



Election Security Update

As of Early July 2024

The IC assesses that a diverse, growing, and more capable group of foreign actors is or will likely try to influence our elections this November. At this point, the principal actors we are tracking are Russia, China, and Iran.

FOREIGN ACTORS



Russia remains the primary threat to our elections, and we are beginning to see Russia target specific voter demographics, promote divisive narratives, and denigrate specific politicians. Moscow seeks to shape electoral outcomes, undermine electoral integrity, and amplify domestic divisions, while using a variety of approaches to bolster its messaging and lend an air of authenticity to its efforts.

- Russian influence actors are planning to covertly use social media to amplify narratives to sway U.S. public opinion in U.S. swing states and diminish U.S. support for Ukraine.
- We have also recently observed a Russian influence organization try to appeal to U.S. audiences through encrypted direct-messaging channels.



China is approaching this U.S. presidential election more cautiously than Russia and probably does not plan to influence the outcome, as it continues to see little reward in attempting to do so due to its perception that both political parties seek to contain China. However, we are tracking efforts to influence the U.S. public more broadly.

- The People's Republic of China (PRC) is seeking to expand its ability to collect and monitor data on U.S. social media platforms, probably to better understand—and eventually manipulate—public opinion.



Iran seeks to stoke social divisions and undermine confidence in U.S. democratic institutions around the elections.

- Iran has demonstrated a longstanding interest in exploiting U.S. political and societal tensions through various means, including social media. We are monitoring Iranian actors who are seeking to exacerbate tensions over the Israel-Gaza conflict, as noted in the DNI statement of 9 July.

The IC is also tracking a **range of actors** who are conducting or considering limited operations to boost or undermine specific candidates that they believe are particularly important to their interests and goals.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The IC has observed examples in foreign elections of **Artificial Intelligence** (AI) being used to more quickly and convincingly tailor synthetic content, including audio and video.

- Ahead of the Taiwan presidential election in January, likely PRC actors pushed dozens of videos online featuring AI-generated newscasters reading sections of a book that outlined purported scandals about the then-current Taiwan president; the book itself may have been created by generative AI.
- During India's recent election, millions clicked on AI-generated ads depicting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other politicians—living and deceased—talking about controversial issues.