Trump’s Attempt to Control the Outcome

9/02-9/11 Report

Information also gathered during 06/2020 and 08/2020

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Topics

Fear Tactics
- Casting doubt on mail-in voting and USPS
- False information and distraction

Calling on Supporters
- EDOs (Election Day Operations)
- Voting Twice
Fear Tactics
Casting doubt on mail-in voting and USPS

Started casting doubt early in the season, a little over a month after super tuesday

June articles from neonette.com, nbcnews.com, breitbart.com, and realclearpolitics.com
Fear Tactics
Casting doubt on mail-in voting and USPS

After a week and a half of Trump’s tweet, reach, engagement and mentions are all on the rise, and the supreme court made a ruling that further weakened trust in the election process.

Jun 22, trump tweets doubts on mail-in system, articles follow

Jun 26, supreme court rejects texas democrats efforts to expand absentee voting during a pandemic
Fear Tactics

False information and distraction

All results displayed have been filtered for exclusively fake news

Breitbart and the daily wire focus on Trump’s ability to secure the black vote

Conversation focuses on how to ensure a fair election, and harmful behavior from the left

High volume, no event. A lot of conversation circles about fraud, BLM & KKK comparisons, and republican guarantee of a win

High volume, no event. Conversation is flooded with insistence mail in voting is unsafe.

Trump encourages North Carolina Voters to vote twice

Legal action is threatened against Georgians that voted twice in summer primaries

Trump calls for volunteer ‘poll watchers’
Fear Tactics
False information and distraction
All results displayed have been filtered for exclusively fake news

Users have an extreme likeliness of fake news and false information reaching them, but once that information does reach them, there’s less than a 1% chance they will engage with it.
Calling on Supporters

Voting Twice

Trump ignores officials and, again, encourages followers to double vote

Legal action is promised for Georgians that voted twice in summer primaries (July/August)
Stories and conversation covering these events are reaching millions to billions of eyes, further inciting fear or nervousness in the opposition and excitement and commitment in his supporters.
Calling on Supporters

EDOs

Trump calls on supporters to become poll watchers, or Election Day Operations (EDOs) to ensure democrats aren’t trying to undermine the election.

The virality map of the article above shows how the original article has spread throughout online conversation.
Overall negative sentiment, including the term ‘watcher’ being used in a primarily negative fashion. Also included are conversations about fraud and democracy, implying conversations are overall negative, and likely frustrated or angry about the election in general.
Overall Insights

- Trump is attempting to control the outcome of the election toward his favor by creating a voting environment that is toxic and promotes fear rather than hope.
- Previous efforts not noted in this report such as funding cuts to the USPS, hiring a new Postmaster General, and corrupting opportunities to vote by mail have all helped build an environment where voters during a pandemic are likely to feel unsafe on election day.
- Loud supporters of the president and authors of fake news articles and false information posts often have high amounts of reach, thusly able to extend his message and his fear tactics further.
- His call on voters to ‘test the mail in voting system’ and vote twice, followed by his announcement that he will be casting his vote in Florida and the recent events regarding Georgia's double voting incident in July/August demonstrates a hippocratic and blatant attempt to deal with ‘voter fraud,’ primarily in the sense that voters are allowed to commit fraud if it means he will win.
- This is further corroborated by his call for supporters to sign up to be poll watchers, and observe polling places to avoid democratic attempts to undermine the election, or at the very least, undermine his chances of winning.