



AUGUST 6-7, 2025

MANDALAY BAY / LAS VEGAS

# Use & Abuse of Personal Information



Politics Edition

The background of this section features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes.

# Use & Abuse Team



**Dr. Alan J. Michaels**  
Northrop Grumman Faculty Fellow /  
Director, NSI Spectrum Dominance



**Jared Byers**  
Research Associate



**NATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTE**  
**VIRGINIA TECH.**



**Elliott Rheault**  
Research Engineer 2



**Jaden Leonard**  
Research Engineer



**Chris Henshaw**  
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**Chelsy Ables**  
Graphics Design



Commonwealth  
Cyber Initiative



**SPECTRUM  
DOMINANCE**  
**SOULSTICE**  
A CAPPELLA



**Mary Nerayo**  
Research Data Analyst



**Casey Hines**  
Project Specialist



**Jack Kolenbrander**  
MS Graduate



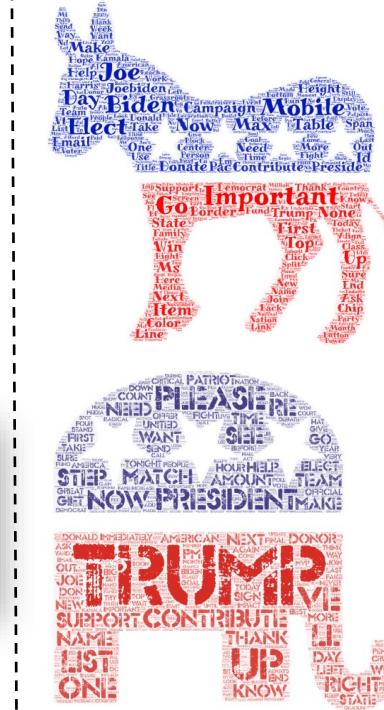
**Chris Phelps**  
Network Security

# Project Timeline

# 2024 U.S. Elections

# Personal information usage/sharing

## Mailing list content analysis



# Predatory Journals



# Personality Emulation

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

Rheault, Elliott, Mary Nerayo, Jaden Leonard, Jack Kolenbrander, Christopher Henshaw, Madison Boswell, and Alan J. Michaels. 2024. "Use and Abuse of Personal Information, Part I: Design of a Scalable OSINT Collection Engine" *Journal of Cybersecurity and Privacy* 4, no. 3: 572-593. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jcp4030027>

#BHUSA @BlackHatEvents

# Motivation

In aggregate, the 2024 elections cost \$15.9B.

32 x 5000 Tons, \$100 bills



37,606 x \$423K homes



342,377 x 4-year college  
educations (state school)



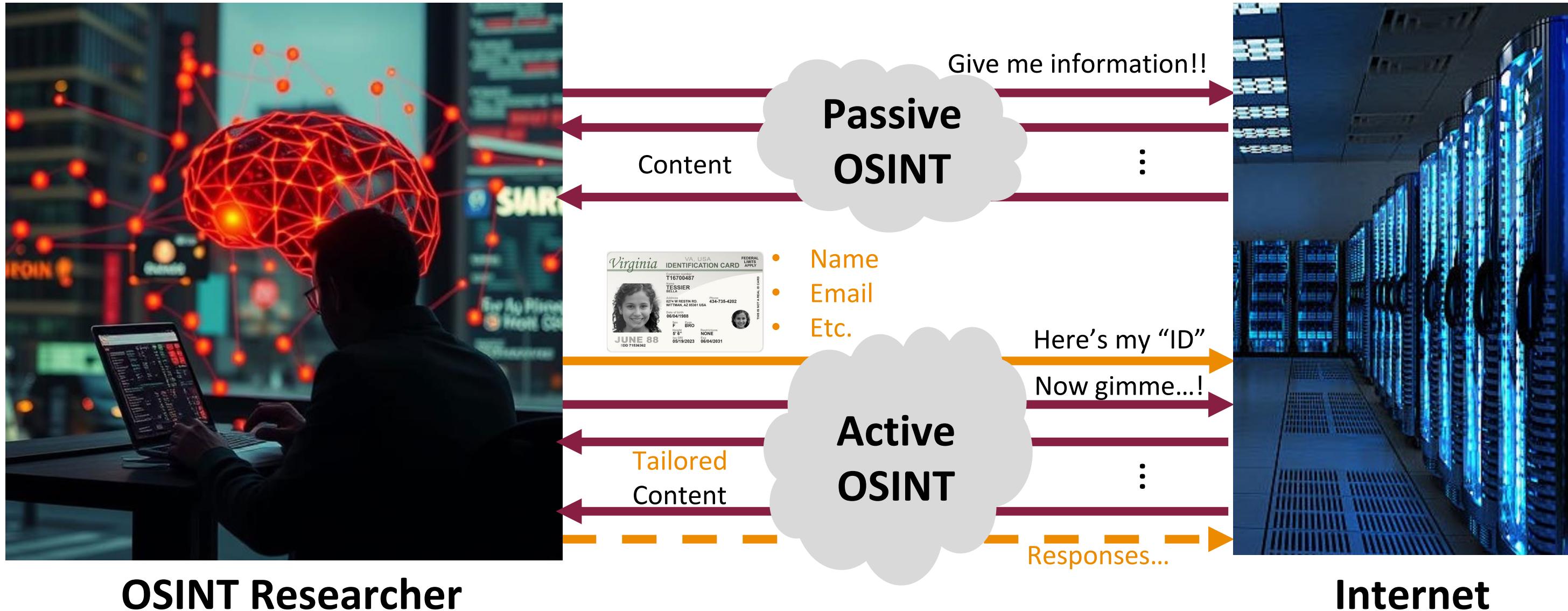
159 x F-35



Net favorability of each party



# Passive vs. Active Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)



OSINT Researcher

Internet

# Unique Attribution to all Incoming Content



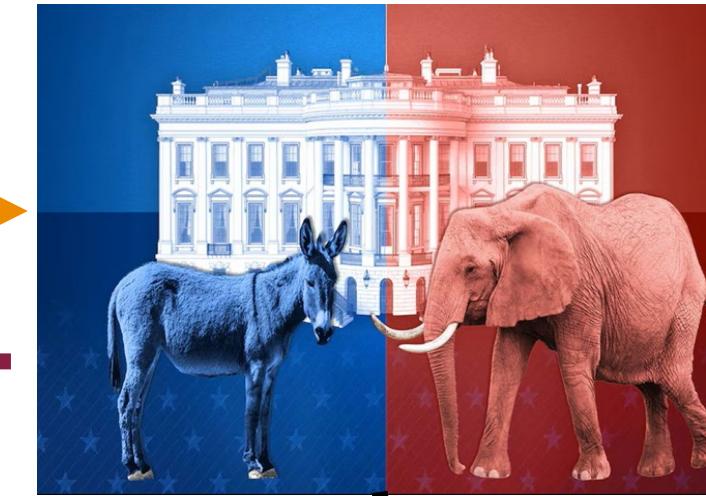
**“One-Time” use  
of Fake ID**

PII  
Content

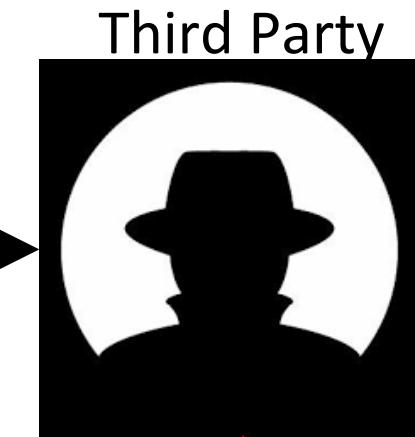


Fake ID

Use & Abuse  
Servers

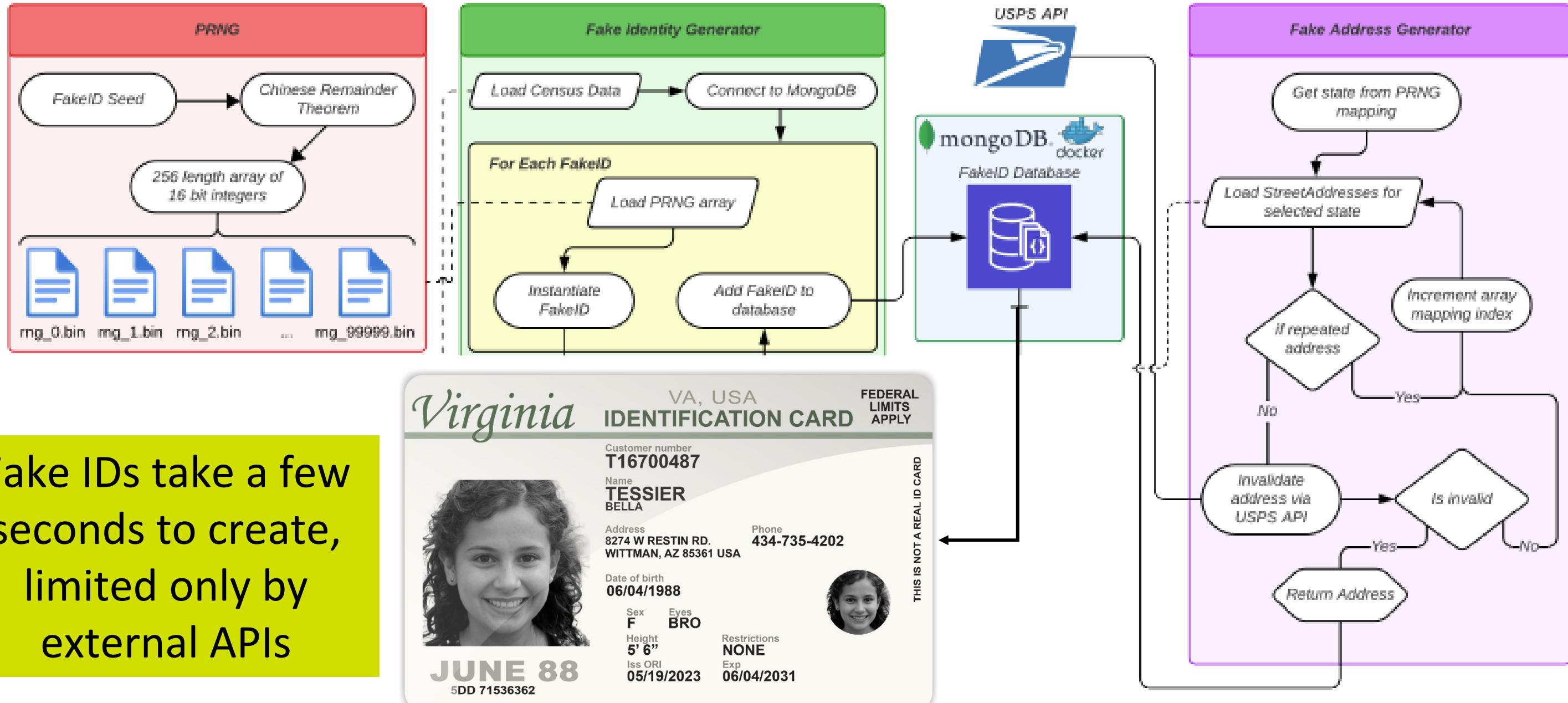


Sharing



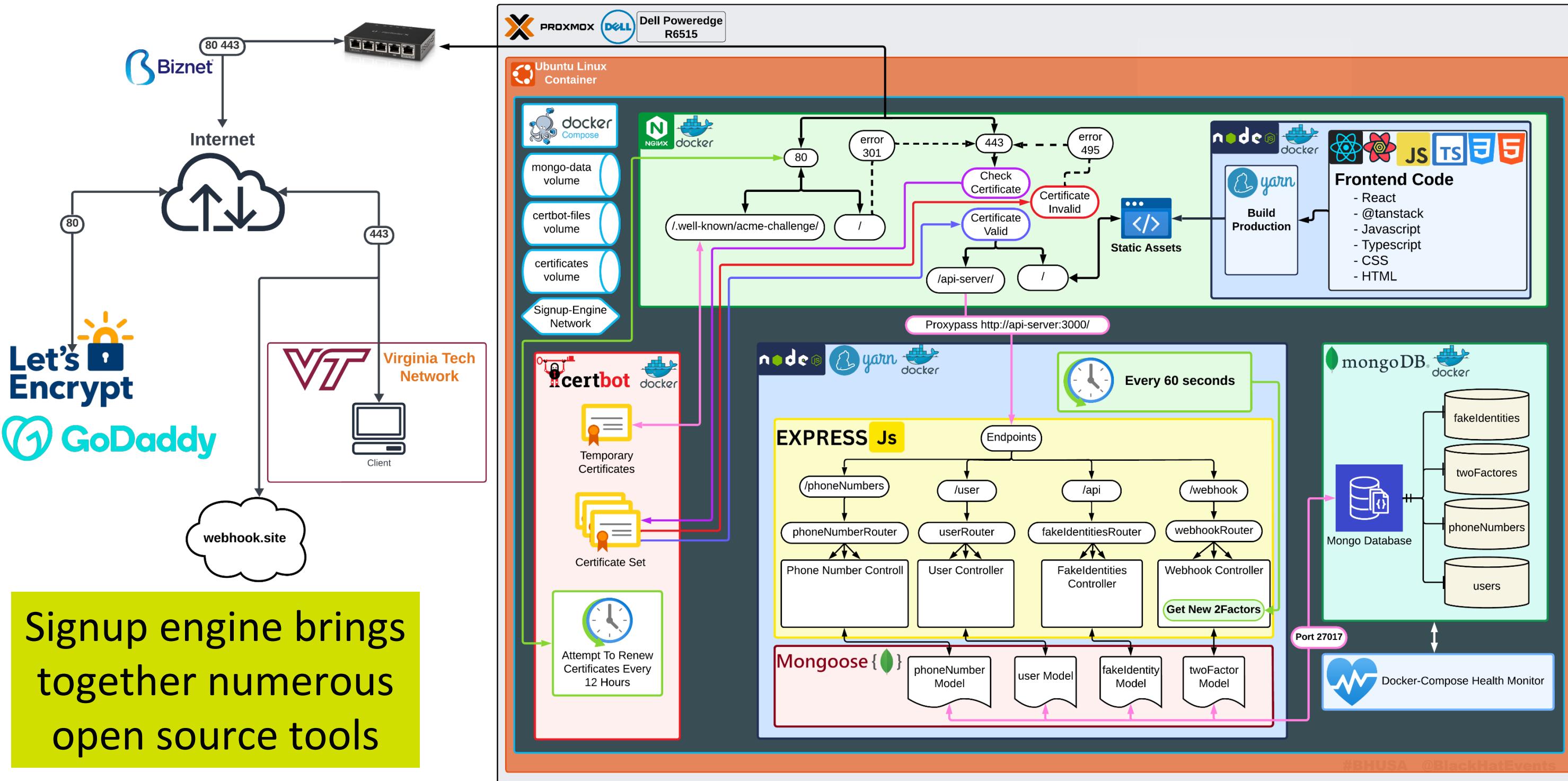
Abuse

# Creating Fake Identities



Fake IDs take a few seconds to create, limited only by external APIs

# U&A Signup Engine



Signup engine brings together numerous open source tools

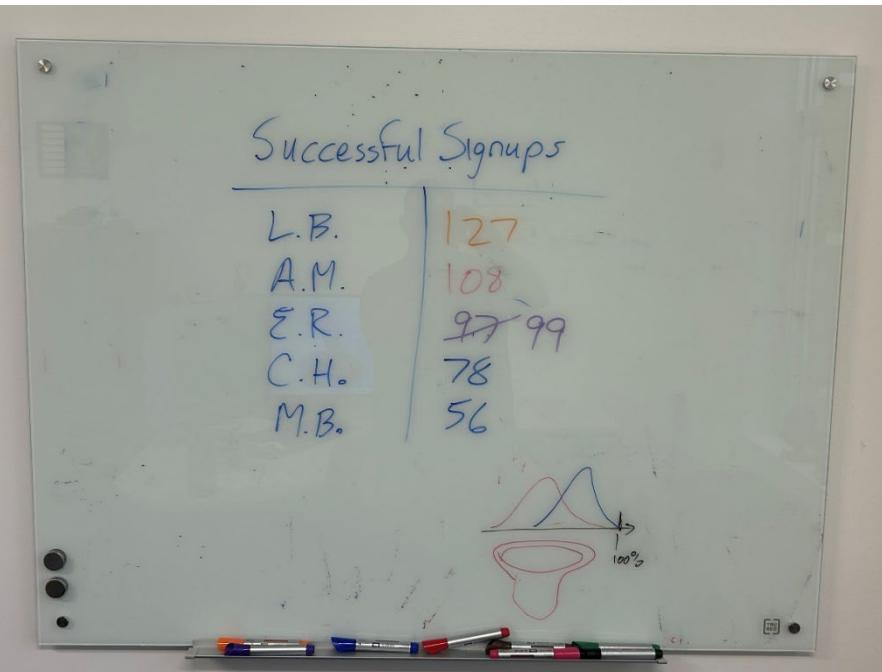
# U&A Signup Events

## Use & Abuse

Field	Value	Copy	Used
ID Number	3006	<button>Copy</button>	<input type="checkbox"/>
URL	[REDACTED]	<button>Copy</button>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phone Number	[REDACTED]	<button>Copy</button>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
First Name	Bella	<button>Copy</button>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Last Name	Tessier	<button>Copy</button>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Age	54	<button>Copy</button>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birth Date	Thu Jun 05 1969 00:00:00 GMT+0000 (Coordinated Universal Time)	<button>Copy</button>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email Username	bella_tessier803 [REDACTED]	<button>Copy</button>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Street Address	8274 W Restin Rd	<button>Copy</button>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Town/City	Wittmann	<button>Copy</button>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State/Province	Arizona	<button>Copy</button>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zip Code	85351	<button>Copy</button>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Country	USA	<button>Copy</button>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Website Password	[REDACTED]	<button>Copy</button>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Security Question 1	The Green Mile	<button>Copy</button>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Security Question 2	Blacksburg	<button>Copy</button>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Security Question 3	Floral White	<button>Copy</button>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Height	5'6"	<button>Copy</button>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Saturday signup events

- ~ 35 students
- ~ 8 hours
- ~ 20 pizzas

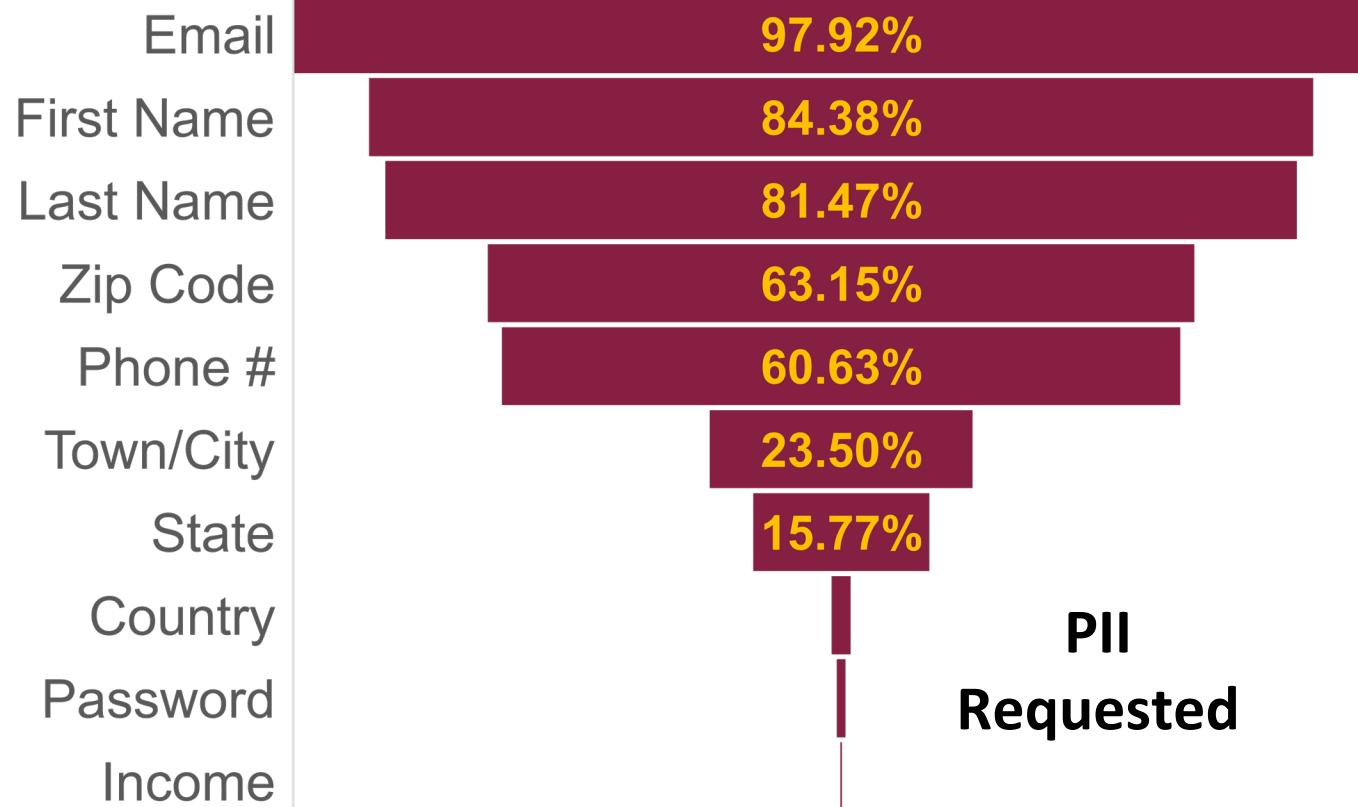
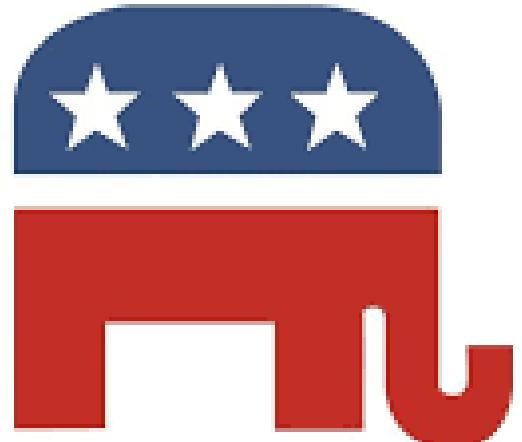
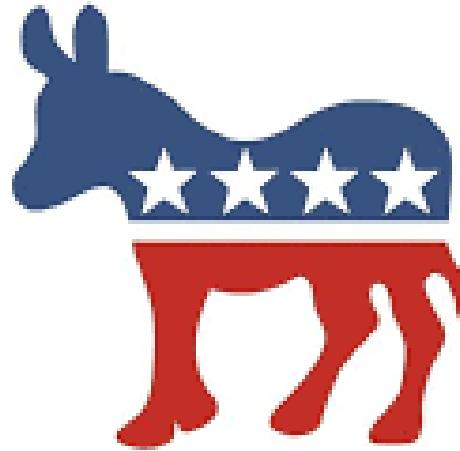


## Use & Abuse

[Home](#) [Sign-Up](#) [Two-Factors](#)
 [Refresh Two Factor Messages](#)

Subject	Sender	Date
St. Patrick's Day Parade on Water Street 3/16 with Flemming Larsen	christina@larsen4nevada.com	3/11/2024, 8:14:36 PM
St. Patrick's Day Parade on Water Street 3/16 with Flemming Larsen	christina@larsen4nevada.com	3/11/2024, 8:14:36 PM
St. Patrick's Day Parade on Water Street 3/16 with Flemming Larsen	christina@larsen4nevada.com	3/11/2024, 8:14:36 PM
Dump Day and Shredding Event This Saturday!	Senator.Min@outreach.senate.ca.gov	3/20/2024, 5:01:23 PM

# 2024 U.S. Elections Experiment



**1418 Accounts**

Collection: Nov 2023 – Apr 2025

	D	R	I/O
House	521	431	24
Senate	174	185	20
President	17	30	16

# VoIP Collection Scope

2020:   
Zadarma

2022:   
clearlyip

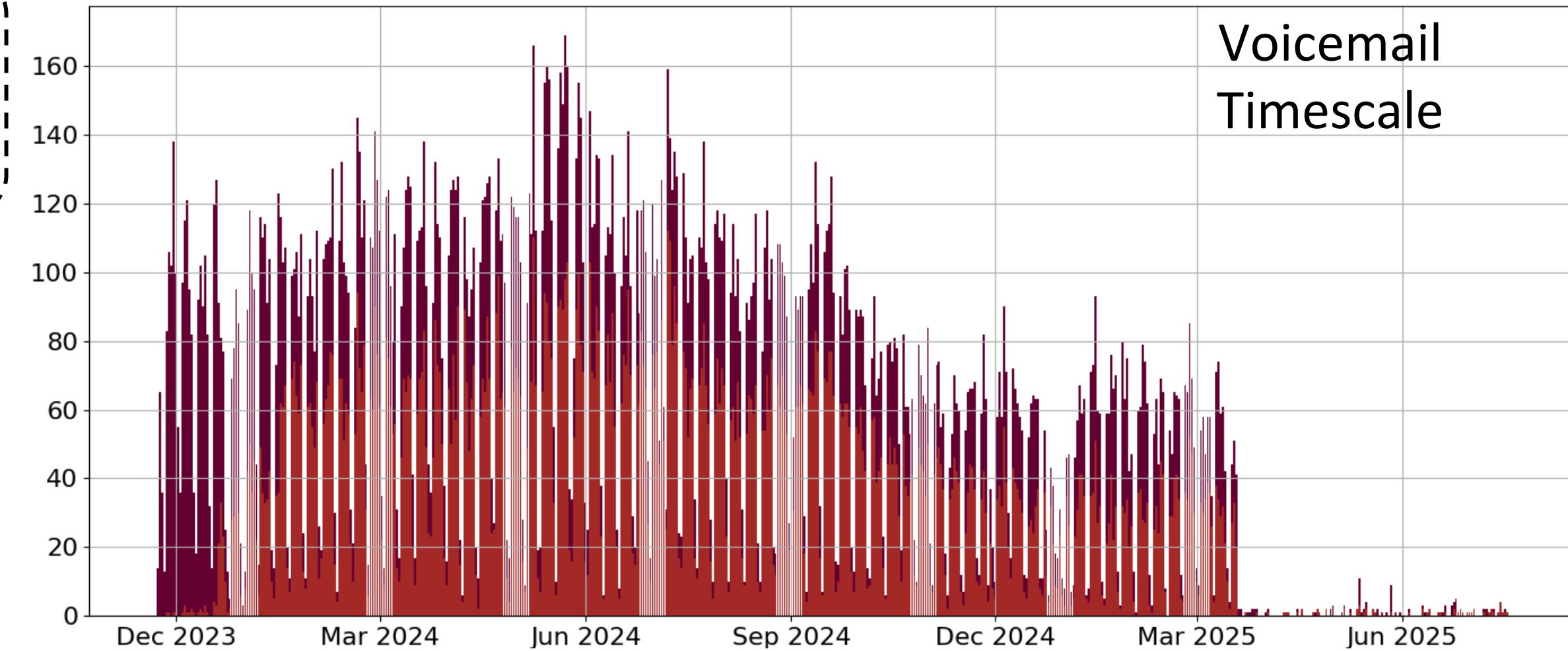


4212 phone lines

34,355 calls

7,351 voicemails

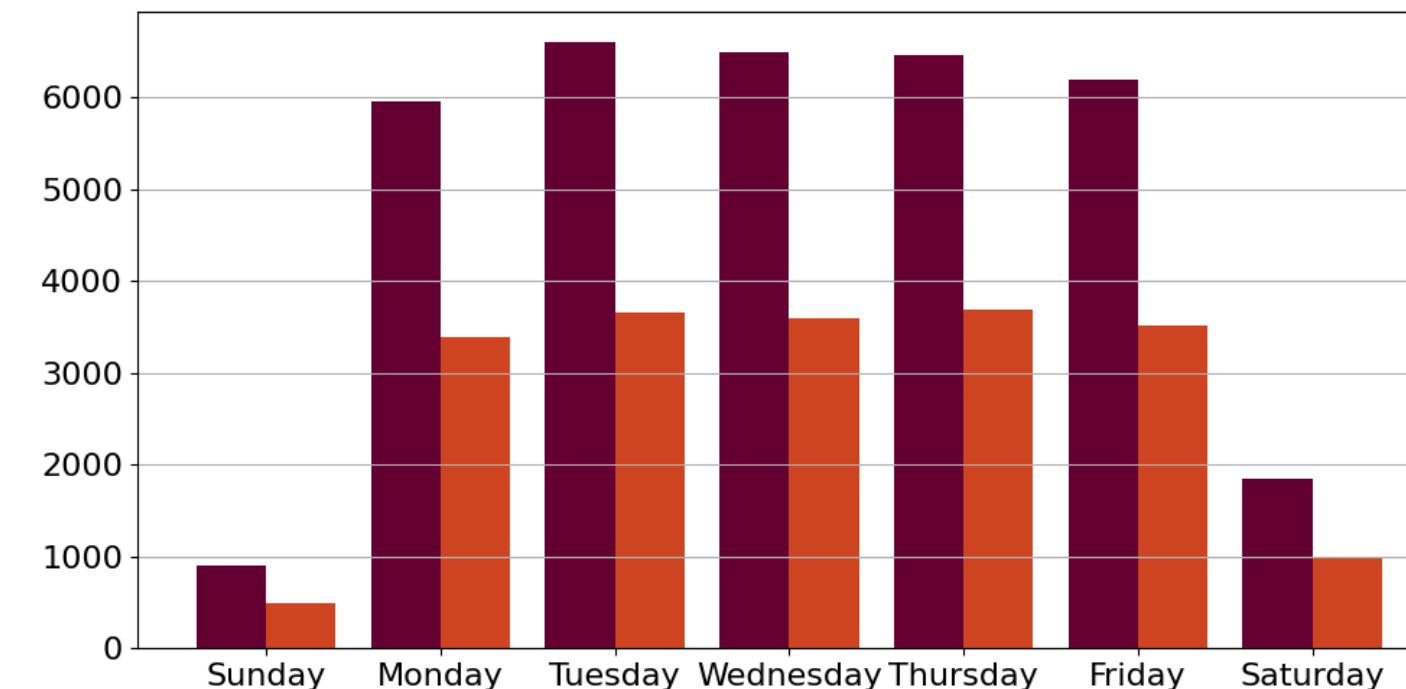
203 political VMs



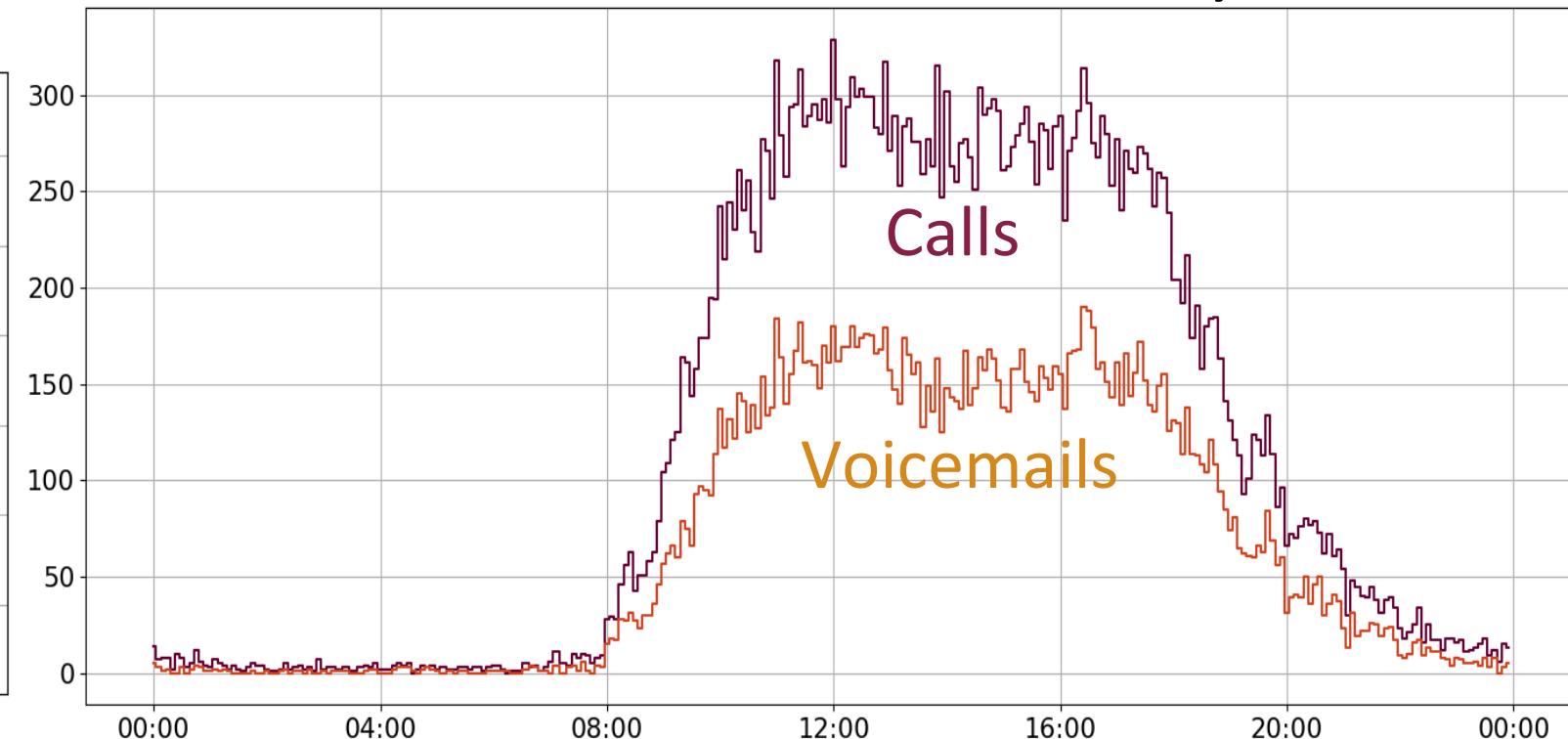
Strong evidence of tainted VoIP lines with incoming calls carrying over from previous owners

# Voicemail Activity

Calls      Voicemails

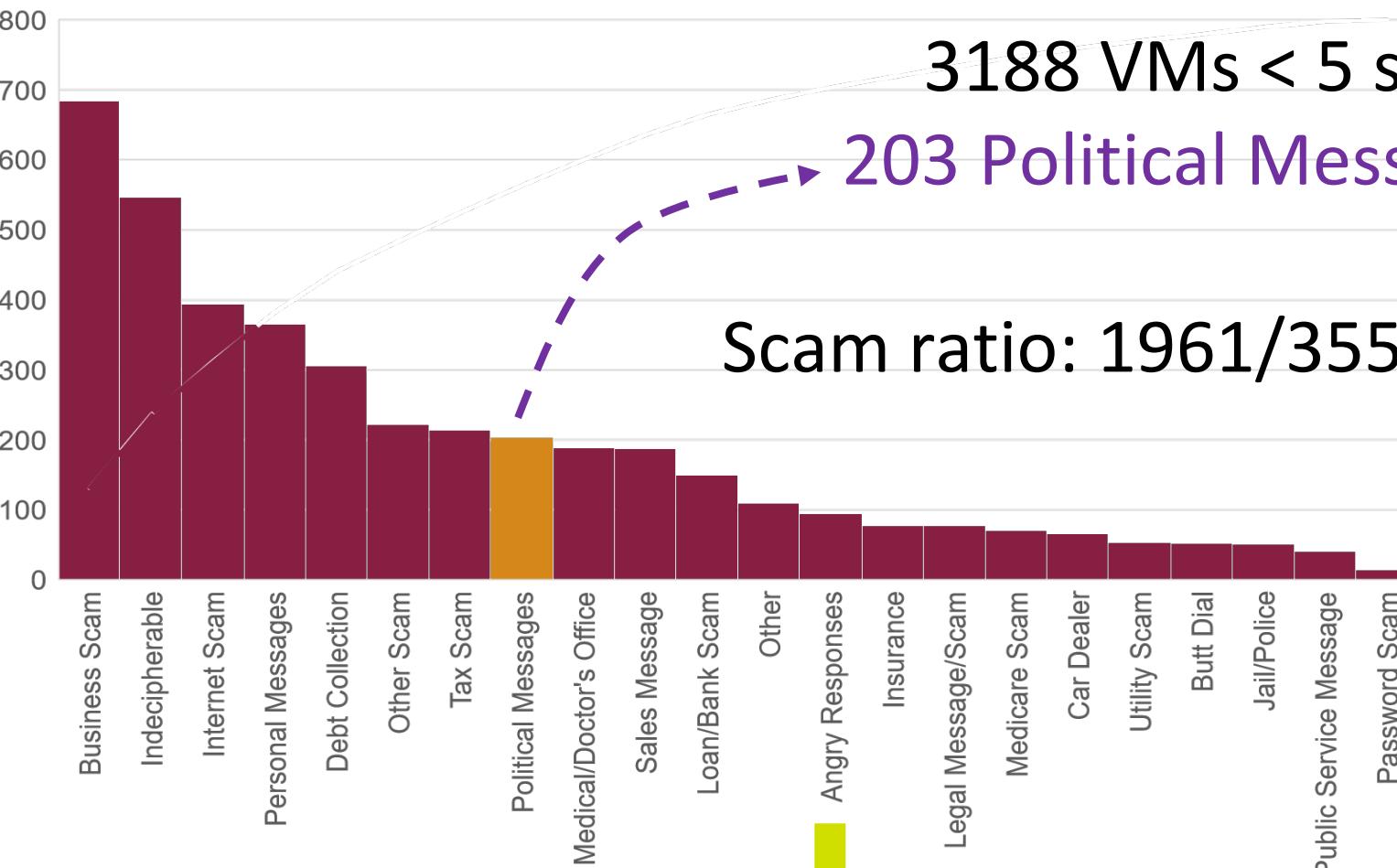


Voicemail Time-of-Day



Call centers/scammers operate Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm

# Voicemail Activity



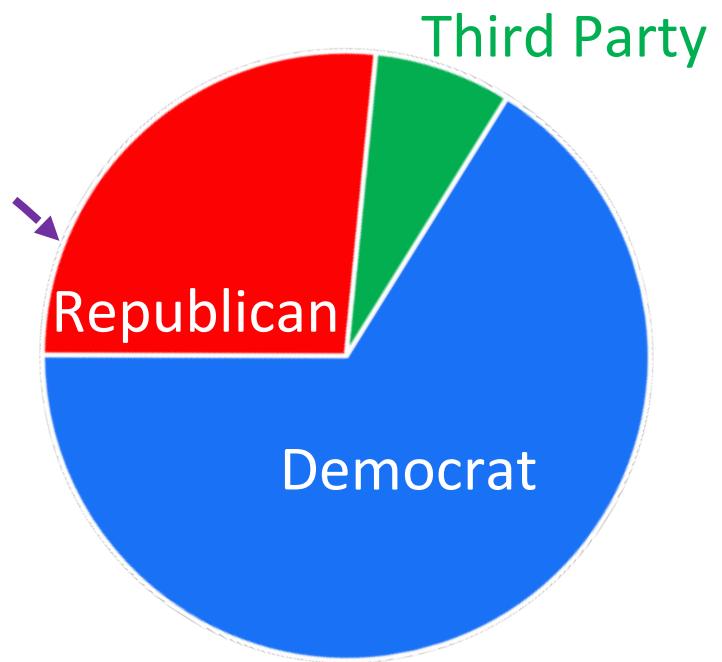
3188 VMs < 5 sec

203 Political Messages

Scam ratio:  $1961/3551=55.2\%$

More than half of VMs are scams

Strong evidence of scammers randomly emulating our numbers

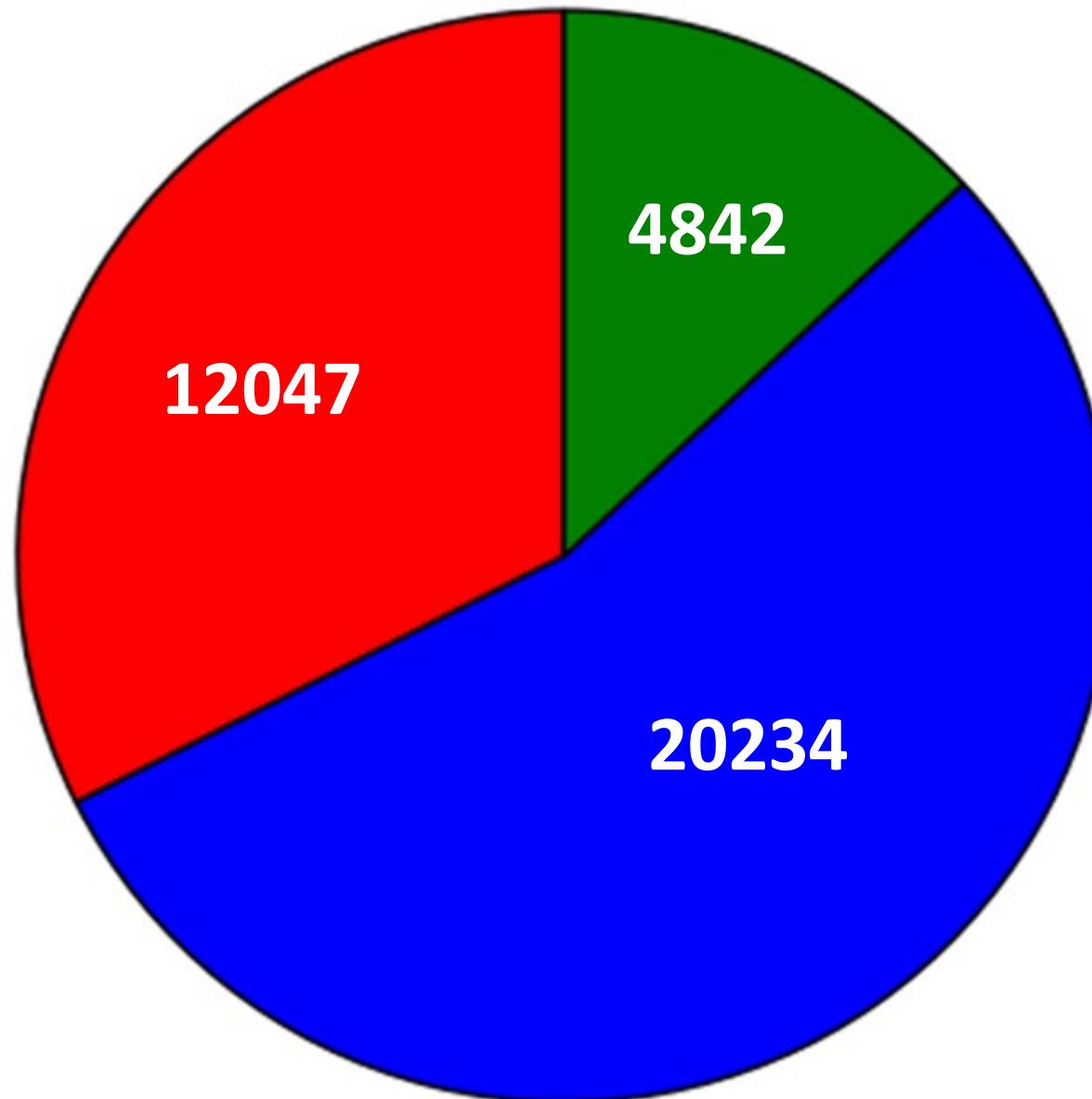


**Number  
Verification**



# 2024 U.S. Election: Email Collection Scope

Democrat   Independent   Republican

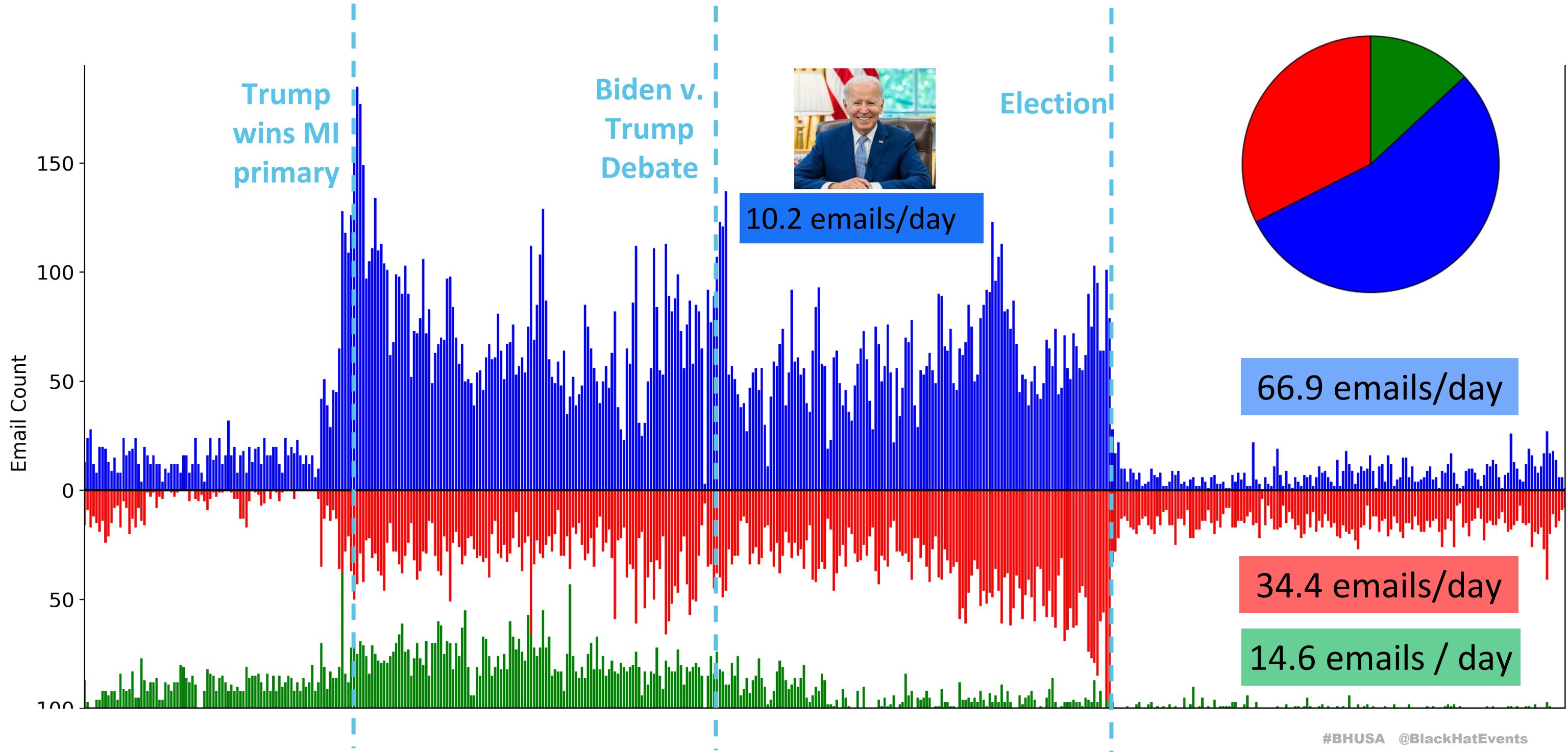


37,123 emails

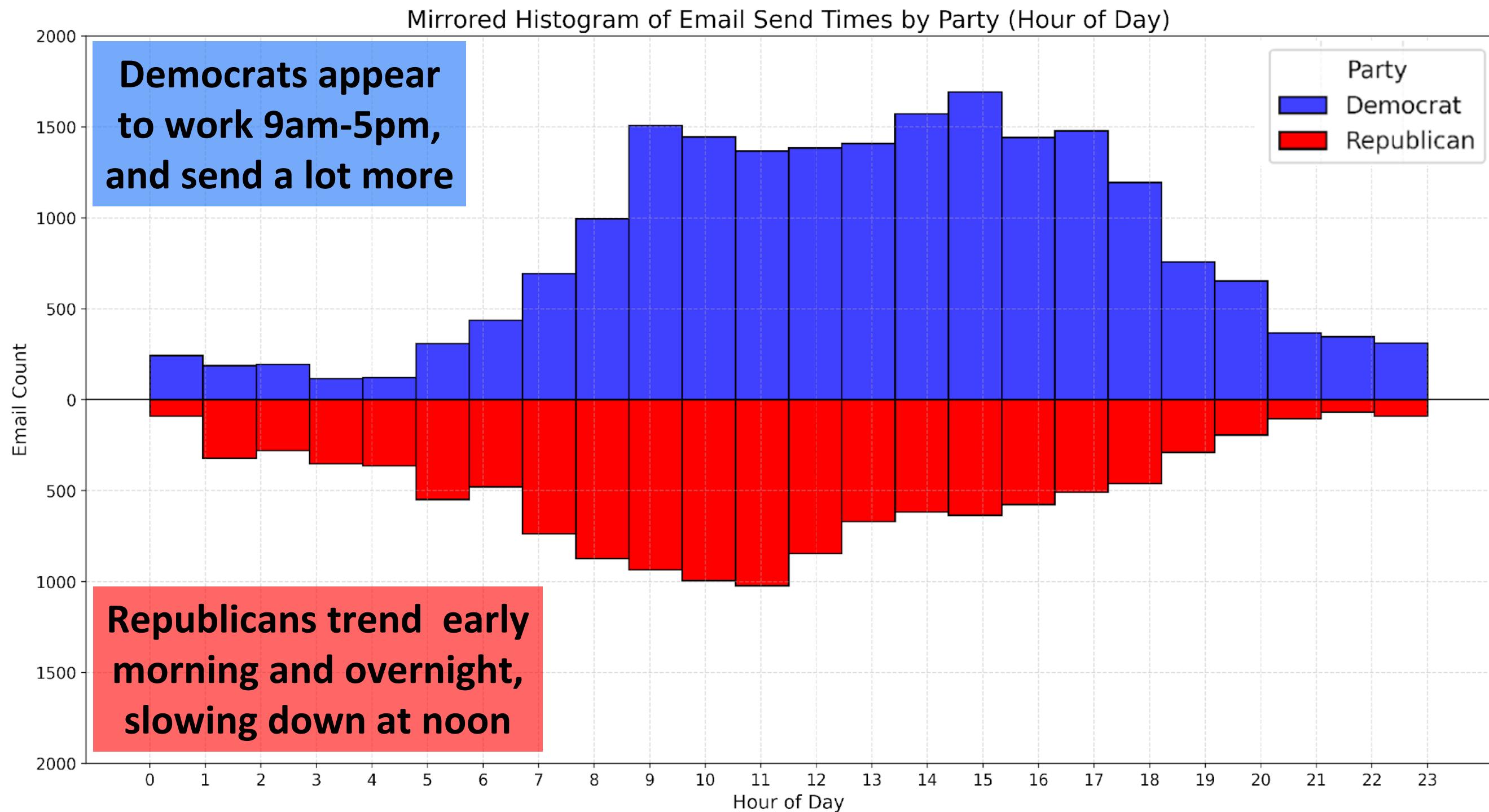
Average number of emails from a  
signup, primary to election day

	Average Emails		
	Democrat	Republican	Other/ Independent
House of Representatives	23.2	15.2	0.39
Senate	32.3	18.7	2.5
Presidential	11.4	0.48	11.6

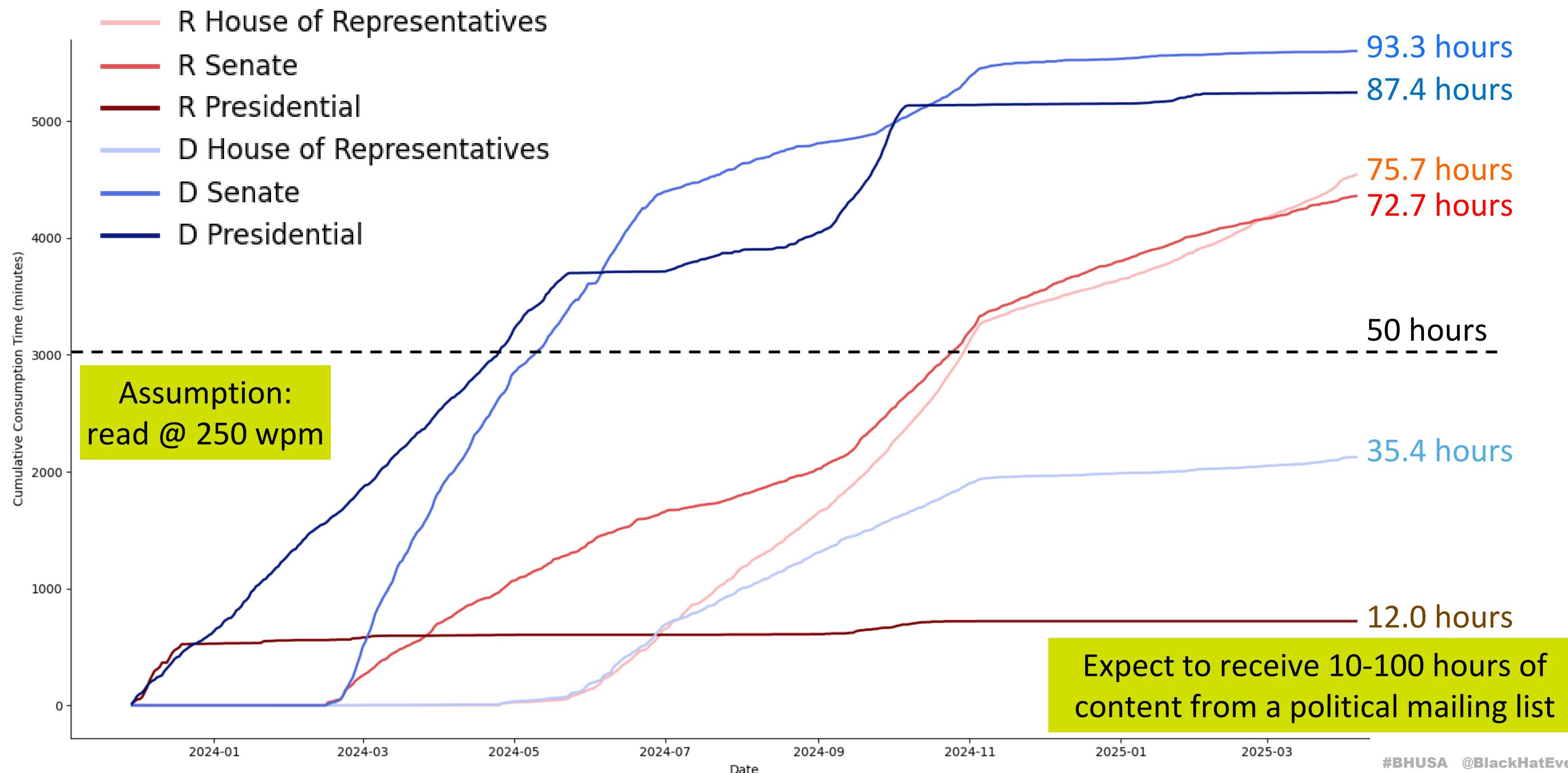
# Email Timeline



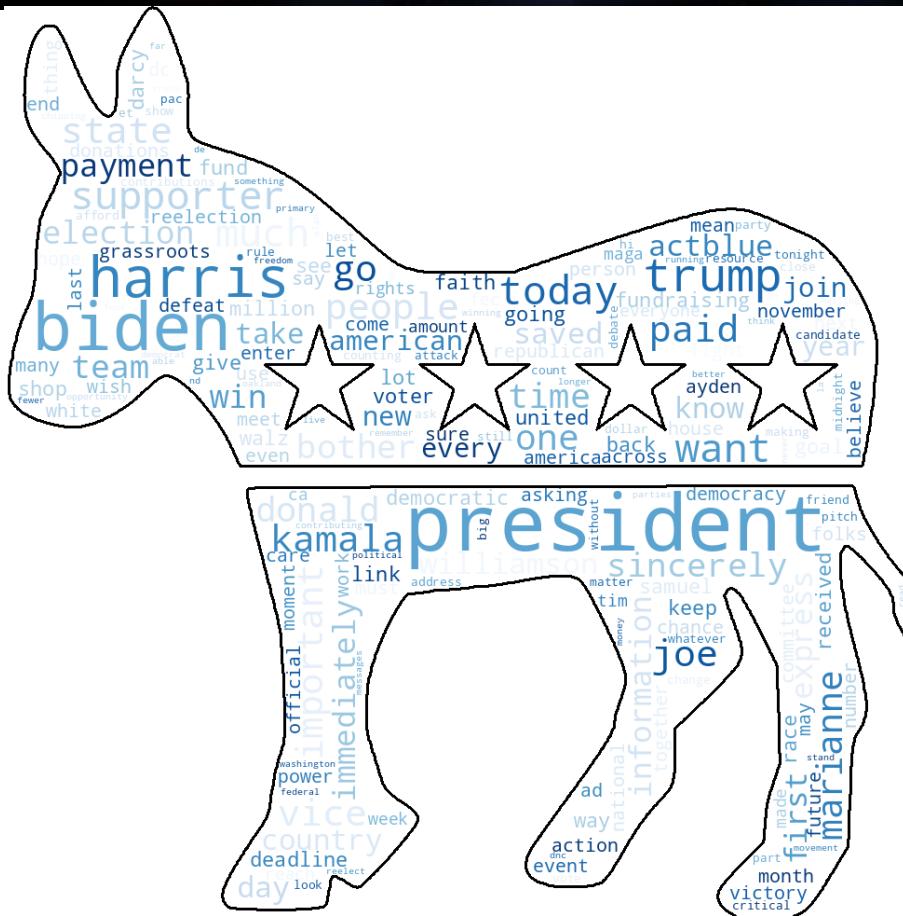
# Sent Time of Day



# Time Commitment of a Signup (Emails)



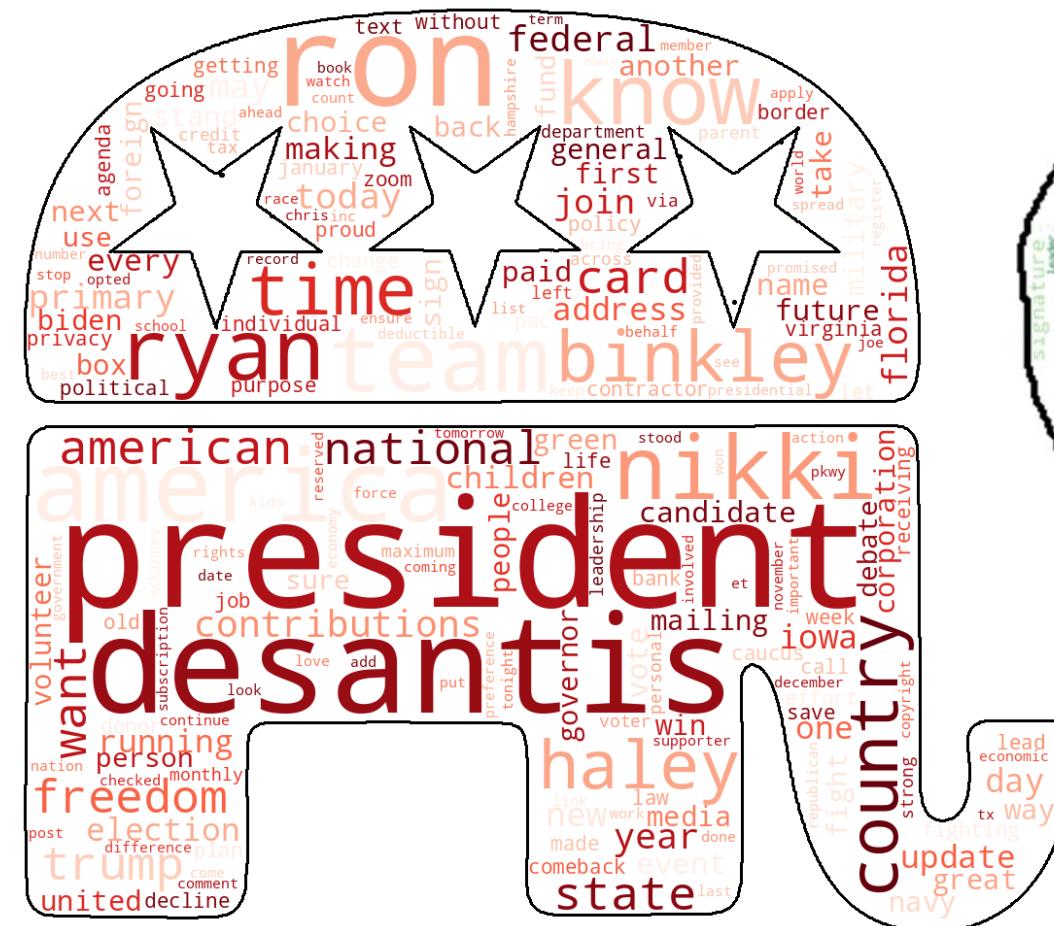
# Third Party Noise in Presidential Election



## 11.4 emails / day

Biden: 10.2 / day

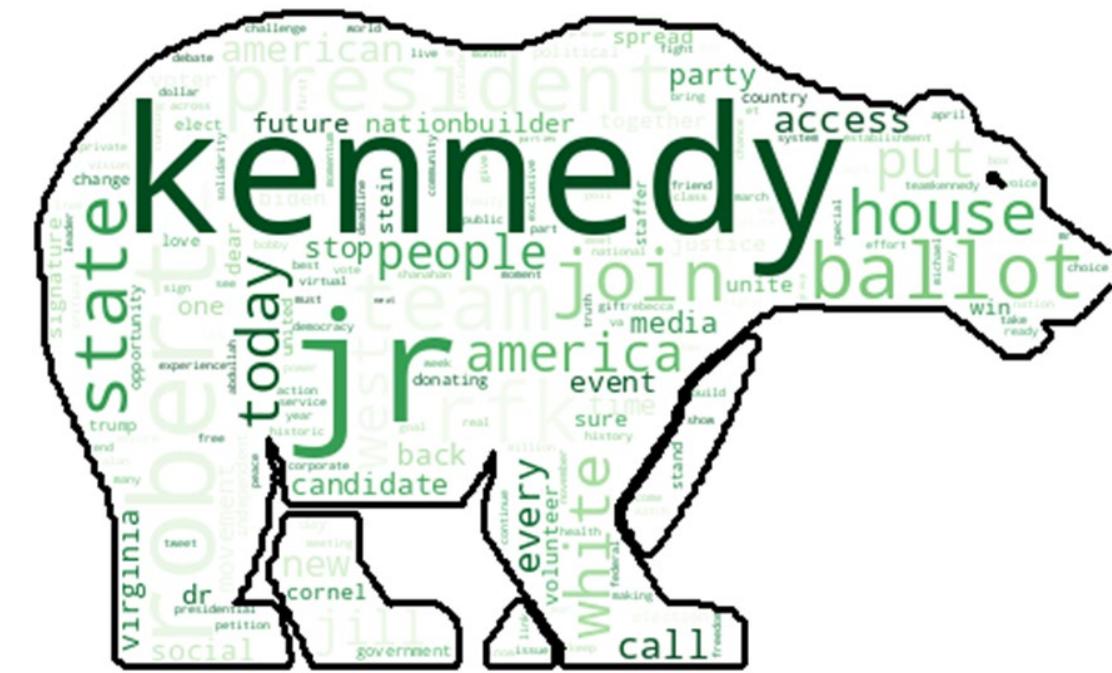
# Harris: 7.3 / day



0.48 emails / day

Trump: 0.18 / day

Desantis: 0.45 / day  
Haley: 0.30 / day



## 11.6 emails / day

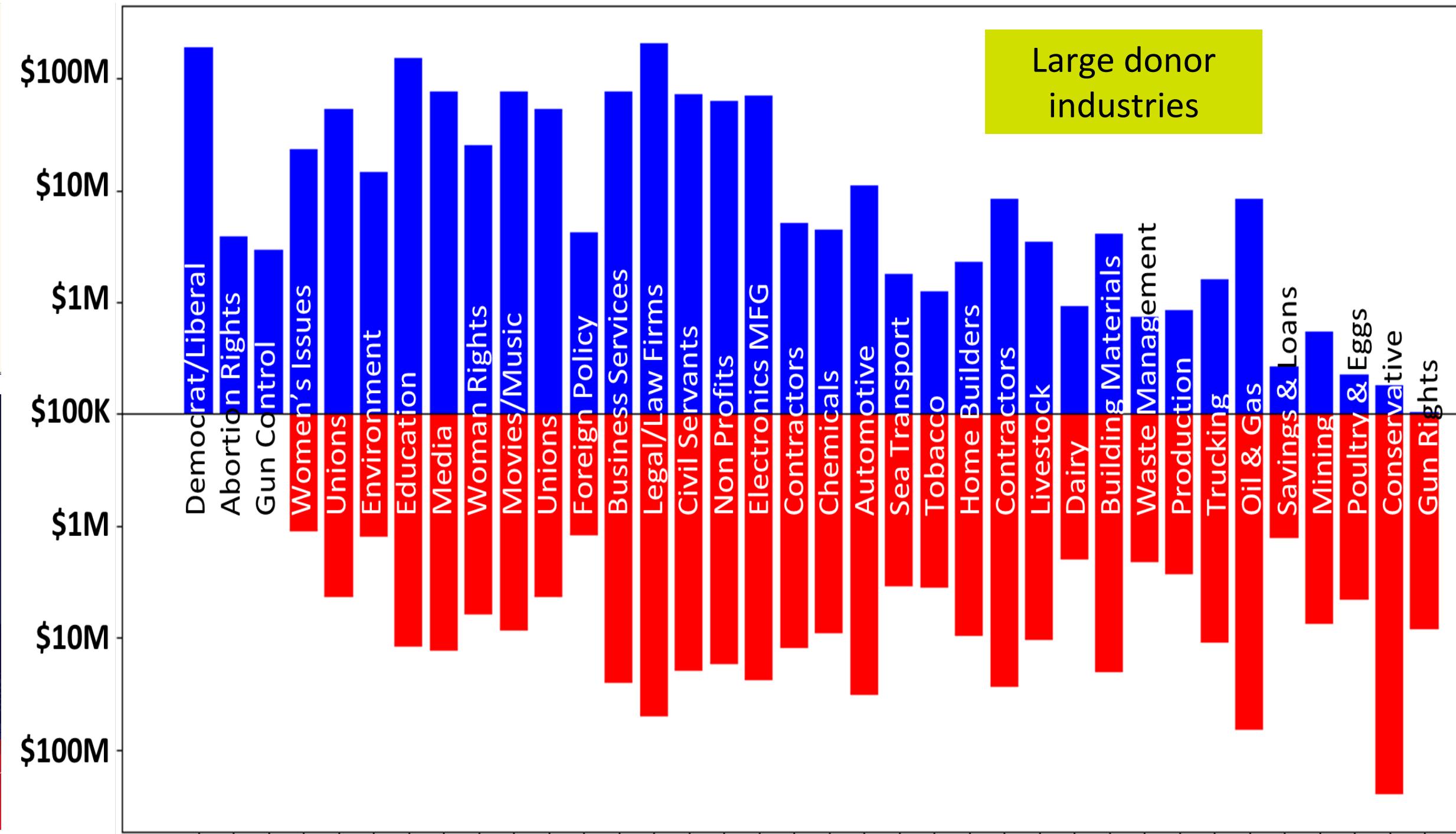
RFK: 4.3 / day

Stein: 1.6 / day

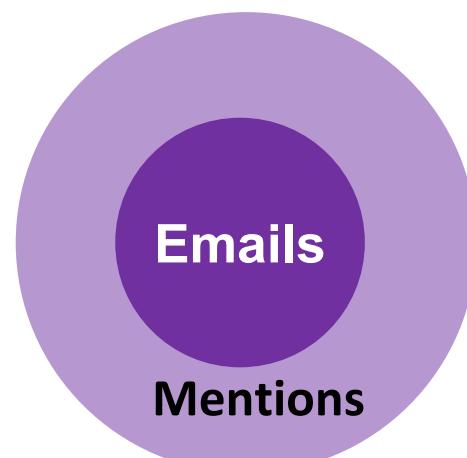
West: 2.0 / day

# The election was *NOT* about...

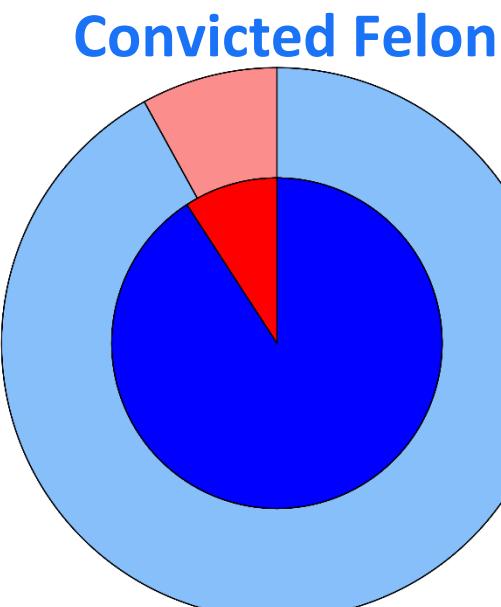
'24 DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
PLATFORM



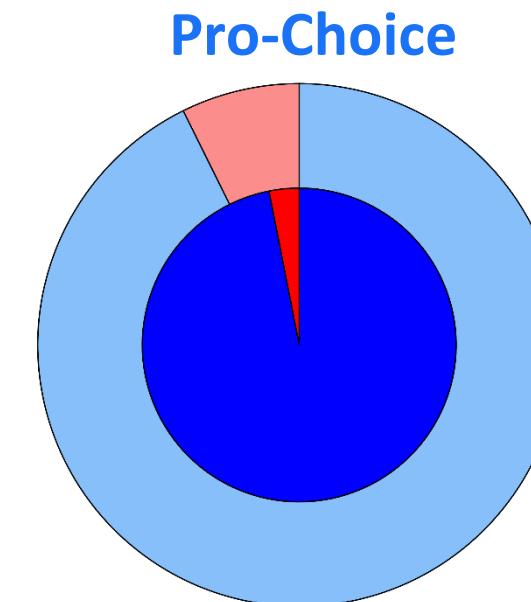
# Keyword Analysis: Distinctives



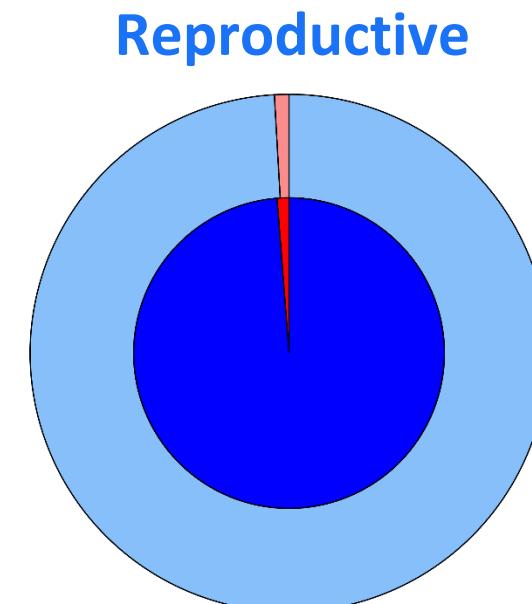
#email::#mentions



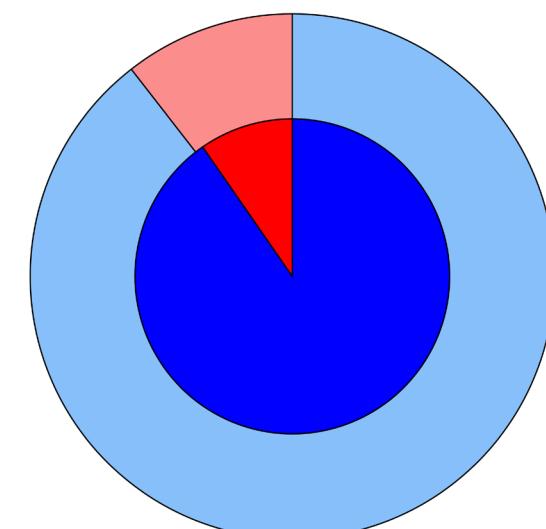
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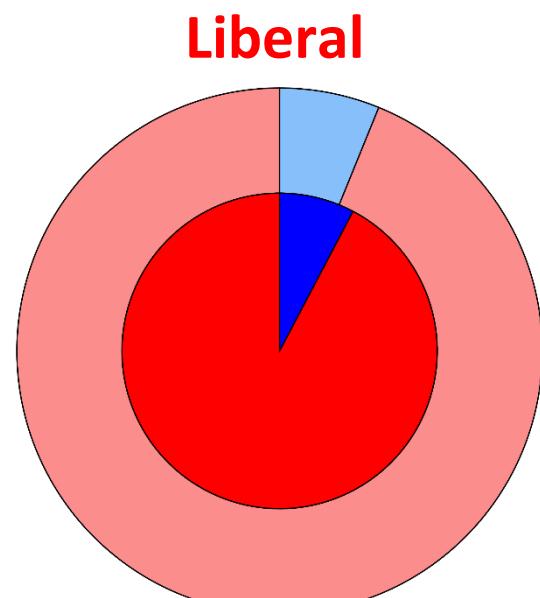
388::533



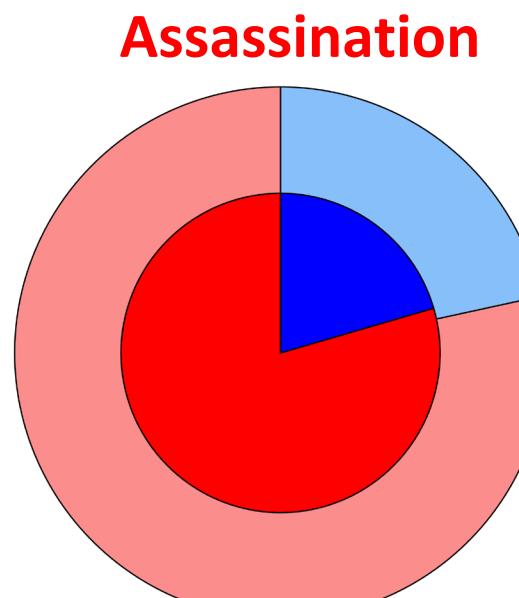
2115::3203



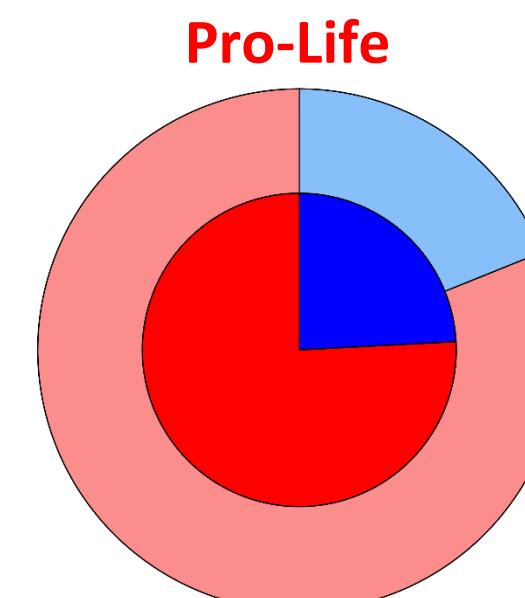
1367::1871



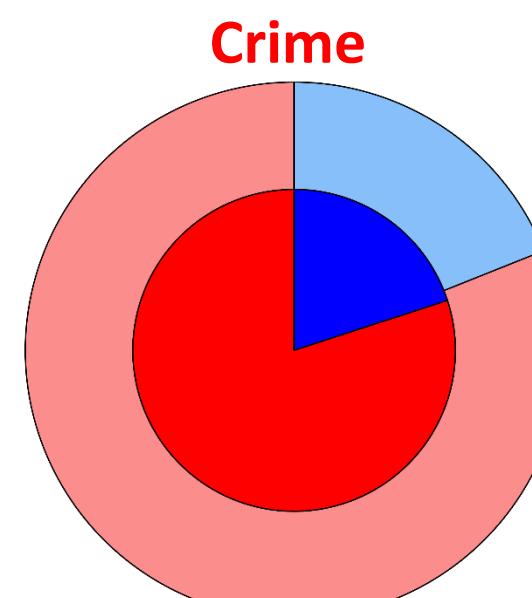
1685::2257



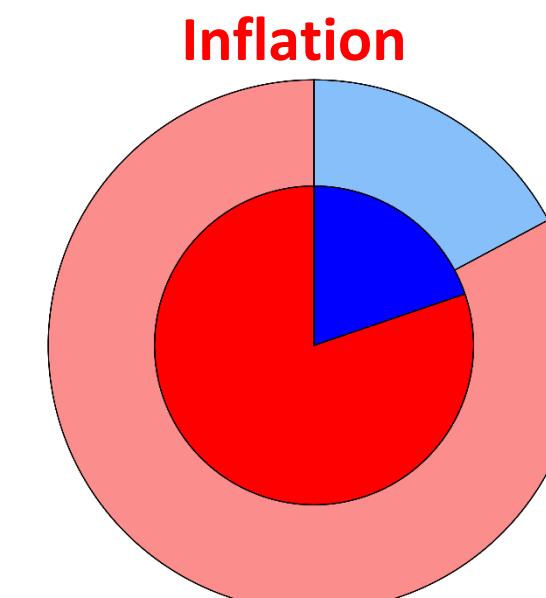
166::227



236::434

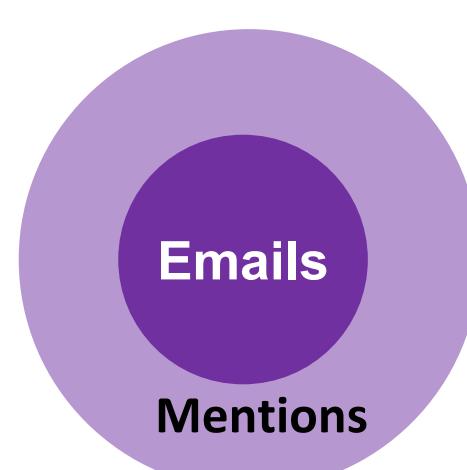


996::1457

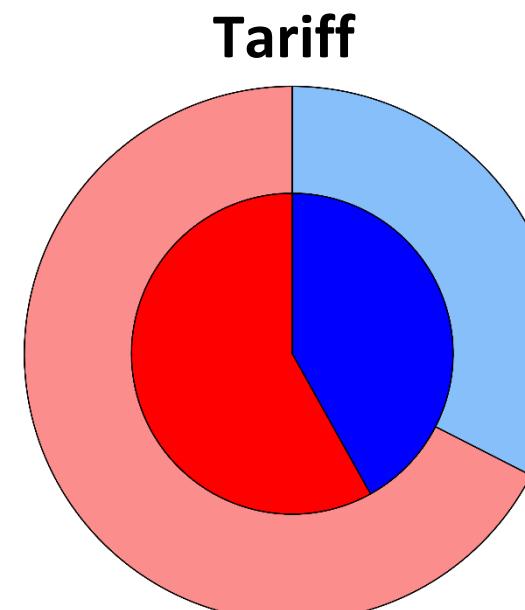


1103::1462

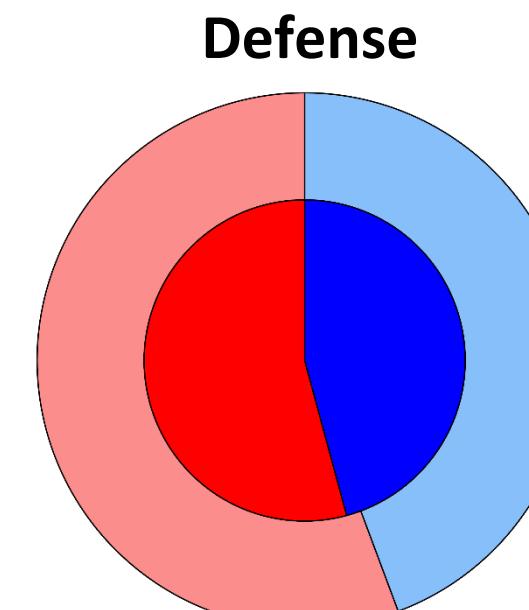
# Keyword Analysis: Similar Interests



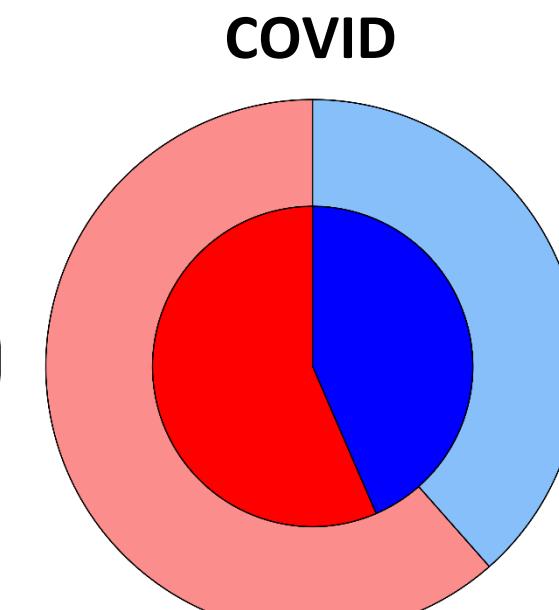
#email:#mentions



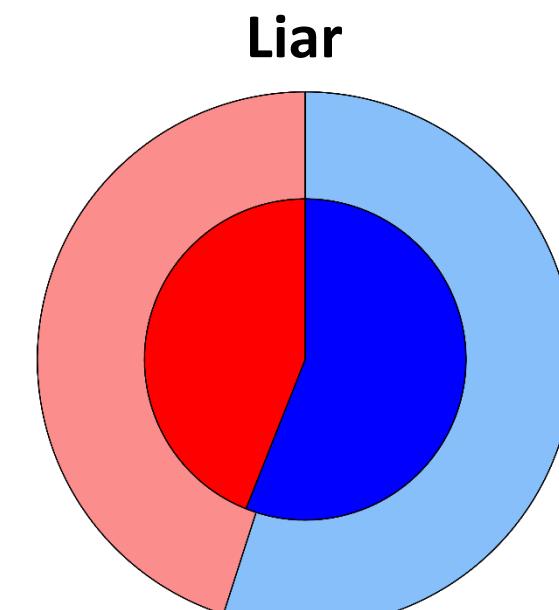
136::406



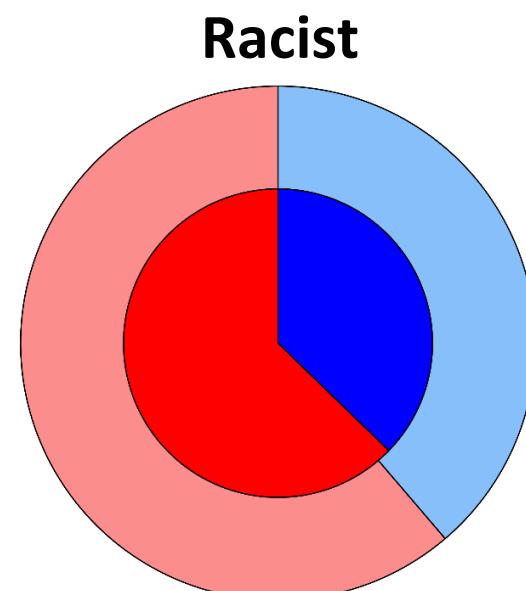
4770::5188



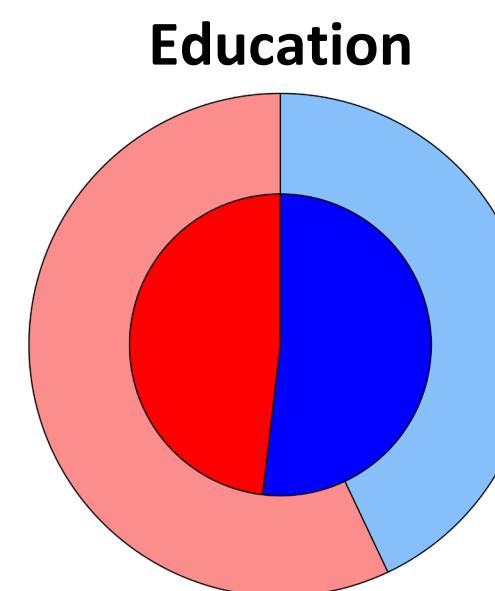
285::343



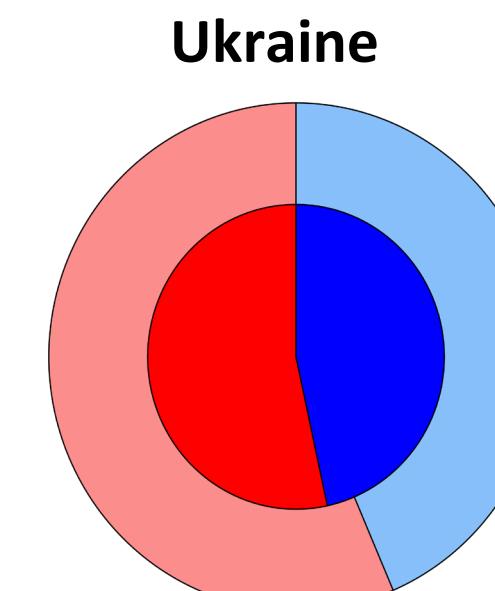
225::253



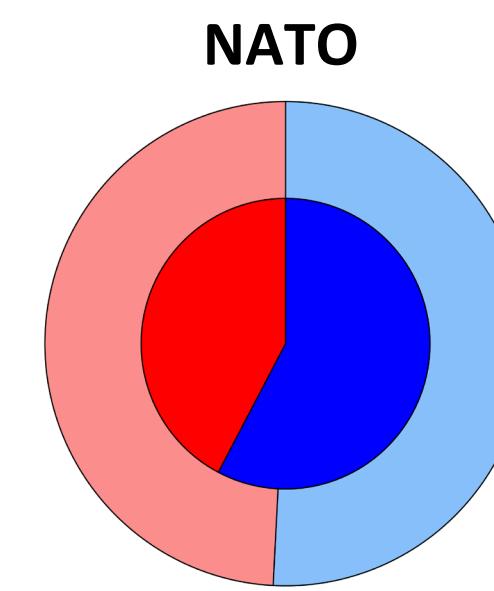
161::240



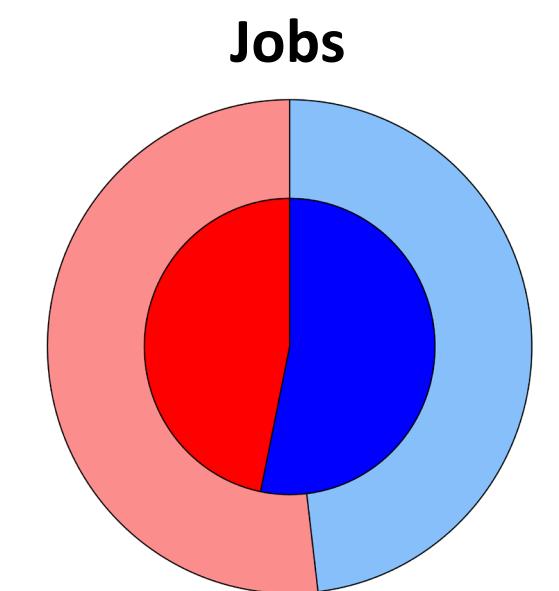
1326::2516



236::443

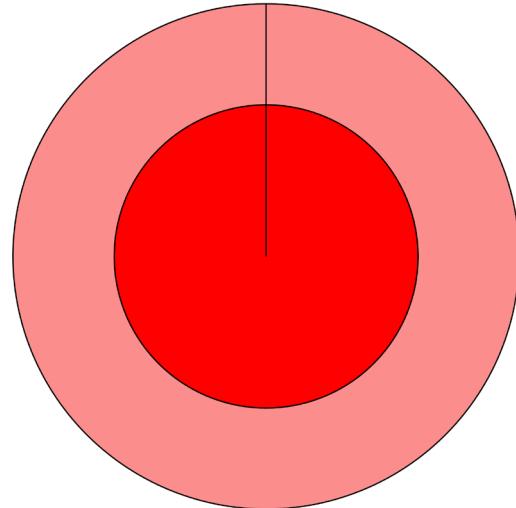


4367::7184

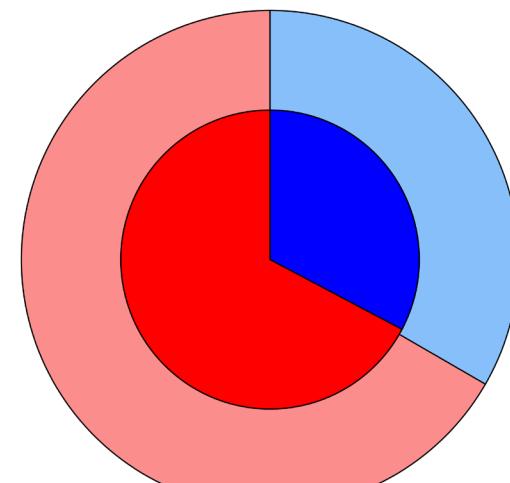


1746::2298 events

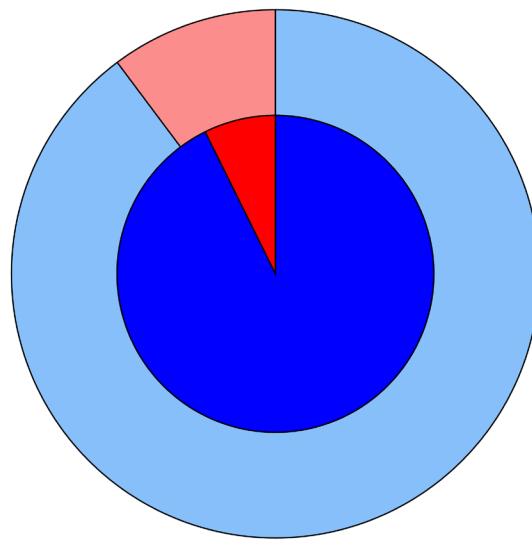
# Keyword Analysis: Cybersecurity

**CISA**

3::3

**Cyber**

55::57

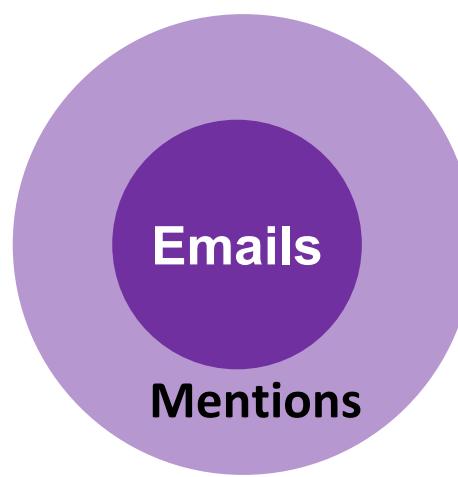
**UFO**

82::88

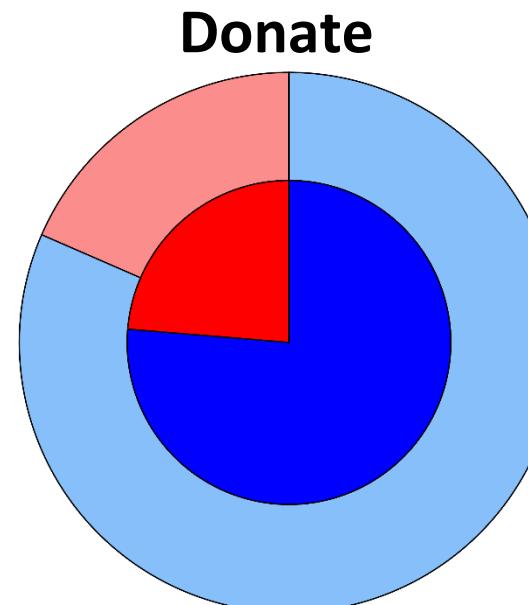
Data suggests  
that politicians  
are more  
interested in  
UFOs than  
cybersecurity



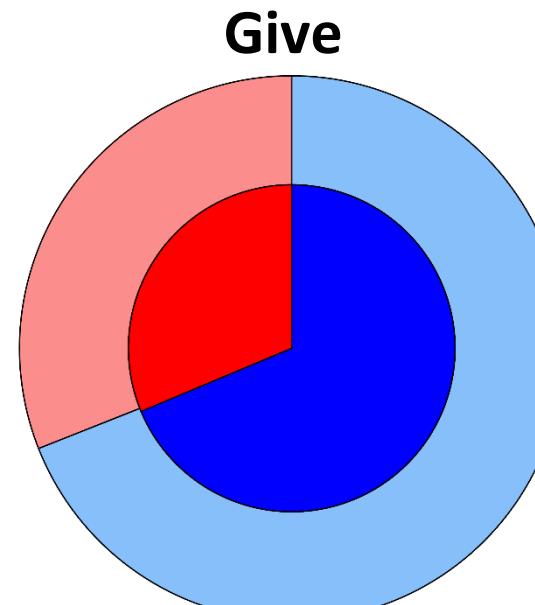
# Keyword Analysis: What really mattered



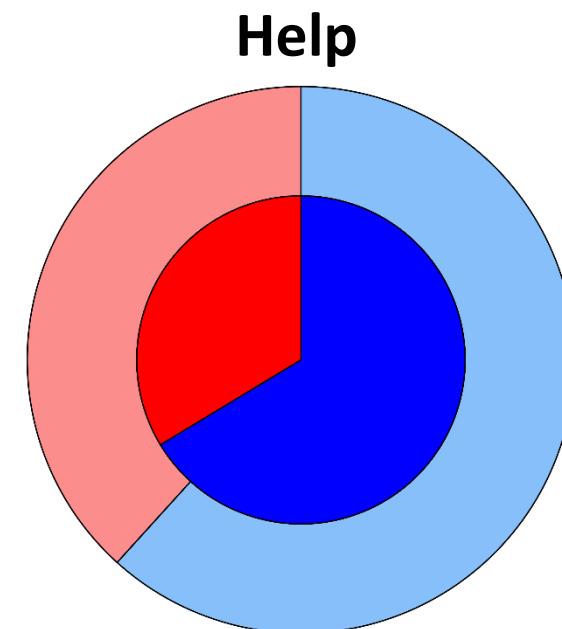
#email::#mentions



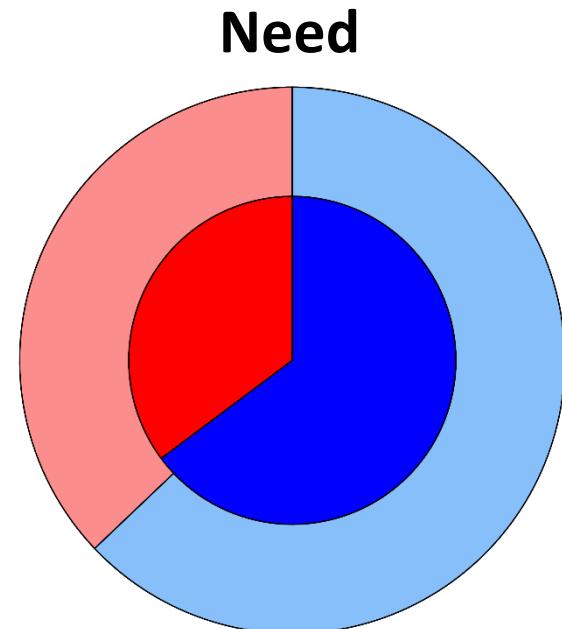
17548::52215



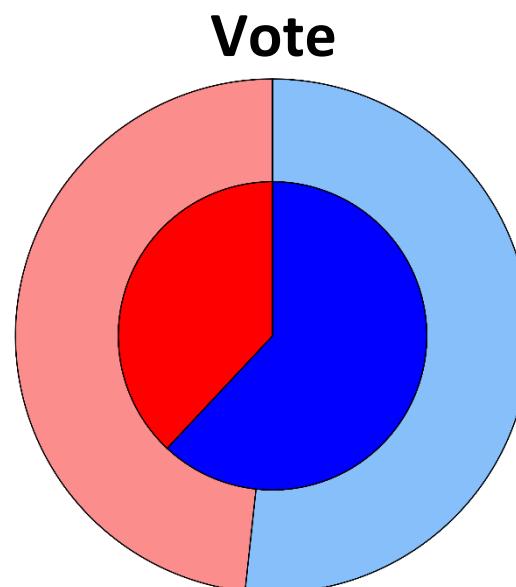
4770::5188



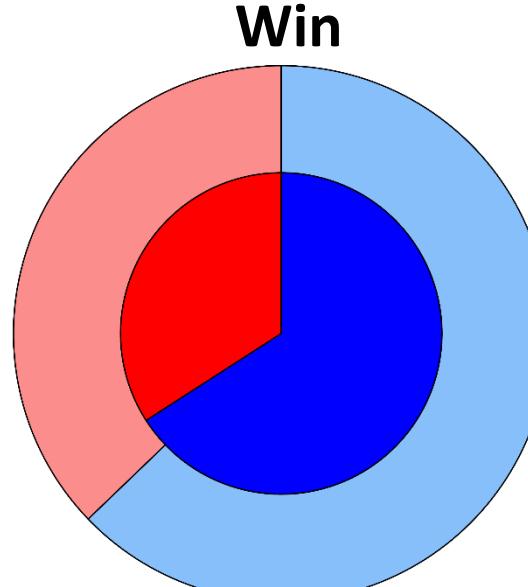
23214::50871



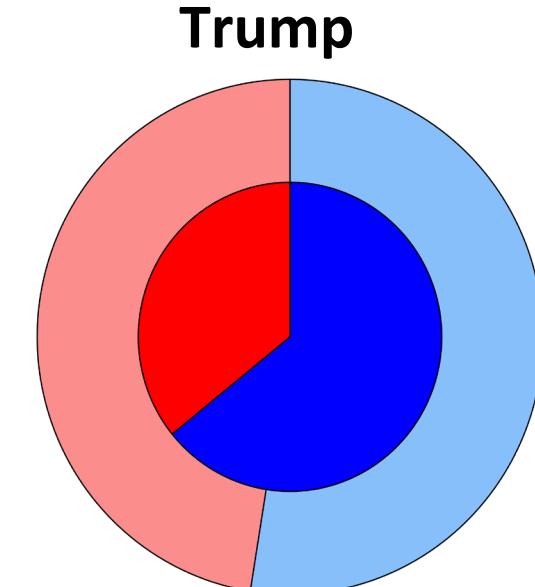
19987::29392



12183::32960



17828::39856



10803::34560

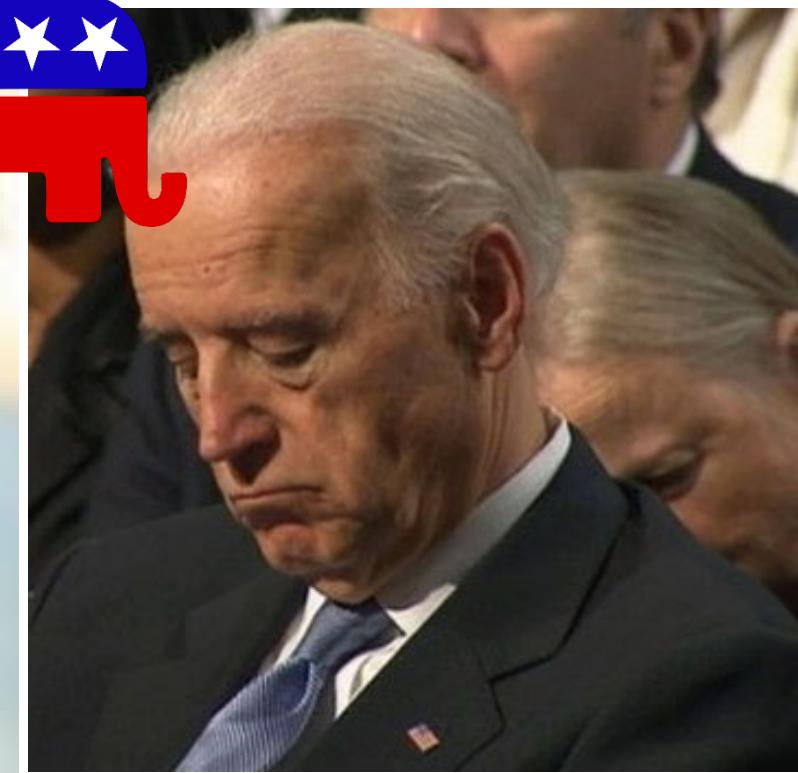
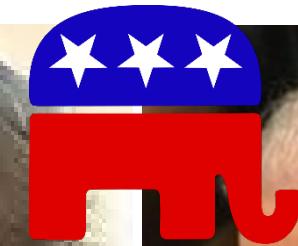
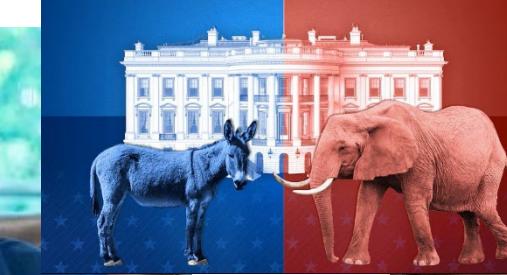
Based on the number of mentions, giving politicians your money and voting them into power *trumped* all issues by an order of magnitude

# Presidential Election was a Cult of Personality

Number of mentions about a candidate, not by the candidate themselves

11389

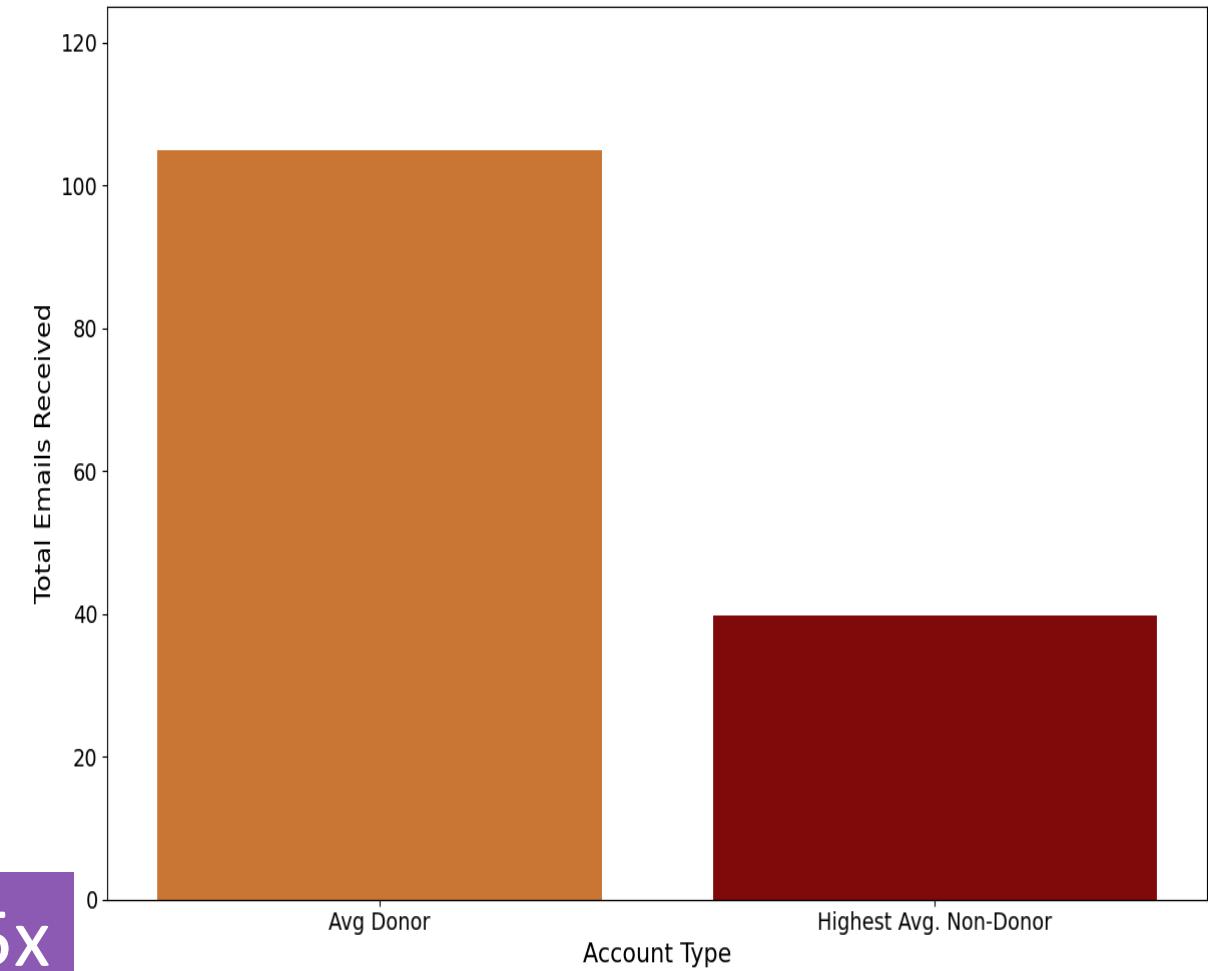
8890



# Donors Receive 2.5 times as many emails

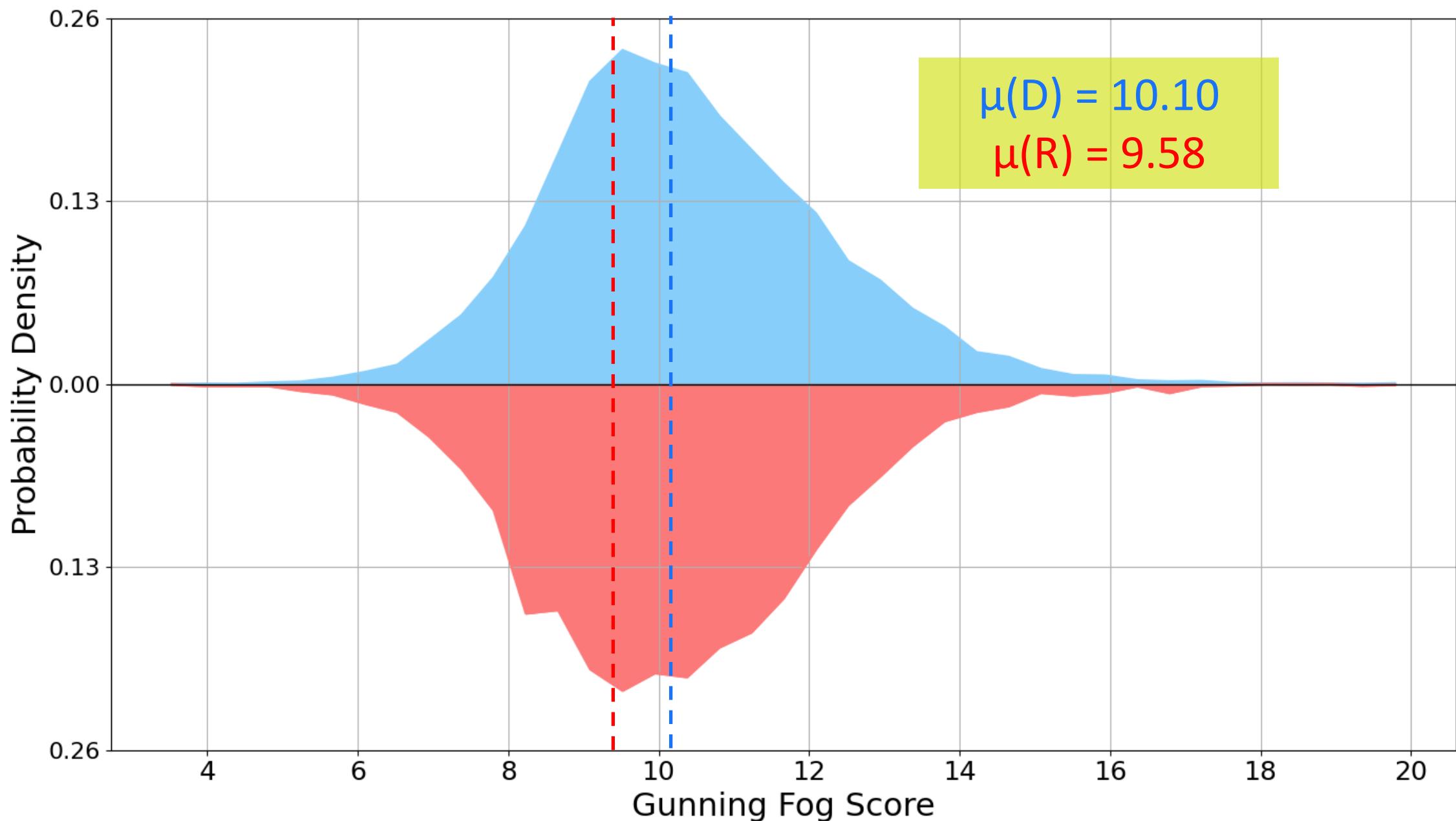


Donors received 2.5x  
as many emails, with  
higher rate of  
donation requests.



2506 Emails

# Email Readability

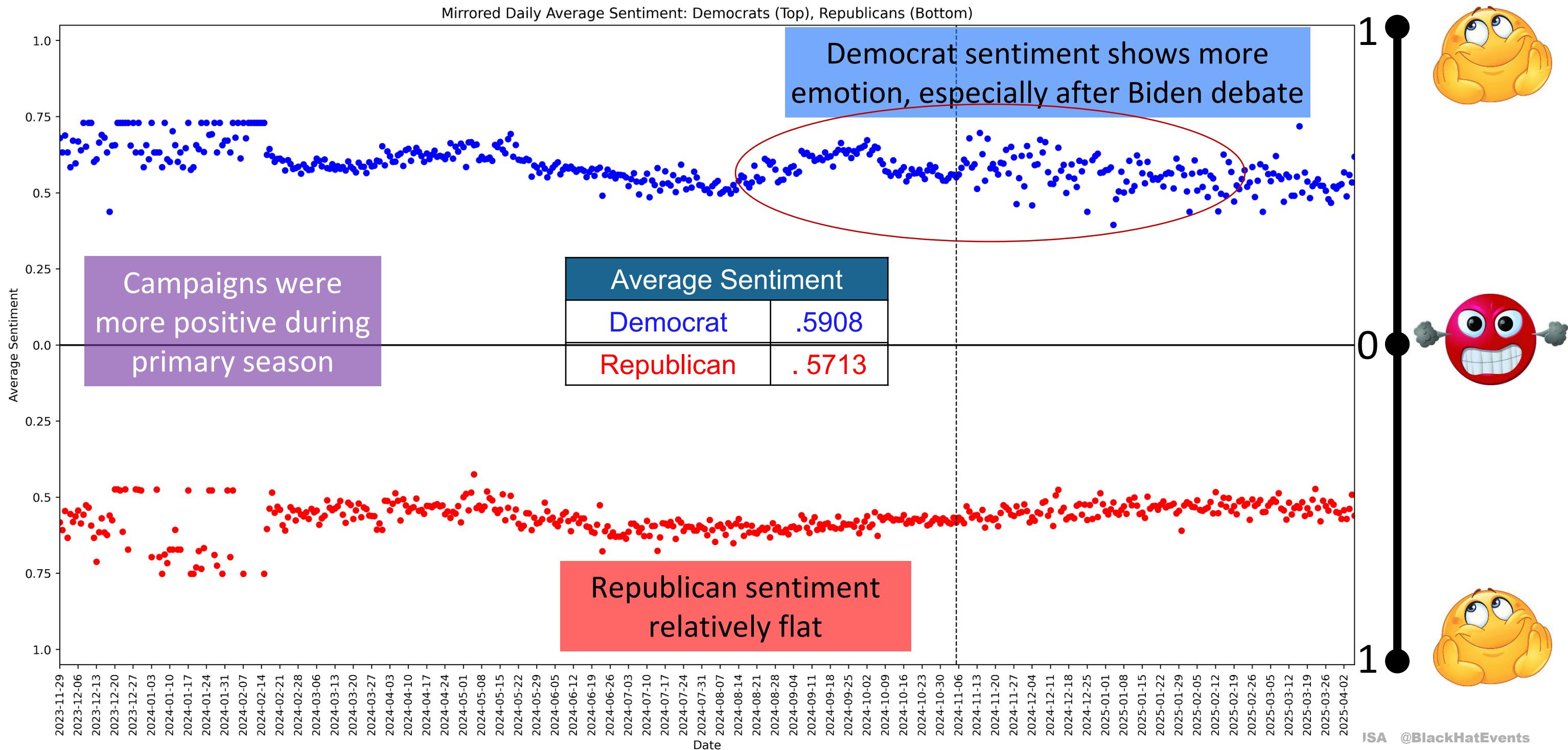


Average email  
written at a 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>  
grade level

Higher educated  
politicians wrote  
simpler emails

Lesser educated  
districts received  
harder to read emails

# Sentiment Analysis of Daily Email Traffic



# Who is pressing the send button?



# All Emojis Used:

©



# All Emojis Used:



# **Chellie Pingree Maine's 1<sup>st</sup> District (D)**

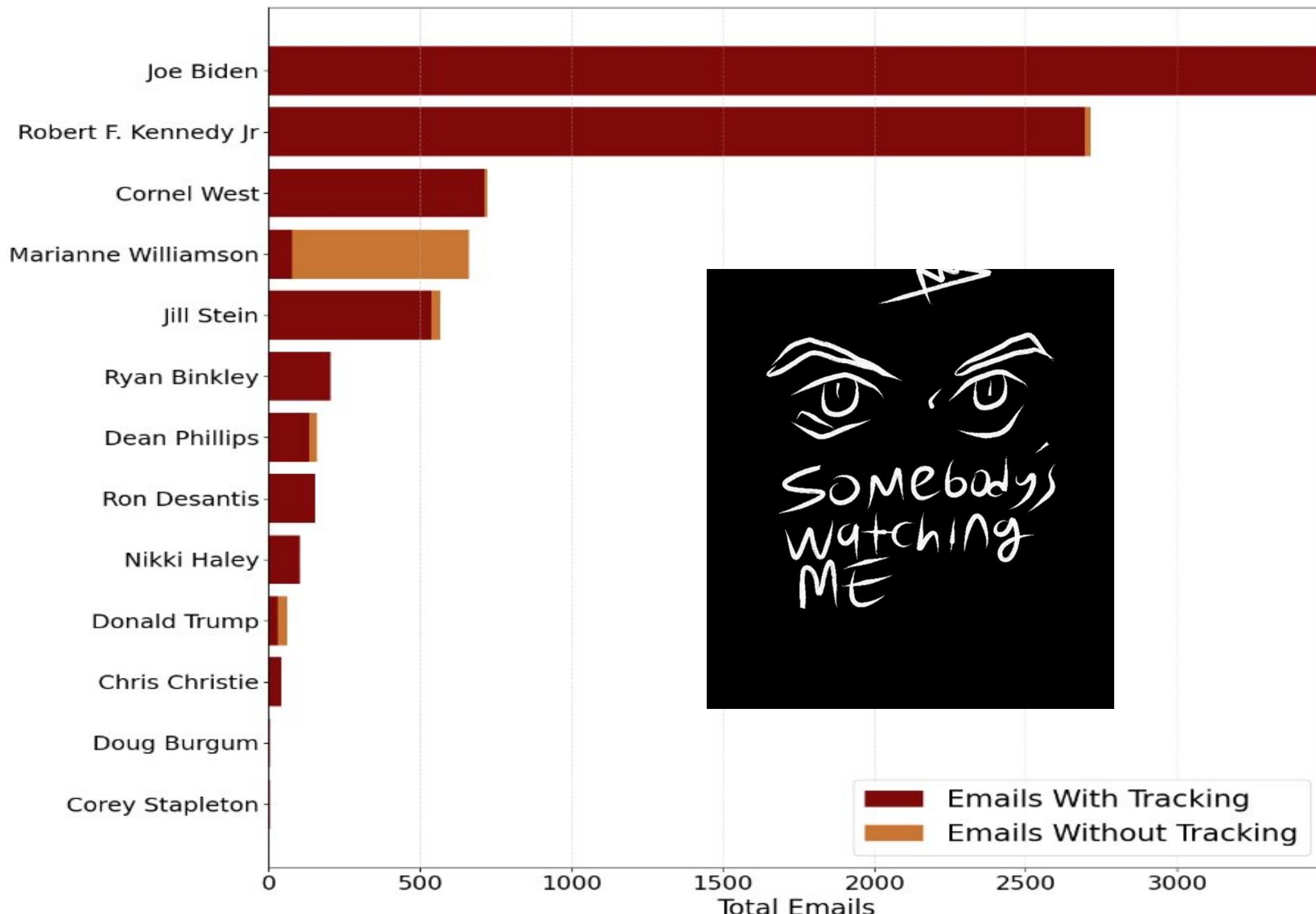


## All Emojis Used:



# ChatGPT

# Tracking Pixels are the Norm



# Political Sharing Behaviors



1058  
emails



- Seamless transition from Biden mailing list to Harris (even the website re-directs)
- 72 candidates shared email lists

	To:			
	D	R	3rd	UNK
From:	D	29	1	3
	R	4	18	1
	3rd	0	1	4
				9

Sharing  
Events

- **61/72 of candidates lost their races (85%)**



Hope your candidate wins or else they'll likely share you contact info



Adam Schiff

Cory Booker, Angela Alsobrooks, Barbara Lee, Ro Khanna, National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda



Kim Klacik

Glen Geelhaar, Finn Vizzi, C Liddick, HappyHahns?, Rich Gei, Traditional Wing Chun Baltimore



KENNEDY  
2024



# Intra-Party Sharing: Democrats (1 of 2)

- **Adam Schiff** → {National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, Cory Booker, Barbara Lee, Angela Overbrooks, Ro Khanna}
- Bob Casey Jr. → {Josh Shapiro}
- Bruno Grandsard → {Olivia Young}
- Don Samuels → {Jacob Frey (Minneapolis Mayor)}
- Emily Busch → {Alex Hawkins (MI House of Reps)}
- **Eric Sorenson** → {Digi Dems}
- Erin Marshall → {Cherlynn Stevenson (KY House)}
- Ernest Lineberger III → {C.R. Stewart, Darlene Oertel, Julie Bengston}
- **Gabriel Vasquez** → {Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee}
- Gloria Witt → {Alex Bastani (VA Lt. Governor), Gary Miller (VA House 49<sup>th</sup> District)}
- Hilary Franz → {Keith Dough}
- Joe Biden → {Kamala Harris}
- Kari Lerner → {Julie Falconer (canvasser), Pat Sjolander (rubber chicken dinners)}
- Kirsten Engel → {Ro Khanna}
- **Laura Gillen** → {NY Democratic Party}
- Manny Lopez → {chinfl@pb08.wixemails.com}
- **Marie Gluesenkamp Perez** → {Digi Dems}

# Intra-Party Sharing: Democrats (2 of 2)

- [Melanie Ann Stansbury](#) → {[Donna Lockner \(Blue Review Democra-si\)](#), SC Forrester}
- Nick Melvoine → {[Mark Hatton](#)}
- Patricia Campos-Medina → {[Sophia Bobrowsky](#)}
- Rachel Bohman → {[Larry Lanphere](#)}
- Raquel Teran → {[Mark Kelly \(AZ Senate\)](#)}
- River Gassen → {[Drew Goymerc](#)}
- Sam Eppler → {[John Bennett](#)}
- **Steny Hoyer** → {[chpf.net \(website disabled\)](#)}
- Steve Williams → {[Gabor Nemeth](#)}
- Susan Wild → {[M. Kelly](#)}
- Tatiana Fernandez → {[Ricky Santiago \(KY House\)](#)}
- Tom Wells → {[Avery Pittman \(UF Pre-Law/intern\)](#)}
- Trisha Calvarese → {[Upstream \(Campaign Launching Platform\)](#)}
- Ty Pinkins → {[MS Votes](#), [Judy Ross](#)}
- Valerie Lin McCray → {[Sierra Roussos \(signature gatherer\)](#)}
- Vaughn Cook → {[Stephen Sobisky](#)}
- Zachary Shrewsbury → {[Jen Perelman \(FL House\)](#)}

- Alex Balekian → {Ani Torosyan ([Armenian Report](#) )}
- **August Pfluger** → {Troy Downing (MT House 2<sup>nd</sup> District)}
- Brian Wright → {Nick Begich, Tony Gonzales}
- Burt Thakur → {Albert@stpse.com [Deceptive site notification]}
- Chris Bish → {Atlan Consulting}
- Dan Franzese → {Diane Evans}
- Derek Merrin → {Charlie Mlcek, National Republican Congressional Committee}
- Derrick Anderson → {Winsome Earle-Sears, National Republican Congressional Committee}
- Eddie Garcia → {tim@vaffc.ccsend.com [*Constant Contact* ‘Do-it-yourself Marketing’]}
- Eric Hansen → {Pat Herrity (Fairfax County Board of Supervisors), newsletter@parlermailer.com}
- James Judge → {Matthew J Wuethrich}
- Jeff Gunter → {ambjrg.pinfiber.com}
- Jerry Evans → {John Goodman (IL Senate)}
- John Fabbricatore → {M-squaredstrategies.com (Political Strategy Consulting)}
- **Michael Baumgartner** → {dbx55555}
- Philip Singleton → {J Simpson (Capitol Resources – State and Government Affairs)}
- Robert Weinroth → {The Liberty Playbook, Unwavering Freedom}
- **Roger Wicker** → {Desoto County District Attorney’s office}

- **Ryan Mackenzie** → {Andrew Bucci}
- Scott Parkinson → {George Washington University}
- Tad Jude → {Jason Stauffacher (State Farm Insurance?), Ruth Bittner (Vice Chair MN 3<sup>rd</sup> District)}
- Trent Staggs → {Brad Wilson (UT House 15<sup>th</sup> District)}
- Valdamar Archuleta → {Alton Rules ?}
- Yvette Herrell → {National Republican Congressional Committee}

## Intra-Party Sharing: Third-Party

- Dan Osborn → {Leanne Fan (Brennan Institute for Labor)}
- Jill Stein → {C. Rose, Dina Browning, Green Yager, Tamara Yager (VA Green Party)}
- Mark Ruzon → {Brent TR, cgr0ss, K Dephanger, Kevin C. Walsh, American Solidarity Party, Sarah Christina}
- Michael Dublin → {NC Green Party}

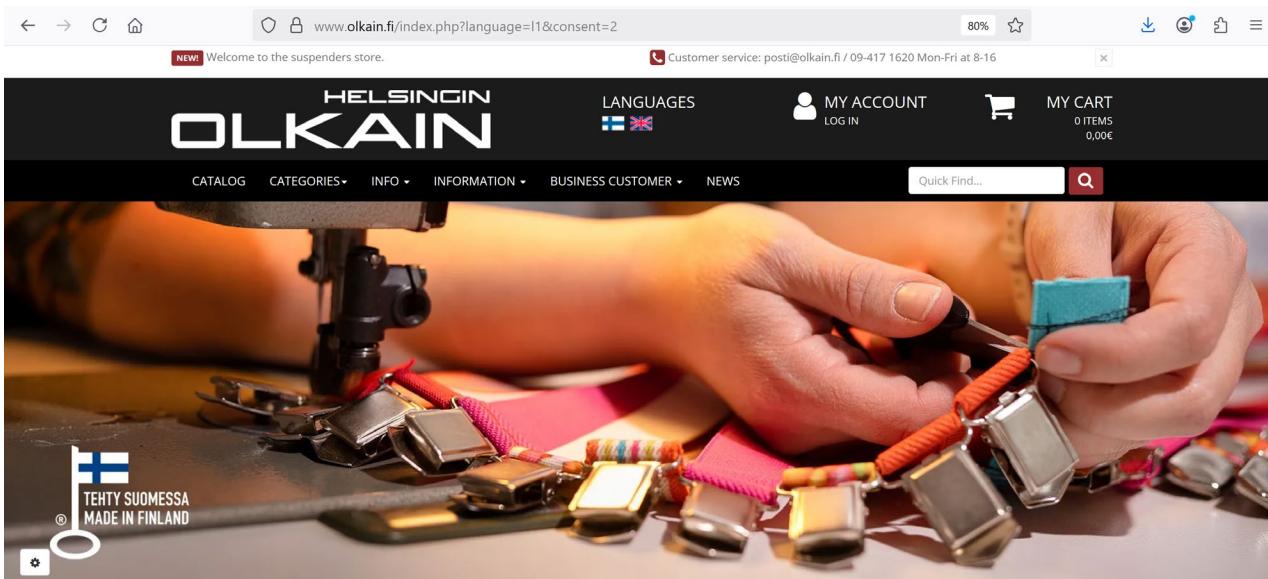
# Cross-Party Sharing

- Dean Phillips → {Andrew Yang}
- Jennifer Tran → {Jamieson Greer (US Trade Representative)}
- Joshua Griffin → {Joe Reagan (CO House)}
- Kim Klacik → {C Liddick, Finn Vizzi, Glen Geelhaar (MD House), happyhahns, Rich Gei/Kennedy for President, Traditional Wing Chun Baltimore}
- Mark Lamb → {Amnani Jamsari, Claudia Burton (OR Judge, 3<sup>rd</sup> District), C Leff, GEL Chirilov, Katelyn Gray, Mehan Bray, [support@helsinginolkain.fi](mailto:support@helsinginolkain.fi), Tyga Inzunza}
- Michael Van Meter → {Julie Mayfield (NC State Senate 49<sup>th</sup> District)}
- Robert F. Kennedy Jr → {Rural and Red Super PAC, solriou}
- Theodore Liddell → {Joe Miller (OH House 53<sup>rd</sup> District)}
- Thomas Carle → {Karen Baker (VA House), J David Swift (NY Green Party), Joeby Kowicz, Marcia Jo, Matthew Podoba (Political Podcasts)}
- Thomas Witkop → {AOL News, Paxus Calta (Anarchist)}

100% LOST

# Hacked?

Mark Lamb  
AZ Senate (R)



A screenshot of the OLKAIN website ([www.olkain.fi](http://www.olkain.fi)) featuring a person working on leather straps. The website has a dark header with the brand name "OLKAIN" in white. A green button in the center says "Feel Like Your Old Self Again 70% OFF Today Only!". Above the button, there are two images: one of a man holding blue insoles and another of a person putting them into a shoe.



These New Generation [Japanese Insoles](#) Get Rid of Agonizing Foot Pain Without Expensive Medical Bills

Akusoli insoles combine advanced arch support, acupressure cushioning, and magnetic therapy to **relieve foot pain and provide comfort instantly**.

Let's start with the proper arch support. It distributes your weight evenly to reduce pressure and pain in your feet. The technology also eliminates muscle tension and joint pain in most parts of your lower body. Yes, **this also includes the lower back**.

Akusoli insoles are designed to help support your feet while providing relief from various foot conditions, such as plantar fasciitis and general foot discomfort. The cushioned areas and targeted pain relief features can help alleviate pain and improve overall foot well-being.

Feel Like Your Old Self Again 70% OFF  
Today Only!

"Pat Maebh  
D. Thomas"

Malware scam



Oregon 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Judicial District



Carolyn Leff



Amnani Jamsari



Tyga Inzunza



GEL Chirilov



Katelyn Gray



Mehan Bray

# Anecdotes

John Liccione  
(D) for U.S. House  
Fl. 13<sup>th</sup> District

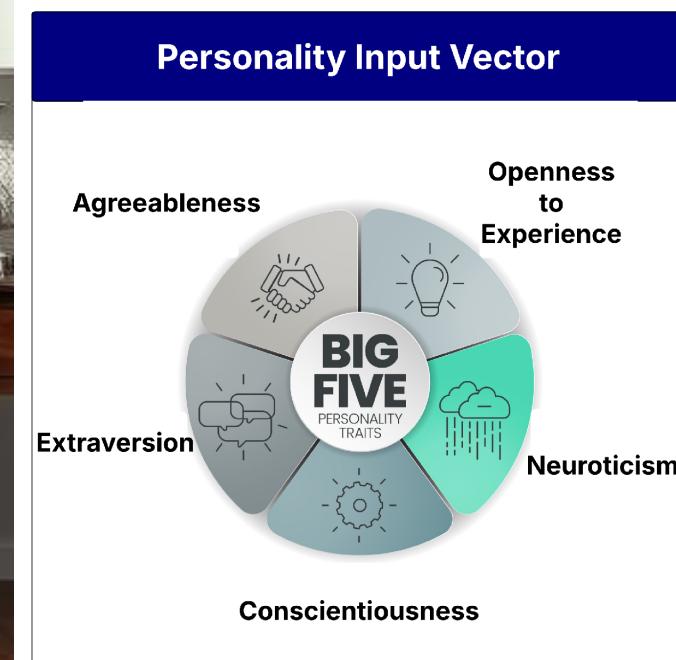


8 pieces of mail from  
Oct 2023-Nov 2024

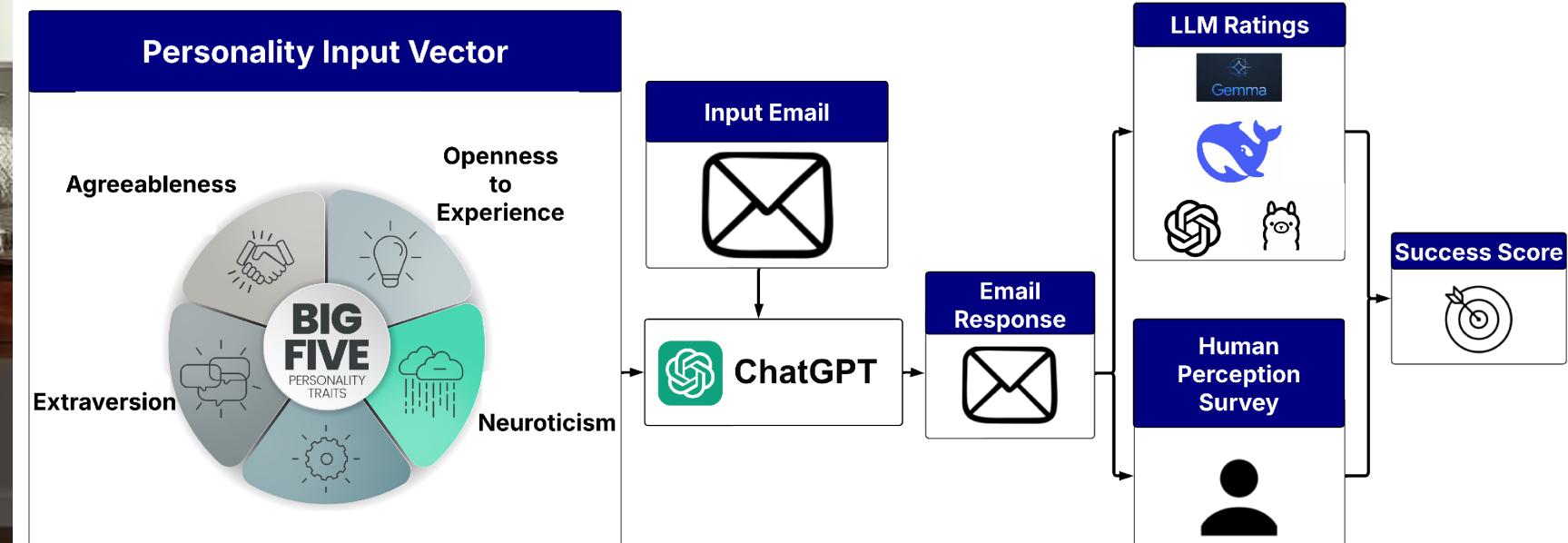
2 credit cards w/ fraud alerts  
2 debit cards frozen



# Related Experiments: Fake ID Personalities

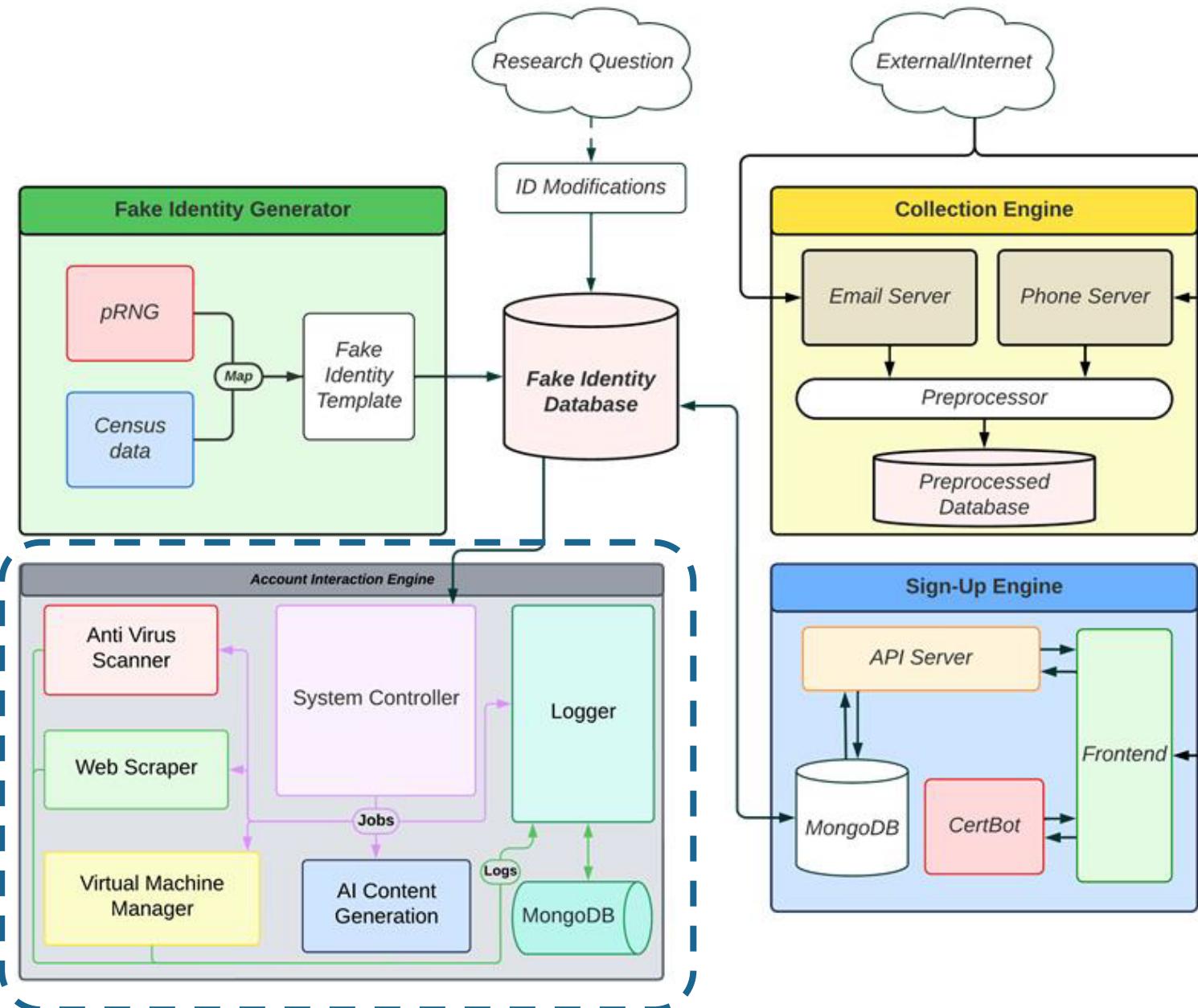


Exploring LLM emulation of human personality

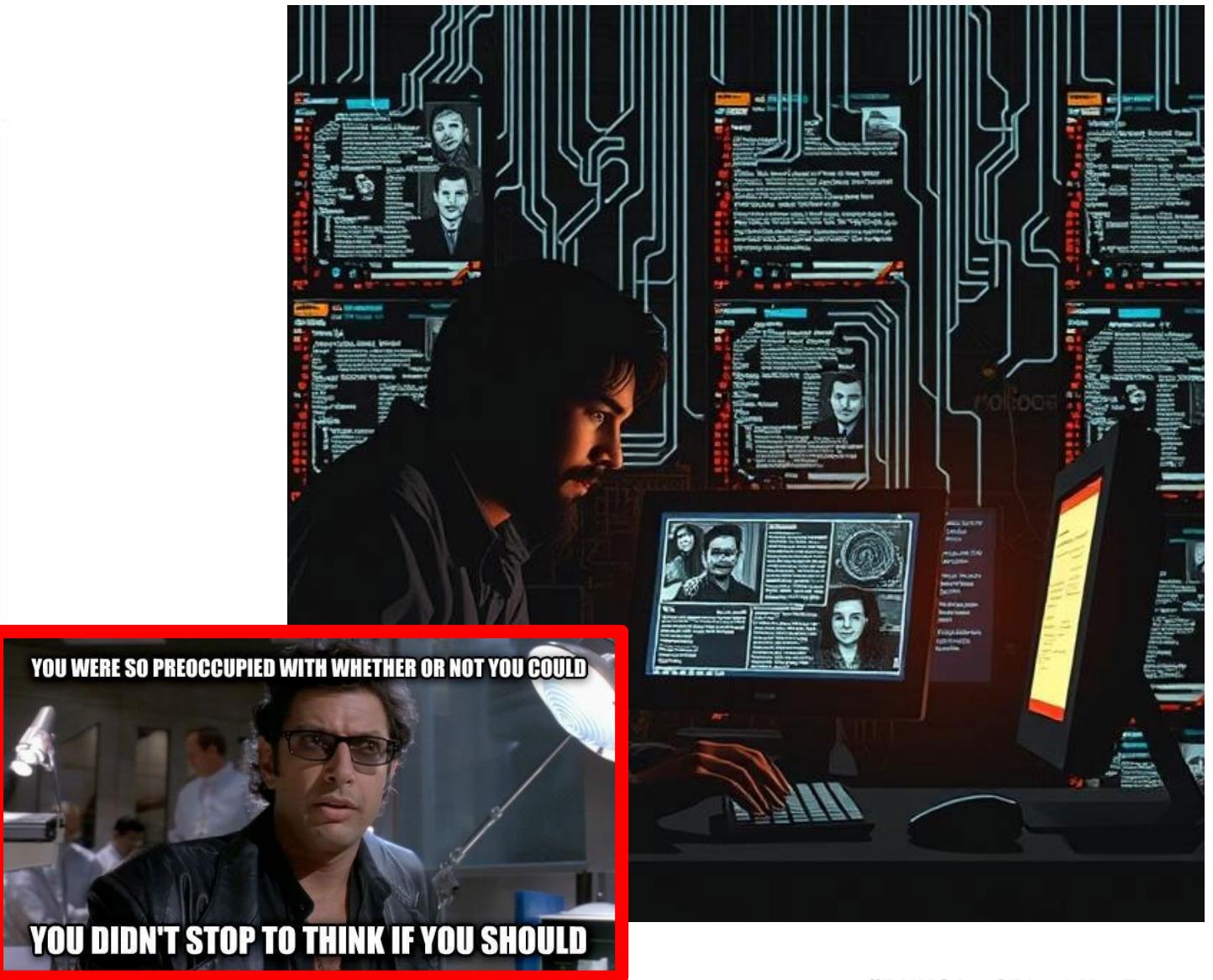


# Coming Soon: Account Interaction Engine

Automation processes now support AI-generated responses



Pausing AI usage to develop an active OSINT ethics framework



# Blackhat Sound Bytes



If you donate to a political campaign, they will ask you to donate again 2.5 times as much.



Personal information usage is plentiful, and similar across parties; 5% of candidates share your info with third parties.



Fundamentally, candidates did not talk much about issues other than Trump, just requests to donate.

# Analytics Dashboard and Whitepaper

## Welcome to U&A

Access your research questions and  
manage FIDs

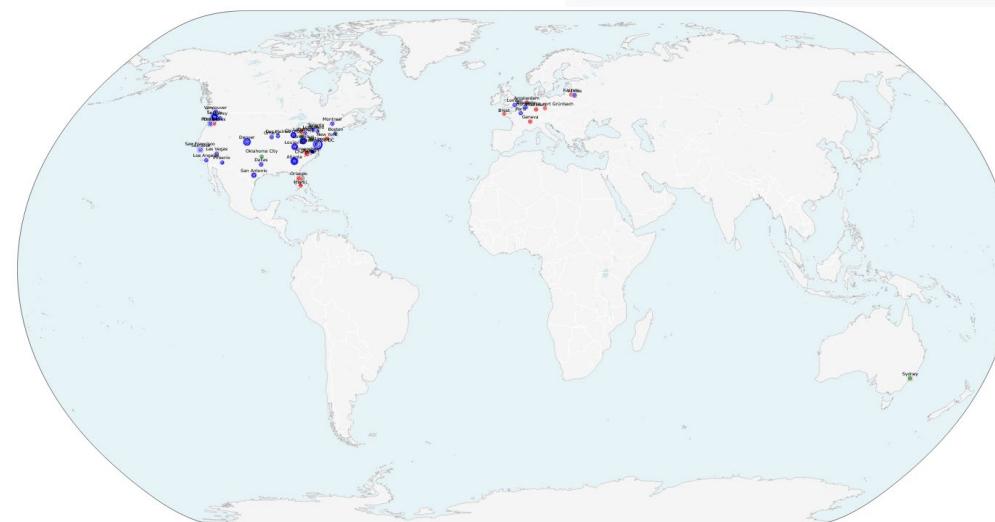
Log in →

Need access? Contact your administrator



Visiting from BlackHat Conference?

BlackHat Access →



### Filters

#### Branch

All

House

Senate

Presidential

#### Outcome

Lost Primary

Won Primary, Lost Election

Won Election

## U&A Dashboard Demo

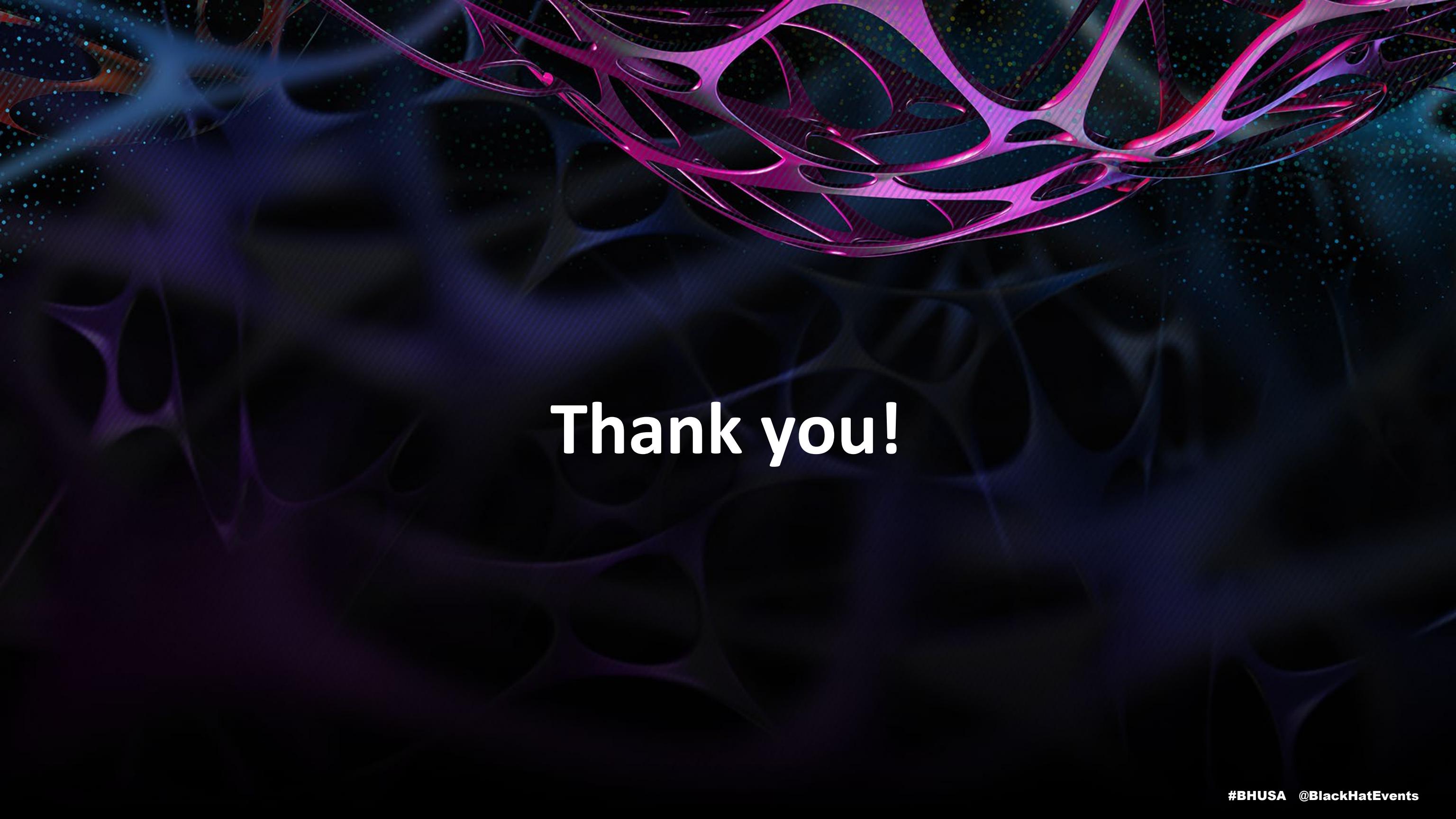


<https://uaabank.com>

## Blackhat USA 2025 Whitepaper



BHUSA 2025 U&A Briefings Page



Thank you!