

**User Name:** subscriber618780

**Date and Time:** Thursday, 19 December 2024 13:20:00 GMT

**Job Number:** 241204336

**Documents (23)**

1. [Insider Q&A: Trust and safety exec talks about AI and content moderation](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6BVS-TW51-DY4H-K4F2-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

2. [Election misinformation is a problem in any language. But some gets more attention than others](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6BKN-0CJ1-DY4H-K3TB-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

3. [Elon’s politics: how Musk became a driver of elections misinformation](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6CPK-RMX1-JBNF-W1J0-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

4. [Report says crowd-sourced fact checks on X fail to address flood of US election misinformation](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6D9M-FGR1-JCMC-W1XS-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

5. [AI can be ‘sword and shield’ against misinformation, Sir Nick Clegg says](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6BRY-WN41-DY4H-K4XM-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

6. [How the Trump-Harris debate played out on social media: ‘Maga mad libs’](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6CY0-27Y1-DY4H-K332-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

7. [Harris was strongest at debate when talking about abortion while Trump relied on tired old lies](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6CY1-HHX1-DY4H-K2S8-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

8. [Will Elon Musk join Donald Trump's new administration?](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6DBY-KBT1-JCMC-W3MK-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

9. [How Elon Musk is disrupting US elections to boost Trump](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6CP4-VDX1-F03F-K0MD-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

10. [Fact check: Hundreds of misleading claims repeated on social media](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6CCX-03T1-F03F-K0MY-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

11. [Fact check: AI analysis reveals the ‘tax election’](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6CBM-3VB1-JBNF-W4GV-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

12. [Trump obsesses at golf course event over ABC anchor for fact-checking him during debate: 'Foolish fool'](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6CYK-TSF1-JCMC-W2F1-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

13. [ABC News debate moderator Linsey Davis endures racist, sexist abuse on social media for fact-checking Trump](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6CY1-1NT1-DY4H-K3B1-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

14. [Trump advisors 'urged ABC to stop fact checking' amid former president's war on the media](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6D66-XF41-F03F-K08T-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

15. [The real loser: CNN blasted for unhinged debate with little fact checking on Trump’s lies and Biden’s rambling](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6CC1-JCW1-DY4H-K0GD-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

16. [Trump threatened to back out of Black journalists interview over live fact-checking](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6CMH-7W31-F03F-K2RC-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

17. [Trump says he's not looking for 'retribution' against the press - so long as they treat him 'fairly'](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6DFR-PF71-F03F-K1JD-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

18. [Even Musk's Grok knows: X's AI system named Elon as one of the biggest pushers of misinformation on platform](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6DDD-7GR1-JCMC-W241-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

19. [The US elections are under attack from hostile countries - and more is coming, Microsoft says](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6D8B-MCK1-F03F-K1WP-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

20. [Trump lashes out at NYT and its 'third rate writer' after report on president-elect's aide's adoring letters](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6DH6-V9M1-JCMC-W2C6-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

21. [Who fact-checks the self-appointed fact checkers? BBC Verify and Full Fact claim to be impartial purveyors of truth but their biases are all too glaring](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6DJW-M971-JCBW-N54D-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

22. [Real v fake: how the Harris-Trump debate laid out different takes on AI](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6CYW-33Y1-JBNF-W30V-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |

23. [Trump insults Fox News anchors in awkward moment on 'Fox & Friends'](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6CY5-WFR1-JCMC-W4NV-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1001073)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** fact checking, elections, U.S. , news about Artificial Intelligence, 2024

**Search Type:** Natural Language

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| US News | -None- |



# [**Insider Q&A: Trust and safety exec talks about AI and content moderation**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BVS-TW51-DY4H-K4F2-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 22, 2024 Monday 8:48 PM GMT

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**Length:** 919 words

**Byline:** Barbara Ortutay

**Highlight:** Alex Popken was a trust and safety executive at Twitter, leaving in 2023 after a decade at the social media company focusing on content moderation

**Body**

Alex Popken was a longtime trust and safety executive at [Twitter](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/twitter) focusing on content moderation before leaving in 2023. She was the first employee there dedicated to moderating Twitter'**s** advertising business when she started in 2013.

Now, she'**s** vice president of trust and safety at WebPurify, a content moderation service provider that works with businesses to help ensure the content people post on their sites follows the rules.

Social media platforms are not the only ones that need policing. Any consumer-facing company — from retailers to dating apps to news sites — needs someone to weed out unwanted content, whether that'**s** hate speech, harassment or anything illegal. Companies are increasingly using **artificial intelligence** in their efforts, but Popken notes that humans remain essential to the process.

Popken spoke recently with The Associated Press. The conversation has been edited for clarity and length.

QUESTION: How did you see content moderation change in that decade you were at Twitter?

ANSWER: When I joined Twitter, content moderation was in its nascent stages. I think even trust and safety was this concept that people were just starting to understand and grapple with. The need for content moderation escalated as we, as platforms saw them be weaponized in new ways. I can sort of recall some key milestones of my tenure at Twitter. For example, Russian interference in the 2016 **U.S**. presidential **election**, where we realized for the first time, realized in a meaningful way, that without content moderation we can have bad actors undermining democracy. The necessity for investing in this area became ever more important.

Q: A lot of companies, the bigger social media companies are leaning on AI for content moderation. Do you think that AI is in a place yet where it’**s** possible to rely on it?

A: Effective content moderation is a combination of humans and machines. AI, which has been used in moderation for years, solves for scale. And so you have machine learning models that are trained on different policies and can detect content. But ultimately, let’**s** say you have a machine learning model that is detecting the word ‘[Nazi](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/nazi). ’ There are a lot of posts that might be criticizing Nazis or providing educational material about Nazis versus like, white supremacy. And so it cannot solve for nuance and context. And that’**s** really where a human layer comes in.

I do think that we’re starting to see really important advancements that are going to make a human’**s** job easier. And I think generative AI is a great example of that, where, unlike traditional. AI models, it can understand context and nuance much more so than its predecessor. But even still, we have entirely new use cases for our human moderators now around moderating generative AI outputs. And so the need for human moderation will remain for the foreseeable future, in my opinion.

Q: Can you talk a little bit about the non-social media companies that you work with and what kind of content moderation they use?

A: I mean, everything from like retail product customization, you know, imagine that you are allowing people to customize T-shirts, right? Obviously, you want to avoid use cases in which people abuse that and put harmful, hateful things on the T-shirt.

Really, anything that has user-generated content, all the way to online dating — there, you’re looking for things like catfishing and scams and ensuring that people are who they say they are and preventing people from uploading inappropriate photos for example. It does span multiple industries.

Q: What about the **issues** that you’re moderating, does that change?

A: Content moderation is an ever-evolving landscape. And it’**s** influenced by what’**s** happening in the world. It’**s** influenced by new and evolving technologies. It’**s** influenced by bad actors who will attempt to get on these platforms in new and innovative ways. And so as a content moderation team, you’re trying to stay one step ahead and anticipate new risks.

I think that there’**s** a little bit of catastrophic thinking in this role where you think about like, what are the worst case scenarios that can happen here. And certainly they evolve. I think misinformation is a great example where there'**s** so many facets to misinformation and it'**s** such a hard thing to moderate. It'**s** like boiling the ocean. I mean, you cannot **fact check** every single thing that someone says, right? And so typically platforms need to focus on misinformation not to cause the most real world harm. And that’**s** also always evolving.

Q: In terms of generative AI there’**s** some doomsday thinking that it will ruin the internet, that it will just be, you know, fake AI stuff on it. Do you feel like that might be happening?

A: I have concerns around AI-generated misinformation, especially during what is an extremely important **election** season globally. You know, we actively are seeing more deepfakes and harmful synthetic and manipulated media online, which is concerning because I think the average person probably has a hard time. discerning accurate versus not.

I think medium to long term, if I can be properly regulated and if there are appropriate guardrails around it, I also think that it can create an opportunity for our trust and safety practitioners. I do. Imagine a world in which AI is an important tool in the tool belt of content moderation, for things like threat **intelligence**. You know, I think that it’**s** going to be extremely helpful tool, but it’**s** also going to be misused. And we’re we’re already seeing that.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper; Web Publication

**Journal Code:** WEBI

**Subject:** **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (90%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (90%); NEGATIVE NEWS (90%); SAFETY (90%); SOCIAL MEDIA (90%); FASCISM (89%); GENERATIVE AI (77%); MACHINE LEARNING (77%); TYPES OF GOVERNMENT (77%); DEMOCRACIES (73%); **ELECTIONS** (72%); CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS** (71%); HATE SPEECH (69%); TEACHING MATERIALS & MEDIA (61%); WHITE NATIONALISTS (60%); US PRESIDENTIAL **ELECTIONS** (50%)

**Company:**  ASSOCIATED PRESS (56%)

**Industry:** SIC7383 NEWS SYNDICATES (56%); **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (90%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (90%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (90%); SOCIAL MEDIA (90%); RETAIL & WHOLESALE TRADE (78%); GENERATIVE AI (77%); MACHINE LEARNING (77%); RETAILERS (70%)

**Geographic:** UNITED STATES (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

**Load-Date:** April 22, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Election misinformation is a problem in any language. But some gets more attention than others**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BKN-0CJ1-DY4H-K3TB-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 20, 2024 Wednesday 4:05 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS,UK; Version:1

**Length:** 1092 words

**Byline:** David Klepper

**Highlight:** **Election** misinformation will pose a formidable challenge this year as billions of people in dozens of countries head to the polls

**Body**

Warnings about deepfakes and disinformation fueled by **artificial intelligence**. Concerns about campaigns and candidates using social media to spread lies about **elections**. Fears that tech companies will fail to address these **issues** as their platforms are used to undermine democracy ahead of pivotal **elections**.

Those are the worries facing **elections** in the **U.S**., where most voters speak [English](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/english). But for languages like Spanish, or in dozens of nations where English isn't the dominant language, there are even fewer safeguards in place to protect voters and democracy against the corrosive effects of **election** misinformation. It'**s** a problem getting renewed attention in an **election** year in which more people than ever will go to the polls.

Tech companies have faced intense political pressure in countries like the **U.S**. and places like the [European Union](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/european-union) to show they're serious about tackling the baseless claims, hate speech and authoritarian propaganda that pollutes their sites. But critics say they've been less responsive to similar concerns from smaller countries or from voters who speak other languages, reflecting a longtime bias toward English, the **U.S**. and other western democracies.

Recent changes at tech firms — content moderator layoffs and decisions to rollback some misinformation policies — have only compounded the situation, even as new technologies like **artificial intelligence** make it easier than ever to craft lifelike audio and video that can fool voters.

These gaps have opened up opportunities for candidates, political parties or foreign adversaries looking to create electoral chaos by targeting non-English speakers — whether they are Latinos in the **U.S**., or one of the millions of voters in [India](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/india) , for instance, who speak a non-English language.

“If there’**s** a significant population that speaks another language, you can bet there’**s** going to be disinformation targeting them,” said Randy Abreu, an attorney at the **U.S**.-based National Hispanic Media Council, which created the Spanish Language Disinformation Coalition to track and identify disinformation targeting Latino voters in the **U.S**. “The power of **artificial intelligence** is now making this an even more frightening reality.”

Many of the big tech companies regularly tout their efforts to safeguard **elections**, and not just in the **U.S**. and E.**U**. This month [Meta](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/meta) is launching a service on WhatsApp that will allow users to flag possible AI deepfakes for action by **fact**-checkers. The service will work in four languages — English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

Meta says it has teams monitoring for misinformation in dozens of languages, and the company has announced other **election**-year policies for AI that will apply globally, including required labels for deepfakes as well as labels for political ads created using AI. But those rules have not taken effect and the company hasn't said when they will begin enforcement.

The laws governing social media platforms vary by nation, and critics of tech companies say they have been faster to address concerns about misinformation in the **U.S**. and the E.**U**., which has recently enacted new lawsdesigned to address the problem. Other nations all-too often get a “cookie cutter” response from tech companies that falls short, according to an analysis published this month by the Mozilla Foundation.

The study looked at 200 different policy announcements from Meta, TikTok, X and Google (the owner of YouTube) and found that nearly two-thirds were focused on the **U.S**. or E.**U**. Actions in those jurisdictions were also more likely to involve meaningful investments of staff and resources, the foundation found, while new policies in other nations were more likely to rely on partnerships with **fact-checking** organizations and media literacy campaigns.

Odanga Madung, a Nairobi, Kenya-based researcher who conducted Mozilla’**s** study, said it became clear that the platforms' focus on the **U.S**. and E.**U**. comes at the expense of the rest of the world.

“It’**s** a glaring travesty that platforms blatantly favor the **U.S**. and Europe with excessive policy coddling and protections, while systematically neglecting” other regions, Madung said.

This lack of focus on other regions and languages will increase the risk that **election** misinformation could mislead voters and impact the results of **elections**. Around the globe, the claims are already circulating.

Within the **U.S**., voters whose primary language is something other than English are already facing a wave of misleading and baseless claims, Abreau said. Claims targeting Spanish speakers, for instance, include posts that overstate the extent of voter fraud or contain false information about casting a ballot or registering to vote.

Disinformation about **elections** has surged in Africa ahead of recent **elections**, according to a study this month from the Africa Center for Strategic Studies which identified dozens of recent disinformation campaigns — a four-fold increase from 2022. The false claims included baseless allegations about candidates, false information about voting and narratives that seem designed to undermine support for the United States and United Nations.

The center determined that some of the campaigns were mounted by groups allied with the Kremlin, while others were spearheaded by domestic political groups.

India, the world'**s** largest democracy, boasts more than a dozen languages each with more than 10 million native speakers. It also has more than 300 million Facebook users and nearly half a billion WhatsApp users, the most of any nation.

**Fact-checking** organizations have emerged as the front line of defense against viral misinformation about **elections**. The country will hold **elections** later this spring and already voters going online to find out about the candidates and **issues** are awash in false and misleading claims.

Among the latest: video of a politician'**s** speech that was carefully edited to remove key lines; years-old photos of political rallies passed off as new; and a fake **election** calendar that provided the wrong dates for voting.

A lack of significant steps by tech companies has forced groups that advocate for voters and free **elections** to band together, said Ritu Kapur, co-founder and managing director of The Quint, an online publication that recently joined with several other outlets and Google to create a new **fact-checking** effort known as Shakti.

“Mis-and disinformation is proliferating at an alarming pace, aided by technology and fueled and funded by those who stand to gain by it," Kapur said. “The only way to combat the malaise is to join forces.”

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper; Web Publication

**Journal Code:** WEBI

**Subject:** DISINFORMATION & MISINFORMATION (97%); CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS** (91%); DEEPFAKE TECHNOLOGY (90%); DEMOCRACIES (90%); **ELECTIONS** (90%); **ELECTIONS** & POLITICS (90%); POLITICS (90%); TECHNOLOGY (90%); TYPES OF GOVERNMENT (90%); **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (89%); GENERATIVE AI (89%); HISPANIC AMERICANS (89%); SOCIAL MEDIA (89%); VOTERS & VOTING (89%); **ELECTION** SECURITY (79%); EUROPEAN UNION (79%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (79%); NEGATIVE BUSINESS NEWS (79%); PRODUCT LABELING (79%); **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** REGULATION & POLICY (78%); **FACT CHECKING** (78%); NEGATIVE NEWS (78%); US POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); LANGUAGE & LANGUAGES (77%); MULTILINGUALISM (77%); POLITICAL ADVERTISING (74%); POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS (74%); POLITICAL PARTIES (74%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (70%); LAYOFFS (68%); NEW PRODUCTS (60%); HATE SPEECH (53%)

**Industry:** DEEPFAKE TECHNOLOGY (90%); **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (89%); GENERATIVE AI (89%); INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY (89%); SOCIAL MEDIA (89%); PRODUCT LABELING (79%); **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** REGULATION & POLICY (78%); BIG TECH (78%); POLITICAL ADVERTISING (74%); NEW PRODUCTS (60%)

**Geographic:** UNITED STATES (96%); UNITED KINGDOM (94%); EUROPE (79%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (79%)

**Load-Date:** March 20, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Elon’s politics: how Musk became a driver of elections misinformation**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6CPK-RMX1-JBNF-W1J0-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Guardian (London)

August 12, 2024 Monday 10:00 AM GMT

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**Section:** US NEWS; Version:2

**Length:** 783 words

**Byline:** Rachel Leingang

**Highlight:** The X owner, talking to Trump Monday, has cast doubt on mail ballots and claims there’**s** rampant non-citizen voting

**Body**

When Elon Musk took over as owner of Twitter, researchers and **elections** officials feared a rampant spread of misinformation that would lead to threats and harassment and undermine democracy.

Their fears [came true](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/false-claims-of-a-stolen-election-thrive-unchecked-on-twitter-even-as-musk-promises-otherwise) – and Musk himself has [emerged](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/25/us/politics/elon-musk-election-misinformation-x-twitter.html) as one of its main drivers.

The tech billionaire has cast doubt on machines that tabulate votes and mail ballots, both common features of US **elections**. He has repeatedly claimed there is rampant non-citizen voting, a frequent Republican talking point in this **election**.

Musk, the ultra-wealthy owner of Tesla and other tech companies, is scheduled to interview Donald Trump on Monday, where they are sure to find common ground on these **election** conspiracies. Musk is a vocal supporter of the former US president and current Republican nominee. He has restored the Twitter/X accounts of people banned under previous ownership, dismantling the platform’**s** **fact-checking** and safety features. Trump’**s** X account, which was [suspended](https://www.npr.org/2021/01/08/954760928/twitter-bans-president-trump-citing-risk-of-further-incitement-of-violence#:~:text=Tamara%20Keith-,Twitter%20Permanently%20Suspends%20Trump%2C%20Citing%20'Risk,Of%20Further%20Incitement%20Of%20Violence'&text=Screenshot%20by%20NPR-,President%20Trump's%20Twitter%20account%2C%20%40realDonaldTrump%2C%20has%20been,permanently%20suspended%2C%20the%20company%20announced.&text=Twitter%20has%20permanently%20suspended%20President,behavior%20that%20violated%20company%20rules.) after the January 6 insurrection, was restored as well, though Trump has not returned actively to the platform.

“Electronic voting machines and anything mailed in is too risky. We should mandate paper ballots and in-person voting only,” he [wrote on X](https://x.com/elonmusk/status/1810581873703194727) in July.

Maricopa county recorder Stephen Richer responded, asking if he could give Musk a tour of the large Arizona county’**s** facilities and run through the mail voting processes.

“You can go into all the rooms. You can examine all the equipment. You can ask any question you want. We’d love to show you the security steps already in place, which I think are very sound,” Richer said.

It was not the only time Richer has sought to correct **election** misinformation Musk had shared. He previously [tried to fix misunderstandings](https://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/elon-musk-tweeting-misinformation-about-arizona-elections-19411184) of Arizona voter data and rules for proof of citizenship.

Social media platforms overall have taken less aggressive stances on **fact-checking** **election** falsehoods after an ongoing campaign by Republican lawmakers and their allies to attack the ways information was flagged by **elected** officials and researchers and how platforms responded.

“I think X really kind of sticks out as a place where that change has been striking, and for it to come from the very top kind of just shows how much of an **issue** it is,” said Mekela Panditharatne, senior counsel for the Brennan Center’**s** **elections** and government program.

Musk shared a video that used an AI-generated voice for Kamala Harris, [which raised concerns](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/article/2024/jul/29/elon-musk-accused-of-spreading-lies-over-kamala-harris-video) that it could fool some people into thinking it was real. Musk and the video creator defended it as parody.

He has also written multiple times claiming that non-citizens are voting in US **elections**, which is illegal except in a few local **elections**. There are few instances of non-citizens voting, or even registering to vote. In late July, he shared a video of Elizabeth Warren talking about a pathway to citizenship for the millions of undocumented people living in the US. “As I was saying, they’re importing voters,” he said, a [nod to “great replacement” theory](https://www.theverge.com/2024/3/25/24111405/elon-musk-great-replacement-conspiracy-immigration-don-lemon).

Grok, the platform’**s** **artificial intelligence** chatbot that Musk has [billed](https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2023/12/23/grok-ai-elon-musk-x-woke-bias/) as an “anti-woke” antidote to left-biased chatbots, has spread false information that ballot deadlines had passed in nine states, meaning the vice-president could not get on the ballot in those places, which is untrue. Secretaries of state are [urging Musk to fix this **issue**](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/article/2024/aug/05/elon-musk-harris-grok-misinformation) for the chatbot, which does not have **election** information guardrails that other chatbots like ChatGPT do.

“It’**s** important that social media companies, especially those with global reach, correct mistakes of their own making – as in the case of the Grok AI chatbot simply getting the rules wrong,” Minnesota secretary of state Steve Simon [told the Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/08/04/secretaries-state-urge-musk-fix-ai-chatbot-spreading-false-election-info/). “Speaking out now will hopefully reduce the risk that any social media company will decline or delay correction of its own mistakes between now and the November **election**.”

Off the platform, a political action committee Musk created is mining personal information from voters in key states in what appears to users to initially look like a voter registration portal, CNBC reported. America Pac, a pro-Trump group [backed by](https://www.wsj.com/politics/elections/elon-musk-has-said-he-is-committing-around-45-million-a-month-to-a-new-pro-trump-super-pac-dda53823) Musk’**s** enormous wealth, is targeting swing states voters. The data scraping is now [being investigated](https://fortune.com/2024/08/06/elon-musk-trump-america-pac-michigan-north-carolina-investigation/) by at least two states.

Despite his endless claims about **election** fraud, Musk [told the Atlantic](https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2024/08/elon-musk-2024-election-trump/679323/) this month he would accept the results of the **2024** **election** – with a caveat.

“If there are questions of **election** integrity, they should be properly investigated and neither be dismissed out of hand nor unreasonably questioned,” he said. “If, after review of the **election** results, it turns out that Kamala wins, that win should be recognized and not disputed.”

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** WEBGNS

**Subject:** DISINFORMATION & MISINFORMATION (91%); BALLOTS (90%); CITIZENSHIP (90%); DEMOCRACIES (90%); **ELECTION** INFRASTRUCTURE (90%); **ELECTIONS** (90%); **ELECTIONS** & POLITICS (90%); MAIL-IN VOTING (90%); POLITICS (90%); TYPES OF GOVERNMENT (90%); VOTERS & VOTING (90%); **ELECTION** WORKERS (89%); **FACT CHECKING** (89%); NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN RELATIONS (89%); NEGATIVE NEWS (89%); PHOTO & VIDEO SHARING (89%); US FEDERAL **ELECTIONS** (89%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (89%); 2021 US CAPITOL RIOTS (78%); CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS** (78%); **ELECTION** AUTHORITIES (78%); **ELECTION** CRIME (78%); **ELECTION** TECHNOLOGY (78%); GOVERNMENT BODIES & OFFICES (78%); IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP & DISPLACEMENT (78%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (78%); PUBLIC OFFICIALS (78%); SAFETY (78%); WEALTHY PEOPLE (77%); INTERVIEWS (75%); CONSPIRACY (74%); IN-PERSON VOTING (73%); SOCIAL MEDIA (73%); VOTER REGISTRATION (73%); TECHNOLOGY (72%); SAFETY, ACCIDENTS & DISASTERS (68%); GENERATIVE AI (60%)

**Industry:** PHOTO & VIDEO SHARING (89%); **ELECTION** TECHNOLOGY (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%); SOCIAL MEDIA (73%); GENERATIVE AI (60%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%); ELON MUSK (79%); KAMALA HARRIS (79%)

**Geographic:** ARIZONA, USA (92%); UNITED STATES (94%)

**Load-Date:** August 12, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Report says crowd-sourced fact checks on X fail to address flood of US election misinformation**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6D9M-FGR1-JCMC-W1XS-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 31, 2024 Thursday 12:21 AM EST

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**Section:** US NEWS

**Length:** 399 words

**Byline:** Barbara Ortutay

**Body**

X'**s** crowd-sourced **fact-checking** program, called Community Notes, isn't addressing the flood of **U.S**. **election** misinformation on [Elon Musk](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/elon-musk)'**s** social media platform, according to a report published Wednesday by a group that tracks online speech.

The nonprofit Center for Countering Digital Hate analyzed the Community Notes feature and found that accurate notes correcting false and misleading claims about the **U.S**. **elections** were not displayed on 209 out of a sample of 283 posts deemed misleading - or 74%.

Misleading posts that did not display Community Notes even when they were available included false claims that the 2020 presidential **election** was stolen and that voting systems are unreliable, CCDH said.

In the cases where Community Notes were displayed, the original misleading posts received 13 times more views than their accompanying notes, the group added.

Community Notes lets X users write **fact checks** on posts after the users are accepted as contributors to the program. The **checks** are then rated by other users based on their accuracy, sources, how easily they are to understand, and whether they use neutral language. The program was launched in 2021 by the previous leadership of the site - then known as Twitter - and was called Birdwatch. Musk renamed it Community Notes after he took over the site in 2022.

Last year, X sued CCDH, blaming the group for the loss of "tens of millions of dollars" in advertising revenue after it documented an increase in hate speech on the site. The lawsuit was dismissed by a federal judge in March.

Keith Coleman, a vice president of product at X who oversees Community Notes, said in a statement that the program "maintains a high bar to make notes effective and maintain trust across perspectives, and thousands of **election** and politics related notes have cleared that bar in **2024**. In the last month alone, hundreds of such notes have been shown on thousands of posts and have been seen tens of millions of times. It is because of their quality that notes are so effective."

San Francisco-based X also pointed to external academic research that has shown Community Notes to be trustworthy and effective.

Imran Ahmed, the CEO of CCDH, however, said the group'**s** research "suggests that X'**s** Community Notes are little more than a Band Aid on a torrent of hate and disinformation that undermines our democracy and further polarizes our communities."

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Web Publication

**Journal Code:** 671549964

**Subject:** **FACT CHECKING** (92%); DISINFORMATION & MISINFORMATION (91%); CROWDSOURCING (90%); **ELECTIONS** (90%); FALSE OR MISLEADING ADVERTISING (90%); SOCIAL MEDIA (90%); FALSE STATEMENTS (89%); CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS** (78%); **ELECTIONS** & POLITICS (78%); HEADS OF GOVERNMENT **ELECTIONS** (78%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (78%); JUDGES (78%); NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (78%); POLITICS (78%); TYPES OF GOVERNMENT (78%); SUITS & CLAIMS (76%); DEMOCRACIES (73%); NEGATIVE NEWS (73%); HATE SPEECH (72%); EXECUTIVES (71%); VOTERS & VOTING (69%); LITIGATION (65%); MARKETING & ADVERTISING REVENUE (65%)

**Industry:** FALSE OR MISLEADING ADVERTISING (90%); SOCIAL MEDIA (90%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (78%); MARKETING & ADVERTISING REVENUE (65%); MARKETING & ADVERTISING (51%)

**Person:** ELON MUSK (79%)

**Geographic:** CALIFORNIA, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (93%); EUROPE (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); NORTHERN EUROPE (73%); United States; Americas, Northern America; Europe, Northern Europe

**Load-Date:** October 31, 2024

**End of Document**



[**AI can be ‘sword and shield’ against misinformation, Sir Nick Clegg says**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BRY-WN41-DY4H-K4XM-00000-00&context=1001073)

Belfast Telegraph Online

April 9, 2024 Tuesday 1:25 PM GMT

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**Length:** 552 words

**Byline:** By Martyn Landi, PA Technology Correspondent

**Body**

**Artificial intelligence** (AI) can be a “sword and a shield” against harmful content, not just a tool to spread it, Sir Nick Clegg has said.

The former Liberal Democrat deputy prime minister is now the head of global affairs at tech giant Meta, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

Speaking during an AI event at Meta’**s** London offices, Sir Nick said that while it was “right” to be “vigilant” about generative AI being used to create disinformation to disrupt **elections**, he said AI was the “single biggest reason” Meta was getting better at reducing the spread of “bad content” on its platforms.

In **2024**, billions of people are set to go to the polls with **elections** due in a number of the world’**s** largest democracies, including the UK, US and India.

It has led some experts to warn of the potential threat posed by the rapid rise of generative AI tools – including image, text and audio content apps – and the possibility of them being used to spread misinformation and disinformation with the aim of disrupting democratic processes.

A number of senior UK politicians have already been the subjects of so-called deepfakes, which have spread on social media.

And on Tuesday, **fact-checking** charity Full **Fact** said the UK was currently vulnerable to misinformation, and more government intervention was needed on the **issue** with **elections** on the horizon.

Sir Nick said focus on the **issue** was important, but argued that good AI was potent protection against bad AI, and that Meta and others had the tools needed to fight the spread of harmful material.

“I would urge everyone – yes, there are risks – but to also think of AI as a sword, not just a shield, when it comes to bad content,” he said.

“If you look at Meta, the world’**s** largest social media platform, the single biggest reason why we’re getting better and better in reducing the bad content that we don’t want on Instagram and Facebook is for one reason; AI.”

He added that the use of AI to scan Meta’**s** platforms to find and remove harmful content had reduced the levels of bad content by “50 to 60% over the last two years” meaning that now “for every 10,000 bits of content, one bit of content might be hate speech”.

“Some of the work teams have been doing inside Meta to improve the way that we use our most advanced AI tools to triage content, so that we make sure that the 40,000 people we have working on content moderation really look at the most acute edge cases and they don’t waste a lot of their time looking at stuff that is inoffensive or not a problem has really improved rapidly in recent months,” he said.

“It is right that there is an increasingly high level of industry wide cooperation, particularly this year because of this unprecedented number of **elections**.

“We should be vigilant, but I would urge you to also think of AI as a great tool to navigate that difficult landscape and I’m quietly optimistic that the whole industry is trying to really lean into this as cooperatively as possible.”

During the event, Sir Nick also announced that Meta’**s** next AI large language model – used to power AI tools, including chatbots built by Meta and other firms – would be released shortly.

Sir Nick said the new model, known as Llama 3, would begin to roll out “within the next month, hopefully less” and would continue over the course of the year.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper; Web Publication

**Journal Code:** WEBBELT

**Subject:** **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (90%); DISINFORMATION & MISINFORMATION (90%); **ELECTIONS** (90%); **ELECTIONS** & POLITICS (90%); GENERATIVE AI (90%); GOVERNMENT BODIES & OFFICES (90%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); SOCIAL MEDIA (90%); UK LIBERAL DEMOCRATS (90%); TECHNOLOGY (79%); DEMOCRACIES (78%); **FACT CHECKING** (78%); CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS** (77%); POLITICS (77%); PRIME MINISTERS (77%); TYPES OF GOVERNMENT (77%); DEEPFAKE TECHNOLOGY (74%); NEGATIVE NEWS (70%); PARENT COMPANIES (57%)

**Company:**  META PLATFORMS INC (58%)

**Ticker:** META (NASDAQ) (58%)

**Industry:** NAICS516210 MEDIA STREAMING DIST SVCS, SOCIAL NETWORKS, AND OTHER MEDIA NETWORKS AND CONTENT PROVIDERS (58%); SIC7374 COMPUTER PROCESSING & DATA PREPARATION & PROCESSING SERVICES (58%); **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (90%); GENERATIVE AI (90%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (90%); SOCIAL MEDIA (90%); BIG TECH (78%); MEDIA CONTENT (78%); DEEPFAKE TECHNOLOGY (74%)

**Person:** NICK CLEGG (89%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (72%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); NORTHERN IRELAND (79%)

**Load-Date:** April 9, 2024

**End of Document**



[**How the Trump-Harris debate played out on social media: ‘Maga mad libs’**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6CY0-27Y1-DY4H-K332-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Guardian (London)

September 11, 2024 Wednesday 4:40 AM GMT

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**Section:** US NEWS; Version:3

**Length:** 1099 words

**Byline:** Alaina Demopoulos

**Highlight:** Users react to viral moments as Democratic and Republican candidates face off in presidential debateHarris-Trump debate: key takeaways

**Body**

In the days leading up to the presidential debate, a 2020 tweet from the former Trump team lawyer Rudy Giuliani [recirculated](https://x.com/BradenIsBased/status/1833672331757052053) on X: once again, Americans find themselves gearing up for, as he put it, “The debat.”

Though the [debate](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2024/sep/10/harris-trump-presidential-debate-updates?page=with:block-66e107858f08960bb04d24fc#block-66e107858f08960bb04d24fc) aired on ABC News, with pre- and post-game commentary from anchors, the real buzz took place on social media, where users reacted to the night’**s** most viral moments.

[Donald Trump](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump) and [Kamala Harris](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/kamala-harris) met for the first time ever on the Philadelphia stage, and their initial greeting became the first strong visual of the night. Harris strode across the stage, hand out, nearly forcing Trump to accept her handshake, even though it appeared as though he planned to rebuff her.

Social media snarks noted how Harris introduced herself to Trump – “Kamala Harris” – as if he didn’t already know. “Kamala introducing herself lmao she’**s** a gag,” the television writer Ira Madison III wrote on X.

Kamala introducing herself lmao she’**s** a gag— Ira (@iramadisonthree) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/iramadisonthree/status/1833672937234108622?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Harris’**s** supporters, known as the “ [K-Hive](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/jul/05/kamala-harris-memes-coconut-tree) ”, loved the vice-president’**s** frequent laugh and relaxed speaking style. Her performance on Tuesday was subdued, but not dead, they opined. As Trump spoke, they zoomed in on how Harris stared him down, sometimes appearing incredulous, confused, generally oozing a sort of “can you believe this guy?” demeanor.

HER FACE SKGHGGDFJHD SHES ABOUT TO LAY INTO HIM [pic.twitter.com/jYvPjmOu8m](https://t.co/jYvPjmOu8m) — Keith ???? (@nagy\_minaj) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/nagy_minaj/status/1833675909733208221?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

When I send you this, I know you f\*cking lying [#Debate2024](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Debate2024?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [pic.twitter.com/urfezRPr6P](https://t.co/urfezRPr6P) — Dr. Wendy Osefo (@WendyOsefo) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/WendyOsefo/status/1833676255641698661?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Teacher when you didn’t do the reading but have a comment [pic.twitter.com/BPAk9j1rYU](https://t.co/BPAk9j1rYU) — The.Ink, from Anand Giridharadas (@AnandWrites) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/AnandWrites/status/1833678085645816178?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The [straight-faced **fact checks**](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/10/harris-trump-debate-fact-check-updates) from the ABC News debate moderators, Linsey Davis and David Muir, heightened certain absurdist quotes from Trump. When the former president repeated a fear-mongering falsehood that some US states allow for the killing of babies after they are born, Davis clarified: “There is no state in this country in which it’**s** legal to kill a baby after it’**s** born.”

But viewers were still happy that many of Trump’**s** words did not go unchecked. (Unless those viewers were pro-Trump: his allies, including [Tulsi Gabbard](https://x.com/TulsiGabbard/status/1833689719957246102) and [Lindsey Graham](https://x.com/LindseyGrahamSC/status/1833686591564595494) , accused the network of policing him while going easy on Harris.)

Good **fact check** from ABC [pic.twitter.com/EDjz16fzDH](https://t.co/EDjz16fzDH) — Dave Itzkoff (@ditzkoff) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/ditzkoff/status/1833676716830605616?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

"There is no state in this country in which it'**s** legal to kill a baby after it'**s** born." [pic.twitter.com/ZbO3ARTUIt](https://t.co/ZbO3ARTUIt) — Sophie Vershbow (@svershbow) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/svershbow/status/1833676735050567743?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The mics may be muted, but her facial expressions are not.— The.Ink, from Anand Giridharadas (@AnandWrites) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/AnandWrites/status/1833675988527411659?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Ditto for when Muir countered Trump’**s** assertion that Haitian immigrants [abducted and ate pets](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/09/republicans-haitian-migrants-pets-wildlife-ohio) in Springfield, Ohio – a rumor that began on Facebook, but was quickly shot down by city officials, even as [JD Vance](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/jd-vance) and other Republicans repeated the claims this week.

“They’re eating the dogs, the people that came in, they’re eating the cats, they’re eating the pets of the people that live there,” [Trump rambled](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/10/trump-springfield-pets-false-claims) , adding more pet lore to an **election** season filled with talk about “crazy cat ladies”.

Wow, cats have had a hell of an **election** season huh?— Jasmine Wright (@JasJWright) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/JasJWright/status/1833679468629483608?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The former Public Enemy rapper Flavor Flav got in on the joke, tweeting: “Pet Shop Boys better stay inside and lock the doors. You too Snoop Dogg. And Pitbull.”

Pet Shop Boys better stay inside and lock the doors. You too Snoop Dogg. And Pitbull.— FLAVOR FLAV (@FlavorFlav) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/FlavorFlav/status/1833680985931530617?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

But some progressive groups were upset Harris laughed through the exchange, which minimized Trump’**s** racist, anti-immigrant dog whistle.

the immigration panic narratives make trump sound insane, but the **fact** that the dems arent countering even a little bit of this narrative is geniunely alarming.— hasanabi (@hasanthehun) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/hasanthehun/status/1833685118978036141?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Another Trump soundbite for the books: when speaking on [IVF](https://www.theguardian.com/society/ivf) , the former president, who has said he wants to make the procedure free for Americans, said: “I have been a leader on fertilization.” Perhaps the grossest statement ever uttered on a debate stage.

i have been a leader on fertilization is a wild statement— derecka (@dereckapurnell) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/dereckapurnell/status/1833678467587530963?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The former president also conjured many Maga fears in one line, when he accused Harris of being in favor of allowing “transgender operations on illegal aliens in prison”. Many described the bonkers claim as a feat of anti-woke Mad Libs, combining multiple culture wars in one visual.

"Transgender operations on illegal aliens in prison" is just MAGA mad libs— jordan (@JordanUhl) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/JordanUhl/status/1833682905916375101?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

transgender operations on illegal aliens in prison [pic.twitter.com/FNhKekSm1S](https://t.co/FNhKekSm1S) — Half-Shirt Radical (@EricShethar) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/EricShethar/status/1833682897968005401?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Despite protests outside of the convention center from pro-Palestinian groups and young voters calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, the debate dedicated only a short segment to questions on the Israel-Gaza situation. Harris’**s** response was a boilerplate statement she’**s** [made before](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/aug/30/kamala-harris-interview) about reaffirming her support for Israel while acknowledging “too many innocent Palestinians have been killed”. The quote invited rhetorical questions from anti-war viewers at home: what would be an acceptable number?

what’**s** the right amount of innocent palestinians to be killed kamala— derecka (@dereckapurnell) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/dereckapurnell/status/1833686577152975131?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

bomb bomb bombala harris— hasanabi (@hasanthehun) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/hasanthehun/status/1833687241451081811?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

As the night came to a close, Trump delivered a line that was unfortunately relatable. When asked by the moderators to confirm that he doesn’t “have a plan” for healthcare, he retorted: “I have a concept of a plan” – and who hasn’t stumbled through a work meeting like that?

But overall, the feeling on social media was that the former president floundered, and that Harris successfully baited him. A rare, bipartisan statement we might all be able to agree on: from Trump’**s** batty zingers to Harris’**s** lack of a poker face, both sides delivered enough meme fuel to last until November.

WE’RE SO BACK [pic.twitter.com/gzeuZEKR12](https://t.co/gzeuZEKR12) — Annie Wu (all socials: @annie\_wu\_22) (@Annie\_Wu\_22) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/Annie_Wu_22/status/1833688349804028229?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Read more about the **2024** US **election**:

[**Fact-checking** the presidential debate](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/10/harris-trump-debate-fact-check-updates) [Harris slams Trump for falsehoods in fiery debate](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/11/trump-harris-presidential-debate) [Taylor Swift endorses Harris in post signed ‘childless cat lady’](https://www.theguardian.com/music/article/2024/sep/11/taylor-swift-endorses-kamala-harris-president-us-debate-cat-lady) [‘Maga mad libs’: how the debate played out on social media](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/10/trump-harris-debate-reaction) [Presidential poll tracker](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2024/aug/23/presidential-polls-kamala-harris-donald-trump-election)

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** WEBGNS

**Subject:** POLITICAL DEBATES (91%); SOCIAL MEDIA (90%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2012 (90%); **FACT CHECKING** (89%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (79%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (78%); DRAMA LITERATURE (75%); DISINFORMATION & MISINFORMATION (70%); WRITERS (68%); CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & TEENS (67%)

**Industry:** SOCIAL MEDIA (90%); TELEVISION INDUSTRY (77%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); WRITERS (68%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (92%); KAMALA HARRIS (92%); LINDSEY GRAHAM (58%); RUDY GIULIANI (58%)

**Geographic:** UNITED STATES (79%)

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Harris was strongest at debate when talking about abortion while Trump relied on tired old lies**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6CY1-HHX1-DY4H-K2S8-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Guardian (London)

September 11, 2024 Wednesday 2:37 PM GMT

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**Section:** US NEWS; Version:3

**Length:** 961 words

**Byline:** Carter Sherman

**Highlight:** Harris spoke passionately about women’**s** personal experiences post-Roe, as Trump repeated his usual extreme rhetoricUS politics live – latest updates

**Body**

Throughout his **2024** campaign for president, [Donald Trump](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump) has avoided giving straight, consistent or accurate answers to questions about [abortion](https://www.theguardian.com/world/abortion) – and in his first debate appearance against Kamala Harris, Trump kept up that streak.

Moderators introduced abortion, one of the biggest issues in the **election**, by asking about the most recent example of Trump’**s** incoherence on the topic: his [position on a Florida ballot measure](https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/aug/30/trump-ivf-anti-abortion-groups) that would enshrine abortion rights into the state’**s** constitution. Over the last few weeks, Trump initially suggested that he would vote in favor of the measure – which would restore abortion rights in a state that has banned the procedure past six weeks of pregnancy – before quickly backtracking amid outrage from his anti-abortion base.

Asked to explain his flip-flop, Trump said: “The reason I’m doing that vote – because the plan is – you know the vote is – they have abortion in the ninth month.”

Less than a fraction of a percentage point of abortions take place after the 21st week of pregnancy. Executing a baby after birth, which Trump repeatedly accused Democrats of supporting, would be infanticide and it is illegal in all 50 states – as noted by the ABC News moderator Linsey Davis in a **fact-check** after he spoke.

When pressed on abortion, Trump has long pivoted to making outlandish claims about killing babies. In his final debate against Hillary Clinton during the 2016 presidential campaign, he claimed that “you can rip the baby out of the womb in the ninth month on the final day”. That kind of gruesome rhetoric proved useful for Trump at the time, as leaders of the anti-abortion movement [cheered him on](https://www.thecut.com/article/marjorie-dannenfelser-abortion-roe-v-wade.html) and ultimately helped put him in the White House.

In a post-Roe nation where most people support abortion rights, however, that rhetoric hits differently.

“The accusations of extremism are a lot less effective when your own party is aligned with the movement that most Americans are perceiving as extreme,” said Mary Ziegler, a professor at the University of California, Davis who studies the legal history of reproduction.

Trump also claimed that “every legal scholar, every Democrat, every Republican, every liberal, conservative – they all wanted this issue to be brought back to these states”. In reality, [more than 60% of Americans disapproved](https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2022/07/06/majority-of-public-disapproves-of-supreme-courts-decision-to-overturn-roe-v-wade/) of the decision to overturn Roe. Support for abortion rights has [surged since Roe’**s** demise](https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/may/14/abortion-rights-support-poll) , including in red states.

For Harris, meanwhile, the topic of abortion yielded some of her strongest moments in a debate already full of strong moments. She spoke passionately about women bleeding out from miscarriages unable to get care, victims of rape forced to carry unwanted pregnancies. Celinda Lake, a veteran Democratic pollster, saw Harris’**s** comments on abortion as the moment the debate snapped into place for the vice-president.

“The opening was a little more mixed,” Lake said. “I think Trump made a strong case on the economy but she just knocked it out of the park on the abortion stuff.”

During her turn to speak, Harris appeared to reference the [case of Jaci Statton](https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/04/25/1171851775/oklahoma-woman-abortion-ban-study-shows-confusion-at-hospitals) , a woman who was told by Oklahoma hospital staffers that they could not end her nonviable pregnancy and to instead wait in a hospital parking lot until she was “crashing”.

“She’**s** bleeding out in the car in the parking lot,” Harris said. “She didn’t want that. Her husband didn’t want that. A 12- or 13-year-old survivor of incest being forced to carry a pregnancy to term? They don’t want that.”

Tresa Undem, who’**s** been polling people on abortion for decades, thought the way Harris talked about abortion was “unprecedented”.

“For undecided women and undecided independent men, I think it was pretty powerful and it can have an effect,” Undem said. “She reminded folks, including undecided voters, that most Americans are with her. Most Americans believe that women should have control over their own body … And she landed on freedom, which is a value that everybody cares about.”

Trump, meanwhile, repeatedly ducked efforts to commit to vetoing a national abortion ban and baldly rejected comments made by JD Vance, his running mate, who said that Trump would veto such a ban.

“Well, I didn’t discuss it with JD, in all fairness,” Trump said.

Harris, too, was evasive in moments – when asked directly if she would support any restrictions on abortion, she reiterated her longstanding promise to support legislation to codify Roe into law, even though Roe didn’t stop states from enacting the restrictions that hacked away at access to the procedure. (It is also unlikely that Congress would pass such a bill anytime soon.) In an interview after the debate, Harris’**s** pick for vice-president, Tim Walz, also dodged questions about restrictions his boss may support.

In the weeks since Harris became the Democratic nominee for president, abortion has become an increasingly key issue for women. A recent New York Times poll found that, among all women, it now rivals the economy in terms of importance and is the top voting issue among women under 45. A Harris campaign representative [told Rolling Stone](https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/harris-destroys-trump-abortion-debate-1235099498/) that in the first hour of the debate, 71% of grassroots donors to the campaign were women.

“I think she litigated it just spectacularly well,” Lake said. “Two-thirds of the impact of the debate are the press interpretations afterward and the press has been even more positive. When you have Fox News criticizing Trump and saying there should be another debate, you know you’ve won.”

Read more about the **2024** US **election**:

[**Fact-checking** the presidential debate](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/10/harris-trump-debate-fact-check-updates) [Harris slams Trump for falsehoods in fiery debate](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/11/trump-harris-presidential-debate) [Taylor Swift endorses Harris in post signed ‘childless cat lady’](https://www.theguardian.com/music/article/2024/sep/11/taylor-swift-endorses-kamala-harris-president-us-debate-cat-lady) [‘Maga mad libs’: How the debate played out on social media](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/10/trump-harris-debate-reaction) [Presidential poll tracker](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2024/aug/23/presidential-polls-kamala-harris-donald-trump-election)

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** WEBGNS

**Subject:** ABORTION (99%); ABORTION LAWS (90%); ABORTION REGULATION & POLICY (90%); ABORTION RIGHTS (90%); **ELECTIONS** & POLITICS (90%); INFANTS & TODDLERS (90%); POLITICS (90%); PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH (90%); REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS (90%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2012 (90%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (89%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (79%); CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS** (78%); CONSERVATISM (78%); **FACT CHECKING** (78%); HEADS OF GOVERNMENT **ELECTIONS** (78%); LEGISLATION (78%); LIBERALISM (78%); MISCARRIAGES (78%); PLATFORMS & ISSUES (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2008 (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2016 (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL **ELECTIONS** (78%); REFERENDUMS (77%); LAW & LEGAL SYSTEM (76%); HOMICIDE (71%); COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (50%)

**Industry:** ABORTION LAWS (90%); ABORTION REGULATION & POLICY (90%); COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (50%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (92%); HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON (79%); KAMALA HARRIS (79%)

**Geographic:** CALIFORNIA, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (92%)

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Will Elon Musk join Donald Trump's new administration?**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6DBY-KBT1-JCMC-W3MK-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

November 6, 2024 Wednesday 12:14 PM EST

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**Length:** 534 words

**Byline:** Martyn Landi

**Body**

Elon Musk'**s** transformation of X, formerly Twitter, into a political machine supporting [Donald Trump](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/donald-trump) could see the billionaire rewarded with a place in the president-**elect**'**s** new administration.

The [SpaceX](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/spacex) boss has become Trump'**s** most vocal fan and one of his biggest financial backers during the US **election**, which has seen X become an unofficial [Republican Party](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/republican-party) campaign tool.

Musk'**s** influence has been so stark that, in his speech to supporters on **election** night in the US after he declared victory, Trump paid a lengthy tribute to Musk, calling him a "star" of the Republican Party and a "wonderful" guy.

Musk has posted relentlessly about his support for Trump to his hundreds of millions of followers in the run-up to the **election**, claiming the future of civilisation was at stake at the polls.

[Link to Image](https://static.independent.co.uk/2024/11/06/12/ac7db97243cc70e079cb6c9038ae5eadY29udGVudHNlYXJjaGFwaSwxNzMwOTgxNDE3-2.72014167.jpg)

The [Tesla](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/tesla) and SpaceX boss has appeared at several Trump rallies, as well as pumping millions of dollars into campaign groups supporting the Republican nominee, and funding controversial sweepstakes in swing states that required people to register to vote and sign a pro-Trump petition in order to be eligible.

Alongside thousands of pro-Trump messages, Musk'**s** X account, and those of many of his own most ardent fans, have also promoted conspiracy theories and misinformation around the key **election** issues, as well as the Democratic Party and its candidates, often receiving millions of views.

Such has been the swell and relentlessness of the support from Musk that Trump has suggested the tech boss could be given a role in his new cabinet around cost-cutting or government efficiency - a role Musk had previously called to be created to help reduce government spending.

The approach to Trump from social media, and specifically X, has been in stark contrast to the 2020 **election**, when his posts were regularly **fact-checked** or flagged as misinformation before and after the **election**, before ultimately being banned from Twitter - as it was then - and other sites for what they said were rule breaches around inciting the violence at the US Capitol on January 6.

That ban would remain in place on Twitter until Musk bought the platform two years later.

Musk'**s** management of X has been highly controversial, ever since he tool control of the platform in late 2022.

As well as changing its name, the Tesla and SpaceX boss dismissed more than half the platform'**s** staff, dismantled its content moderation team, shut down its trust and safety council, ripped up its verification system and restored accounts to hundreds of users who had previously been banned for breaching site rules, crucially, including the man who is about to return to the White House.

Having previously described himself as a "moderate Democrat", Musk said in 2022 he was shifting to voting Republican and has since gradually upped his support for Trump while criticising the Biden administration.

It has led to the heavily Musk-backed Republican ticket taking back the White House.

Now, Musk finds himself uniquely positioned as a powerful ally to the next president, able to sway a large online platform with a single post, a type of power Trump knows the value of, having forged his political career through the reach of social media.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Web Publication

**Journal Code:** 671549964

**Subject:** CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS** (90%); **ELECTIONS** (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); SPACE PROGRAMS (90%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (90%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (89%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (89%); VOTERS & VOTING (88%); DEPLATFORMING (78%); **FACT CHECKING** (78%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (78%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (78%); PUBLIC FINANCE (78%); SOCIAL MEDIA REGULATION & POLICY (78%); WEALTHY PEOPLE (78%); PLATFORMS & ISSUES (76%); SOCIAL MEDIA (73%); VOTER REGISTRATION (72%); PETITIONS (71%); DISINFORMATION & MISINFORMATION (70%); NEGATIVE MISC NEWS (67%); CONSPIRACY THEORY (65%); SAFETY (62%)

**Industry:** SPACE PROGRAMS (90%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (89%); SOCIAL MEDIA REGULATION & POLICY (78%); SOCIAL MEDIA (73%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (92%); ELON MUSK (92%)

**Geographic:** WASHINGTON DC, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (94%); EUROPE (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); NORTHERN EUROPE (73%); Texas; United States; Americas, Northern America; Europe, Northern Europe

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2024

**End of Document**



[**How Elon Musk is disrupting US elections to boost Trump**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6CP4-VDX1-F03F-K0MD-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 9, 2024 Friday 4:44 PM EST

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**Section:** US NEWS

**Length:** 1360 words

**Byline:** Alex Woodward

**Body**

While he stokes [far-right hysteria overseas](https://www.independent.co.uk/tech/elon-musk-x-far-right-b2592740.html), [Elon Musk](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/elon-musk) is amplifying **election** disinformation at home.

The **2024** [presidential cycle](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-news-conference-harris-walz-today-b2593376.html) is the first since Musk bought X, formerly [Twitter](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/twitter). Under his ownership, the **fact** checkers are gone, AI-generated content is feeding false **election** information to millions of users, and Musk himself is responsible for misleading posts that have been viewed more than 1 billion times.

The [world'**s** wealthiest man](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/harris-vance-trump-san-francisco-b2591533.html) not only controls a platform where he can boost [Donald Trump](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/donald-trump)'**s** campaign, he also helped launch a [Trump](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/trump)-supporting [political action committee](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/elon-musk-trump-super-pac-b2584807.html) to spend and raise unlimited dollars to get him **elected** - a uniquely powerful combination that **election** analysts, civil rights groups and state prosecutors are closely watching.

"Elon Musk is abusing his privileged position as owner of a small, but politically influential, social media platform to sow disinformation that generates discord and distrust," according to Imran Ahmed, CEO of the Center for Countering Digital Hate, which found that [none of Musk'**s** posts about US **elections**](https://counterhate.com/research/musk-misleading-election-claims-viewed-1-2bn-times-on-x-with-no-fact-checks/#about) have been **fact-checked**.

The platform is "failing woefully to contain the kind of algorithmically-boosted incitement that we all know can lead to real-world violence, as we experienced on January 6, 2021," Ahmed said.

*The Independent*'**s** requests for comment to X received an auto reply: "Busy now, please **check** back later."

**'Definitely seems like election fraud'**

An image of an iPhone text message appears on the screen: "Hey, you need to vote."

The next message includes a picture of a bloodied Donald Trump raising his fist above the headline "Trump Rally Assassination Attempt" followed by a video clip of Trump onstage as shots are fired towards him.

"This is out of control," replies a man lying in bed as the messages roll in. "How do I start?"

"Register to vote!" the sender replies. "It'**s** easy!"

[The message includes a link to America PAC](https://web.archive.org/web/20240805222342/https://theamericapac.org/voter-registration/), Elon Musk'**s** Trump-supporting political action committee.

The [15-second ad](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHSXg0x5LQo&t=13) ends with a message to "REGISTER TO VOTE NOW."

Users are asked for their address, phone number and age. After they hit submit, they're told "thank you" - and that'**s** it.

By the end of their visit to Musk'**s** PAC website, not only were they not registered to vote, they also ended up handing over extremely valuable data to a billionaire-backed operation.

The "voter registration" page was active for at least a month, according to website data.

The stunt is now under investigation in Michigan, one of several battleground states targeted by America PAC.

"Every citizen should know exactly how their personal information is being used by PACs, especially if an entity is claiming it will help people register to vote in Michigan or any other state," a spokesperson for Michigan'**s** secretary of state Jocelyn Benson told *The Independent.*

The office is investigating the PAC'**s** "activities to determine if there have been any violations of state law," the spokesperson added.

North Carolina'**s** Board of **Election** has also opened an investigation. It is a crime in that state to fail to submit a voter'**s** registration form if they were told they were being signed up to vote.

America PAC did not respond to *The Independent*'**s** requests for comment.

It'**s** unclear whether the stunt broke any campaign finance laws, but it'**s** definitely "sh\*\*\*y," [according to](https://x.com/ProfCiara/status/1819390347497144603) Stetson University College of Law **election** law professor Ciara Torres-Spelliscy, a fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law.

Georgetown University policy professor Don Moynihan [said](https://x.com/donmoyn/status/1819401762664862022) that "getting people'**s** personal information on the promise of helping them to register to vote and then not helping them to register to vote definitely seems like **election** fraud."

**'A breeding ground for false statements'**

Hours after President Joe Biden ended his re-**election** campaign on July 21, Twitter'**s** AI chatbot Grok produced false information about deadlines for getting candidates' names on state ballots. The false claims were reproduced across the platform.

X delayed a correction for 10 days, even after the company had learned the information was wrong.

On August 5, secretaries of state from five states [wrote a letter](https://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/6077/080524-secretaries-letter-to-x.pdf) to Musk urging the company to "immediately implement changes" to X'**s** AI chatbot, and to direct users to a nonpartisan voter information and registration website instead.

"As tens of millions of voters in the US seek basic information about voting in this major **election** year, X has the responsibility to ensure all voters using your platform have access to guidance that reflects true and accurate information about their constitutional right to vote," they wrote.

[Link to Image](https://static.independent.co.uk/2024/08/09/14/2165919819.jpg)

In another video, a voice that sounds nearly exactly like the vice president'**s** plays over a video montage that looks nearly identical to an average campaign ad.

"I, Kamala Harris, am your Democrat candidate for president because Joe Biden finally exposed his senility at the debate," the voice says. "I was selected because I'm the ultimate diversity hire. I'm a woman and a person of color, so if you criticize anything I say, you're both sexist and racist."

Musk shared the video on his platform last month without noting that it'**s** a parody until days later. He only wrote "This is amazing" with a laughing emoji.

X prohibits users from sharing "synthetic, manipulated, or out-of-context media that may deceive or confuse people and lead to harm."

**'Weak sauce' attempts to stop misinformation**

US **elections** in 2020 were the last without easy-to-access AI tools like deepfake videos and ChatGP, a period that "will likely be remembered as the beginning of the deepfake era in **elections**," [according to](https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/regulating-ai-deepfakes-and-synthetic-media-political-arena) Daniel I Wiener and Lawrence Norden with Brennan Center for Justice at the NYU School of Law, which has provided a framework for combating AI-assisted **election** disruption.

Before Musk bought it, Twitter made some attempts to combat disinformation on the platform, but "none of that is the case anymore," according to Adav Noti, executive director of the Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan democratic advocacy group.

"All of the major social platforms are doing less," he told *The Independent*. "It'**s** most stark when it comes to X, which is now almost proudly a breeding ground for false statements about the **election** ... and doesn't seem to be troubled in any way by that use of its platform."

The Federal **Election** Commission can enforce a "narrow" set of rules about misrepresenting or pretending to be a candidate, and consumer protection and libel laws can be used to protect deepfaked people, but "the current laws don't reach it very well at all," according to Noti.

A group of senators have [introduced legislation to protect individuals' voices and likenesses](https://www.coons.senate.gov/news/press-releases/senators-coons-blackburn-klobuchar-tillis-introduce-bill-to-protect-individuals-voices-and-likenesses-from-ai-generated-replicas) from AI-generated replicas, but it'**s** unlikely to move through Congress before **Election** Day.

The FEC is also [not expected to propose any new rules targeting AI in political advertising this year](https://www.axios.com/pro/tech-policy/2024/08/08/fec-ai-election-advertising-no-action) - leaving it up to tech companies, **election** officials and the media to keep tabs on manipulated messages.

[Link to Image](https://static.independent.co.uk/2024/08/09/14/2024-07-30T213847Z_2073913390_RC2W59AR7LCX_RTRMADP_3_USA-ELECTION-ARIZONA.jpg)

Ahmed with the Center for Countering Digital Hate has suggested that federal officials lean on Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to "allow social media companies to be held liable in the same way as any newspaper, broadcaster or business across America."

But the larger concerns from watchdog groups are threats to vote counting and certification - major parts of the **election** process that have been [targeted in court by Trump'**s** campaign and other right-wing legal groups](https://www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/us-politics/donald-trump-indictment-charges-election-fraud-b2386414.html) to cast doubt on the legitimacy of **elections** they lost by invoking spurious claims of fraud and malfeasance.

"If we get to a post-**election** period where candidates are trying to exploit those doubts that they themselves have seeded, as we saw in 2020, that'**s** where it gets concerning," Noti told The Independent.

Social media platforms could be "actively promoting accurate and trustworthy information and clamping down on intentionally deceptive misinformation," but "they're doing a horrendous job," Noti said.

"Really just abysmal," he added. "Sometimes they say, 'Well, we're going to combat the misinformation with accurate information,' which I guess is better than nothing, but it'**s** pretty weak sauce."

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Web Publication

**Journal Code:** 671549964

**Subject:** CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS** (90%); DISINFORMATION & MISINFORMATION (90%); **ELECTIONS** (90%); **FACT CHECKING** (90%); NEGATIVE NEWS (90%); CAMPAIGN FINANCE (89%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (89%); POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES (89%); POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS (89%); US FEDERAL **ELECTIONS** (89%); VOTER REGISTRATION (89%); VOTERS & VOTING (89%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (78%); **ELECTION** CRIME (78%); FRAUD & FINANCIAL CRIME (78%); NEGATIVE MISC NEWS (77%); SOCIAL MEDIA (77%); WEALTHY PEOPLE (77%); CIVIL RIGHTS (74%); **ELECTION** FRAUD (73%); HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS (73%); PUBLIC PROSECUTORS (73%); GENERATIVE AI (72%); INVESTIGATIONS (72%); POLITICAL CORRUPTION (72%); ASSASSINATION (50%)

**Industry:** INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (89%); MOBILE & CELLULAR TELEPHONES (77%); SOCIAL MEDIA (77%); TEXT MESSAGING (76%); PUBLIC PROSECUTORS (73%); GENERATIVE AI (72%); BROADCAST ADVERTISING (71%)

**Person:** ELON MUSK (94%); DONALD TRUMP (92%)

**Geographic:** MICHIGAN, USA (94%); NORTH CAROLINA, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (98%); EUROPE (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); NORTHERN EUROPE (78%); Michigan & North Carolina; United States; Americas, Northern America; Europe, Northern Europe

PEO: ELON MUSK

SUB: NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN RELATIONS

SUB: PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

IND: PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

SUB: NEGATIVE MISC NEWS

SUB: GOVERNMENT BODIES & OFFICES

SUB: **ELECTIONS**

SUB: INVESTIGATIONS

SUB: POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

IND: BROADCAST ADVERTISING

SUB: GENERATIVE AI

IND: GENERATIVE AI

IND: TEXT MESSAGING

SUB: **FACT CHECKING**

IND: MOBILE & CELLULAR TELEPHONES

GEO: UNITED STATES

SUB: CAMPAIGN FINANCE

SUB: VOTER REGISTRATION

SUB: SOCIAL MEDIA

IND: SOCIAL MEDIA

SUB: CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS**

SUB: FRAUD & FINANCIAL CRIME

SUB: NEGATIVE NEWS

SUB: CIVIL RIGHTS

SUB: GOVERNMENT ADVISORS & MINISTERS

GEO: UNITED STATES; MICHIGAN, USA

PEO: DONALD TRUMP

SUB: INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING

IND: INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING

SUB: HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

SUB: POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES

SUB: DISINFORMATION & MISINFORMATION

SUB: WEALTHY PEOPLE

SUB: US FEDERAL **ELECTIONS**

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Fact check: Hundreds of misleading claims repeated on social media**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6CCX-03T1-F03F-K0MY-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 2, 2024 Tuesday 3:24 PM EST

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**Section:** FACEBOOK **NEWS**

**Length:** 618 words

**Byline:** Full **Fact** Via **Election** **Check** 24

**Body**

***This feature of claims from the campaign trail has been compiled by*** [**Full Fact**](https://fullfact.org/)***, the UK's largest fact checking charity working to find, expose and counter the harms of bad information, as part of the PA news agency's Election Check 24.***

Analysis conducted by Full **Fact** using **artificial intelligence** (AI) examining [Facebook](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/facebook) posts by 1,540 parliamentary candidates from all parties has found more than 300 repeats of misleading claims.

[Conservative](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/conservative) candidates were responsible for the majority of these repeated claims. Full **Fact**'**s** AI tools flagged 188 posts by Conservative candidates containing a misleading claim which has been **fact checked** by Full **Fact** - but the [Labour Party](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/labour-party) was not far behind with 117 claims flagged.

All of the posts by Conservative candidates identified by Full **Fact** contained the party'**s** most prominent misleading claim of the campaign: that a Labour government would lead to a [£2,000 tax increase](https://fullfact.org/economy/conservative-claim-general-election-labour-2000-tax-increase/) for a working family.

Conversely, claims by Labour candidates included a broader range of claims, including 39 repeats of the unreliable claim that a Conservative government would lead to [£4,800 increase in mortgage payments](https://fullfact.org/election-2024/rachel-reeves-labour-4800-mortgage-rates/) and 43 repeats of the outdated claim that Labour'**s** net zero plan would [cut energy bills by £300](https://fullfact.org/election-2024/labour-energy-bill-plans/).

Posts including the six misleading claims identified by Full **Fact**'**s** AI tools were shared 565 times, creating a potential reach of more than 2.5 million people.

[Chris Morris](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/chris-morris), chief executive of Full **Fact**, said: "Scare tactics based on fudged numbers have dominated so much of this campaign right up to the final week, and that'**s** a disservice to democracy. It should shame both of the largest political parties.

"For whoever is in Number 10, the long overdue work to repair battered trust in politics must begin on July 5th."

The £2,000 tax increase has become one of the most high-profile claims of the campaign, featuring in the debates and across Conservative party messaging. Despite prominent debunking from Full **Fact** and others, Conservatives have continued to push out the claim-59% of the claims flagged in this analysis occurred after the figure had already been **fact checked**.

Similarly, high-profile challenge to Labour'**s** speculative £4,800 figure has not prevented the party from deploying the figure in the campaign, as recently as last week in a [stunt that plastered the figure](https://x.com/FullFact/status/1806660659779666328) across the front of a building.

Full **Fact**'**s** claim matching tool, which incorporates Google'**s** BERT model, examined 76,663 Facebook posts by 1,500 candidates over the course of the **election** campaign (22 May - June 30). The AI model searches for sentences that semantically match claims that have been previously **checked**, debunked, or corrected by Full **Fact**. It found 311 repeated claims:

- 188 repeats of the Conservative claim that working families would face a [£2,000 tax increase under Labour](https://fullfact.org/economy/conservative-claim-general-election-labour-2000-tax-increase/) (111 after **fact check** published)

- 43 repeats of the Labour claim that [Labour net zero policy would cut energy bills by £300](https://fullfact.org/election-2024/labour-energy-bill-plans/) (8 after **fact check** published)

- 39 repeats of the Labour claim that Conservative spending commitments would lead to a [£4,800 mortgage increase](https://fullfact.org/election-2024/rachel-reeves-labour-4800-mortgage-rates/) (29 after **fact check** published)

- 26 repeats by Labour of the claim that there are [7.8 million people on NHS waiting lists](https://fullfact.org/health/nhs-pathways-patients-waiting-list-labour/) (All after **fact check** published)

- 9 repeats of the Labour claim that [families are £5,883 worse off under Rishi Sunak](https://fullfact.org/election-2024/labour-general-election-5883/) (1 after **fact check** published)

- 6 repeats of the Scottish National Party claim that the [Scottish Child Payment is keeping 100,000 children out of poverty](https://fullfact.org/election-2024/BBC-Scotland-leaders-debate/) (5 after **fact check** published)

As not all candidates have a Facebook account used for their campaigns, the results are a snapshot of social media activity rather than a representative sample of all candidates from all parties.

[Link to Image](https://content-config.pa.media/factcheck/election-check-24-banner.svg)

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Web Publication

**Journal Code:** 671549964

**Subject:** **FACT CHECKING** (92%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (91%); **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (90%); **ELECTIONS** & POLITICS (89%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); POLITICS (89%); UK POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); SOCIAL MEDIA (79%); CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS** (78%); DEMOCRACIES (78%); **ELECTIONS** (78%); UK CONSERVATIVE PARTY (78%); UK LABOUR PARTY (78%); TAXES & TAXATION (77%); POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS (73%); FAMILY (72%); EXECUTIVES (57%)

**Company:**  GOOGLE LLC (61%); META PLATFORMS INC (57%)

**Ticker:** META (NASDAQ) (57%)

**Industry:** NAICS519290 WEB SEARCH PORTALS AND ALL OTHER INFORMATION SERVICES (61%); NAICS516210 MEDIA STREAMING DIST SVCS, SOCIAL NETWORKS, AND OTHER MEDIA NETWORKS AND CONTENT PROVIDERS (57%); SIC7374 COMPUTER PROCESSING & DATA PREPARATION & PROCESSING SERVICES (57%); **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (90%); SOCIAL MEDIA (79%); ENERGY & UTILITIES (73%)

**Geographic:** UNITED KINGDOM (93%); EUROPE (92%); NORTHERN EUROPE (74%); Europe, Northern Europe

SUB: POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

SUB: **ELECTIONS**

SUB: POLITICAL PARTIES

SUB: DEMOCRACIES

SUB: CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS**

IND: ENERGY & UTILITIES

SUB: SOCIAL MEDIA

IND: SOCIAL MEDIA

SUB: FAMILY

SUB: TAX LAW

SUB: EXECUTIVES

SUB: **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

IND: **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

SUB: **FACT CHECKING**

SUB: GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

SUB: TAXES & TAXATION

SUB: POLITICAL CANDIDATES

SUB: **ELECTIONS** & POLITICS

SUB: POLITICS

**Load-Date:** July 2, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Fact check: AI analysis reveals the ‘tax election’**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6CBM-3VB1-JBNF-W4GV-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 26, 2024 Wednesday 3:58 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK; Version:1

**Length:** 428 words

**Byline:** Full **Fact** Via **Election** **Check** 24

**Highlight:** Full **Fact** examined seven days of the campaign using **artificial intelligence** to reveal the most frequently used terms, claims and commentary themes.

**Body**

This feature of claims from the campaign trail has been compiled by Full **Fact**, the UK’**s** largest **fact checking** charity working to find, expose and counter the harms of bad information, as part of the PA **news** agency’**s** **Election** **Check** 24.

AI-powered analysis of hundreds of hours of **election** interviews and discussions on TV, radio and podcasts over the last seven days reveals that tax was mentioned more than three times as often as immigration, family, or health.

This included 62 mentions of high-profile claims which Full **Fact** has concluded are misleading, yet have dominated discussion across the **election**.

First, the Conservative Party’**s** claims that a [Labour](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/labour) government would lead to £2,000 tax increase for a working family, an unreliable figure based on a number of assumptions and unclear details of Labour’**s** plans. It is also a cumulative estimate – so the Conservatives are claiming every working family will pay £2,000 more in taxes over the next four years, rather than annually.

Second, the Labour Party’**s** claim that a Conservative government would lead to £4,800 increase in mortgage payments, which is a speculative figure that also relies upon uncertain assumptions and seems to describe the additional mortgage cost per year by the end of the parliament, rather than the accumulated cost over the whole parliament.

[Chris Morris](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/chris-morris) , chief executive of Full **Fact**, said: “Instead of the much-trailed ‘AI **election**’ we’ve actually seen a ‘tax **election**’ in which AI has been a critical partner helping us to apply meaningful, real-time scrutiny to misleading claims by major parties.

“Up to and beyond July 4, political parties have to recognise that voters deserve better than cynical scare tactics using fudged numbers.”

Full **Fact**’**s** AI-powered analysis examined transcripts of **election** coverage totalling more than eight million words to produce analysis of the key claims. Against the 6,574 mentions of tax, the analysis found 2,712 mentions of schools, 2,401 mentions of health, and 2,096 mentions of economy, and 486 mentions of mortgages.

Misinformation was mentioned just 18 times, despite polling by [Ipsos](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/ipsos) for Full **Fact** which found that 75% of UK adults expected to have some impact on the result of the **election**.

As the competing tax claims continue to feature in the campaign, recent polling by Savanta for Full **Fact** suggests that voters are sceptical of their honesty – two-thirds (67%) of adults and 85% of undecided voters said they felt that political parties’ costings of other parties’ policies were not honest.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper; Web Publication

**Journal Code:** WEBI

**Subject:** **FACT CHECKING** (91%); **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (89%); VOTERS & VOTING (89%); DISINFORMATION & MISINFORMATION (78%); **ELECTIONS** & POLITICS (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); TRANSCRIPTS (78%); INTERVIEWS (77%); POLITICS (77%); TAXES & TAXATION (77%); POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS (73%); NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN RELATIONS (71%); IMMIGRATION (56%); IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP & DISPLACEMENT (56%); EXECUTIVES (50%)

**Industry:** **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (90%); MORTGAGE LOANS (71%); PODCASTING (56%)

**Geographic:** UNITED KINGDOM (94%)

**Load-Date:** June 26, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Trump obsesses at golf course event over ABC anchor for fact-checking him during debate: 'Foolish fool'**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6CYK-TSF1-JCMC-W2F1-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 13, 2024 Friday 7:36 PM EST

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**Section:** SPORTS BUSINESS **NEWS**, Walt Disney Company **news** & BROADCASTING INDUSTRY **NEWS**

**Length:** 410 words

**Byline:** Katie Hawkinson

**Body**

[Donald Trump](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/donald-trump) has resorted to mocking the [ABC **News** moderator who **fact-checked** him](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-debate-fact-check-harris-abortion-dogs-haiti-b2610810.html) during [his first debate](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-harris-debate-third-truth-social-b2611940.html) with Vice President [Kamala Harris](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/kamala-harris).

ABC **News** moderator David Muir **fact-checked** Trump multiple times during his debate with Harris. Now, the former president is railing against him, calling the broadcaster a "foolish fool" [during a press conference at Trump National Golf Club Los Angeles in Rancho Palos Verdes, California on Friday](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-harris-news-polls-debate-live-b2611012.html).

"You wouldn't have to need a bureau of justice statistics to know that crime is worse than it'**s** ever been," Trump said. "They probably watched the debate and probably heard this foolish man, this foolish fool, make that statement to me that, 'no no, crime is coming down, the FBI said it was coming down.'"

"The FBI defrauded everybody," he claimed. "Because what they did is they used statistics not including some of the worst areas and some of the worst cities."

Muir **fact-checked** Trump'**s** claim that crime is rising in the US during Tuesday'**s** debate.

"Crime here is up and through the roof," Trump said during the debate. "Despite their fraudulent statements that they made. Crime in this country is through the roof. And we have a new form of crime. It'**s** called migrant crime. And it'**s** happening at levels that nobody thought possible."

"As you know, the FBI says overall violent crime is coming down in this country," Muir responded.

At the Friday press conference, Trump went on to say Muir has "good hair but not as good as it was five years ago."

The ABC **News** journalist also called out Trump'**s** false claim that Haitian migrants in Springfield, Ohio are eating pet cats and dogs.

"ABC **News** did reach out to the city manager there," Muir said during the debate. "He told us there had been no credible reports of specific claims of pets being harmed, injured or abused by individuals within the immigrant community."

"Well, I've seen people on television. People on television say, 'My dog was taken and used for food,' so maybe he said that and maybe that'**s** a good thing to say for a city manager," Trump responded, continuing to peddle the false claim.

Fellow moderator Linsey Davis also **fact-checked** Trump'**s** false claim that Democrats want to execute babies after they're born.

"There is no state in this country where it is legal to kill a baby after it'**s** born," Davis told Trump.

[Davis went on to endure racist and sexist abuse online for **fact-checking** the former president](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/debate-moderator-linsey-davis-racism-trump-abc-fact-check-b2610641.html).

*The Independent* has contacted ABC **News** for comment.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Web Publication

**Journal Code:** 671549964

**Subject:** **FACT CHECKING** (91%); CRIME RATES (90%); CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS (90%); GOLF (90%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (90%); CITY GOVERNMENT (89%); FRAUD & FINANCIAL CRIME (89%); NEGATIVE **NEWS** (89%); PRESS CONFERENCES (89%); FALSE STATEMENTS (88%); ABUSE & NEGLECT (78%); DOGS (78%); JOURNALISM (78%); RACISM & XENOPHOBIA (78%); VIOLENT CRIME (75%); SEX & GENDER ISSUES (74%); SPORTS & RECREATION (74%); FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES (73%); CRIMINAL OFFENSES (70%); GOVERNMENT STATISTICS AGENCIES (70%); JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS (70%); STATISTICS (70%); ANIMAL WELFARE (67%); PETS (67%); IMMIGRATION (65%); IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP & DISPLACEMENT (65%); CATS (62%)

**Company:**  GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC (72%)

**Organization:** FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (83%); BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS (57%)

**Ticker:** GS (NYSE) (72%)

**Industry:** NAICS523150 INVESTMENT BANKING AND SECURITIES INTERMEDIATION (72%); NAICS523940 PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT ADVICE (72%); SIC6211 SECURITY BROKERS, DEALERS, & FLOTATION COMPANIES (72%); SIC6282 INVESTMENT ADVICE (72%); SIC6289 SERVICES ALLIED WITH THE EXCHANGE OF SECURITIES OR COMMODITIES, NEC (72%); SIC6798 REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (72%); TELEVISION INDUSTRY (89%); BROADCASTING INDUSTRY (78%); ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS (78%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%); KAMALA HARRIS (79%)

**Geographic:** LOS ANGELES, CA, USA (79%); CALIFORNIA, USA (92%); OHIO, USA (92%); MASSACHUSETTS, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (93%); EUROPE (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); NORTHERN EUROPE (73%); California, Massachusetts & Ohio; United States; Americas, Northern America; Europe, Northern Europe

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2024

**End of Document**



[**ABC News debate moderator Linsey Davis endures racist, sexist abuse on social media for fact-checking Trump**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6CY1-1NT1-DY4H-K3B1-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 11, 2024 Wednesday 10:46 AM GMT

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**Section:** US POLITICS,AMERICAS,WORLD; Version:1

**Length:** 490 words

**Byline:** Ariana Baio and Myriam Page

**Highlight:** ABC **News** moderators **fact-checked** Trump live during the debate in Philadelphia

**Body**

[ABC **News**](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/abc-news) anchor Linsey Davis was subjected to vile racist and sexist abuse online after she **fact-checked** former president [Donald Trump](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/donald-trump) while moderating Tuesday night’**s** [debate](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/debate).

In what marked the very first time the former president and Vice President [Kamala Harris](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/kamala-harris) had ever found themselves in the same room, the [two presidential candidates went head-to-head on the debate stage](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-harris-presidential-debate-live-updates-time-tonight-b2609991.html) in Philadelphia.

Throughout the almost two-hour-long event, Trump repeated a string of wild, debunked claims ranging from abortion to a bizarre falsehood that [migrants are eating pet dogs and cats in Ohio.](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-eating-dogs-debate-springfield-ohio-immigration-b2610751.html)

At one point, Davis [corrected the former president](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-presidential-debate-abortion-birth-b2610601.html%22 title=%22Debate moderator slams Trump’s false claim of babies being aborted after birth) when he falsely stated that some states allow for the “execution” of babies after they are born.

“There is no state in this country where it is legal to kill a baby after it’**s** born,” Davis told Trump.

On X, internet trolls and Trump supporters lashed out at Davis.

While conservatives on the platform accused both Davis and her co-moderator David Muir of being biased and favoring Harris throughout the debate, Davis was especifically targeted with racist and sexist posts.

One [X user called Davis](https://x.com/Free_the_J6ers/status/1833678131535733048) an “idiot DEI [diversity, equity and inclusion] moderator” – an acronym that conservatives have used to make racist attacks on people and undermine their position.

Another user on the platform[told ABC **News** to](https://x.com/WyrmStar/status/1833678129811914977) “puta muzzle on your chick moderator” – a sexist remark referencing Davis.

Terms like “[nasty woman](https://x.com/mac2_laura/status/1833678086262714456) ”, “[b\*\*\*\*](https://x.com/i_forklift/status/1833678108345430173) ”, and other derogatory comments circulated **about** Davis on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter and currently owned by Elon Musk.

Other social media users resorted to vile racial slurs in their attacks on Davis, who is a woman of color.

Meanwhile, an [X account](https://x.com/__TEAM_USA/status/1833689109296205919) with more than 100,000 followers posted a photo of Davis – and not Muir – asking people to: “Raise your hand if you think the ABC moderators for this Presidential Debate are biased against Donald Trump.”

Many others were quick to praise the two moderators for preventing Trump from spreading blatant lies as they live **fact-checked** him throughout the evening.

“The debate tonight was the best debate I have seen in years. @ABC well done,” wrote one X user.

Another praised Davis specifically, saying: “Y’all better put some respect on ABC Linsey Davis’ name. lol”

Another said they were “excellent moderators.”

Trump allies, by contrast, felt it was unfair the two ABC **News** anchors were permitted to **fact check** Trump, believing the former president was debating “three on one” – [something Trump himself stated on Truth Social after the debate.](https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/113116658328924620)

During the first presidential debate between Trump and President Joe Biden back in June, CNN was heavily criticised on social media for not **fact-checking** the candidates and allowing the former president to assert falsehoods without question.

“The biggest loser of this debate?[@CNN](https://x.com/CNN). How do you allow lies to be told and not correct them for everyone watching?” one X user [wrote](https://x.com/rolandsmartin/status/1806501369609695615) at the time.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper; Web Publication

**Journal Code:** WEBI

**Subject:** **FACT CHECKING** (92%); NEGATIVE **NEWS** (92%); ABUSE & NEGLECT (91%); CYBERHARASSMENT (91%); RACISM & XENOPHOBIA (91%); GENDER & SEX DISCRIMINATION (90%); POLITICAL DEBATES (90%); SEX & GENDER ISSUES (90%); DISINFORMATION & MISINFORMATION (89%); NEGATIVE SOCIETAL **NEWS** (89%); SOCIAL MEDIA (89%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2012 (89%); CONSERVATISM (78%); DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (78%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (78%); INTERNET TROLLING (78%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (78%); RACE & ETHNICITY (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2008 (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL **ELECTIONS** (76%); DOGS (73%); ABORTION (70%); CATS (70%); PETS (70%)

**Industry:** SOCIAL MEDIA (89%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (78%); INTERNET TROLLING (78%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (89%); ELON MUSK (79%); JOE BIDEN (79%); KAMALA HARRIS (79%)

**Geographic:** PENNSYLVANIA, USA (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%)

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Trump advisors 'urged ABC to stop fact checking' amid former president's war on the media**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6D66-XF41-F03F-K08T-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 14, 2024 Monday 8:41 PM EST

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**Section:** WALT DISNEY COMPANY **NEWS**, Broadcasting industry **news** & TELEVISION INDUSTRY **NEWS**

**Length:** 644 words

**Byline:** Mike Bedigan

**Body**

[Donald Trump](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/donald-trump)'**s** advisors reportedly blew up at [ABC](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/abc) executives midway through his televised [debate with Kamala Harris](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-cbs-60-minutes-interview-b2626525.html) and complained **about** **fact checking**.

People familiar with the matter told *The Washington Post* that top Trump aides Chris LaCivita and Jason Miller claimed [the network had breached](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-abc-debate-license-harris-b2611073.html) a pre-agreed set of rules for the [debate](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/debate) on September 10.

In recent weeks Trump has bemoaned the insistence of networks to **fact-check** his speeches, [raising spurious allegations](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-media-attacks-lawsuits-news-b2266662.html) of corruption and bias, and even threatened to somehow revoke broadcast licenses for major networks that air critical coverage.

His running mate JD Vance has also echoed the complaints, calling out CBS journalist Margaret Brennan, for correcting one of his claims during the vice presidential debate with Tim Walz earlier this month.

Before Trump'**s** debate with Harris, Miller, a spokesman for the Trump campaign, said the team was told by an ABC journalist that similar to the first presidential debate which aired on CNN, there would be no **fact checks** from the moderators.

[Link to Image](https://static.independent.co.uk/2024/10/10/18/SEI224895133.jpg)

However, there were no limitations on **fact-checking**, according to a copy of the ABC **News** debate rules, obtained by *The Post*.

Anonymous sources with knowledge of the situation told the outlet that advisers including LaCivita and Miller erupted at executives and journalists at ABC and requested that **fact-checking** be stopped for the remainder of the debate.

*The Post* reported that a complaint was made to the president of ABC **News** by Susie Wiles, the campaign'**s** top aide and at least one Trump adviser demanded to talk to the moderators during the debate.

*The Independent* has contacted the Trump campaign and ABC **News** for comment over the claims.

The day after the debate, a furious Trump demanded that the **news** network that hosted the matchup have its "license" revoked. Calling into *Fox and Friends,* the former president claimed it had been a "three-on-one" debate and suggested he would not do another.

[Link to Image](https://static.independent.co.uk/2024/10/14/17/newFile.jpg)

"To be honest, they're a **news** organization. They have to be licensed to do it. They ought to take away their license for the way they did that," he said.

The former president also continues to rile up supporters at his campaign rallies against the media in general, accusing them of misreporting his words, **facts**, mental acuity and the size of his crowds.

Last week he threatened another major broadcast network, CBS, after dropping out of an interview with 60 Minutes. Trump baselessly suggested that the network did something "illegal" by airing an interview with Harris, and claimed without evidence that the interview violated campaign finance laws.

"I've never seen this before, but the producers of 60 Minutes sliced and diced ('cut and pasted') Lyin' Kamala'**s** answers to questions, which were virtually incoherent, over and over again, some by as many as four times in a single sentence or thought, all in an effort, possibly illegal as part of the '**News** Division,' which must be licensed, to make her look 'more Presidential,' or a least, better," Trump wrote on Truth Social on Wednesday.

[Link to Image](https://static.independent.co.uk/2024/10/03/05/Election_2024_Debate_22017.jpg)

He claimed that the interview may amount to a "major Campaign Finance Violation" and demanded a "MAJOR AND IMMEDIATE APOLOGY."

During his presidency, Trump lashed out at journalists as "fake **news**" and "enemy of the people" more than 2,000 times in his presidency, according to The Independent'**s** review of his statements.

He has also suggested journalists should be thrown in jail for not revealing their sources, and has reportedly privately weighed using federal law enforcement to investigate publishers.

Project 2025'**s** plans for a hypothetical second administration for Trump also supports defunding public broadcasting outlets like PBS and NPR, and urges an incoming administration to re-evaluate its relationship with the media, including potentially dissolving the White House press corps.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Web Publication

**Journal Code:** 671549964

**Subject:** **FACT CHECKING** (92%); JOURNALISM (90%); POLITICAL DEBATES (90%); INTERVIEWS (89%); NEGATIVE **NEWS** (89%); BROADCASTING REGULATION (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2012 (78%); NEGATIVE MISC **NEWS** (77%); CAMPAIGN FINANCE (76%); **ELECTION** LAW (76%); **NEWS** REPORTING (76%); LICENSES & PERMITS (75%); CORRUPTION (71%)

**Company:**  GRAHAM HOLDINGS CO (58%)

**Ticker:** GHC (NYSE) (58%)

**Industry:** NAICS516210 MEDIA STREAMING DIST SVCS, SOCIAL NETWORKS, AND OTHER MEDIA NETWORKS AND CONTENT PROVIDERS (58%); BROADCASTING INDUSTRY (90%); ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS (90%); TELEVISION INDUSTRY (90%); BROADCASTING REGULATION (78%); NETWORK TELEVISION (78%); TELEVISION **NEWS** SHOWS (78%); **NEWS** REPORTING (76%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%); KAMALA HARRIS (79%); J D VANCE (73%); TIMOTHY J WALZ (58%)

**Geographic:** EUROPE (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (89%); NORTHERN EUROPE (73%); Texas; United States; Americas, Northern America; Europe, Northern Europe

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2024

**End of Document**



[**The real loser: CNN blasted for unhinged debate with little fact checking on Trump’s lies and Biden’s rambling**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6CC1-JCW1-DY4H-K0GD-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 28, 2024 Friday 1:41 PM GMT

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**Section:** US POLITICS,AMERICAS,WORLD; Version:2

**Length:** 600 words

**Byline:** Kelly Rissman

**Highlight:** ‘This is truly one of CNN’**s** worst nights,’ one X user wrote

**Body**

[CNN](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/cnn) received just as much heat for its [Thursday night debate performance](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-biden-presidential-debate-cnn-live-stream-b2569761.html) as the two presidential candidates as viewers slammed the network moderators’ hands-off approach, which allowed President Joe Biden to ramble and former President Donald Trump to lie without pushback.

Viewers [groaned over each performance](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/who-won-debate-polls-trump-biden-b2570405.html) that often ended with a “thank you” from moderators Dana Bash and Jake Tapper.

Many on[social media](https://x.com/FishGuyDave/status/1806509710285103293) [dubbed](https://x.com/Millennial_Dems/status/1806520197315957145) CNN the [real “loser](https://x.com/djrothkopf/status/1806510578250166692) ” in Thursday night’**s** debate. The network’**s** decisions to exclude real-time **fact-checking** and not have the moderators pushback at candidates’ answers created chaos and a disservice to Americans watching, viewers argued.

One unnamed CNN journalist even told [Mediate](https://www.mediaite.com/news/we-blew-it-cnn-journo-blasts-lack-of-fact-checking-at-debate-debacle/) the network “blew it.”

“There should have been some **fact-checking**,” the source told the outlet.

The candidates sometimes dodged answering the question asked, and even [began arguing **about** golf](https://www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-biden-debate-golf-handicaps-b2570416.html). Moderators also did not interject to correct Trump, who made[30 false claims](https://www.cnn.com/2024/06/27/politics/fact-checking-the-cnn-presidential-debate/index.html) during the debate while the president made nine, according to an online **fact check** by CNN — an important service that was wholly absent during the live debate.

Trump repeated familiar lies **about** abortion, the January 6 Capitol attack and that Biden fabricated the “losers and suckers” remark Trump made **about** the military. Meanwhile, Biden mixed up the figures when describing Medicare policies, falsely claimed no troops had died during his term, and exaggerated Trump’**s** 2020 bleach antidote for Covid-19.

Bash and Tapper instead thanked each candidate for their responses, without offering follow-up questions or giving them a chance to clarify — or speak up, in the case of a hoarse Joe Biden.

Many viewers took to social media to voice their disappointment around the debate’**s** handling.

“The biggest loser of this debate?[@CNN](https://x.com/CNN). How do you allow lies to be told and not correct them for everyone watching?” one X user [said](https://x.com/rolandsmartin/status/1806501369609695615).

“Apparently, ‘debate moderator’ means a person who can read questions off a card and do absolutely no follow-up or [**fact checking**](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/fact-checking) or accountability or context for voters,” anoter user [wrote](https://x.com/cmclymer/status/1806517091073188221). “This is truly one of CNN’**s** worst nights. Everyone involved in making decisions for it should feel embarrassed.”

“The biggest loser in last night’**s** debate wasn’t Joe Biden. It was CNN and the truth. It was complete journalistic malpractice to abdicate all responsibility for **fact checking**. CNN cleared the field and cultivated it for the most consequential liar of all time,” another X user stated.

“You’d think after the last [@CNN](https://x.com/CNN) moderation fail that they would have learned. Absolutely aiding in destroying our democracy to not **fact check** a liar. Wow,” another added in a theme that developed thoughout the night.

“Bash/Tapper/CNN’**s** passive approach is appalling,” one noted.

One user went so far as to [declare](https://x.com/ljoywilliams/status/1806505301220241425) : “CNN shouldn’t be allowed to host debates anymore.”

Political commentator Keith Olbermann [wrote](https://x.com/KeithOlbermann/status/1806505809662124241) : “CNN’**s** decision to abrogate its journalistic responsibilities by not **fact checking** Trump’**s** firehose of lies is unforgivable.” He added: “This debate is Biden vs the tag team of Trump and CNN’**s** utter failure as a **news** organization.”

Washington Post commentator Karen Attiah [slammed](https://x.com/KarenAttiah/status/1806660954333106376) the network as doing a disservice to the journalism industry. “CNN’**s** moderating decisions damage the credibility of our profession,” she wrote. ​​”CNN’**s** format of no **fact checking**, no pushback, no follow-ups was a mistake. The Biden campaign agreeing to this was a mistake.”

Attiah argued the network’**s** choices aided Trump: “It demonstrates Trump’**s** strength and power. He can bend the media and Biden to play by his rules.”

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper; Web Publication

**Journal Code:** WEBI

**Subject:** **FACT CHECKING** (92%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (90%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2008 (90%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2012 (90%); US PRESIDENTIAL **ELECTIONS** (90%); HEADS OF GOVERNMENT **ELECTIONS** (89%); **ELECTIONS** & POLITICS (78%); JOURNALISM (78%); NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN RELATIONS (78%); POLITICS (78%); TYPES OF GOVERNMENT (78%); WRITERS (78%); SOCIAL MEDIA (76%); DEMOCRACIES (73%); 2021 US CAPITOL RIOTS (72%); NEGATIVE **NEWS** (72%); MEDICARE (68%); ARMED FORCES (66%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (65%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (50%)

**Industry:** TELEVISION INDUSTRY (90%); WRITERS (78%); SOCIAL MEDIA (76%); MEDICARE (68%); ARMED FORCES (66%)

**Person:** JOE BIDEN (89%); DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** UNITED KINGDOM (90%); UNITED STATES (79%)

**Load-Date:** June 28, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Trump threatened to back out of Black journalists interview over live fact-checking**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6CMH-7W31-F03F-K2RC-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 2, 2024 Friday 3:36 PM EST

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**Section:** JOURNALISM **NEWS**

**Length:** 593 words

**Byline:** Graig Graziosi

**Body**

[Donald Trump](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/donald-trump) reportedly didn't want to be live **fact-checked** during his [disastrous visit](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/harris-trump-latest-election-polls-black-interview-voters-b2589436.html?page=7) to the [National Association of Black Journalists'](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-news-live-harris-2024-jd-vance-b2586910.html?page=2) annual convention in [Chicago](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/chicago), according to the group'**s** president.

NABJ president Ken Lemon confirmed to [Axios](https://www.axios.com/2024/08/02/trump-nabj-fact-checking-black-journalists) that Trump initially refused to take the stage if the journalists **fact-checked** him live. [The disastrous Q&A](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-national-association-black-journalists-livestream-b2589070.html) with the former president was ultimately delayed by more than an hour - though that is not unusual for a Trump event - but he did eventually [sit for the talk](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/harris-trump-rally-nabj-event-b2589291.html).

Trump blamed the delay on problems with the venue'**s** audio. Lemon confirmed that there had been audio issues, but they were solved quickly, and that Trump'**s** reluctance to be **fact-checked** was holding up the event.

Lemon told Axios that the "bigger problem was his threat not to take the stage."

"He did not want to be **fact-checked**, but we could not let him on the stage without **fact-checking**," he said.

Lemon said that he was preparing himself to go out to the crowd and explain why Trump wouldn't be appearing when the former president decided to walk out and do the Q&A.

The Trump campaign disputed Lemon'**s** account to *Axios*, saying Trump had to wait for "close to" 40 minutes for an audio issue to be resolved.

Trump then had a contentious discussion with the panel journalists, and make the [especially bizarre comment that Vice President Kamala Harris](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-birther-kamala-harris-racism-b2589936.html) "turned" Black after previously describing herself as Indian.

"I didn't know she was Black," he said on Wednesday. "She happened to turn Black, and now she wants to be known as Black. So I don't know, is she Indian or is she Black? ... I respect either one, but she obviously doesn't, because she was Indian all the way and all of a sudden she made a turn and she became a Black person."

[Harris has both Black and Indian heritages](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/kamala-harris-background-race-trump-b2589684.html). Her father is from Jamaica and her mother is Indian. The presumptive Democratic nominee for president is both the first African-American and Asian-American vice president.

When *ABC* ***News****'* Rachel Scott asked Trump why he made inflammatory comments **about** reporters of color and lied **about** his rivals, he simply complained that the journalists weren't being nice enough to him.

"I don't think I've been asked a question in such a horrible manner," Trump said. "You don't even say hello, how are you."

[Link to Image](https://static.independent.co.uk/2024/07/31/20/SEI215166787.jpg)

Trump later repeated his claim that he has done "so much for the Black population of this country" and insisted he was the "best president for the Black population since Abraham Lincoln."

In the wake of Trump'**s** comments **about** Harris'**s** racial background, [#WhenIturnedBlack began trending](https://www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/us-politics/when-i-turned-black-trump-harris-b2589416.html) on X [to mock](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/simone-biles-donald-trump-black-jobs-olympics-b2590209.html) the former president'**s** apparent inability to comprehend the existence of a biracial individual.

Trump'**s** convention appearance was met with concern and condemnation from some commenters online, but Lemon said the organization was acting in accordance with its guidelines when it invited the former president.

"I consulted with a group of our Founders and past NABJ Presidents Tuesday on-site in Chicago, and as a group, we affirmed that the invitation to Former President Trump was in line with NABJ'**s** usual practices since 1976," Lemon said. "It has always been our policy to ensure that candidates know that an invitation is not an endorsement. We also agreed that while this race is much different - and contentious - so are the consequences."

"While we acknowledge the concerns expressed by our members, we believe it is important for us to provide our members with the opportunity to hear directly from candidates and hold them accountable," he added.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Web Publication

**Journal Code:** 671549964

**Subject:** **FACT CHECKING** (93%); INTERVIEWS (90%); JOURNALISM (90%); WRITERS (90%); AFRICAN AMERICANS (79%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (78%); CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS (78%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (71%)

**Industry:** WRITERS (90%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (92%); KAMALA HARRIS (92%); ROBERT W BEST (57%)

**Geographic:** CHICAGO, IL, USA (58%); ILLINOIS, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (95%); EUROPE (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); CARIBBEAN ISLANDS (73%); NORTHERN EUROPE (73%); Illinois; United States & Jamaica; Americas, Northern America; Americas, Caribbean; Europe, Northern Europe

SUB: JOURNALISM

SUB: INTERVIEWS

SUB: WRITERS

IND: WRITERS

SUB: **FACT CHECKING**

SUB: CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS

GEO: UNITED STATES

PEO: KAMALA HARRIS

SUB: AFRICAN AMERICANS

SUB: HATE SPEECH

PEO: ROBERT W BEST

SUB: POLITICAL CANDIDATES

PEO: DONALD TRUMP

SUB: ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

**Load-Date:** August 2, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Trump says he's not looking for 'retribution' against the press - so long as they treat him 'fairly'**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6DFR-PF71-F03F-K1JD-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

November 19, 2024 Tuesday 3:22 PM EST

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**Length:** 538 words

**Byline:** Kelly Rissman

**Body**

After agreeing to [take meetings with journalists,](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/morning-joe-mika-meet-trump-jon-stewart-b2649684.html) President-**elect** [Donald Trump](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-matt-gaetz-pressure-senators-house-ethics-report-b2649616.html) says he'**s** "not looking for retribution" against the press, but warns if they don't treat him fairly, "that will end."

Despite calling for two networks' broadcast licenses to be revoked and wanting a third to be investigated for treason on the campaign trail, now that he has been re-**elected**, [Trump](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-deportation-emergency-military-poll-b2649200.html) assured he has no plans to exact revenge on the media.

"I am not looking for retribution, grandstanding or to destroy people who treated me very unfairly, or even badly beyond comprehension," he told [Fox **News** Digital](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-says-media-vital-making-america-great-again-vows-work-free-fair-open-press). But he also acknowledged that he "obviously" has "the upper hand at this moment."

He added: "I am always looking to give a second and even third chance, but never willing to give a fourth chance - that is where I hold the line."

The comment comes after [Trump](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/donald-trump-news-cabinet-picks-live-updates-b2649022.html?page=2) met with *Morning Joe* hosts Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski at Mar-a-Lago over the weekend. The pair, who have been critical of Trump during his re-**election** campaign, said they hoped to ["restart communications"](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/morning-joe-mika-trump-florida-meeting-b2649071.html) with him.

During the meeting, Trump appeared " cheerful," "upbeat" and "interested in finding common ground with Democrats on some of the most divisive issues," Brzezinski said.

After years of [referring](https://x.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1114221533461790721) to **news** outlets as "LameStream Media," "fake **news**," and "​​[enemy of the people](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-media-attacks-lawsuits-news-b2266662.html)," the 78-year-old suggested that he has turned over a new leaf as he prepares for his second term.

He feels "an obligation to the American public, and to our country itself, to be open and available to the press," he said before clarifying: "If not treated fairly, however, that will end."

The president-**elect** continues: "The media is very important to the long-term success of the United States of America."

The remarks also come months after Trump made a fuss **about** how [ABC **News**](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-campaign-abc-fact-checking-b2629140.html) treated him during his debate against Vice President Kamala Harris. He took issue with the network'**s** live real-time [**fact-checking**](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-debate-fact-check-harris-abortion-dogs-haiti-b2610810.html).

"[They ought to take away their license for the way they did that,](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-abc-debate-license-harris-b2611073.html)" he told *Fox & Friends* at the time. Trump was **fact-checked** while on the debate stage as he amplified baseless claims that [migrants were eating pets](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-eating-dogs-debate-springfield-ohio-immigration-b2610751.html), the 2020 **election** was "rigged," and Democrats supported [abortions after birth](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-presidential-debate-abortion-birth-b2610601.html).

[Link to Image](https://static.independent.co.uk/2024/11/19/15/SEI227784268.jpg)

He also took aim at CBS **News** for its *60 Minutes* interview with Kamala Harris, alleging the network deceptively edited it. Trump not only threatened to revoke its broadcast license, but also [sued CBS last month](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-sues-cbs-harris-interview-b2639281.html).

The suit accuses the network of "partisan and unlawful acts of **election** and voter interference through malicious, deceptive, and substantial **news** distortion calculated to ... confuse, deceive, and mislead the public." The edits were made in an "attempt to tip the scales" in favor of the vice president to get her **elected**, the [filing](https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.txnd.396451/gov.uscourts.txnd.396451.1.0.pdf) says.

Last September, he called for NBC to be investigated for "country threatening treason" in a [Truth Social post](https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/111122815628828712).

In the same post, he offered an ominous message to the media broadly: "I say up front, openly, and proudly, that when I WIN the Presidency of the United States, they and others of the LameStream Media will be thoroughly scrutinized for their knowingly dishonest and corrupt coverage of people, things, and events."

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Web Publication

**Journal Code:** 671549964

**Subject:** CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS** (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); **FACT CHECKING** (89%); LICENSES & PERMITS (89%); **ELECTIONS** (78%); **ELECTIONS** & POLITICS (78%); FAKE **NEWS** (78%); PARTISANSHIP (78%); BROADCASTING REGULATION (77%); NEGATIVE **NEWS** (76%); SUITS & CLAIMS (75%); **ELECTION** FRAUD (73%); CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS (71%)

**Company:**  FOX ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC (84%)

**Industry:** NAICS516120 TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS (84%); SIC4833 TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS (84%); BROADCASTING INDUSTRY (77%); BROADCASTING REGULATION (77%)

**Person:** KAMALA HARRIS (92%); DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** UNITED STATES (94%); EUROPE (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); NORTHERN EUROPE (73%); United States; Americas, Northern America; Europe, Northern Europe

**Load-Date:** November 19, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Even Musk's Grok knows: X's AI system named Elon as one of the biggest pushers of misinformation on platform**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6DDD-7GR1-JCMC-W241-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

November 12, 2024 Tuesday 10:30 PM EST

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**Section:** TECH LATEST

**Length:** 596 words

**Byline:** Julia Musto

**Body**

Elon Musk'**s** own [**artificial intelligence** model Grok](https://www.independent.co.uk/tech/grok-ai-elon-musk-x-election-harris-trump-b2603457.html) is calling the billionaire out for his spread of misinformation on X.

The chatbot highlighted Musk after user Gary Koepnick asked it who personally spreads the most misinformation on the social media platform the [SpaceX founder](https://www.independent.co.uk/space/spacex-musk-california-rocket-launch-b2630370.html) acquired two years ago.

"Based on various analyses, social media sentiment, and reports, [Elon Musk](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/elon-musk) has been identified as one of the most significant spreaders of misinformation on X since he acquired the platform," Grok [replied](https://x.com/i/grok/share/WgjRFTOsGa7ktCViVM6mXcO4I).

It cited Musk'**s** massive reach, the content of the posts he has shared regarding politics and Covid, a change in content moderation, external criticism, and the Tesla co-founder'**s** influence.

"When he comments on or shares misinformation, it tends to gain legitimacy among his followers, which can have real-world consequences, especially during significant events like **elections**," Grok added.

The AI system noted that the definition of "misinformation" can be subjective, that there is a complex ecosystem on X that spreads misinformation, and that the rapid proliferation of information on social media contributes to the problem "beyond any single individual'**s** actions."

When questioned **about** Musk'**s** spread of misinformation, Grok said that there is "substantial evidence and analysis suggesting that Elon Musk has spread misinformation on various topics, including **elections**."

He shared manipulated videos and debunked claims **about** voting processes, [Grok said](https://x.com/i/grok/share/sd51uGodABes3SWRSsxx8wfRK). It listed CBS **News**, CNN'**s** Zachary Cohen, Mother Jones, and other **news** outlets and users as a part of its replies.

"This collective evidence from **news** analyses, research reports, and social media posts indicates that Elon Musk has indeed been a significant spreader of misinformation, impacting potentially billions of people through his platform and personal influence," it told Koepnick.

He was not the only one who reported such responses. While Musk did not immediately reply to *The Independent'****s*** request for comment, it is worth noting that the AI platform'**s** reliability on these topics -- like most AI chatbots -- is conditional. [Vice **News**](https://www.vice.com/en/article/elon-musks-grok-ai-is-pushing-misinformation-and-legitimizing-conspiracies/?utm_source=vicenewstwitter) reported last year that the chatbot had produced fake timelines for **news** events and misinformation when tested.

But, Musk himself has touted Grok'**s** performance this month, including its ability to [explain memes](https://x.com/elonmusk/status/1855154819818045481).

[Link to Image](https://static.independent.co.uk/2024/11/12/21/iStock-1591754867.jpg)

"You can upload any image to Grok, including medical imaging and get its (non-doctor) opinion. Grok accurately diagnosed a friend of mine from his scans," Musk [said](https://x.com/elonmusk/status/1855143365173821676) last week.

"Use Grok for answers that are based on up-to-date info!" he [said](https://x.com/elonmusk/status/1855843259513548977) on Monday.

He'**s** also railed against what he calls ["legacy](https://x.com/elonmusk/status/1856347227007992099)" media and its ["hoaxes,"](https://x.com/elonmusk/status/1855560954534416627) saying the real media is made up of X users and the public.

Appearing on *"*[The Joe Rogan Experience" podcast](https://x.com/AutismCapital/status/1853585160459211187) the day before the **election**, Musk discussed misinformation on X and the use of the Community Notes feature, noting he often gets **checked** and doesn't take notes on his posts down.

"The counter to misinformation is better information," he said.

Musk spread [misinformation **about** FEMA funding](https://x.com/elonmusk/status/1842284602422899189) for hurricane survivors earlier in the year. A report from the non-profit Center for Countering Digital Hate found at least 87 of Musk'**s** posts this year have promoted claims **about** the US **elections** that **fact**-checkers have rated as false or misleading, amassing 2 billion views. "None of these posts featured a Community Note, X'**s** name for user-generated **fact-checks**," it [said](https://counterhate.com/research/musk-political-posts-x/).

The social media platform is running a public beta program of Grok until the end of the year. This version of Grok was introduced to users in August.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Web Publication

**Journal Code:** 671549964

**Subject:** DISINFORMATION & MISINFORMATION (95%); **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (90%); CHATBOTS (89%); CONVERSATIONAL AI (89%); GENERATIVE AI (89%); REPORTS, REVIEWS & SECTIONS (89%); SOCIAL MEDIA (89%); SOCIAL MEDIA MISINFORMATION (78%); WEALTHY PEOPLE (78%); PHOTO & VIDEO SHARING (77%); PLATFORMS & ISSUES (77%); SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS (77%); **ELECTIONS** & POLITICS (75%); SPACE PROGRAMS (74%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (70%); RESEARCH REPORTS (67%); DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING (61%); BUSINESS REPORTS & FORECASTS (56%)

**Industry:** **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (90%); CHATBOTS (89%); CONVERSATIONAL AI (89%); GENERATIVE AI (89%); SOCIAL MEDIA (89%); SOCIAL MEDIA MISINFORMATION (78%); PHOTO & VIDEO SHARING (77%); SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS (77%); SPACE PROGRAMS (74%); DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING (61%); PODCASTING (50%)

**Person:** ELON MUSK (94%)

**Geographic:** EUROPE (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); NORTHERN EUROPE (73%); United States; Americas, Northern America; Europe, Northern Europe

**Load-Date:** November 13, 2024

**End of Document**



[**The US elections are under attack from hostile countries - and more is coming, Microsoft says**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6D8B-MCK1-F03F-K1WP-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 24, 2024 Thursday 4:18 PM EST

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**Section:** TECH LATEST, Microsoft **news**, Asia-Pacific latest, Iran **news**, US **news** & MIDDLE EAST **NEWS**

**Length:** 679 words

**Byline:** Andrew Griffin

**Body**

The upcoming US **elections** are being hacked by hostile states, Microsoft has claimed.

There are "sustained influence efforts by Russia, Iran, and China aimed at undermining US democratic processes", according to the Microsoft Threat Analysis Center.

Their work includes amplifying divisive messages, attacking **election**-related websites, sharing stolen and private material and using generative AI to make misleading posts, Microsoft said.

Those attacks are likely to step up as the **election** approaches on 5 November, Microsoft warned. It said that such attacks can "significantly impact public perception and electoral outcomes" and warned that "early detection and **fact-checking** remain essential to countering these efforts and maintaining **election** integrity".

The attacks include an army of Chinese-controlled social media bots is attempting to influence voters in Alabama, Texas and Tennessee, while denigrating US Senator Marco Rubio of Florida.

The operation represents a coordinated interference effort against down-ballot races, experts say, in which the fake accounts are denigrating **U.S**. Representative Barry Moore of Alabama, US Representative Michael McCaul of Texas, Tennessee US Senator Marsha Blackburn and Rubio, all Republicans.

The troll network has "parroted antisemitic messages, amplified accusations of corruption and promoted opposition candidates," according to Microsoft.

The group responsible is known as Taizi Flood, which has been previously associated with China'**s** Ministry of Public Security, researchers say. The lawmakers were each targeted because they had denounced Chinese government policies historically, the report notes.

A spokesperson for China'**s** embassy in Washington said China "has no intention and will not interfere in the US **election**" and that such claims are "full of malicious speculations."

An Iranian hacking group is also actively scouting **U.S**. **election**-related websites and American media outlets as **Election** Day nears, with activity suggesting preparations for more "direct influence operations," Microsoft said.

The hackers, dubbed Cotton Sandstorm by Microsoft and linked to Iran'**s** Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, performed reconnaissance and limited probing of multiple "**election**-related websites" in several unnamed battleground states, the report said. In May, they also scanned an unidentified US **news** outlet to understand its vulnerabilities.

"Cotton Sandstorm will increase its activity as the **election** nears given the group'**s** operational tempo and history of **election** interference," researchers wrote. The development is particularly concerning because of the group'**s** past efforts, they said.

A spokesperson for Iran'**s** mission to the United Nations said that "such allegations are fundamentally unfounded, and wholly inadmissible".

"Iran neither has any motive nor intent to interfere in the **U.S**. **election**," the spokesperson said.

In 2020, Cotton Sandstorm launched a different cyber-enabled influence operation shortly before the last presidential **election**, according to US officials. Posing as the right-wing "Proud Boys," the hackers sent thousands of emails to Florida residents, threatening them to "vote for Trump or else!"

The group also released a video on social media, purporting to come from activist hackers, where they showed them probing an **election** system. While that operation never affected individual voting systems, the goal was to cause chaos, confusion and doubt, senior US officials said at the time.

Following the 2020 **election**, Cotton Sandstorm also ran a separate operation that encouraged violence against US **election** officials who had denied claims of widespread voter fraud, Microsoft said.

The Office of the Director of National **Intelligence**, which is coordinating the **U.S**. federal effort to protect the **election** from foreign influence, referred Reuters to a past statement that said: "Foreign actors, particularly Russia, Iran and China, remain intent on fanning divisive narratives to divide Americans and undermine Americans' confidence in the US democratic system".

*Additional reporting by agencies*

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Web Publication

**Journal Code:** 671549964

**Subject:** US CONGRESS (91%); **ELECTIONS** (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); US FEDERAL **ELECTIONS** (90%); CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS** (89%); COMPUTER CRIME (89%); CYBERCRIME (89%); **ELECTION** CRIME (89%); HACKING (89%); NEGATIVE **NEWS** (89%); NEGATIVE TECHNOLOGY **NEWS** (89%); VOTERS & VOTING (89%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (79%); **FACT CHECKING** (78%); GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (78%); GOVERNMENT BODIES & OFFICES (78%); HATE SPEECH (78%); INTERNET TROLLING (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL **ELECTIONS** (78%); NEGATIVE MISC **NEWS** (77%); **ELECTION** INTEGRITY (73%); HEADS OF GOVERNMENT **ELECTIONS** (73%); MUSLIMS & ISLAM (73%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (73%); RACISM & XENOPHOBIA (73%); ANTISEMITISM (72%); EMBASSIES & CONSULATES (72%); SOCIAL MEDIA (72%); NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN RELATIONS (70%); CORRUPTION (66%); PUBLIC POLICY (65%); UNITED NATIONS (60%); GENERATIVE AI (56%); RELIGION (50%)

**Company:**  MICROSOFT CORP (90%)

**Ticker:** MSFT (NASDAQ) (90%)

**Industry:** SIC7372 PREPACKAGED SOFTWARE (90%); COMPUTER CRIME (89%); CYBERCRIME (89%); HACKING (89%); INTERNET TROLLING (78%); SOCIAL MEDIA (72%); GENERATIVE AI (56%)

**Person:** BARRY MOORE (79%); MARSHA BLACKBURN (79%); MARCO RUBIO (67%); MICHAEL T MCCAUL (57%)

**Geographic:** ALABAMA, USA (93%); TEXAS, USA (93%); UNITED STATES (99%); CHINA (95%); ASIA (94%); EUROPE (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); EASTERN ASIA (79%); MIDDLE EAST (79%); NORTHERN EUROPE (79%); EASTERN EUROPE (58%); Alabama & Texas; United States, Russia, Iran & China; Americas, Northern America; Europe, Eastern Europe; Asia, Southern Asia; Asia, Eastern Asia; Europe, Northern Europe

**Load-Date:** October 25, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Trump lashes out at NYT and its 'third rate writer' after report on president-elect's aide's adoring letters**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6DH6-V9M1-JCMC-W2C6-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

November 26, 2024 Tuesday 11:10 AM EST

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**Length:** 699 words

**Byline:** Joe Sommerlad

**Body**

[Donald Trump has](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/donald-trump) [lashed out at](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-cabinet-transition-news-latest-updates-b2653344.html) the "failing" [New York Times](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/the-new-york-times) in an overnight [Truth Social](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/truth-social) rant, demanding an apology for its "junk" coverage of him and singling out its correspondent [Maggie Haberman](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/maggie-haberman) for particular criticism.

"Will the failing New York Times apologize to its readers for getting years of 'Trump' coverage so wrong," the president-**elect** [wrote in the post](https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/113547497507469626).

"They write such phony 'junk', knowing full well how incorrect it is, only meaning to demean."

Pivoting to Haberman, Trump mockingly misspelled the reporter'**s** name as he wrote: "Magot Hagerman, a third rate writer and fourth rate intellect, writes story after story, always terrible, and yet I almost never speak to her.

"They do no **fact checking**, because **facts** don't matter to them. I don't believe I've had a legitimately good story in the NYT for years, AND YET I WON, IN RECORD FASHION, THE MOST CONSEQUENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL **ELECTION** IN DECADES. WHERE IS THE APOLOGY?"

*The Independent* has reached out to *The New York Times* for comment.

Contrary to Trump'**s** allegation, the newspaper has a long history of rigorous **fact-checking** and has been [at pains to explain its methods to readers](http://click.linksynergy.com/deeplink?id=fZYk0n0yYYI&mid=39812&murl=https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/24/insider/new-york-times-fact-checks-candidates.html) in the interests of transparency.

It is not clear what specifically rattled Trump on Monday night.

However, the rant came shortly after the publication of a [new NYT report,](http://click.linksynergy.com/deeplink?id=fZYk0n0yYYI&mid=39812&murl=https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/25/us/politics/trump-natalie-harp.html) from Haberman and her colleague Jonathan Swan, which revealed Trump'**s** aide Natalie Harp had sent him [a series of passionate letters](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/natalie-harp-trump-aide-letters-b2653576.html), declaring in one: "You are all that matters to me."

Harp, a [former right-wing cable television host](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-cabinet-conservatives-maga-populism-b2653525.html), had been on [Trump'**s** radar since 2019](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-cabinet-transition-news-latest-updates-b2653344.html) after her story of cancer survival caught his attention and he invited her to speak at the 2020 Republican National Convention (RNC). She later joined his staff in 2022 as a devoted aide, though she has no official title. It is also uncertain what role, if any, Harp will have in the forthcoming administration.

Sources told the *Times* that Harp, 33, sent a series of letters to Trump in 2023 which raised eyebrows among some in Trump'**s** camp. "I don't ever want to let you down," read one of the letters, in which she also thanked Trump for being her "Guardian and Protector in this Life."

Steven Cheung, Trump'**s** spokesman, told *the Times* that Harp was "trusted and valued" and credited her "work ethic and dedication" for helping Trump win the **2024** **election**.

The same night the report came out, Haberman also appeared on [Kaitlan Collins](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/kaitlan-collins)'**s** CNN show *The Source*, where she speculated **about** the prospect of Trump seeking revenge on Special Counsel [Jack Smith](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/jack-smith) once he enters the Oval Office in January.

[Link to Image](https://static.independent.co.uk/2024/05/29/16/Trump_Hush_Money_62100.jpg)

Smith [dropped the two federal cases](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-case-jack-smith-election-interference-b2653433.html) accusing Trump of **election** interference and illegally retaining classified documents on Monday.

On Monday night'**s** show, Collins asked Haberman how Trump'**s** attorney general nominee [Pam Bondi](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/pam-bondi) might respond if the incoming president called upon her to investigate Smith, as she previously threatened would happen during an interview with Fox **News** last year.

"I think you can expect that Pam Bondi and everybody else who has to go through a confirmation hearing are going to be asked by the Democratic senators **about** those comments," Haberman [answered](https://www.mediaite.com/tv/maggie-haberman-says-people-are-sorely-mistaken-if-they-think-trumps-aides-will-stop-him-from-investigating-jack-smiths-team/).

"And it'll be very interesting to see what she says.

"I mean, to your point, there was a lot of celebration **about** [Matt Gaetz](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/matt-gaetz) not being in that role anymore - and with reason. Matt Gaetz was investigated by that department and has all kinds of baggage. But it'**s** not as if the 'I'm gonna clean this all out' vow from Pam Bondi is especially different.

She continued: "There are so many unanswered questions, Kaitlan. But if the idea is that there'**s** lots of people around Trump and the White House who are gonna try to prevent him from doing this, I think people are sorely mistaken."

Haberman has had many run-ins with Trump in the past and has often been the subject of his Truth Social attacks due to her reporting. She recently claimed he had "no sense of who he was in front of or who he was talking to" when he [rebuked presidential rival Kamala Harris](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-harris-slur-maggie-haberman-b2630351.html) at a dinner for billionaire donors and suggested he was [suffering from "anxiety"](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/donald-trump-assassination-attempts-maggie-haberman-b2616804.html) in the aftermath of the attempt on his life in Butler, Pennsylvania, this summer.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Web Publication

**Journal Code:** 671549964

**Subject:** **FACT CHECKING** (90%); WRITERS (90%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (79%); **ELECTIONS** (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2012 (78%); CAMPAIGNS & **ELECTIONS** (76%); HEADS OF GOVERNMENT **ELECTIONS** (76%); CONSERVATIVE MEDIA (75%); ETHICS (73%); POLITICAL PARTY CONVENTIONS (73%); US PRESIDENTIAL **ELECTIONS** (72%); US REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTIONS (61%); CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS (50%)

**Industry:** WRITERS (90%); TELEVISION PROGRAMMING (77%); CONSERVATIVE MEDIA (75%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** UNITED STATES (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (89%); EUROPE (88%); NORTHERN EUROPE (73%); Texas & New Jersey; United States; Americas, Northern America; Europe, Northern Europe

**Load-Date:** November 26, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Who fact-checks the self-appointed fact checkers?; BBC Verify and Full Fact claim to be impartial purveyors of truth but their biases are all too glaring**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6DJW-M971-JCBW-N54D-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Daily Telegraph (London)

December 4, 2024 Wednesday

Edition 1, National Edition

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**Section:** LETTERS; Pg. 15

**Length:** 909 words

**Byline:** MADELINE GRANT

**Body**

Writing at the turn of the first century AD, the Roman satirist Juvenal posed a question that has haunted political discourse ever since: "Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?" (Who guards the guardians?) The advent of social media has moved it into ever sharper relief, with debates **about** populism, the access of information and what constitutes truth. Inevitably, we have seen the rise of a new class, the self-declared guardians of reality. From avowedly "impartial" journalists to the new "**fact-checking**" bodies that have developed, there is now a specific sort who thinks it is their job to safeguard truth and protect the public from "misinformation".

Per Juvenal; we might ask "who **fact-checks** the **fact** checkers?" For we all have our flaws, biases and preformed beliefs - these people are no different. A glance at their activities confirms it. An investigation by the website UnHerd found that around 5 per cent of all BBC Verify articles since its launch had been corrected, clarified or withdrawn.

A recent "**fact check**" on the family farm tax conceded that its researchers had confused acres with hectares. We all make embarrassing mistakes in our copy from time to time - I know I have! But the trouble with being a selfappointed truth guardian is that you are meant to practice what you preach. Moreover, "neutral" **checks** often give useful cover to politicians. In the absence of government impact assessments, many Labour supporters cited the now-debunked BBC Verify analysis **about** the family farm tax.

The rise of specific truth-monitoring websites has accompanied a retreat from social media by elite opinionformers. The introduction of "community notes" on X has caused particular backlash. This function allows - shock, horror - ordinary people to query or dispute claims made by established players. It is perhaps no coincidence that anger in loftier quarters of X **about** Musk'**s** denigration of their once-unassailed platform has coincided with the advent of the awkward community note.

A few weeks ago, Full **Fact** wrote to Kemi Badenoch, rightly criticising her claim that Labour'**s** budget had contained "no mention of defence". The following week, the PM made an equally false claim, that "we haven't touched National Insurance", after hiking employers' NI by £25billion. I emailed asking why this hadn't also received an open letter; Full **Fact** justified its non-intervention on the basis that it might be seen in the context of Starmer'**s** earlier pledge **about** not targeting "working people".

But this is itself highly contentious language; why is an "impartial" body uncritically adopting the Government'**s** debatable logic (that employers are not "working people")? A small thing perhaps, but telling. Where one falsehood warranted a nagging open letter, another prompted fence-sitting.

Full **Fact** also defended the Government against accusations of misrepresenting their pledge to cut energy bills by £300, on the basis that "no such promise featured in the party'**s** recent **election** manifesto". In preelection interviews, however, frontbench ministers repeatedly promised not just to freeze but reduce household energy bills. Does it matter that the manifesto didn't explicitly say this, when many party luminaries did?

Then there are subtle biases of omission. Kim Leadbeater'**s** speech during the assisted suicide debate was so liberally littered with untruths that it prompted judges to speak out. Other demonstrable lies went unchallenged. "Not one jurisdiction which passed laws on the basis of terminal illness has expanded its scope", she claimed, ignoring Canada. So far, from the independent **fact** checkers there has been not a peep - despite the high stakes involved. Why not?

The **News** Agents podcast presents itself as a level-headed, neutral look at current affairs. In reality it'**s** auricular masturbation for the liberal middle classes. Lewis Goodall - the Scrappy Doo of the podcast - made his biases clear too. He deemed Danny Kruger'**s** use of the word suicide "inflammatory" and suggested that opposition to the Bill - which came from a range of fronts so wide that Angela Rayner, Nigel Farage, Ed Davey and Jeremy Corbyn all trooped through the No lobby - owed much to shady religious conspiracy. He has since called for MPs to "declare" their faiths publicly, as if filling out the register of interests. But we all get our worldview from somewhere; why should the ideas of secularists, or people who've overdosed on JS Mill, be inherently more valid?

The tax expert and Labour supporter Dan Neidle, who is frequently cited by BBC Verify as an impartial figure, said in a recent interview that he did not regard himself as an activist "unless it'**s** possible to be a centrist activist".

This is the platonic ideal of the "centrist" position'**s** unthinking bias; the conjecture that theirs is a neutral stance, rather than being its own form of bias replete with assumptions and contradictions. When other commentators (Left and Right, people of faith) state this sort of thing **about** their beliefs, they are derided, but to the centrist, firm in the mighty fortress of his own opinions, the contradiction doesn't even occur.

Herein lies the problem for many self-appointed custodians of truth: try as they might, they cannot escape the **fact** that they are no less susceptible to the influences they purport to call out. Two thousand years on and Juvenal'**s** question remains unanswered: if we must have these guardians of the truth, then who guards them?

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** DTL

**Subject:** **FACT CHECKING** (91%); DISINFORMATION & MISINFORMATION (89%); **ELECTIONS** & POLITICS (78%); HOLDING COMPANIES (78%); POLITICAL & SOCIAL IDEOLOGIES (78%); POPULISM (78%); SOCIAL MEDIA (77%); FALSE STATEMENTS (74%); FAMILY (74%); REPORTS, REVIEWS & SECTIONS (74%); WRITERS (74%); LETTERS & COMMENTS (59%)

**Industry:** MARKET RESEARCH FIRMS (90%); SOCIAL MEDIA (77%); WRITERS (74%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); BUDGETS (71%); FAMILY FARMS (71%)

**Geographic:** National Edition

**Load-Date:** December 4, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Real v fake: how the Harris-Trump debate laid out different takes on AI**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6CYW-33Y1-JBNF-W30V-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Guardian (London)

September 15, 2024 Sunday 12:00 PM GMT

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**Section:** US **NEWS**; Version:1

**Length:** 1023 words

**Byline:** Blake Montgomery

**Highlight:** One candidate revels in AI-generated images of cats and geese, while the other posts real photos of her grandparents

**Body**

In their first, and likely only debate, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump argued **about** **artificial intelligence**. They spoke of China, chips and “domestic innovation”. The country learned how Harris, Trump and their allies would – or intentionally wouldn’t – use **artificial intelligence** for their own ends.

But the real lessons were in the aftermath. The online furor over the IRL confrontation revealed that Republicans use AI to illustrate their political points. Democrats do not.

The Republicans

Republicans’ excitement over AI focused on a debunked claim by their nominee. During the debate, Trump said that Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, were “eating the dogs – the people that came in, they’re eating the cats”. The statement was not true. ABC’**s** moderators **fact-checked** him in real time with information from the city’**s** animal control commissioner, who has not received any calls **about** such grisly crimes. Immigrants in the city are now facing real violence over the false statement.

Absent real images of such bestial violence, Trump and company have turned to [images created by **artificial intelligence**](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1083638339788652&set=pb.100044274887410.-2207520000&type=3). Before the debate had even begun, Donald Trump Jr tweeted images of his father astride a giant cat and holding a gun. The ex-president’**s** son wrote: “Save our pets!!!” A post made by Trump Jr during the debate reads: “They know who they’re rooting for tonight” and shows three cats and a duck or a goose watching the candidates face off on TV.

The images bear the hallmark sheen of AI-generated material, a sign Republicans may be using Elon Musk’**s** AI image generator Grok. Midjourney and OpenAI’**s** Dall-E have advanced beyond that telltale uncanny lighting, but both also limit the manipulation of public figures’ images to tamp down misinformation. Grok has few such safeguards.

Two days after the debate, Trump jumped on the same train as his son. The former president posted an image of himself on a plane surrounded by cats and geese, a picture of a cat holding a sign reading “Kamala hates me” and a depiction of him speaking at a “Cats for Trump” rally, all on Truth Social and Facebook, where AI-generated images are extremely popular.

The Republican members of the House judiciary committee have tweeted an image of Trump cuddling animals in water captioned: “Protect our ducks and kittens in Ohio!” One bizarre image posted by the committee stitches ducks and cats together into hybrid beasts as they float on a pond under a red, white and blue flag that might fly over the island of Dr Moreau. “Save them!” the committee cries. Elon Musk joined in by tweeting screenshots of Trump’**s** posts on Truth Social accompanied by a crying-laughing emoji, the billionaire’**s** favorite. The CEO of X has endorsed Trump for president and hosted an online event with him.

Save them. [pic.twitter.com/hSma9hSwtO](https://t.co/hSma9hSwtO) — House Judiciary GOP ???????????? (@JudiciaryGOP) [September 11, **2024**](https://twitter.com/JudiciaryGOP/status/1833706230633664892?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

The Democrats

In the hours after the debate ended, it was not Kamala Harris who struck back at the Republicans’ use of AI; it was the most famous woman on the planet. Taylor Swift endorsed Harris and took explicit aim at AI-made images of her boosting Trump. Swift wrote on Instagram: “Recently I was made aware that AI of ‘me’ falsely endorsing Donald Trump’**s** presidential run was posted to his site. It really conjured up my fears around AI, and the dangers of spreading misinformation. It brought me to the conclusion that I need to be very transparent **about** my actual plans for this **election** as a voter.”

Swift has been the victim of sexualized deepfakes of her that have been seen by millions. In response, US lawmakers have [proposed new legislation](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2024/jan/30/taylor-swift-ai-deepfake-nonconsensual-sexual-images-bill) that would empower people who have their own likenesses weaponized against them.

Trump has [posted faked images of Swift’**s** endorsement](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/aug/19/trump-ai-swift-harris-musk-deepfake-images) on “his site”, Truth Social. He disclaimed responsibility for what may have been an enormous political mistake: “I don’t know anything **about** them, other than somebody else generated them. I didn’t generate them.” The images originated from a small Texas foundation that aims to bankroll rightwing tweeters.

Harris herself has not posted any images made by AI, debate-related or otherwise. Instead, in the days following the debate, her campaign has posted childhood photos of her [visiting her grandparents in India](https://www.instagram.com/p/C_qVfjKuPL-/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==) and [happily posing on a stoop](https://www.instagram.com/p/C_vvip2uXkX/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA%3D%3D). The choice is notable because AI has difficulty replicating the balance between fuzziness and detail that imbues old photos with authenticity and charm. Harris’**s** images stand in deliberate contrast with the synthetic glow of Trump’**s**.

Harris boasts extensive [familial](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/08/04/us/politics/kamala-harris-tony-west.html) and professional ties to Silicon Valley from her time as a senator and the state’**s** attorney general, but as a candidate, she projects an image of low tech. One of the most famous videos of her – “We did it, Joe” – shows her talking to the president via wired Apple headphones. She has been seen using them many times since. She believes Bluetooth to be a security risk. (Trump, by contrast, uses an Android device that experts have deemed [extremely vulnerable to foreign incursion](https://www.wired.com/2017/01/trump-android-phone-security-threat/). )

Her campaign may boast **about** its TikTok operation staffed by extremely online members of gen Z, but the technology she carries on her person connotes an attitude of wait and see, not early adoption. She loves to be [filmed making calls](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/26/us/politics/barack-michelle-obama-harris-video.html) with the phone to her ear, the original use of the device. During her vice-presidency, Harris didn’t spend much time showcasing who she was. The choices she’**s** made in the crafting of her image as a candidate demonstrate an emphasis on realness.

Trump has made himself into the candidate of generative **artificial intelligence**. Whether he is allied with AI companies is a separate question. He has adopted the aesthetic of AI as his own, perhaps because he has seen how popular AI-generated images are on Facebook, where older people hang out online. Harris has eschewed AI image generation, and by doing so made a powerful ally in Taylor Swift.

She wants voters to see her as authentic, so she’**s** making all her images the old-fashioned way.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** WEBGNS

**Subject:** CATS (91%); **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (90%); GENERATIVE AI (90%); PHOTO & VIDEO SHARING (90%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (90%); ANIMALS (89%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (89%); NEGATIVE **NEWS** (88%); EMOJIS & EMOTICONS (78%); **FACT CHECKING** (78%); POLITICAL DEBATES (78%); DISINFORMATION & MISINFORMATION (77%); VIRTUAL EVENTS (76%); NEGATIVE MISC **NEWS** (73%); TRENDS & EVENTS (73%); IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP & DISPLACEMENT (70%); FALSE STATEMENTS (68%); EXECUTIVES (62%); ANIMAL CONTROL (54%)

**Company:**  META PLATFORMS INC (51%)

**Ticker:** META (NASDAQ) (51%)

**Industry:** NAICS516210 MEDIA STREAMING DIST SVCS, SOCIAL NETWORKS, AND OTHER MEDIA NETWORKS AND CONTENT PROVIDERS (51%); SIC7374 COMPUTER PROCESSING & DATA PREPARATION & PROCESSING SERVICES (51%); **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (90%); GENERATIVE AI (90%); PHOTO & VIDEO SHARING (90%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKING (89%); EMOJIS & EMOTICONS (78%); MEDIA & TELECOMMUNICATIONS (78%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (92%); DONALD TRUMP JR (79%); KAMALA HARRIS (79%); ELON MUSK (77%)

**Geographic:** OHIO, USA (92%)

**Load-Date:** September 15, 2024

**End of Document**



[**Trump insults Fox News anchors in awkward moment on 'Fox & Friends'**](https://plus.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6CY5-WFR1-JCMC-W4NV-00000-00&context=1001073)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 11, 2024 Wednesday 4:38 PM EST

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**Length:** 544 words

**Byline:** Katie Hawkinson

**Body**

[Donald Trump](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/donald-trump) insulted two Fox **News** anchors in a [rant-filled, rambling post-debate appearance](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-debate-fact-check-harris-abortion-dogs-haiti-b2610810.html) on the network.

Trump called into *Fox & Friends* on Tuesday night after [wrapping up his debate](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/abc-trump-kamala-debate-reactions-b2610662.html) against Vice President [Kamala Harris](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/kamala-harris). During the call, Fox **News** host Steve Doocy told Trump the network [offered to host a second debate](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-harris-post-debate-analysis-b2610971.html) moderated by Martha MacCallum and Brett Brier.

"Well, I wouldn't want to have Martha and Brett. I'd love to have somebody else other than Martha and Brett," the former president said. "I'd love to have, frankly, Sean [Hannity] or Jesse [Watters] or Laura [Ingraham], you know, somebody else. Let'**s** give let'**s** give other people a shot. But I didn't think Martha and Brett were good last night."

Trump explained that he preferred Watters because he said he won the debate.

"But I didn't think Martha and Bret were so good last night," Trump said. "Jesse was fantastic last night. What he said, Jesse, really got it. Jesse said, 'Trump won that debate.' We won that debate by a lot. And I wouldn't want Martha involved."

Doocy went on to defend his colleagues: "I will say this, I think that Brett and Martha would do a phenomenal job."

[Link to Image](https://static.independent.co.uk/2024/09/11/15/Election_2024_Debate_Expressions_84042.jpg)

The former president then channeled his own debate performance, launching into a rant **about** ABC **News** and Project 2025.

"We won the debate," he said. "We had a terrible network. I think they were terrible, and they should be embarrassed."

"And Project 2025, they know it has nothing to do with me," he continued. "She mentioned it all night long, and they refused to correct it. And everybody - I haven't, I have nothing to do with Project 2025, but I am not inclined to do it because I won the debate by a lot."

Trump was referring to the multiple times the moderators, David Muir and Linsey Davis, **fact-checked** him during the debate.

When the former president falsely claimed that Democrats support "executing" babies after they are born during the abortion segment of the debate, Davis stepped in.

"There is no state in this country where it is legal to kill a baby after it'**s** born," she said. [Davis went on to see a flurry of racist and sexist abuse online for **fact-checking** the former president'**s** lie](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/debate-moderator-linsey-davis-racism-trump-abc-fact-check-b2610641.html).

Trump also peddled the since-debunked racist conspiracy theory that Haitian immigrants are killing and eating household pets in Springfield, Ohio.

Harris'**s** comments **about** Project 2025 also got under Trump'**s** skin.

Trump claims he had nothing to do with Project 2025, a blueprint for the next conservative presidency that includes plans to expand his executive authority, replace civil servants with loyalists, crush abortion rights, attack civil rights for LGBTQ+ people and impose an anti-immigrant agenda, among other policies.

However, Project 2025 is led by the [Heritage Foundation,](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/heritage-foundation) a conservative think tank, and more than a dozen former Trump administration officials.

Trump, despite distancing himself from the project, praised the [Heritage Foundation](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/heritage-foundation) and their "plans for exactly what our movement will do" two years ago.

"Heritage does such an incredible job, this is a great group, and they're going to lay the groundwork and detail plans for exactly what our movement will do and what your movement will do when the American people give us a colossal mandate to save America," Trump [said](https://x.com/chyeaok/status/1814778186053657020) in 2022.

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