Misinfo, Disinfo, Manipulation, and the Impact on Your Freedom to Vote

Jennifer S. Lohman · Missouri Voter Protection Coalition Anti-Disinformation Committee
Overview
Three categories of concern

Disinformation
Misinformation
Manipulation
OVERVIEW
Your Freedom to Vote

Disinformation
Wrong info about voting

Manipulation

False info about the issues

Convincing you not to vote
OVERVIEW
What must change

SELF-DEFENSE

CHANGES TO MEDIA COVERAGE

Regulation of Social Media Platforms & Personal Data Use

Accountability for Bad Actors
Social media platforms are private entities that can limit & regulate speech via their Terms of Service.

1. It's not a "free exchange of ideas" when the platforms decide which ideas you will see.

2. Plus, what about actual harm caused by unchecked lies and hate speech?

Regulation of Social Media Platforms & Personal Data Use Is NOT a Free Speech* Issue

*Have you ever noticed that the "free speech" tech platforms bend over backward to "protect" is hate speech?
Today's Focus

Self-Defense
**Easy Mode**

- Use only LOCAL, TRUSTED sources of info about voting
- Always keep in mind that voting rules differ in every state
- Don't share posts or memes about voting without vetting the info with a LOCAL, TRUSTED source

The League of Women Voters
The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition
The St. Louis Area Voter Protection Coalition (STLVPC.org)
The Election Protection Hotline 1-866-OUR-VOTE
Beware of the Bubble
Rage farming

RESULT

OUTRAGE

Some dude posting outrageous nonsense (his exact goal isn't important)

Outraged Backlash Clickbaiter: ONP posted outrageous nonsense! Who's with me?

Daily Outrage Media Outlet: "ONP is ROASTED for outrageous nonsense post!"

People like us: "Can you believe what ONP just said? This is so outrageous!"

Amplification

Danger

DANGER
SHOCKING NEWS

MEDIA OUTLET:

"You can care about issues, be well-informed, and take useful action without logging onto social media."

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Change your privacy settings: https://wapo.st/3p0mCmb

Get accurate voting info: text MOVPC to 66866
stlvpc.org · lwvstl.org

Learn more about media manipulation at mediamanipulation.org

Reconsider the role of social media in your personal & professional life

Learn the truth about elections: cisa.gov/rumorcontrol

Examine differences in media coverage: Allsides.org

Study media literacy: checkology.org
Q & A