

MANAGING MIS/DIS/MAL - INFORMATION

Election misinformation continues to erode trust in American democracy, targeting voters of color, election officials, and the electoral process itself.

SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE THREE?

MISINFORMATION is false or inaccurate information that is spread **unintentionally or without the intent to deceive or cause harm**. For example, a misprint on an election day flyer has the incorrect date, but it **is accidentally** printed and posted around the community.

DISINFORMATION is false or inaccurate information that is **spread intentionally to deceive or mislead**. For example, an election day flyer includes an incorrect date and **is purposely** shared throughout the community.

MALINFORMATION refers to information that **is based on reality but is used to inflict harm on an individual, organization, or association**. For example, an election day flyer includes the correct date **but contains a line stating that the election is only open to specific voters**.



Here are five key things partners should remember when encountering misinformation:

- ① **Pause Before Sharing** – If information about voting seems alarming or suspicious, verify it with trusted sources before spreading it.
- ② **Direct Voters to Official Sources** – Always point people to official election websites or nonpartisan resources like nass.org/Can-I-Vote.
- ③ **Report It** – Misinformation on social platforms should be reported directly to the platform and flagged to local election officials or watchdog groups.
- ④ **Stay Nonpartisan and Fact-Based** – Use simple, accurate language to provide correct information from official sources without amplifying it further.
- ⑤ **Support Election Workers** – Remind others that local election officials are professionals doing nonpartisan work to uphold fair elections.

