2025 Election Situation Report

Information Cutoff: 11/04/2025, 10:00 p.m. Eastern Time

The analytic assessments in this product are subject to change based on evolving events.

Executive Summary

On November 4, states across the country are conducting elections or voting on ballot measures. These elections come at a time state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments are experiencing sustained levels of cyber attacks, and amidst heightened concerns regarding ideologically motivated acts of violence and increasing geopolitical tensions. The Center for Internet Security (CIS) is providing this situation report (SITREP) to document cyber, physical, and foreign adversary information operation threats observed on November 4 that could impact election systems, officials, facilities, and processes.

This is the final 2025 election SITREP; however, analysis will remain ongoing to assess any post-election malicious activity. To submit a request for information (RFI) regarding any information contained in this product, contact CIS here.

Cyber Threats

Analysts have observed the following cyber threats targeting election officials and infrastructure, or cyber threats targeting SLTTs with the potential to disrupt ongoing election activity:

AI-Generated Content

- **The Utah Lieutenant Governor shared a post on X warning an "AI generated image of fake election results" was shared online, but noted no election results had been posted or would be posted until polls closed. The image's origin is unknown at the time of writing.**
    - ***Analyst Note: The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) previously warned cybercriminals and hostile foreign information operations may create fake election websites, deface existing websites, or leverage social media to spread incorrect information regarding election results, likely "to discredit the electoral process and undermine confidence in U.S. democratic institutions."***

Suspicious Emails

- The California State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) received information regarding a threatening email expressing intent to go to the Secretary of State's office in connection with a grievance, which may warrant concern for potential escalation.

Physical Threats

Analysts have observed the following physical threats targeting election officials and infrastructure, or physical threats targeting SLTTs with the potential to disrupt ongoing election activity:

Swatting Threats

- Law enforcement confirmed to analysts several polling locations in New York City (NYC) were targeted with swatting activity. Three polling locations in NYC were targeted in "an elaborate swatting[a] attempt," according to authorities. Between 6:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. ET, polling sites in Washington Heights, the West Village, and Midtown received emails containing "terroristic" threats, according to media reports. Voting has not been disrupted, and the New York Police Department (NYPD) and federal authorities are investigating.

Bomb Threats

- **The Lower Paxton Township Police linked the telephone number used to issue a bomb threat to the Paxtonia Elementary School polling location to similar threats at polling locations across central Pennsylvania. At the time of writing, it is unclear how many polling locations received threats linked to the telephone number.** At approximately 3:00 p.m. ET, a bomb threat was called into the Paxtonia Elementary School polling location in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. The bomb threat triggered an "administrative lockdown" and impacted roughly 20 voters. Authorities determined the threat to be non-credible and the polling location has re-opened.
- The North Brunswick Police Department (NBPD) in New Jersey arrested a minor in connection with a bomb threat issued to the Livingston Park Elementary School polling location. The bomb threat was sent via text message around 8:15 a.m. ET, which prompted a police response and forced Middlesex County officials to re-route voters to an alternate polling location. Authorities did not identify any explosive devices at the scene. At the time of writing, it is unclear if the minor is linked to other bomb threats targeting polling locations throughout New Jersey.
- **A Superior Court judge in Passaic County, New Jersey extended polling hours to 9:00 p.m. ET at certain polling locations due to disruptions caused by bomb threats earlier in the day.** The New Jersey Regional Operations and Intelligence Center (ROIC) confirmed to analysts approximately 25 non-credible bomb threats across the state. Bomb threats were emailed to polling locations in seven New Jersey counties, including Bergen, Essex, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Passaic counties. Law enforcement responded and secured each location, leading to some locations experiencing temporary closures and some voters being re-routed to nearby polling sites. Newark public safety officials are reportedly investigating emails with non-credible bomb threats, which the New Jersey Globe reports originated from foreign email accounts.
    - *Analyst Note: In 2024, polling and vote processing locations were targeted with dozens of bomb threats, with higher concentrations of malicious activity targeting swing states. The current New Jersey bomb threats suggest threat actors may seek to target additional locations hosting high-profile races, particularly during peak voting hours. Election officials should communicate with law enforcement to ensure awareness regarding the*

[a] Swatting involves making false reports to emergency services to prompt a large law enforcement response.

NJ bomb threats and be prepared to communicate with the public via available channels in the event of disruptive activity.

Foreign Adversary Information Operations

Analysts have observed the following foreign adversary information operation[b] activity:

Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs)

- Social media users have circulated a purported ISIS document celebrating an impending attack targeting NYC on November 4, but the document is likely inauthentic. ISIS does not typically claim attacks in advance, and the formatting, symbology, and phrasing in the document do not match authentic ISIS documents, propaganda releases, or communiques. The document appears to have been posted on social media by users with a history of issuing misleading and false claims related to Islamic extremism, including at least two instances in which they "warned" of impending attacks that did not occur. Analysts monitoring FTO forums and social media channels have not observed this document, further indicating it is likely fabricated. As of 1:57 p.m. ET, the top post on X containing the likely inauthentic ISIS document has received 658k views and 4.8k likes. **As of at least 9:10 p.m. ET, the post has been removed, though others containing the likely inauthentic ISIS document are still available on X.**

[b] ***Analyst Note****:* Foreign adversaries do not solely conduct information operations to attempt to influence election outcomes, but also to cause widespread doubt about election systems and results.