%20Branded%20Templates/New%20CISA%20Logo%20Roll%20Out%20Package/CISA%20Logo%20email%20signature.png)

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**Delivered Date:** 2020/10/22 16:49:03

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**Subject:** ESMC Threatscape 110220

**Date:** 2020/11/02 11:58:49

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

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<b>From:</b>	CFITF (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	CFITF All (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	FW: Disinformation Review: The Perils of Elections, According to Pro-Kremlin Media
<b>Date:</b>	2020/11/05 12:11:42
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal
<b>Type:</b>	Note

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 5, 2020 5:11:37 PM (UTC+00:00) (b)(6)  
**To:** CFITF  
**Subject:** FW: Disinformation Review: The Perils of Elections, According to Pro-Kremlin Media

FYSA, update from EU vs Disinfo on Russian election related disinfo.

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**From:** EU East StratCom Task Force <disinforeview@euvsdisinfo.eu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 4, 2020 10:31 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Disinformation Review: The Perils of Elections, According to Pro-Kremlin Media

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EU<sup>vs</sup>  
DiSiNFO

# DISINFORMATION REVIEW



5 November 2020

## TRENDS OF THE WEEK

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## The Perils of Elections According to the Pro-Kremlin Media

As America and many of her allies around the world are anticipating the results of Presidential election 2020, Russian state-controlled media is anticipating the violence in their aftermath. "Radically divided American society awaits civil war", a host of a political talk show on state-run Rossiya 24 TV channel claimed a few days prior to the election, warning that the new civil war was going to be "total".

While several international media outlets have also reported concerns about potential civil unrest following the elections in the US, the pro-Kremlin media took this to whole new level. For example, the above-mentioned talk show also alleged that the Americans were now wishing death upon their own country. Such apocalyptic messages are not new. Independent researchers warn that disinformation actors try to spread anger or fear any way they can. We saw similar narratives following the racial justice protests in the US earlier this year. For Russian state-controlled TV, this was another opportunity to convince its domestic audiences that democracy leads to chaos, and therefore should not be attempted at home.

## **“Impeding” Maidan**

America is not the only one going through the election season. A local election recently took place in Ukraine, and the pro-Kremlin media found an opportunity to claim that it could lead to the disintegration of the state (it will split into three parts!). The only question is why this should matter, as according to pro-Kremlin disinformation, Ukraine is a colony of the United States. Except that US no longer controls it - the UK does and orders its intelligence to brainwash Ukrainian children... Consistency has never been a strong suit of pro-Kremlin outlets.

Moldova is in the middle of a presidential election as well, but for the pro-Kremlin media these elections are not about the choice of the Moldovan people. Predictably, it is about Russia and the impeding Maidan in Moldova. According to pro-Kremlin media, Washington (itself on the verge of civil war, remember?) has already given out instructions to Moldovan opposition for a “colour revolution” in order to put pressure on Russia.

**PRO-KREMLIN DISINFORMATION ABOUT MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE**

- UKRAINIAN ELECTIONS COULD LEAD TO THE TERMINATION OF UKRAINIAN STATEHOOD
- UKRAINE WILL SPLIT INTO THREE PARTS
- UKRAINE BECAME A COLONY TO THE US
- MOLDOVA IN ANTICIPATION OF “MAIDAN”
- THE WEST IS PREPARING INSTRUCTIONS FOR A COLOUR REVOLUTION IN MOLDOVA
- MOLDOVA COULD BE USED TO PUT PRESSURE ON RUSSIA

**DISINFORMATION**

Depicting popular protests in Eastern Europe as “anti-Russian” colour revolutions has become a cliché of pro-Kremlin disinformation. We saw it this week as well, in Belarus

and in Kyrgyzstan. But in the case of Moldova, where there are no protests to speak about as of now, the pro-Kremlin media aim to occupy the information space, by *a priori* defining any possible future public discontent as a destabilisation attempt orchestrated from abroad. After all, preparing the ground for a disinformation campaign in advance is more effective than hammering the same falsehoods year after year.

### **Protests are not what they seem**

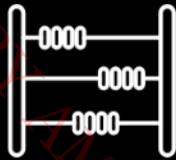
This week, the pro-Kremlin media also stayed true to another of its prominent disinformation narratives alleging that popular protests are never genuine, always orchestrated.

In Poland, thousands have been protesting a controversial court ruling on abortions. However, according to Sputnik, it was the European elites who have led people to the streets, as Brussels was dissatisfied with Polish authorities. In Belarus, where democratic protests continue into third month, pro-Kremlin disinformation implicated not only the usual targets – Poland and Lithuania, but also a French philosopher Bernard-Henri Lévy, who allegedly supervises Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya's team.

\*\*\*

The tropes of orchestrated protests, violence and chaos define how pro-Kremlin media portray democratic processes around the world. Elections bring destruction, democratic leaders are puppets (or so the pro-Kremlin disinformation tries to convey), except, of course, for the only place in the world where “voting” is always fair.

## DISINFORMATION CASES THIS WEEK



Total number:

55



Top 5 keywords:

Ukrainian Statehood,  
The West, Elections, Colour  
Revolutions, Protests



Top 5 Targets:

Ukraine, US, Belarus,  
EU, Poland



Top 5 languages:

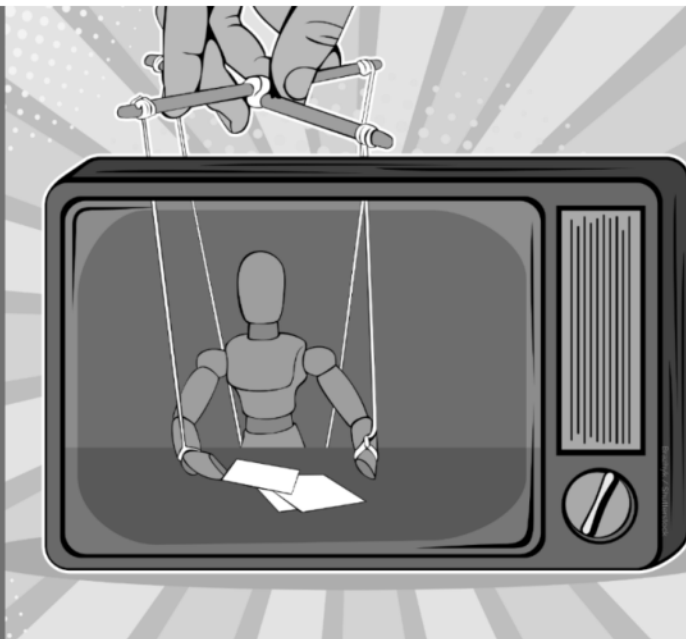
Russian, Arabic, Italian,  
Polish, French

CLICK HERE FOR THE **55** DISINFO CASES EXPOSED THIS WEEK

## LATEST ANALYSES

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**ONLY  
23%  
OF RUSSIANS  
TRUST  
TELEVISION  
AS A SOURCE OF  
INFORMATION**



## **FIGURE OF THE WEEK: 23%**

Less than a quarter of Russians trust television as a source of information – a new record low since 2016.

[Read more](#)



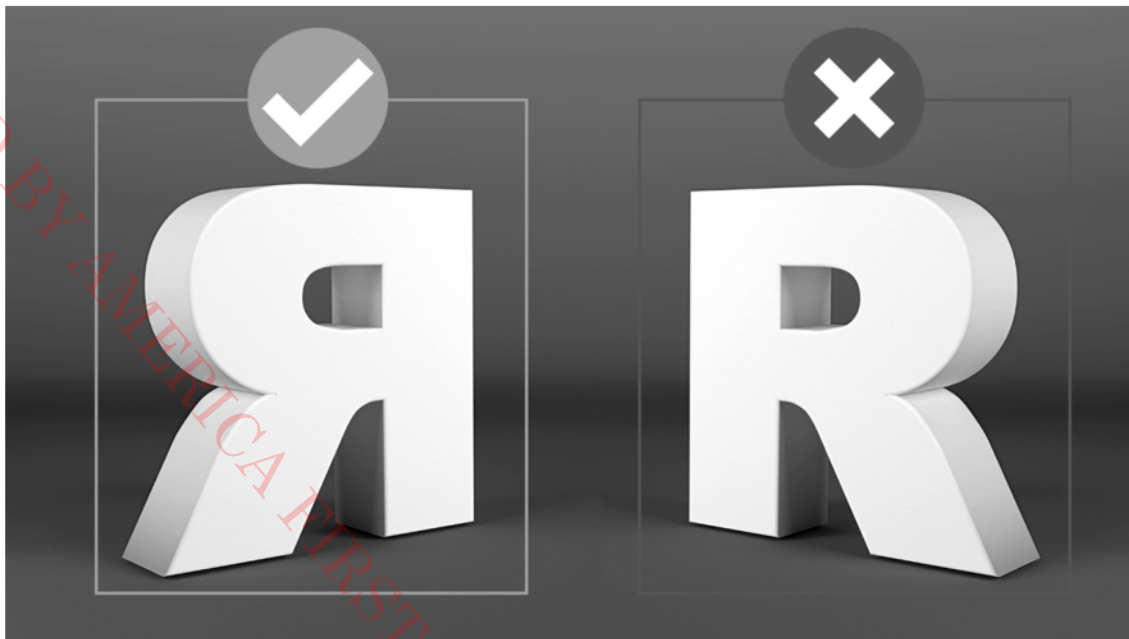
## PRO-KREMLIN MEDIA ON US ELECTIONS: TRUMP GOOD, BIDEN BAD

Russian state-controlled media outlets and their affiliates have a clear and persuasive bias in favour of current US President Donald Trump over former US Vice President Joe Biden.

[Read more](#)

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST





## THE EVIL LATIN LETTERS

One key element in pro-Kremlin disinformation is to describe Russia as a besieged fortress. The acting head of the Russian republic of Dagestan has launched a campaign against the Latin alphabet - the source of all evil, as he says.

[Read more](#)

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**EAST STRATCOM TASK FORCE**



Every Thursday, the Disinformation Review brings you the latest cases of news articles carrying key examples of how pro-Kremlin disinformation finds its way in international media, as well as news and analysis on the topic. Cases in the EUvsDisinfo database focus on messages in the international information space that are identified as providing a partial, distorted, or false depiction of reality and spread key pro-Kremlin messages. This does not necessarily imply, however, that a given outlet is linked to the Kremlin or editorially pro-Kremlin, or that it has intentionally sought to disinform. EUvsDisinfo publications do not represent an official EU position, as the information and opinions expressed are based on media reporting and analysis of the East Stratcom Task Force. Any errors or misrepresentations should be reported to the East Stratcom Task Force for correction at [disinforeview@euvsdisinfo.eu](mailto:disinforeview@euvsdisinfo.eu).



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	CFITF (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6) (b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	CFITF All (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
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<b>Delivered Date:</b>	2020/11/05 12:11:42

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	Masterson, Matthew (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
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	Snell, Allison (b)(6)
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<b>Subject:</b>	FW: POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Biden wins
<b>Date:</b>	2020/11/07 11:48:30
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal
<b>Type:</b>	Note

**From:** POLITICO Pro

**Sent:** Saturday, November 7, 2020 11:48:14 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

**To:** Sendek, Sara

**Subject:** POLITICO Pro Breaking News: Biden wins

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Joe Biden has won the presidency, toppling Donald Trump after four years of upheaval in the White House.

Trump is the first president since 1992 to fail to win a second term. But the close results in many key states — coupled with a lackluster performance by down-ballot Democrats — will leave the Democratic and Republican parties facing an identity crisis unlike any in recent history.

The call for Biden by The Associated Press came as Trump and his campaign disputed the results and vowed a legal battle to challenge them.

Biden, the former vice president, triumphed as a normalizing force. He succeeded in defining the race as a referendum on Trump, whose chaotic government — often by tweet — tested the patience of a weary electorate.

Trump suffered from persistently low public approval ratings and was plagued by a pandemic that has killed more than 230,000 Americans. The coronavirus was spiking across the country amid early voting and on Election Day.

The Republican Party now faces a crossroads. Once wary of Trump, the GOP has remade itself in his image. Republicans have embraced or not disavowed Trump's nativist politics, science denials and, most recently, efforts to undermine confidence in elections.

Trump's excesses appealed to his fervid supporters, but Tuesday's election suggested that base is untenably narrow.

The election fell short of the sweeping mandate many Democrats expected. The narrow margins along which the outcome was decided reinforced how polarized the electorate remains, and Biden may be stymied by a Senate that appears likely to remain in Republican hands.

Still, Biden broke Barack Obama's 2008 record for the most votes cast for a presidential candidate. Biden will represent a return of sorts to the Obama era, not only installing the former president's No. 2 back in the White House, but making history again with the election of Kamala Harris as the first female, first Asian American and first Black vice president.

Biden, who once referred to himself as a "transition candidate," will now oversee a dramatic rebalancing of power in American politics. He is expected to quickly reverse Trump-era policies related to immigration and climate change while adopting a stricter posture on public health measures related to the coronavirus. He has promised to pursue a legislative agenda that includes raising taxes on the wealthy and expanding health care and college affordability programs.

Biden powered his winning campaign on a coalition of reliably Democratic voting blocs, but also suburbanites, independents and seniors. He flipped Arizona, aided by that state's changing demographics, but also won the Rust Belt states of Michigan and Wisconsin, which Trump had carried four years ago. Trump, meanwhile, chased diminishing returns – overtly appealing to a shrinking demographic of rural and suburban whites in response to a summer of civil unrest following the death of George Floyd.

Biden, he said, would turn entire states into "refugee camps," and he was reluctant to condemn white supremacists. It was a losing argument, and the sophisticated turnout program Trump's campaign promised to swell the president's ranks was not enough to sustain him.

Biden, 77, was underestimated from the moment he announced his candidacy, widely viewed as too old, too moderate and too burdened by his centrist record in the Senate to compete in the sprawling Democratic primary. He finished fourth in the Iowa caucuses and fifth in New Hampshire, only turning his campaign around after a victory in South Carolina proved his appeal to African Americans at the heart of the Democratic Party. Moderates quickly coalesced around Biden, helping him to stamp out his more progressive rival, Bernie Sanders.

To Biden's benefit, the general election always was less about him than Trump. The president's approval rating rarely eclipsed the mid-40s during his four years in office. And he failed to smear Biden as effectively as he had sullied Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Biden was regarded by voters as a more palatable alternative, and though Trump toiled to drag down his approval ratings, nothing stuck – not China, not Hunter Biden, not Trump's accusations that he was mentally unfit or beholden to the "radical left."

“We can choose a path of becoming angrier, less hopeful, more divided, a path of shadow and suspicion,” Biden said when he accepted the Democratic Party’s nomination in August. “Or we can choose a different path and together take this chance to heal, to reform, to unite.”

Biden raised enormous sums that allowed him to swamp Trump on TV, with Democrats spending about \$810 million to Republicans’ \$500 million since April.

The election’s outcome would not have been in doubt had Trump not defied the polls and upset Clinton four years earlier – or had the impeached (and Senate-acquitted) president not possessed such an uncanny instinct for survival. Even as his path to an Electoral College victory appeared to vanish, a lingering sense that he could surprise Biden at the polls colored the closing weeks of the campaign.

In part, this was due to uncertainty surrounding the unprecedented effort by Trump and the Republican Party to depress turnout. The campaign filed reams of lawsuits across the country to restrict mail voting, limit the use of ballot drop-boxes and otherwise make it harder to vote. Trump embarked on a parallel campaign to delegitimize the election, baselessly warning it would be “rigged” and predicting the outcome would only be settled in the courts.

On the final weekend before Election Day, he predicted the country would devolve into “bedlam.”

It still might, as deeply disappointed Trump supporters reckon with defeat. Even on election night, Trump was working to discredit the outcome, baselessly calling for the election to be called in his favor before all ballots were counted. The next day, he brought challenges in Wisconsin and Michigan to the results.

Trump, once out of office, will likely be unable to delay numerous investigations and lawsuits into whether he or his companies inflated his worth, cheated on his taxes, harassed or assaulted women, illegally took money from foreigners and doled out hush money to women alleging affairs, in violation of campaign finance laws.

The 74-year-old former real estate and reality TV star had formally launched his reelection campaign amid rising wages, a soaring stock market and job growth. But he was hindered by his downplaying of the coronavirus and inability to quickly get tests and medical supplies to states.

Even as Trump insisted that the United States was “rounding the turn” on the virus, the pandemic continued to set record case levels, with experts predicting an even worse winter. Trump’s own campaign rallies, according to public health officials and researchers, contributed to the virus’ spread.

His defeat will leave the Republican Party torn between rank-and-file Republicans who overwhelmingly supported the president and more moderate Republican figures who may now be freer to distance themselves from him.

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**Subject:** Keyword Search Results - Day Shift - 11-09-20  
**Date:** 2020/11/09 13:32:01  
**Priority:** Normal  
**Type:** Note

Good Afternoon,

Please see below for the keyword results for Day Shift on 11-09-20.

Day Shift					
Subject	Action	Initial	Keyword	Operational Focus	Link
Ransomware hits e-commerce platform X-Cart	Teams/Cyber	HH	Ransomware	Cyber	<a href="https://www.zdnet.com/a-commerce-platform-x-ca">https://www.zdnet.com/a-commerce-platform-x-ca</a>
Eta poses threat to already drenched South Florida	Teams/Physical	HH	Evacuations	Physical	<a href="https://turnto10.com/wea-to-already-drenched-sou">https://turnto10.com/wea-to-already-drenched-sou</a>
Covid-19	Teams/Physical	HH	COVID	Physical	<a href="https://www.statnews.co">https://www.statnews.co</a>

vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech is strongly effective, early data from large trial indicate					from-pfizer-and-biontech-from-large-trial-indicate/
NC elections officials still counting ballots this week	Teams/Elections	HH	Ballots	Elections	<a href="https://www.wspa.com/news/counting-ballots-this-week">https://www.wspa.com/news/counting-ballots-this-week</a>
Live Updates: Trump picks Rep. Doug Collins to lead recount in Georgia	Teams/Elections	HH	Ballots	Elections	<a href="https://www.wjcl.com/article/trump-biden-senate-election">https://www.wjcl.com/article/trump-biden-senate-election</a>
Fraud claims aimed in part at keeping Trump base loyal	Teams/Elections	HH	Fraudulent Voting	Elections	<a href="https://prescottnews.com/news/claims-aimed-in-part-at-keeping-trump-base-loyal">https://prescottnews.com/news/claims-aimed-in-part-at-keeping-trump-base-loyal</a>
Compal, the second-largest laptop manufacturer in the world, hit by ransomware	Teams/Cyber	HH	Ransomware	Cyber	<a href="https://www.zdnet.com/article/compal-laptop-manufacturer-hit-by-ransomware-attack">https://www.zdnet.com/article/compal-laptop-manufacturer-hit-by-ransomware-attack</a>
Ecommerce platform X-Cart recovers from a ransomware attack	Teams/Cyber	HH	Ransomware	Cyber	<a href="https://thepaypers.com/news/ecommerce-platform-x-cart-recovers-from-ransomware-attack--124">https://thepaypers.com/news/ecommerce-platform-x-cart-recovers-from-ransomware-attack--124</a>
Cities return to normal after no widespread election violence reported	Teams/Elections	HH	Election Violence	Elections	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/return-normal-after-no-widespread-election-violence-reported/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/return-normal-after-no-widespread-election-violence-reported/</a>
Open University flooded with over a million cyberattacks in nine months	Teams/Cyber	HH		Cyber	<a href="https://www.verdict.co.uk/news/open-university-flooded-with-over-a-million-cyberattacks-in-nine-months">https://www.verdict.co.uk/news/open-university-flooded-with-over-a-million-cyberattacks-in-nine-months</a>
More Alabama	Teams/Physical	HH	COVID	Physical	<a href="https://www.al.com/news">https://www.al.com/news</a>



schools go virtual due to COVID-19					go-virtual-due-to-covid-1
Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a Pfizer director and ex-FDA chief, says Covid vaccine won't help immediately	Teams/Physical	HH	COVID	Physical	<a href="https://www.cnbc.com/2020/11/09/covid-vaccine-wont-help.html">https://www.cnbc.com/2020/11/09/covid-vaccine-wont-help.html</a>
India's Ex-ambassadors Pledge Support To France Against Terrorism At 'this Difficult Moment	Teams/Physical	HH	Iran	Terrorism	<a href="https://www.republicworld.com/news/india/india-s-ex-ambassadors-pledge-support-to-france-against-terrorism-at-this-difficult-moment.html">https://www.republicworld.com/news/india/india-s-ex-ambassadors-pledge-support-to-france-against-terrorism-at-this-difficult-moment.html</a>
Election 2020 live updates: Biden to deliver remarks on the coronavirus as Trump presses legal challenges	Teams/Elections	HH	Fraudulent Voting	Elections	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/election/2020/11/09/trump-election-live-updates/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/election/2020/11/09/trump-election-live-updates/</a>
Arizona reports 435 new COVID-19 cases as hospitalizations continue to increase	Teams/Physical	HH	COVID	Physical	<a href="https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/health/2020/11/09/arizona-reports-435-new-covid-19-cases-no-new-knowledge-yet/5611110002">https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/health/2020/11/09/arizona-reports-435-new-covid-19-cases-no-new-knowledge-yet/5611110002</a>
Tropical storm warnings canceled across state as Eta soaks South Florida	Teams/Physical	HH	Evacuations	Physical	<a href="https://www.tampabay.com/news/weather/2020/11/09/tropical-storm-warning-issued-upon-arrival-of-hurricane-eta-florida/">https://www.tampabay.com/news/weather/2020/11/09/tropical-storm-warning-issued-upon-arrival-of-hurricane-eta-florida/</a>
Utah Gov. Announces Statewide Mask Mandate, Citing Steep Spike In COVID-19	Teams/Physical	HH	COVID	Physical	<a href="https://www.npr.org/sections/health/2020/11/09/9331110002-utah-gov-announces-statewide-mask-mandate-citing-steep-spike-in-covid-19-cases">https://www.npr.org/sections/health/2020/11/09/9331110002-utah-gov-announces-statewide-mask-mandate-citing-steep-spike-in-covid-19-cases</a>

Cases					
Refine Your Legal Toolkit Before Ransomware Strikes	Teams/Cyber	HH	Ransomware	Cyber	<a href="https://www.law.com/news/your-legal-toolkit-before-ransomware-strikes/?slreturn=202010">https://www.law.com/news/your-legal-toolkit-before-ransomware-strikes/?slreturn=202010</a>

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CISA CENTRAL  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)  
Office: **202-282-9201** | Email: [central@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:central@cisa.dhs.gov)



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**Subject:** Keyword Search Results - Day Shift - 11-12-20

**Date:** 2020/11/12 13:49:55

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

Good Afternoon,

Please see below for the keyword results for Day Shift on 11-12-20

Day Shift					
Subject	Action	Initials	Keyword	Operational Focus	Link
Ransomware Gang Hacks Facebook Account To Run Extortion Ads	TEAMS	HRC	Ransomware	Cyber	ht ex
Iranian Hackers Behind Malicious New Cyber Attacks	TEAMS	HRC	Ransomware	Cyber	ht re
Ragnar Locker' Gang Uses Facebook Ads in \$15 Million Bitcoin Ransom	TEAMS	HRC	Ransomware	Cyber	ht ra
Ghimob trojan attacks mobile phone users	TEAMS	HRC	Trojan	Cyber	ht
Compal hit hard by ransomware worldwide	TEAMS	HRC	Ransomware	Cyber	ht
IRS Warns Of Text Message Scammers Posing As The Agency	TEAMS	HH	Ransomware	Cyber	ht m
Tropical Storm Eta Makes Landfall	TEAMS	HRC	Evacuation	Physical	ht

Burlington to hold clinics after virus found in wastewater	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht w
Mass. to Release New COVID-19 Data as Hospitals Brace for Surge	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht ho
European stocks lose momentum as Covid-19 vaccine rally fades	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht
New Drive-Up COVID-19 Testing Site Opens In Camden County As Cases Continue To Soar Across Entire Region	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht co
New York Facing New COVID Restrictions	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht
Hospitals, Pharmacies Make Plans for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht co
US cases of COVID-19, hospitalizations keep climbing	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht cli
Covid-19 scare unfolds aboard first Caribbean cruise since the pandemic began	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht ca
Ukraine's President Hospitalized With COVID-19	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht up
Michigan hospital executives sound siren about COVID-19 surge	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht 19
Italian hospitals face breaking point in fall virus surge	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht vir
The U.S. has recorded over 240,000 deaths and more than 10.3 million confirmed infections, with new cases soaring to all-time highs	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht ne
Ohio Governor Mike DeWine says Ohio remains in a state of emergency, announces new retail mask order	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht an
U.S. Stocks Slip on Covid-19 Concerns	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht 11
Doctors ask for help as Missouri COVID-19 rates continue sharp rise	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht 19
Minnesota fire department won't respond to calls due to COVID-19	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht re
Virginia COVID-19 cases rise by 1,521 on Thursday	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht
TidalHealth partners with Wicomico Co. Health Department to expand COVID-19 testing	TEAMS	HRC	COVID-19	Physical	ht de
Over 100 briefcases of uncounted ballots found in Puerto Rico	TEAMS	HH	Ballots	Election	ht ba
30 South Carolina Republicans back AG Barr's election probe	TEAMS	HH	Ballots	Election	ht el
US election results: Mail-in ballots counted in New York City	TEAMS	HRC	Ballots	Election	ht yo
Elections officials say they're receiving death threats for counting ballots as Trump team looks for proof of election fraud	TEAMS	HRC	Ballots	Election	ht lo

Georgia to Conduct full by-hand Count of Presidential Race Ballots	TEAMS	HRC	Ballots	Election	ht ra
Michigan Witness Says Many Faked Ballots In Detroit, Zero Trump Ballots, Even Among Military	TEAMS	HRC	Ballots	Election	ht ba
650,000 Votes Were Counted Unlawfully in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh	TEAMS	HRC	Ballots	Election	ht ph
Sen. Cruz Demands Investigation of Voting Machine System That Wrongly Gave County to Biden	TEAMS	HRC	Ballots	Election	ht sy
Lag in mail-in ballot count went as expected, experts say	TEAMS	HH	Ballots	Election	ht 91
Trump's legal challenges to the election will help Democrats	TEAMS	HH	Ballots	Election	ht cla
How Coronavirus Is Impacting 4G/5G Telematics Control Unit Market?	TEAMS	HRC	5G	5G	ht te
Sweden halts 5G auction after court grants relief to Huawei	TEAMS	HRC	5G	5G	ht re
Latvia launches first 5G military test site in Europe	TEAMS	HRC	5G	5G	ht eu
Vodafone Germany reaches 5G expansion target for 2020	TEAMS	HRC	5G	5G	ht ta

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19 outbreak					
Cybersecurity worries mount for businesses, health care during transition	Teams	DB	Ransomware	Cyber	<a href="https://www.wdtimes.com/opinion/article_c3a507d8e2427bf598.html">https://www.wdtimes.com/opinion/article_c3a507d8e2427bf598.html</a>
The terrorist threat still lurks: A grim reminder for Joe Biden	Teams	DB	Terrorism	Iran	<a href="https://www.sun-sentinel.com/opinion/commentary/terrorism-20201120-gesdx7pc7fbnzienlo6xzrrr6a-st">https://www.sun-sentinel.com/opinion/commentary/terrorism-20201120-gesdx7pc7fbnzienlo6xzrrr6a-st</a>
Emergency Services prepare for Disaster	Teams	DB	Fire	Physical	<a href="https://www.tullahomanews.com/news/local/emergency-services-prepare-for-disaster/article_e116ab38-2a9e-11eb-a8ab-2fcd">https://www.tullahomanews.com/news/local/emergency-services-prepare-for-disaster/article_e116ab38-2a9e-11eb-a8ab-2fcd</a>
The US may launch a program to reform the financial sector in Ukraine	Teams	DB	Financial	Physical	<a href="https://freenews.live/the-us-may-launch-a-program-to-reform-the-financial-sector-in-ukraine/">https://freenews.live/the-us-may-launch-a-program-to-reform-the-financial-sector-in-ukraine/</a>
Report: Census data delayed until at least late January	Teams	DB	Census	Elections	<a href="https://newjerseyglobe.com/national/report-census-data-delayed-until-at-least-late-january/">https://newjerseyglobe.com/national/report-census-data-delayed-until-at-least-late-january/</a>
FDA Partners with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Western Center for Food Safety, and California Agricultural Stakeholders to Enhance Food Safety	Teams	DB	Food and Agricultural	Physical	<a href="https://www.perishablenews.com/produce/fda-partners-with-the-california-department-of-food-and-agriculture-western-center-for-food-safety-and-california-agricultural-stakeholders-to-enhance-food-safety/">https://www.perishablenews.com/produce/fda-partners-with-the-california-department-of-food-and-agriculture-western-center-for-food-safety-and-california-agricultural-stakeholders-to-enhance-food-safety/</a>
New Mount Locker Ransomware Version Targeting TurboTax Files	Teams	DB	Ransomware	Cyber	<a href="https://securityboulevard.com/2020/11/new-mount-locker-ransomware-version-targeting-turbotax-files/">https://securityboulevard.com/2020/11/new-mount-locker-ransomware-version-targeting-turbotax-files/</a>
Verizon 5G	Teams	DB	5g	Cyber	<a href="https://telecomreseller.com/2020/11/20/verizon-5g/">https://telecomreseller.com/2020/11/20/verizon-5g/</a>



Ultra Wideband service available in more cities					available-in-more-cities-2/
Satellite Service Market Analysis and Forecasts 2020-2025: An Evaluation of Satellite Support for 5G Coverage, Applications and Services	Teams	DB	5g	Cyber	<a href="https://www.benzinga.com/pressreleases/20/11/n-market-analysis-and-forecasts-2020-2025-an-evalu-for-5">https://www.benzinga.com/pressreleases/20/11/n-market-analysis-and-forecasts-2020-2025-an-evalu-for-5</a>
Worldwide Content Disarm and Reconstruction Industry to 2025 - SMEs Segment to Grow at a Higher Pace During the Forecast Period	Teams	DB	Ransomware	Cyber	<a href="https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20201-Content-Disarm-and-Reconstruction-Industry-to-2025-SMEs-Segment-to-Grow-at-a-Higher-Pace-During-the-Forecast-Period-ResearchAndMarkets.com">https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20201-Content-Disarm-and-Reconstruction-Industry-to-2025-SMEs-Segment-to-Grow-at-a-Higher-Pace-During-the-Forecast-Period-ResearchAndMarkets.com</a>
Minnesota GOP claims election 'abnormalities' without evidence	Teams	DB	Election Irregularities	Elections	<a href="https://www.startribune.com/minnesota-gop-claim-without-evidence/573145901/">https://www.startribune.com/minnesota-gop-claim-without-evidence/573145901/</a>
Crews scramble to put out brush fires in Washington County, Mo.	Teams	DB	Fires	Physical	<a href="https://fox2now.com/news/missouri/crews-scramble-in-washington-county-mo/">https://fox2now.com/news/missouri/crews-scramble-in-washington-county-mo/</a>
Nearly 200,000 gallons of wastewater flowed into Lake Seminole	Teams	DB	Waste	Physical	<a href="https://www.tampabay.com/news/pinellas/2020/1-gallons-of-wastewater-flowed-into-lake-seminole/">https://www.tampabay.com/news/pinellas/2020/1-gallons-of-wastewater-flowed-into-lake-seminole/</a>
Wastewater testing offers	Teams	DB	Water	Physical	<a href="https://turnto10.com/i-team/wastewater-testing-of-vaccine-approaches">https://turnto10.com/i-team/wastewater-testing-of-vaccine-approaches</a>

COVID-19 warning as vaccine approaches					
Georgia governor calls for audit after state certifies election results	Teams	DB	Ballots	Elections	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/brian-kemp-georgia-update-live-stream-today-2020-11-20/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/brian-kemp-georgia-update-live-stream-today-2020-11-20/</a>
Vaccine Optimism causes Weekly Gains for oil while Analysts Predict Prices in the \$50s	Teams	DB	Oil	Physical	<a href="https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/388364-vaccine-weekly-gains-for-oil-while-analysts-predict-2021-prices-in-the-50s/">https://shipandbunker.com/news/world/388364-vaccine-weekly-gains-for-oil-while-analysts-predict-2021-prices-in-the-50s/</a>

Respectfully,

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CISA Central - NCR Operations  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)  
Office: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6)



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Colleagues,

The CFI TF strives to provide you with timely, mildly interesting holiday reading material. As such, please see the special Thanksgiving edition of our reporting below. Full report attached. Updates include,

- • In Race for COVID-19 Vaccine, Russia Turns to Disinformation (← If you read one COVID-19 related disinfo article this weekend)
- • China and Russia Are Using COVID-19 Vaccines to Expand Their Influence. The U.S. is on the Sidelines
- • Facebook, Twitter, and Google are Uniting to Stop Vaccine Misinformation From Spreading Online
- • Coronavirus Vaccines Face Trust Gap in Black and Latino Communities, Study Finds

## COVID-19 Countering Foreign Influence Task Force Reporting and Analysis

(U) Week of 11/23

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(U) **In Race for COVID-19 Vaccine, Russia Turns to Disinformation:** When two COVID-19 vaccines were announced within a week of each other, everyone cheered that the end to the global pandemic was now in sight.

Everyone, that is, except Russia.

Since the summer, Moscow has conducted a global disinformation campaign aimed at both undermining vaccines produced in the West and promoting its own rival product, particularly to countries across the developing world, according to interviews with four national and European Union disinformation experts and a review of Kremlin-backed media outlets by POLITICO.

The tactics — including articles attacking senior executives at Pfizer, the U.S. pharmaceutical giant behind one of the vaccines — have become more intense since two treatments were announced earlier this month, and represent the latest chapter in a widespread disinformation operation that has portrayed the West's response to the coronavirus crisis as behind that of Russia.

"The goal has been to denigrate vaccines from the West," said Bret Schafer, a media and digital disinformation fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States' Alliance for Securing Democracy, a think tank in Washington. "It's a strategic attempt to sow doubt for Moscow's own geopolitical interests."

In state-backed media articles in multiple languages, the Kremlin has pushed claims that Western vaccines are experimental, unsafe and will likely fail. That message has specifically targeted countries within Central and Eastern Europe, a region that remains ground zero for an ongoing digital disinformation battle between Western powers and Russia, according to two national disinformation officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

"Western vaccine manufacturers rely on experimental, little studied and not proven in the long-term technologies, encountering obstacles in their clinical trials," said Kirill Dmitriev, chief executive of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, which is financing the Kremlin's vaccine, known as Sputnik V, in multiple state-backed outlets from Lithuania to Moldova.

The strategy has fallen into two camps, based on POLITICO's review of Kremlin-backed media, as well as discussions with national and EU disinformation officials.

### **Undermine trust**

In Europe and the United States, Moscow has highlighted the potentially harmful side-effects of vaccines created in the West — sometimes drawing rebukes from senior military and government leaders for this portrayal.

That includes one article, citing a survey in the Mirror, a British newspaper, that said one of these treatments left patients with headaches and fever. Another reported Western pharmaceutical executives selling shares on the back of the vaccine announcements to profit from the pandemic. (Western outlets also covered that story, Pfizer said the shares were sold because they hit a predetermined price as part of a plan approved by the company's chief executive in August.) Moscow has also pushed conspiracy theories that companies waited until after the U.S. election to make their findings public to undermine Donald Trump in the eyes of American voters.

Many of these articles have been shared widely among anti-vaccine groups on Facebook, based on POLITICO's review of data from CrowdTangle, a social media analytics firm owned by Facebook, while others have garnered significant interactions through resharing and likes on Twitter.

In other parts of the world, particularly in Eastern European countries with historic ties to Russia, Latin America, India and the Middle East, Kremlin-backed media outlets have been more aggressive in promoting conspiracy theories, according to two other national disinformation officials.

In Ukraine, articles accusing "American vaccine tests" of harming locals were shared across social media, while in Georgia, Moscow pushed claims that the West was seeking to undermine global trust in COVID-19 vaccines.

"If people think that the U.S. vaccines don't work, this is what Russia wants to achieve on a strategic basis," said Jakub Kalenský, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab, which tracks misinformation. "The goal is to make people doubt and distrust legitimate sources of information."

### **Commercial stakes**

The Kremlin's tactics, in part, are also commercial.

Only days after Pfizer and BioNTech announced the world's first COVID-19 vaccine, Russia followed suit with its own competitor, funded by the country's sovereign wealth fund. While independent scientists welcomed the news, several called for caution because of the small sample size from which Moscow based its analysis, as well as a lack of data made available to outside scientists to check the results.

"These interim results appear to be encouraging," Gillies O'Bryan-Tear, chair of policy and communications at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine, a British trade group, said in a statement. "Only 20 cases of COVID illness were the subject of this interim analysis, in contrast to the 94 cases which were reported by Pfizer."

That did not stop state-backed media and the country's sovereign wealth fund from promoting the Russian vaccine in more than 30 languages. The government also suggested, based on a YouGov poll from across emerging economies, that people were more likely to take Russia's vaccine compared to



other available drugs. On Saturday, Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, told G20 leaders that his country was prepared to offer its vaccine to other countries in need.

On RT Arabic, a Kremlin-backed outlet, reports circulated about how many countries had already signed up for the vaccine. On its English-language counterpart, praise from Xi Jinping, China's premier, for Russia's vaccine garnered extensive coverage. On Russia's Spanish outlets — some of the most-read media organizations in Latin America, based on data from CrowdTangle — coverage highlighted how many of the region's governments were leaning toward the Russian vaccine.

"It makes perfect sense to push the commercial aspect," said Kalenský from the Atlantic Council. "But that's not the primary motive. Spreading confusion is more important for the Russian government." (Source: Politico)

**(U) China and Russia Are Using COVID-19 Vaccines to Expand Their Influence. The U.S. is on the Sidelines:** In the new frontier of vaccine diplomacy, there are two paths: stockpile or share.

The first way is unfolding in the United States — with two promising coronavirus vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna on the cusp of approval — as the Trump administration focuses on domestic distribution from private labs.

The European Union and other wealthy democracies have bought up much of what's left of the initial doses, but they also will lend support to a World Health Organization-linked effort to eventually expand supplies to countries in need.

The other approach comes from China and Russia, which have rushed to share their own state-backed vaccines with nations scrambling for supply, positioning themselves to possibly expand their political and economic interests in the process.

The contrast goes well beyond the crisis of the pandemic, reflecting how the post-World War II world order is challenged by the rise of authoritarian powers and the retreat of the United States during the outgoing Trump administration.

"Global health and pharmaceutical interventions are getting sucked into balance-of-power politics," said David Fidler, senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations. "For the U.S., this creates geopolitical nightmares, because we are not in the game."

### **China's vaccine roadshow**

China has five vaccine candidates in the final stages of trials, which have taken place in regions of strategic importance to Beijing. Testing is underway in more than a dozen countries, including Indonesia, Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Brazil.

In the United Arab Emirates, where Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Maktoum, is among those to receive a vaccine, China's Sinopharm received emergency-use approval months ago. Beijing has offered \$1 billion in loans to countries that would otherwise struggle to pay to buy its vaccine, according to the Mexican Foreign Ministry.

But perhaps the biggest advantages for Beijing could be won in Southeast Asia, where China and the United States compete for strategic and cultural influence.

China has signed agreements with Malaysia and Indonesia for priority access to the Sinovac Biotech vaccine, moving in swiftly with trials earlier this year as cases mounted in the two nations and economies faltered.

Beijing has said it won't use the vaccine for diplomatic leverage. But in public remarks, Chinese officials have linked the vaccine to greater cooperation and outreach — echoing China's foreign policy strategy, the Belt and Road Initiative, which seeks to build transport and commercial links across Asia and beyond.

There are questions about what depending on China for doses could mean for countries in Southeast Asia, particularly as they push back against Beijing's claims in the South China Sea, for instance.

Sebastian Strangio, author of a recent book on Beijing's relationship with Southeast Asia, said China's vaccine strategy is part of a broader campaign to cast itself as a "helpful, understanding regional partner — and an inevitable one."

Strangio predicted that Beijing's use of leverage will generally be "subtle" rather than a straightforward quid pro quo, such as China's request to the Malaysian government to release dozens of Chinese fishermen held for illegally entering Malaysia's waters last month. The appeal came during the same meetings as negotiations on a vaccine. The men remain jailed, and a news portal, Malaysiakini, published letters from Malaysians about the case, including one saying Malaysia will not be "held to ransom" by the Chinese vaccine.

China is "going to be smart about it," Strangio said. "It is going to be a lot of small concessions that add up over the long term."

### **Russia's Sputnik gambit**

Russia's vaccine diplomacy is part of a broader push by President Vladimir Putin to reassert the country's status as a global power. Even the name it chose for its first covid-19 vaccine — Sputnik V — evokes the 1950s Cold War space race.

Russian officials claim to have provisional orders from some 50 countries for 1.2 billion doses of Sputnik V in the next year and say they have negotiated deals with firms in South Korea, India, China, Kazakhstan and E.U.-member Hungary, led by nationalist President Viktor Orban.

Trials are underway or planned in India, the U.A.E., Brazil, Venezuela and longtime Russian ally Belarus.

The rush to roll out the vaccine before Phase 3 trials has raised questions about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine.

Sputnik V's developers, the Gamaleya National Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology and the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), say the vaccine is 92 percent effective. A second Russian vaccine has been registered and a third is in development.

Kirill Dmitriev, head of the RDIF, declined an interview request but has portrayed criticism of Sputnik V as a Western effort to undermine the project.

The Kremlin, too, is hailing Sputnik V in its diplomatic outreach. "Nowadays, the issue appears on the agenda of Putin's discussions with all of his foreign colleagues," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in a recent interview with journalists.

Russia has always tried to project soft power by emphasizing its technological achievements, said Grigory Golosov, political analyst at the European University at St. Petersburg. "This only adds one more topic to this more or less continuous flow of propaganda," he said.

But the international push is also aimed at building support for the Russian vaccine at home, he added. An August poll in Russia by the Levada Center found that 54 percent of those surveyed would not take the vaccine even if it was free because of distrust and fear.

And then there is the question of capacity.

Speaking at an investment forum last month, Putin conceded that Russia faces problems in swiftly ramping up production because it lacks the equipment. Russia has been forced to slash its overly optimistic plans to make 30 million doses this year; it now estimates it will produce roughly 2 million.

The vaccine race has already started, and analysts say China and Russia are likely to take every advantage they can before a Biden administration gets into gear or private Western companies look to markets further afield.

"There's a strategic game going on, but the U.S. is not playing," said Yanzhong Huang, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations. (Source: The Washington Post)

**(U) Facebook, Twitter, and Google are Uniting to Stop Vaccine Misinformation From Spreading Online:** Canada and the UK will work with Facebook, Google, and Twitter on ways to stop misinformation about the coronavirus vaccine from spreading online.

British fact checking charity Full Fact will coordinate the effort. Fact checking websites based in India, Argentina, and Spain will convene alongside the tech companies and federal representatives from the UK and Canada.

Facebook will fund the effort until the group launches an initial framework in January 2021, which will "set out standards of accountability" for stopping misinformation, and come up with ways to respond to "bad information" online.

Scientists around the world are trying to speed the development of a COVID-19 vaccine as the disease continues to spread. The US recorded a 250,000 deaths from COVID-19, and many parts of Europe are under lockdown. (Source: Business Insider)

**(U) Coronavirus Vaccines Face Trust Gap in Black and Latino Communities, Study Finds:** If offered a coronavirus vaccine free of charge, fewer than half of Black people and 66 percent of Latino people said they would definitely or probably take it, according to a survey-based study that underscores the challenge of getting vaccines to communities hit hard by the pandemic.

The survey released Monday is one of the largest and most rigorous to date. Other recent studies have also pointed to vaccine hesitancy in communities of color, but Monday's survey delved deeper into the reasons, polling respondents on a spectrum of questions to get at the roots of their distrust. Perhaps its most sobering findings: 14 percent of Black people trust that a vaccine will be safe, and 18 percent trust that it will be effective in shielding them from the coronavirus. Among Latinos, 34 percent trust its safety, and 40 percent trust its effectiveness.

The survey was conducted Sept. 1 through 15, before interim analyses were released showing that three experimental vaccines had achieved high levels of protection against the coronavirus and appeared largely safe.

The study's authors said trust in vaccine safety is especially critical and was found in subsequent questions to be by far the strongest predictor of whether people are willing to take the vaccine. Vaccinating a large share of the U.S. population will prove pivotal to establishing national immunity to the novel coronavirus and slowing the spread of the pathogen, infectious-disease specialists say. To reach the threshold necessary to establish herd immunity, a majority of Americans will likely need to be vaccinated in coming years.

But even as pharmaceutical companies release encouraging data on three experimental vaccines and officials throughout the country build a complex infrastructure of distribution chains and ultracold freezers, it is becoming increasingly clear the country will face profound challenges in trust and uptake of the vaccine.

"It's not having a vaccine that saves lives, it's people actually getting vaccinated," said Michelle A. Williams, dean of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, who co-founded the COVID



Collaborative, the nonprofit that commissioned the study. “For that to happen, we need to understand why so many are hesitant and help overcome that.”

Getting coronavirus vaccines to communities of color is especially important because those communities have disproportionately borne the burden of the pandemic.

Black participation in covid-19 vaccine trials is key to Black economic recovery

Nearly nine months after the virus exploded in the United States, Black, Asian, Native American and Hispanic patients still die far more frequently than White patients, even as death rates have plummeted for all races and age groups, The Washington Post found, after analyzing the records of 5.8 million people who tested positive for the virus from early March through mid-October.

Officials are wrestling with how to ensure that vulnerable populations receive the vaccine. Almost certainly at the top of the list: about 21 million front-line health-care workers. But after them will probably be other essential workers, many of whom come from Black, Latino and Asian communities. Many can’t work from home, don’t have transportation and live in crowded housing.

For many Black people, the lack of trust in the coronavirus vaccine is rooted in history, some experts said.

“On one hand in this country, you have the anti-vaxxers and the unfounded disinformation they push,” said Alexandre White, an expert at Johns Hopkins University who studies the sociology and history of epidemic response. “But what you see from minorities is a hesitancy that is quite rooted in historical reality.”

The bodies of Black people who were enslaved were used by medical schools for anatomy dissections. Black women were used for gynecologic research, experimentation and sterilization, White noted. At a meeting last month of Food and Drug Administration officials and vaccine experts, the worries of several people of color were read aloud from a recent focus group on vaccines:

“I firmly believe that this is another Tuskegee experiment.”

“I would not be first in line and I would want to see some data.”

“We are not going to be guinea pigs again.”

For many in the Black community, the Tuskegee syphilis study — a secret experiment conducted by the U.S. government to study the deadly venereal disease without treatment — looms especially large in the collective memory, experts said.

Monday's survey — which found 48 percent of African Americans said they would definitely or probably get the vaccine — found that knowledge of the Tuskegee study was among the predictors for whether a Black respondent would be willing to take the vaccine. Other factors included strength of their racial identity, previous flu vaccine experience, partisanship, sex, age and education.

For Latino people, similar factors were the main predictors in vaccine acceptance. But also included was their level of trust in the government to look out for the best interests of Latino people and whether the individual lived in the suburbs.

The survey was conducted by Langer Research, a New York-based survey research firm that collaborates with The Washington Post on its joint ABC-Post polls.

A similar survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Undeclared last month similarly found that 49 percent of African Americans said they would not take a vaccine even if scientists deemed it safe and made it free to anyone who wants it.

That hesitancy comes despite people in communities of color being much more likely to know someone who has suffered from covid-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus.

In Monday's survey, 55 percent of Black people said they knew someone diagnosed with covid-19, and 48 percent knew someone who had been hospitalized with or died from covid-19. The numbers were even higher among Latinos, with 73 percent knowing someone diagnosed and 52 percent knowing someone who had been hospitalized or died from covid-19.

Howard University President Wayne A.I. Frederick, a physician, said Black health-care providers need to stress the importance of vaccinations in their communities so they feel confident about receiving them. "The average African American cannot give you details of Tuskegee. Their mistrust is of institutions, of government institutions, of law enforcement, and that mistrust spreads across our community," Frederick said. He was one of several leading Black medical experts who have united to form the Black Coalition Against COVID-19 and held a news conference last week.

The study found that African Americans were twice as likely to trust a messenger from their own racial group compared with a White counterpart.

"The best messengers are going to be influencers from within their own communities," said Williams, from Harvard. "And very clearly, personal physicians from minority communities are going to be very important in this effort." (Source: Washington Post)

- Best Regards,

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Analyst, Countering Foreign Influence Task Force  
National Risk Management Center (NRMCC)  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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**Subject:** CFITF COVID-19 Updated Weekly Reporting and Analysis

**Date:** 2020/12/04 17:32:41

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

Colleagues,

Please see updated reporting for this week below. Full report attached. Updates include,

- The Covid-19 and Other Vaccines: Where We're Failing to Provide the Right Information
- Lies About the Coronavirus Vaccines Are Already Spreading. How Can They Be Stopped?
- Facebook to Remove Misinformation About COVID Vaccines
- European External Action Service Special Report Update: Short Assessment of Narratives and Disinformation Around the COVID-19 Pandemic

## COVID-19 Countering Foreign Influence Task Force Reporting and Analysis

### (U) Week of 11/30

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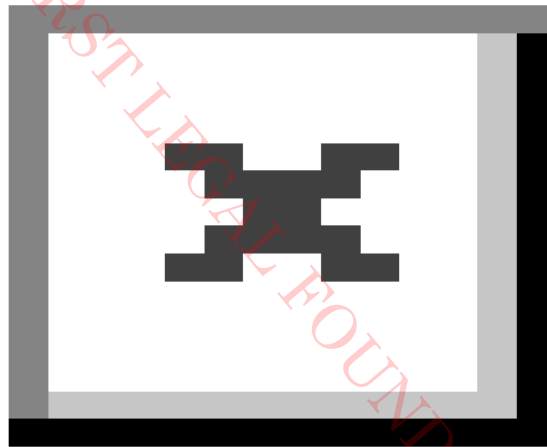
(U) The Covid-19 and Other Vaccines: Where We're Failing to Provide the Right Information:

**Data deficits and oversupply: an information market failure**

Our analysis of the most influential online vaccine conversations revealed an environment cluttered with a confusing patchwork of harmful narratives and data deficits related to vaccines in general and the Covid-19 vaccine in particular.

Not only is this environment fertile for the organic spread of misleading content around a Covid-19 vaccine, but it is also full of vulnerabilities that can be exploited by malicious actors.

Here we explain what vaccine data deficits are, highlight ones that are currently particularly susceptible to misinformation as well as some of the tactics that are being used to suppress confidence in vaccines.



There are two main types of market failure within the information industry: data deficits and data oversupply. A data deficit is the negative difference between the level of supply of accurate and reliable information about a given topic and the level of demand for it. Low supply may occur because credible information is evolving, because it isn't reaching people effectively or because it doesn't exist.

Rather than a void or gap, high demand and low supply result in a data deficit — a lack of credible information, where results exist but they are misleading, confusing, false or even harmful.

These deficits are not the result of deliberate actions from bad actors. In fact, they typically occur when quality information providers are unaware of the demand for information on a given topic or are unable to provide the information in an effective, compelling manner. However, bad actors can exploit these deficits, filling them with content meant to deceive or that fits their agenda.

Conversely, a data or informational oversupply is a situation where people are overloaded with information on a given topic. The sheer quantity of information, as well as its technically complex or seemingly contradictory nature, often leads to confusion and ultimately news avoidance.

Here are some of the key data deficits and surpluses identified within the most influential vaccine-related online conversations.

### **mRNA technology and DNA alteration**

References to the novel messenger Ribonucleic acid vaccine technology and DNA appeared in a combined 4 per cent of posts in English and French. Most tellingly, only two of these posts centered around the development of vaccines, while more than 85 per cent were linked to safety, “political and economic motives” or “conspiracy theories.” The types of claims and narratives within these topics, as well as the complete absence of neutral, fact-based, informative posts, underlined the significance of this data deficit. Certain posts claimed Moderna’s new potential Covid-19 vaccine will change people’s DNA, and some posts presented the mRNA vaccine as the definitive future Covid-19 vaccine or discredited any future Covid-19 vaccine altogether. Others even linked Moderna’s vaccine and mRNA vaccines generally to targeted depopulation efforts or malign human engineering programs. While some of the highest-performing posts related to mRNA technology were labeled as false or misleading by fact-checking organizations, the time delays and limited reach associated with these actions mean quality proactive reporting and messaging around this topic are urgently needed.

### **GMOs and aluminium**

Similar dynamics were observed for the topics of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and aluminium in relation to vaccines: Among the 29 posts mentioning either GMOs or aluminium, only one post was identified as supplying important contextual information on either topic. By contrast, posts suggesting that vaccines were unsafe based on their links to GMOs and aluminium thrived in English, and to an even greater extent in Francophone language communities.

### **Vaccine development and foreign propaganda narratives**

There is a lack of clear, reliable information detailing the steps involved in the vaccine development process, the scientific norms associated with it and what ultimately constitutes a “safe” vaccine. This deficit presents an opportunity for actors wishing to circumvent these established norms and procedures to bypass scrutiny. For example, numerous unverified accounts presenting themselves as news sources or health specialists reported the unveiling of the Russian vaccine “Sputnik V” in an

uncritically positive and largely decontextualized manner. These reports failed to highlight the fact that the vaccine was approved before it had gone through large-scale Phase 3 trials, which provoked widespread concern and objections from the scientific community.[1] These kinds of reports were especially noticeable in Francophone African Instagram and Latin American Facebook communities. At the same time, an attempt to undermine the credibility of Western vaccine development with fabricated information from sources dedicated to the amplification of foreign actors' narratives was identified among the most influential French posts.[2] Coincidentally, this disinformation narrative had also gained traction across other language communities, and one of its versions exploited the mRNA vaccine technology data deficit detailed here.

### **Tactics used to take advantage of the data deficits**

The data deficits mentioned here highlight how the online vaccine information ecosystem is pockmarked with vulnerabilities and weak spots. Where there is a data deficit, there will likely be actors spreading mis- and disinformation. Here we outline the different ways or tactics implemented among the posts we coded to facilitate the spread of misinformation.

#### **Headline laundering**

The laundering of news headlines related to vaccines by particular groups online to fit their own vaccine-skeptic agenda. News articles providing negative or ambiguous coverage of vaccines, especially where headlines might not be telling the whole story, are recycled within anti-vax communities and spun to fit their agenda.

#### **The rehashing of old misinformation tropes**

Old or "zombie" vaccine misinformation content continues to be shared by highly followed anti-vaccination sources. Examples include the purported link between the MMR vaccines and autism, the guinea pig or "lab rat" narrative to talk about Africans involved in vaccine development, and the role of vaccines as part of wider conspiracies, such as the imposition of totalitarian systems aided by mass population tracking capabilities, for example.

#### **Highly adaptive disinformation: the chameleon effect**

The highly adaptive nature of anti-vaccination networks proved particularly noticeable through the adaptation of old misinformation narratives to the current context of the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, the general notion that vaccines aren't safe was levied through false claims that the flu vaccine is associated with a higher likelihood of contracting Covid-19 and thus higher likelihood of death.[5] Similarly, one of the prominent anti-vaccination narratives based on individual liberty arguments in North American communities referenced the imposition of mask-wearing rules in public spaces to suggest the same will soon be applied to vaccine uptake. This trend was equally noticeable in regard to narratives linking vaccines to wider conspiracies, as certain "transhumanism" conspiracy theories



included multiple references to the coronavirus pandemic in addition to vaccines. Finally, the narrative that the most public proponents of vaccines are corrupt or don't vaccinate their own children was applied to current political actors such as Marine Le Pen, while an extract from a vaccine misinformation article was falsely framed as a Melania Trump quote.

### **Graphic, emotive content and long-form videos**

The well-documented use of graphic, emotive visual content by anti-vaccination groups to portray vaccines as dangerous remains a defining feature of anti-vaccine discourse. Children are often used to add even more emotional bite to these messages. The emotions resulting from any kind of harm done to children, for example, make this strategy particularly effective, as evidenced by QAnon's hijacking of the "saveourchildren" hashtag.[6] Moreover, the prevalence of superior video production quality and long-form vlog-style videos among the top most interacted-with Facebook and Instagram posts was noticeable. For example, more than 15 per cent of Francophone Facebook posts included a native video; many of these advanced misleading anti-vaccination and conspiratorial narratives. Inevitably, long-form videos present a difficult practical challenge for fact-checking organizations in the same way that has made YouTube something of a blind spot for misinformation monitoring. (Source: Fist Draft)

### **(U) Lies About the Coronavirus Vaccines Are Already Spreading. How Can They Be Stopped?**

THE CORONAVIRUS vaccines are coming, which means the coronavirus vaccine disinformation is coming, too. In fact, it is already here.

"Will New COVID Vaccine Make You Transhuman?" asks one conspiratorial article about the upcoming inoculations, feeding into a wackadoodle charge about the "reprogramming" of DNA. "This vaccine will not only 'mark' you like a cattle," reads another website, "you will be injected with nano particles that will make you a Perfect antenna for the 5g frequencies." And one similarly baseless narrative dates to the early days of the pandemic: that Bill Gates created the coronavirus itself in an effort to create mandatory vaccines.

President-elect Joe Biden has rightly put the public health crisis at the top of his priority list. This shift away from chaos and toward coherence should help to stem the uncontrolled flow of falsehoods that thrive amid uncertainty. Yet more needs to be done by a government whose leader would rather set the record straight than spend his day warping it on Twitter: The anti-vaccination movement learned its way around the Web long before covid-19 struck, and the disinformation war it has started even before these lifesaving medicines are widely available must be countered with a preemptive defense.

How? Trying to prevent propaganda discouraging vaccines altogether is futile. While social media sites should continue to take a tough line against false claims surrounding covid-19, promoting authoritative sources in their place, that strategy depends on the quality of those sources — and the administration has the highest authority out there.



Researchers have identified the importance of filling “data deficits” to give people the right answers before opportunists can give them the wrong ones. This must occur in a manner that explains without overwhelming, as complexity can push people toward the comfort of simple answers no matter their veracity. The government needs to figure out how to communicate with the country’s citizens about vaccines frequently, specifically and sensitively, tailoring its messages to existing misconceptions as well as to different types of audiences.

This conundrum must sit at the center of the incoming government’s coronavirus response — which means, first, that the task force devoted to combating the disease ought to have at least one member who is an expert in misinformation. Together with experts in medicine, this person could refine both the messages to send and how to send them. Alex Stamos of Stanford’s Internet Observatory suggests repurposing the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s “Rumor Control” website, previously dedicated to election integrity, to refute the inaccuracies of the day with links to primary sources, coordinating with the Food & Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Operation Warp Speed. Refuting anticipated inaccuracies would be helpful, too, as experts can track what narratives are brewing before they take off into near-virality. Partnerships with platforms will also be key.

Whatever the method, the aim is clear: to spread counternarratives that are as compelling as the disinformation narratives already plaguing our society but that also have the benefit of being true. (Source: The Washington Post)

**(U) Facebook to Remove Misinformation About COVID Vaccines:** Facebook said Thursday it will start removing misinformation about coronavirus vaccines as countries around the world prepare to start rolling them out.

Facebook’s policy has been to remove false claims about Covid-19 that it says could lead to “imminent physical harm,” such as posts promoting false cures or bogus conspiracy theories linking the virus to 5G. The company removed 12 million posts as a result of this policy between March and October.

But it hadn’t yet taken a firm stance on vaccines, other than to ban ads that promote anti-vaccination conspiracy theories. The company has only removed posts containing misinformation about vaccines in Pakistan and Samoa in the past, and those examples weren’t related to Covid.

On Monday, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said the social media giant would show its users “authoritative information about the vaccines,” without elaborating on how it planned to distribute this information.

Now, as major pharmaceutical companies like Pfizer and AstraZeneca say they’ve developed effective Covid vaccines and after the U.K. became the first country to approve one of the frontrunners, Facebook has outlined a stance to delete false claims about them.

The company said it will “start removing false claims about these vaccines that have been debunked by public health experts on Facebook and Instagram.”

Tackling misinformation about Covid vaccines will prove difficult for social media platforms as governments globally look to start immunizing people against the disease.

Google’s YouTube video-sharing service and Chinese-owned social media app TikTok have said they will remove false claims about such vaccines, while Twitter says it’s working through its plans before a medically approved vaccine becomes available. (Source: NBC)

#### **(U) European External Action Service Special Report Update: Short Assessment of Narratives and Disinformation Around the COVID-19 Pandemic:**

##### **Summary**

- Since the last special report, COVID-19 related online mis- and disinformation decreased and shifted focus towards vaccines, according to multiple analyses of thousands of available fact-checks since the beginning of the pandemic. The spread and reach of mis- and disinformation online remains worryingly high. A lack of tools and access to relevant data hinders research to estimate its direct impact on human behaviour.
- Based on current developments and observations, we expect that the health crisis around COVID-19 will continue to provide ample of opportunities worldwide for the spread of mis- and disinformation. They can be expected especially concerning tightening confinement measures as well as vaccine development and distribution.
- State actors like China and Russia are maximising the effect of the so-called “vaccine diplomacy” in their communication efforts, most likely with the intent to enhance their reputation and economic position abroad. They are leveraging diplomatic channels, state-controlled media and networks of supportive and alternative media outlets and social media to distribute their messages.
- While in the MENA region disinformation narratives are not yet at play given the delayed COVID-19 second wave, in Syria the regime continues to leverage COVID-19 to advance its political agenda through recurring disinformation on the EU sanctions.
- In the EU and its neighbouring countries, pro-Kremlin outlets continue to amplify voices that downplay the threat of the virus and aim to undermine governments’ strategies of curbing the second wave of infections.
- Assessments facilitated by the EU Code of Practice on Disinformation show continuous efforts by platforms to curb the spread of mis- and disinformation. However, proliferation, profitability and visibility of potentially harmful information remains high across online platforms.
- The work of fact-checkers and professional, independent media since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic remains indispensable to uncover and debunk false, misleading and potentially harmful information. Fact-checking spread has shown to have a positive impact in reducing misinformation about specific COVID-19 related claims<sup>[1]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#). This

activity is paramount in mitigating the potential harmful consequences and enhancing societal resilience.

**(U) In detail, COVID-19 related disinformation, misinformation and other activities (May – November)**

With respect to the ongoing debate<sup>[2]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#) to establish clearly outlined definitions for various types of false, misleading and potentially harmful information, this report will make conscious references to misinformation, which “refers to untrue information that individuals spread without any intent to mislead, though the effects of such misinformation can still be harmful” and disinformation, which describes “verifiably false content that is created, presented and disseminated for economic gain or to *intentionally* deceive the public, and may cause public harm”. These are often part of Information Influence Operations, which refer to coordinated efforts by either domestic or foreign actors to influence a target audience using a range of deceptive means, including suppressing independent information sources in combination with disinformation.

If in earlier reporting periods, pro-Kremlin media cast doubts on EU actions and solidarity in response to COVID-19, now the main narrative shifted towards vaccines. Throughout the summer, conspiratorial narratives such as the virus being a laboratory creation or a tool of globalist elites for wrecking economic havoc [continued to fade](#)<sup>(opens in a new tab)</sup><sup>[3]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#). Triumphant narratives<sup>[4]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#) about Russia’s Sputnik V vaccine replaced them. Pro-Kremlin media hail the Sputnik V vaccine across the different language audiences, at times falsely alleging strong international support<sup>[5]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#), and accusing the West of attempts to sabotage the Sputnik V vaccine for political and economic reasons<sup>ii</sup><sup>[6]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#).

Western vaccine manufacturers are openly mocked on multi-lingual Russian state-controlled media, including for developing “the monkey vaccine”<sup>iii</sup><sup>[7]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#) (as some of the manufacturers use a chimpanzee viral vector). In some cases, this led to conspiracy narratives that the vaccine will “turn people into monkeys”<sup>iv</sup><sup>[8]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#).

To reach domestic audiences, Russian state-controlled media employ similar narratives as for audiences abroad: according to these, China<sup>v</sup><sup>[9]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#) and Russia are handling the pandemic situation better than EU member states<sup>vi</sup><sup>[10]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#) or Ukraine, with safe and effective vaccines<sup>vii</sup><sup>[11]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#) at an advanced stage of development, which are sought after by other countries<sup>viii</sup><sup>[12]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#).

In Europe, pro-Kremlin media has been actively amplifying voices against lock-down measures. In Italy pro-Kremlin media consistently amplify<sup>x</sup><sup>[13]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#) local voices, which call the government’s strategy of handling the second wave of the infections senseless, including claims that the wearing of masks is useless. Pro-Kremlin media has also called COVID-19 restrictions “a result of a bizarre psychosis and collective paranoia”<sup>x</sup><sup>[14]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#). At the same time, Sputnik regularly publishes updates on the success<sup>xi</sup><sup>[15]</sup>[\(opens in a new tab\)](#) of the Russian vaccine. In Germany, RT has also amplified voices questioning the threat of COVID-19, and calling testing and mask-wearing into



question. An RT video<sup>xiii</sup>[\[16\]\(opens in a new tab\)](#) interview with a local physician expressing such views has been viewed over 1 million times. There is a risk that COVID-19 related disinformation may increase as Europe is undergoing new lockdowns.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) documented<sup>xiii</sup>[\[17\]\(opens in a new tab\)](#) the strategical use and rapid, international spread of disinformation during the pandemic. A completely fabricated report of fatal US COVID-19 vaccine trials was circulated via the website of the so-called “Luhansk People’s Republic” in the non-government-controlled areas, and “achieved widespread dissemination in multiple languages and across multiple communities” from the US to Australia – despite fact checks by multiple organisations across Europe. The press release was published the day after Russia announced plans to mass-produce its own vaccine in a matter of weeks<sup>xiv</sup>[\[18\]\(opens in a new tab\)](#).

Since the last reporting period (23<sup>rd</sup> April – 18<sup>th</sup> May), over 100 new examples of pro-Kremlin linked disinformation about COVID-19 have been added to the EUvsDisinfo public database. Articles containing these examples of disinformation received over 230 thousand likes, shares, comments on social media. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, EUvsDisinfo has collected over 640 examples of pro-Kremlin disinformation related to COVID-19. According to our findings, currently the volume of pro-Kremlin disinformation surrounding the pandemic is smaller compared to spring (likely due to other events presenting fertile ground for disinformation campaigns, including Navalny poisoning, protests in Belarus, etc.).

An analysis across more than 9000 fact checks by the International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) underlined that false claims, disinformation and conspiracies also follow in magnitude and focus on the informational needs of users<sup>xv</sup>[\[19\]\(opens in a new tab\)](#). First Draft explained this trend with information vacuums (“data deficits”<sup>xvi</sup>[\[20\]\(opens in a new tab\)](#)), where high levels of demand for information only meet low supply of available authoritative information. Overall, Google Trends data offers indicators that online public interest in COVID-19 related information appears to be substantially lower compared to the beginning of the pandemic.<sup>xvii</sup>[\[21\]\(opens in a new tab\)](#)

With the Middle-East and North-Africa (MENA) region potentially experiencing a delayed second COVID-19 wave compared to Europe, it is likely to assume a similarly delayed resurgence of disinformation and a prevalence of vaccines-related disinformation narratives, if any.

In Syria, the regime continues to leverage COVID-19 to advance its political goals. In line with a recurring narrative, the regime’s representative to the UN[\(opens in a new tab\)](#) blamed the EU and the US for allegedly hindering through their sanctions the medical assistance to Syrians in the COVID-19 context as well as the reconstruction process and the returns of refugees.<sup>xviii</sup>[\[22\]\(opens in a new tab\)](#)

A variety of false information and misleading narratives on COVID-19 have been circulating in the Western Balkans media environment since mid-March. Local independent fact-checkers confirmed a multitude of cases of misinformation, including in relation to vaccines[\(opens in a new tab\)](#)<sup>1</sup> and health

advice. Many of these included a supportive narrative focused on children and the need to protect them, targeting family audiences.<sup>xix</sup>[23](opens in a new tab) Across the region, claims that COVID-19 is a 'fraud' and that face masks are 'harmful' were shared widely on platforms such as Facebook, often in the form of sweeping statements based on 'twisted' statistical data.<sup>xx</sup>[24](opens in a new tab) Debunking efforts were undertaken by fact-checking organisations<sup>xxi</sup>[25](opens in a new tab) and, occasionally, also by traditional news outlets<sup>xxii</sup>[26](opens in a new tab).

Since spring 2020, the fact-checking community in Turkey stepped up its efforts<sup>xxiii</sup>[27](opens in a new tab) to debunk COVID-19-related misinformation. In autumn, the number of COVID-19 related debunks was lower. In this period, claims about the ineffectiveness or risk<sup>xxiv</sup>[28](opens in a new tab) of wearing masks, different 'natural methods' to prevent or test for<sup>xxv</sup>[29](opens in a new tab) COVID-19 and some conspiracy narratives (like masks carrying tracking chips<sup>xxvi</sup>[30](opens in a new tab)) were debunked. Occasionally these debunks were vaccine-related.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has utilised the pandemic to positively influence its image abroad, both by highlighting its efforts in countering COVID-19 and/or attacking and casting doubt<sup>xxvii</sup>[31](opens in a new tab) on any criticism towards it. Assertions that the virus did not originate from China still appear in state-controlled media<sup>xxviii</sup>[32](opens in a new tab) as of November 2020<sup>xxix</sup>[33](opens in a new tab), which has also highlighted the "imported"<sup>xxx</sup>[34](opens in a new tab) nature of new cases.

Generally, the communication strategy appears to be two-fold: blaming others<sup>xxxi</sup>[35](opens in a new tab) and emphasising own successes.

The current trend marks the continuation of the "mask diplomacy" now focusing on vaccines and correspondingly dubbed "vaccine diplomacy"<sup>xxxii</sup>[36](opens in a new tab). China's "vaccine diplomacy" is well-advanced and promoted in state-controlled media: China is promising preferential access to its COVID-19 vaccines<sup>xxxiii</sup>[37](opens in a new tab) to developing countries across Asia<sup>xxxiv</sup>[38](opens in a new tab), Africa<sup>xxxv</sup>[39](opens in a new tab) and Latin America<sup>xxxvi</sup>[40](opens in a new tab). According to large-scale surveys<sup>xxxvii</sup>[41](opens in a new tab) by Pew Research Center<sup>xxxviii</sup>[42](opens in a new tab) (called an "illustration of Western brainwashing"<sup>xxxix</sup>[43](opens in a new tab) in the CCP-owned *Global Times*), China's image abroad has suffered over the handling of the COVID-19 crisis and "vaccine diplomacy" is seen as a way to bolster diplomatic ties<sup>xl</sup>[44](opens in a new tab).

Chinese media and officials on Twitter have criticized the US handling of the crisis<sup>xli</sup>[45](opens in a new tab) and their withdrawal from multilateral initiatives<sup>xlii</sup>[46](opens in a new tab) while reinforcing China's commitment to the United Nations system. In parallel, some media and officials have dismissed the US' advances on vaccine<sup>xliii</sup>[47](opens in a new tab) and accused it in pursuing a "new cold war"<sup>xliv</sup>[48](opens in a new tab). Chinese officials have also publicly<sup>xlv</sup>[49](opens in a new tab) pointed at Australia's call for an independent investigation on the origin of the virus as one reason for strained relations between the countries. Australia's trade with China has been affected<sup>xlvi</sup>[50](opens in a new tab) as a result.

Narratives shared by Chinese state-controlled media, but also by Chinese officials on Twitter notably<sup>xlvii</sup>[51](opens in a new tab) emphasize China's response to COVID-19 as a deep commitment to multilateralism. Domestic success stories on rapid and large-scale testing (like in Qingdao<sup>xlviii</sup>[52](opens in a new tab) and Kashgar<sup>xlix</sup>[53](opens in a new tab)), reopening<sup>l</sup>[54](opens in a new tab) of the country and the economy<sup>li</sup>[55](opens in a new tab) are being promoted outside the country. In official diplomatic channels, it translates into the promotion of China's commitment to COVAX<sup>lii</sup>[56](opens in a new tab) as a sign of mutual support and justifies cooperation (like with Finland<sup>liii</sup>[57](opens in a new tab), Morocco<sup>liv</sup>[58](opens in a new tab) and other African countries<sup>lv</sup>[59](opens in a new tab)). Externally, emphasis on multilateralism is tied to objectives like building a "global community of health"<sup>lvi</sup>[60](opens in a new tab) and China's recovering economy is depicted as exceptional and beneficial<sup>lvii</sup>[61](opens in a new tab) to the post-pandemic world.

### Social Media Platforms

The European Commission's most recent assessment of reports<sup>lviii</sup>[62](opens in a new tab) provided by the signatories of the EU Code of Practice on Disinformation, which highlight the actions taken to limit disinformation on COVID-19 on signatories' respective platforms, presents the efforts to address disinformation around COVID-19. Actions by signatories range from the promotion of authoritative information sources to limiting the appearance of content containing false or misleading information, cooperation with fact-checkers as well as review of rules regarding online advertisement. Platforms also established dedicated portals to update users on their actions to better protect users during the pandemic<sup>lix</sup>[63](opens in a new tab).

Despite these continuous efforts, academic research showed that mis- and disinformation continue to thrive online. The Oxford Internet Institute found and analysed over 8000 COVID-related videos containing misinformation and conspiracies that were "shared almost 20 million times on social media, which is more than the shares gathered by the five largest English-language news sources on YouTube combined".<sup>lx</sup>[64](opens in a new tab) A study published in Nature Magazine shows that the situation could be worse on less compliant and emerging social media platforms.<sup>lxi</sup>[65](opens in a new tab)

The same study highlights that cross-platform traffic undermines individual platforms' actions, which suggests a need for closer cooperation between them to effectively curb the dissemination and spread of potentially harmful material. The need for better access to platform data to estimate impact, spread and trends of misinformation narratives remains largely unaddressed, despite privacy compliant proposals like the creation of a "Google Trends" for social media platforms<sup>lxii</sup>[66](opens in a new tab). August 2020 study<sup>lxiii</sup>[67](opens in a new tab) from non-profit organisation Avaaz estimated that "[g]lobal health misinformation spreading networks spanning at least five countries generated an estimated 3.8 billion views on Facebook in the last year." Peaking in April 2020, "[h]ealth misinformation spreading websites at the heart of the networks received up to 460 million views on Facebook." Avaaz concluded that Facebook is "failing to keep people safe and informed during the pandemic", but could



“provide all users who have seen misinformation with independently fact-checked corrections” and downgrade misinformation systematically in users’ news feeds to address the problem.

Research<sup>lxiv</sup>[68](opens in a new tab) by threat intelligence company CounterAction highlighted that over two million Germans are part of Facebook groups where COVID-19 related mis- and disinformation is circulating and amplified. According to the research, half of the analysed posts include language that incites people to harmful behaviour, mostly concerning the vaccine. Data showed that engagement with misinformation is not limited to political fringes, but spans party affiliation and geography.

The economic incentives are an important driver for the spread of mis-and disinformation and remain strong. Brussels-based NGO EU Disinfo Lab found<sup>lxv</sup>[69](opens in a new tab) that “[i]t is possible to monetise disinformation or conspiratorial narratives on crowdfunding platforms both indirectly and directly” and that while “[s]ome crowdfunding platforms have taken action against instances of monetisation attempts connected to COVID-19 disinformation and scams [...] these actions seem incoherent and are not regularly enforced.” These monetisation streams continued even when the content in question has been demonetised or removed on other social media platforms like Facebook and YouTube.

The Global Disinformation Index (GDI) found<sup>lxvi</sup>[70](opens in a new tab) that over one-third (about 200) of English language websites publishing high volumes of divisive and polarising content on inter alia COVID-19 carry advertisement which generates an estimated US\$350 000 in monthly income for these websites. “Google, as the market leader, is the ad exchange most commonly found on these worst offender sites.” In the short term, GDI proposes advertisers use available information on worst offending sites to assess the overlap between their online marketing practices with their brand identity and adjust their ads targeting in cases of a mismatch. (Source: EU vs Disinfo)

-

Best Regards,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Analyst, Countering Foreign Influence Task Force  
National Risk Management Center (NRMC)  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(o) (b)(6)

(c)

(b)(6)



<https://nppd-sp.dhs.gov/EA/External%20Affairs%20Branded%20Templates/New%20CISA%20Logo%20Roll%20Out%20Package/CISA%20Logo%20email%20signature.png>

**Sender:** (b)(6)

Kolasky, Robert (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

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Scully, Brian (b)(6)

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**Recipient:** (b)(6)

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Sendek, Sara (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

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CISA-COVID-Task-Force (b)(6)

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Sent Date: 2020/12/04 17:30:13

Delivered Date: 2020/12/04 17:32:41

Message Flags: Unread

From: (b)(6)

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: CISA Daily Clips

Date: 2020/12/22 12:35:14

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

(b)(6)

I agree good material to harvest there!

Also, the Biden statement is reassuring and the section with a defense of Einstein was worthy of thought too.

With thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Strategy, Performance & Resources (SPR)  
Office of the Assistant Director (OAD), Cybersecurity Division (CSD)  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)  
Phone: (b)(6) Email: (b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 12:29 PM

To: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: CISA Daily Clips

This is great Allie! Thank you for sharing.

(b)(6)

**From**

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 22, 2020 12:00 PM

**To:**

(b)(6)

**Subject:** Fwd: CISA Daily Clips

Team,

I found some of the themes outlined in the following article to be very relevant to both the CDO and Resilience PDOs. Wanted to share in case you're interested!

Given the current state of affairs, I think

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**SolarWinds incident should be a catalyst to rethink federal cybersecurity (12/21) Federal News Network**

Federal chief information officers and chief information security officers didn't get a lot of sleep last week, and may not for the foreseeable future. CIOs and CISOs have spent a long week trying to get a handle on the impact on their networks, systems and data from the SolarWinds cyber attack. After the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released an emergency directive on Dec. 13, the race was on to detect, mitigate and respond. The SolarWinds hack, which is reportedly being link to Russia, is shaping up to be the biggest cyber-attack this year.

**From:** CISA-ExternalAffairs

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 22, 2020 7:03 AM

**To:** CISA-ExternalAffairs

**Subject:** CISA Daily Clips



**DAILY CLIPS**

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

## **CISA**

### **Chris Krebs takes blame for massive hack: 'It happened on my watch' (12/21) New York Post**

The former head of cybersecurity at the Department of Homeland Security accepted the blame for the hack that infiltrated the computer systems of a number of federal agencies, including the Pentagon, and scores of companies in the private sector. In a Sunday interview on CNN's "State of the Union," Chris Krebs, the former director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, was asked by host Jake Tapper who was at fault for the breach.

### **FBI, CISA Warn of Increase in K-12 Cyber Attacks (12/21) MeriTalk**

Malicious actors are targeting K-12 schools with a strong increase in ransomware attacks and other cyber threats, according to a Joint Cybersecurity Advisory released December 10 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). The Joint Cybersecurity Advisory highlights several threats facing K-12 systems, with the strongest emphasis on an increase in ransomware attacks. Schools accounted for 57 percent of ransomware incidents reported to MS-ISAC in August and September, compared to 28 percent in the earlier months of 2020.

## **COVID-19**

### **Airline industry urges Cuomo prioritize airline workers for vaccines (12/21) Transportation Today**

Airlines for America (A4A) has joined more than a dozen other airline industry groups to urge New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to prioritize airline workers as essential employees when it comes to vaccine distribution. In a Dec. 17 letter, A4A and 19 other organizations asked Cuomo to designate aviation workers as essential workers, in line with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recommendations and prioritize their ability to get the vaccine for COVID-19 when it becomes available.

## **SOLARWINDS**

### **Here is what we know – and don't know -- about the suspected Russia attack (12/21) CBS News**

U.S. officials are deeply concerned about a massive and ongoing cyberattack targeting large companies and U.S. agencies, including the Treasury and Commerce Department. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) called the attack a "grave risk" to national security. Cybersecurity experts believe that in March a well-organized group of hackers exploited a loophole in products developed by SolarWinds, an IT firm that provides technology software for government agencies and hundreds of large companies, including Microsoft which helped investigate and report the attack.

### **How A Cybersecurity Firm Uncovered The Massive Computer Hack (12/21) NPR**

The first word that hackers had carried out a highly sophisticated intrusion into U.S. computer networks came on Dec. 8, when the cybersecurity firm FireEye announced it had been breached and some of its most valuable tools had been stolen. "We escalated very quickly from the moment I got the first briefing that, 'Hey, we have a security incident of some magnitude,' " FireEye CEO Kevin Mandia told All Things

Considered co-host Mary Louise Kelly. "My gut was telling me it was something we needed to put people on right away."

### **SolarWinds hack: Security experts weigh in on US cyber-attack (12/21) ITP**

The SolarWinds hack, which is reportedly being link to Russia, is shaping up to be the biggest cyber-attack this year. The attack targeted the US government, its agencies and several other private companies. It was first discovered by cybersecurity firm FireEye, and since then more developments are being reported each day.

### **Sen King: American Credibility Has Failed in Cyberspace (12/21) Barron's**

Deterrence, no matter the domain, hinges on credibility. The SolarWinds hack, a months-long effort reportedly by the Russian government to compromise core U.S. government agencies and critical infrastructure has laid bare what many of us have known for years: Despite persistent efforts to protect and defend U.S. interests from malicious cyber activity, the United States lacks the credibility we need to deter our enemies in cyberspace below the level of armed conflict.

### **CISA warns that SolarWinds software may not only be entry point in latest breaches (12/21) GCN**

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency today announced it has evidence suggesting hackers may have been able to breach federal networks through other means than just the SolarWinds Orion software suite."CISA has evidence of additional initial access vectors, other than the SolarWinds Orion platform; however, these are still being investigated. CISA will update this alert as new information becomes available," according to the alert.

### **SolarWinds incident should be a catalyst to rethink federal cybersecurity (12/21) Federal News Network**

Federal chief information officers and chief information security officers didn't get a lot of sleep last week, and may not for the foreseeable future. CIOs and CISOs have spent a long week trying to get a handle on the impact on their networks, systems and data from the SolarWinds cyber attack. After the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released an emergency directive on Dec. 13, the race was on to detect, mitigate and respond. The SolarWinds hack, which is reportedly being link to Russia, is shaping up to be the biggest cyber-attack this year.

### **Blame game begins over massive SolarWinds hack (12/21) Axios**

President Trump's reluctance to name and shame Russia for the SolarWinds cyberattack will hamper companies and government agencies as they begin the long and daunting job of assessing and repairing the hack's damage. Why it matters: Experts say Russia's fingerprints are all over the attack, but the president's dissent will hobble any U.S. response — at least until Jan. 20.

### **How to prepare for the next SolarWinds-like threat (12/21) CSO Online**

The insertion of malware into SolarWinds' popular Orion network management software sent the federal government and major parts of corporate America scrambling this week to investigate and mitigate what could be the most damaging breach in US history. The malware, which cybersecurity company FireEye (itself the first public victim of the supply chain interference) named SUNBURST, is a



backdoor that can transfer and execute files, profile systems, reboot machines and disable system services.

### **VMware latest to confirm breach in SolarWinds hacking campaign (12/21) Bleeping Computer**

VMware is the latest company to confirm that it had its systems breached in the recent SolarWinds attacks but denied further exploitation attempts. The company said that the hackers did not make any efforts to further exploiting their access after deploying the backdoor now tracked as Sunburst or Solarigate. "[W]hile we have identified limited instances of the vulnerable SolarWinds Orion software in our own internal environment, our own internal investigation has not revealed any indication of exploitation," the company said in a statement.

## **CYBERSECURITY**

### **The scariest security horror stories of 2020 (12/21) IT Pro**

The last 12 months have been utterly chaotic for both IT professionals and businesses, and this seemingly endless uncertainty has provided a prime opportunity for cyber criminals to wreak havoc across the globe. From COVID-19-themed phishing exercises to state-backed operations against vaccine research, the security landscape has shifted in a number of unusual and unexpected ways.

### **Assessing President Trump's Legacy of Cyber Confusion (12/21) Council on Foreign Relations**

Things did not end well for the Trump's administration's cybersecurity efforts. After Chris Krebs, the head of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), was fired by President Trump for releasing a statement claiming, "the November 3rd election was the most secure in American history," Krebs immediately went on 60 Minutes and the Late Show with Stephen Colbert to take a victory lap after his agency's solid performance in monitoring the election. Donald Trump's campaign lawyer, Joe diGenova countered with "that guy [Krebs] is a class A moron. He should be drawn and quartered. Taken out at dawn and shot." This is but one example of the dangerous messaging that emerged from the White House following the election, contradicting election experts and evidence. President Trump's legacy on cybersecurity will go down in a miasma of confusion and delay.

### **NSA, CISA Warn of Attacks on Federated Authentication (12/21) Dark Reading**

An attacker-modified update to the SolarWinds Orion network management product that compromised thousands of companies and government agencies is likely not the only way Russian attackers infiltrated networks, according to the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in an update over the weekend. In an updated alert about the recent cyber-espionage attacks against government agencies and private-sector companies, CISA noted on Dec. 18 that the attackers appear to have used other vectors of attacks outside of the SolarWinds Orion platform. On Dec. 21, the agency pointed to an advisory published the previous week by the National Security Agency, which warned that attackers were stealing private keys for single sign-on (SSO) infrastructure to bypass two-factor authentication.

### **Shadow IT was a security crisis. Now Shadow IT 2.0 is looming. Let's skip the crisis this time. (12/21) Security Magazine**

If you were in an IT-related field 10 years ago, the term "Shadow IT" might strike fear into your heart. In case you missed it – or blocked out the bad memory – that's when business SaaS emerged, enabling

lines-of-business (LOB) teams to buy their own turnkey software solutions for the first time. Why was it called "Shadow" IT? Because IT security teams typically weren't involved in the analysis or deployment of these SaaS applications. IT security often didn't find out about the apps until something went wrong and they were called in to help – and by that point, data, apps and accounts had sprawled across the cloud.

#### **Email Address of Instagram Users Exposed via Facebook Business Suite (12/21) Security Week**

A researcher has earned over \$13,000 for a flaw that exposed the email address and birth date of Instagram users via the Facebook Business Suite. The issue was discovered in October by Saugat Pokharel, a researcher based in Nepal, and it was patched within hours by Facebook. Pokharel identified the vulnerability while analyzing the Facebook Business Suite interface that the social media giant introduced in September. Facebook Business Suite is designed to make it easier for businesses to manage Facebook, Messenger, Instagram and WhatsApp from a single location.

#### **ELECTION SECURITY**

##### **To defend US elections, we must recognize that the fault is in ourselves (12/21) Atlantic Council**

US President Donald J. Trump's recent firing of former Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Director Chris Krebs is just the latest deep irony in the United States' attempt to secure its national election system. Silencing the technical expert who asserts that technical solutions are meaningless in the absence of responsible public messaging is peak 2020.

##### **Cybersecurity is election security. A new system is mandatory (12/21) The Washington Times**

The historian Ariel Durant observed, "A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself from within." Rome succumbed first to its internal vices; the Soviet Union collapsed because of endemic corruption. With our discordant elections perhaps representative of decline, numerous observers believe America is next. Our country must innovate or face regression. Cybersecurity is critical, for without it our elections are subject to damage and manipulation; our financial and personal data, to compromise and misappropriation; and our infrastructure, including our energy grid, to attack.

##### **US down a rabbit hole of questioning election integrity (12/21) Fox News**

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., wasn't the first person in the Senate last week to formally recognize President-elect Joe Biden as the 46th chief executive of the United States. That duty fell to Senate Chaplain Barry Black during his prayer, opening the Senate session for the day. "Lord, we respect the conclusions of the Electoral College and ask you to bless President-elect Joseph Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris," intoned Black during his morning invocation.

##### **Undercutting Trump, Barr says there's no basis for seizing voting machines, using special counsels for election fraud, Hunter Biden (12/21) The Washington Post**

Outgoing Attorney General William P. Barr said Monday he saw no basis for the federal government seizing voting machines and that he did not intend to appoint a special counsel to investigate allegations



of voter fraud — again breaking with President Trump as the commander in chief entertains increasingly desperate measures to overturn the election.

## **CONGRESSIONAL ACTION**

### **Stimulus bill includes .gov bill to help states and localities move domains (12/21) Statescoop**

The massive government spending and pandemic relief bill introduced by Congress Monday leaves out, as expected, any direct aid to state and local governments wracked by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 crisis. But it does include language that would make it easier for non-federal entities to transfer their websites and email services to the federally administrated .gov top-level domain.

### **2021 spending bill: Cyber, federal buildings are winners, IT modernization is a loser (12/21)**

#### **Federal News Network**

For the third year in a row, Congress isn't buying the White House's request nor Democrat lawmakers' pleas for more money to help agencies move away from legacy systems more quickly. The fiscal 2021 omnibus spending bill, which the House unveiled today, reduced two key funding mechanisms. But at least Congress seemingly has come to an agreement on the details of a massive \$1.4 trillion omnibus spending package and a \$900 billion COVID-19 relief measure.

## **SUPPLY CHAIN**

### **ICT supply chain task force plans for next phase of work, potential expansion (12/21) Inside Cybersecurity**

CISA's task force dedicated to supply chain risk management is renewing its charter for six months, in an effort to make the government-industry collaborative effort more impactful to developing key cybersecurity policies and regulations. Leaders from Information and Communications Technology Supply Chain Risk Management Task Force spoke about their research and "deliverables" Friday at a Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency event, as well as on the potential for wider adoption at specific agencies to continue the work.

### **CISA Report: ICT Supply Chain Task Force Helped Create Supplier Info Sharing Standards (12/21) Executive Gov**

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has released a report stating the progress of its task force on protecting the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) supply chain over the past two years. CISA said in the report that the ICT Supply Chain Risk Management Task Force was able to develop reference material for information sharing across the industrial base and create a working group focused on assessing COVID-19 impacts on the ICT supply chain.

## **5G SECURITY**

### **How Will 5G Influence Healthcare Cybersecurity (12/21) IOTForAll**

5G has spent years hovering on the horizon, its industry-revolutionizing potential waiting just out of reach for healthcare providers and consumers. But now, the wait is (almost) over — and for some, it already is. Mobile 5G began to make limited appearances in major cities across the country in the latter

half of 2019. Those limits won't be in place for long; however, a more comprehensive rollout is expected to sweep through the nation this year.

#### **Migrating to standalone networks won't secure 5G (12/21) SC Magazine**

The non-standalone 5G networks currently run by mobile operators are at risk of cyberattack due to well-documented vulnerabilities in industry standard protocols, but the migration to standalone infrastructure will bring its own set of security issues. The stack of technologies that 5G uses could allow attacks aimed at operator networks as well as subscribers, launched from international roaming networks, operator networks or even partner networks providing access to services, Positive Technologies noted in a new report.

### **RANSOMWARE**

#### **Ransomware Attacks Surge in Q3 as Cyber-Criminals Shift Tactics (12/21) Info-Security Magazine**

A record growth in ransomware attacks took place in Q3 of 2020 compared to Q2, from 39% to 51% of all malware attempts, according to Positive Technologies' Cybersecurity Threatscape: Q3 2020 report. The study also found that hacking accounted for 30% of all attacks during Q3, with cyber-criminals reducing their emphasis on social engineering tactics compared with earlier this year. The researchers noted that the percentage of social engineering attacks using COVID-19 as a lure fell from 16% in Q2 to just 4% in Q3, which they attribute to people becoming more accustomed to this crisis. Additionally, social engineering attacks targeting organizations fell from 67% of all attempts in Q1 to under half (45%) in Q3.

#### **Prioritizing data backup to defend against ransomware threats (12/21) GCN**

There were nearly 200 million ransomware attacks globally in the third quarter of 2020 alone. Cybercriminals are evolving – no longer targeting just frontline systems, but recovery solutions and data backups. The consequences of these attacks are devastating, and agencies must consider platforms with security built in, as well as backup and recovery measures to prepare for ransomware attacks that target the last line of defense: data backups. A record growth in ransomware attacks took place in Q3 of 2020 compared to Q2, from 39% to 51% of all malware attempts, according to Positive Technologies' Cybersecurity Threatscape: Q3 2020 report.

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FYSA, Eu vs. Disinfo analysis of Russian-state backed media narratives on last week's Capitol riots:

### The Storming of the Capitol

The storming of the US Capitol building was indeed a dark day for democracy. A great number of international leaders condemned the shocking scenes, and while there has been a robust response with regards to apprehending the rioters, there are those that remain concerned that there may be further violence leading up to and on the inauguration of Joe Biden.

It has been a tendency of the Kremlin to undermine democracy when it's felt there is an opportunity, and Putin himself has a history of using press exposure to undermine democracy and attack the fundamentals of liberalism. However, despite offering his view of the electoral system in the past, when asked, Putin made no comment on the violence in and around the Capitol building.

Instead, it has been left to state-owned Russian media outlets to lead with headlines such as "The American Empire has fallen, though Washington may not know it yet." This narrative has been supported by numerous Russian officials, such as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Federation Council, Konstantin Kosachev, who stated: "the celebration of democracy is over." While Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokeswoman Maria Zakharova commented that the electoral system in the U.S. is "archaic and doesn't meet modern democratic standards." And further speculation was offered by Russian Senator, Andrei Klimov, who even hinted that the riots could have been organised to put pressure on Congress while stating that ultimately, Russia and China would be blamed.

Other Russian media articles decided to use the events to undermine US support for democracy abroad, suggesting that the US should cease to involve themselves as a result of the difficulties faced in Washington. This was seconded by State Duma Speaker, Vyacheslav Volodin, who urged the US to solve their issues, before building a "policy based on non-interference in the affairs of

other sovereign states." He added that those who refer to the standards of democracy promoted by the United States will have to reconsider their views.

Despite the comments of Russian officials and state-owned media, which might suggest that the events in Washington provided the opportunity to undermine the US, RT has argued that "in reality, Russia fears consequences of ongoing US political instability." However, it seems the argument that the Kremlin only desires order is not a shared sentiment. For example, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, claims that Russian disinformation campaigns can claim a "stunning victory with Capitol Hill 'coup.'" It remains to be seen whether Putin will use the incident in an attempt to bolster support at home, or whether he will remain silent on the issue over the coming weeks.

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Last week's events concerning the pro-Kremlin disinformation campaign

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## Invitation: A Way Forward, Part II: Defending Human Rights in China

January 14th 2021, 9-11 am ET; 3-5pm CET

Building on the global impact and success of our event on how the free world could respond to the crisis in Hong Kong, the **Macdonald-Laurier Institute, European Values, Hong Kong Watch, Optimum Publishing and the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China** will convene an online conference to tackle the broader range of human rights abuses perpetrated by the regime in Beijing.

The full program and speaker bios can be found [here](#).

The discussion will be joined by Charles Burton, Teng Biao, Rahima Mahmut, Reinhard Butikofer and Mareike Ohlberg amongst other experts.

[Register now!](#)



## **Malign Foreign Influence in the Western Balkans: The EVC Review 2020**

Russia, China, and other authoritarian governments seek to project their illiberal agendas in the Western Balkans through various avenues via multiple vectors; more than a summary review based on open sources can provide. Accordingly, the purpose of this Review is to afford a broad perspective of significant developments arising primarily from Russian and Chinese governments' designs to prevent the consolidation of genuinely democratic institutions throughout the region.

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### **Topics of the Week**

**Nord Stream II edges towards the finish line as Gazprom's monopoly is potentially threatened in the Balkans.**

**Investigation of the SolarWinds hack revealed that the breach was larger than first believed, and most likely of Russian origin according to the intelligence services.**

**The Storming of the U.S. Capitol according to the Russian state media.**

**Good Old Soviet Joke**

In Czechoslovakia during communism, you could tell that an old person is senile when they stood in front of a grocery store with an empty bag and wondered whether they already went shopping or they are about to.



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## Policy & Research News

### Germany open to joint production of Russian vaccine, but only if it can prove its safety to the EMA

COVID-19 vaccinations have begun in Europe amid [worsening case rates](#) throughout the EU. The Kremlin [stated last week](#) that it was in discussion with Germany over joint production of the Russian 'Sputnik V' vaccine following [a phone call between Angela Merkel and Vladimir Putin](#) on 5<sup>th</sup> January. Deputy Spokesperson Ulrike Demmer clarified that the Chancellor was [open to the idea of producing the Russian vaccine in the EU](#) if it meets the criteria for approval by the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

The EMA evaluates and approves medicines before they can be marketed in the EU. Currently, only the [Moderna](#) and [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) vaccines have received conditional marketing approval, after successful phase 3 trials involving tens of thousands of participants. The EMA received the [authorisation application for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine](#) on 12<sup>th</sup> January, and a decision is estimated to be reached by the end of January. The EMA has not yet received an application for Sputnik V approval



from its developer the Gamaleya Research Institute. Russia became the first country to licence a coronavirus vaccine in August, although its approval came before phase 3 trials had even begun

### **Nord Stream 2 edges towards the finish line as Gazprom's monopoly is potentially threatened in the Balkans**

The US Senate began the year by passing the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which includes sanctions against companies assisting the construction of the Nord Stream 2 (NS2) gas pipeline. In response, the North German state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern announced plans last week to use up to €200,000 of public money to set up a foundation to finish the project. The foundation could theoretically shield private companies from the effect of US sanctions. That assurance may not be enough, however, as Norwegian pipeline safety certifier, DNV GL announced their withdrawal from the project forcing Gazprom to seek new certification to operate in Danish waters. The NS2 project connects Germany to the Russian gas export network under the Baltic Sea and has been criticised as increasing European reliance on Russian gas while depriving Ukraine of gas transit revenues.

Meanwhile, just as the year ended Croatia inaugurated a new floating liquified natural gas (LNG) terminal on the coast near Krk, taking its first delivery of US LNG on 1st January. As one of the biggest importers of Russian gas in the Balkans, this development is significant for Croatia's diversification of its energy supply. As the new terminal is linked into the EU distribution network, this allows for Croatia to export gas to the rest of the Balkans, potentially undermining Gazprom's monopoly on south-eastern European gas.



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## US Developments

### Developments in the SolarWinds Hack investigation

Recent developments in the investigation of the SolarWinds hack have revealed that the breach was much larger than first believed. As many as 250 networks have been affected, including both US Government agencies such as the Pentagon, the Treasury, Justice and Commerce departments, as well as private companies such as Microsoft. The hack, which was discovered by private security firm FireEye, could have begun as early as October 2019. Intelligence officials say it could be months before they have a complete understanding of the hack, but it began with a compromised software update which was downloaded by 18,000 SolarWinds customers. The update provided hackers with backdoor access to networks, allowing them to engage in intelligence-gathering efforts.

The FBI, CISA, ODNI and NSA issued a joint statement on January 5, 2021, to formally declare that the hack was most likely of Russian origin. The same group of hackers responsible for this attack were previously linked to hacks against the Obama Administration's State Department and White House email servers. This attack is especially alarming as it did not tip off "early warning" sensors placed by the U.S. National Security Agency, nor was it detected by US Government officials and analysts.

### **Biden rounds out his NSC team, nominating Andrea Kendall-Taylor as Senior Director of Russia and Central Asia**

Joe Biden's National Security Council team will have its own NSC Senior Director for

Russia and Eurasia, nominating Andrea Kendall-Taylor for the role. This position was previously combined with the NSC Directorate for European Affairs by the Trump Administration. Kendall-Taylor, who previously held the position of Russia policy lead for the Biden-Harris Transition Team, was a senior intelligence officer with the National Intelligence Council, a senior analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency, and a Senior Fellow and Director of the Transatlantic Security Program at the Center for a New American Security. While at the Center for a New American Security, Kendall-Taylor has written about Chinese and Russian digital influence operations and on Sino-Russian defence cooperation.

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## Kremlin's Current Narrative

### The Storming of the Capitol

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*Head of the Kremlin Watch Program*

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European Values Center for Security Policy  
Na baště sv. Jiří 11, CZ-160 00 Praha 6

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(b)(6)

Office

(b)(6)

E-mail

(b)(6)

Web

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For comments, suggestions or media inquiries, please contact the Head of the Kremlin Watch Program (b)(5) at (b)(5)





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The New START Treaty: Central Limits and Key Provisions

<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038576?srcpage=cqah>

Report No. R41219

Foreign Countries & Regions; Weapons Systems; International Affairs

CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

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The Google Antitrust Lawsuit: Initial Observations

<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038575?srcpage=cqah>

Report No. LSB10544

Communications; Technology; Politics and Government

CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

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Women in the Middle East and North Africa: Issues for Congress

<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038579?srcpage=cqah>

Report No. R46423

International Affairs; Foreign Countries & Regions

CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

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Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic: In Brief

<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038578?srcpage=cqah>

Report No. R46554

Education; Politics and Government; Labor

CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

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Tax Policy on the Horizon: Potential Tax Policy Issues in the 117th Congress

<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038574?srcpage=cqah>

Report No. IN11522

Budget; Congress; Taxation; Politics and Government; Economic Policy

CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

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Federal Workforce Statistics Sources: OPM and OMB  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038569?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. R43590  
Politics and Government  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

-----  
Joint All-Domain Command and Control (JADC2)  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038570?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. IF11493  
Congress; Defense Policy; Transportation; Politics and Government  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

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SBA's Office of Inspector General: Overview, Impact, and Relationship with Congress  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038571?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. R44589  
Politics and Government  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

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Status of U.S.-Russian Nuclear Arms Control Talks  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038572?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. IN11520  
Congress; Foreign Countries & Regions; Europe; Politics and Government; International Affairs  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

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Tanzania: Recent Governance Trends and 2020 Elections In Brief  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038573?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. R46579  
Agriculture; Economic Policy; Elections; Africa; International Affairs; Minorities; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

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COVID-19: Consumer Loan Forbearance and Other Relief Options  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038568?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. R46356  
Economic Policy  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

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U.S. Challenges to China's Farm Policies  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037440?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. IN11469

Agriculture; Congress; Taxation; International Affairs; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

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The Electoral College: A 2020 Presidential Election Timeline  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037439?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. IF11641  
Elections; State and Local Government; Politics and Government  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

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Bolivia's October 2020 General Elections  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037437?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. IN11198  
Congress; Economic Policy; Elections; The Americas; International Affairs; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

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CARES Act Payroll Support to Air Carriers and Contractors  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037438?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. IN11482  
Congress; Transportation; Politics and Government; Labor  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)

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UPDATE: Grand Jury Secrecy and Impeachment: Implications of D.C. Circuit Ruling on the Special Counsel's Report  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038583?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. LSB10426  
Congress; Politics and Government; Law  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

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The Legal Framework of the National Environmental Policy Act  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038582?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. IF11549  
Environmental Protection  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

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COVID-19: Household Debt During the Pandemic  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038580?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. R46578  
Economic Policy  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)

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The Army's New Regionally Aligned Readiness and Modernization Model  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038581?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. IF11670  
Foreign Countries & Regions; Defense Policy; International Affairs  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)  
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TikTok: Technology Overview and Issues  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038584?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. R46543  
Foreign Countries & Regions; Technology; Law; International Affairs  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)  
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U.S. Farm Support: Outlook for Compliance with WTO Commitments, 2018 to 2020  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037441?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. R46577  
Agriculture; Politics and Government; International Affairs  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)  
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CDBG-CV Formula Allocation Methods  
<https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038585?srcpage=cqah>  
Report No. IN11523  
Budget; Congress; The Americas; International Affairs; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions  
CRS Reports, 116th Congress (10/16/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)  
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Request a free trial. <http://info.cqrollcall.com/cqrc-insight-analysis-free-trial.html?srcpage=nl&srcsec=ftr>

```
text-align: left;
text-transform: uppercase;
}
#govdocs-highlights,
.govdocs-hits {
    position: relative;
}
#govdocs-highlights h5 {
```

OBTAINED BY AMERICAN FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

```
        margin-bottom: 0;
    }
    #govdocs-highlights p {
        margin: 6px 0;
    }
    .govdocs-hits p {
        margin: 0;
    }
    .hitl-excerpts {
        margin-top: 6px;
        padding: 5px 5px 0 5px;
        color: #333;
        background-color: #f9f9f2;
    }
    .hitl-excerpts p,
    .hitl-excerpts div {
        margin: 6px 0;
    }
    .excerpt {
        padding: 0 10px 6px 10px;
    }
    .excerpt .keyword {
        font-weight: bold;
        color: #eb0c0c;
    }
    .today {
        font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
        font-size: 12px;
        margin: 6px 0;
        position: relative;
    }
    .today p {
        margin: 6px 0;
    }
    .today h4 {
        font-size: 20px;
    }
    .today h5 {
        font-size: 16px;
    }
    .today h6 {
        font-size: 15px;
    }
    .kikker {
        color: #666;
    }
    .today div.header-rules span.toprule {
        background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/yellowrule.gif) repeat-x;
        width: 517px;
        position: absolute;
        top: 0;
        height: 15px;
```

```
}
#about-alert {
    font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
    font-size: 10px;
    color: #666;
}
#about-alert div.alert-info span.hiderule {
    background: #e8f0f6;
    width: 150px;
    position: absolute;
    top: 0;
    height: 15px;
}
.alert-info {
    margin: 0;
    position: relative;
}
#about-alert h4 {
    font-size: 12px;
    margin: 0;
    color: #036;
}
#about-alert p,
#about-alert div {
    margin: 9px 0 0;
}
#about-alert br {
    margin: 0;
    padding: 0;
    line-height: 0;
}
#leaderboard-ad {
    font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
    font-size: 10px;
    text-align: center;
    padding: 0;
    margin: 0 0 5px;
}
#leaderboard-ad p.leaderboard span.hiderule {
    background: #fff;
    width: 550px;
    position: absolute;
    top: 0;
    height: 15px;
}
.leaderboard {
    margin: 0;
    position: relative;
}
#footer p {
    font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
```

```
        font-size: 10px;
        text-align: center;
        padding: 0;
        margin: 0;
    }
    .kikker-story {
        color: #696969;
        margin: 5px 0;
    }
    .sked-top {
        padding-bottom: 8px;
    }
    .sked-top .headline {
        font-weight: bold;
        padding: 10px 0;
    }
    .sked-top .class {
        font-style: italic;
        padding-bottom: 8px;
    }
    .sked-top .text {
        padding-top: 10px;
        padding-bottom: 8px;
    }
    .sked-label-top {
        font-style: italic;
        text-align: right;
        vertical-align: top;
        padding: 2px 8px 2px 3px;
        background-color: #F9F9F2;
    }
    .sked-text-top {
        vertical-align: top;
        padding: 3px 0 0;
        background-color: #F9F9F2;
    }
    .sked-text-top .highlight-flag {
        color: #EB0C0C;
        font-weight: bold;
    }
    .sked-label {
        font-style: italic;
        text-align: right;
        vertical-align: top;
        padding: 2px 12px 2px 4px;
    }
    .sked-text {
        vertical-align: top;
        padding: 2px 0 0;
    }
    .sked-text .item {
        padding-bottom: .4em;
    }
    .sked-status {
```

```

        color: #EB0C0C;
        padding: 0 0 2px 1px;
    }
    /* FLOORVIDEO HITS
    ~~~~~ */

    div.floor-video-hit-container {
        width: 500px;
    }
    div.floor-video-hit-container img {
        padding-left: 10px;
    }
    /* ONE-STEP ALERTS
    ~~~~~ */

    #one-step {
        font-size: 12px;
    }
    #box {
        max-width: 600px;
        margin: 0 auto;
    }
    #container {}
    #main {padding: 20px;}

    .hitlist-headline {
        margin: 0 0 5px;
        font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
        font-weight: normal;
        font-size: 16px;
        line-height: 25px;
        color: #333;
    }

    .hitlist-headline a {
        font-weight: 600;
        color: #333 !important;
        text-decoration: none;
    }

    .hitlist-headline a:hover, .hitlist-headline a:focus {
        text-decoration: underline;
    }

    .hitlist-headline span {
        font-weight: normal;
    }
    .hitlist-text,
    .hitlist-source {
        margin: 0;
        font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
        font-weight: normal !important;

```



```
        color: #616161;
        font-size: 16px;
        line-height: 25px;
    }
    .hitlist-source {
        border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;
        padding-bottom: 30px;
        margin-bottom: 30px;
    }
    .amendment-hits .hitlist-source {
        border-bottom: 0;
        margin-bottom: 0;
        padding-bottom: 0;
    }
    .subscription {
        font-size: 14px;
        color: #9E9E9E;
        margin-top: 100px;
        margin-bottom: 0 !important;
    }
    #one-step #container,
    #one-step h1 {
        width: 550px;
    }
    #one-step h2,
    #one-step .header-h2 {
        display: block;
        position: relative;
        margin: 10px 0;
        font-size: 14px;
        width: 100%;
    }
    #one-step h2 span,
    #one-step .header-h2 span {
        position: absolute;
        top: 0;
        left: 0;
        width: 100%;
    }
    #one-step h3 {
        position: relative;
        margin: 0;
        font-size: 12px;
        margin-bottom: 6px;
    }
    #one-step h3 span {
        position: absolute;
        top: 0;
        left: 0;
        width: 101px;
        height: 16px;
    }
    #one-step .subhed {
        font-weight: bold;
```

```
        margin-top: 5px;
    }
    #one-step .weekly span {
        background: url('http://plus.cq.com/images/cqmagazine-
logo.png');
        height: 29px;
        background-repeat: no-repeat;
        background-position: center;
    }
    #one-step a:link,
    a:visited {
        color: #5cadcf;
    }
    #one-step p {
        margin: 2px 0;
    }
    #one-step .hitlist-headline {
        font-size: 12px;
    }
    #one-step .section-header {
        font-size: 14px;
        margin: 0 0 15px 0;
        color: #000;
        text-transform: uppercase;
        padding-bottom: 3px;
        border-bottom: 1px solid #ccc;
    }
    #one-step .section-box {
        position: relative;
        margin-bottom: 22px;
    }
    #one-step .section-box h4,
    #one-step .section-box .header-h4 {
        font-size: 14px;
        margin: 6px 0 0 0;
        font-weight: bold;
    }
    #one-step .news-column {
        float: left;
        margin-right: 12px;
        width: 47%;
    }
    #one-step .news-column .alert-hit {
        margin-bottom: 18px;
    }
    #one-step .related-items-head {
        color: #555;
    }
    #one-step .hitlist-headline {
        margin-bottom: 8px;
    }
    #one-step .updated {
        color: #990000;
    }
}
```

OBTAINED BY AMERICAN OVERSIGHT FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

```
#one-step .yellowrule {
    position: relative;
}
#one-step .yellowrule span {
    background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/yellowrule.gif) repeat-x;
    width: 100%;
    position: absolute;
    top: 0;
    height: 15px;
}
#one-step .clear {
    clear: both;
    height: 15px;
}
#one-step .header-break {
    height: 14px;
}
/* ONE-STEP ALERTS - SPECIAL STYLES FOR CQ MAGAZINE
~~~~~ */
```

```
#one-step .coverbox {
    float: left;
    margin: 0 12px 15px 0;
}
#one-step .coverbox img {
    border: 1px solid #ccc;
    padding: 6px;
}
#one-step .columnlist {
    margin-bottom: 20px;
}
#one-step .columnlist h4 {
    margin-top: 0;
}
#one-step .columnlistbox {
    border-left: 0 solid #ccc;
    margin: 0 0 3px 0;
}
#one-step .columnlistbox strong {
    font-size: 13px;
    color: #444;
}
#about-alert-box {
    font-size: 11px;
    color: #666;
    padding: 6px 12px;
    border-top: 1px solid #ccc;
    margin-top: 20px;
    height: 0.01%;
}
#about-alert-box h4 {
    font-size: 12px;
    margin: 0;
}
```

```
}
#about-alert-info {
    width: 35%;
    float: left;
}
#about-alert-delivery-id {
    clear: left;
}
.alert-control-edit,
.alert-control-delete,
.alert-control-suspend,
.alert-control-manage {
    padding: 0 0 5px 20px;
    height: auto;
    margin: 0;
    float: right;
    width: 55%;
}
.alert-control-edit {
    background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/alert_icon_edit.gif) no-repeat;
}
.alert-control-delete {
    background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/alert_icon_delete.gif) no-repeat;
}
.alert-control-suspend {
    background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/alert_icon_suspend.gif) no-repeat;
}
/* bottom box ad style */

div#bottom-box-ad {
    margin: 20px 0;
}
/* Doc Display styles */

div.document {
    font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
    font-size: 130%;
    line-height: 1.5;
    color: #555666;
}
div.document h1,
div.document h2,
div.document h3 {
    color: #000000;
}
div.document strong {
    font-weight: bold;
}
div.document em {
    font-style: italic;
```

```
}
div.document .kikker,
div.document .kikker-story {
    font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
    font-size: 90%;
}
/* Document kikkers/headers, toc, and footer */

.document-header {
    /* margin-top:1em;
    margin-bottom:1em;
    padding:1em 0; */
}
.document-header .document-changeflag {
    text-transform: uppercase;
    letter-spacing: 1px;
    color: #c00;
}
.document-header .document-headline {
    margin-top: 1em;
    margin-bottom: 1em;
    font-size: 150%;
    font-weight: bold;
}
.document-header .document-publication {
    color: #777;
    margin-bottom: 8px;
}
.document-header .document-displaydate {
    color: #777;
    margin-bottom: 8px;
}
.document-header .document-wordcount {
    color: #777;
    margin-bottom: 8px;
}
div.document-toc-container h3 {
    margin: 20px 0 5px 0;
    color: #333;
    font-size: 140%;
}
div.document-toc-container div.section-with-keyword {
    margin: 5px 0;
    font-size: 110%;
}
/* Navigating between documents */

div.document-navigation {
    margin: 0 0 10px 0;
    padding: 5px;
    border: 1px solid #E3DFD0;
    background-color: #F4F2EC;
}
```

```

a.next {
    div.document-navigation a.previous {} div.document-navigation
        float: right;
    }
    /* Navigating within a document */

    div.section-navigation {
        margin: 5px 0 0 0;
    }
    div.section-navigation a.previous {
        padding-right: 15px;
    }
    div.section-navigation a.next {} .document-toc-container {
        padding-bottom: 20px;
        margin-bottom: 20px;
        border-bottom: 3px solid #ccc;
    }
    .document-toc-container h2 {
        color: #555;
        font-size: 110%;
    }
    .document-toc-container ul {
        list-style-type: disc;
        margin-left: 18px;
    }
    .document-toc-container ul li {
        margin-bottom: 3px;
    }
    .document-footer {
        margin-top: 15px;
        color: #555;
    }
    .document-footer div.source-service,
    .document-footer div.document-footer-tagline {
        margin-bottom: 4px;
    }
    .document-footer .source-service span {
        font-weight: bold;
    }
    .document-footer .document-footer-tagline {
        font-style: italic;
    }
    .document-footer .cq-copyright {
        display: none;
    }
    /* Aggregated Documents -----*/

    .docagg-container {} .docagg-document {
        margin-top: 25px;
        padding-top: 25px;
        border-top: 3px solid #ccc;
    }
    .docagg-container > div.docagg-document:first-child {
        margin-top: 0;
    }

```

```

        padding-top: 0;
        border-top: 0;
    }
/* Document Links -----*/

.document-links {} .document-links a {
    color: #3482A4;
}
.document-links a.disabled {
    color: #777 !important;
    cursor: default;
    text-decoration: none !important;
}
.document-links ul {
    list-style-type: none;
}
.document-links li {
    float: right;
    padding-left: 10px;
}
/* Related styles for TOC, sections, etc. */

.highlight,
.section-with-keyword {
    background-color: #ffffcc;
}
div.toc-subheader {
    margin: 8px 0;
    color: #555;
    font-size: 110%;
}
/* Doc Specific Publications ----- */

.document-header .document-uscode {}
/* Doc Advertisements */

.component-adpanel {
    padding-bottom: 20px;
}
/* Meta Info -----*/

.docMeta {
    margin: 12px 0 12px 12px;
    color: #a0a0a0;
    background-color: #ffffcc;
    padding: 10px;
}
.docMeta table tr {
    vertical-align: top;
    border: solid;
    border-width: 0 0 1px 0;
    border-color: #cccc99;
}
.docMeta table th {

```



```
padding: 3px 5px;
text-align: right;
white-space: nowrap;
}
.docMeta table td {
padding: 3px 0;
line-height: 120%;
}
/* PDFs */

div.pdf-docdisplay embed.pdf {
width: 100%;
height: 600px;
z-index: 0;
position: relative;
}
div.pdf-docdisplay {
z-index: 0;
}
/* Start of OLD markup for 5.31 */

div.headline-story {
font-size: 150%;
font-weight: bold;
color: #000000;
line-height: 109%;
padding-top: 10px;
}
div.pubdate {
margin-bottom: 10px;
}
.byline-story {
margin: 5px 0 15px;
color: #888888 !important;
font-size: 90%;
}
.noindent-story {
padding: 10px;
font-size: 110%;
border: 1px solid #ccc;
background-color: #efefef;
}
.indented-story {
padding: 0 20px;
/*font-size:110%;*/
}
.newshead-story {
font-weight: bold;
}
.story p {
/*font-size:110%;*/
}
small {
font-size: 110%;
```

```

}
.kikker-story {
    color: #777;
    margin-bottom: 10px;
    font-size: 90%;
    /* was 100 */
}
.newsheadnormal-story {
    font-size: 120%;
    /* was 130 */

    font-weight: bold;
    margin-top: 15px;
    margin-bottom: 0;
}
.person-ref,
.document-ref,
.bill-ref {} .footer-story {
    color: #555;
    padding-top: 5px;
    border-top: 1px solid #eee;
}
/* Doc Boxes STYLING */

div#section-minor div.module ul.document-list li {
    border-top: 1px dotted #ccc;
    margin: 0 6px 5px 0;
    padding-top: 5px;
}
div#section-minor div.module ul.document-list li:first-child
{
    border-top: 0;
    padding-top: 0;
}
div#section-minor div.module ul.content-options.radio {
    margin-top: 7px;
    margin-bottom: 7px;
}
div#section-minor div.module ul.content-options.radio input {
    margin-bottom: 5px;
    margin-right: 5px;
    _margin-bottom: 2px;
    _margin-right: 2px;
}
/* Individual doc box components */

div#section-minor div.module div.component-
billscomparisonpanel {
    margin-bottom: 6px;
}
div#section-minor div.module div.component-
billscomparisonlongformbox li.other-version p {
    margin-left: 0;
}

```

```

/* hack */

div.component-documentkikker div.kikker-story {
    font-size: 100%;
}
div.story div.kikker-story {
    font-size: 70%;
    line-height: normal;
}
/* Store link */

div#container div#store-link {
    text-align: right;
    font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
    font-size: 12px;
    background-color: #e8f0f6;
    border-top: 10px solid #e8f0f6;
    border-bottom: 10px solid #e8f0f6;
}
div#container div#store-link a {
    color: #3482A4;
    padding-left: 22px;
    background:
url(http://plus.cq.com/flatfiles/images/cart.gif) 0 50% no-repeat;
}
/* Call to action */

.cta {
    text-align: center;
    background: #f1f1f1;
    margin: 15px 0;
    padding: 6px 0;
}
.cta a {
    text-decoration: none;
}
.cta a img {
    vertical-align: middle;
}
.logo {
    margin: 0 0 10px;
}
.footer {
    background: #F9F9F9;
    margin-top: 30px;
    padding: 30px;
    text-align: center;
    font-size: 14px;
    line-height: 24px;
    font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial,
sans-serif;
    color: #616161;
}

```

OBTAINED BY AMERICAN FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

```
/* .alert-hit {
    display: none;
} */

.img-container {
    margin: 25px 0 60px;
    text-align: center;
}

.amendment-hits {
    margin-top: 0;
    padding-top: 30px;
    border-top: 1px solid #d4d1d3;
}

.amendment-hits ul {
    margin-top: -30px !important;
}

.crs {
    border-top: 0;
}

.crs ul {
    margin-top: 0 !important;
}

.hide {
    position: absolute;
    overflow: hidden;
    clip: rect(0,0,0,0);
    width: 0 !important;
    height: 0;
}

.address {
    margin-bottom: 20px;
}

</style>
<div style="max-width: 600px; margin: 0 auto;" id="box">
<div id="container">
<div id="main">
<div style="margin: 25px 0 60px; text-align: center;" class="img-
container">
</div>
<div style="padding-top: 0; border-top: 0;" class="amendment-hits crs">
<response>
```

<ul style="margin: 0; padding-left: 0; list-style: none;">  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038577?srcpage=cqah">U.S.-Brazil Trade Relations</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IF10447</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Agriculture; Economic Policy; Energy; Foreign Countries & Regions; Intellectual Property; The Americas; Labor; Law; Politics and Government; Taxation; Trade; International Affairs</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038576?srcpage=cqah">The New START Treaty: Central Limits and Key Provisions</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R41219</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Foreign Countries & Regions; Weapons Systems; International Affairs</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">

<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038575?srcpage=cqah">The Google Antitrust Lawsuit: Initial Observations</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. LSB10544</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Communications; Technology; Politics and Government</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038579?srcpage=cqah">Women in the Middle East and North Africa: Issues for Congress</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R46423</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">International Affairs; Foreign Countries & Regions</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">



<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038578?srcpage=cqah">Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic: In Brief</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R46554</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Education; Politics and Government; Labor</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038574?srcpage=cqah">Tax Policy on the Horizon: Potential Tax Policy Issues in the 117th Congress</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IN11522</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Budget; Congress; Taxation; Politics and Government; Economic Policy</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038569?srcpage=cqah">Federal Workforce Statistics Sources: OPM and OMB</a>  
</h2>



<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R43590</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Politics and Government</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038570?srcpage=cqah">Joint All-Domain Command and Control (JADC2)</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IF11493</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Congress; Defense Policy; Transportation; Politics and Government</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038571?srcpage=cqah">SBA's Office of Inspector General: Overview, Impact, and Relationship with Congress</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R44589</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">

<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Politics and Government</span>  
</p>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">

<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>

<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">

<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">

<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038572?srcpage=cqah">Status of U.S.-Russian Nuclear Arms Control Talks</a>  
</h2>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IN11520</p>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">

<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Congress; Foreign Countries & Regions; Europe; Politics and Government; International Affairs</span>  
</p>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">

<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>

<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">

<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">

<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038573?srcpage=cqah">Tanzania: Recent Governance Trends and 2020 Elections In Brief</a>  
</h2>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R46579</p>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">

<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Agriculture; Economic Policy; Elections; Africa; International Affairs; Minorities; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions</span>  
</p>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS  
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038568?srcpage=cqah">COVID-19: Consumer Loan Forbearance and Other Relief Options</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R46356</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Economic Policy</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS  
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/23/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037440?srcpage=cqah">U.S. Challenges to China's Farm Policies</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IN11469</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Agriculture; Congress; Taxation; International Affairs; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS  
Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)</p>



</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037439?srcpage=cqah">The Electoral College: A 2020 Presidential Election Timeline</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IF11641</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Elections; State and Local Government; Politics and Government</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037437?srcpage=cqah">Bolivia's October 2020 General Elections</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IN11198</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Congress; Economic Policy; Elections; The Americas; International Affairs; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">

<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037438?srcpage=cqah">CARES Act Payroll Support to Air Carriers and Contractors</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IN11482</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Congress; Transportation; Politics and Government; Labor</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">  
<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038583?srcpage=cqah">UPDATE: Grand Jury Secrecy and Impeachment: Implications of D.C. Circuit Ruling on the Special Counsel's Report</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. LSB10426</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Congress; Politics and Government; Law</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>  
<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">

<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038582?srcpage=cqah">The Legal Framework of the National Environmental Policy Act</a>

## </h2>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IF11549</p>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">

<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Environmental Protection</span>

</p>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">

<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>

</li>

<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">

## <h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">

<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038580?srcpage=cqah">COVID-19: Household Debt During the Pandemic</a>

## </h2>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R46578</p>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">

<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Economic Policy</span>

</p>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">

<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>

</li>

<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">

## <h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">

<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038581?srcpage=cqah">The Army's New Regionally Aligned Readiness and Modernization Model</a>

## </h2>



<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IF11670</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Foreign Countries & Regions; Defense Policy; International Affairs</span>  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">  
<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/22/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
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<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">  
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<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038584?srcpage=cqah">TikTok: Technology Overview and Issues</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R46543</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">  
<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Foreign Countries & Regions; Technology; Law; International Affairs</span>  
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<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6037441?srcpage=cqah">U.S. Farm Support: Outlook for Compliance with WTO Commitments, 2018 to 2020</a>  
</h2>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. R46577</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">



<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Agriculture; Politics and Government; International Affairs</span>  
</p>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">

<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/21/2020; Posted 10/23/2020)</p>  
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<li style="padding-left: 0; padding-bottom: 30px; border-bottom: 1px solid #d4d1d3;">

<h2 style="margin: 35px 0 5px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px; color: #333; border: 0;" class="hitlist-headline">

<a style="font-weight: bold; color: #333; text-decoration: none;" href="https://plus.cq.com/pdf/6038585?srcpage=cqah">CDBG-CV Formula Allocation Methods</a>  
</h2>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text">Report No. IN11523</p>

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<span class="label">Subject(s): </span><span class="subjects">Budget; Congress; The Americas; International Affairs; Politics and Government; Foreign Countries & Regions</span>  
</p>

<p style="margin: 0; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; font-weight: normal; color: #616161; font-size: 16px; line-height: 25px;" class="hitlist-text hitlist-source">

<span style="font-style: italic;" class="hitlist-pubname">CRS Reports</span>, 116th Congress (10/16/2020; Posted 10/24/2020)</p>  
</li>  
</ul>

<div style="font-size: 14px; line-height: 24px; color: #9E9E9E; margin-top: 100px; margin-bottom: 30px;" class="hitlist-text subscription">CRS Reports is a paid-subscription newsletter and website published by CQ. Routine or systematic forwarding or photocopying of this publication or portions thereof is a violation of federal copyright laws. To ensure compliance or to inquire about a site license, contact CQ Sales at 800-432-2250 x 6599 or <a style="color: #5cadcf; text-decoration: none;" href="mailto:sales@cqrollcall.com">sales@cqrollcall.com</a>. If you are having technical issues accessing this publication, contact CQ Customer Service at 800-432-2250 x 6621 or <a style="color: #5cadcf; text-decoration: none;" href="mailto:customerservice@cqrollcall.com">customerservice@cqrollcall.com</a>. <a style="color: #5cadcf; text-decoration: none;" href="http://info.cqrollcall.com/cqrc-insight-analysis-free-trial.html?srcpage=nl&srcsec=ftr">Request a free trial</a>.</div>

</response>  
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<div style="background: #F9F9F9; padding: 30px; text-align: center; font-size: 14px; line-height: 24px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; color: #616161;" class="footer">  
<p style="margin-bottom: 10px;" class="logo">  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; padding: 0; font-size: 14px; line-height: 24px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; color: #616161;" class="rights">&copy; 2020 All Rights Reserved, CQ-Roll Call, Inc.</p>  
<p style="margin: 0 0 20px; font-size: 14px; line-height: 24px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; color: #616161;" class="address">  
1625 Eye Street, Washington, DC 20006 | 202-650-6500  
</p>  
<p style="margin: 0; padding: 0; font-size: 14px; line-height: 24px; font-family: 'San Francisco', Roboto, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif; color: #616161;">  
For feedback, please contact <a style="color: #5cadcf; text-decoration: none;" href="mailto:feedback@cqrollcall.com">feedback@cqrollcall.com</a>  
</p>  
</div>  
</body>  
</html>

OBTAINED BY AMERICAN FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**To:** (b)(6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**CC:** Snell, Allison (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

**Date:** 2020/10/26 11:37:55

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst | CISA (b)(6)

(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 11:28 AM

**To:** (b)(6); (b)(6)

(b)(6) Hale, Geoffrey

(b)(6)

**Cc:** Snell, Allison (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

Thanks (b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Counsel – Cybersecurity, Office of the Chief Counsel

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Office: (b)(6) Cell (b)(6) JWICS: (b)(6)

From (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 11:22 AM

To (b)(6)

(b)(6) Hale, Geoffrey

(b)(6)

Cc: Snell, Allison (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

Thanks (b)(6)

(b)(5)

Best,

(b)(6)

Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst | CISA | (b)(6)

(b)(6)



From (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 11:19 AM

To (b)(6)

(b)(6) Hale, Geoffrey

(b)(6)

Cc: Snell, Allison (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

Hi (b)(6)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Counsel – Cybersecurity, Office of the Chief Counsel

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Office (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

| JWICS: (b)(6)

[spencer@cis.gov](mailto:spencer@cis.gov)

From (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 10:57 AM

To (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: Snell, Allison (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

If any edits/changes are needed from the OCC perspective, let us know.

Best,

(b)(6)

Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst | CISA

(b)(6)

(b)(6)



From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 10:34 AM

To: (b)(6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Snell, Allison (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

Check with OCC and let them weigh in.

(b)(6)  
Senior Cybersecurity Advisor  
Department of Homeland Security  
Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

---

**From** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 10:23 AM  
**To** (b)(6) Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** Snell, Allison (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

Minus Amy for internal discussion:

(b)(5)

Best,

(b)(6) Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst | CISA | (b)(6)  
(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:34 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Snell, Allison (b)(6); Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

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(b)(5)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 24, 2020 12:25 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Tableau Dashboard Package

Hey Amy,

See attached for the test package. We're in the processing of updating this with latest data, but structure and look will be the same. Let me know if you notice anything amiss. I've attached a screenshot as well, so you'll know what the dashboard should look like if the upload goes smoothly.

With the free [Tableau Public](#) account, you should be good to post this on a NASED account. We'll aim to have the updated package with latest data to you Monday or Tuesday. Just give me a buzz with any questions. Thanks!

Best,

(b)(6)

Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst, National Risk Management Center  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Office: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)





<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)
	Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6)
	(b)(6) Geoff
	(b)(6)
	Snell, Alliso (b)(6)
	(b)(6) Alli
	(b)(6)
<b>Sent Date:</b>	2020/10/26 11:37:54
<b>Delivered Date:</b>	2020/10/26 11:37:55

From: (b)(6)

To: (b)(6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

CC: Snell, Allison (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

**Date:** 2020/10/26 15:11:15

**Priority:** Normal

**Type:** Note

Thanks for the edits, (b)(6) (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Best,

(b)(6) | Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst | CISA | (b)(6)

(b)(6)



---

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 12:05 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Hale, Geoffrey

(b)(6)

**Cc:** Snell, Allison (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Counsel – Cybersecurity, Office of the Chief Counsel  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Office: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6) | JWICS (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 11:38 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6); Hale, Geoffrey

(b)(6) (b)(6)

**Cc:** Snell, Allison (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst | CISA | (b)(6) 202-680-0058 |

(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 11:28 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

Masterson, Matthew

(b)(6)

Hale, Geoffrey

(b)(6)

**Cc:** Snell, Allison (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

Thanks (b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Counsel – Cybersecurity, Office of the Chief Counsel  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Office: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6) JWICS: (b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 11:22 AM

**To:** (b)(6); Hale, Geoffrey

(b)(6)

**Cc:** Snell, Allison (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

Thanks (b)(6)

Screenshot of the viz attached. If you want a quick walk through of the live interactive viz, let me know and I can screenshare in a quick Teams chat.

Best,

(b)(6) Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst | CISA (b)(6)  
(b)(6)



---

**From:** (b)(6) <(b)(6)@cisa.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 11:19 AM

**To:** (b)(6); Masterson, Matthew

(b)(6); Hale, Geoffrey

(b)(6) <(b)(6)@cisa.dhs.gov>

**Cc:** Snell, Allison (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

Hi (b)(6)

Can you send the visualization itself?

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Counsel – Cybersecurity, Office of the Chief Counsel  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Office (b)(6) Cell (b)(6) JWICS (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 10:57 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)

**Cc:** Snell, Allison (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

Best,

(b)(6)

| Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst | CISA |

(b)(6)

(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 10:34 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6)

**Cc:** Snell, Allison (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

Check with OCC and let them weigh in.

(b)(6)

Senior Cybersecurity Advisor  
Department of Homeland Security  
Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 10:23 AM

**To:** (b)(6) Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** Snell, Allison (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

(b)(5)

Best,

■ (b)(6) Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst | CISA (b)(6)  
(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:34 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Snell, Allison (b)(6) Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Tableau Dashboard Package

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 24, 2020 12:25 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Snell, Allison (b)(6) Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Tableau Dashboard Package

Hey Amy,

See attached for the test package. We're in the processing of updating this with latest data, but structure and look will be the same. Let me know if you notice anything amiss. I've attached a screenshot as well, so you'll know what the dashboard should look like if the upload goes smoothly.

With the free [Tableau Public](#) account, you should be good to post this on a NASED account. We'll aim to have the updated package with latest data to you Monday or Tuesday. Just give me a buzz with any questions. Thanks!



Best,

(b)(6)

Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst, National Risk Management Center

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Office: (b)(6) Cell: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)



<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)
	Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6)
	(b)(6) Geoff
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	Snell, Allison /o=(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
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<b>Sent Date:</b>	2020/10/26 15:11:14
<b>Delivered Date:</b>	2020/10/26 15:11:15

From: (b)(6)

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To: Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6) (b)(6)

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Snell, Allison (b)(6)

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CC: Brown, Keisha (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)

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Subject: Updated 2020 General Election Risk Posture

Date: 2020/10/26 15:50:16

Priority: Normal

Type: Note

Matt/Geoff,

(b)(5)

Best,

(b)(6)

Cyber and Infrastructure Risk Analyst, National Risk Management Center

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Office: (b)(6) | Cell: (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6) | JWICS: (b)(6)



Sender (b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Hale, Geoffrey /o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group

(b)(6) Geoff

(b)(6)

Snell, Allison (b)(6)

Recipient:

(b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Sent Date: 2020/10/26 15:49:53

Delivered Date: 2020/10/26 15:50:16

<b>From:</b>	CISA CurOps (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
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<b>Subject:</b>	CISA Overview - General Election Risk Posture
<b>Date:</b>	2020/10/26 17:10:10
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal
<b>Type:</b>	Note

All,

The CISA General Election Risk Posture document is current as of October 26, 2020 and is a refresh of the October 20, 2020 CISA General Election Risk Posture document. This document is for information purposes only and may be subject to change as a result of litigation or changes to state laws. Voters should always seek the most up-to-date election information from their state and local elected officials.

V/r

CISA IOD Current Operations  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency  
Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6)



<b>Sender:</b>	CISA CurOps (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)
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	CISA Elections Overview (b)(6) (b)(6) Group
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To: (b)(6) (b)(6)  
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Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Geoff  
CC: (b)(6)  
Snell, Allison (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)  
(b)(6)  
Subject: CISA Overview - General Election Risk Posture  
Date: 2020/10/26 17:13:27  
Priority: Normal  
Type: Note

All,

See updated risk posture documents for each state. We made minor tweaks based on court rulings, etc. Will provide updated versions if needed.

Matt

(b)(6)

Senior Cybersecurity Advisor  
Department of Homeland Security  
Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

(b)(6)

Sender: (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
Recipient: Hale, Geoffrey (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Geoff  
(b)(6)  
Snell, Allison (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
Sent Date: 2020/10/26 17:12:37

**Delivered Date:** 2020/10/26 17:13:27

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## 2020 General Election Risk Posture – November 3, 2020

### Situation

The 2020 General Election is on November 3, 2020. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five territories are holding elections.

### Potential Challenges

Considering the reduction of in-person voting locations in most states and an anticipated surge in mail-in voting, nationwide challenges include potential poll-worker shortages, managing social distancing, long lines, and tabulation delays. Election officials may face recurring reasons for rejection of mail-in ballots including no voter signature, late submission, or because signatures do not match.

### Poll Hours

The chart below displays the hours that polling places will be open throughout the country (5:00am to 11:00pm ET). Please see Appendix A for a chart displaying when polls are open (ET) in each of the 50 states.

5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm
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Polls Hours

### State Elections Background

States vary in infrastructure configuration and use of CISA services. See Appendix B for maps displaying state-specific data for voter registration systems, CISA services, Albert Sensors, and local EI-ISAC membership.

- **Voter Registration System:** 37 states are Top Down, six are Bottom Up, and six are hybrid. One state (North Dakota) does not require voters to pre-register, and the District of Columbia is a single jurisdiction.
- **Voting Type:** Of the General Election states, eleven are using a percentage of systems without a paper audit trail (AR, ID, IN, KS, KY, LA, MS, NJ, OK, TN, TX).
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:** All states with the exception of Alabama, Maine, and New Hampshire have received CISA cybersecurity services.
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** All states with the exception of Montana and New Hampshire have at least one individual with a DHS-sponsored Election Infrastructure security clearance.
- **EI-ISAC Member:** All states are EI-ISAC members.
- **Albert Sensor:** All states have Albert Sensors. (b)(3);6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** General Election states have varying levels of local EI-ISAC membership.
  - Seventeen states have between 0-33% local EI-ISAC membership
  - Seven states have between 34-66% local EI-ISAC membership
  - Twenty-seven states have between 67-100% local EI-ISAC membership



## Threat Awareness

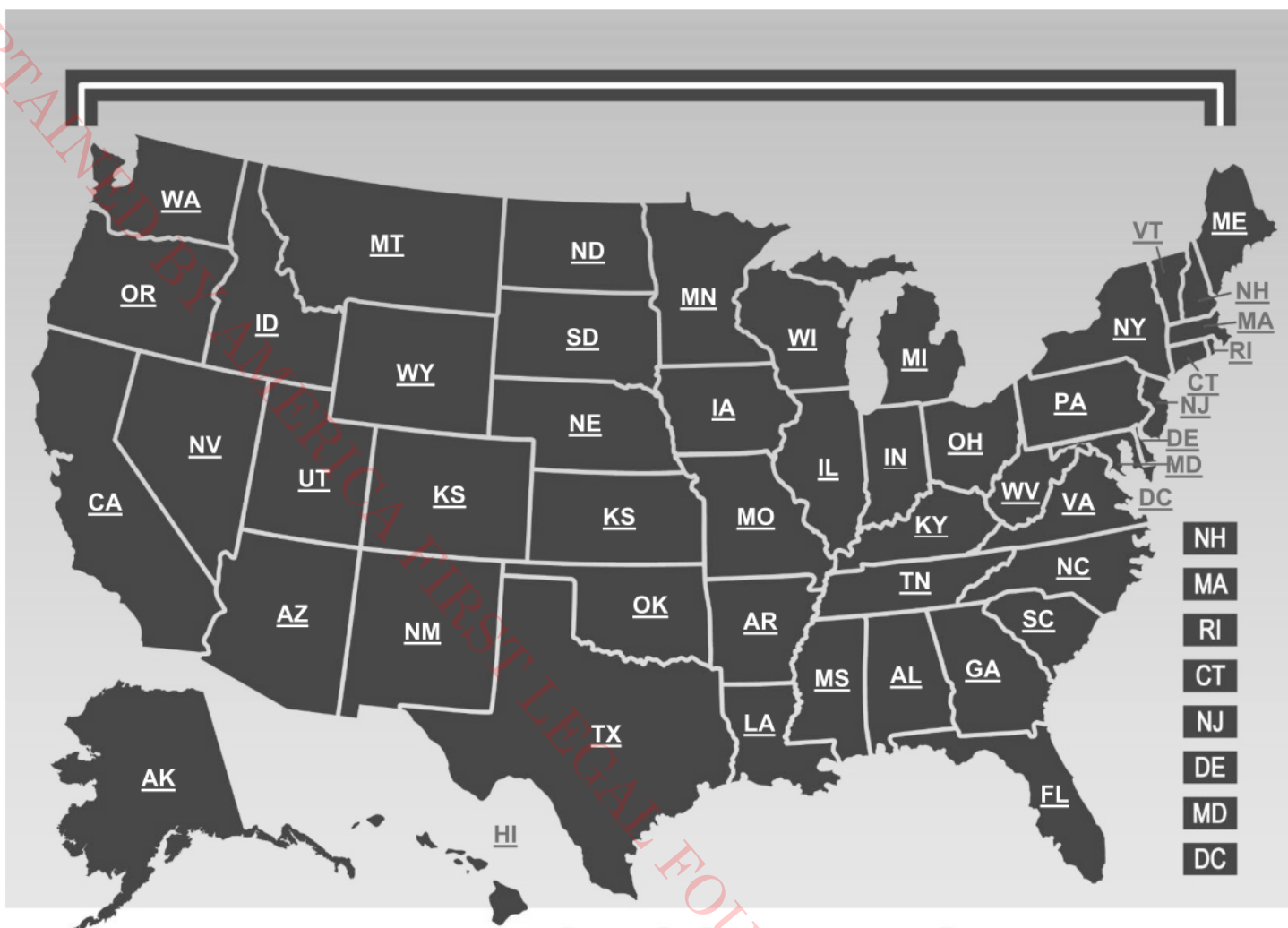
CISA Intel is unaware of any specific, credible threat to United States elections infrastructure.

## Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration and Voter Check-in:**
  - The 37 top down states control their voter registration databases at the state level. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters.
  - The six bottom-up states control their voter registration databases at the local level. From a risk perspective, bottom-up states may have weaker, less consistent cybersecurity postures relative to top-down states based on availability of resources.
  - The six hybrid states have a mix of top-down and bottom-up registration characteristics including risk advantages and vulnerabilities.
  - One state (North Dakota) does not require voters to pre-register.
- **Vote Casting:** Forty states use vote cast systems with 100% paper backups. Eleven states are using some percentage of voting systems without a voter verified auditable paper record. These systems present additional risk, based on the difficulty of identifying electronic manipulation to ensure election integrity.
- **Early Vote Casting:** Forty-four states allow early voting, Colorado, Minnesota, Vermont, and Virginia are the earliest, beginning on September 19, 2020.
- **Election Websites:** Election websites are, by nature, subject to internet-based risks. Indicators that their integrity or availability have been affected may include voters showing up at the wrong locations.
- **Results Reporting:** Results are reported on state websites. Due to the increase in mail-in voting during the 2020 General Election, comprehensive results may not be reported on election night. Inability to report results or reporting prior to close of polls could be indicators these systems were targeted. Typosquatting of election results websites may cause public confusion.

## Election Day Posture

- The Election Security Initiative (ESI) and the Election Operations Team (EOT) will stand up a coordination and incident response center, where incident response, intelligence analysis, communications, policy, and liaison officials will be on standby to assist election infrastructure entities with any situation that may arise.
- Most work is expected to occur at the unclassified level, with classified discussion only happening by exception and at the request of the Intelligence Community to share information. CISA's SCIF space will be available for full use by cleared ESI and EOT members, who will be working in adjacent space.
- ESI and the EOT will participate in both the federal and the state, local, tribal, and territorial chat rooms to ensure real-time situational awareness.
- ESI and the EOT will be prepared to explain the security impact of any situation that arises in coordination with other federal, state, local, and private sector partners.
- CISA will have scheduled touch points with interagency and private sector partners to ensure broad awareness.



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## Alabama

### Potential Challenges

The Alabama Secretary of State (SoS) suggested during a recent interview that Alabama would not have delays in reporting their general election outcome, despite their expected increase in mail-in ballots. Election officials throughout the country have been messaging to voters that determining the outcome of the election on election night is unlikely due to the number of mail-in ballots that will need to be counted after Election Day during the canvass period. Local Alabama election officials are required to submit unofficial results by a deadline (November 13, 2020), in accordance with state law. These statements from the SoS may cause some Alabama voters to have unrealistic expectations of election night reporting. The state is also not necessarily providing additional staffing for processing mail-in ballots as staffing decisions are left up to local election officials. Many counties did not have typical staffing levels during the July runoff election as some longtime poll workers have decided not to sign-up due to COVID-19 concerns. The state expects similar shortages for the general election as interest in working at polls decreases. A lack of sufficient staff may result in additional delays. Alabama will not have drop boxes for mail-in ballots, but voters may use other postal carriers in addition to the United States Postal Service and can drop their ballots off in-person at election offices. The SoS publicly distributed his personal cell phone number (see "COVID-19 Considerations" below for more information) which may result in distributed denial of service (DDOS) and/or doxing attacks.

### COVID-19 Considerations

Alabama is allowing fear of COVID-19 as a valid excuse to apply for a mail-in ballot. The Alabama SoS clarified publicly that neither voters nor poll workers will be required to wear a mask at voting precincts during the general election. Although Alabama is under a statewide mask order, the mandate specifically excludes polling places. Instead, the state is releasing guidance "encouraging" voters and poll workers to wear masks. The SoS said any voter who is not allowed to cast a ballot because they are not wearing a mask should call the SoS Office or the Secretary's personal cell phone, the number of which he is providing publicly. There were at least two instances in the July runoff elections where voters were denied the ability to vote because they were not wearing a mask. Other measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 including distancing requirements, cleaning procedures, and polling place locations are up to local election officials at each precinct. The state has funds available to help county election officials obtain plexiglass shields, hand sanitizer, gloves, disinfectant spray, and provide optional masks to voters.

### State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - None
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
  - (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 11% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (CT)
- **Official Election Website:**  
<https://www.sos.alabama.gov/>

## Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Alabama has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 19, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Alabama uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. Polling places are open at 7:00am and close at 7:00pm (CT).
  - **Mail-In Ballots:** Due to COVID-19, all voters are eligible to use mail-in voting in the general election. All voters can select "I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls." All mail-in ballot applications must include a copy of a valid photo ID. Mail-in ballot applications must be received by the Absentee Election Manager for the voter's county by October 29, 2020. The deadline to return hand delivered absentee ballots is November 2, 2020 at 5:00pm (CT). Registered voters can download mail-in ballot applications from the SoS website, by calling the SoS Office, or by requesting the application from their local Absentee Election Manager. Mailed ballots must be postmarked no later than November 2, 2020 and received by 12:00pm (CT) on Election Day. UOCAVA voters must postmark their ballot by November 3, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** Alabama does not offer early voting.

## Election Day Posture

- Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (b)(6) will provide in-person support while PSA (b)(6) and Cybersecurity Advisor (b)(6) will provide virtual support to the Alabama SoS Office.
- Regional Director Robinson, Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator (b)(6) and Regional Operations Manager (b)(6) will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.



## Alaska

### Potential Challenges

Alaska election officials are particularly concerned with a potential for poll worker shortages in rural precincts. Due to the increase in mail-in ballots, results may take longer to count and certify which could shift some of the burden from the Division of Elections Headquarters to its Regional Offices. Election officials are encouraging voters to request mail-in ballots or to vote early to reduce wait times on Election Day. During the presidential primary, a record number of voters utilized mail-in voting, a trend that will likely continue for the General Election. A new state administration was sworn in December 2018, but state election officials have met with the Region X Regional Director and Cybersecurity Advisor and are in regular communications with the state's Protective Security Advisor (PSA).

### COVID-19 Considerations

Due to COVID-19, the Alaska Lieutenant Governor announced that registered Alaskan voters over the age of 65 will automatically receive a mail-in ballot application for the General Election. Some lawmakers have raised concerns that this creates unequal access to those who do not automatically receive ballot applications. Alaska will continue to offer no-excuse mail-in and early voting in addition to in-person voting. At in-person voting locations, election officials have implemented measures including social distancing, masks and spray shields, and frequent cleaning and sanitizing of high-touch surfaces.

### State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
  - Last Mile: 2018 and 2020 State Election Security Snapshot Poster delivered
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Alaska (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 75% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-8:00pm (AKT)
- **Official Election Website:**  
<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/>

### Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Alaska has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. All national elections are run by the Alaska Division of Elections; municipal and borough officials are not involved. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. Alaska allows voter registration applications to be submitted online, by mail, or in person at a Division of Elections Office or voter registration agency. The regular voter registration deadline is October 4, 2020. Voter registration forms must be submitted by mail, fax, email, or in-person to the regional election office and postmarked or received by October 4, 2020. Alaska allows same-day registration in presidential election years, but voters who do so may only cast a vote for the presidential election. Additionally, Alaska



law allows for the automatic voter registration of eligible applicants when applying for a Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD).

- **Vote Casting:** Alaska uses paper ballots and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm (AKT).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Alaska offers no-excuse mail-in voting. Voters may request a mail-in ballot online, by fax, by mail, or by phone through the Division of Elections. Mail-in ballot applications returned by mail must be received by the regional election office by October 24, 2020. Ballots will be mailed to voters approximately 25 days prior to Election Day (October 9, 2020). Voters must return completed mail-in ballots by mail, fax, or email to the regional election office and be postmarked by November 3, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** Alaska offers early and in-person absentee voting beginning in most locations on October 19, 2020 and through Election Day. Early voting is only available at certain voting locations that have the ability to establish a secure connection with the voter registration database system. Times, dates, and district ballots available vary depending on the location. Absentee in-person voting is available at all voting locations. Eligibility to vote will be verified after voting for in-person absentee ballots. Early and in-person absentee ballots will be counted beginning election night and up to 15 days after Election Day (November 19, 2020).

### Election Day Posture

- The Alaska PSA will support the Division of Elections Headquarters in Juneau, monitoring the election and communicating with Region X, the EI-ISAC, and federal partners.
- The Alaska PSA will coordinate with the Alaska Election Security Working Group (FBI, US Attorney's Office, state Chief Information Security Officer, and Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and DHS Intelligence & Analysis).





## Arizona

### Potential Challenges

Maricopa County is home to a majority of the state's population and receives significant media attention. Should there be any major issues in Maricopa County on Election Day, it would present significant challenges for state election officials. In the past, the state has had difficulty convincing other Arizona counties outside of Maricopa to manage cyber and infrastructure risk. The General Election takes place during wildfire season. Fire activity could limit polling places and impact voter turnout. Some counties have announced a significant reduction in polling places, while other counties have yet to communicate any changes. Voters may also be confused on election procedures due to several fierce debates happening in the state legislature about voting during the pandemic. However, the state is hosting virtual town halls to clarify procedures and answer questions about the upcoming General Election. Additionally, difficulty in accessing postal service delivery times has been an issue for some residents in past elections and likely will continue to be a challenge. Local CISA staff are connected with Runbeck Election Services, an Arizona-based service provider of ballot print, mail, equipment, and technology for jurisdictions across the country. CISA regional staff are also connected with the Arizona Fusion Center and National Guard.

### COVID-19 Considerations

Although Arizona is already a predominantly mail-in voting state with more than 70% of voters using mail-in voting options, officials anticipate an unprecedented surge in mail-in ballot requests. The state government has reached a deadlock on several COVID-19 related election legislation efforts. These ongoing debates leave election rules in flux. The state's ban on the returning of others' ballots (sometimes called "ballot harvesting"), the validity of ballots cast at incorrect polling places, and inconsistent deadlines for fixing a mailed ballot with a mismatched signature versus no signature at all. Activist groups seeking to push initiatives on the ballot have had difficulty collecting signatures in a major COVID-19 hotspot, and courts have rejected their requests to waive the signature requirement. With these issues unresolved, Arizona voters and election officials may have to adjust to changing rules leading right up to Election Day. The Arizona Secretary of State's (SoS) office launched a website ([www.arizona.vote](http://www.arizona.vote)) to educate the public on voting considerations during the November 2020 general election.

### State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Hybrid
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b)(7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **County-level Information:** 73% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am-7:00pm (MT)
- **Official Election Website:**  
<https://azsos.gov/elections>

## Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Arizona has a hybrid voter registration system, meaning the SoS oversees elections and local election offices transmit data to the state in real time. Hybrid models are a combination of top-down and bottom-up models including risk advantages and vulnerabilities. The regular voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020 for in person and online registration. Mailed registration must be postmarked by October 5, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Arizona uses paper ballots and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, most polling places will be open from 6:00am to 7:00pm (MT). The SoS is encouraging voters to utilize mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Mail-in ballots must be received by the voter's local election office by 7:00pm (MT) on November 3, 2020. Voters may return ballots by mail or deliver them to designated drop-off locations in their county. The SoS has encouraged voters to mail their completed mail-in ballots by October 27, 2020 to ensure they reach election offices by the deadline.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Registered voters have two options to obtain a mail-in ballot: joining the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) or making a one-time request for a mail-in ballot. Voters may sign up for the PEVL when they register to vote or sign up via the Arizona SoS website. Alternatively, voters may request a one-time mail-in ballot online, by calling their county recorder, submitting a written request form, or emailing their county recorder. To receive a mail-in ballot for the 2020 General Election, voters must submit their request or sign up for the PEVL by October 23, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** Arizona will allow early in-person voting from October 7, 2020 through October 30, 2020. Early voting will be available at designated community voting locations. Hours may vary by location, and the SoS encourages voters to contact their local election office for exact hours of operation.

## Election Day Posture

- The regional Physical Security Advisors and the Cyber Security Advisor in Arizona will monitor, report, and support elections partners virtually through the Arizona Election HSIN portal and collaboration channels and sync calls.
- The Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) will be the primary hub of information. State officials will advise if the State Emergency Operations Center will activate, however, at this time there are no plans to do so.



## Arkansas

### Potential Challenges

The state's election cybersecurity incident response and communications plans were recently updated through after-action recommendations from the Election Cyber Tabletop Exercise. These plans have not been tested via real-world events and may be unfamiliar to some key personnel. This lack of familiarity may present challenges should a cyber incident occur. However, the Secretary of State (SoS) has utilized multiple physical and cyber resources from CISA to increase their security posture for the upcoming election. The state is working closely with the Alaska Division of Emergency Management (ADEM), CISA, DHS Intelligence & Analysis (I&A), and the FBI on enhancing their incident response and communications plan to incorporate a more whole community and efficient response during election incidents.

### COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Arkansas Governor signed an executive order in August allowing all Arkansas voters the option to request a mail-in ballot using fear of contracting COVID-19 as an excuse. Additionally, the Arkansas SoS Election Office will ensure appropriate social distancing and PPE protocols for in-person voting. To further protect the safety of on-site staff, the election office staff monitoring operations for the General Election will be at an alternate location (rather than the Capitol) to ensure adequate social distancing.

### State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT; DREs without VVPAT
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

— (b)(3);6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

—  
—  
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- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b)(3);6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Arkansas has one DHS-sponsored Election Infrastructure security clearances.
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. Online and covered via election specific sensor.
- **County-level Information:** 1% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:30am-7:30am (CT)
- **Official Election Website:**  
<https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections>

### Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Arkansas has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020. Returning uniformed service members, Merchant Marines, individuals serving outside of the country in support of national security, and



their spouses and dependents may request extended time to register in-person should they miss the deadline.

- **Vote Casting:** Arkansas uses paper ballots; DREs with VVPAT; and DREs without VVPAT. Vote casting without VVPAT is higher risk due to the lack of software independence through a paper backup. On Election Day, most polling places will be open from 7:30am to 7:30pm (CT). Voters are encouraged to use mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. All mail-in ballots must be received by the close of polls on Election Day.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Due to COVID-19, the Arkansas Governor has expanded the acceptable reasons to request a mail-in ballot to include fear of contracting COVID-19. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is October 27, 2020. Once the application is approved, the county clerk will mail a postage prepaid mail-in ballot with instructions and materials to the voter.
- **Early Voting:** Arkansas will allow early in-person voting from October 19, 2020 – November 2, 2020. Early voting is available between the hours of 8:00am to 6:00pm (CT) Monday through Friday; 10:00am to 4:00pm (CT) on Saturdays; and ending at 5:00pm (CT) on the Monday before Election Day. Off-site early voting hours may vary by county.

### Election Day Posture

- Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (b)(6) will coordinate with Region VI Incident Support Group to share election related information.
- The state election office has requested that the local PSA be on-site to support election activities. PSA (b)(6) and the DHS I&A Officer for Arkansas are working with the Arkansas SoS on a joint DHS/Arkansas HSIN monitoring site for November.
- CISA Regional support for the state election office is anticipated to cover a longer timeframe as pre- and post-election support activities may go beyond Election Day.



## California

### Potential Challenges

California's governor in June signed a plan into law to send all active voters mail-in ballots. The biggest issue the state will face is misinformation and disinformation regarding the time it takes to count ballots and the number of ballots to be counted. California will have millions of ballots to process after Election Day and will take an extended time to finalize the count but must certify within 31 days. On June 3, 2020, the Governor gave counties permission to limit their in-person polling locations if they offer early voting for at least three days leading up to the election. This leaves the onus on the counties to determine which polling places will be open and for which days leading up to the election. This could potentially confuse voters as well. Due to recent wildfires, election officials may have challenges mailing ballots to displaced voters who no longer reside at their registration address. Additionally, voting centers may move or close if impacted by wildfires. California has launched an initiative to recruit volunteers, which also takes advantage of national efforts to generate poll worker participation. Los Angeles County, which requires 16,000 poll workers, is planning to use county employees to staff polling centers. Other jurisdictions may follow suit if they see a reduction in volunteers. There has been resistance in California to CISA assistance recently due to the highly politicized nature of the 2020 General Election. Local entities have significant influence in the California election community, and it is difficult for CISA to engage every jurisdiction due to the size of the state.

### COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, on June 16, 2020, the Governor passed a mandate into law for all county election offices to send mail-in ballots to all active voters with no application required. Ballots will not be automatically sent to "inactive" voters who have not voted in recent elections. However, these voters may still apply for a mail-in ballot. Voters may still vote in-person during early voting on dates specified at the county level. All early voting will be within October 5, 2020 and November 2, 2020. In-person voting will also be offered, at a minimum, for a four-day period from October 31, 2020 to Election Day, though many counties, including Los Angeles County, are doing 10 days at numerous sites. Many jurisdictions in the state will utilize voting centers and close many in-person polling places. The Secretary of State's (SoS) Office launched Vote Safe California to educate the public on voting considerations during the General Election. The campaign seeks to inform voters on a variety of topics including how to prepare to vote, early voting and mail-in voting options, election security, and safely voting during the COVID-19 pandemic. All registered California voters are encouraged to prepare to vote by verifying their voter registration and signing up for ballot tracking before the election. The SoS also unveiled an election worker training tool online for each of their counties to use.

### State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Bottom-Up
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; BMDs; and DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**  

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b)(7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-8:00pm (PT)
- **Official Election Website:**  
<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/>

## Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** California has a bottom-up registration system, meaning local jurisdictions control the input and management of voter registration. Jurisdictions transmit data in real time to the statewide database. From a risk perspective, bottom-up states tend to have weaker, less consistent cybersecurity postures relative to top-down states based on availability of resources. Conversely, the advantage of the bottom-up model is it lacks a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt check-in at a statewide scale. The regular voter registration deadline is October 19, 2020. Same-day registration (also called "Conditional Voter Registration") is also available in-person on Election Day November 3, 2020 and during early voting from October 5, 2020 until November 2, 2020 (early voting dates may vary by county).
- **Vote Casting:** California uses paper ballots; BMDs; and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 7:00am (PT) to 8:00pm (PT). Voters are encouraged to use mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked no later than November 3, 2020 and received by November 20, 2020. Voters can also drop off ballots at a secure drop box, polling place, vote center, or county elections office by 8:00pm (PT) on November 3, 2020.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** Due to COVID-19, the California Governor signed into law a mandate for all county election offices to mail ballots to all active voters with no application required. Mail-in ballots with prepaid postage will be mailed out beginning on October 5, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** California will allow early in-person voting from October 5, 2020 to November 2, 2020. Exact early voting hours, dates, and locations are determined at the county level and will be posted on the California SoS website. Each county will have at least one early voting site open at for least four days beginning the Saturday before Election Day (October 31, 2020). All voters are eligible to vote early.

## Election Day Posture

- Region IX Operations will stand up a HSIN site and collaboration channels to support regional elections activities. Regional leadership will monitor, report, and direct activities through the Operations section, and will remain in contact with CISA headquarters, election partners, and regional staff/field personnel.
- Protective Security Advisors (PSA) and Cybersecurity Advisors (CSA) will support the California SoS Office and other California Elections Security Task Force (CalESTF) partner agencies through in-person deployments at established command posts. Southern California PSAs and CSAs will support their FBI Cyberhood Watch center and both SoCal regional fusion centers. Discussions are still on-going if this support will be in-person or virtual.





## Colorado

### Potential Challenges

Colorado uses a statewide voter registration database that transfers data in real time. The system has crashed every General Election since 2014 and may present challenges for election officials. Since 2018, there are 18 new clerks operating local clerk offices, including four out of the five largest counties in the state. Colorado has joined a multi-state lawsuit over United States Postal Service delays in the run-up to the General Election. Due to recent wildfires, election officials may have challenges mailing ballots to displaced voters who no longer reside at their registration address. Additionally, polling places and voting centers may move or close if impacted by wildfires. CISA Region VIII participated in a meeting in October where the Chief of Elections discussed concerns with wildfires and their readiness to address them. Approximately 40 days prior to Election Day, the Secretary of State (SoS) announced increased funding to pay for one Voting Service and Polling Center (VSPC) per county to open on the Sunday before Election Day. This has created conflict as counties had not planned for Sunday operations, including hiring election judges to work that day. Also, many counties feel they cannot open just one, which may create budgetary constraints. CISA staff are also connected with Dominion, a Colorado-based major provider of ballot print, mail, equipment, and technology services.

### COVID-19 Considerations

The SoS has expressed confidence in the state's ability to conduct the General Election despite postal delays, citing the three-week window for mailing ballots ahead of the election and the 300+ statewide drop boxes and voting centers for voters to return ballots in person. The SoS announced a program to provide funding for up to 100 additional ballot drop boxes for the general election. Through this grant program, counties could apply for funding to install additional ballot drop boxes. Each of Colorado's 64 counties is encouraged to add at least one drop box. Approximately 75% of mail-in ballots are returned by drop box in Colorado state elections. Ballots are encouraged to be returned to a drop box if being returned in the eight days before the election. Drop boxes are secured by various measures, including video surveillance, chain-of-custody logs, and daily retrieval of ballots. Colorado is under a statewide mask mandate requiring all individuals to wear masks where social distancing is difficult. Election facilities will require social distancing and will limit occupancy as needed.

### State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Vote-by-Mail; Vote Centers
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- Last Mile: 2018 State- and County-Level Snapshot Poster delivered; 2020 State- and County-Level Snapshot Poster delivered

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b)(7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am – 7:00pm (MT)
- **Official Election Website:**  
[www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/](http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/)



## Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Colorado has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 26, 2020 in order to receive a mail-in ballot, but registration is available in person during early voting and Election Day.
- **Vote Casting:** Colorado automatically mails every voter a ballot. Ensuring there is an auditable paper record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct with a Risk Limiting Audit. On Election Day, VSPCs will be open between 7:00am and 7:00pm (MT) across the state.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All voters are eligible to utilize mail-in voting without an excuse, and the state sends all registered voters a ballot in the mail. The deadline to register to vote in order to receive a mail-in ballot automatically is October 26, 2020. Voted ballots must be returned by Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** Colorado offers in-person early voting at VSPCs beginning October 19, 2020.

## Election Day Posture

- Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (b)(6) and Cybersecurity Advisor (b)(6) will provide in-person support at the Colorado SoS office.
- Region VIII Regional Director, CPS, and Operations Staff will provide virtual support to elections activities.



## Connecticut

### Potential Challenges

Connecticut administers elections at the township level. There is one Democrat and one Republican registrar in addition to the town clerk. The Secretary of State (SoS) is planning to send out mail-in ballot applications rather than the town clerks, which has contributed to confusion and prompted concern about fraud and legal challenges. These concerns were compounded by a delay of the SoS sending mail-in ballots and overall delays in postal deliveries during the August primary. To enhance election security and resilience, the Connecticut SoS is leveraging CISA's Cyber Resilience Review to conduct a statewide cyber risk assessment of the state's cyber posture for all 169 municipalities.

### COVID-19 Considerations

Connecticut has expanded mail-in voting eligibility to all voters and will send ballot applications to all voters with prepaid postage for return. However, this policy change contributed to a significant increase in ballot requests for the August primary, as much as ten times the level of 2016 in some towns. The demands of packaging and counting ballots as well as responding to increased voter inquiries has inundated election staff, a likely precursor for the General Election and longer time needed to process ballots.

### State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; BMDs
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**
  - (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - None
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**
  - (b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **Local EI-ISAC Membership:** 25% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 6:00am – 8:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:**  
<https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Common-Elements/V5-Template---Redesign/Elections--Voting--Home-Page>

### Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Connecticut has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 27, 2020. Connecticut has automatic voter registration.
- **Vote Casting:** Connecticut uses paper ballots and BMDs. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open between 6:00am and 8:00pm (ET) across the state.

- **Mail-in Ballots:** Connecticut has extended the ability to vote by mail to all voters for the General Election due to COVID-19 concerns. The SoS will mail all voters a mail-in ballot application. The deadline for requesting a ballot is November 2, 2020. Voted ballots must be returned by Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** Connecticut does not offer early, in-person voting.

### Election Day Posture

- CISA Region I will assume a heightened state of operational readiness to respond to events and incidents affecting the election and supporting infrastructures. CISA Region I will be monitoring remotely and standing by if support is requested. The Physical Security Advisor, Cybersecurity Advisor, and Regional Team will remain in close contact with the Connecticut SoS Office, Connecticut Fusion Center, Connecticut National Guard, DHS counterparts, FBI, and all relevant election partners on Election Day.



## Delaware

### Potential Challenges

Delaware is using a new statewide voting system that has moved from paperless Direct Recording Electronic systems to a hybrid ballot-marking device and tabulator (ES&S ExpressVote XL). The ExpressVote XL was first used statewide in the primary. The state allows UOCAVA voters and voters with specific needs to use an electronic ballot delivery and marking system. UOCAVA voters have been permitted to use electronic ballot delivery and return since 2010, and voters who are sick or disabled were also authorized to do so in 2012. For the presidential primary, both were able to use electronic ballot return, but due to recently published cybersecurity concerns about this system, the state paused offering this option for a period of time. Delaware reinstated the pilot program for accessible electronic delivery and marking of ballots with additional security enhancements. Immediate steps included a switch to client-side ballot marking and discontinuing the electronic ballot return option. These changes directly address concerns raised about the practice. Voters continue to be provided their ballots electronically, can mark their ballots electronically, and have options to return marked ballots by mail, fax, or email with the ability to be encrypted.

### COVID-19 Considerations

Due to COVID-19, on June 25, 2020 the state passed a bill relaxing the requirements and allowable excuses to utilize mail-in voting in primary, general, and special elections this year. The state experienced a substantial increase in mail-in voting in the 2020 presidential primary and anticipate a similar trend in November.

### State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Hybrid BMD and Scanner
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:** None

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b)(7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes, (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-8:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:**  
<https://elections.delaware.gov/index.shtml>

### Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Delaware has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 10, 2020. Uniformed service members and citizens living internationally must register by October 19, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Delaware recently switched from DREs without VVPAT to a Hybrid BMD and Scanner. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of



the election are correct. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 7:00am (ET) to 8:00pm (ET). Voters are encouraged to utilize mail-in voting due to COVID-19. All mail-in ballots must be received by the voter's local Department of Elections office by 8:00pm (ET) on November 3, 2020.

- **Mail-in Ballots:** Delaware distinguishes between absentee ballots and mail-in ballots. Absentee ballots require a valid excuse and are traditionally meant for voters who plan to be physically out of their municipality on Election Day (e.g., college students, those on vacation, members of the military, etc.). However, COVID-19 considerations have been added as a valid reason to request an absentee ballot for 2020 elections. Mail-in voting is also available to all Delaware voters and does not require a reason to apply. Both application forms can be downloaded from Delaware's voting website iVote.de.gov. Voters must submit an online, mailed, or in-person application to use either method. Applications must be received (not just postmarked) by the voter's county election office by 5:00pm (ET) on October 30, 2020. Once the application is approved, the County Clerk will mail a postage prepaid absentee/mail-in ballot with instructions and materials to the voter. Ballots must be received by the county election office by 8:00pm (ET) on November 3, 2020.
- **Early Voting:** Delaware does not offer early voting. The state government passed a bill legalizing early voting; however this bill doesn't go into effect until 2022.

### Election Day Posture

- CISA personnel will support and coordinate with election stakeholders via chatrooms and other online platforms. Personnel may support in person if requested.



## District of Columbia

### Potential Challenges

Due to COVID-19, the DC Board of Elections (DCBOE) has announced it will only open 89 voting centers on Election Day, compared to its usual 143. The DCBOE recently discontinued their online voter registration app without widely publicizing the decision. DCBOE has created a fillable form to replace the app. The form allows a voter to fill out the form online, sign it on-screen, and submit the form electronically allowing an option to register completely online. Election officials cited technical challenges with the app and do not expect to release a new app before the election. DCBOE is introducing a new mail ballot sorting machine before the General Election. Introducing this type of technology on a truncated timeline creates the potential for operational and mechanical error.

### COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the District has launched the "Vote Safe DC" campaign. The DCBOE has announced they will mail all active voters a mail-in ballot, as well as offer early in-person voting at 16 voting centers from October 27, 2020 to November 2, 2020. On Election Day, the District will open 89 vote centers.

### District Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Single Jurisdiction
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; BMDs
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the district level:**  
(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**
  - N/A
- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**  
(b)(7)(E)
- **Albert Sensor:** Yes.  
(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** DC is an EI-ISAC member
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-8:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:**  
<https://www.dcboe.org/>

### Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** DC has single voter registration system, meaning the District controls the input and management of the district-wide voter registration database. The regular voter registration deadline is October 13, 2020. However, DC also offers same day registration during its early voting period and on Election Day, so voters may register when voting in-person between October 27, 2020 and November 3, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** DC uses paper ballots and BMDs. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. On Election Day, voting centers will be open from 6:00am (ET) to 7:00pm (ET). Voters are strongly encouraged to use mail-in voting due to COVID-19. All mail-in ballots must be postmarked by November 3, 2020 and received by November 10, 2020 to be considered valid.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All registered voters are eligible to vote by mail-in ballot. All voters will be sent a mail-in ballot by the DCBOE, they do not need to apply. Ballots will be mailed with prepaid postage. The DCBOE has not announced the date they will mail ballots out as of August 14, 2020.



- **Early Voting:** DC will allow early in-person absentee voting from October 27, 2020 – November 2, 2020. Early voting will be available at 16 voting centers across the district during normal business hours from 8:30am (ET) to 7:00pm (ET) each day. Voters do not need to qualify for early voting.

### Election Day Posture

- Protective Security Advisors (PSA) anticipate that the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DCHSEMA) will activate its emergency operations center (EOC) on Election Day.
  - If COVID restrictions have been lifted, PSAs will have a seat in the DCHSEMA EOC
  - If COVID restrictions are still in-place PSAs will provide virtual support through chat rooms and the DCHSEMA WebEOC.



## Florida

### Potential Challenges

The Florida Department of State (DoS) has expressed concerns related to the potential impact of social media disinformation on election activities. In response to this concern, the FBI and Florida Department of Law Enforcement will have additional analysts available at the "Florida Election War Room" located at the DoS on Election Day to conduct social media monitoring. Additionally, The Florida Governor recently appropriated money to the Florida DoS to establish cyber navigators to support county election officials in conducting risk assessments, implementing risk mitigation measures, and providing Election Day support. Florida elections have historically received substantial media attention and this trend has continued recently. The increased scrutiny the state is under during this election cycle may be a challenge for state and local election officials. Two of Florida's largest counties (Broward and Palm Beach) have new election supervisors since the 2018 elections.

### COVID-19 Considerations

Mail-in voting is available to all Florida voters without an excuse which was first enacted in 2002. In 2016, Florida lawmakers changed the name from "absentee" ballots to "vote-by-mail" ballots. Voters must request a mail-in ballot since the state will not automatically send mail-in ballots to all registered voters. Florida election officials may begin processing mail-in ballots 22 days before Election Day (October 12, 2020) which may mitigate results reporting occurring more slowly than usual. The Governor will allow state employees to serve as poll workers and is encouraging school districts to close on Election Day.

### State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Florida

(b)(7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes.

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:**  
<https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/>

## Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Florida has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020. Voter registration is available online, by mail, in person, or through several state agencies while voters access their services. Voters who have been discharged or separated from the Merchant Marines or armed forces, or from employment outside the territorial United States can register until 5:00pm (ET) the Friday before Election Day October 30, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Florida uses paper ballots. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. Polling places are open at 7:00am and close at 7:00pm (ET).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All registered Florida voters are eligible to utilize mail-in voting without an excuse. Mailed ballot requests must be mailed no later than 5:00pm (ET) ten days before the election (October 24, 2020). A voter may pick up their own mail-in ballot at any time once the ballot becomes available, including on Election Day. A voter's designee can pick up a ballot starting nine days before the election (October 25, 2020) if they have completed the required affidavit. Mail-in ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections' office by mail or dropped off in person no later than 7:00pm (ET) on Election Day.
- **Early Voting:** Florida has early voting from October 24, 2020 through October 31, 2020. Counties are required to offer early voting these dates but may choose to offer early voting on one or more of the following days: October 19-23, 2020 and November 1, 2020.

## Election Day Posture

- Supervisor Protective Security Advisor (PSA) (b)(6) and Cybersecurity Advisor (b)(6) will provide in-person support while PSA (b)(6), PSA (b)(6) and PSA (b)(6) will provide virtual support to the Florida DoS on Election Day.
- Regional Director Robinson, Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator Smith, and Regional Operations Manager (b)(6) will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.





## Georgia

### Potential Challenges

Tens of thousands of Georgia voter registrations may be changed to “inactive” status because mail-in ballot applications for the presidential primary were undeliverable. The state sent mail-in ballot applications to every registered voter in April for the presidential primary. While these voters will still be able to vote in the General Election, moving them to inactive status is a step toward canceling their registration. This practice may cause confusion among some voters and cause them to believe they are not eligible to vote in the presidential election. During the presidential primary, Georgia struggled with long lines, poll worker shortages, and challenges with new voting machines. The state has taken steps to mitigate these issues for the general election including poll worker recruitment drives; utilizing the State Farm Arena as an “early voting megasite” in Atlanta; a mail-in ballot application website; and increased drop boxes in many counties. The state blamed local election jurisdictions for many of the challenges experienced during the primaries. Local election officials have expressed resentment and frustration over this which may result in a disconnect between state and local entities. Recent reports of third-party groups from other states sending mail-in ballot applications has caused confusion among some voters. Some voters have indicated they are unsure of the legitimacy of these ballot applications, although the practice is legal under Georgia law. Additionally, this has caused election administrators to manage applications from the same voter coming in through multiple different sources. Challenges during the primary and ongoing disputes between state and local election officials has resulted in increased media attention on the state for the general election. While the Georgia Governor, who formerly served as Georgia Secretary of State (SoS), was initially a vocal opponent of the critical infrastructure designation for elections, working relationships at the staff level between the state and CISA have improved in recent years, including regular engagements with the Protective Security Advisor (PSA). Georgia has taken steps to upgrade their cyber and infrastructure posture as well as build resilience in their election processes.

### COVID-19 Considerations

Since 2005, all Georgia voters are eligible to use mail-in ballots without an excuse. During the presidential primary, Georgia sent mail-in ballot applications to all active voters. The State Election Board approved creating a mail-in ballot application website for voters to access and apply for mail-in ballots instead of sending mail-in ballot applications to every voter. Due to COVID-19 and the anticipated influx of mail-in ballots, the State Election Board also allowed county election officials to begin processing mail-in ballots two weeks before Election Day. In the past, officials were permitted to start processing mail-in ballots only one week before Election Day. While mail-in ballots may be verified and scanned ahead of Election Day. Some jurisdictions in the state received grant money from the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) to fund elections during COVID-19.

### State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; BMDs
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**  
(b)(3);6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b)(3);6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:**

(b)(7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. (b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am-7:00pm (ET)
- **Official Election Website:** [www.sos.ga.gov/elections](http://www.sos.ga.gov/elections)

### Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter Registration:** Georgia has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020.
- **Vote Casting:** Georgia uses paper ballots and BMDs. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. Polling places are open at 7:00am and close at 7:00pm (ET).
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All registered Georgia voters are eligible to vote using mail-in ballots without an excuse. Voters may begin requesting mail-in ballots 180 days before the election (May 7, 2020) up until the Friday before the election (October 30, 2020). Voters may request mail-in ballots online, by mail, by fax, or in person at the County Board of Registrar's Office. UOCAVA voters may receive mail-in ballots by electronic transmission. The state will begin distributing mail-in ballots on September 15, 2020. Voted mail-in ballots must arrive at county election offices by Election Day. Military or overseas voters have until November 5, 2020 for their ballots to arrive at the election office.
- **Early Voting:** Georgia offers in-person early voting (called "advance voting") beginning the fourth Monday before the election (October 12, 2020) and ending the Friday before the election (October 30, 2020). Georgia also has Saturday voting available on October 24, 2020.

### Election Day Posture

- Chief PSA Stallworth will provide in-person support at the Atlanta FBI Field Office.
- Cybersecurity Advisor Walker will provide in-person support at the Georgia SoS Office.
- Regional Director Robinson, Regional Sector Outreach Coordinator Smith, and Regional Operations Manager Chandler will be providing virtual support to all Region IV states.



## Hawaii

### Potential Challenges

Hawaii became an almost exclusively vote-by-mail state in 2019. The 2020 General Election will be the largest test of the state's mail-in voting system yet, and the COVID-19 pandemic may exacerbate the learning curve. However, Hawaii has had more time than most states to prepare for a largely remote election process. The General Election also takes place during hurricane season. Hurricane activity during the election could limit polling places and impact voter turnout on Election Day.

### COVID-19 Considerations

In 2019, Hawaii transitioned to vote-by-mail and consolidated early voting centers. The state has not announced any changes from this procedure due to COVID-19, and the office of elections will remain open during regular business hours. Election officials have urged voters to submit their ballot three to five days before the election to ensure all ballots are received by the closing of election night on November 3, 2020. Hawaii currently has a partial stay-at-home order in place and a 14-day quarantine for travelers. However, the state will begin a pre-travel testing program exemption beginning on October 15, 2020. The Hawaii Office of Elections is using social media to educate the public on voting considerations during the November 2020 General Election. The effort seeks to inform voters on a variety of topics including how to prepare to vote and mail-in voting options.

### State Elections Background

- **Voter Registration System:** Top-Down
- **Voting Type:** Paper Ballots; DREs with VVPAT
- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the state level:**

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **CISA Cybersecurity Services for Elections at the local level:**

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

(b)(3):6 USC 1540(d)(3)(A)

- **DHS Sponsored Security Clearances:** Hawaii

(b)(7)(E)

- **Albert Sensor:** Yes. Online and covered via statewide sensor.
- **County-level Information:** 100% of locals are members of EI-ISAC.
- **Polling Hours:** 7:00am to 7:00pm (HT)
- **Official Election Website:**  
[www.elections.hawaii.gov/](http://www.elections.hawaii.gov/)

### Risk Assessment and Indicators

- **Voter registration and voter check-in:** Hawaii has a top-down voter registration system, meaning the state controls the input and management of the statewide voter registration database. From a risk perspective, this presents a single target which, if affected by an incident, could disrupt the voting process for a number of voters. Conversely, this model also offers some risk management advantages since states following the top-down model tend to have stronger cybersecurity postures than bottom-up states, based on availability of resources. The regular voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020. Voters may also visit one of the state's voting centers from October 20, 2020 to November 3, 2020 to register and vote in person.



- **Vote Casting:** Hawaii uses paper ballots and DREs with VVPAT. Ensuring there is an auditable record provides election officials with the ability to verify that the outcomes of the election are correct. In 2019, the Hawaii legislature passed Act 136, SLH 2019, which states that all registered voters will be mailed ballots for every election. Hawaii started this in 2020. For the 2020 General Election, ballots will be mailed to all registered voters beginning in mid-October 2020 (exact date yet to be determined). Act 136 also establishes voter service centers where voters may drop off their ballots or register and vote in person. These centers will be open from October 20, 2020 to November 2, 2020 Monday through Saturday from 8:00am to 4:30pm (HT) and on November 3, 2020 from 7:00am to 7:00pm (HT). Voters are encouraged to utilize mail-in voting due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Election officials must receive all completed ballots by 7:00pm (HT) on November 3, 2020. Voters may return these ballots in person at voting centers or at designated drop off locations or return them by mail using prepaid postage sent with the ballot. The Hawaii Office of Elections recommends any voters returning their completed ballots by mail do so three to five days before the election to ensure they are received in time.
  - **Mail-in Ballots:** All Hawaiian voters are sent mail-in ballots automatically.
- **Early Voting:** Hawaii will allow early in-person voting from October 20, 2020 through November 2, 2020. Early voting will be available at voter service centers from October 20, 2020 to November 2, 2020 Monday through Saturday from 8:00am to 4:30pm (HT). These voting centers also offer same-day registration.

### Election Day Posture

- Region IX Operations will use HSIN, collaboration channels, and a dedicated Election Dashboard to support Protective Security Advisors in the field.
- Hawaii election officials are continuing to review COVID-19 conditions to determine if they will activate the SOC or coordinate virtually.