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# The Return of Voter Fraud Misinformation in the 2020 Election

Forensics Study 2  
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December 17, 2020

Old Dominion University  
Web Archiving Forensics  
CS 895

# U.S. Election Fraud



"Soliciting a Vote", 1852. (Photo by Universal History Archive/UIG via Getty Images)

# Sampling of Recent Fraud Cases

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# 2016 Election Fraud Claims

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- Claims of deceased voters
- Russian Interference
- Noncitizen voters
- Ballot destruction
- And more...

# 2020 Election New Fraud Claims

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- Mail-in Ballots
- #Sharpiegate, #stopthesteal, #stopthecount
- Vote Data Patterns

# Purpose

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- Examine 2020 Election Fraud claim websites
- Explore Social Media Labeling and using web archives for discovering the misinformation labels
- Determine if foreign influence was discovered in this election

# Storygraph - 11/03/20 - Fraud Lawsuits Emerging

Connected Component Rank: 3 of 5, Average Degree: 3.33	
	<a href="#">Live election updates: Latest polls show Biden ahead in Michigan - Vox</a>
	<a href="#">Lawyers on standby if cloudy election outcome heads to court - ABC News</a>
	<a href="#">The Republican war on voting doesn't end with Election Day</a>
	<a href="#">Election 2020 live updates: Trump, Biden trade insults on eve of Election Day - The Washington Post</a>
	<a href="#">Election Day 2020: What you need to know - CNNPolitics</a>
	<a href="#">Trump Campaign Manager Details Data: 'Democrats Should Be Nervous'</a>
	<a href="#">Obama makes surprise phone calls to voters waiting in line to cast ballots   TheHill</a>
	<a href="#">More than 96 million Americans have voted with one day to go until Election Day - CNNPolitics</a>
	<a href="#">Federal judge rejects GOP-led challenge seeking to invalidate nearly 127,000 votes in Democratic-leaning county - CNNPolitics</a>
	<a href="#">Election 2020: Early voting numbers are truly astounding - Vox</a>
	<a href="#">Federal Judge Rejects Republican Bid To Toss Out 127,000 Ballots In Texas   HuffPost</a>
	<a href="#">Trump Campaign Sets The Stage For Election Night Coup   HuffPost</a>

# Storygraph - 12/12/20 - Fraud lawsuits getting rejected

Connected Component Rank: 2 of 4, Average Degree: 6.43	
	<a href="#">House Republicans who didn't sign onto the Texas lawsuit   TheHill</a>
	<a href="#">Supreme Court rejects Texas' push to overturn Biden victory   TheHill</a>
	<a href="#">Some Republican senators slam Texas lawsuit after more than 100 House GOP members sign on</a>
	<a href="#">Supreme Court rejects Trump's bid to overturn election - CNNPolitics</a>
	<a href="#">Supreme Court dismisses bid led by Texas attorney general to overturn the presidential election results, blocking Trump's legal path to reverse his loss - The Washington Post</a>
	<a href="#">Supreme Court: Battleground states issue blistering rebukes to Texas' lawsuit to invalidate millions of votes - CNNPolitics</a>
	<a href="#">Supreme Court Rejects Trump's Authoritarian Bid To Hijack The Presidency   HuffPost</a>
	<a href="#">Lin Wood Announces Georgia Case "Finally Docketed" at US Supreme Court</a>
	<a href="#">Arizona Senate Republicans to hold hearing on elections   TheHill</a>
	<a href="#">AGs from Twenty States, Two Territories Oppose Texas Election Suit</a>
	<a href="#">Arizona attorney general doesn't join Texas election suit, opts to file opinion</a>
	<a href="#">Supreme Court rejects Texas case challenging Biden swing-state wins</a>

# Who is spreading the Election Fraud claims?

Sara A. Carter @SaraCarterDC

.@RandPaul: 'The fraud happened. The election in many ways was stolen'

This claim about election fraud is disputed

LIVE

ELECTION SECURITY & ADMINISTRATION C-SPAN

Rand Paul: 'The fraud happened. The election in many ways was stolen' - Sara...  
Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) at Wednesday's U.S. Senate hearing examining irregularities during 2020 presidential election claimed that "fraud happened" ...  
[saraacarter.com](http://saraacarter.com)

1:31 PM · Dec 16, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Senator Rand Paul @RandPaul · Nov 10

Twitter is flagging my question: Your government sent 1.1 million dead people stimulus checks. Wonder how many of these folks also voted absentee?

So, now it is unacceptable to pose questions?

Follow me on [@parler\\_app](#) and prepare for the day twitter silences debate.

This claim about election fraud is disputed

7.3K 27.5K 77.3K

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Just released data shows many thousands of noncitizens voted in Nevada. They are totally ineligible to vote!

This claim about election fraud is disputed

10:45 AM · Dec 17, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

41.8K Retweets 3.7K Quote Tweets 170.2K Likes

## **Issues with Identifying the breadth of labeled users on Twitter**

- Twitter doesn't provide a search field for their misinformation labels (e.g., label: "This claim about election fraud is disputed")
- User would have to know main actors before using Twitter API

# Augmenting our results via Web Archives



November 6th "This claim about election fraud is disputed" found on Donald Trump's twitter feed for the first time

# Everylegalvote.com self-reporting affidavits

The screenshot shows the homepage of EveryLegalVote.com. At the top, a banner reads "DOMINION VOTER FRAUD PROVEN BY FORENSIC AUDIT. 68% ERROR RATE! 7,000 votes switched to BIDEN". Below this is the "EVERY LEGAL Vote" logo and a navigation bar with links to Home, Fraud Primer, Stories, In the News, Resources, and a prominent orange "Report Fraud" button.

A red box highlights the text "Help us tell the DOJ to do their job! #DOJDYJ". To the right is an "Election Map" showing the results of the 2020 election by state, with a hand holding a ballot box icon above it. A link "See Map" is provided.

The "Why Every Legal Vote Matters" section includes a paragraph about the organization's mission to validate election integrity and a link to "A Primer on Fraud".

Below this is a video player showing a debate between Joe Biden and Donald Trump. The video interface includes "WATCH MORE" and "watchtower.com/2020".

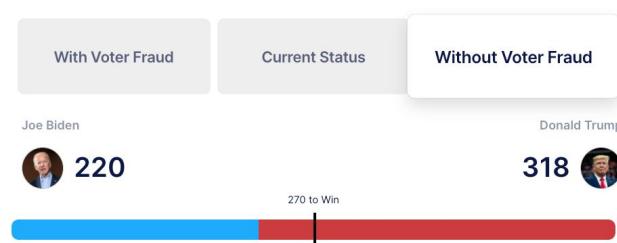
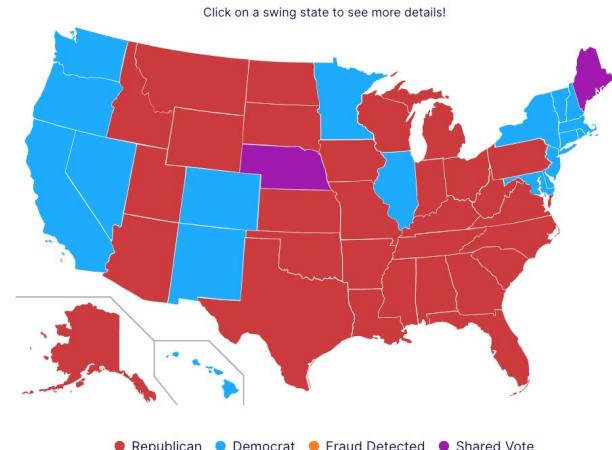
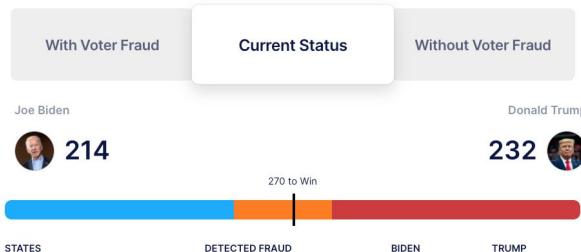
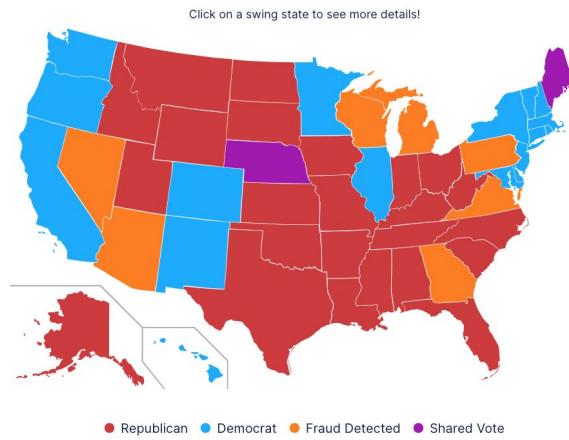
A news ticker at the bottom left shows "FOX BUSINESS" and "LOU DOBBS TONIGHT (@LouDobbs)" with a "DJ TRANS 12,096.55 ▲ 196.09" update. A "INDEX RECAP" section shows "O (EUI-E) 1,977.52 ▲ 3.86" and "RUSSELL 2000 (RUT-E) 1,737.01 ▲ 29.420.92".

Other sections include "Help Us Thank The President & First Lady", "See Our Fraud Summit" (with a link to "View Summit"), and "Recent Stories" featuring an article by Rand Paul about voter fraud.

At the bottom, there are links for "Take Action", "Other ways to help", and a "McAfee SECURE" badge. A footer note says "Looking to help? We made it easy".

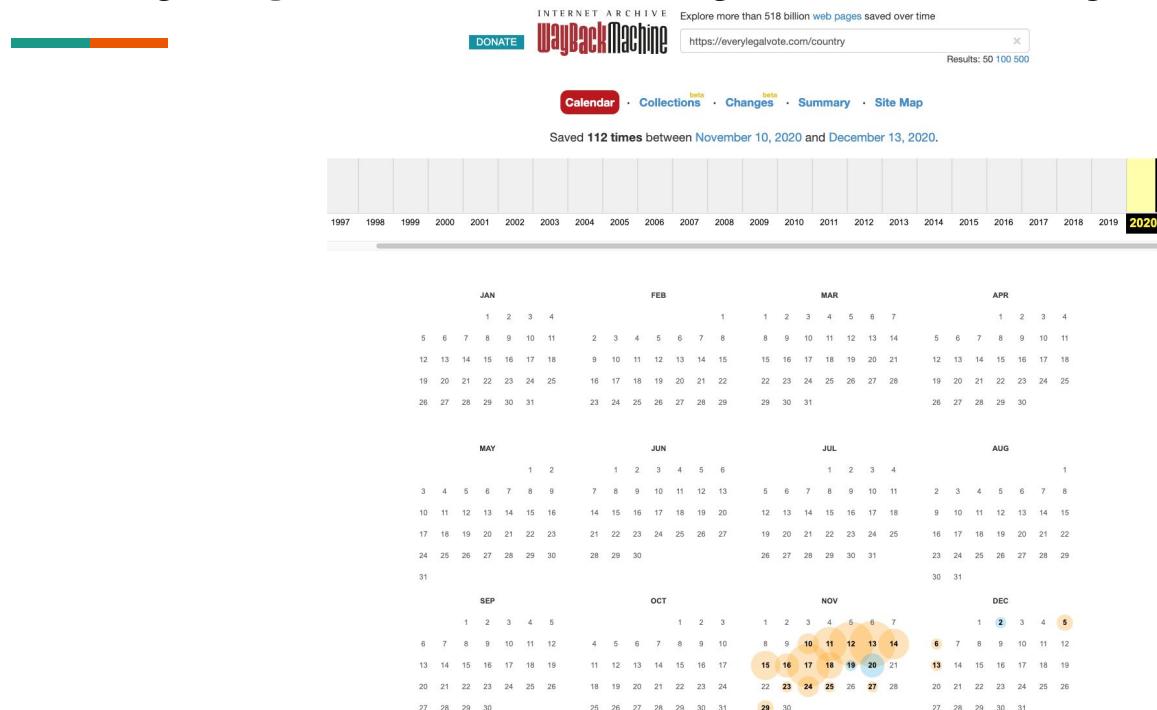
Discovered from: <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2020/11/16/technology/election-results-trump-biden>

# Everylegalvote.com Voter Maps



Discovered from: <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2020/11/16/technology/election-results-trump-biden>

# Everylegalvote mostly 404 in Wayback?



## Note

This calendar view maps the number of times <https://everylegalvote.com/country> was crawled by the Wayback Machine, *not* how many times the site was actually updated. More info in the [FAQ](#).

Orange indicates that the URL was not found (4xx).

# Without Server-Side Rendering (SSR)

## Everylegalvote mostly 404

```
$ curl -IL https://everylegalvote.com/country
HTTP/2 404
date: Thu, 17 Dec 2020 19:19:01 GMT
content-type: text/html
set-cookie: __cfduid=dacc0b274bcd6407ca8d0a0d4ca1157601608232741; expires=Sat, 16-Jan-21 19:19:01 GMT; path=/;
domain=.everylegalvote.com; HttpOnly; SameSite=Lax; Secure
x-uploader-uploadid: ABg5-Uxk77_CHmJNTWO81cYEPMx4LdJqgyxzLMcaurAg1aSTkKmRb3L64v3RGPc0QMCRuriaNyWlH6t3Eup9XHHtXA
cache-control: no-store
expires: Fri, 17 Dec 2021 19:19:01 GMT
last-modified: Thu, 17 Dec 2020 16:30:39 GMT
x-goog-generation: 1608222639121853
x-goog-metageneration: 2
x-goog-stored-content-encoding: identity
x-goog-stored-content-length: 3061
x-goog-hash: crc32c=IEA4Mg==
x-goog-hash: md5=8i6vDrfFWJ67m9W5cKn4zA==
x-goog-storage-class: STANDARD
accept-ranges: bytes
cf-cache-status: DYNAMIC
cf-request-id: 0713bd40d20000cf38ca3cd000000001
expect-ct: max-age=604800, report-uri="https://report-uri.cloudflare.com/cdn-cgi/beacon/expect-ct"
report-to:
{"endpoints": [{"url": "https://a.nel.cloudflare.com/report?s=WZhZ6dYpjVpVC4y2oH%2BdsxBN%2BmcF%2FR1DG8mQL7DIfwSrt07zGhzByjp%2FxGSG1x0p5V8tuZFaiF9LSuyFmHLe4oXVQUjF2oWXO4SgRzMenzUx5kE%3D"}], "group": "cf-nel", "max_age": 604800}
nel: {"report_to": "cf-nel", "max_age": 604800}
server: cloudflare
cf-ray: 6032fe47bae6cf38-IAD
```

# Everylegalvote CDX & Memgator Data

```
curl -s http://memgator.cs.odu.edu/timemap/link/https://everylegalvote.com | grep datetime | awk  
'{print $1}' | awk -v FS=/ '{print $3}' | sort | uniq -c | sort -n
```

**3 archive.md**

**5 wayback.archive-it.org**

**62 web.archive.org**

```
curl -s "http://web.archive.org/cdx/search/cdx?url=https://everylegalvote.com&matchType=prefix" |  
sort -u -k 3 | awk '{print "https://web.archive.org/web/" $2 "/" $3};' | wc -l
```

**2534**

# Finding common sites from Everylegalvote.com

The screenshot shows the Alexa Site Flow report for the website [everylegalvote.com](https://www.alexa.com/siteinfo/everylegalvote.com). The report includes Site Metrics, Engagement, Traffic Sources, and Site Flow data for the past 60 days.

**Site Metrics:**

- Daily visitors to this site: 2.1
- Daily Pageviews per Visitor: 2:49
- Daily Time on Site: 48.1% (Past 90 Days)
- Bounce rate: 48.1% (Past 90 Days)

**Traffic Sources:**

- Search: 4% (Past 30 Days)
- Start free trial for all social
- Start free trial for all link
- Start free trial for all direct

**Site Flow:**

**Visited just before:**

Percentage	Site
15.7%	google.com
12.1%	twitter.com
10.1%	facebook.com
7.99%	youtube.com
1.78%	defendingtherepublic.org

**Visited right after:**

Percentage	Site
15.4%	google.com
15.4%	twitter.com
8.33%	youtube.com
7.41%	facebook.com
3.7%	freeroots.com

**Site Flow (Past 60 Days):**

Visited just before	Visited right after
15.7% google.com	15.4% google.com
12.1% twitter.com	15.4% twitter.com
10.1% facebook.com	8.33% youtube.com
7.99% youtube.com	7.41% facebook.com
1.78% defendingtherepublic.org	3.7% freeroots.com

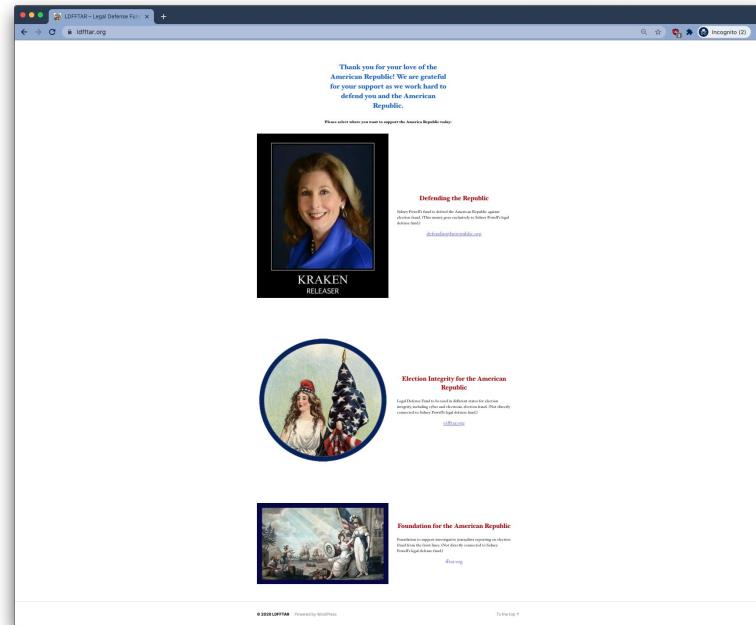
<https://www.alexa.com/siteinfo/everylegalvote.com>

# Background of common sites

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- [Everylegalvote.com](http://Everylegalvote.com): affidavits of people who “discovered fraud”
- [Defendingtherepublic.org](http://Defendingtherepublic.org): donation site for Sidney Powell (lawyer representing the Kraken lawsuits)
- [Freeroots.com](http://Freeroots.com): “grassroots” for forming campaigns to contact politicians

# Digging deeper into Defendingtherepublic.org



<https://web.archive.org/web/2020110221040/https://ldfttar.org/>

Live web: <https://ldfttar.org/>

# Foundation for the American Republic (fftar)

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## VISION

The Foundation leverages a network of influencers and digital creatives currently using social media including Twitter, Instagram and Facebook and other platforms with the dual objective of countering anti-American narratives and defending the American Republic.

Other Favorite Influencers, Blogs or Content Creators is required.

Favorite Politicians (National or State - Senator/House/Gov) \*

Who are your favorite US Presidents?

Who are your favorite US Presidents? is required.

Who did you vote for in 2008/2012/2016 (Primaries) Presidential elections? \*

Who did you vote for in 2008/2012/2016 (Primaries) Presidential elections? is required.

What were the last three (3) books you read?

What were the last three (3) books you read? is required.

What drives your philosophical convictions?

What drives your philosophical convictions? is required.

How do you identify politically? \*

How do you identify politically? is required.

What is your opinion on COVID-19?

What is your opinion on COVID-19? is required.

# Foreign attempts at propaganda spread

Man found dead inside mail-in ballot box

Election ballots found discarded

New Jersey mail carrier who dumped 99 ballots facing 5 years in prison

[https://usatoday.com/7924-new-jersey-mail-carrier-who-dumped-99-ballots-facing-5-years-in-prison-251](https://web.archive.org/web/20201122234947/https://usatoday.com/7924-new-jersey-mail-carrier-who-dumped-99-ballots-facing-5-years-in-prison-251)

Nov 02, 2020 02:45 PM EST

NOV 02, 2020

2020 US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

**New Jersey mail carrier who dumped 99 ballots facing 5 years in prison 250 thousand dollars fine**

CREDIT: HOWARD DINGER



New Jersey authorities announced the arrest of a USPS employee who discarded 1,875 pieces of mail including 99 ballots. Authorities managed to recover discarded mail from garbage dumps in North Arlington and West Orange on October 2 and October 5.

According to court documents, 527 pieces of first-class, 873 pieces of standard class, two pieces of certified mail, 99 general election ballots destined for residents in West Orange, and 276 campaign flyers from local candidates for West Orange Town Council and Board of Education has been identified and submitted for resending.

Copies were also made as evidence.

25-year-old Nicholas Beauchene of Kearny is charged by complaint with one count of delay, secretion, or detention of mail and one count of obstruction of mail, reports ABC7.

According to current legislation, these crimes are punishable by imprisonment for a period of 5 years and a fine of \$ 250,000. Also, for violation of the obstruction of mail, Beauchene can spend up to six months in prison and a fine of three thousand dollars.

**MOST POPULAR**

Oct 30, 2020 11:29 pm • 395  
Explicit photos of Biden mailman have been certain minor published and turned over to Delaware police

Nov 1, 2020 5:56 am • 215  
Joe Biden missed the introduction in Michigan

Nov 2, 2020 11:11 pm • 170  
Trump 2020 cars rally stretched for 96 miles on the Arizona highway

Oct 30, 2020 12:54 pm • 149  
"You Want Pedophiles and Commits to Mental Institutions?" Yelled Trump Supporter: VIDEO

ABC7 NEWS

**Man found dozens of mail-in ballots tossed out into trash cans in Santa Monica**

11:53 am October 9, 2020 • BY JESUS RAY



A man says he found dozens of election ballots and other mail thrown into two trash cans in Santa Monica.

The mysterious found was made on Thursday in an alley off of Virginia Avenue by Osvaldo Jimenez. He says he opened the trash cans near 21<sup>st</sup> Street and found dozen mail-in ballots alongside other important mail, including bank statements and bills all addressed to homes in the neighborhood.

"I opened the trash can, and I see a lot of envelopes and ballots, especially ballot envelopes in the trash can, and I knew right away that was not normal," said Jimenez. "I thought it was somebody playing a prank. Nobody's going to throw ballot envelopes in the trash can."

He called the police after collecting all of the mail. Then he found the second trash can with the same situation.

Police said the Postal Service is cooperating in the investigation. As of now, it is unclear how the ballots ended up in the cans and if Jimenez is somehow connected to that.

**MOST POPULAR**

Oct 30, 2020 11:10 pm • 666  
Explicit photos of Hunter Biden help him win certain minor publication and turn viral at Delaware police

Nov 1, 2020 5:58 am • 216  
Joe Biden missed the introduction in Michigan

Nov 2, 2020 1:51 pm • 171  
Trump 2020 cars on fully stretched Michelin tires as the Africa highway

Oct 30, 2020 11:10 pm • 14  
"You Want Pedophilia and Communism - Vote Democrats" Yelled Trump Supporter - VIDEO

<https://web.archive.org/web/2020112221819/https://usareally.com/7940-man-found-dozens-of-mail-in-ballots-tossed-out-into-trash-cans-in-santa-monica>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20201102221947/https://usareally.com/7936-election-ballots-found-discarded-among-the-stolen-mail-in-southern-california>

# Whois of usareally.com

Domain Name: USAREALLY.COM  
Registry Domain ID: 2247735366\_DOMAIN\_COM-VRSN  
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.reg.com  
Registrar URL: <http://www.reg.ru>  
Updated Date: 2020-03-13T11:08:23Z  
Creation Date: 2018-04-04T13:10:07Z  
Registry Expiry Date: 2021-04-04T13:10:07Z  
Registrar: REGISTRAR OF DOMAIN NAMES REG.RU LLC  
Registrar IANA ID: 1606  
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: [abuse@reg.ru](mailto:abuse@reg.ru)  
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +74955801111  
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited <https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited>  
Name Server: NS1.REG.RU  
Name Server: NS2.REG.RU  
DNSSEC: unsigned  
URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy Complaint Form: <https://www.icann.org/wicf/>  
>>> Last update of whois database: 2020-12-17T19:33:15Z <<

Domain name: USAREALLY.COM  
Registry Domain ID: 2247735366\_DOMAIN\_COM-VRSN  
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.reg.com  
Registrar URL: <https://www.reg.com>  
Registrar URL: <https://www.reg.ru>  
Updated Date: 2020-03-13T11:08:23Z  
Creation Date: 2018-04-04T13:10:07Z  
Registrar Registration Expiration Date: 2021-04-04T13:10:07Z  
Registrar: Registrar of domain names REG.RU LLC  
Registrar IANA ID: 1606  
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: [abuse@reg.ru](mailto:abuse@reg.ru)  
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +7.4955801111  
Status: clientTransferProhibited <http://www.icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited>  
Registrant ID:  
Registrant Name: Protection of Private Person  
Registrant Street: PO box 87, REG.RU Protection Service  
Registrant City: Moscow  
Registrant State/Province:  
Registrant Postal Code: 123007  
Registrant Country: RU  
Registrant Phone: +7.4955801111  
Registrant Phone Ext:  
Registrant Fax: +7.4955801111  
Registrant Fax Ext:  
Registrant Email: USAREALLY.COM@regprivate.ru  
Admin ID:  
Admin Name: Protection of Private Person  
Admin Street: PO box 87, REG.RU Protection Service  
Admin City: Moscow  
Admin State/Province:  
Admin Postal Code: 123007  
Admin Country: RU  
Admin Phone: +7.4955801111  
Admin Phone Ext:  
Admin Fax: +7.4955801111  
Admin Fax Ext:  
Admin Email: USAREALLY.COM@regprivate.ru  
Tech ID:  
Tech Name: Protection of Private Person  
Tech Street: PO box 87, REG.RU Protection Service  
Tech City: Moscow  
Tech State/Province:  
Tech Postal Code: 123007  
Tech Country: RU  
Tech Phone: +7.4955801111  
Tech Phone Ext:  
Tech Fax: +7.4955801111  
Tech Fax Ext:  
Tech Email: USAREALLY.COM@regprivate.ru  
Name Server: ns1.reg.ru  
Name Server: ns2.reg.ru  
DNSSEC: Unsigned  
URL of the ICANN WHOIS Data Problem Reporting System: <http://wdprs.internic.net/>  
>>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2020.12.17T22:33:12Z <<

# Cold start with usareally.com propaganda

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- USAReally had already been sanctioned by U.S. Treasury
- Website formerly promoted by Federal News Agency owner Yevgeny Prigozhin indicted by Robert Mueller for the 2016 election.
- CarbonDate estimated this site was created 2018-04-13, no other copies found before that

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm577>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/man-running-russia-s-newest-propaganda-effort-u-s-or-n883736>

# USAReally Memgator & CDX data

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```
curl -s http://memgator.cs.odu.edu/timemap/link/https://usareally.com | grep datetime | awk '{print $1}' | awk -v FS=/ '{print $3}' | sort | uniq -c | sort -n
```

**1 webarchive.loc.gov**  
**3 arquivo.pt**  
**8 wayback.archive-it.org**  
**14 archive.md**  
**215 web.archive.org**

```
curl -s "http://web.archive.org/cdx/search/cdx?url=https://usareally.com&matchType=prefix" | sort -u -k 3 | awk '{print "https://web.archive.org/web/" $2 "/" $3};' | wc -l
```

**21993**

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm577>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/man-running-russia-s-newest-propaganda-effort-u-s-or-n883736>

# State sponsored propaganda

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- Sputniknews target democrats on mail-in voting and chance of rigging it



# Takeaways & Final Thoughts

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- Just as many attempts at challenging election results in 2020 election, not as many linked to foreign influence this year
- Claims continue to be made that there was election fraud (from certain political parties) and the type of Fraud claim types haven't differed too much since 2016
- Domestic fraud focused sites are expected to either be gone next election or reused
- Many of these claims at fraud are remarkably well archived and that led to other sites connected to these ones

# Backup Slides

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Web archive links showing on twitter replay

Video working in twitter replay!



<http://web.archive.org/web/20201104065108/https://twitter.com/RealDonaldTrump>