

# Timeline of Notable Incidents Involving Misinformation, Impersonation, and AI-Generated Content

## 2016 U.S. Presidential Election:

In October 2016, U.S. intelligence agencies revealed Russian operatives used social media to spread fake news and misinformation, aiming to influence the presidential election by creating false articles and ads to polarize voters.

## 2018 Brazilian Presidential Election:

Leading up to the 2018 election, misinformation was widely spread through WhatsApp and social media, including false voter information and defamatory content about candidates.

## 2019 UK General Election:

November 2019: A doctored video of Keir Starmer, then a member of the Labour Party's leadership, was circulated by Conservative Party campaigners. The video misleadingly portrayed him as unable to answer a question on Brexit policy.

## 2020 U.S. Presidential Election:

September 2020: A deepfake video of Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, was circulated, which manipulated her speech to make it seem as if she were slurring her words, implying her incapacity or intoxication.



## 2022 U.S. Midterm Elections:

October 2022: Deepfake audio and video clips began circulating more widely, with improved quality and accessibility of AI tools, posing significant challenges in distinguishing real content from fabricated.

## 2023 French Presidential Election:

April 2023: AI-generated images and false claims were spread across various platforms to discredit candidates and manipulate voter perceptions.

## 2024 U.S. Presidential Primaries:

In January 2024, a deepfake audio of President Joe Biden falsely advising voters in New Hampshire to "save your vote for the November election" surfaced, potentially aiming to decrease voter turnout according to ESET Security Community.

## 2024 November Elections

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