BREAKING: Twitter Files Part 9

State Governments caught censoring "election misinformation" using Twitter Partner Portal to unconstitutionally censor 1st Amendment rights of American citizens

Please RT

<u>_</u>

1/After President Trump won in 2016, the Democrat Party pushed the Russia Collusion narrative to delegitimize his administration

Many federal, state, and NGO entities ramped-up censorship efforts online in the name of stopping "foreign interference"

2/California passed Elections Code §10.5, which created the Office of Elections Cybersecurity in 2018 to "educate voters" with "valid information" through empowering election officials ("OEC")

This mandate quickly and predictably devolved into a political weapon for censorship

3/The OEC, under the direction of then-Secretary of State Alex Padilla, seized on the statutory phrase "mitigate false or misleading information," as a license to quash politically-disfavored speech with the assistance of the National Association of Secretaries of State ("NASS")

4/In fact, NASS Director of Communications Maria Benson stated in email that Twitter asked her to let Secretaries of States' offices know that it had created a separate dedicated way for election officials to "flag concerns directly to Twitter."



Good Morning Communications Directors,

I wanted to pass along the attached one pager on the new CIS single source mis/disinformation reporting channel I updated you on 9/29 (original email below).

Twitter also asked me to let you guys know about a couple items...copy/pasted below:

(1) State and Local Election Officials: Please join Twitter on Thursday, October 8 from 3:30 - 4:30 pm EST for a training on creative and effective content strategies on Twitter in advance of the U.S. Election. You will hear the latest on product updates, best practices, and strategy for creating engaging content! Time for Q&A will be reserved at the end. RSVP here: https://trainingforuselectionpartners.splashthat.com/

(2) We are onboarding state and local election officials onto Twitter's Partner Support Portal. The Partner Support Portal is a dedicated way for critical stakeholders -- like you -- to flag concerns directly to Twitter. These concerns can include technical issues with your account and content on the platform that may violate our policies. Email <u>PSPOnboarding@Twitter.com</u> to enroll.

If you do decide to join the PSP please cc' me for awareness. Attached is the last list I have, which I've asked Twitter to cross reference with those they have in their files. But alas, if you'd like to just report to the new CIS reporting structure that works too! Up to you!

Two last things... I bcc'd you all on the press release for the new NASS 2020 Election FAQs but just in case you didn't see it you can find the FAQs here; and today begins National Cybersecurity Awareness Month and American Archives Month.

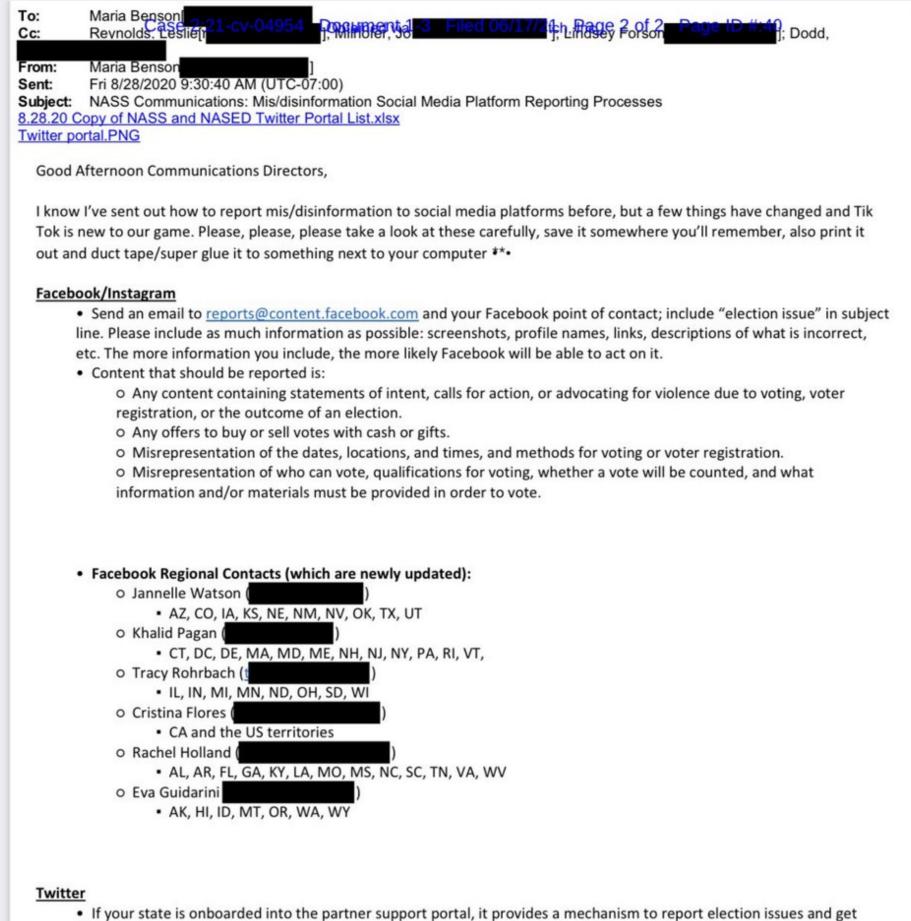
Onward,

Maria Benson Director of Communications National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) 444 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 401 Washington, DC 20001 Desk: 202-624-3528 Cell:	
From: Maria Benson	
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 11:40 AM To: Maria Benson	
Cc: 'Reynolds' < Lindsey Forson	
; 'Stacy Dodd' < Subject: NASS Communications: Several Updates	
Good Afternoon Communications Directors,	
Don't TL;DR at me, but I have several odds and ends updates that I wanted to package together:	

NEW Single Source CIS Mis/Disinformation Reporting Email

1/1 To help combat misinformation in elections, the EI-ISAC has teamed up with CISA, NASS, NASED, and Stanford University to

5/NASS's dedicated reporting channel to Twitter, according to Maria Benson, would get Secretaries of States' employees' censorship requests "bumped to the head of the queue."



• If your state is onboarded into the partner support portal, it provides a mechanism to report election issues and get them bumped to the head of the queue. Fill in the report with as much information as possible, including links if you have them. **Attached** is a list of the 38 on-boarded states.

o If you're not on the list and would like to get on-boarded please email psponboarding@twitter.com, cc'

gov@twitter.com and me for my awareness. These lists don't keep themselves **.

Here's the link <u>https://help.twitter.com/forms</u> to get started to report mis/disinfo.

• You should have a green box at the top. Attached is a screenshot from my screen.

• Then to report you click submit form. Then regarding and choose "integrity." It used to say election integrity, but with COVID-19 they changed it just to integrity.

· Let me know if yours doesn't have those features.

• NEW: Local election officials' Twitter accounts can now be onboarded into the partner support portal by emailing psponboarding@twitter.com, so please pass along to your locals. Please email gov@twitter.com if you have questions 1/1 about this since it is so new.

6/NASS asked its members to give it a "heads up" when they saw mis-information to help NASS "create a more national narrative" and wanted officials to have NASS email tips on how to report "mis/disinformation" directly to Big Tech "handy" as officials "prepare[d] for battle."

To:Jimenez, JerrylGrambusch, ClairelLansleySusan[], Reyes, Stevel], Valle, PaulalPage ID #:42From:Mahood, Sam[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=5ADE179F920245A594801E1F9BC7464F-MAHOOD, SAM]Sent:Tue 4/30/2019 9:22:39 AM (UTC-07:00)Subject:Fw: NASS Communications: Reporting Social Media Mis/Disinformation
Jerry, Claire, Susan, Steve,
Please see this email from NASS about reporting social media misinformation to various social media platforms.
-Sam
From: Maria Benson Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 9:19 AM To: Maria Benson Cc: Reynolds, Leslie; Milhofer, John; Dodd, Stacy; Lindsey Forson Subject: NASS Communications: Reporting Social Media Mis/Disinformation
Good Afternoon Communications Directors,
We all know that mis/disinformation on social media does not disappear when we aren't running major elections. If you see something on a platform, please report it. In addition, please pass this on to your local election officials as well. I would also appreciate a heads up so I know what is going on, this helps us create a more national narrative.
Reporting mechanisms currently in place:
Facebook
Send email to <u>reports@content.facebook.com</u> ; copy Eva Guidarini (Content of Send) and your state Facebook representative; include "election mis/disinformation" or something similar in subject line. Identify specific pieces of content that potentially violate their <u>voter fraud and suppression policy</u> using links to content on FB; if you believe pages or profiles are inauthentic, send links to pages or profiles. If there is a statute or regulation on point (e.g., if misrepresentation concerns voting requirements), please include that information in email.

Twitter

To report something, Twitter has an election partner portal which NASS has access to. You will need to email me () as much information as you have and I will submit it through the portal as soon as possible, including Twitter handle, tweet content, link, why you believe it is mis/disinformation, etc. I will also include your contact information in the report so Twitter can get back to you about it directly.

When there is a question about the legality of an election advertisement or how it falls under a Google policy, please

7/As an example, on December 30, 2019, the CA Sec of State's office emailed Twitter's Kevin Kane a misprinted voter registration card and Kevin Kane responded to Mr. Mahood's request to take down the tweet before 8:00 am the next morning, which happened to be New Year's Eve

On Mon, Dec 30, 2019 at 9:05 PM Mahood, Sam <

wrote:

Hi Kevin,

Flagging the following tweet that I reported through the partner portal. This tweet is sharing a doctored image of a California Voter Registration Card (inaccurately claiming that the Republican Party is not an option): https://twitter.com/Paul USAPatriot/status/1211709756311621633

We would like this tweet taken down ASAP to avoid the spread of election misinformation.

Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to facilitate this request.

Thank you,

-Sam

Kevin Kane responded to Sam Mahood's request to take down the tweet 35. before 8:00 am the next morning, which happened to be New Year's Eve, stating:

To: Cc: From: Sent: Subject:	Mahood, Sam Reyes, Steve Kevin Kane Tue 12/31/2019 7:51:23 AM (UTC-08:00) Re: Fw: Case# 0136918935: partner_election [ref:00DA000000K0A8.5004A00001qaD26:ref]
Sam-	
Thank y do.	you for reporting, this Tweet has been removed. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything else we can
Best reg	gards,
Kevin	

8/On July 17, 2020, Padilla's office sent an email to fifteen political consultants and political affairs professionals, many of whom worked on the campaigns of prominent Democrats, offering them the opportunity to bid on a \$35-million-dollar "Vote Safe California" initiative

9/Mr. Padilla violated the Public Contract Code's statutory bidding requirements by claiming he had "emergency authority" to create the contract. He received seven bids from the list of political allies and picked SKDKnickerbocker as the winner of the \$35-million-dollar contract

10/Who is SKDK?

They're a political consulting firm heavily involved in then- candidate **Joe Biden's** presidential campaign

As described by Reuters, "SKDK is closely associated with the Democratic Party, having worked on six presidential campaigns."



Exclusive: Microsoft believes Russians that hacked Clinton targeted Biden campaign firm – sources By Joel Schectman, Raphael Satter, Christopher Bing and Joseph Menn https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-cyber-biden-exclusive/exclusive-russian-state-hackers-suspected-in-targeting-biden-campai...

11/ Yes, you're reading this correctly

Alex Padilla, former CA Sec. of State and now US Senator, used taxpayer dollars to hire Biden's campaign firm for \$35 million to pick who to censor in "Misinformation Daily Briefings" and report these speakers to Big Tech for banning

To:	Valle, Paula	Dresner, Jenna Document I of Field	; Mahood Sam Page ID
Akilah		Document 1 o Frica	oorinzi Page 2 01 3 Page 10 m.40
Cc:	Heather Wilson]; Emily Campbel]; Jason
Rosenbau	m	1: Tania Mercado	; Grace Gill
Julia Sche	echter		
From:	Zeke Sandova		
Sent:	Fri 11/13/2020 4	:43:28 PM (UTC-08:00)	
Subject:	Misinformation [Daily Briefing: 11/13	

Weekly Recap:

On Monday 11/9 @ErrolWebber tweeted, "George Bush was declared December 15th. It is only the 1st week of November now. Be patient. PRESIDENT TRUMP WON!" The post has been flagged as misleading by Twitter.

On Tuesday 11/10 The New York Times reported that tech companies are struggling to keep up and identify false claims that Joe Biden lost in Pennsylvania, the state that put him over the 270 electoral vote threshold.

On Wednesday 11/11 Forbes reported Facebook's ban on political ads will continue for at least another month. The 2020 election results will not be certified until the middle of December.

On Thursday 11/12 @realDonaldTrump tweeted, "REPORT: DOMINION DELETED 2.7 MILLION TRUMP VOTES NATIONWIDE. DATA ANALYSIS FINDS 221,000 PENNSYLVANIA VOTES SWITCHED FROM PRESIDENT TRUMP TO BIDEN. 941,000 TRUMP VOTES DELETED. STATES USING DOMINION VOTING SYSTEMS SWITCHED 435,000 VOTES FROM TRUMP TO BIDEN." @ChanelRion@OANN." The tweet has been flagged by Twitter.

National

CNN reported the Trump campaign has eliminated their voter fraud hotline after it was flooded with prank calls. The campaign is yet to provide evidence of widespread voter fraud.

@realDonaldTrump tweeted, "For years the Dems have been preaching how unsafe and rigged our elections have been. Now they are saying what a wonderful job the Trump Administration did in making 2020 the most secure election ever. Actually this is true, except for what the Democrats did. **Rigged Election!"**

Breitbart published a report by Tom Fitton in which the conservative activist claims to have exposed massive voter fraud across the country.

The New York Times warned that the term election fraud is becoming more popular in some circles. The Times concluded that "The Rush Limbaugh Show," which averages about 15 million listeners per week, has mentioned the term 204 times since Election Day.

California:

@RealErinCruz.tweeted, "Story after story of votes wrongly allocated, some individuals being told they already electronically voted when they were trying to relinquish their mail in ballot at voting assistance centers so they could vote in person... We need a FULL AUDIT. I'm not stopping. #CA36," along with a video of a computer programmer claiming he was hired to rig an election.

ABC News included President Trump's tweet about ballots being illegally collected in CA after the election on their list of debunked election misinformation. The ballot box was sealed on Election Day, meaning all ballots inside were eligible to be counted.

NBC 4 reported the Orange County registrar is conducting an audit of local election results in search of possible errors. The audit is not required by law but is tradition.

@DC Draino tweeted, "Audit every California ballot Election fraud is rampant nationwide and we all know California is one of the culprits Do it to protect the integrity of that state's elections."

The Daily Breeze published an opinion piece calling expanded mail voting an "electoral success." The piece claims that both Democrats and Republicans benefited from the change.

WatchTheBreaks tweeted, "Just did some research on California voting and unless I'm missing something, there isn't a place I can see HOW m

12/Alex Padilla was proud of the OEC's censorship activities as was NASS

NASS has an annual award called the Innovation, Dedication, Excellence & Achievement in Service ("IDEAS") award, recognizing "significant state contributions to the mission of NASS."

Guess who won in 2020?

The Office of Election Cybersecurity created VoteSure, which was a first-of-its-kind public education initiative to promote trusted, accurate, and official sources of election information on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The goal of VoteSure was to increase voter awareness about election misinformation online and provide official, trusted election resources.

. . .

Election security continues to be a top priority for the Secretary of State's office, and we are continuing to work around the clock to protect the integrity of our systems ahead of Election 2020 and to combat misinformation through our Office of Election Cybersecurity.

. . .

The Office of Election Cybersecurity discovered nearly 300 erroneous or misleading social media posts that were identified and forwarded to Facebook and Twitter to review and 98 percent of those posts were

promptly removed for violating the respective social media company's community standards.

13/ You guessed it - Alex Padilla's Sec. of State office

He stated his support for the OEC's speech-censoring activities in response to receiving the award, touting the initiative's "proactive social media monitoring"

We worked in partnership with social media platforms to develop more efficient reporting procedures for potential misinformation. Misinformation identified by our office or voters was promptly reviewed and, in most cases, removed by the social media platforms.

14/ Some have claimed that this Twitter Partner Portal was merely a "suggestion box" for gov't officials and censorship wasn't mandated

According to the CA Sec. of States's attached press release, Big Tech was complicit **98%** of the time in removing the flagged content

Case 2:21-cv-04954 Document 1-7 Filed 06/17/21 Page 3 of 7 Page ID #:50



VoteSure: A Public Education Campaign Encouraging Voters to be Vigilant of Election Misinformation

Background

For the first time in the history of California, the Legislature and Governor approved a public education and outreach budget for the California Secretary of State's office, specifically designated for communicating accurate election information to California voters. This came at a critical time when federal intelligence agencies were unanimous in their assessment that foreign governments targeted California and other states with sophisticated misinformation campaigns on social media that were confusing to voters.

This funding approved in fiscal year 2018-2019 enabled the California Secretary of State's office to employ additional tools and resources necessary to identify misinformation and create content to provide voters, particularly in hard-toreach communities, access to information about California Secretary of State programs via verified websites. The target population, of these educational campaigns, was estimated at 19.4 million at the last report of registration.

Our office identified email communication with California voters as one of the primary areas where we could be effective in addressing misinformation as well as providing proactive accurate, reliable and verified information. As such, we secured a contract with Granicus to ensure that we had the ability to email and distribute, as well as text message, all registered voters in California that provided email addresses in their voter registration forms. While not all registered voters provide emails and/or phone numbers, a vast majority do.

Having the ability to email voters statewide should a major incident occur is essential to our responsibility as the state's chief elections office. For example, if there is a coordinated misinformation campaign that targets a county or precinct, we are now able to use an email management system to communicate accurate information to voters.

In addition to these outreach and educational tools, the Offices of Election Cybersecurity and Enterprise Risk Management were created to develop strategies for comr to the California Secretary of State security infrastructure. ent were created to develop strategies for communicating elections information and mitigating potential risks

The Office of Election Cybersecurity created VoteSure, which was a first-of-its-kind public education initiative to promote trusted, accurate, and official sources of election information on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The goal of VoteSure was to increase voter awareness about election misinformation online and provide official, trusted election resources

The Office of Election Cybersecurity utilized Facebook, Instagram and Twitter's software to communicate accurate information to voters across the state, which increased and enhanced the outreach and civic engagement by the Secretary of State's office ahead of Election 2018. The software and analytics provided by these social media channels enabled the Secretary of State's office to provide real-time reports and data, which helped fine tune our target messaging more appropriately for our communication and outreach efforts.

Election security continues to be a top priority for the Secretary of State's office, and we are continuing to work around the clock to protect the integrity of our systems ahead of Election 2020 and to combat misinformation through our Office of Election Cybersecurity

Case 2:21-cv-04954 Document 1-7 Filed 06/17/21 Page 4 of 7 Page ID #:51

The Campaign: VoteSure

Public Education:

The VoteSure campaign included paid advertisements on Twitter. Facebook and Instagram. These paid advertisements included graphics about misinformation and official Election Day information. A series of videos encouraged voters to report misinformation at cybersecurity.sos.ca.gov and to visit VoteSure.sos.ca.gov to obtain official election information straight from the source. The new VoteSure.sos.ca.gov portal was created to inform the public about efforts being taken to protect elections. It included links to help voters look up their voter registration status, find their polling place and early voting opportunities, and learn about their rights as voters.

On Election Day, November 6, 2018, the #VoteSure hashtag was included alongside several informational graphics that encouraged early voting and a link to the Voter Bill of Rights on Facebook and Twitter

Statewide Outreach:

As part of the VoteSure initiative, around 6 million voters who included an email address with their voter registration received an email communication with election information directly from the California Secretary of State's office. This electronic campaign was the first time the California Secretary of State's office directly emailed registered voters. Due to the very positive feedback, the California Secretary of State's office plans on making this a standard method for disseminating information.

Monitoring and Countering Misinformation: The Office of Election Cybersecurity worked with state, local, and federal agencies to share information about cyber threats, develop emergency preparedness plans, and recommend ways to protect election infrastructure. This included piloting a new social media monitoring effort in the days leading up to and on Election Day. Posts spreading false information such as "vote online," "provisional ballots don't count," or "Democrats vote on 7/6 and Republicans vote on 7/7," were reported to officials at Facebook and Twitter.

Voters could also participate with monitoring by reporting suspicious content or election misinformation found on social media directly to a VoteSure email inbox. These posts would be reviewed by the Office of Election Cybersecurity and in most cases reported to the social media company so they could be removed.

Results

In total, the VoteSure initiative targeted all Californians over the age of 18 and made 46 million impressions on Facebook and Twitter. Using the election portal, VoteSure.sos.ca.gov, voters were able to easily verify their registration status, find their polling place or report election misinformation

The Office of Election Cybersecurity discovered nearly 300 erroneous or misleading social media posts that were identified and forwarded to Facebook and Twitter to review and 98 percent of those posts were

promptly removed for violating the respective social media company's community standards

Voters turned out to the polls on Election Day in record numbers. Approximately 12 million Californians cast their ballot on November 6, 2018. That's a 60 percent turnout— the highest level of participation in a midterm election since 1982.

15/One particular social media user that was targeted for censorship by this Orwellian machine was Rogan O'Handley, a licensed attorney in the state of CA, who runs the account you're reading this from:

@DC_Draino

His violative tweet requested an audit of CA elections



culprits Do it to protect the integrity of that state's elections (1) This claim about election fraud is disputed >

9:20 PM · 11/12/20 · Twitter for iPhone

16/Despite the Post's expression of Mr. O'Handley's personal opinion calling for greater accountability in election processes—core political speech directly questioning Padilla's political work—SKDK labeled the Post as "misinformation," and flagged the Post for the OEC to censor

то:	Valle, Paula	; Dresner, Jenna	; Mahood, Sam]; Jones,
Akilah Cc:	Heather Wilsor]; Emily Campbel]: Jason	
Rosenba	um]: Tania Mercado	; Grace Gill	
Julia Sch From:	Zeke Sandova			
Sent: Subject:	Fri 11/13/2020 4:43:2 Misinformation Daily E			
	Draino tweeted, "Audit eve the integrity of that state's	ry California ballot Election fraud is rampant n elections."	ationwide and we all know California is on	e of the culprits Do it to
		16		

17/The OEC, following the recommendation of the Democrat operatives at SKDK, flagged the Post and color coded it as an "orange" level threat, only one degree below red

On Nov. 17, 2020, a Sec. of State agent sent Twitter the following message regarding Mr. O'Handley's Post:

creates disinformation and distrust among the general public.	Case# 0180994675: partner_election [ref:00DA0000000K0 A8.5004w0000225CN h:ref]	11/17/20	12:31 PM	Hi, We wanted to flag this Twitter post: https://twitter.com/DC_Draino/status/1327073866578096129 From user @DC_Draino. In this post user claims California of being a culprit of voter fraud, and ignores the fact that we do audit votes. This is a blatant disregard to how our voting process works and creates disinformation and distrust among the general public.
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18/Shortly after Padilla's agent or staff flagged the post to Twitter, Twitter appended commentary asserting that Mr. O'Handley's claim about election fraud was disputed

Twitter then added a "strike" to Mr. O'Handley's account, a clear 1st Amendment violation

19/Twitter then went seemingly out of its way to find reasons to permanently suspend Mr. O'Handley account with over 440,000+ from the platform, despite never having received strikes previously

Here are 3 more of his tweets that earned strikes



How about a 9/11 commission-style report on what the hell just happened this past election?!

When half our country stops believing in the integrity of our vote, that's an *emergency* issue

(!) This claim of election fraud is disputed, and this Tweet can't be replied to, > Retweeted, or liked due to a risk of violence



Rogan O'Handley 🗐 @DC_Draino

When your country is stolen and you aren't even allowed to talk about it, that's not freedom

It's fascism

 This claim of election fraud is disputed, and this Tweet can't be replied to,
Retweeted, or liked due to a risk of violence

11:14 AM · 1/18/21 · Twitter for iPhone



20/ His final violation was a tweet sarcastically mocking Joe Biden's "victory" in 2020 where he tweeted in quotes "Most votes in American History" with a picture of the Us Capitol behind barbed wire

He was soon thereafter permanently banned for "Election Misinformation"



"Most votes in American history"

...



21/ Judicial Watch found these secret emails exposing the censorship of Mr. O'Handley and hundreds of others in a Sunshine Records request

Mr. O'Handley hired Harmeet Dhillon (<u>@pnjaban</u>) and <u>@RonColeman</u> to file a lawsuit against Twitter, California, and SKDK in June of 2021

22/ This 1st Amendment case was dismissed in December of 2021 by a Democrat-appointed Judge, appealed, and had its oral arguments in the 9th Circuit early December

They are currently awaiting their decision



O'Handley v. Padilla – Center for American Liberty https://libertycenter.org/cases/ohandley-v-padilla/

23/ Mr. O'Handley and his legal team have confirmed they will appeal this case all the way to the Supreme Court where they're confident the 6-3 majority will step in to stop this censorship apparatus and protect 1st Amdt. rights of every American on social media

Stay tuned /end

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