



## Social media companies brace for election misinformation with updates to policies

By Kristine Frazao

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WASHINGTON (TND) — What has increasingly become the place Americans go to get their information is also a top place many get misinformation, which social media sites are working hard to confront.

Facebook's parent company, Meta, announced it is resurrecting its rules from the 2020 election to limit the spread of misinformation and will reject ads that encourage people not to vote or call into question the legitimacy of upcoming results.

Another part of the plan includes Meta officials meeting regularly with election officials -- a concern for some free speech advocates.

*When platforms meet with government officials to set election integrity priorities, it creates the opportunity for jawboning or, informal pressure intended to prompt private action," said Will Duffield, who is a policy analyst at the Cato Institute's Center for Representative Government.*

Twitter is also updating its Civic Integrity Policy, with plans to "protect the conversation, promote safety and elevate credible information."

The question for many critics is who determines what is credible and what isn't?

*There isn't a great deal of transparency at all about how these third-party fact checks are rendered, how appeals to them are handled and within each third-party foundation," Duffield said. "It's essentially a black box."*

For years Republican, lawmakers have argued they are discriminated against on social media.

*I'll just cut to the chase -- big tech's out to get conservatives," Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, said at a July 2020 Judiciary Committee hearing examining the Dominance of Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google.*

Still, there are also issues about blatantly false information surrounding the election spreading like wildfire online.

A nonprofit backed by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg gave \$350 million to help local election offices in 2020.

Lawmakers in both parties continue to raise concerns about the outsized power of social media giants as another election is right around the corner.