



# LWV

The League of Women Voters recently celebrated its 100 year Anniversary. We are a non-partisan, grassroots group – we do not endorse or campaign for any party or candidate.

Our focus is encouraging informed & active participation in government. The League actively works to protect citizens' right to vote and to provide education regarding voting.



# Spotting Manipulation & Misinformation: A Voter's Survival Guide

This presentation will focus on several tips and tricks for making sure that information you are viewing about political issues and candidates is meaningful and accurate.



“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely”.

Franklin D. Roosevelt



Voters prepared...



© DAVE GRANLUND.COM  
POLITICAL CARTOONS.COM

“

**Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.**

- Abraham Lincoln

”

So, another way to think about this presentation is.....



Being an Informed Voter  
Prevents Blisters!

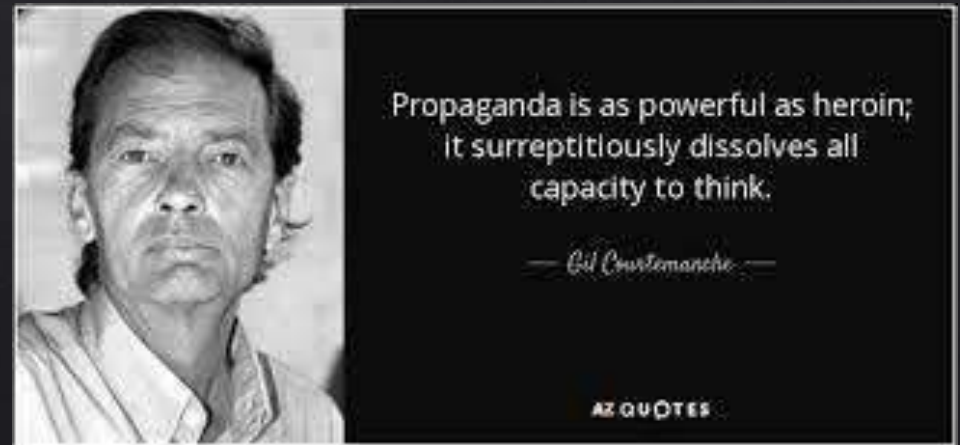
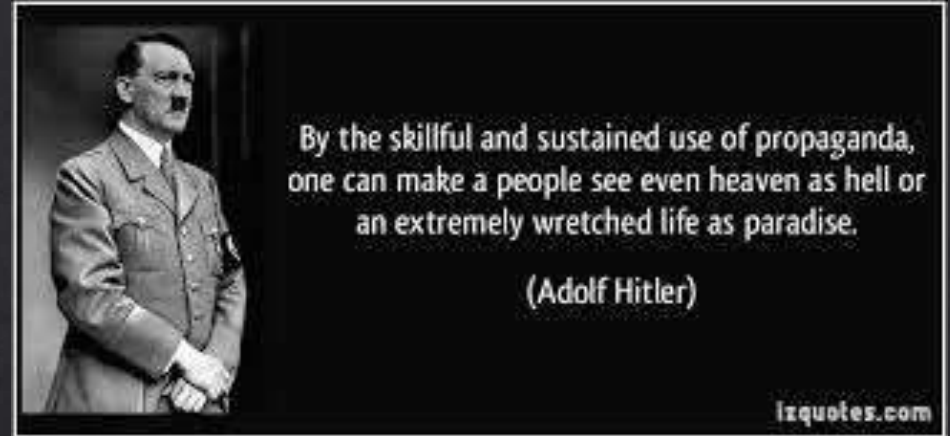
Be An Informed Voter:  
Is your information meaningful?

Step #1: Recognize Propaganda



# Propaganda:

A strategy for influencing, or even controlling, behavior by the use of specific manipulative techniques.

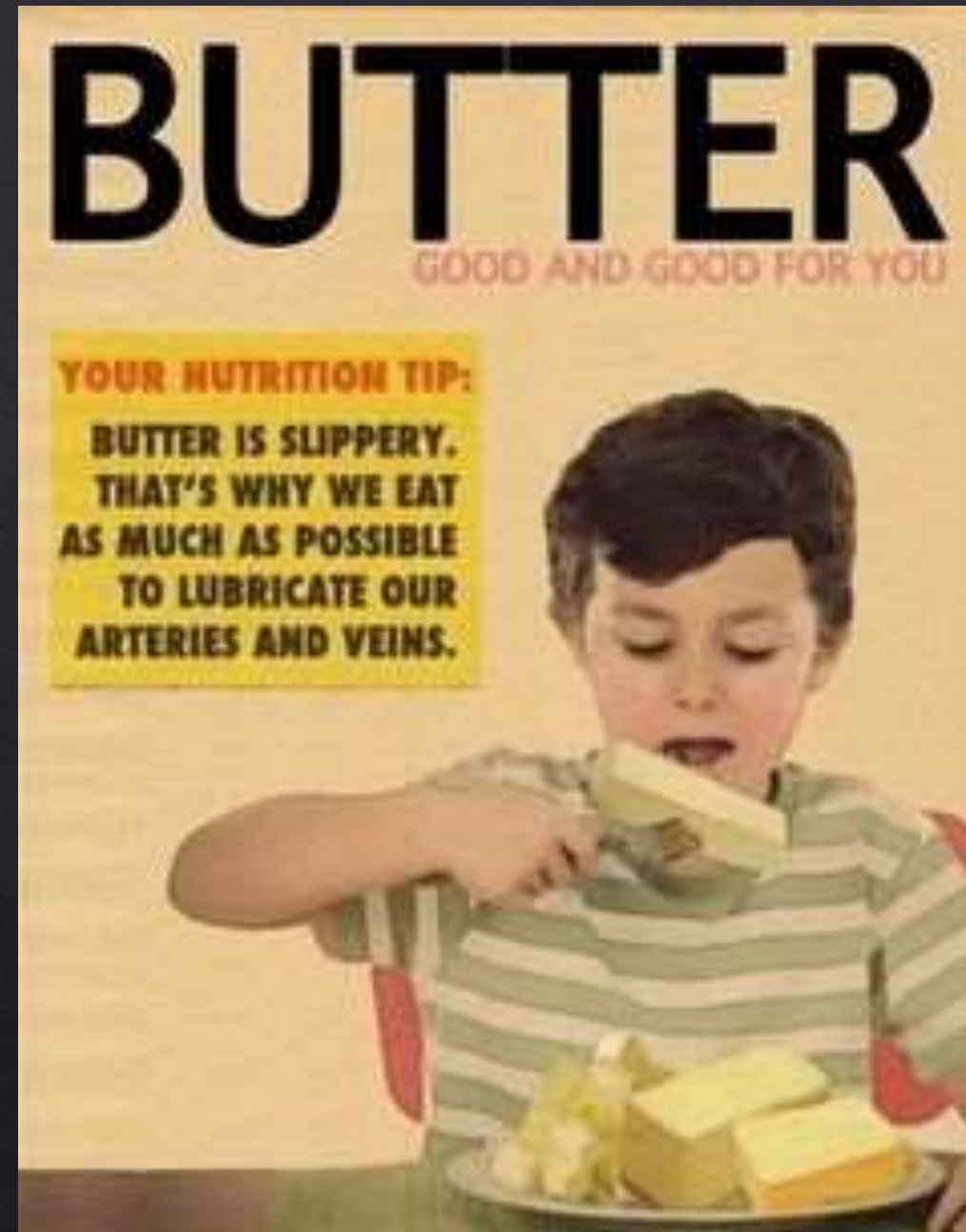


Advertising is a form of  
propaganda.

It tends to be relatively  
harmless....



But not  
always!



You want to be aware  
of when propaganda  
techniques are being  
used for political  
purposes.





Joseph Goebbels was the Propaganda minister for Hitler's 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich. He is recognized as a master of propaganda. He was obviously very successful in getting the German people to support Hitler's regime.

# Manipulation Technique #1: **REPETITION**

Repeat something over & over & over again...Eventually people will accept it as truth.

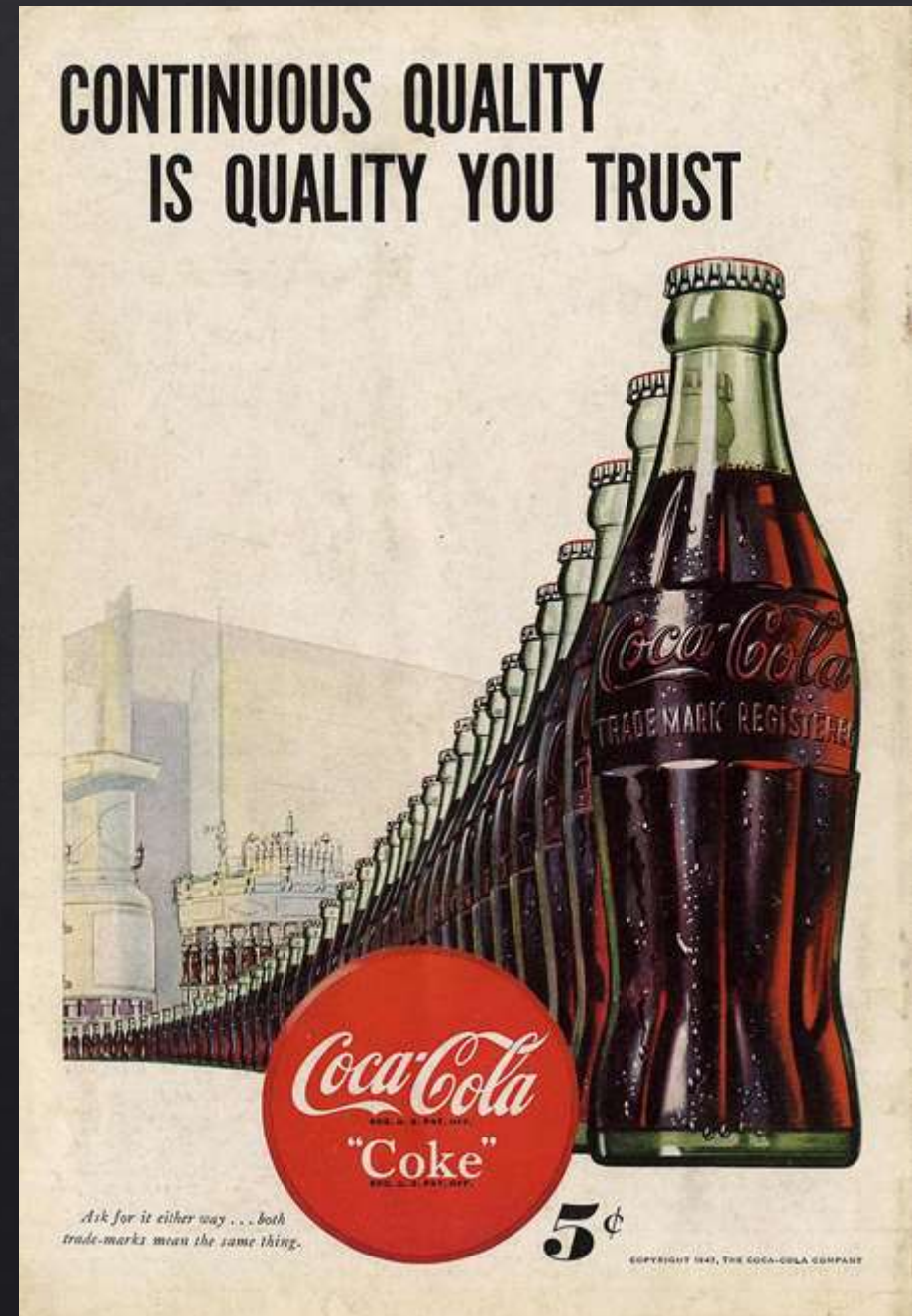




Manipulation Technique #2:

## Glittering Generality:

An essentially meaningless statement that causes us to have positive feelings –



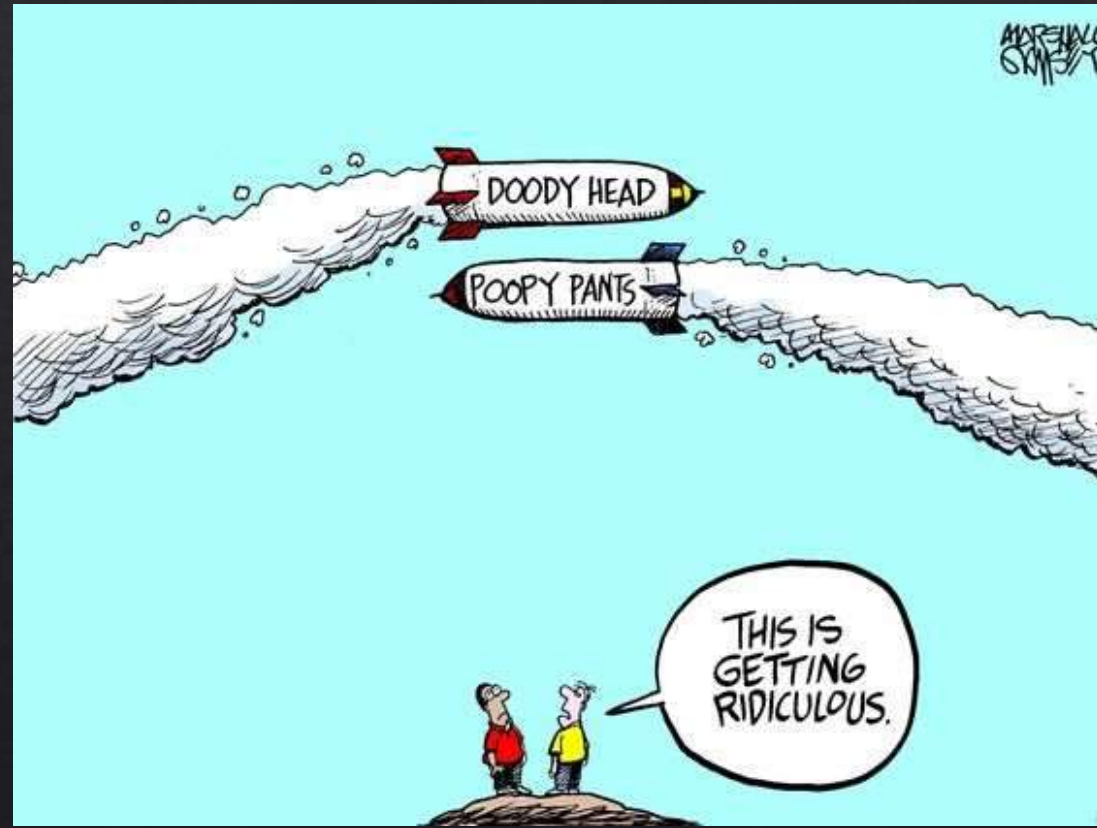
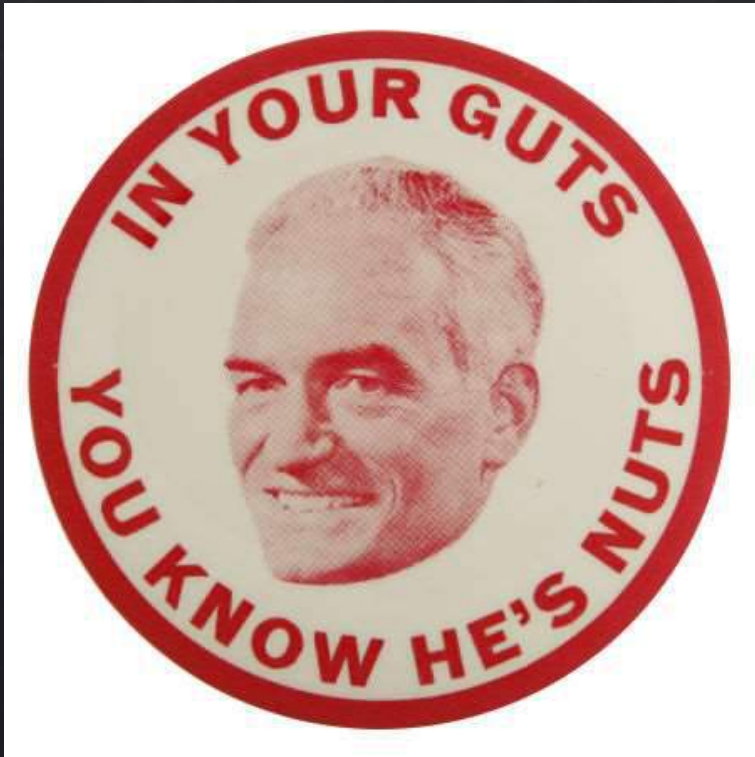


Vague and meaningless, but has big emotional appeal.



## Manipulation Technique #3:

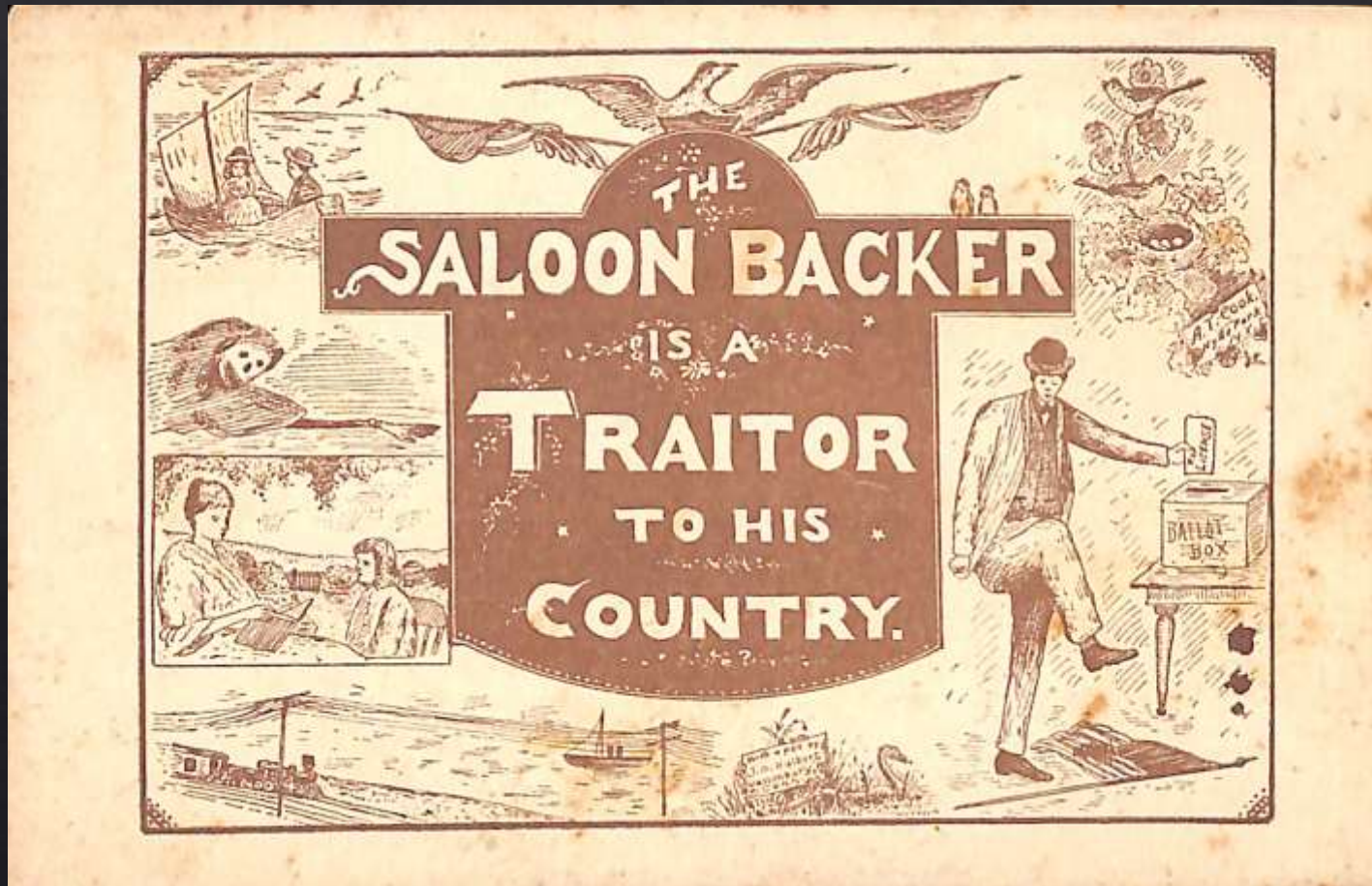
**NAME CALLING** – again, gives no meaningful information.



## Manipulation Technique #4: **SIMPLIFICATION**

Take a complex issue and claims it to be an “either/or” situation.

**Counts on the listener not researching the issue.**



Oversimplifies – Be against gun reform or you will be forced to give up all of your guns.





Manipulation Technique #5: **DIVISION**

Sets up “Us vs. Them” and polarizing “Either/Or” scenarios .

Purpose: to distract from the real source of problems & weaken the ability of the population to form real solutions.





This 1840's cartoon depicts “whiskey-loving” Irish and “beer –drinking” German immigrants stealing the election and the cause of society’s problems.



Us vs. Them  
is often also combined with  
illogical cause/effect scenarios  
that try to create an emotional  
response – particularly fear.





This vintage political ad tells us that women who want the right to vote (and their allies) are “against” men.





Manipulation Technique #6:

## **TRANSFER**

A universally positive symbol or image is used along with a product or candidate. The viewer then subconsciously “transfers” that positivity to the product or candidate.





© 1945 THE WHITMAN CHOCOLATE CO., INC.



**A WOMAN  
NEVER FORGETS THE MAN  
WHO REMEMBERS**

There's a youthful sentiment and charm associated with a package of Whitman's that few gifts can convey so well. Remember with a Whitman's Sampler... and be remembered.

**Whitman's  
CHOCOLATES**



If you can't afford for your loved one to forget, remember it's because millions of people all over the world are going to all out fighting fronts.

**BUY MORE WAR BONDS**



We associate the happy/cute image with the product being sold.



The American Flag is a perennial favorite in political ads....



But he SEEMS like  
a nice guy....



Adolf Hitler with Children



## **To Summarize –**

### **Don't fall for:**

**Repetition:** hearing it again and again doesn't make it true.

**Glittering Generalities:** Sound snappy, but meaningless.

**Name-Calling:** Wasn't useful when we were kids, isn't useful now.

**Us vs. Them:** Not productive –just sows division and discord

**Transfer:** Attaching positivity from one thing to another.

Remember that propaganda is designed to manipulate you through repetition or an emotional response.

- it does not provide meaningful information!

Don't be manipulated by propaganda:

Newseum.org uses the acronym S.E.E.D. to help people recognize propaganda and reduce its influence.

**Learn to spot the  
S.E.E.D. of propaganda  
before it takes root.**

Propaganda is information that's been molded to influence what you think and do – for better or for worse. This mind control isn't magic; it's carefully cultivated manipulation. Your best defense: recognizing the techniques propaganda uses to spread ideas and persuade the public.

<b>S</b> <b>simplification</b>	<b>E</b> <b>xploitation</b>	<b>E</b> <b>xaggeration</b>	<b>D</b> <b>ivision</b>
Propaganda reduces complicated issues to basic ideas and packages them with catchy slogans and images so they're easy to understand and remember.	Propaganda uses emotional messages to play on universal weaknesses, fears and desires.	Propaganda paints its cause as unbeatable, without flaws or weaknesses.	Propaganda sets up "us" versus "them" scenarios, broadening divisions between different people, groups and ideas.

Website information included in handout.



## **Misinformation:**

If we want to be informed voters,  
we also need to be aware of information that is  
biased, inaccurate.....  
or downright false.

REMEMBER THIS  
OL' THING?



BEFORE THE INTERNET  
IT WAS A WIDELY READ  
NEWS SOURCE.



EDUCATED, TRAINED AND  
TRUSTED JOURNALISTS  
WROTE CREDIBLE, MULTI-  
SOURCED STORIES



Jeff Keller © 2016 TELFORD.COM

THAT WERE SCRUTINIZED  
AND FACT CHECKED BY  
NUMEROUS EDITORS BEFORE  
PUBLISHING.



BECAUSE THE LAST  
THING THEY WANTED  
WAS TO RUN A  
CORRECTION!



I BET YOU MISS THAT.





Fake news used to be a little more obvious.....







How can you spot “Fake News”?

Tip #1: Check the Source

Tip #2: Look Past the Headlines

Tip #3: Check the Context

Tip #1: **CHECK THE SOURCE**





No author – big red flag. Anyone could have written this!



Is the author stated?  
Check their Facebook page.  
Do a Google Search.  
What credentials does the author have?  
What organizations is the author affiliated with?  
Could the author be a troll?

**Troll:** A fake social media account that spreads misleading information or discord.

May be computer generated, rather than a real human being.

May originate outside of the United States.

TROLL MAKE INTERNET MAD.  
TROLL LIKE ANGER.  
TROLL WANT PEOPLE AS  
MISERABLE AS TROLL.

PoorXcurses.com



◀ BACK

## Profile 1 of 8

Scroll through the Twitter profile below, then select an answer at the bottom...



Follow

Chloe Evans

@ChloeEva12

Student

Atlanta

Joined June 2014

196 Following 54 Followers

Is this a real person?



◀ BACK

NEXT ▶

#### Signs of Possible Trolls

### Profile images of attractive women

These fake accounts typically used profile images of women in their 20s. This is a common tactic of internet charlatans still today.



Chloe Evans

@ChloeEva12  
Student

Atlanta

Joined June 2014

READ FULL ANALYSIS ▶

Profile 2 ▶

There is no such person as “Chloe Evans”.

This profile was actually generated from St. Petersburg, Russia.

This Facebook page described events that never happened in order to influence opinions about U.S. political candidates.



◀ BACK

FULL ANALYSIS:



## Chloe Evans: Fear Monger

Hundreds of Russian Twitter accounts like Chloe were active throughout 2014 and 2015. They were identified by Twitter in 2017 as originating from the Internet Research Agency (IRA) in Saint Petersburg. These were an early, highly automated effort by the IRA. Unfortunately, the agency has gotten much, much better at its job.

Early IRA accounts like Chloe pushed hoax events that never happened. These included an Ebola outbreak in Atlanta, Georgia; Salmonella-infected Thanksgiving turkeys sold in Upstate New York Walmarts; and, as in the case of Chloe, a chemical explosion killing horses in Centerville, Louisiana.



Chloe Evans  
@ChloeEva12



But who's responsible? Obama? [#DeadHorse](#)  
[#ChemicalAccidentLouisiana](#)



## Check the Source Example #2:

“A St. Louis Doctor is Telling It Like It Is!!”





This video featured a “doctor” claiming to have the “real” scoop on coronavirus.

Who is this man?

I googled him.

Turns out he is not an infectious disease expert, and is not even a medical doctor.

He is a chiropractor.

His name is Eric Nepute.



I also found a  
cease and desist  
order from the  
Federal Trade  
Commission ...



Richard Quaresima  
Acting Associate Director  
Division of Advertising Practices

United States of America  
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20580

May 21, 2020

**WARNING LETTER**

*VIA EMAIL TO [info@wellnesswarrior.club](mailto:info@wellnesswarrior.club)*

Dr. Eric Nepute  
Nepute Wellness Center  
4225 Bayless Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63123

Re: Unsubstantiated claims for Coronavirus treatment or prevention

Dear Dr. Nepute:

This is to advise you that FTC staff has reviewed your website at the URL <https://www.neputewellnesscenter.com/> in May, 2020. We have also reviewed your social media pages at the URLs <https://www.facebook.com/drericnepute> and <https://www.facebook.com/neputewellness/>, where you advertise products and services including chiropractic care, intravenous vitamin therapy, and Vitamin D supplements. We have determined that you are unlawfully advertising that certain products or services treat or prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Some examples of Coronavirus treatment or prevention claims on your social media pages include the following claims from your March 25, 2020 Facebook Live video, available at the URL <https://www.facebook.com/drericnepute/videos/805791033249488/>:

What I did NOT find were any sources that praised his information as being credible – in fact, just the opposite:

### **‘Real Doctor’ Promoting Tonic Water for COVID-19 Spreads Dangerous Misinfo**

A chiropractor's screed against "fake news" and his advocacy for the curative properties of Schweppes tonic water contain large amounts of dangerous misinformation.

ALEX KASPRAK

PUBLISHED 15 APRIL 2020



This article is from one of several reputable fact-checking websites that will be shared later in the presentation.

source: [Snopes.com](https://snopes.com)



Eric Nepute's video was shared on Facebook  
over 2 million times.



Example #3 – **Check the Source.....**  
and introducing – **Read Beyond the Headlines!**



This article comes from a newspaper rather than an individual.

Is this true? How do you know if the Washington Examiner is a **reliable source**?





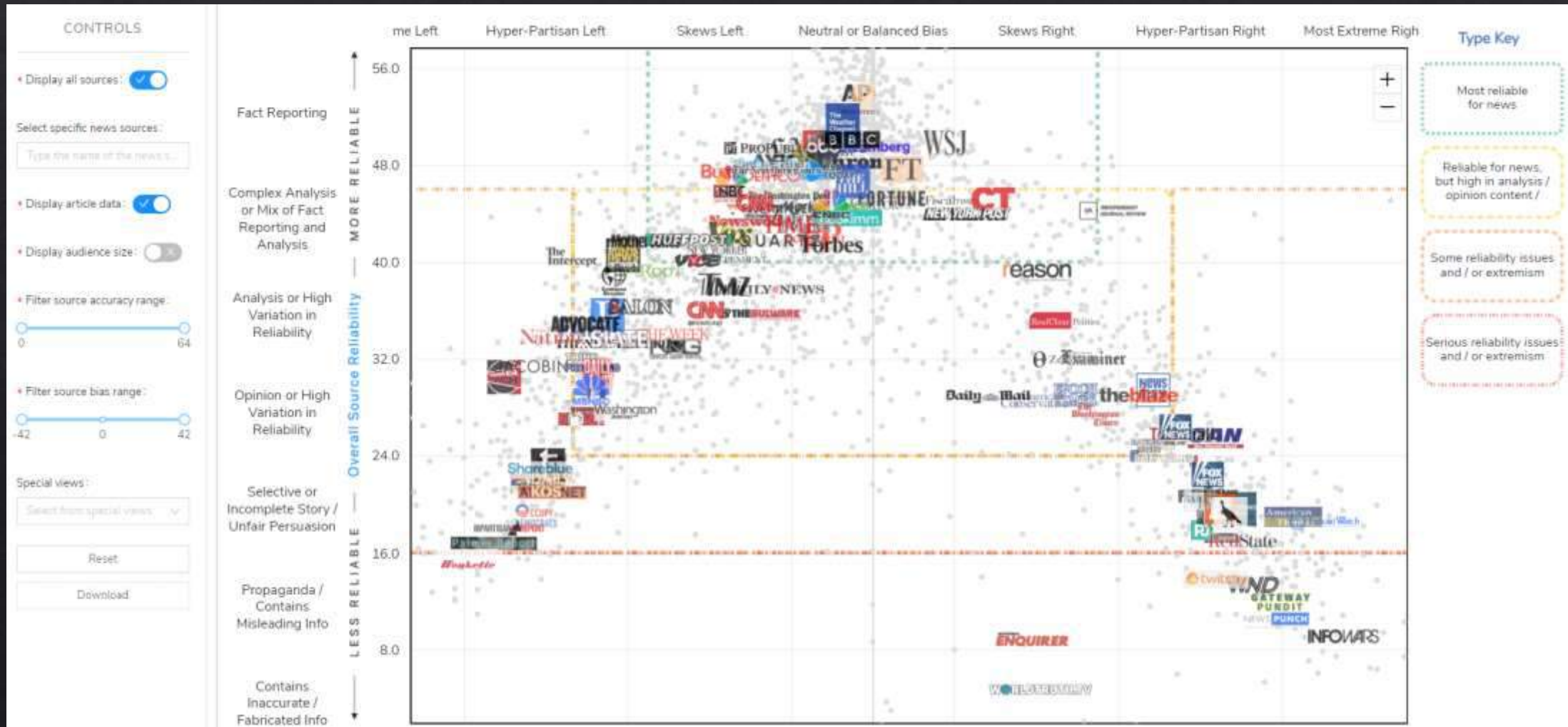
**Reliable** = Consistently reports factual information that can be verified as true.

**Unreliable** = Consistently reports information that can be shown to be false.

**Biased** = Manipulation of information through selection & highlighting of only certain facts & events.

Publishing opinions that only present one side of an argument and/or consistently favor one point of view.

You can check the Reliability and Bias of your news source with the MEDIA BIAS CHART



The Washington Examiner  
is rated as very biased & has  
mixed factual vs. inaccurate  
reporting.

# MEDIA BIAS/FACT CHECK

The Most Comprehensive Media Bias Resource

[HOME](#)
[AD FREE MEMBERSHIP](#)
[TRANSPARENCY](#)
[APPS/EXTENSIONS](#)
[MBFC NEWS](#)
[CHANGES/CORRECTIONS](#)
[SEARCH](#)
[MBF](#)

[Left](#)
[Left-Center](#)
[Least Biased](#)
[Right-Center](#)
[Right](#)
[Conspiracy-Pseudoscience](#)
[Questionable Sources](#)
[Pro-Science](#)
[S](#)

## Washington Examiner

*Has this Media Source failed a fact check? LET US KNOW HERE.*

Share:

Factual Reporting
Very High
High
Mostly Factual
<b>MIXED</b>
Low
Very Low

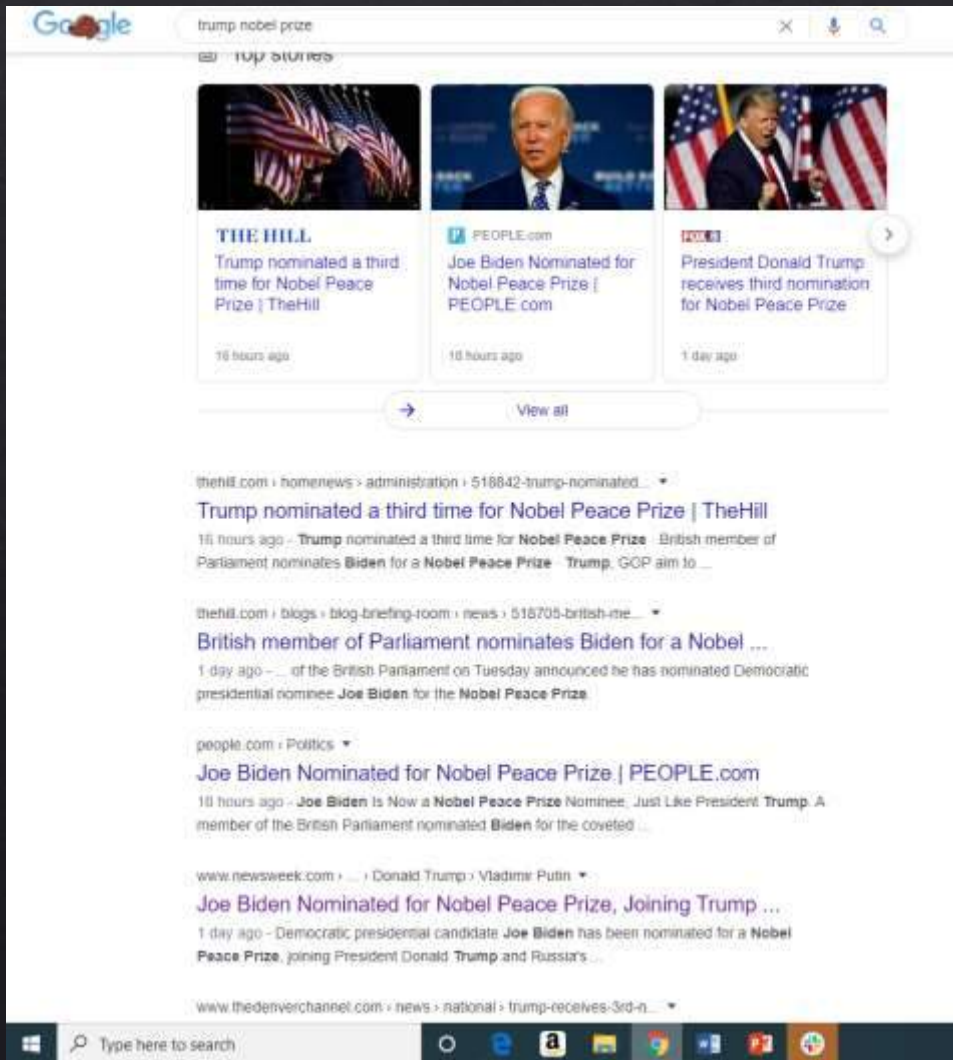
### RIGHT BIAS

These media sources are moderately to strongly biased toward conservative causes through story selection and/or political affiliation. They may utilize strong loaded words (wording that attempts to influence an audience by using appeal to emotion or stereotypes), publish misleading reports and omit reporting of information that may damage conservative causes. Some sources in this category may be untrustworthy. [See all Right Bias sources.](#)



# Next step: Check OTHER Sources

Do a quick google search – “Trump Nobel Prize”



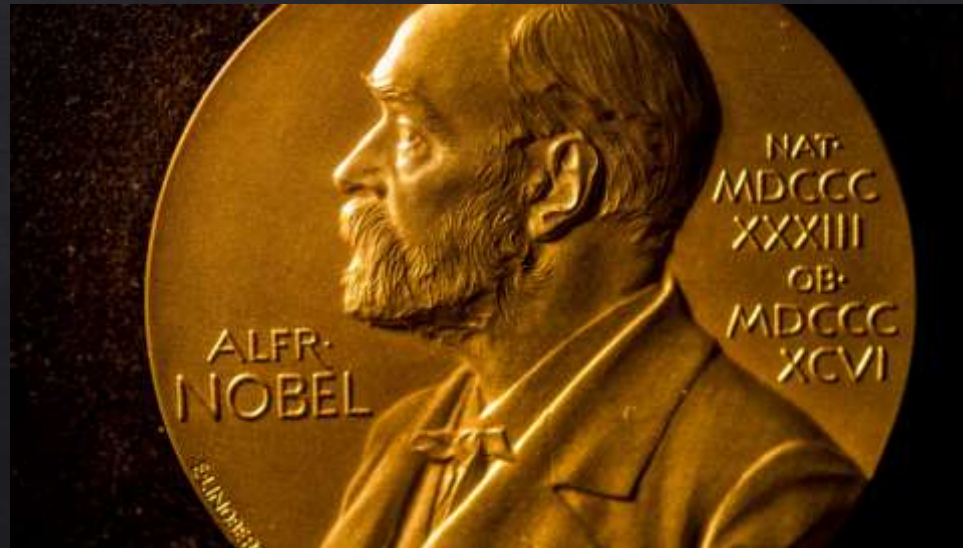
Hmm... a lot of sources that are familiar to me are reporting the same thing – and I also see the headline

“ Joe Biden Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize”

& even mention of Vladimir Putin nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize too!

**Sometimes you have to dig even deeper....**

I started to wonder –  
**how *do* you get nominated for a Nobel Prize?**  
So I went to the Nobel Peace Prize website.



## Process of nomination and selection

The Norwegian Nobel Committee is responsible for selecting the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. A nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize may be submitted by any persons who are qualified to nominate.

### Qualified nominators

Revised September 2016

According to the statutes of the Nobel Foundation, a nomination is considered valid if it is submitted by a person who falls within one of the following categories:

- Members of national assemblies and national governments (cabinet members/ministers) of sovereign states as well as current heads of states
- Members of The International Court of Justice in The Hague and The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague
- Members of l'Institut de Droit International
- Members of the international board of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- University professors, professors emeriti and associate professors of history, social sciences, law, philosophy, theology, and religion; university rectors and university directors (or their equivalents); directors of peace research institutes and foreign policy institutes
- Persons who have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- Members of the main board of directors or its equivalent of organizations that have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
- Current and former members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee (proposals by current members of the Committee to be submitted no later than at the first meeting of the Committee after 1 February)
- Former advisers to the Norwegian Nobel Committee

Unless otherwise stated the term members shall be understood as current (sitting) members.

### Candidacy criteria

The candidates eligible for the Nobel Peace Prize are those persons or organizations nominated by qualified individuals, see above. A nomination for yourself will not be taken into

As it turns out, a lot of people can nominate someone – and the Nobel Prize Committee does not disclose nominations until 50 years have passed.

The Committee has received 318 nominations for 2020.

The Nobel Prize Committee chooses 20-30 eligible candidates for consideration from the nominations, among whom one is chosen to be the recipient of the prize.

A good question would be – who nominated a particular individual?

With more information, it is apparent that making the “short list” of nominations is much more meaningful than being nominated.



# BIAS:



“Trump Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize”  
“Biden Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize”

These headlines & articles show bias –

- Headline draws attention to one person's nomination over another's.
- The article is biased if it reports on one person's nomination without mentioning other nominations.
- The article is biased if it does not give the bigger picture of the nomination process, creating a distorted perception of the importance of a nomination.

# LOOK PAST THE HEADLINES

## Example #2

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the New York Times published an article with the headline

**“How Scientists Got Climate Change So Wrong”.**



**Sounds like a piece that debunks climate change, doesn't it?**



But if you read past the headline, you would discover that the author was in fact stating his opinion that scientists underestimated the rate and severity of climate change.



You really do have to read  
past the headlines!

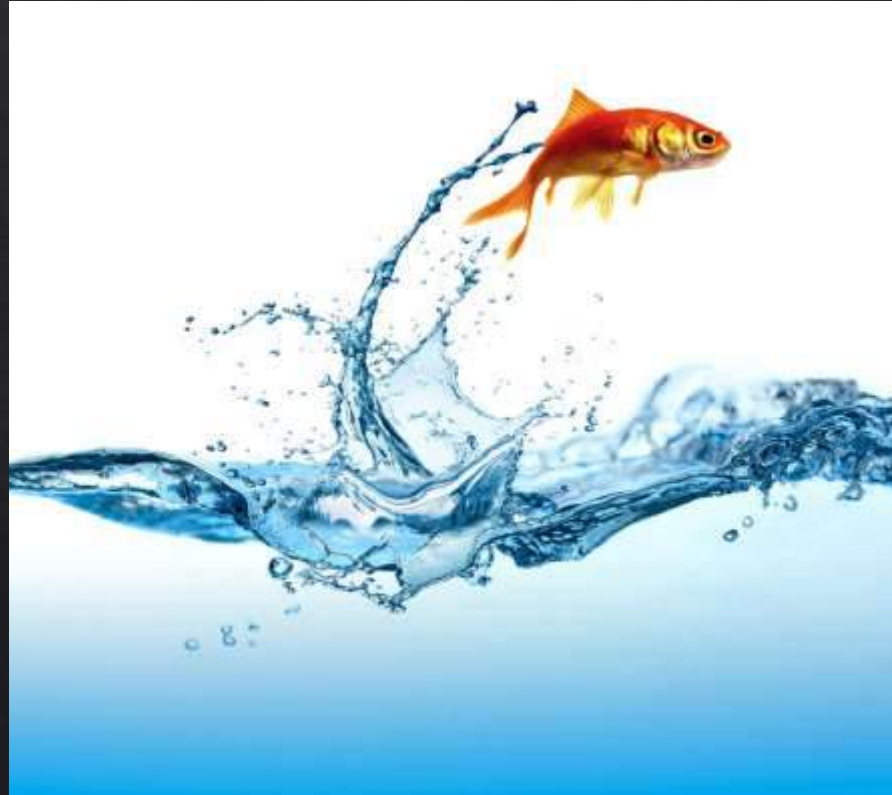
## Tip #3: **PAY ATTENTION TO CONTEXT**

Film Critic: Best movie I've seen all year – of course,  
it's the only movie I've seen all year.

Movie Review:  
Film Critic says “Best Movie I've Seen All Year!”



Remember that pictures & videos, as well as quotes, can be misleading when taken out of context.



# Save the Planet, Eat the Children



This clip was widely shared on social media platforms & certain news outlets as being an example of the “liberal” point of view.

Not only would this conclusion be an example of a logical fallacy ....certainly not “typical”...

'We need to eat the babies' says woman to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

825,507 views • Oct 4, 2019

6.1K 1.5K SHARE SAVE



The Sun  
1.05M subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

This is the unusual moment a woman stood up to urge Democrat Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to adopt a new campaign slogan, 'we need to eat the babies.'

The woman in the video was a plant:

 A Project of The Annenberg Public Policy Center

[f](#) [t](#) [s](#) [t](#) [e](#) [DONATE](#)

HOMEARTICLES▼ASK A QUESTION▼DONATETOPICS▼ABOUT US▼SEARCHMORE▼

DEBUNKING FALSE STORIES

## Outburst at AOC Town Hall Was Staged

By Angelo Fichera

Posted on October 9, 2019

[f](#) 9.9K [t](#) 1 [s](#) [e](#)

### Quick Take

A political group took credit for planting a woman who espoused “eating babies” to address climate change at a recent town hall event hosted by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. But some have still misrepresented the woman as “AOC’s crazy supporter.”

### Full Story

A bizarre moment at an Oct. 3 town hall event with Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was seemingly designed for virality.

Nearly an hour and a half into the event in Queens, New York, a woman stood up and proclaimed that, due to climate change, “we only have a few months left.” Her proposed solution? “We got to start eating babies.”

The exchange was instantly shared on social media and was shown the same night on Fox News’ “Tucker Carlson Tonight.” A reporter for the conservative website the Daily Wire shared the video on Twitter, characterizing the episode as “one of Ocasio-Cortez’s constituents loses her mind over climate change.”

President Donald Trump’s son, Donald Trump Jr., shared that tweet, writing: “Seems like a normal AOC supporter to me.” The president then responded to his son’s tweet, calling Ocasio-Cortez a “Wack job!”

### Ask FactCheck

**Q:** Does a video shared on social media show Joe Biden sleeping during a live television interview?

**A:** No. The video was manipulated to make it appear that he had fallen asleep.

[Read the full question and answer](#)  
[View the Ask FactCheck archives](#)  
[Have a question? Ask us.](#)

Donate Now

Because facts matter.



**Coronavirus Coverage**  
Correcting misinformation about the pandemic.

A quick look at **FACTCHECK.ORG** reveals that the whole incident was staged by the Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee, which supports Donald Trump & is named after Lyndon Larouch. Lyndon Larouche himself, now deceased, served time for fraud, obstruction of justice, mail fraud, and conspiracy.





Vytas Safroncikas

September 29 at 11:48 AM · 🌐

Listen to what this poor woman is saying. She needs help! Leftism is a progressive illness.



Watch the full clip!

Dan Bongino

October 3, 2019 · 🌐

"We have to get rid of the babies... Stopping having babies is not enough! We need to eat the babies!"

**Although this incident happened last fall, this clip and its accompanying misinformation is still making the rounds.**

# To Summarize:

## HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



### CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



### READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



### CHECK THE AUTHOR

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



### SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



### CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



### IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



### CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



### ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

What Can You Do To  
Combat  
Misinformation?



**We need to foster norms of discourse in which it's OK to challenge what others say without the conversation immediately devolving into invective.**

**A community that encourages individuals to point out when statements are false (or unclear or vacuous) benefits everybody by helping discern the truth."**

Stephen Sloman, cited in Tania Lombrozo, "Opinion: The Psychology of Fake News," 27 March 2018, National Public Radio.

# BECOME FAMILIAR WITH FACT-CHECKING WEBSITES:



[Factcheck.org](https://factcheck.org)  
[Politifact.com](https://politifact.com)  
[Snopes.com](https://snopes.com)



Q: But why should I trust these Fact Check websites?

A: Examine the process they use to verify information.



# Transparency in process used to fact- check.

factcheck.org/our-process/

## SciCheck

For more information, please see our video, "Selecting claims to review."

### Research

We systematically go through transcripts and videos looking for statements based on facts. Once we find a statement that we suspect may be inaccurate or misleading, we will engage – or attempt to engage – with the person or organization that is being fact-checked. The burden is on the person or organization making the claim to provide the evidence to support it.

If the supporting material shows that statement is accurate, we will drop it and move on to something else. Our mission is to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics, so we focus on claims that are false or misleading.

If the supporting material does not support the claim or if no evidence is provided, then we will conduct research of our own.

We rely on primary sources of information. Our sources include: the Library of Congress for congressional testimony; the House Clerk and Senate Secretary's office for roll call votes; the Bureau of Labor Statistics for employment data; the Securities and Exchange Commission for corporate records; the IRS for tax data; the Bureau of Economic Analysis for economic data; and the Energy Information Administration for energy data – to name a few.


We rely on nonpartisan government agencies for expertise, analyses and reports, including the Congressional Budget Office, the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Government Accountability Office, the Congressional Research Service, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the federal inspectors general.


We also rely on a few respected and trustworthy outside experts, such as the Kaiser Family Foundation on health care data, the Tax Policy Center for tax data and the National Conference of State Legislatures. We also interview experts on other topics as needed – for instance, in researching issues on foreign countries, we would contact experts on those areas. When quoting experts, we disclose relevant biographical information, such as their previous work in government or campaigns — if applicable.


Our goal is to use the best evidence.


For more information, see our video, "Sources for fact-checking."


### Editing


**Viral Spiral**  
Don't get spun by internet rumors.


**Sign Up**  
Get free email alerts.


**Ask SciCheck**  
Answers to your science questions.

**Health Watch**  
Fact-checking the health care debate.

**NewsFeed Defenders**  
A media literacy game to detect misinformation.

**On the Air**  
Our staff on TV and radio.

**Party Lines**  
Misleading political talking points.

**FlackCheck.org**

# **REALLY GET TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES**

**What experience do they have?**

**What are their plans for positive impact?**

**If already in office, how have they voted?**

**Where has their campaign money come from?**

a couple recommendations:



**PROJECT  
VOTE SMART**

[justfacts.votesmart.org](https://justfacts.votesmart.org)  
[opensecrets.org](https://opensecrets.org)



**OpenSecrets.org**  
Center for Responsive Politics



[justfacts.votesmart.org](http://justfacts.votesmart.org)

Particularly helpful for candidate resumes, voting records, endorsements, & positions on key issues. Also contains fact-checking of statements made by candidates.



#### Political Galaxy

Take a ride through the universe of facts on any politician. Just select any issue and instantly arrive at every fact related to that person on that issue.



#### VoteEasy

Just click on a candidate's sign to see their positions on key issues OR compare your issue positions to those of all the candidates. Additional questions you answer will be averaged in to find the candidate most like you.



#### OnPoint

Vote Smart's app on smart phones. All the facts you want on the issues you care about, instantly on your phone.



#### Bull

The Bull marks whenever a politician's comments have been proven false by reputable factchecking organizations.

# Biographical information.



**John Moolenaar**  
Republican  
U.S. House | MI

— not interested in this candidate

close ➤

A decorative horizontal separator consisting of twenty identical small circles arranged in a single row.

● 0 answers from candidate

20 inferred answers

## → CANDIDATE'S POSITIONS

## CANDIDATE SUMMARY

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

**Family:** Wife: Amy, 6 Children

**Birthplace:** Midland, MI

**Home City:** Midland

**Religion:** Protestant

**Education:**

- MPA, Harvard University, 1989
- BS, Chemistry, Hope College, 1983

### Professional Experience:

- Director, Business Development, MITECH, 2009-2010
- Adjunct Professor, Saginaw Valley State University, 2009
- Administrator, Midland Academy of Advanced and Creative Services
- Assistant, Office of Senator Bill Schuette, Michigan State Senate
- Chemist/Industry Specialist, Dow Chemical Company
- Director, Small Business Center, Middle Michigan Development Corporation
- Director, Business Development, Dow Chemical Company

### Political Experience:

- Candidate, United States House of Representatives, Michigan, District 4, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020
- Representative, United States House of Representatives, Michigan, District 4, 2015-present
- Senator, Michigan State Senate, District 36, 2011-2014
- Candidate, Michigan State Senate, District 36, 2010
- Representative, Michigan State House of Representatives, District 98, 2003-2009
- Candidate, Michigan State House of Representatives, District 98, 2002, 2004, 2006
- Member, Midland City Council, 1997-2000

### INTEREST GROUP RATINGS & ENDORSEMENTS

**Budget:**

The Alliance for Retired Americans rating for this candidate is 6%

### Energy & Environment:

The American Energy Alliance rating for this candidate is 91%

[← view more interest group ratings & endorsements](#)

## CAMPAIGN FINANCES

As of July 15th John Moolenaar had raised \$1,040,962.06 and had \$576,344.65 on hand

[← view more campaign finances](#)

### VOTING RECORD

This candidate has voted on 39 bills concerning all issues.

[← view voting record on all issues](#)SEE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON CANDIDATE, INCLUDING SPEECHES 

# Campaign Finance Information

## Contact Information

### Campaign



Email

Campaign Webmail

Campaign Website

More Campaign Contacts

### Office

Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. Webmail

Washington, D.C. Website

General



More Office Contacts

### Summary

Cycle	2020
Total Raised	\$1,040,962.06
Total Spent	\$583,311.53
Cash On Hand	\$576,344.65
Debt	\$3,680.48

### Top Contributors 1

DuPont Co	\$22,350.00
Amway/Alticor Inc	\$13,750.00
American Bankers Assn	\$10,000.00
American Crystal Sugar	\$10,000.00
AT&T Inc	\$10,000.00
CMS Energy	\$10,000.00
DTE Energy	\$10,000.00
Great Lakes Sugar Beet Growers Assn	\$10,000.00
Honeywell International	\$10,000.00
Majority Cmte PAC	\$10,000.00

### Top Industries

Retired	\$51,372.00
Chemical & Related Manufacturing	\$49,897.00
Crop Production & Basic Processing	\$43,316.00
Real Estate	\$42,987.00
Misc Manufacturing & Distributing	\$40,954.00
Electric Utilities	\$34,000.00
Lobbyists	\$29,512.00
Lawyers/Law Firms	\$28,305.00

### Top Sectors

Misc Business	\$158,711.00
Finance/Insur/RealEst	\$132,827.00
Agribusiness	\$119,366.00
Other	\$61,952.00
Health	\$60,351.00
Lawyers & Lobbyists	\$57,817.00
Ideology/Single-Issue	\$57,700.00
Transportation	\$53,224.00
Energy/Nat Resource	\$51,509.00
Construction	\$31,900.00



# Approval Ratings by Special Interest Groups

## Energy



American Energy Alliance	91%	2019	▼
Americans for Democratic Action	0%	2018	

## Entitlements and the Safety Net



Alliance for Retired Americans	6%	2019	▼
Children's Defense Fund	50%	2019-2020	

## Environment




American Forest and Paper Association	100%	2017-2018	
Center For Biological Diversity Action Fund	0%	2018	▼
Clean Water Action	0%	2017-2018	▼
Clean Water Action Michigan	0%	2013-2014	▼
Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund	0%	2017	▼
EarthRights International	0%	2015-2016	▼
Environment America	9%	2017	▼
Environment Michigan	25	2005-2006	
Food Policy Action	17%	2017	▼
League of Conservation Voters	14%	2019	▼
Michigan League of Conservation Voters	23%	2013-2014	▼
Outdoor Industry Association Political Action Committee	50%	2017-2018	
Sierra Club Michigan Chapter	8%	2011-2012	▼
The John Birch Society	40%	2019	

## Finance and Banking



Financial Executives International	100%	2015	
------------------------------------	------	------	--

# Voting Records



## John Moolenaar's Voting Records on Issue: Entitlements and the Safety Net

**Office:** U.S. House (MI) - District 4, Republican  
**On The Ballot:** Running, Republican for U.S. House (MI) - District 4

TRACK THIS POLITICIAN

Current Issue:

**Entitlements and the Safety Net**

SELECT ISSUE ▾

See John Moolenaar's Sponsorships Only

About the Selection and Descriptions of Key Votes

Page 1 of 2

1 2 >

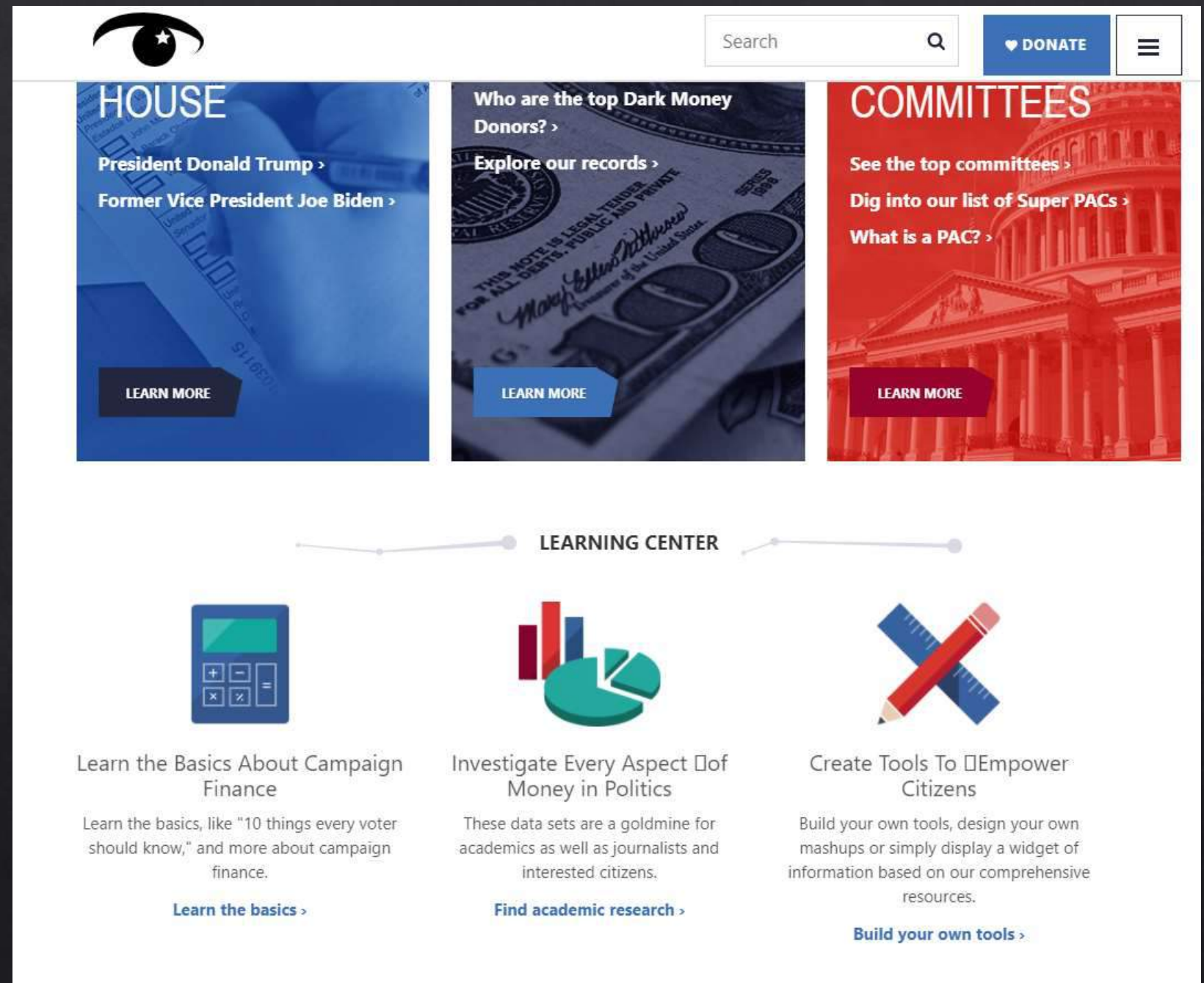
EXPAND ALL

### National Key Votes

06/29/2020	Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act	No	^
Bill No.	HR 1425		
Outcome	Passage - Bill Passed - House (234 - 179)		
03/14/2020	Families First Coronavirus Response Act	Yes	▼
02/06/2020	Expressing disapproval of the Trump administration's harmful actions towards Medicaid	No	▼

[OpenSecrets.org](https://www.opensecrets.org)

Particularly helpful  
for “following the  
money” in politics




The screenshot shows the OpenSecrets.org homepage. At the top is a navigation bar with the OpenSecrets logo (an eye with a star), a search bar, a "DONATE" button, and a menu icon. Below the navigation bar are three main content tiles: "HOUSE" (blue background with a hand holding a pen), "Who are the top Dark Money Donors?" (dark blue background with a \$100 bill), and "COMMITTEES" (red background with the US Capitol). Each tile has links to specific content and a "LEARN MORE" button. Below these tiles is a "LEARNING CENTER" section with three columns. The first column, "Learn the Basics About Campaign Finance", features a calculator icon and a link to "Learn the basics". The second column, "Investigate Every Aspect of Money in Politics", features a bar and pie chart icon and a link to "Find academic research". The third column, "Create Tools To Empower Citizens", features a pencil and ruler icon and a link to "Build your own tools".


**HOUSE**  
President Donald Trump >  
Former Vice President Joe Biden >  
[LEARN MORE](#)


**Who are the top Dark Money Donors? >**  
Explore our records >  
[LEARN MORE](#)

**COMMITTEES**  
See the top committees >  
Dig into our list of Super PACs >  
What is a PAC? >  
[LEARN MORE](#)

**LEARNING CENTER**

  
**Learn the Basics About Campaign Finance**  
Learn the basics, like "10 things every voter should know," and more about campaign finance.  
[Learn the basics >](#)

  
**Investigate Every Aspect of Money in Politics**  
These data sets are a goldmine for academics as well as journalists and interested citizens.  
[Find academic research >](#)

  
**Create Tools To Empower Citizens**  
Build your own tools, design your own mashups or simply display a widget of information based on our comprehensive resources.  
[Build your own tools >](#)



and critical  
information  
about political  
action groups  
and “dark  
money” ....

#### SECTIONS

[Dark Money Basics >](#)

[Dark Money Process >](#)

[Top Election Spenders >](#)

[Top Donors >](#)

[Top Elections >](#)

[Explore the Records >](#)

# Dark Money Basics

## What is Dark Money?

“Dark money” refers to spending meant to influence political outcomes where the source of the money is not disclosed. Here’s how dark money makes its way into elections:

- Politically active nonprofits such as 501(c)(4)s are generally under no legal obligation to disclose their donors even if they spend to influence elections. When they choose not to reveal their sources of funding, they are considered dark money groups.
- Opaque nonprofits and shell companies may give unlimited amounts of money to super PACs. While super PACs are legally required to disclose their donors, some of these groups are effectively dark money outlets when the bulk of their funding cannot be traced back to the original donor.

Dark money groups have spent roughly \$1 billion — mainly on television and online ads and mailers — to influence elections in the decade since the 2010 *Citizens United v. FEC Supreme Court* ruling that gave rise to politically active nonprofits.

Citizens who are barraged with political messages paid for with money from undisclosed sources may not be able to consider the credibility and possible motives of the wealthy corporate or individual funders behind those messages.

### Infographic: Follow the shadow of Dark Money



### Infographic: See how Dark Money flows between nonprofits





# Use the Media Bias Chart to find neutral, reliable news sources.

Reliable = Verifiable Facts

Bias = Manipulation through selection, highlighting,  
and opinions that consistently favor one point of view.

Neutral, High Factual Reliability: Associated Press, NPR, BBC, PBS

Some Bias and Reliability Issues: Epoch Times (right bias), Daily Beast (left bias)

Serious Bias and Reliability Issues: Fox News, Breitbart (right bias)  
Daily Kos, Occupy Dems (left bias)

**You can make a difference by politely calling out misinformation when you see it.**

**Be diligent about fact-checking, and thoughtful about sharing.**





Next: Reliable sources for voting information.



[Vote 411.org](https://Vote411.org)



[Mi.gov/vote](https://Mi.gov/vote)

