



# EIP Election Day Report

November 8, 2022

This report was created by analysts from the [Election Integrity Partnership](#) (EIP), a non-partisan coalition to empower the research community, election officials, government agencies, civil society organizations, social media platforms, and others to defend our elections against those who seek to undermine them by exploiting weaknesses in the online information environment.

<b>Noteworthy Incidents &amp; Rumors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ <b>Maricopa County, Arizona</b>, voting machines not scanning ballots</li><li>→ Maricopa County, Arizona, Posts sowing doubt around “Box 3” and “green button” conspiracy theories</li><li>→ Printer malfunctions in Maricopa County, Arizona</li><li>→ Machine errors in <b>Mercer County, New Jersey</b></li><li>→ Bomb threat in <b>Jefferson Parish, Louisiana</b> sparks claims of voter suppression</li><li>→ <b>Luzerne County, Pennsylvania</b> polling places running out of paper sparks concerned Facebook and Twitter posts</li><li>→ Claim that voters in <b>Detroit, Michigan</b> are being told they already voted absentee when they arrive to vote in person</li></ul>
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## Noteworthy Incidents & Rumors

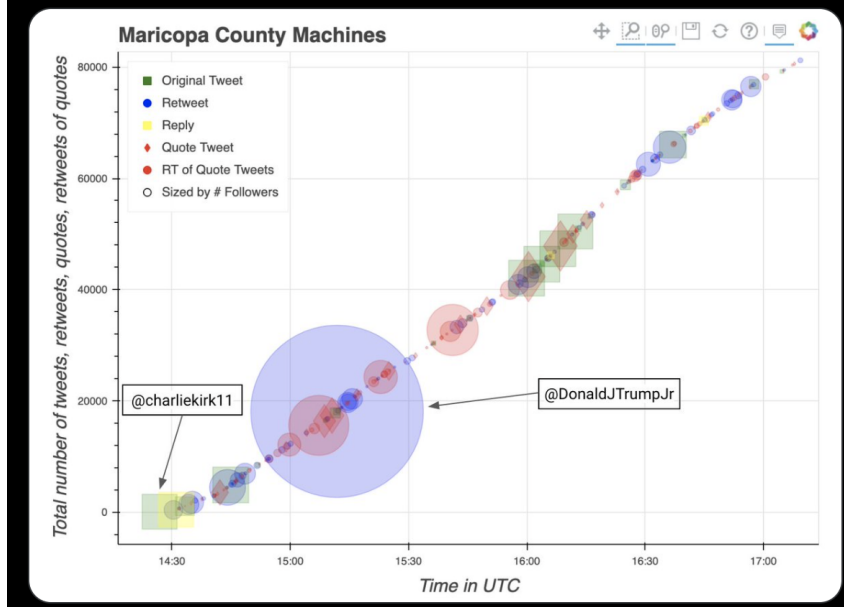
The EIP team identifies and analyzes the spread of rumors that suppress voting, reduce participation, confuse voters about election processes, delegitimize election results, or threaten election workers.

The first three incidents and rumors all stem from problems in Maricopa County, Arizona where vote tabulators were not able to read ballots due to printing issues (the ink in some areas was not printed darkly enough). Though many tweets about these issues were accurate and/or contained legitimate criticism, we also saw tweets that falsely attributed the cause, exaggerated the impact, or misled audiences about potential remedies to the issues.

## 1. Maricopa County, Arizona, voting machines not scanning ballots

- In a video posted on Twitter early in the morning, an election worker informed a long line of voters outside an Anthem, Arizona polling location that one of their two tabulators was not working, with the other scanning at a 75% success rate.
- Addressing the concerns, Maricopa County election officials [released a statement](#) outlining some of the issues that voters were experiencing with “tabulators” and outlining what the County was doing to address those and how affected voters could make sure their ballots were counted.
- Several conservative influencers posted about the issues and levied criticism on election officials. In many cases, their audiences picked up this criticism and added commentary (e.g. through quote tweets) that the problems were deliberate and related to voter fraud.
- EIP produced a cumulative graph of initial conversation around the issue.

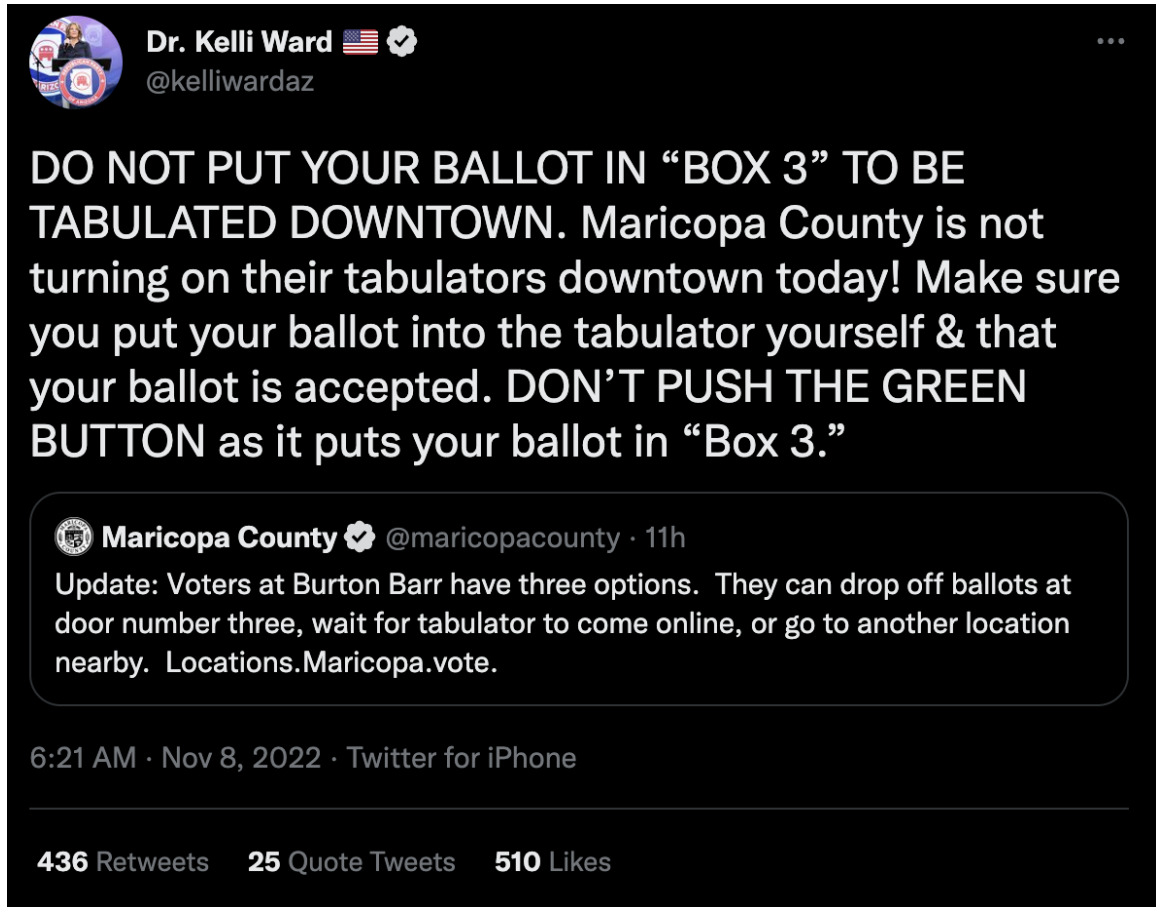
Conversation around the tabulation system errors spread rapidly on Twitter. We have observed 40,000+ relevant tweets in the span of two hours. Attention spiked after a tweet from Charlie Kirk, which fueled others who allege that these machine failures are deliberate.



- [See more analysis here.](#)

## 2. Maricopa County, Arizona, posts sowing doubt around “Box 3” and “green button” conspiracy theories

- Rumors surrounding issues with voting machines scanning ballots in Maricopa County were subsequently linked to “Box 3” and “green button” conspiracy theories. These unfounded theories frame official remedies to scanning issues (i.e. when a scanner isn’t working, voters can place a ballot in “Box 3”) as part of voter fraud conspiracies, claiming that ballots not counted at the polling center will be stolen as they are tabulated.

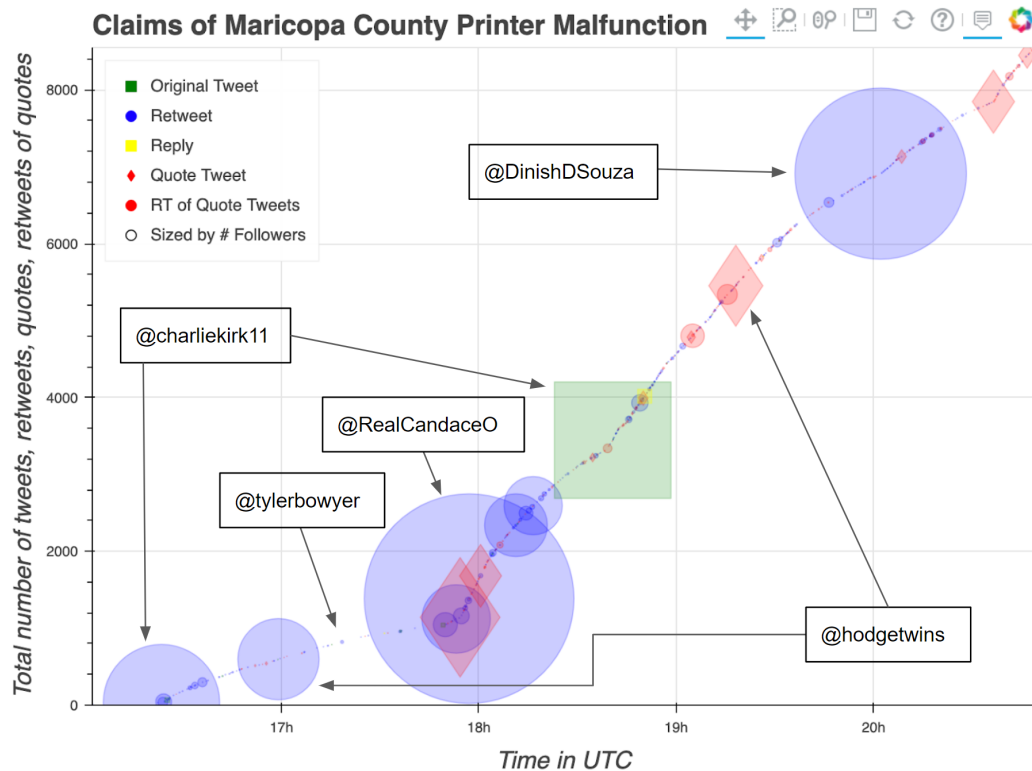


*A sample tweet from Arizona GOP Chairwoman Kelli Ward connecting the Maricopa County issues to unsubstantiated allegations around “Box 3.”*

- Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richer [posted information related to ballot processing](#) in response to those ongoing rumors.
- Maricopa County’s official Twitter account (@MaricopaCounty) issued multiple tweets directly correcting false claims that these votes would not be tabulated. For example [here](#) and [here](#).

## 3. Printer malfunctions in Maricopa County, Arizona

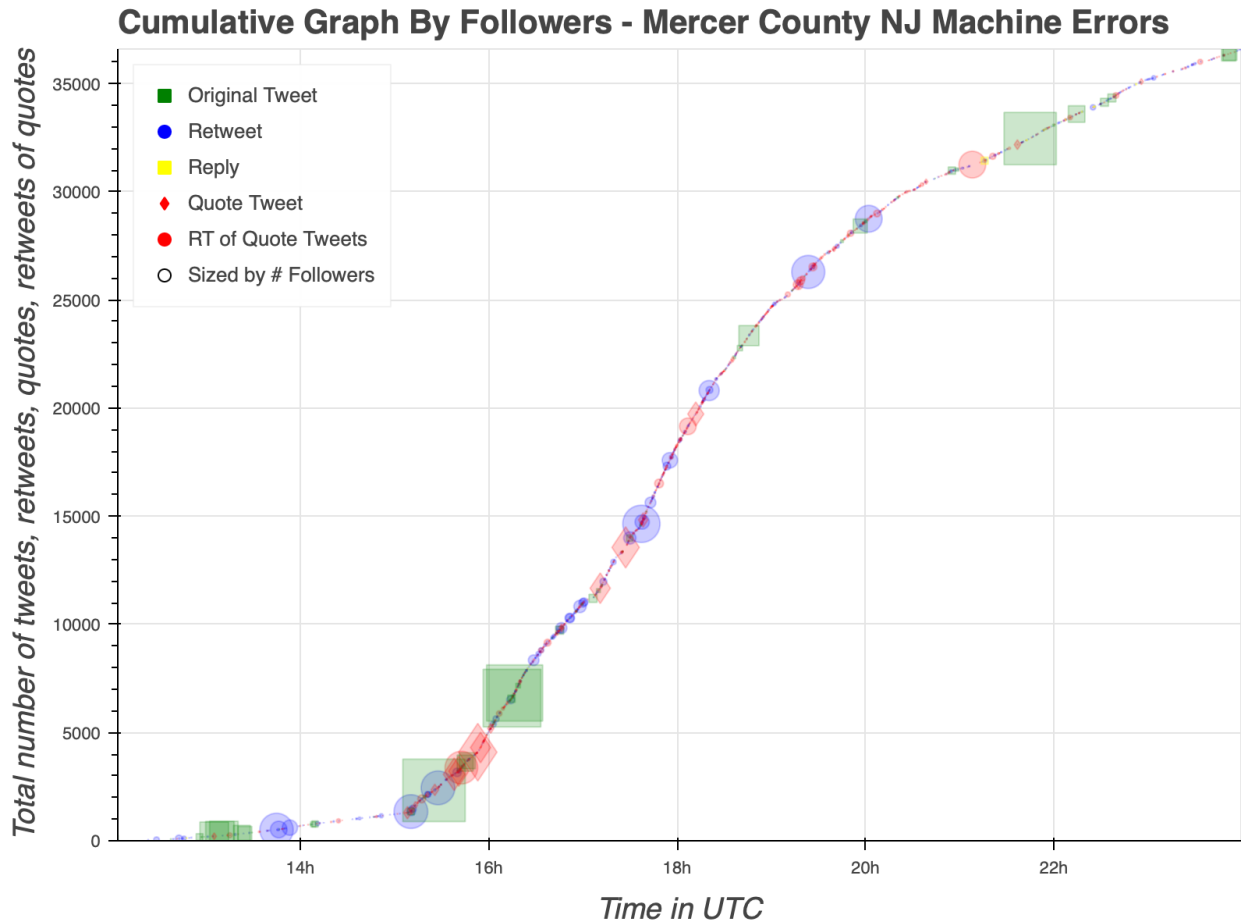
- Another strand of the discourse around in-person voting issues in Maricopa County, Arizona focused on the printers — with explanations that ballots were being printed in a way that may not be readable by ballot scanners.
- Tweets reporting this issue arose in the morning of November 8. Claims around printer malfunctions spread on Twitter, gaining the attention of conservative influencers, media personalities and their audiences.
- The first highly-retweeted claim about printer issues was posted to Twitter by Tyler Bowyer, the Chief Operating Officer at conservative activist organization Turning Point USA.
- Here is a cumulative graph highlighting several influencers that have spread information surrounding claims of printer malfunctions:



- As we saw with other versions of Maricopa County criticism, some audiences (and a few influencers) went beyond criticism to make unfounded allegations that printer issues were intentional, saying things like “this is by design,” and “Democrats are cheating again.”
- Interpretations from online audiences reference ongoing conspiracy theories surrounding stolen election claims from 2020 — claims that have historically been amplified by influencers such as Charlie Kirk and Tyler Bowyer.
- This incident is still developing and we will continue to monitor it.
- Caution should be taken in amplifying claims that may result in voters thinking voting will be difficult or that their votes will not be counted, as that could dissuade people from voting or being willing to wait for resolutions to any issues that do arise.

#### 4. Machine errors in Mercer County, New Jersey

- Early on Tuesday local officials in Mercer County, New Jersey, reported that voting machines were not working due to “printing and scanning issues” with the ballots.
- Soon after Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello stated that all votes will be counted regardless of the machine errors in Dominion scanners and announced a plan to scan all ballots in the Board of Elections office in Trenton. Covello also noted that “Dominion and other IT professionals” will be coming down to [fix machine issues](#).
- Early coverage across social media platforms (mostly Twitter, Facebook, and Telegram) revolved around suspicion over the machine errors as part of a greater ploy to steal or rig the election.

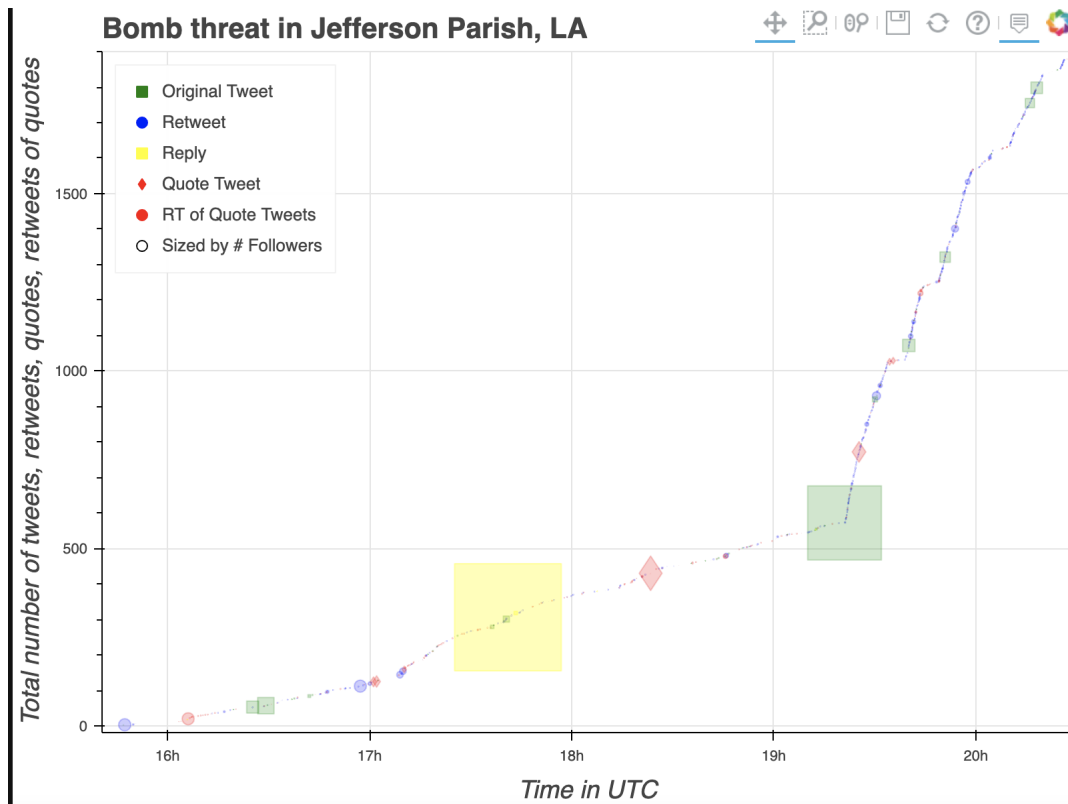


*A cumulative graph showing the spread of tweets related to the machine errors in New Jersey voting machines. This chart was created around 5:00PM PST.*

- Though the narrative does not appear to have taken off after initial attention, it later spread into the Mandarin speaking community related to larger threads on supposed Democratic cheating schemes.
- It is likely that the story is cited as an example of illusory issues, but there is nothing as of November 8 to suggest that it will recirculate as a highly viral story on its own.

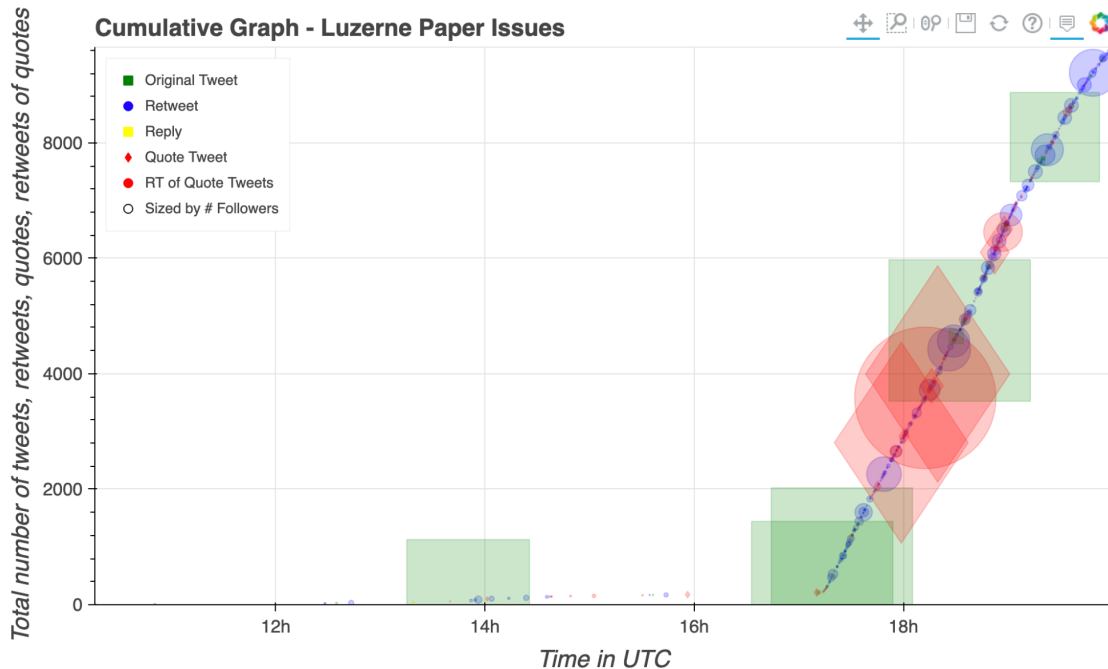
## 5. Bomb threat in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana sparks claims of voter suppression

- A report of a bomb threat was made in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana in a predominantly Black neighborhood which sparked claims of voter suppression. The threat was the second made in five days and caused the polling location to change, increasing confusion.
- Louisiana Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin released a statement, stating that the bomb threat was not election-related according to early investigations by law enforcement.
- The bomb threat took place earlier this morning at Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy, which served as a polling location for precincts K007A and K007B. Polling has been relocated to Audubon Elementary School.
- There was minimal substantial commentary on the incident beyond a few posts explicitly mentioning voter suppression. Most coverage appearing on platforms (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram) focused on factually reporting about the threat.



## 6. Luzerne County, Pennsylvania polling places running out of paper sparks concerned Facebook and Twitter posts

- The EIP tracked another emerging conversation around real issues with printers running out of paper in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.
- At our time of analysis, spread on Twitter is still relatively low (~10,000 related tweets). There are also several prominent posts of Facebook which are receiving significant engagement, including comment posts.
- In addition to legitimate concerns and motivated criticisms of the election process, we are also seeing some false claims — especially in quote tweets of influencer accounts — about these issues being intentional and/or part of an effort to steal the election.



*A cumulative graph showing the spread of tweets related to the Luzerne paper ballots issues. This chart was created around 12:00 PM PST*

- The EIP wrote a [tweet thread about the incident here](#).

## 7. Claim that voters in Detroit, Michigan are being told they already voted absentee when they arrive to vote in person

- A viral video first posted on Twitter claimed that Michigan voters were turned away from in-person voting, due to them having already submitted absentee ballots. The video was subsequently shared on Telegram and Truth Social to followers of Donald Trump and Michigan Secretary of State candidate Kristina Karamo.



**Kristina Karamo** ✓  
@KristinaKaramo



DETROIT FRAUD ALERT: From [@charlielangton](#).  
This is why we filed the lawsuit in Detroit.  
Voters show up -- only to be told they already voted absentee.  
It's already happening. This is a CRIME, not an oversight.  
SHARE THIS EVERYWHERE. [#LAWLESSELECTIONS](#)



8:49 AM · Nov 8, 2022 · Hootsuite Inc.

1,661 Retweets 145 Quote Tweets 2,079 Likes

- The video has low virality numbers on the majority of platforms, though it received thousands of views on Rumble and Telegram.
- Kristina Karamo's post [references an unsuccessful lawsuit](#) she filed two weeks ago in an effort to change Detroit's absentee and in-person voting processes. [The lawsuit was dismissed on Monday, November 7](#), the day prior to the election.
- Wayne County Circuit Court Chief Judge Timothy Kenny [found that the lawsuit's claims](#) were "unsubstantiated and/or misinterpret Michigan election law."
- Even if taken as true, the allegations within the video have little relation to the claims advanced in the lawsuit.
- The EIP [wrote a tweet thread about the incident here](#).