

Disinformation reimaged: how AI could erode democracy in the 2024 US elections

- How do you know if letters (or inquiries) from constituents are real?
- Could believable AI generated inquiries overwhelm staffer capacity, limiting ability to recognize and respond to real inquiries?
- “Cornell University professors Sarah Kreps and Doug Kriner sent tens of thousands of emails to more than 7,000 state legislators across the country. The emails purported to be from concerned voters, but were split between AI-generated letters and ones written by a human. The responses were virtually the same, with human-written emails receiving only a 2% higher rate of reply than the AI-generated ones.”

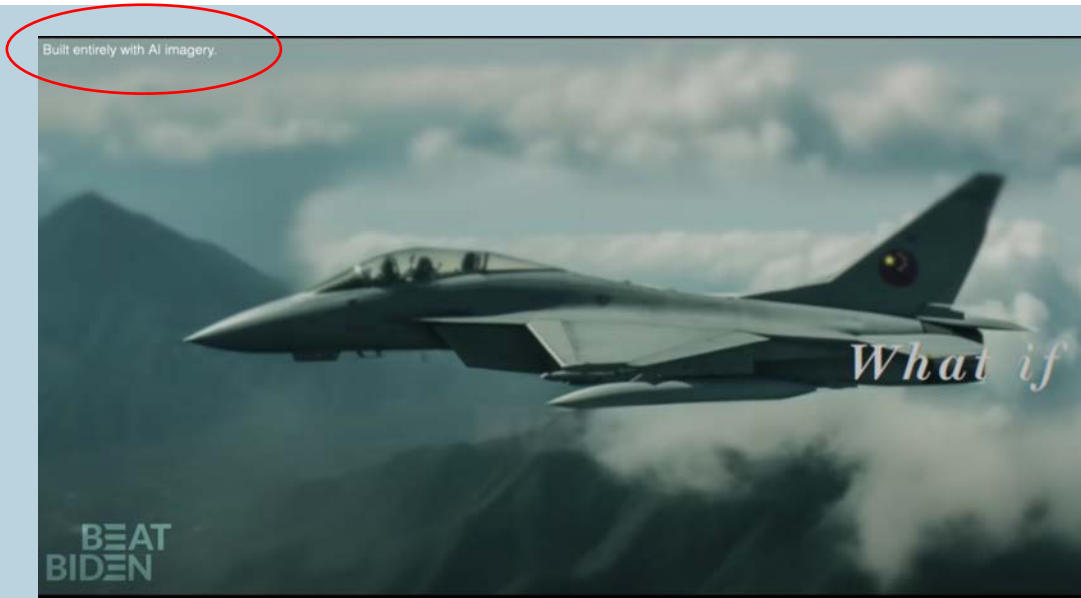
Republicans counter Biden announcement with dystopian, AI-aided video

By [Isaac Stanley-Becker](#) and [John Wagner](#)

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The Washington Post

An unusual disclaimer appears in the upper left corner of the RNC ad.
“Built entirely with AI imagery,” reads the small white text.



AI-generated disinformation poses threat of misleading voters in 2024 election

Politics May 14, 2023 7:52 PM EDT

The RNC acknowledged its use of AI, but others, including nefarious political campaigns and foreign adversaries, will not, said Petko Stoyanov, global chief technology officer at Forcepoint, a cybersecurity company based in Austin, Texas. Stoyanov predicted that groups looking to meddle with U.S. democracy will employ AI and synthetic media as a way to erode trust.

“What happens if an international entity — a cybercriminal or a nation state — impersonates someone. What is the impact? Do we have any recourse?” Stoyanov said. “We’re going to see a lot more misinformation from international sources.”

How to deal with AI-enabled disinformation

John Villasenor
November 23, 2020

BROOKINGS

“Rapid disinformation attacks... in which disinformation is unleashed quickly and broadly with the goal of creating an immediate disruptive effect—are one of the most significant challenges in the digital ecosystem... **the question is not whether disinformation will be present, but rather how much of it there will be, and how sophisticated the attacks will be.**”

- **“Consider the following hypothetical:** On the morning of Election Day in a closely contested U.S. presidential election, supporters of one candidate launch a disinformation campaign aimed at suppressing the votes ...
- “AI [can] provide insight into the dynamics of emerging disinformation attacks... After that, the response will need to be overseen by humans making decisions based on a combination of the AI outputs and guidance from policy frameworks.”
- “For most topics and events, there simply won’t be the resources to supply staffing... for the vast majority of instances of disinformation, human intervention at the social media companies will of necessity occur only after a problem is flagged either algorithmically or through manual reporting channels.

COMMENTARY

How AI will transform the 2024 elections

BROOKINGS

Darrell M. West

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

- Faster response times
- More precise message targeting
 - Stronger data privacy protections could limit collection and distribution of personal data needed for such targeting
- Easier generation of disinformation (quality and quantity)
 - “polluting the information ecosystem to the point where people... distrust any information ...online.”
- Few guardrails (e.g., open source) or disclosure requirements



A Look at the Political Policies of AI Tools

By Katie Harbath

Jun 21, 2023



- **Transparency:** How can ... disclosure requirements be used to enhance transparency around campaign policies?
 - **Labels:** Should AI-generated content be labeled? What should labels say?
- **AI-generated videos as ads:** Can AI-generated political content be boosted as like any other advertisement?
- **Chatbots:** Can campaigns use AI to communicate with voters?
- **Enforcement:** It's one thing to have a policy, and it's another thing to be able to enforce that policy well. How well these... rules [are enforced] will be under intense scrutiny.