



EIP Weekly Report

October 10-16, 2022

This report was created by analysts from the [Election Integrity Partnership](#), 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.

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Recently Published Research

The [EIP regularly publishes blog posts on our website](#) that take a deeper dive into election-related rumors. In this report we highlight two recent publications; a recent exploration of online narratives around non-citizens voting, and an analysis of online conversation related to the U.S. Postmaster. Click through to read more. If you're a journalist looking to speak with EIP researchers, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu) at the University of Washington's Center for an Informed Public or send a message to info@eipartnership.net.

[Voting Rights Legislation Framed to Support Election Conspiracy Theories About Non-citizens Voting](#)

- **Misinformation and misleading narratives about non-citizens voting in U.S. elections are a prevalent theme in 2022.** These narratives may feature prominently in the upcoming midterm elections.
- **EIP researchers examined online discourse around two situations earlier this year** — New York City's law allowing non-citizens to vote in local elections and the U.S. Department of Justice's challenge of an Arizona state law — to gauge the current level and nature of non-citizen voting conspiracism in current election discourse.
- From this examination, we offer **recommendations for voters, election administrators and workers, journalists, and social media platforms** trying to make sense of these narratives.
- [Read more here.](#)

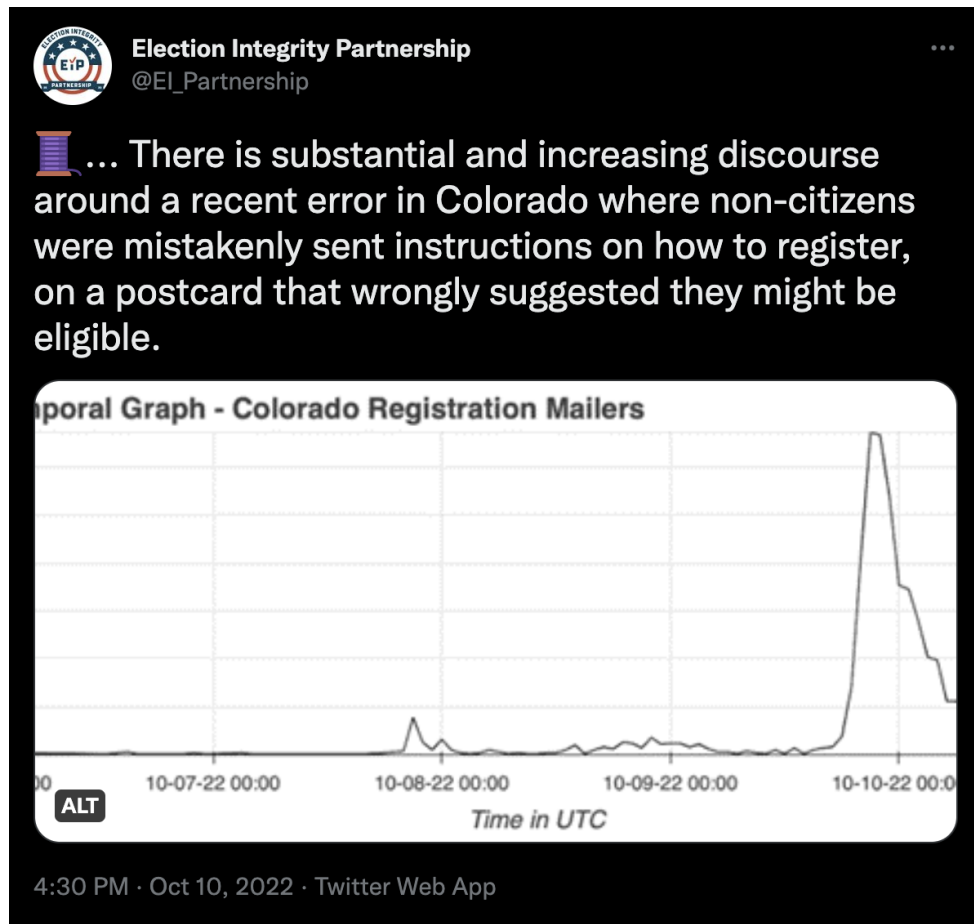
[The DeJoy Case: Criticism of Poor Performance, Rumors of 'Sabotage'](#)

- **Online narratives about U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and the U.S. Postal Service** underscore the challenge of disentangling legitimate criticism from rumor and conspiracy theorizing.
- **We see evidence of attempts to mobilize audiences** and affect political change through calls to action accompanying, in some cases, unsubstantiated and/or misleading claims.
- **In this EIP analysis**, we describe some of this discourse and characterize how it has been spreading through social media.
- [Read more here.](#)

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. In the weeks leading up to and following Election Day in November, we're highlighting several viral incidents that our team believes are noteworthy.

1. Voter registration postcards accidentally sent to non-citizen residents in Colorado



- [The EIP published a tweet thread on October 10 analyzing the spread of claims related to the error.](#)
- **AFP Factcheck** (Oct. 13): "[Colorado mailer spurs midterm election misinformation online](#)"
- **NPR News** (Oct. 14): "[How quotation marks turned a story about a clerical error into one about voter fraud](#)"

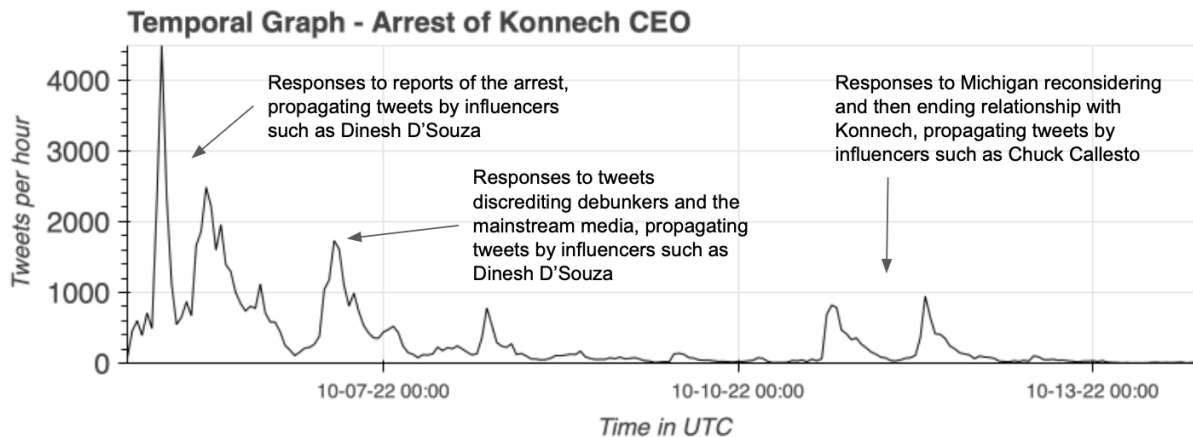
2. Continuing discussion around Konnech

On October 4, Konnech CEO and founder Eugene Yu was arrested on charges of data theft and was accused of storing data in servers in the People's Republic of China through the Konnech corporation, an election worker management systems company. The charges were seen by many online as a vindication of claims made online a month earlier about Konnech's treatment of poll worker data. A number of older claims gained new prominence in the wake of the allegations, including claims that the FBI had worked to conceal the alleged crime. Early in the

cycle, a primary focus was on perceived media bias, with posters focusing on [a recent New York Times piece](#) that discussed Eugene Yu and Konnech prior to news about his arrest breaking, which was seen as not taking the previous claims seriously.

More recent activity has followed local actions around the use of Konnech software, as various localities debate whether to terminate contracts with Konnech.

The temporal graph below highlights key drivers of conversation on Twitter.



Given the virality of this incident and associated narratives, we anticipate seeing more conversation around Yu, Konnech, and rumors around additional potential foreign interference in elections on social media in the coming weeks.

3. Kent County, Mich., election worker accused of putting USB drive into poll book

On September 28, 2022, a Republican election worker was [charged with two felony offenses](#) for allegedly having tampered with an electronic poll book in Gaines Township, Michigan, near Grand Rapids in Kent County. Electronic poll books are electronic versions of familiar paper records, and are used to process voters and generate precinct records. They may contain information such as the voter's home address, their party preference, as well as procedural information used when voters are processed at the polls, such as whether a mail-in ballot has been issued, and their home precinct or ward. They are not connected to voting equipment or the internet, and contain no record of how people voted.

An upcoming blog post from the EIP will analyze how confusion around election technology and a lack of precision in explanations of the role of election technology contributes to the spread of rumors and false claims.

4. Ballot mistake in Schuyler County, Illinois, fuels both legitimate critique and unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud



- [The EIP published a tweet thread on October 14](#) analyzing the spread of claims related to an error on 300 ballots in Schuyler County, Illinois that mistakenly omitted the name of the GOP candidate for U.S. Senate (instead including her challenger in the primary).
- **Chicago Tribune** (Oct. 13): “[Mistake leaves Kathy Salvi off some Illinois ballots](#)”

How to Connect With the EIP

Thank you for subscribing to the Election Integrity Partnership newsletter! Every week we compile narratives and articles from the previous week. To speak with EIP researchers about this work or other researchers, email info@eipartnership.net.

