

In election misinformation fight, '2020 changed everything' | AP News

By Amanda Seitz

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Beth Bowers grew up in the 1960s and 1970s with parents who marched in protests, wrote letters to members of Congress and voted in elections big and small.

Her father, a World War II veteran, and her mother, an educational counselor, did not use social media sites in their lifetimes. But Bowers is sure they would be disheartened to see how easily falsehoods about the U.S. elections are disseminated online to millions and millions of people.

That's why the Evanston, Illinois, mom spends a few hours each week scouring Facebook groups for conspiracy theories or lies as part of a nationwide volunteer effort to debunk misinformation about voting.

"The good thing about this work is, it'd be so easy to become incredibly cynical and hopeless, but I think we feel like this is something we can do and make a difference," Bowers, 59, said in a phone interview.

[...]

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