

OUR ELECTIONS ARE A TARGET:

AMERICA NEEDS ITS VETERANS NOW MORE THAN EVER.

HELP US COMBAT DISINFORMATION.

#PROTECT2020



WWW.VVA.ORG

This poster was created by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), an agency within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), for the purpose of sharing information related to election security and should not be considered an endorsement of the VVA. See CISA.gov/protect2020 for more information.

Stopping the Spread of Disinformation: PROTECT2020

On social media, in emails and in texts, false information surrounds us every day. Misinformation is false information, but it is not created or shared with the intention of causing harm.

More concerning, disinformation is false information that is deliberately created to mislead, harm, divide or manipulate us. Disinformation (often created by foreign adversaries) is especially harmful during an election year because it erodes trust in our elections process.

We can help stop the spread of disinformation and share facts instead. We can spot disinformation and talk about it with others. People are more likely to change their behavior when others reach out to them using humor and positive messaging, without scolding or belittling.



The spread of disinformation hurts our democracy because it erodes trust.

Foreign adversaries hope to disrupt our democracy. They use multiple fake accounts and social media “bots,” which are automated programs that simulate human behavior. These foreign influence campaigns often build their audiences on social media platforms by joining groups and sharing non-controversial content. Eventually, they will start sharing disinformation, elevating divisive, extreme and controversial opinions to create division.



Foreign adversaries want to deceive Americans and create chaos.

Foreign adversaries use social media to initiate chaos and to try to make disinformation appear legitimate. They may have their own online platforms and spend a lot of money to appear genuine, but their only goal is to spread propaganda to further their own interests. Per U.S. law, foreign actors engaged in political activities must disclose their relationship to foreign governments; disinformation websites may not have that disclosure.



We perform a civic duty when we investigate content before sharing it.

Think before you share. If you read something online that seems questionable, take time to understand and verify it. Search for other reliable sources to verify information before sharing online content, especially if it is controversial or emotionally charged.



Foreign adversaries try to divide us by playing on our emotions.

Pause before sharing a link, email or other message. Why are you sharing this? Disinformation is created to make you upset or shocked! Sometimes, the best way to stop disinformation is to choose not to share it.



A unified effort to confront disinformation can build bridges and serve all of us.

Talk with your friends and family about disinformation. By sharing the facts, verifying trusted sources and spotting disinformation, you can help stop the spread. You should not engage with every piece of disinformation, but if you are really concerned, you can speak out.