

Elections Daily Digest

October 27, 2020

Scope Note: The following observations were developed from publicly available sources such as media reporting, social sensing tools, tools to detect inauthentic social media activity, content aggregators, social platforms, podcasts, online databases, and other open source data. This product was developed in compliance with the guidelines set forth in the Department of Homeland Security - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security - National Risk Management Center COVID-19 Disinformation, Misinformation, and Malinformation, and Critical Infrastructure Risks Operational Use of Social Media Rules of Behavior.

DRAFT: PRE-DECISIONAL WORKING PAPER



Daily Social Media Trends: US Election Topics

Timeframe: October 26, 2020, 12:00AM – October 26, 2020, 11:59PM



Topic	Total Mentions*	% Change in Mentions (since last weekend)	Volume and Velocity** (total mentions and rate of change over time)						Change in Sentiment*** (since last weekend)	Observations
			10/20	10/21	10/22	10/23	10/24	10/25		
Elections General Mentions Related to US Elections	9.97M	▲ 58%					5,997,481	9,964,243	negative sentiment flat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total volume in the past 24 hours (October 26) increased 58% compared to the total volume in the previous period (October 25). Critical Drivers: Continued debate over the security of mail-in ballots, accusations of liberal bias in the media
Voter Suppression • Voter Intimidation • Polling Place Security	677K	▲ 35%				418,600	676,016	▲ 4% more negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A political correspondent for a syndicated news outlet reported that Michigan election officials are concerned local sheriffs will not enforce voter intimidation laws on Election Day. A journalist for a syndicated news outlet claimed that "Georgia's tremendous investment in keeping black people from voting," could determine close races in Georgia. 	
COVID-19 • Election-focused Political Discourse regarding COVID-19 • Political Exploitation of COVID-19	540K	▲ 50%				236,960	539,151	negative sentiment flat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> POTUS accused the "fake news" of a "corrupt media conspiracy" to use COVID-19 pandemic coverage to influence the election, claiming "the topic will totally change" after Election Day. A popular fiction author criticized POTUS for being "mad at COVID" because it is harming "his election campaign" and not because of the American deaths the virus has caused. POTUS's election campaign account shared a video of POTUS claiming that his opponent will "delay the vaccine, delay the therapies, prolong the pandemic, close your schools, and shut down your country." 	
Vote-By-Mail • Mail-in Ballots and Registration • Fraud Claims • Vote Counting	123K	▲ 293%				31,289	123,057	negative sentiment flat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> POTUS claimed there are "big problems and discrepancies with Mail In Ballots," and stated that we "Must have final [vote] total" on Election Day. Twitter flagged this tweet for violating its Civic Integrity Policy. An online conservative pundit asserted that Twitter "falsely suggests that voting by mail is safer and more secure than voting in person." A musician and author claimed that a recent Supreme Court ruling invalidating mail-in ballots received after Election Day in Wisconsin makes voting dependent "upon the speed of the US Mail," which has been "sabotaged" by the POTUS appointed Postmaster General. 	

* Total mentions is the number of individual pieces of content (including posts, comments, shares, retweets, and articles) including links related to the topic.

** These figures are approximate.

*** Sentiment analysis is only accurate up to 75% and can provide a holistic overview into the tone of a keyword search. It provides a look into the volume of documents each of which is assigned a tonality score of positive (green), negative (red), or neutral (gray), but should not be considered a definitive or complete snapshot of public sentiment.

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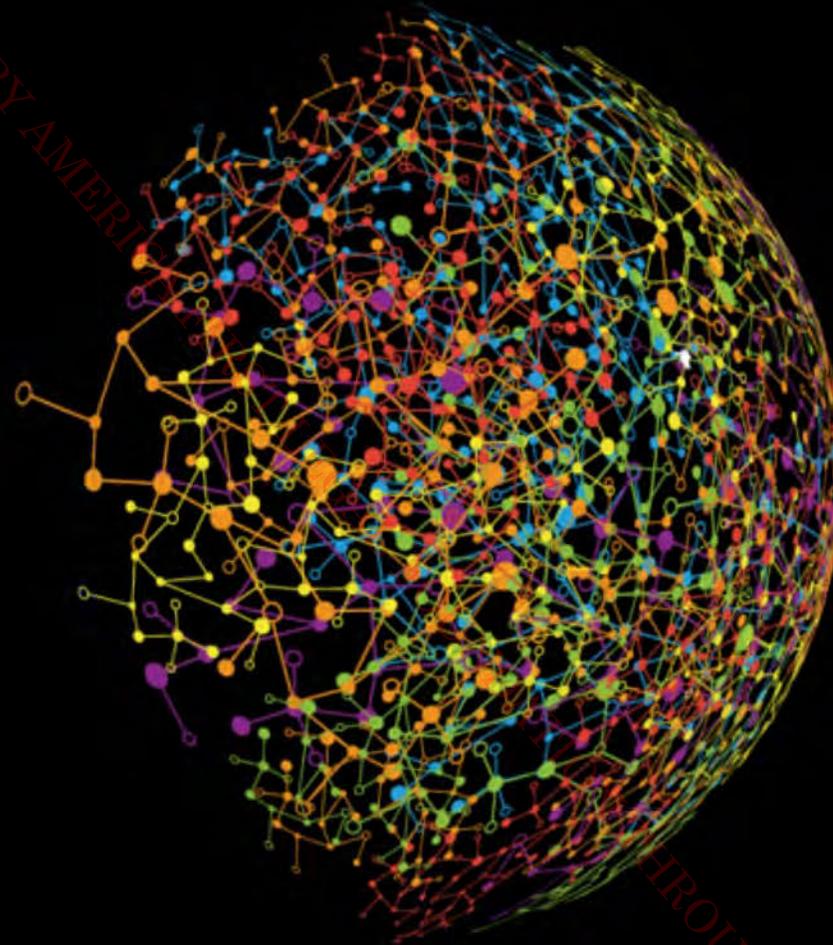


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			10/20	10/21	10/22	10/23	10/24	10/25	10/26		
Elections General Mentions Related to US Elections	9.97M	▲ 58%						5,997,481	9,964,243	negative sentiment flat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total volume in the past 24 hours (October 26) increased 58% compared to the total volume in the previous period (October 25). Critical Drivers: Continued debate over the security of mail-in ballots, accusations of liberal bias in the media
Election Technology • Voting Technology Issues	32.4K	▲ 122%		43,152				14,303	32,220	negative sentiment flat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An election security advocate claimed that remote-access software was found in vote tabulators in several Ohio counties after the 2004 election, and called on voters to photograph precinct totals to compare them to county totals.
Removed/Flagged Social Media Posts • Enforcement of Social Media Community Guidelines	29.6K	▲ 29%			54,100			11,728	29,420	▲ 4% more negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A popular actor claimed that "Facebook will suppress all conservative voices...under the pretext of election safety," referencing an article from a syndicated news outlet on Facebook's policy against "election unrest." A conservative online activist claimed that Twitter is censoring his tweets about voter fraud to help the Democratic presidential nominee.

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Elections Daily Digest (Weekend Edition)

October 26, 2020

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Daily Social Media Trends: US Election Topics

Timeframe: October 23, 2020, 12:00AM – October 25, 2020, 11:59PM (Weekend Coverage)



Topic	Total Mentions*	% Change in Mentions (since last weekend)	Volume and Velocity** (total mentions and rate of change over time)				Change in Sentiment*** (since last weekend)	Observations
			10/16	10/19	10/22	10/25		
Elections General Mentions Related to US Elections	19M	▼ 4%	7,683,459	6,650,711	5,996,191	6,307,680	negative sentiment flat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total volume in the past 72 hours (October 23-25) decreased 4% compared to the total volume in the previous period (October 16-18) Critical Drivers: Continued debate over the security of mail-in ballots, reports of long lines at polling places
Voter Suppression • Voter Intimidation • Polling Place Security	1.45M	▲ 27%	668,144	418,349	531,855	502,454	negative sentiment flat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several online activists expressed incredulity that "it's easier for a white person to vote from space than for an African American or Latino to vote in their home zip code," referencing an article from a political website. A comedian shared a video of people dancing while waiting in a long line to vote and joked that they were making voter suppression "fun." The founder of a technology company claimed that the Mayor of Miami refused to make a large basketball arena a polling place because he was "afraid it would help turnout," citing an article from a syndicated news outlet.
COVID-19 • Election-focused Political Discourse regarding COVID-19 • Political Exploitation of COVID-19	835K	▲ 47%	168,744	236,441	238,935	357,928	negative sentiment flat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A blog for a cable news show shared an article from a syndicated news outlet claiming that COVID-19 case surges are coinciding with POTUS's campaign rallies. A conservative online activist claimed that COVID-19 is only "on the front page" because it helps Democrats' election chances.
Vote-By-Mail • Mail-in Ballots and Registration • Fraud Claims • Vote Counting	126K	▼ 5%	102,782	52,009	42,949	30,998	negative sentiment flat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> POTUS retweeted a political pundit who accused a Democratic Congressional candidate of "election fraud" after thousands of ballots were mistakenly sent to his district. The Governor of Texas quoted an article from a local news outlet on the state's recent history of voter fraud convictions and claimed that it reveals "Mail ballot vote fraud in Texas."

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Election Technology • Voting Technology Issues	51.5K	▼ 56%	70,178		22,708	14,245	▲ 11% more negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An account exhibiting bot-like characteristics questioned if voting machines in California had been “rigged” to switch votes for Republicans to Democrats. The account has since been deleted. An independent journalist shared an article from his blog about warnings from US officials that “State sponsored Russian hacking groups” are targeting state and local networks ahead of the US election.
Removed/Flagged Social Media Posts • Enforcement of Social Media Community Guidelines	53.6K	▼ 88%	65,404		18,801	11,707	▼ 6% less negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A conservative pundit accused Twitter of “SUPPRESSING” a story about the Democratic presidential nominee’s son to help the nominee win the election. A conservative online activist accused Twitter of censoring her posts about voter fraud she is “witnessing here in Nevada,” and expressed her frustration with Twitter’s disclaimers stating that mail-in ballots are secure.

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