

On TikTok, Election Misinformation Thrives Ahead of Midterms | The New York Times

By Tiffany Hsu

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In Germany, TikTok accounts impersonated prominent political figures during the country's last national election. In Colombia, misleading TikTok posts falsely attributed a quotation from one candidate to a cartoon villain and allowed a woman to masquerade as another candidate's daughter. In the Philippines, TikTok videos amplified sugarcoated myths about the country's former dictator and helped his son prevail in the country's presidential race.

Now, similar problems have arrived in the United States.

Ahead of the midterm elections this fall, TikTok is shaping up to be a primary incubator of baseless and misleading information, in many ways as problematic as Facebook and Twitter, say researchers who track online falsehoods. The same qualities that allow TikTok to fuel viral dance fads — the platform's enormous reach, the short length of its videos, its powerful but poorly understood recommendation algorithm — can also make inaccurate claims difficult to contain.

[...]

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