



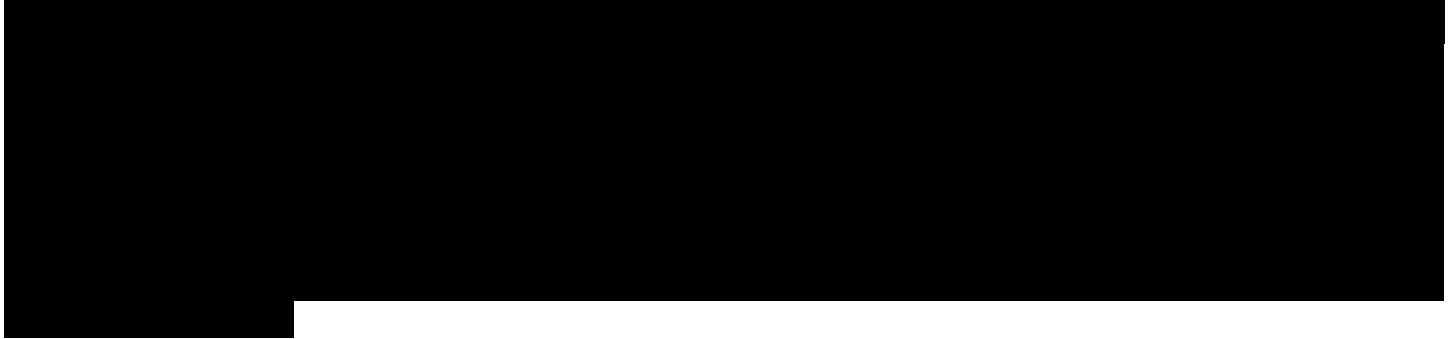
**(U//FOUO) Joint Special Event Assessment**  
**2024 General Election**  
**October 2024**

*(U) Prepared by the Commonwealth Fusion Center, the Boston Regional Intelligence Center, the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office, the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation*



**(U//FOUO) SCOPE**

(U//FOUO) The following Special Event Assessment was produced to address potential threats to the 2024 General Election, including early voting, mail-in-voting, and post-election activities. This product is intended for public safety personnel, election officials, and private sector security and technology partners. This product is intended to support federal, state, and local government and public safety agencies in identifying priorities for protective measures regarding the current threat picture, both domestically and abroad, cybersecurity concerns, criminal activity, and other existing or emerging threats to homeland security.



**(U//FOUO) 2024 KEY ELECTION DATES FOR MASSACHUSETTS**

- Massachusetts Early Voting Periods (in person)
  - State Election: October 19 – November 1, 2024
- Mail in Ballot Deadlines:
  - If returned in person or by drop box: 8 p.m., November 5, 2024
  - If returned by domestic mail: by 5 p.m. on November 8, 2024 (must be postmarked by Election Day)
  - If returned by mail from outside the United States: 5 p.m. on November 15, 2024 (must be postmarked by Election Day)
- Election Day: November 5, 2024
  - Polling Hours: 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.
- Post-Election Tabulation: Local election officials will count eligible ballots received after election day between November 8, 2024 and November 19, 2024
- Post-Election Audits: Drawing on Thursday, November 7, 2024, audits begin on November 12, 2024 and must be completed by November 19, 2024
- Election Certification in Massachusetts: Local election officials must “certify” their results to the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s Office no later than 15 days after the election or by November 20, 2024

**(U) ELECTION THREAT ENVIRONMENT**

(U//FOUO)



*(U) Threats to Elected Officials, Poll Workers, and Government Personnel*

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(U) Election workers have been targeted in multiple instances throughout the nation in attempts to intimidate and/or disrupt their business since at least 2020. Disruptive individuals have attempted to follow election workers from their place of business, shared election worker's personally identifiable information, and issued threats multiple times nationwide to try and obstruct democratic processes.<sup>1</sup>

*(U) Plot to Conduct Attack on Election Day Thwarted*

(U) 27-year-old man was arrested alongside a juvenile co-conspirator in Oklahoma on October 7, 2024, by an undercover law enforcement officer they believed to be a "business partner."

According to court documents, the suspect's search history included viewed and saved ISIS propaganda.

(U//FOUO)

*(U) Assassination Attempts on Former President Trump*

(U) On Saturday, July 13, 2024, a shooter engaged in an assassination attempt targeting former President Donald Trump at his rally in Butler, PA.

(U//FOUO)

[REDACTED]

(U//FOUO)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Death to ANYONE anti-Trump.  
Tried of playing nice, time to play their game.

(U//FOUO) In the immediate aftermath of the assassination attempts, individuals used social media and encrypted messaging platforms to condemn the attempted assassination, with some advocating for a civil war and general calls for violence against elected officials, including President Biden. Many users blamed the political left for the attack, stating that they “want war,” followed by calls for retribution. One user stated on publicly available sources, “They drew first blood. Whatever happens from this point they must know is on them. Fight!”

(U//FOUO)

[REDACTED]

(U//FOUO)

[REDACTED]

*(U) Suspicious Mail Incidents*

(U)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



(U) In early November 2023, election officials from Georgia, Oregon, and Washington reported that suspicious letters were sent to their election offices or workers. The locations all reported the letters contained a suspicious powder. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Portland, Oregon FBI Field Office states that it had “responded to multiple incidents involving suspicious letters sent to several ballot counting centers in Oregon.” FBI offices in Seattle, WA and Atlanta, GA issued similar statements.

(U//FOUO) [REDACTED]

*(U) Targeting of Ballot Drop Boxes*

(U//FOUO) [REDACTED]

(U//FOUO) [REDACTED]

(U//FOUO) [REDACTED]

- (U) In the early morning of October 25, 2020, a man set fire to an early voting drop box in Boston’s Copley Square. [REDACTED]. According to the Boston Elections Department, 122 ballots were in the drop box, 87 of which were able to be processed. [REDACTED]

- (U) [REDACTED]

(U) [REDACTED]

(U) *Swatting and Bomb Threats*

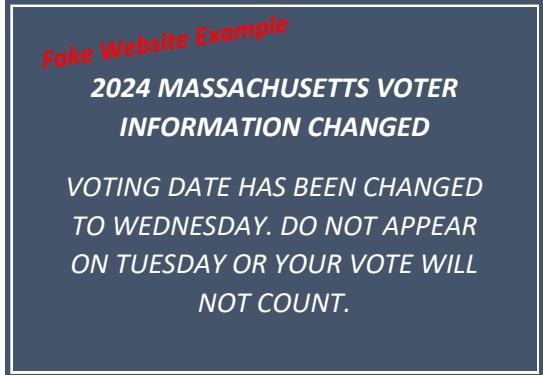
(U//FOUO) [REDACTED]

**(U) Online Election Interference & Cyber Attacks**

(U//FOUO) [REDACTED]

(U) *Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) Attack* – A DDoS attack is a very common cyber-attack that aims to shut down a website or network. Hackers who initiate this attack flood the victim’s computer or website with more traffic than the system can accommodate, which results in websites, computers, or servers crashing. This could leave the public unable to access important election information (polling locations, hours of operation, voter status, etc.) if sites are down due to a DDoS attack.

(U) *Website Defacement* is the unauthorized modification of online pages, including removal, addition, or alteration of the legitimate content. Hacktivists are known to utilize this type of tactic. Hacktivists are cybercriminals who intentionally misuse computer networks or systems for politically or socially motivated reasons. An election-related example of this would be to hack a legitimate political website and provide false, misleading, or discrediting information about a particular candidate or party. They could also provide false information about polling locations and times of operation to trick victims into missing their chance to vote.



(U//FOUO) [REDACTED]



(U) One recent example includes a video of Vice President Kamala Harris that was trending on multiple social media platforms in late September. The video showed the Vice President speaking unusually slowly at a rally in Atlanta, GA. The video was shared on multiple sites, claiming that the Democratic nominee was drunk while speaking to the crowd. The video was quickly debunked and classified as disinformation after fact-checkers found the same video of her speech in which she appeared to be speaking normally. It was determined that the “She’s Drunk” video was altered by running the original video at 80% of its normal speed. The fake video has a run time of 29 seconds, but the authentic clip is 23 seconds.

(U//FOUO) An online narrative with increasing concern that has been observed leading up to the 2024 Presidential Election is the theory that the election will be “stolen” and when this occurs, individuals will mobilize towards violence in return. Individuals promoting this narrative frequently associate these theories with the theme propagated through various misinformation campaigns that the 2020 election was fraudulent. Early voting and the use of ballot boxes is of particular concern for the 2024 Presidential election and was a particular concern during the 2020 election. Users in ultranationalist and far-right forums continue to call on individuals to act against this perceived threat. For example:

- On August 29, 2024, multiple users in far-right forums expressed concerns regarding a video released by the office of the Secretary of State in Michigan providing election security guidance. Some users perceived this video as a threat and, in response, stated, “They won’t be able to walk the streets when the people get done with them!” and proposed sending armed militias to polling locations.

Being a Michigander! They won't be able to walk the streets, when the people get done with them!

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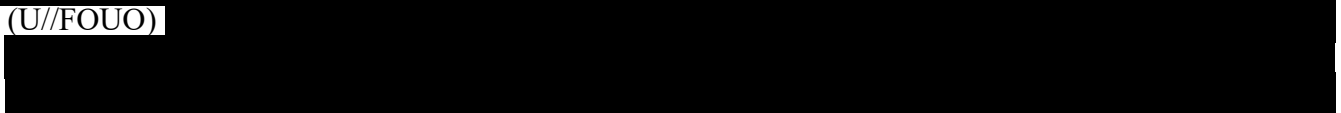


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[REDACTED]

(U//FOUO)

[REDACTED]

(U//FOUO)

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

(U//FOUO)

[REDACTED]

***(U) Foreign Malign Influence***

(U//FOUO)

[REDACTED]

(U) On Wednesday, September 4, 2024, the US Justice Department announced the ongoing seizure of 32 internet domains used in Russian government-directed foreign malign influence campaigns colloquially referred to as “Doppelganger,” in violation of US money laundering and criminal trademark laws. As alleged in an unsealed affidavit, the Russian companies Social Design Agency (SDA), Structura National Technology (Structura), and ANO Dialog, operating under the direction and control of the Russian Presidential Administration, and in particular First Deputy Chief of Staff of the Presidential Executive Office Sergei Vladilenovich Kiriyyenko, used these domains, among others, to covertly spread Russian government propaganda with the aim of reducing international support for Ukraine, bolstering pro-Russian policies and interests, and influencing voters in US and foreign elections, including the US 2024 Presidential Election.<sup>3</sup>

**(U) Recommendations & Resources**

(U) For information on voter registration and other Massachusetts election information, please utilize the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/elections-and-voting.htm>

Election Infrastructure Insider Threat Mitigation Guide: <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/election-infrastructure-insider-threat-mitigation-guide>

Election Infrastructure Incident Response Communications Guide: <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/election-infrastructure-incident-response-communications-guide>

Election Mail Handling Procedures to Protect Against Hazardous Materials: <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/election-mail-handling-procedures-protect-against-hazardous-materials>

Personal Security Considerations Action Guide: <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/personal-security-considerations-action-guide>

Physical Security of Voting Locations and Election Facilities: <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/physical-security-voting-locations-and-election-facilities>

US Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Best Practices: Public Records Request: <https://www.eac.gov/election-officials/best-practices-public-records-request>

National Counterintelligence and Security Center OPSEC Posters and Templates: <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/ncsc-what-we-do/operations-security>

Swatting Prevention and Response Guidance for Election Workers and Law Enforcement: <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/swatting-guidance-election-workers>

**(U) RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS**

(U) Report suspicious incidents to your police department of jurisdiction and your fusion center of jurisdiction for proper investigation and threat assessment.

(U) To report a suspected Internet-facilitated crime to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, follow the link to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3):

- Internet Crime Complaint Center - [WWW.IC3.GOV](http://WWW.IC3.GOV)

**(U) OUTLOOK**

(U) The Commonwealth Fusion Center, Boston Regional Intelligence Center, FBI-Boston, the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office, and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services are providing this information for situational awareness purposes only. Please report any suspicious activity to your police department of jurisdiction.

**Sources:**

(U//FOUO) [REDACTED]

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<sup>1</sup> (U) "*Facing threats some election workers weigh whether to stay.*" 8 July 2022, AP News. Accessed on Friday, 6 September 2024.

<sup>2</sup> (U) [REDACTED]

<sup>3</sup> (U) Press Release, U.S Department of Justice, "*Justice Department Disrupts Covert Russian Government-Sponsored Foreign Malign Influence Operation Targeting Audiences in the United States and Elsewhere.*" United States Department of Justice. 4 September 2024.