

**Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee
Assembly Elections Committee
Joint Hearing**

“Artificial Intelligence and Elections: Protecting Democracy in the Digital Era”

Liz Howard, Brennan Center for Justice

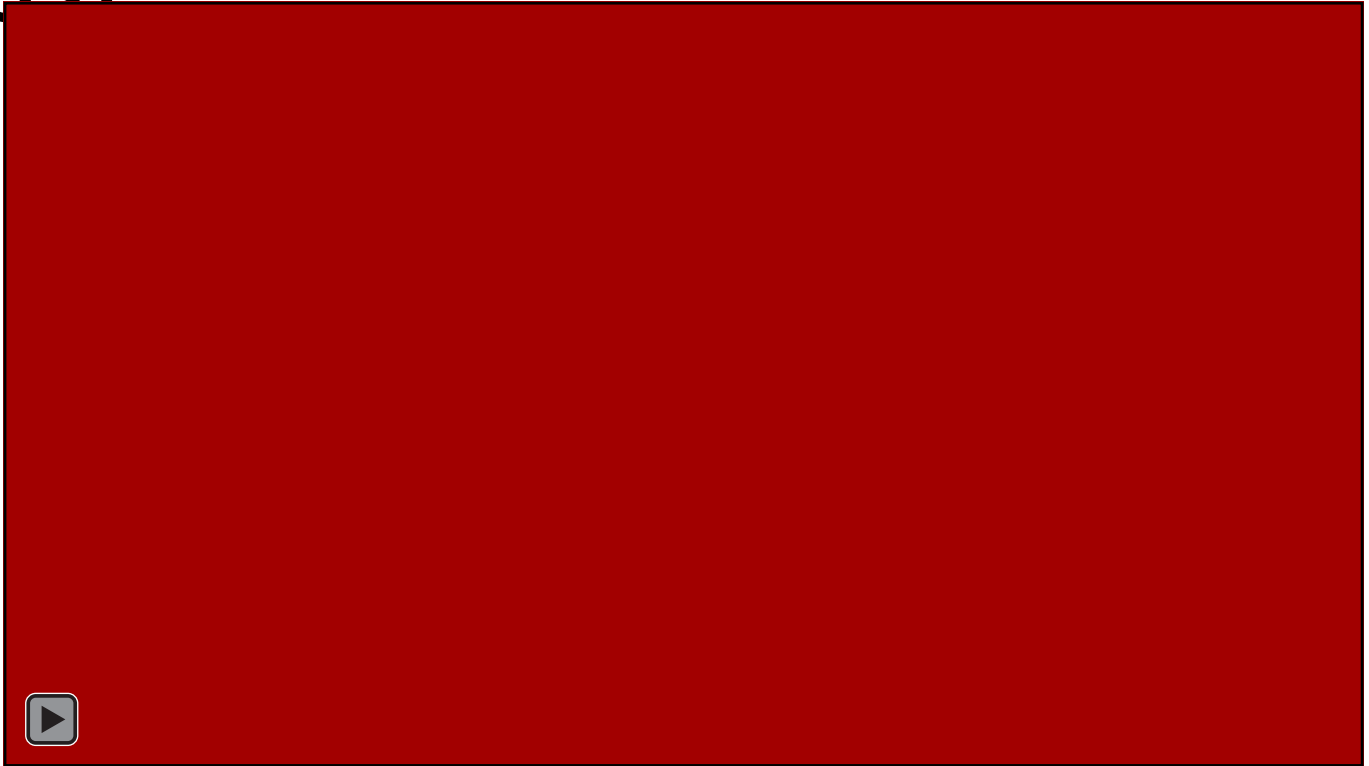
ELECTION OFFICIAL DEEPPKED IN A PUBLIC POST

HOW IT COULD HAPPEN

A foreign adversary gathers publicly available video of an election official and uses the audio and visuals to train an AI system. With this training, the adversary can create a deepfake video depicting the official giving false information designed to trick voters, including falsehoods about how to vote. It could be targeted at members of a specific political party, gender, race or ethnicity. This deepfake is an AI version of Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes and was produced as part of a statewide election security tabletop exercise with his consent and cooperation.



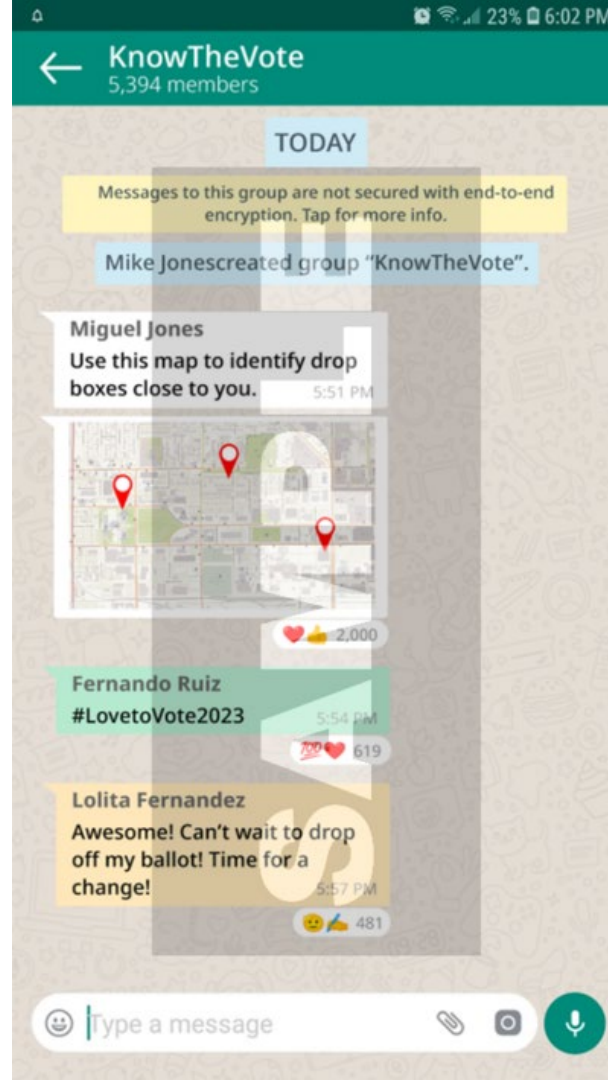
ELECTION OFFICIAL DEEPPKED IN A PUBLIC POST



PUBLIC INTENTIONALLY MISINFORMED ABOUT WHERE TO VOTE

HOW IT COULD HAPPEN

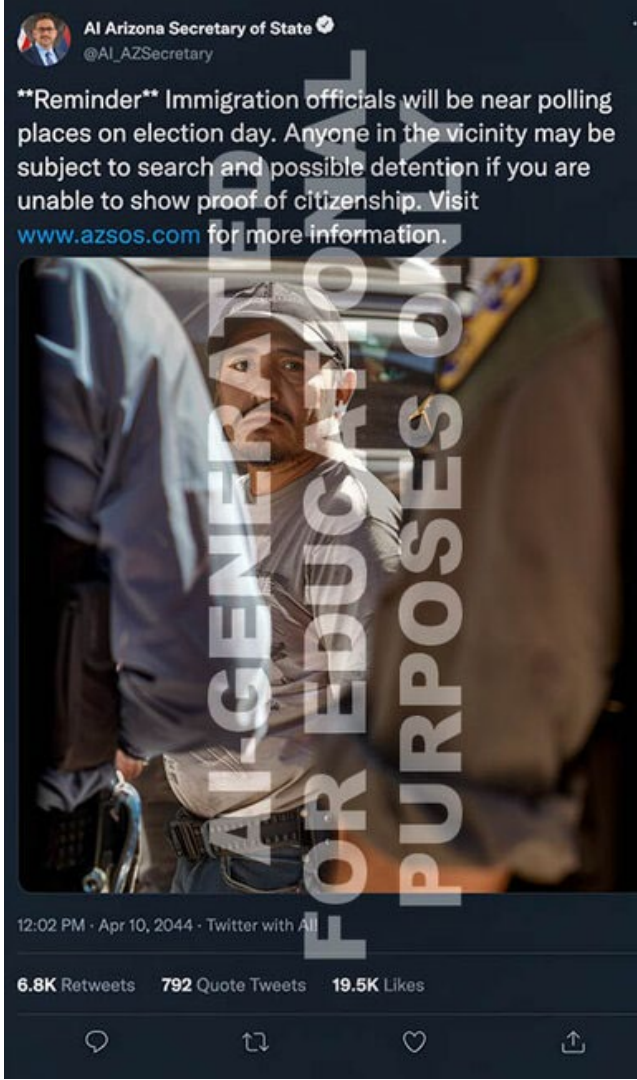
A large WhatsApp group chat displays inaccurate drop box locations throughout a county. The information seems to be spreading fast among the local Latino population.



FALSE REPORTS WARN OF ICE SHOWING UP AT POLLING PLACES

HOW IT COULD HAPPEN

A fake post purporting to originate from the election office says that people without citizenship documentation may be subject to detention and interviews from ICE if they are at or near a polling place. The post appears as a social media screenshot and includes a fake website that looks just like the election office website but ends in .com instead of .gov. The account itself uses an official-sounding username and even has platform verification, which is available to purchase on specific platforms.



ELECTIONS WEBSITE SPOOFED WITH FAKE RESULTS



sample_cast_vote_records

County	Voter Name	Ballot ID	Contest 1	Candidate A	Candidate B	Contest 2	Candidate C	Candidate D
Lakers County	Bessie Williams	4LQvORRKC	Contest 1	1	0	Contest 2	0	1
Lakers County	Skyler Garcia	KZ3EBFD6	Contest 1	1	0	Contest 2	1	0
Lakers County	Skyler Davis	MQSJUGEV	Contest 1	1	0	Contest 2	0	1
Lakers County	Taylor Jones	451VHTAG	Contest 1	1	0	Contest 2	0	1
Lakers County	Reese Brown	H323HYJA	Contest 1	1	0	Contest 2	0	1
Lakers County	Casey Smith	2AJUMr0H6	Contest 1	1	0	Contest 2	1	0
Lakers County	Casey Brown	QUNPK06	Contest 1	0	1	Contest 2	0	1
Lakers County	Alex Rodriguez	AFDOLKGP	Contest 1	0	1	Contest 2	0	1
Lakers County	Riley Garcia	7MWW2cWO	Contest 1	0	1	Contest 2	0	1
Lakers County	Avery Smith	673CGI79	Contest 1	0	1	Contest 2	0	1

HOW IT COULD HAPPEN

A county elections website is spoofed and fake cast vote records with names of individuals are posted. Numerous groups from both parties are up in arms that this occurred. Election officials suspect that ChatGPT or a similar tool was used to create this phony website.

HACKERS SEND TEXTS OR EMAILS PHISHING FOR CREDENTIALS

HOW IT COULD HAPPEN

Election officials receive fake emails from people pretending to be with the secretary of state's office or the Department of Homeland Security directing them to configure two-factor authentication for the state election system. The AI-generated messages appear particularly convincing because they contain sensitive information and they use language appropriate to the region. In reality, although the messages look personalized and handcrafted, they are based on stolen databases and information publicly available on social media.

From: AZ Secretary<secretary@azsos.com>

Sent: February 2, 2024

To: Liz<lizrocks@gmail.com>

Subject: Two-Factor Requirement

Dear Liz,

It was great seeing you in Phoenix last month. I hope you and your family had a refreshing and memorable vacation in Telluride last week! There's nothing quite like exchanging our Arizona warmth for some scenic mountain coolness to recharge the batteries. Hope you stayed dry--I heard there was a lot of rain in the Rockies last week! As you settle back into the desert rhythm, we have an important update that requires your attention and action.

While you were gone, we introduced a mandatory two-factor authentication (2FA) system to enhance our cybersecurity measures. Adapting to 2FA is a crucial step in ensuring our digital environment is as secure and resilient as possible.

By 5pm today, please take a moment to enroll in our 2FA program. Think of it as your digital sunscreen--essential under the Arizona sun.

1. Visit azsos.com/2fa to start the setup. It's as straightforward as following a well-marked trail.
2. Complete the setup steps, and you'll be all set. Remember, you'll need your username and password to start the process, and those are the same as the credentials you use to login to Microsoft Office 365.

We're here to support you, so if you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to Michael on our IT support team for help.

Last but not least, hope you're watching the game on Sunday--go Wildcats!

Warm regards,

Adrian Fontes
Arizona Secretary of State

VOICE-CLONED AUDIO MISINFORMS ELECTION WORKERS ABOUT POLLING PLACE HOURS

HOW IT COULD HAPPEN

An AI-generated voice clone of an election official is used to leave a voicemail for election workers, telling them that the office has received a court order to keep the polls open for an extra hour.



PHONE LINES JAMMED WITH AI-GENERATED CALLS

HOW IT COULD HAPPEN

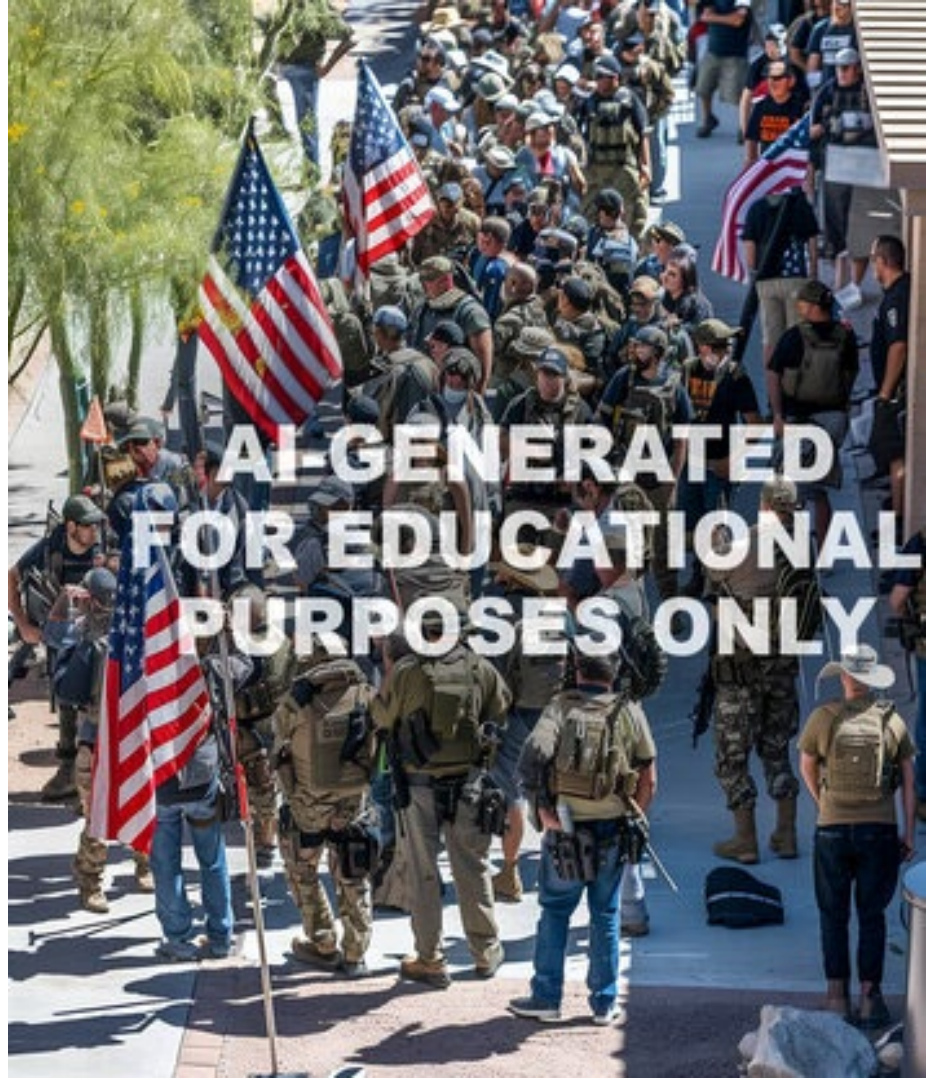
The election office phone line and staff's cell phones begin receiving regular calls asking questions about the election, such as polling place hours, addresses, and details about ballots and how to fill them out. Each call individually could be a real constituent, but the number of calls overwhelms staff resources and is far beyond what the office has seen before. When asked to identify themselves, the callers use names from actual voter rolls. Occasionally, there are suspiciously long pauses during the calls, and sometimes names of streets or last names seem to be pronounced strangely. The election office staff begins to suspect that the calls are AI-generated.



AI-GENERATED SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS CALL FOR ARMED PROTEST AT POLLING PLACES

HOW IT COULD HAPPEN

Angry and hostile posts are appearing at a rapid rate on social media, recruiting people to join protests. One post reads, “The fight for democracy is here! Fight off the deniers! Every vote must count! Protest starts at 8:00 a.m. at the vote counting center.” Another post that was flagged and quickly removed said, “End the fraud! End the corruption! Arm yourself and be ready to defend our freedom! Early voting protest TODAY!” Some of the accounts posting the content appear suspicious — they were created recently, and some contain images that on close inspection appear to be AI-generated.



ELECTION OFFICES FLOODED WITH AI-GENERATED FOIA REQUESTS

HOW IT COULD HAPPEN

A local election office receives a series of Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests, each with slightly different wording, such that they each require different responses. They appear likely to have been generated by AI.

From: recordsnow@gatherer.net
Sent: August 22, 2024
To: ElectionsDirector<Elections@mi.county.gov>
Subject: Public Records Request for 2020/2022 Ballots

Dear Elections Director,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing again to formally request access to public records related to the 2020 ballots cast in the jurisdiction you manage, pursuant to Arizona law.

Specifically, I am seeking the following information:

- Digital or physical copies of all ballots cast in the general election held in November 2020 and 2022.
- Any associated records, including but not limited to precinct counts, absentee ballots, and any related documentation regarding ballot tabulation and verification procedures.

Additionally, if there are any fees or costs associated with fulfilling this request, please inform me in advance. As a responsible requester, I assure you that the information obtained will be used solely for lawful and non-commercial purposes.

I kindly request that the records be provided in a digital format if possible. If there are any concerns or limitations regarding the accessibility of these records, please let me know, and I am willing to discuss alternative means of access. I understand and appreciate that fulfilling this request may take time. Thus, I would be grateful for an estimated timeline regarding when these records could be made available.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please acknowledge receipt of this request and inform me of any further steps required to proceed. I look forward to your prompt response and the opportunity to access the requested information.

Sincerely,

Citizens for Straightforward Elections
Maggie McMean