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Artificial Intelligence Will Destroy Elections

We Must Act Now

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The Next Disputed Election Will Be Ugly

- In 2000, there was a disputed election. Al Gore called George W. Bush and said, "… *what remains of partisan rancor must now be put aside, and may God bless his stewardship of this country. And tonight, for the sake of our unity as a people and the strength of our democracy, I offer my concession.*"
- *Can you imagine Donald Trump or any of the current Democratic leaders being so gracious?*
- Because our country is so divided, the next time we have a disputed election; our Democracy could be at risk.
- The chances of having a highly disputed election are heightened by technology, especially Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Given the lack of sufficient defenses by our election system, how will our polarized country react?

(CBS News, 12/13/2020)

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The AI Revolution & Collateral Damage

- AI is increasing geometrically. There is a race to the top by the 'magnificent 7' to see which company can develop the most effective tools.
- This race is strikingly akin to the arms race in the social media space 20 years ago.
- As we celebrate the advances in AI, little consideration has been given for collateral damage that could occur.
- The social media revolution promised to give voice to the voiceless, build communities, expand democracies, and empower the next generation — all grounded in the ability to connect people globally around shared interests and causes.
- Instead, we have ended up with polarization on levels never matched, a rise in populism, and a generation of teenagers decimated with mental health challenges.
- What could go wrong with this new and bigger revolution?
- In this presentation, we will discuss how AI makes misinformation cheap, targeted, and realistic; how our election system has few protections; how elections could be destroyed; and what we can do about it now.

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Trump Kissing Musk's Toes

To appreciate the speed at which AI is advancing, you only had to visit the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on Feb. 24, 2025.

- President Trump and Elon Musk had just announced massive layoffs.
- As workers arrived on Monday morning, they were greeted by a video likely posted by a disgruntled worker, of Donald Trump kissing Elon Musk's toes with the caption, "Long Live the Real King."
- Elon Musk is a remarkable man, but it is unlikely he has two left feet.
- However, HUD is a Cabinet organization, where one would expect security to be extremely tight. Yet hackers were able to create a video of Trump and Musk and broadcast it throughout the building.

(Rachel Maddow, MSNBC, 2/24/2025)

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Does Trump Really Love Fauci?

On June 5, 2023, the "DeSantis War Room," a Twitter account for DeSantis's presidential campaign shared A-1 generated images showing Donald Trump hugging and kissing Anthony Fauci.

- Trump obviously never kissed Fauci and did not like Fauci's leadership during the pandemic.
- The DeSantis campaign created this video to discredit Trump.

(With apparently fake photos, DeSantis raises AI ante, Reuters, Alexandra Ulmer & Anna Tong, 6/8/2023.)

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Newsome Body Slams Trump in WWE

- After Proposition 50 passed in California, someone posted a video showing Newsome body slamming Trump.
- Obviously, Newsome is not as muscle bound as he appears.
- Newsome and Trump have a personal animus, since Newsome's first wife was engaged to Donald Trump Jr., and is currently U.S. Ambassador to Greece, but they are not going to get in a ring together.

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Jeffries Likes Mariachi Music!

- The week of Sept. 29,2025, the U.S. government was facing a shutdown. President Trump invited Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries to meet with him at the White House. Strangely, Trump and Jeffries had never met.
- Shortly after the meeting ended, President Trump posted a video on Truth Social with Jeffries wearing a sombrero and an exaggerated handlebar mustache as mariachi music played.
- With this AI video, Trump was the instigator, not the victim.

(*Trump to Meet with Congressional Leaders as Shutdown Looms, Michael Gold, N.Y. Times, 9/29/2025)*

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Biden Robocall

Just before the New Hampshire primary in 2024, voters received a robocall from someone sounding like Joe Biden. In the call, the caller said,

- **"What a bunch of malarkey… it's important that you save your vote for the November election. Voting this Tuesday only enables the Republicans in their quest to elect Donald Trump again. Your vote makes a difference in November, not this Tuesday,"**

- The originator of the call, who had worked for one of Biden's Democratic opponents, said he he wasn't trying to influence the outcome of the election but rather wanted to send a wake-up call about the potential dangers of artificial intelligence when he paid a New Orleans magician $150 to create the recording.
- The instigator was arrested and fined $6 million. However, the perpetrators of most of the other AI hoaxes had no repercussions.

(Fake Biden robocall tells voters to skip New Hampshire primary, NBC News, 1/22/2024) (

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Elizabeth Warren Doesn't Want Republicans to Vote

- Also in 2023, a video circulated showing Senator Elizabeth Warren appearing to speak on MSNBC, claiming Republicans should not be allowed to vote in the 2024 election.
- In the video Warren appeared to say, "Since Republicans have a history of promoting policies that undermine the public's trust in the government, it is necessary to restrict Republican voting in the 2024 election."
- The video went viral, attracting almost 200,000 views on X in the first week.
- If anything, the video had its intended impact of motivating Republican voters.

Deepfake Video Shows Elizabeth Warren Saying Republicans Shouldn't Vote, Newsweek, Aleks Phillips, 2/27/2023)

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Amy Klobuchar wants Democrats in TV Ads

- American Eagle Outfitters ran a ads featuring Sidney Sweeny that were widely criticized by the political left.
- On August 20, 2025, an AI video landed on social media with Senator Amy Klobuchar speaking at a Senate hearing stating,
  - *"If Republicans are going to have beautiful girls with perfect titties in their ads, we want ads for Democrats too, you know. We want ugly fat bitches wearing pink wigs and long ass fake nails being loud and twerking on top of a cop car at a Waffle House cause they didn't get extra Ketchup. Just because we're the party of ugly people, doesn't mean we can't be featured in ads. And I know most of us are too fat to wear jeans or too ugly to go outside."*

- The video went viral. Senator Klobuchar immediately asked to have it removed. Most sites did, but X continued to leave on its website claiming there was nothing it could do.

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Schumer Endorses Spiderman

- At a live Washington Post AI Summit, tech columnist Geoffrey Fowler spent 15 minutes creating an AI deep fake showing Senator Chuck Schumer (who had given prior approval) endorsing Spider-Man for President, using Schumer's voice and a photograph of the two.
- The fake image is that of Schumer.
- Spiderman is, real and is running for President in 2028.
- Schumer is only 5'9", Spiderman is shorter than I thought he would be.

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Our Election System is Highly Vulnerable to AI

While AI is growing geometrically, our election system is especially vulnerable.

- Other countries have one election system.
- In the U.S., every state has its own system as do many cities, counties, and municipalities. In fact, we have about 8,000 different systems.
- According to the Brennan Center, *"In the decentralized U.S. election system, target-rich, resource-poor local jurisdictions with limited capacity to address cybersecurity issues present one of the most concerning vulnerabilities. These election offices have little or no dedicated cybersecurity expertise and are often dependent on other offices in their counties or municipalities for IT support. … nearly half of all election offices operate with one full-time employee… and nearly a third operate with no full-time staff… Yet election officials who serve these offices have the same monumental task of serving as frontline national security figures."*

(Artificial Intelligence and Election Security, Lawrence Norden & Gowri Ramachandran, Brennan Center, 10/5/2023)

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U.S. Elections are Most Vulnerable Ever

With our 8,000 different systems and minimal staffing, our Boards of Elections are not prepared for the type of havoc AI could present.

According to Zac Amos, at ReHack, *"Cybersecurity oversights are making infrastructure in the U.S. the most fragile it has been in history. Hackers are constantly developing new strategies to topple critical societal systems, including voting.... Cyberattacks ...increasing severity and frequency require more regulatory collaboration and action.... Hackers... are evolving in robustness and intricacy... to compromise public trust and dismantle democratic systems."**

- Thus, we have companies, worth tens of trillions developing ever more sophisticated technologies, while we have offices staffed with one or two people designed to protect our elections. Which do you think will win?

* (Cybersecurity concerns facing the 2024 U.S. elections, Zak Amos, Cyber Security Magazine, 6/6/2024)

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The Federal Government Ignores the Threat

As bad as the odds look for protecting our election system, they are worse, because Trump has slashed funding for the one organization designed to protect elections and the country from cybersecurity threats.

- The Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) within the Department of Homeland Security has the responsibility to protect election security.
- In January 2017, the Department of Homeland Security officially designated election infrastructure as… vital importance to the American way of life that its incapacitation or destruction would have a devastating effect on the country. (CISA website)
- Yet with recommendations from DOGE, President Trump's 2025 budget called for $500 million in cuts from CISA. including major cuts to protect election security.
- According to the A.P., "It's the latest move by Trump administration officials to rein in the federal government's role in election security, which has prompted concerns about an erosion of guardrails to prevent foreign meddling in U.S. elections. …. That followed (the disbanding)…of an FBI task force focused on investigating foreign influence operations, including those that target U.S. elections.

(Trump's CISA budget lays out deep job cuts, program reductions, Eric Geller, Cyber Security Dive, 6/2/2025) (US cyber agency puts election security experts who worked with the states on leave, Christina Cassidy, Associated Press, 2/10/2025)

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Ayatollah- A Candidate in Arizona

- Ironically, in June 2025, right after the cuts and the attack on Iran's nuclear site, someone hacked into the Arizona Secretary of State's election website, went to the candidate's page, and posted the following photo of the Ayatollah Khomeini.
- While it is unlikely that many voters in Arizona would vote for the Ayatollah, his presence on the candidate's website likely did not raise confidence in the election system.

(US cyber agency puts election security experts who worked with the states on leave, Christina Cassidy, Associated Press, 2/10/2025)

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Federal Election Commission Gonzo

To make matters worse, the Federal Election Commission is now down to 2 members from 5 at the start of Trump's term. This means that the Commission cannot have a quorum, which requires at least 3 members.

- Even if it had a quorum, the FEC staff has been reduced by over 20%. During the 2025 election, the government was closed and the FEC staff was furloughed. Thus, the organization authorized to oversee election expenditures had no staff, no quorum, and was not operating while we were having elections.
- While CISA is slashing its staff and the FEC was closed for the shutdown, the companies working on AI are hiring every day.
- This is not David versus Goliath. David had a slingshot, and there was only one Goliath. This is seven Goliaths against one David, who is blindfolded and has his hands tied behind his back. This promises a complete slaughter.

(The Federal Election Commission is down to 2 members. So its work is at a standstill, NPR, 10/5/2025).

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How to Destroy an Election

When you think of AI destroying an election, you probably think of people hacking into voting machines and transferring millions of votes from one candidate to the other.

With current technology, AI could:

- Send misleading messages to all voters.
- Show poll workers stuffing ballot boxes or Boards of Elections being invaded by armed gangs.
- Deregister millions of voters,
- Stop machines from counting votes.
- Transfer millions of votes from one candidate to the other, just the way Donald Trump claimed Dominion Voting Systems did in 2020, and
- Change the count on every voting machine.

Given the weakness of our election auditing process, AI could leave us with a system in which none of the Presidential candidates reached a majority in the Electoral College and in which many elections for the House of Representatives and the Senate were still being challenged.

- With none of the elections settled, the only path would be for the outgoing President to invoke the insurrection act and declare martial law.

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AI Could Change Elections and No One Would Know

- This is a frightening scenario. Given the advances in AI, the age of our election technology, the weakness of the guardrails, and the polarization of our country, such a scenario could easily occur.
- However, as dangerous as this scenario may sound, it is not the most worrisome.
- Americans, despite our polarization, are resilient. If the election were completely disrupted, we would find a way to conduct another election and reconstitute our government, even if it meant the outgoing President remaining in office while the Insurrection Act was the law of the land.
- Instead, we believe a far more likely scenario with AI would be to change the results of our election without anyone ever realizing what had happened.

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AI Can Change Elections without Anyone Knowing

Destroying an election may seem like a huge undertaking, but it is much simpler than it would first appear, because AI only needs to change a few votes in a few states.

- Here are 5 Presidential elections in this century.
  - In 2000, 537 votes would have swung the election to Gore.
  - In 2004, 118,201 would have swung the election to Kerry.
  - In 2016, 229,766 votes would have swung election to Clinton.
  - In 2020, 122,016 votes would have swung the election to Trump.
  - In 2024, 229.766 votes would have swing the election to Harris.
- In total, 690,286 out of 678 million votes (one-tenth of 1%), would have changed 5 elections.
- Think about how easy it would be to change such a small number of vote without anyone knowing .

If you were a hacker, how would you accomplish this?

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Hacking #1: Request for Information

The first step is to acquire information from the small government election offices.

- The hackers would hack in and get the names of all voters.
- Then, they could inundate election offices with deceptive open record requests that appear to come from real constituents.
- While election officials are scrambling to respond to these requests, hackers would tunnel in and get whatever information they need.
- In such an instance, it would be very difficult for the small staff of the election office to deal with the hackers.
- What can the hackers do with the information?

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Libelous Information Purported to be from Candidates

The fake websites could send out AI messages seem to come from the candidates.

- A message to Latino voters might say, “If I am elected, I will immediately arrest all Latino non-citizens.”
- A message to Jewish voters might say, “I advocate giving the West Bank back to the Palestinians.” These types of messages could change a few votes.
- We can even go back to real events that have already occurred. Remember the robocalls that sounded like they were from Joe Biden telling people not to vote? Would a few people believe they were real? How about the video from Elizabeth Warren saying Republicans should not be able to vote? Would that get a few more Republicans to vote?
- The point is that hackers do not need to change massive numbers of votes. They just need to get people in selective areas to change their vote or refrain from voting.

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Fake Websites and Misdirection

- The next step is to create fake websites to convey misinformation.
- Since all election officials make public appearances, there is ample stock video to make AI videos of these officials with voice capture.
- To make the deep fake more effective, the hackers could create a website with almost the same name as the voting website but with a slightly different name or URL.
- For example, instead of “harrisvotes.com,” the website in Harris County, Texas, the hackers could use “harriscountyvotes.com, or “harrisvotes.org” to mislead voters.
- When voters google, Board of Elections, a fake website could pop up that would provide potential voters with misleading information.
- There are already thousands of websites such as ABCNews.com) NBC.com.co, cbsnews2.com, pretending to be real news and election sources.

(AI is changing how elections are fought, from deepfake endorsements to chatbot campaigners, James Purtill, ABC Science, 2/20/2024)

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Sending Voters to the Wrong Polling Place

- Once the fake website is up and running, the next step would be to figure out ways to get selected people to not vote so that results can be changed.
- One easy task is **misdirection.**
  - The hackers can select a specific group, like Native Americans in Arizona, and send them emails indicating the address of the polling place has been changed.
  - Instead of a polling place in a town 100 miles to the west, they could be sent to a town 100 miles to the east.
  - By the time they arrive and realize the town has no polling places, it will be too late for them to find the real polling place.
  - In 2020, Biden won Arizona by 10,437 votes. If would not be difficult to misdirect enough native Americans to change the outcome.

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Deregistration of Selected Groups

Hackers could also focus on specific demographics.

- Hackers that wanted Republicans to win could select names of Latinos in Arizona or Blacks in Pennsylvania and send notices before the election that they have been deregistered. Many would challenge such an email, but if only a few people believe the email and give-up on voting, the hackers win.
- Hackers that wanted Democrats to win, could target rural addresses in swing states.
- Another easy target would be former felons. Hackers could compile a list of former felons who were registered to vote and send an email saying that ”a new law has created different standards for former felons to vote. Unfortunately, your registration has been removed. “
- Hackers could go a step further and actually deregister voters.
    - In 2016, deregistering less than 5 Republicans in each polling site would have swung Pennsylvania to Clinton, while in 2020, deregistering 4.5 Democrats in each polling site, would have swung Georgia to Trump.

The key is not to deregister millions of people. They key is to deregister enough to change the results without attracting attention. This strategy will be especially effective in states like Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Georgia that do not allow same day registration.

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Mail-In Votes from Non-Voters

Another AI strategy that will go unnoticed and has huge potential, is to compile a list of people who did not vote in 2020 and 2024, but who are still registered.

- In the last 4 Presidential elections, an average of 90 million did not vote. *
- AI will comb through the list of voters extract names of people who did not vote in the last elections. If they didn't vote in 2020 and 2024; it is almost guaranteed they will not vote in 2026
- AI will change their addresses and order mail-in ballots. It will fill in the ballots, copy the voter's signature from the registration data, and send ballot back.
- Look at Wisconsin, where the last three elections were settled by less than 30,000 votes out of roughly 3.5 million. Do you think anyone is going to notice 30,000-40,000 more mail-in votes from people who are already registered?
- Given the low voter turnout in the U.S. and the closeness of the elections, this strategy by itself could change almost any election.

*Alan Kronenberg, U.S. News, 11/15/2024

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Crisis at the Polling Place

- Another tactic would be to send videos of the head of the Board of Elections to a small number of voters.
- The head of one Board might state, “We have uncovered fraud among our election workers and are postponing our elections until Thursday, when we can restaff with honest people.”
- The head of another Board might have a video showing armed invaders attacking a polling place stating, “Because of the attack on our local polling place, do not risk your life by voting. We will extend the voting period by one week.”
- Most people will not believe such videos, but again, we only need a small number of people to refrain from voting to change the results. By the time people fully realize these were hoaxes, the election would be over.

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Switching to Third Party Votes

- Another trick would be to hack in and switch a few votes to or from third party candidates.
- In the Michigan Senate election of 2024, Elissa Slotkin defeated Mike Rogers by 19,006 votes.
- Suppose an AI hacker wanted to elect Rogers.
- The hacker could hack into the system and take 20,000 votes from Slotkin and distribute them among the Libertarian, Green, and Constitution candidates.
- Rogers would win and it would look like the third parties did slightly better, but no one would notice.
- In 2024, 3 Democratic Senate victories could have easily been overturned with this strategy.

2024 United States Senate election in Michigan[283]

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
Democratic	Elissa Slotkin	2,712,686	48.64%	-3.62%
Republican	Mike Rogers	2,693,680	48.30%	+2.54%
Libertarian	Joseph Solis-Mullen	56,697	1.02%	N/A
Green	Douglas Marsh	53,978	0.97%	+0.02%
Constitution	Dave Stein	41,363	0.74%	+0.09%
Natural Law	Doug Dern	18,779	0.34%	-0.05%
	Total votes	5,577,183	100.0%	

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Disrupting Elections with AI should be Easy

With AI, instead of trying to disrupt the entire election, the hackers only need to focus on a few simple tasks that will be easy to implement and very difficult to identify.

- Libelous information on candidates focused on selected constituencies should deter some voters.
- Fake websites with incorrect addresses, dates, and times should deter some voters.
- Sending voters to the wrong polling places, especially in rural areas, should eliminate some from voting.
- Deregistering selected voters, especially from marginal groups, like ex-offenders, should eliminate some voters.
- Deregistering other voters should have an impact, especially in states that do not have same day registration.
- Sending in mail-in ballots for people who have not voted in the last two elections may be the easiest way of generating votes for the particular candidate.
- Publicizing riots or other events at specific polling places should also have an impact.

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Stopping AI is More Difficult

- If less than 11,000 votes were needed to change the results in Arizona, it would not be difficult to send some Native Americans to the wrong town, deregister some Latino voters, and throw in some mail-in votes from non-voters. The same pattern could follow in states like Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Georgia.
- The question is- what can be done to prevent AI from disrupting our elections?
- There are no silver bullets.
- There is no way to delay the progress of AI.
- Our election system is so scattered and undefended that the risks will get higher, not lower.

- However, there are a number of steps we can take that will give election systems greater protection against AI hacking and give us a greater chance of having “free and fair” elections.

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How Do We Limit Hacking and AI?

- The first step is to **Restrict Fraudulent information before Elections:** You can't cry "Fire" in a crowded theater. We should have similar restrictions on election related free speech in a specified period- 60 or 90 days before an election.
- It is one thing to have a robocall with Joe Biden's voice saying not to vote. It is another to have that call placed on election day, which was when this call was placed.
- It is one thing to publish misleading claims on a social media website. It is another to have these misleading claims break during a campaign.
- During this period, the Federal government and State Boards of Election should have the right to demand that misleading information immediately be removed from social media.
- Candidates, government, and individuals can sue newspapers, magazines, and television and radio stations for libelous statements; but no one has the right to sue social media sites.
- While we believe changes in Section 230 are warranted, at a minimum social media sites should have to remove any misleading claims in the period shortly before an election.

- (Artificial Intelligence and Election Security, Lawrence Norden & Gowri Ramachandran, Brennan Center, 10/5/2023)

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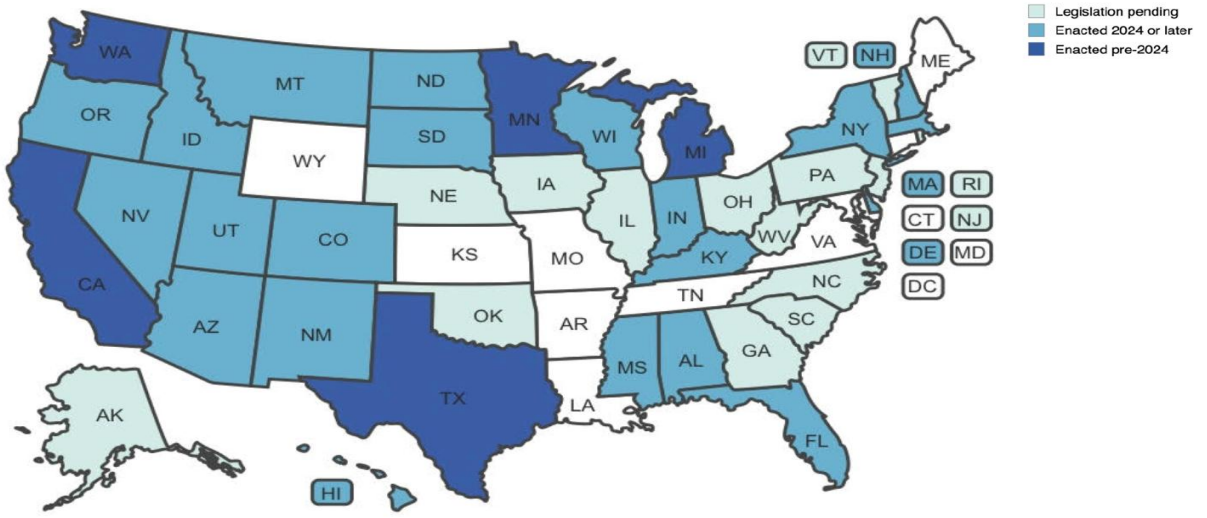
25 States Have Taken Some Action

- As of August 2025, 25 states have passed some sort of law regulating deepfakes in elections. For 5 of the states, the ban involves only political advertising. 6 states have year-round bans. 9 states have bans 90 days before elections. Other states have different cut-off limits.
- The bans cover different subjects. Some allow political satire, some do not. There are different rules for how social media companies deal with these deepfakes. Nonetheless, states are starting to focus on how to limit misleading information during elections.

FIGURE 1: STATES WITH LAWS TO REGULATE AI DEEPFAKES IN ELECTIONS



Source: Public Citizen. https://www. citizen.org/article/tracker-legislation-on-deepfakes-in-elections/ (Accessed 18 June 2025).

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Protecting Election Websites With .GOV

- A second step is to protect election websites.
- Many hackers create their own websites to mislead voters. Most election websites use domains ending in .com, .org, or .net, which anyone can purchase.
- Only verified government entities can administer a website with a .gov domain, which means that voters can trust the information that appears on those websites.
- CISA and the FBI recommend all election offices adopt .gov to "help the public better recognize official government sites and emails while avoiding phishing attempts and websites that impersonate government officials."
- It is important the public knows that a .Gov website is the only one that can be trusted. in 2024, 31% of local election websites used .gov domain names.
- Changing a domain name, informing people, and changing website can be time consuming and expensive. It took Tarrant County, Texas, the most populous county to transition to .gov from 2022-2024, one year to complete the transformation.
- We recommend state governments provide funding, and technical support so that all election sites adopt .gov domain names. While there may be short term expenses, the long-term benefit of limiting hacking is more than worth it.

(More election offices are utilizing verified .gov websites. Theo Menon & William T. Adler, Bipartisan Policy Center, 7/19/2024)

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Second Level Security

Another step is to utilize Second Level Security for all communications with Boards of Elections.

- In Second Level Security, people have to type in their 6-digit code to assure their identity. We recommended using second level security for voting, but it should also apply to election websites. If banks and investment sites use second level security to protect their customers, why shouldn't Boards of Elections use them to protect voters?
- To further limit hacking, Boards of Elections should implement methods to ensure that open record requests are authentic.
- Instead of having to respond to tens of thousands of fake requests, the system could require that the individual making the request use Second Level Security and some other control, like a Captcha photo.
- People don't like to spend the time clicking on the number of fire engines in a photo, but these types of tactics can slow down or deter the hackers.

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Protecting Election Workers

With the threats to elections, no one is more vulnerable than election workers.

- In 2024, an election worker in Texas was assaulted for asking a man to remove a Trump hat at a voting site. *
- Many election workers have had their lives threatened.
- As a result, any video or audio of individual election workers not approved by the Board of Elections should immediately be removed from social media.
- Any individual or social media company failing to remove these videos in a timely fashion should be subject to a severe fine.
- Election workers should not be exposed to threats from individuals or groups. If “free speech” is putting people’s lives in danger and threatening elections, there should be limitations.

“Texas man punched an election worker who told him to remove Trump hat at voting site.” Ken Miller, AP News, 10/25/2024

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Train Election Workers to Recognize Threats:

More training should be provided so election workers can recognize AI threats.

- Most election workers know very little about AI, much less understand its threats. Many are volunteers. Most are old. Older people generally have less knowledge of, or experience with social media and AI.
- States should recruit **tech experts to teach election officials how to identify and deter AI threats.**
- Experts can usually identify AI-generated text because it often includes very short sentences and repeated words and phrases. In addition, voices and images in AI-generated videos might not always fully align.
- If people know what to look for, they will have a better chance of stopping it.

(Older people account for large shares of poll workers. Michael Barthel & Galen Stocking, Pew Research, 4/6/2020)

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Strengthening Election Audits

- With increasing threats from hackers, Boards of Elections should increase auditing, including both process and after election audits.
- Boards need process audits so they can demonstrate there was no ballot stuffing or other illegal actions.
- They need post-election audits so they can affirm that their systems were not hacked, and the results are "fair and honest."
- These audits need to focus on every step of the system. Since hackers can change registrations, post mail-in votes, and manipulate voter numbers, we cannot take the chance that even a small number of election sites miss a significant change.

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Improve Voting Technology

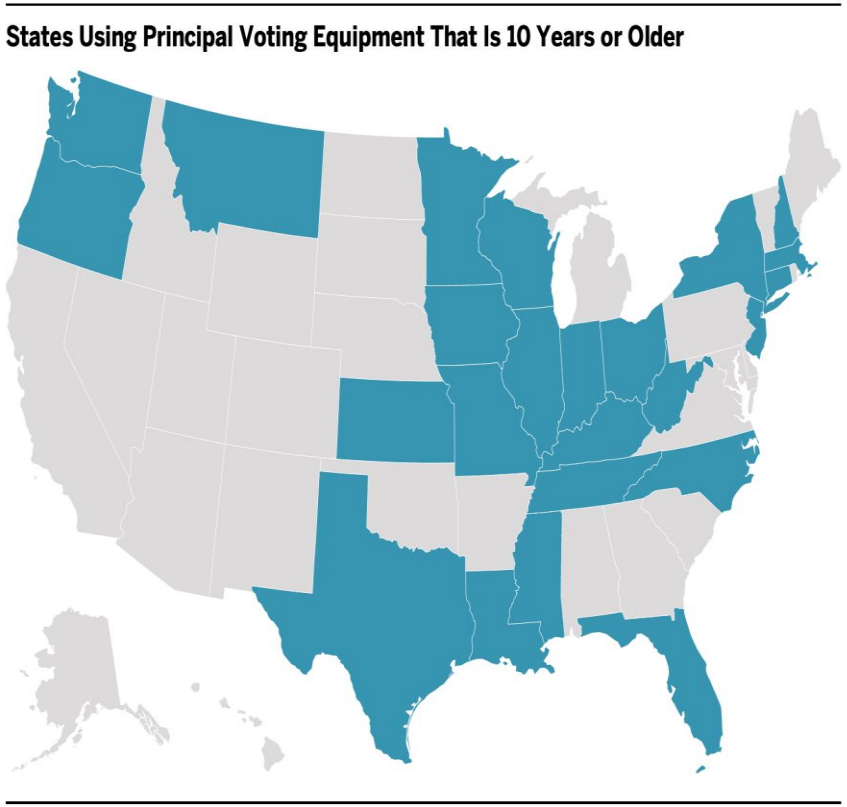
Voting technology must be improved.

As of 2022, 24 states used principal voting equipment that was 10 years old or older.*

- 23 states used equipment that was no longer manufactured.
- 25 states use DRE machines with touch screen monitors that are especially susceptible to flipped votes.

Older machines are much easier to hack and manipulate.

- To compete against AI, we need much better election technology.



*"Voting Machines at Risk," Baker, Norden, Stewart, The Brennan Center, 3/1/2022

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The Federal Government Needs to Wake Up!

How ridiculous is it that:

- The Federal Election Commission should be powerless because it cannot achieve a quorum and have everyone furloughed during an election held during a government shutdown?
- The agency of the Federal government designed to counteract cyber-attacks should have its budget slashed at the same time as corporations are investing hundreds of billions of dollars in AI?

As we are facing a revolution, our government is walking away from doing anything to protect elections. I do not know if any of you are frightened by the risks to our election system from AI, but we are.

Who Should Care and Can Help?

- Who should care about the risks and knows enough to help? There is a simple answer---the AI companies themselves.

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Empower Tech Companies to Help

No one understands the threats of hacking and AI more than the tech companies. Big tech companies have created AI. They understand how the systems work and their vulnerabilities.

- Tech companies deal with these types of issues every day.
- They have developed AI and know its algorithms. They have also developed systems for preventing hacking.
- Tech companies don't want to see the U.S. in a crisis. Their market valuations are too high.
- We believe tech companies should form a panel to provide states with support on how to manage their elections to minimize the threat of hacks and phishing.
    - This could include teaching materials for election officials on deterring hacks and identifying AI threats. Given the costs to society and the risk to government, this an action worth taking.

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Microsoft Has Acted

- **Several of these companies have already taken steps on their own to support the election process.**
- *In 2023, Microsoft Brad Smith, the President of Microsoft announced a program to help protect elections.*
- In this program, Microsoft committed to help candidates and campaigns…. navigate cybersecurity challenges and the new world of AI by deploying a newly formed "Campaign Success Team; …. to support democratic governments…. as they build secure and resilient election processes; and to use our voice as a company to support legislative and legal changes that will add to the protection of campaigns and electoral processes from deepfakes and other harmful uses of new technologies.
- Microsoft also endorsed the bi-partisan "Protect Elections from Deceptive AI Act" introduced by Senators Klobuchar, Collins, Hawley, and Coons.

(Microsoft announces new steps to protect elections. Brad Smith & Teresa Hutson, 11/7/2023.)

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AI Companies Unite to Help Elections

In Feb. 2024, 27 AI companies and social media platforms signed an accord stating, "The intentional generation and distribution of Deceptive AI Election content can deceive the public in ways that jeopardize the integrity of electoral processes." The signatories agreed to mitigate the risks by pledging to:

- **Develop technology to prevent creation of deceptive AI election content:** Build or deploy tools like watermarking, metadata tagging, and AI-generated content classifiers to verify authenticity.
- **Assess AI models for election-related risks:** Evaluate vulnerabilities to prevent misuse in election disinformation.
- **Detect deceptive AI election content on platforms:**
- **Respond effectively to deceptive AI election content:**
- **Collaborate across the industry to counter AI-driven election risks:**
- **Increase transparency in AI election policies:**
- **Engage with civil society and experts:** to stay ahead of emerging threats.
- **Educate the public on AI-generated election content:**

Tech Companies Pledged to Protect Elections from AI — Here's How They Did it. Abdiaziz Ahmed, Owen Doyle, David Evan, Lawrence Norden, Brennan Center 2/13/2025)

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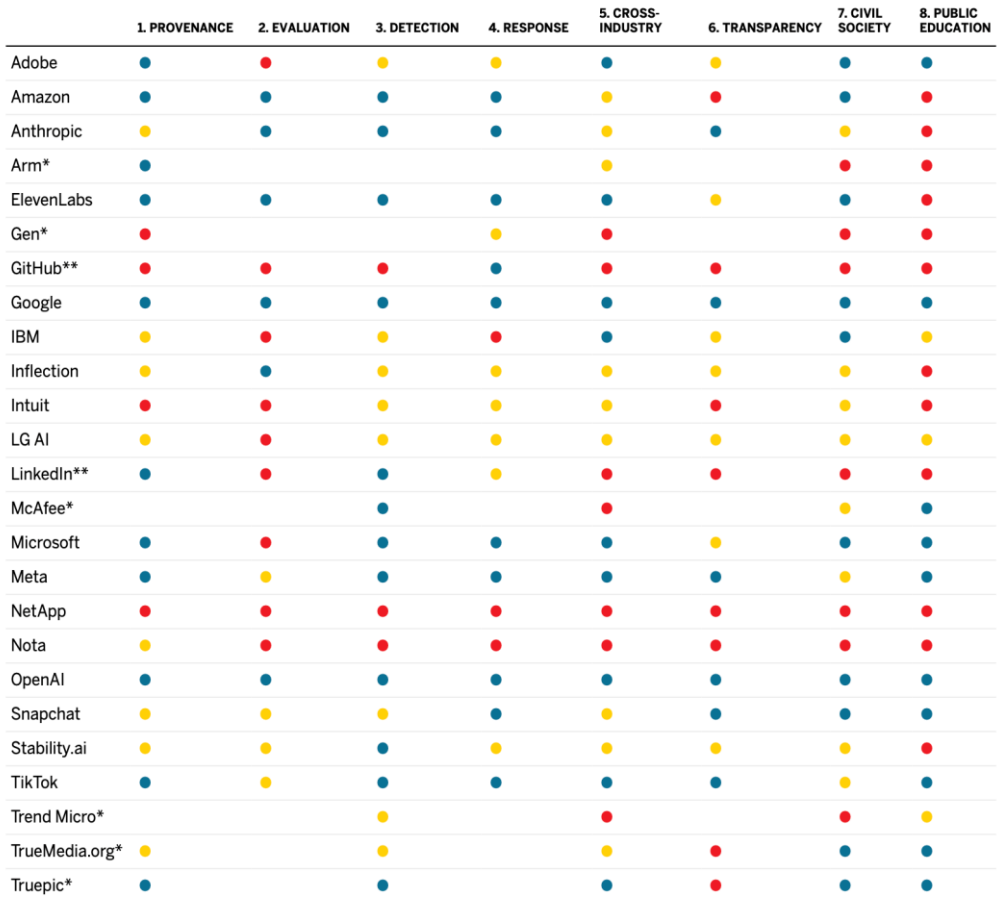
AI Companies are Making Progress

- While some companies have not done a lot of work on these problems, many have.
- Look at the table, a blue dot represents the commitment was met, a yellow dot implies a partial satisfaction, and a red dot means either no action or report.
- Open AI and Google achieved their goals on every commitment.
- Others, including Microsoft, Meta, TikTok, and Anthropic have also made substantial progress.
- There is no way of knowing if these companies can make elections safer and more secure. However, at least we know they are focused on the issue.



	1. PROVENANCE	2. EVALUATION	3. DETECTION	4. RESPONSE	5. CROSS-INDUSTRY	6. TRANSPARENCY	7. CIVIL SOCIETY	8. PUBLIC EDUCATION
Adobe	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Amazon	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Anthropic	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Arm*	●				●		●	●
ElevenLabs	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Gen*	●			●	●		●	●
GitHub**	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Google	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
IBM	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Inflection	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Intuit	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
LG AI	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
LinkedIn**	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
McAfee*			●		●		●	●
Microsoft	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Meta	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
NetApp	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Nota	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
OpenAI	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Snapchat	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Stability.ai	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
TikTok	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Trend Micro*			●		●		●	●
TrueMedia.org*	●		●		●	●	●	●
Truepic*	●		●		●	●	●	●

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Conclusion

- AI technology is improving geometrically.
- Our decentralized voting system with minimal staffing and outdated technology is especially vulnerable.
- If we do not act now, we could face a significant crisis in coming elections that would only increase our polarization.
- To prevent elections from being hacked and the results changed, we need stricter rules on AI fakes during elections, better trained election workers, better technology, including new voting machines, second level security, and the use of .Gov websites.
- The Federal government should strengthen both CISA and the FEC.
- AI companies should step up, as they are starting to do, and help states and local governments understand and repel the threats from AI.
- If AI companies keep developing this new technology, they need to take the lead in working with State and local governments, so our elections are safe and fair.
- We must act now to preserve our election system.

Peter Siris
- 1/20/2026