


Addressing Misinformation

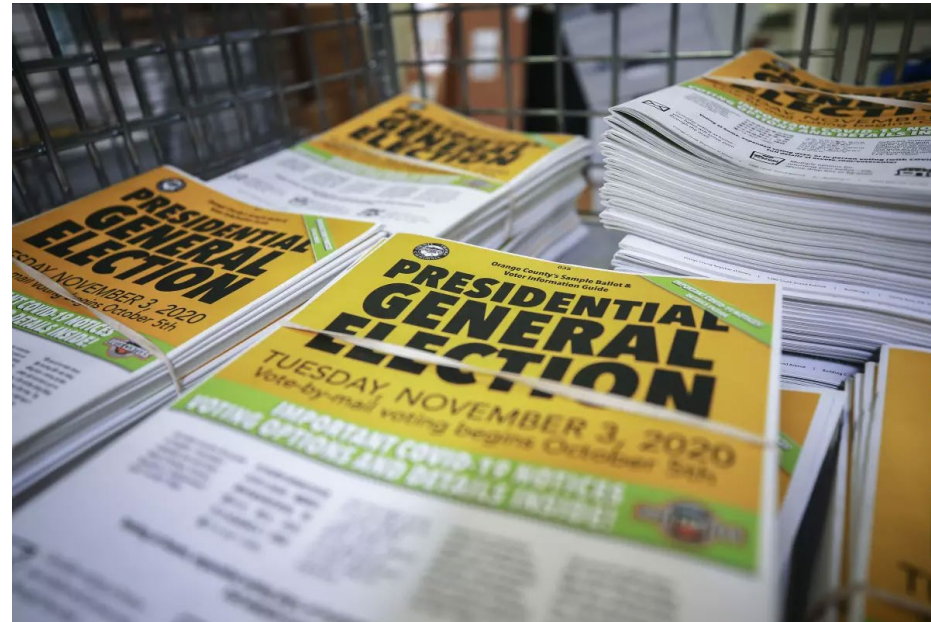


Conducting Civil Conversations

GROUP NORMS FOR VOTER PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Listen respectfully
 - All discussions will be nonpartisan without references, directly or indirectly, to any political party or political official or candidate.
 - Nonpartisan, ethically based discussions of policies, such as subjects of resolutions or statements by EDSD or The Episcopal Church, are permitted.
 - Differences in opinions are OK. They are the basis of American democracy.
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Many California voters get their info from social media, even if they don't trust it, poll shows



Voter information guides for the 2020 election in Santa Ana. (Getty Images)

By Faith E. Pinho Staff Writer June 18, 2024

www.latimes.com/politics/story/2024-06-18/poll-voters-get-their-info-from-tiktok-even-if-they-dont-trust-it

Misinformation, Disinformation, Fake News: Why Do We Care?

TEC Office of Government Relations

As Christians, we are not called to a life of half-truths and deception. We are called to follow a God who is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). The Prayer Book also teaches that among our duties to our neighbors is “to be honest and fair in our dealings” and to “speak truth, and not mislead others by our silence.” (pg. 848) Let us therefore examine our own conduct to limit the spread of deceitful information and call upon our leaders to work towards the same.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ogr/misinformation-disinformation-fake-news-why-do-we-care/> (booklet includes a glossary of relevant terms)

Before you re-share that tweet, or tell a friend about that surprising headline you saw, ask yourself three questions:

1 Where's it from?
Look for the source and be careful of fake copycat websites.



2 What's missing?
Do the headline and article match? Are other news organizations talking about it?



3 How do you feel?
If a headline or article sparks an intense emotion like fear, anger, or vindication, be watchful. That's a common tactic from someone trying to manipulate you, not from someone trying to spread reputable news.



Other things to consider:

- Learn who to trust, i.e. trustworthy sources.
- Be mindful of differences between fact-checked news, personal opinion articles, talk shows, satire (e.g. Daily Show), propaganda, gossip, etc.
- Consider feeding back a comment or private message about a post you suspect is misleading
- Communicate to elected officials that protection from disinformation is important to you.
- Seek understanding of the relationship between free speech and disinformation.

Take Action! *Election Protection*

- The national, nonpartisan *Election Protection* coalition works year-round to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to vote and have that vote count.
- Made up of more than 300 local, state and national partners including The Episcopal Church.
- *Election Protection* uses a wide range of tools and activities to protect, advance and defend the right to vote, including
- Misinformation & Disinformation Working Group: volunteers monitor and track misinformation and disinformation on social media, remove content that violates platforms' terms of service, etc.

<https://866ourvote.org/>

CIVIL CONVERSATIONS

LivingRoom
Conversations

The logo for Living Room Conversations is displayed on a black rectangular background. The word "LivingRoom" is written in a grey, sans-serif font, with a yellow and orange speech bubble icon replacing the letter "o". Below it, the word "Conversations" is written in a larger, bold, orange, sans-serif font.

LivingRoom Conversations

FORMAT: Small group structured conversations about an agreed upon topic.

- Introduction: Why we are here. Introductions.
- Conversation Agreements: How we will engage
- Question Rounds:
 - Round One: Getting to know each other
 - Round Two: Exploring the topic
 - Round Three: Reflecting on the conversation
- Closing: Feedback

The logo for "Living Room Conversations" is displayed on a black rectangular background. The words "Living Room" are in a grey, sans-serif font, with a yellow and orange speech bubble icon replacing the letter "o" in "Room". Below this, the word "Conversations" is written in a larger, orange, sans-serif font.

Living Room Conversations

Conversation Agreements:

- ✓ Be curious and listen to understand.
- ✓ Show respect and suspend judgment
- ✓ Note any common ground as well as any differences
- ✓ Be authentic and welcome that from others
- ✓ Be purposeful and to the point
- ✓ Own and help guide conversation



Sample exercise: Polarization

Polarization is a natural part of an election as a way of differentiating between political parties and candidates. But today, we are increasingly seeing Americans who vote for other parties, not just as different or wrong, but as morally corrupt, or even evil. Contributing to this, based on our politics, we read different news sources that support our existing narratives.

This kind of polarization can halt progress on important policies—even ones with a majority of the country's support—sparking anger and resentment in politics, fraying our social fabric, and leading more people to fear the potential for violence.

Round 2: Exploring the topic

Take 2 minutes each to answer one question without interruption. After everyone has answered, take a minute or two for clarifying questions/responses. Then move on to Round 3.

- Are you aware of a positive outcome from a new understanding of a different perspective? What happened?*
- What do you wish someone else would do to address polarization?*
- What could you do to address polarization?*

Round 3: Reflecting on the conversation

Take 2 minutes each to answer one question.

- What was most meaningful/valuable to you in this conversation?*
- What learning, new understanding or common ground was found on the topic?*
- Is there a next step you would like to take based on this conversation?*

If there is extra time continue the discussion.

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REFLECTIONS



trust in elections

Don't be silenced! In order to change things, we have to talk about them. Elections happen in local communities where we all have power, influence, and relationships. By openly discussing trust in elections, we safeguard the integrity of American democracy. A simple conversation *can* make a difference and we're here to help you do it!

<https://livingroomconversations.org/trust-in-elections-2/>

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Prayers for the Election Season

Weekends United in Prayer for a Free, Fair and Safe Election

Shared call for prayer. Congregations across the country and spanning denominations and faith traditions will be uniting in a commitment to fervent prayer on the weekends before and after the November 5 election.

Inspired by the ways the faith community came together in concerted prayer in the lead up to the historic 1994 election in South Africa.

Includes *Litany for the 2024 Election* adapted from litany by Episcopal Missioner.

<https://act.sojo.net/page/23663/action/1?locale=en-US>

Closing Prayer

Adapted from Soujourners

Gracious God, our holy and life-giving spirit, we pray that you would move upon every human heart of this nation to remove barriers that divide us, that walls of separation and suspicions may disappear, and all hatred and prejudice, which blocks us from the light of your love will cease.

O God, we confess that this election season in our history has not brought out the best in so many of us. Forgive us when we are less than truthful with one another and forgive us which we were less than loving toward our neighbors.

Guide us, through Jesus Christ, our loving Lord and reigning Redeemer. Amen.



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