

**Reporting Period:**  
**8/12/22 - 8/19/22**

# **Weekly Report:** **MDM Narratives**

# Executive Summary

- **Four high risk potential MDM narratives** were identified this reporting period:
  1. Mail-in ballots are used to commit election fraud in Oregon.
    - a. Countermeasure: Provide messaging about measures that help prevent election fraud via mail-in ballots.
  2. Oregon should eliminate mail-in voting and hold in-person voting that requires voter ID.
    - a. Countermeasure: Provide messaging about measures that help prevent election fraud via mail-in ballots.
  3. Election fraud has been happening in Oregon for decades.
    - a. Countermeasure: Provide messaging about Oregon historically holding free and fair elections.
  4. People should not trust mail-in-ballots because signature verification is ineffective.
    - a. Countermeasure: Provide public messaging about how mail-in ballot signatures are verified.
- A narrative accusing Oregon election officials of altering voter registrations was identified - this narrative could have a high impact (see Narrative #11) if dissemination increases.
- An emerging national-level narrative that states should manually adjudicate elections to circumvent voting machines and prevent voter fraud was identified.
- The high quantity of narratives this reporting period were driven by high levels of engagement with Twitter users' replies to tweets by the Oregon Secretary of State and an Oregon Senator.

# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>1. Mail-in ballots are used to commit election fraud in Oregon. (Continuing narrative)</p>	<p>Users on Twitter, Facebook, Telegram, AR15.com, and oregoncatalyst.com claimed that mail-in ballots are used to commit election fraud in Oregon. Users claimed there is mail-in ballot manipulation and cited increased voter turnout as evidence of election fraud. Most of the posts within this narrative were replies to tweets by the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) and Oregon Senator Merkley.</p> <p>This narrative could decrease Oregon voters' confidence in the legitimacy of mail-in ballots as an election procedure.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Public Messaging</p>	<p>Provide messaging about measures that help prevent election fraud via mail-in ballots.</p>

# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>2. Oregon should eliminate mail-in voting and hold in-person voting that requires voter ID.</p>	<p>Twitter users called for Oregon to eliminate mail-in ballot voting because the system is insecure and vulnerable to voter fraud. These users expressed support for voting in person that requires voter IDs. Most of the posts within this narrative were replies to tweets by the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) and Oregon Senator Merkley. This narrative originated from national-level discourse about voter fraud through mail-in ballots</p> <p>This narrative could decrease Oregon voters' confidence in the legitimacy of mail-in ballots as an election procedure.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Public Messaging</p>	<p>Provide messaging about measures that help prevent election fraud via mail-in ballots.</p>

# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>3. Election fraud has been happening in Oregon for decades. (Continuing narrative)</p>	<p>Twitter users claimed that there has been voter fraud in Oregon since the state switched to mail-in voting. Others claimed elections are rigged through mail-in voting and help Oregon Democrats win state legislative and congressional elections. Most of the posts within this narrative were replies to tweets by the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) and Oregon Senator Merkley. This narrative increased to high risk this reporting period (previously low risk) due to increased dissemination.</p> <p>This narrative could decrease Oregon voters' confidence in the outcomes of elections.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Public Messaging</p>	<p>Provide messaging about Oregon historically holding free and fair elections.</p>

# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>4. People should not trust mail-in ballots because signature verification is ineffective.</p>	<p>Twitter users claimed that Oregon's method of verifying mail-in ballot signatures enable voter fraud. Some users cited using untrained and unmonitored volunteers to verify signatures as the source of voter fraud. Other users claimed that the lack of transparency for verification procedures is proof of voter fraud. This narrative is rooted in national-level discourse about signature verification.</p> <p>This narrative could decrease Oregon voters' confidence in the legitimacy of mail-in ballots as an election procedure.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Public Messaging</p>	<p>Provide public messaging about how mail-in ballot signatures are verified.</p>

# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>5. Oregon election officials need to update voter rolls to prevent voter fraud.</p>	<p>Twitter and Facebook users broadly claimed outdated voter rolls enable voter fraud. These users implied that the election officials are not keeping their voter rolls updated, such as not removing individuals that are deceased or who have moved out of state. Most of the posts within this narrative were replies to tweets by the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) and Oregon Senator Merkley.</p> <p>This narrative could decrease Oregon voters' confidence in electoral procedures and outcomes.</p>	Medium	Public Messaging	Provide messaging about how voter rolls are maintained in Oregon.

# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>6. People are using mail-in ballots received by deceased people in Oregon to commit voter fraud.</p>	<p>Twitter users claimed that dead peoples' votes are counted in Oregon. Some claimed that they received ballots for deceased family members and that this is how Oregonians commit voter fraud. Most of the posts within this narrative were replies to tweets by the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) and Oregon Senator Merkley.</p> <p>This narrative could decrease Oregon voters' confidence in the legitimacy of mail-in ballots as an election procedure and perceptions of free and fair elections.</p>	Medium	Public Messaging	Provide public messaging about measures to help prevent voter fraud.



# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>7. Future elections can't be trusted due to prior election fraud.</p>	<p>Users on Facebook and Twitter expressed low levels of trust in Oregon's election procedures, personnel, and results. The Facebook user called Oregon's election "state agency" untrustworthy. Twitter users broadly claimed that Oregon's elections lack integrity. This narrative is rooted in national-level discourse about alleged previous fraudulent elections. This narrative increased to high risk this reporting period (previously medium risk) due to increased dissemination.</p> <p>This narrative could negatively impact Oregon voters' perceptions of election procedures, personnel, and results.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Public Messaging</p>	<p>Provide public messaging about Oregon historically holding free and fair elections.</p>

# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>8. Peoples' votes for POTUS 45 in the 2020 election were not counted.</p>	<p>Twitter users claimed that their vote for POTUS 45 in the 2020 election were not counted and cited this as evidence of election fraud. Some added that they checked the status of their mail-in ballots with their local election officials to confirm they weren't counted. The posts within this narrative were replies to a tweet by the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) on 8/19/22 about mail-in ballots.</p> <p>This narrative could decrease Oregon voters' confidence in electoral procedures and results.</p>	Medium	Public Messaging	Provide messaging about measures to ensure all legitimate votes are counted.

# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>9. People should not trust voting machines because they enable election fraud.</p>	<p>Twitter users responding to the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) claimed that Dominion voting machines use flawed tabulation processes and are hackable, and therefore enable election fraud. Some Twitter users suggested that Oregon should get rid of voting machines overall and revert back to manually voting in person. This narrative originated in national-level discourse and was amplified by users that self-identify as being from Oregon.</p> <p>This narrative could negatively impact Oregon voters' trust in Oregon's electoral procedures and outcomes.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Public Messaging</p>	<p>Provide public messaging about measures that help prevent election fraud via voting machines.</p>

# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>10. Oregon election officials are not being transparent about the election process.</p>	<p>Twitter users accused the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) of being against election transparency and calling voters misinformed. Users called on Oregonians to demand more election transparency to increase the state's accountability. These claims were in response to the SOS's tweet on 8/19/22 about election officials being overwhelmed by public records requests due to election misinformation. Users also claimed that there is no election misinformation because there is actually widespread election fraud.</p> <p>This narrative could potentially decrease Oregon voters' confidence in election procedures and increase threats towards election officials.</p>	Medium	Public Messaging	Provide public messaging about the transparency of election procedures.

# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>11. Oregon election officials committed election fraud by altering voters' registration.</p>	<p>Two Twitter users claimed that their voter registration was altered by Oregon election officials. One claimed (in 5 different tweets) her party affiliation was switched. The other user claimed (in 2 different tweets) that his wife was removed from Oregon's voter roll without notification. The users cited these as examples of voter fraud.</p> <p>Despite a low dissemination level, this narrative could have a high impact on Oregon voters' confidence in the electoral process and outcomes and election personnel's security, as it specifically targets Oregon election officials.</p>	Medium	Monitor	Do not address - continue to monitor

# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>12. Mail-in ballots are used to commit election fraud as non-Oregon residents are voting.</p>	<p>Twitter users implied that mail-in ballots enable voter fraud by allowing those who moved out of Oregon to vote. One user accused Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley of using mail-in ballots to vote on behalf of military personnel overseas, implying they are not eligible to vote. The posts within this narrative were replies to tweets by the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) and Oregon Senator Merkley.</p> <p>This narrative could decrease Oregon voters' confidence in the legitimacy of mail-in ballots as an election procedure.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Public Messaging</p>	<p>Provide public messaging about voter eligibility and the voting process for Oregon residents residing outside of Oregon.</p>

# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>13. Voter fraud occurs through ballot harvesting.</p>	<p>Twitter users claimed that ballot harvesting is prevalent in Oregon elections. One user claims that union halls, nursing homes, and assisted living centers are sources of ballot harvesting. Some users conflated mail-in ballots with ballot harvesting.</p> <p>This narrative could decrease Oregon voters' confidence in the legitimacy of mail-in ballots as an election procedure.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Public Messaging</p>	<p>Provide messaging about measures that help prevent voter fraud via mail-in ballots.</p>

# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
14. People can vote multiple times via mail-in ballots.	<p>Twitter users claimed that they received, or know people who have received, multiple ballots from previous elections and implied that this is exploited to commit voter fraud. The posts within this narrative were replies to tweets by the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS) and Oregon Senator Merkley.</p> <p>This narrative could decrease Oregon voters' confidence in the legitimacy of mail-in ballots as an election procedure.</p>	Low	Public Messaging	Provide messaging about measures that help prevent election fraud via mail-in ballots.




# MDM Narratives

Narrative	Description	Risk Level	Recommended Countermeasure	Recommended Countermeasure Details
<p>15. Oregon should conduct a full election audit due to widespread election fraud. (Continuing narrative)</p>	<p>Twitter users called for a full audit of Oregon's election process due to allegations of widespread election fraud. Users claimed that Oregon's current electoral system is both outdated and insecure, making it susceptible to election fraud. The calls for an audit were primarily directed at the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS).</p> <p>This narrative could negatively impact Oregon voters' confidence in electoral procedures and outcomes.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Public Messaging</p>	<p>Provide public messaging about measures to help prevent election fraud.</p>

# Appendix A: Screenshots

# Narrative 1: Mail-in ballots are used to commit election fraud in Oregon. (Continuing narrative)

 **Seth Keshel** - "Captain K" channel 👁️ 24.2K 11:56

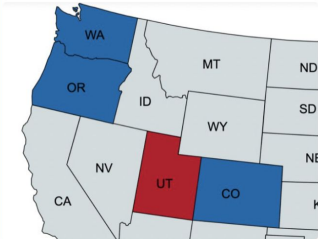
Here is a good article I'd like you to read to understand the lie of "mail-in" voting being the reason for drastic turnout increases in states that previously lacked significant mail balloting.





Special attention paid to UT, CO, WA, and OR.



I've made it free for all subscribers. Thanks for reading!




<https://skeshel.substack.com/p/washington-oregon-colorado-and-utah>



**Substack**  
Washington, Oregon, Colorado and Utah Show the Media's Lying VBM Narrative  
Topic: Elections



 69  5  5 

  Oregon's voter turnout seems abnormally high, over 90% in certain areas






  ⋮

Replying to [@JeffMerkley](#)

This is not true. It is just as fraught with problems in Oregon as anywhere else. Once you mail uncontrolled ballots to bad addresses, send duplicate ballots, have poor rolls, and have collections of "certain ballots", the election is insecure.

5:47 PM · Aug 18, 2022 · Twitter Web App

7 Retweets 54 Likes

  · Aug 19

Replying to [@OregonSOS](#)

What's this got to do with voting?



## Narrative 2: Oregon should eliminate mail-in voting and hold in-person voting that requires voter ID.

[Redacted] [Redacted] Aug 19 ...

I WILL YELL BACK AT YOU!  
VOTE-BY-MAIL IS THE WORST AND ALLOWS FOR CHEATING AND FRAUD.  
VOTING IN PERSON IS MOST SECURE WITH VERIFIED ID.

[#OregonCheats](#)

🗨️ ↻ 1 ❤️ 5 ⬇️ ⬆️

[Redacted] [Redacted] Aug 19 ...

To Much cheating happens with Vote By Mail. We need only Walk in and Vote. See where it goes.

🗨️ ↻ ❤️ 2 ⬇️ ⬆️


# Narrative 3: Election fraud has been happening in Oregon for decades. (Continuing narrative)

  · 13 hr. ago

Oregon has been an imbalanced Blue state for the last 30yrs and currently a Democrat Super majority. If you haven't personally spoken with 10-20 of your neighbors, this is just the way things are going to go.

 6  [Reply](#) [Share](#) [Report](#) [Save](#) [Follow](#)

← **Tweet**

  Retweeted

Replying to [@JeffMerkley](#)

We've noticed that since mail in voting came to Oregon, we have become one of the most leftist states in the nation. Very few republicans can get elected making our state one of the most out of balance states. A huge number of Oregonians have no representation because of this.

6:16 PM · Aug 18, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

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18 Retweets 2 Quote Tweets 96 Likes

## Narrative 4: People should not trust mail-in ballots because signature verification is ineffective.

[Redacted] · Aug 19

Really? Just curious then why 2 elections in a row I have completely changed my signature to not even closely resemble my previous one and yet my ballot has never been returned for verification. Or is it just tossed because it has votes for conservatives?

1 2 11

[Redacted] · Aug 19

Most likely just tossed.


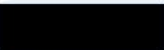
[Redacted] Aug 19


Replying to [Redacted]


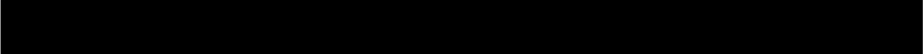
There's never been an actual audit of Oregon's vote by mail. There's not even a budget to do so. And those who check your signature are untrained volunteers, not handwriting experts and your signature changes over the years. There's nothing factual in this tweet.

4 36

## Narrative 5: Oregon election officials need to update voter rolls to prevent voter fraud.






  When are you going to clean up our voter rolls. Instead, you reinstated inactive voters in January. **Oregon Secretary of State** . I see you didn't answer this same equation I've asked on other posts.

Like Reply 6d 

  Aug 19 ...

If mail in voting is so secure then why do you object to an outside independent audit of Oregon elections?

Have you cleaned up the voter rolls of all the dead people and the droves of people that have moved out of state and the illegals on the voter rolls.

 1  2  24  

# Narrative 6 : People are using mail-in ballots received by deceased people in Oregon to commit voter fraud.

Instant Alpha [redacted] Aug 19

I received two ballots for the primary. Dad died in 2019.

Still getting his ballots despite calls and letters to Multnomah clerk.

Anecdotes  $\neq$  data.

4 12

[redacted] Aug 19




We absolutely need mail in voting to be inclusive to everyone, since dead Oregonians can't vote in person like the rest of us can.




1



## Narrative 7: Future elections can't be trusted due to prior election fraud.

   There is nothing about any Oregon state agency that merits anyone's trust.


Like Reply 6d 

  · Aug 18 

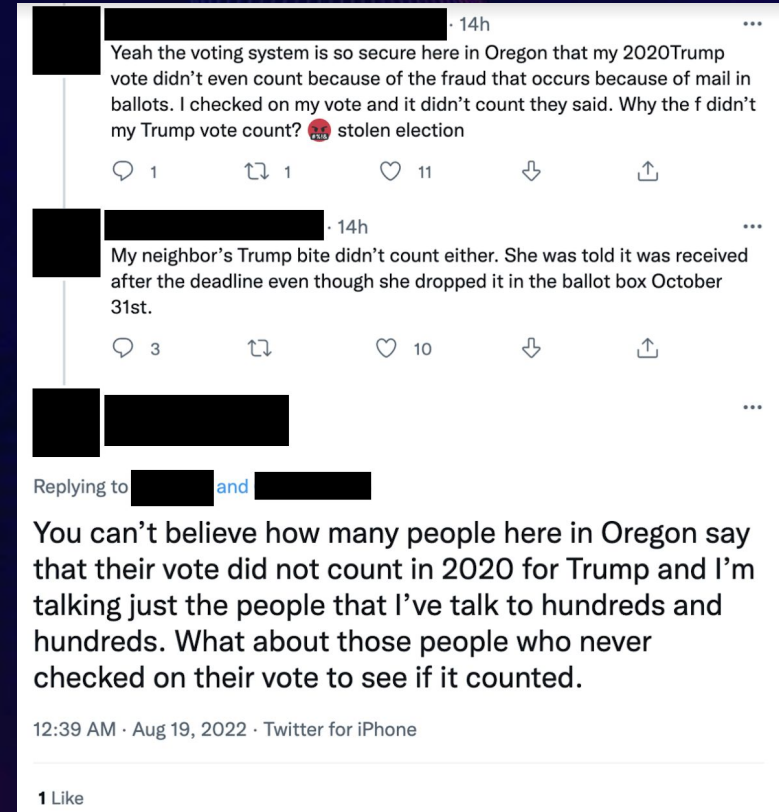
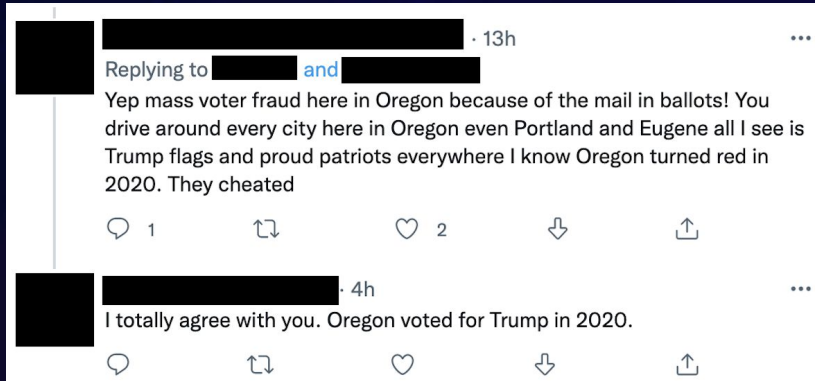
Replying to [@JeffMerkley](#)

Perhaps the most corrupt state with regard to election integrity, precisely because of “vote by mail.” It’s ushered in losers like you all over the place.

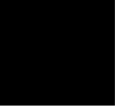


Please resign.

 8  6  34  






# Narrative 8 : Peoples' votes for POTUS 45 in the 2020 election were not counted.






## Narrative 9: People should not trust voting machines because they enable election fraud.






I try to tell everyone there is an algorithm and the machine are hack able and they laugh or spew hate. Non of them can tell me what a huge one scan is. DHS did them in GA. Saw it on c span. It's not the only time they hacked the machines.

   1  

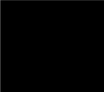


   



Want citizen to trust the vote? Vote in person with I.D and no computers involved. It worked for a couple hundred years...

Vote by mail and computer tabulation is the biggest scam ever.

## Narrative 10: Oregon election officials are not being transparent about the election process.






  Aug 19 







Public records requests are a burden to those who are against transparency.

Election integrity is not an attribute of a mail voting system.






[#DemocratsAreCorrupt](#)

   4  




  Aug 19 








If by “requests stemming from misinformation” you mean “stemming from constituents wanting transparency and accountability” then yes, this tweet would be correct.




   11  

# Narrative 11 : Oregon election officials committed election fraud by altering voters' registration.






  Aug 19 

Misinformation 🤔🙌 Read the comments on your previous tweet were explaining to you what has happened to each of us in Oregon. you never counted my Trump vote, You changed me from republican to non-affiliate on my ballot you gave me a Democrat ballot during the primary

  5  13  

  Aug 19 

Explain why my wife was removed from the voter rolls without notification, the only way we found out is when she didn't get a ballot for an election, and it was too late to register for that election. Her rights DENIED by YOU, Shemia Fagan.

 2  1  3  

# Narrative 12: Mail-in ballots are used to commit election fraud as non-Oregon residents are voting.

[Redacted] · Aug 19



Replying to [@OregonSOS](#)

Why did people receive eight ballots in the mail why do you send out ballots to our deceased family members and children that are grown and out of the house. It's not disinformation it's real information from Oregonians don't gaslight us the election is rigged here in Oregon

1 9

[Redacted] · Aug 18

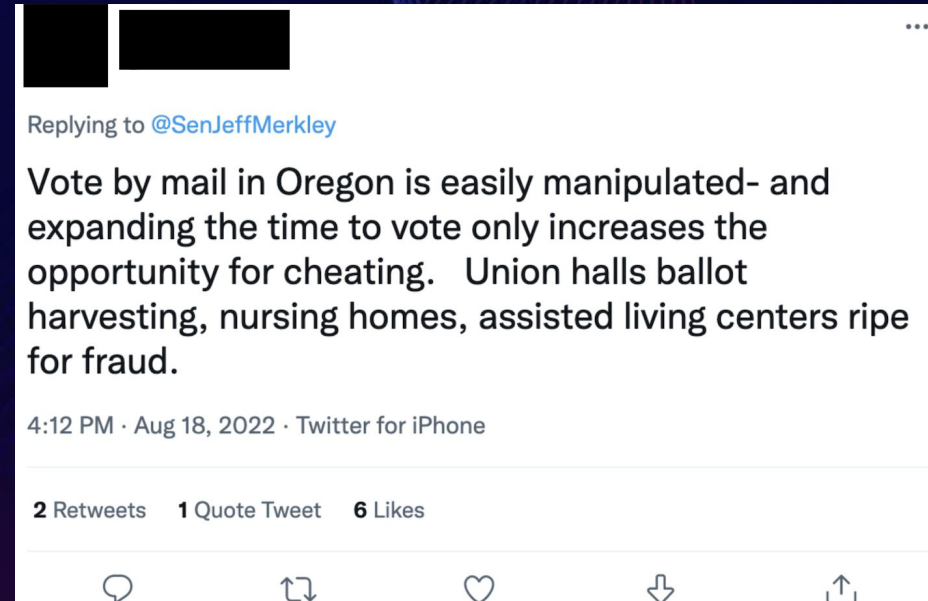
You have been voting by mail for the elderly and military over seas. Stop living. Mail in voting should only occur with a voter id and a fine of 5 years in prison if more than one vote is submitted

 **Jeff Merkley**  [@JeffMerkley](#) · Aug 18

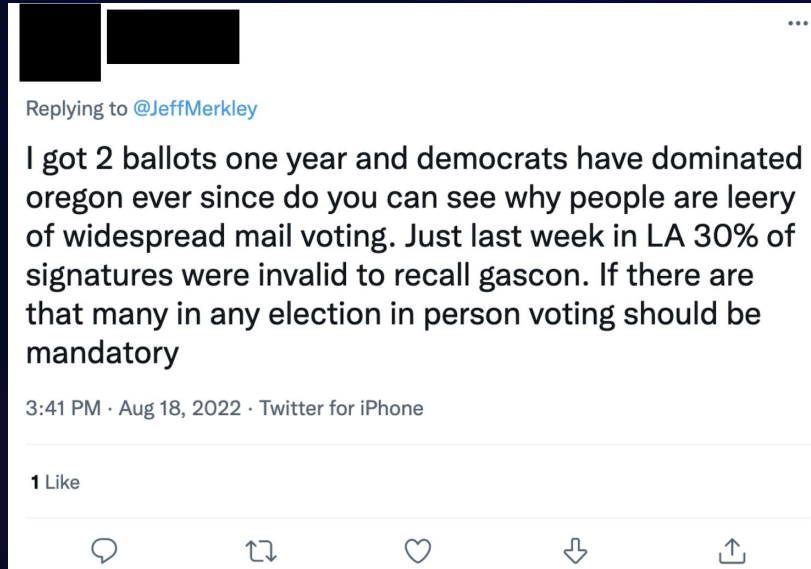
We've been voting by mail for more than 20 years in Oregon. It's safe, secure and there's a paper trail.

We need nationwide Vote by Mail!

# Narrative 13: Voter fraud occurs through ballot harvesting.



# Narrative 14: People can vote multiple times via mail-in ballots.



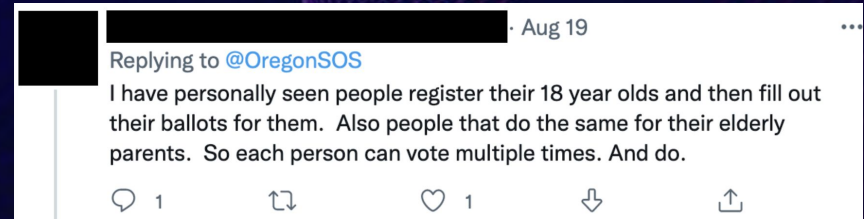
Replying to [@JeffMerkley](#)

I got 2 ballots one year and democrats have dominated oregon ever since do you can see why people are leery of widespread mail voting. Just last week in LA 30% of signatures were invalid to recall gascon. If there are that many in any election in person voting should be mandatory

3:41 PM · Aug 18, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

1 Like

Twitter interaction icons: reply, retweet, like, share, and repost.





Replying to [@OregonSOS](#) · Aug 19

I have personally seen people register their 18 year olds and then fill out their ballots for them. Also people that do the same for their elderly parents. So each person can vote multiple times. And do.

Twitter interaction icons: 1 reply, retweet, 1 like, share, and repost.



## Narrative 15: Oregon should conduct a full election audit due to widespread election fraud. (Continuing narrative)






  · Aug 19 ⋮

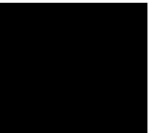

Oregon needs a full forensic audit of our election system. Period.

If there are no problems, this should not be an issue. Right?






Transparency. Right?

I'm sure you totally agree.

   14  

  · Aug 19 ⋮

You should welcome an audit. If you have nothing to hide, there should be no objection to having the system looked at. Nobody just blindly trusts anything coming out of Oregon government for good reason, Shemia.

 1   5  

# Appendix B: Existing MDM Narratives

# Existing MDM Narratives

Narrative	Risk	Reporting Period Observed	Continuing (Yes/No)
Mail-in ballots are used to commit-election fraud in Oregon.	High	7/15-8/12; 8/12-8/19	Yes
Oregon should eliminate mail-in voting and hold in-person voting that requires voter ID.	High	7/29-8/5; 8/5-8/12	Yes
Election fraud has been happening in Oregon for decades.	High	8/5-8/12	No
People should not trust mail-in-ballots because signature verification is ineffective.	High	7/15-8/12; 8/12-8/19	No

# Existing MDM Narratives

Narrative	Risk	Reporting Period Observed	Continuing (Yes/No)
Oregon election officials need to update voter rolls to prevent voter fraud.	Medium	8/12-8/19	No
People are using mail-in ballots received by deceased people in Oregon to commit voter fraud.	Medium	8/12-8/19	No
Future elections can't be trusted due to prior election fraud.	Medium	8/12-8/19	No
Peoples' votes for POTUS 45 in the 2020 election were not counted.	Medium	8/12-8/19	No

# Existing MDM Narratives

Narrative	Risk	Reporting Period Observed	Continuing (Yes/No)
People should not trust voting machines because they enable election fraud.	Medium	8/12-8/19	No
Oregon election officials are not being transparent about the election process.	Medium	8/12-8/19	No
Oregon election officials committed election fraud by altering voters' registration.	Medium	8/12-8/19	No
Mail-in ballots are used to commit election fraud as non-Oregon residents are voting.	Low	8/12-8/19	No

# Existing MDM Narratives

Narrative	Risk	Reporting Period Observed	Continuing (Yes/No)
Mail-in ballots are used to commit election fraud as non-Oregon are voting.	Low	8/12-8/19	No
Voter fraud occurs through ballot harvesting.	Low	8/12-8/19	No
People can vote multiple times via mail-in ballots.	Low	8/12-8/19	No
Oregon should conduct a full election audit due to widespread election fraud.	Low	7/15-8/12; 8/12-8/19	Yes

# Existing MDM Narratives

Narrative	Risk	Reporting Period Observed	Continuing (Yes/No)
Future elections can't be trusted due to the fraudulent 2020 elections.	Low	7/15-8/12	No
Illegal immigrants are voting.	Low	7/15-8/12; 8/12-8/19	Yes
Twitter will influence the outcome of the 2022 midterm elections by enforcing its Civic Integrity Policy.	Low	7/15-8/12	No

# Appendix C: Definitions



# Definitions

- **Misinformation** - false, but not created or shared with the intention of causing harm
- **Disinformation** - deliberately created to mislead, harm, or manipulate a person, social group, organization, or country
- **Malinformation** - based on fact, but used out of context to mislead, harm, or manipulate
- **Topic** - the broader subject defining the information environment (ex. Midterm Elections)
- **Theme** - subtopics or categories of discourse (ex. Mail-in ballots)
- **Narrative** - at least more than one piece of content that shares a similar rhetorical objective (ex. County clerks are using mail-in ballots to steal elections)