



# **Election Threat Assessment**

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## **Executive Summary**

As the November 5, 2024, elections draw closer, the United States continues to face a wide range of threats to our democratic processes. These threats range in scale from nation-state actors who seek to influence our elections for their own geopolitical interests, foreign terrorist organizations, and individuals with their own unique ideology and justifications.

The MIOC assesses these threat actors will use multiple tactics to allow them to advance their interests.





# **Potential Threats**







## **Relevant Election Laws**

The information in this section is being provided to serve as a reference for laws that may be applicable during the upcoming elections. Law enforcement officers are reminded to confirm the validity of the statutes referenced before acting upon them.

(U) CSSE - <u>Law Enforcement Quick Reference Guide</u>
(U) FBI - <u>Election Crimes and Security</u>
(U) MDOS - <u>Overview of Voter Intimidation and Firearms Laws</u>
(U) MIAG - <u>Law Enforcement and Elections</u>



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The Michigan 2024 Law Enforcement Quick Reference Guide provides key legal provisions related to election security, voter protection, and law enforcement conduct during elections. It outlines Michigan election laws, including penalties for intimidating election officials, voter interference, and disrupting election procedures. The guide specifies misdemeanors and felonies tied to improper election conduct, such as bribery, damaging voting equipment, impersonating voters, and voting fraud. It also details firearm restrictions in specific premises and weapon-free zones, with exceptions for law enforcement and certain licensed individuals. Additionally, it covers general prohibitions on malicious behavior, such as stalking and the misuse of telecommunications.

MICHIGAN 2024 LAW ENFORCEMENT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

This pocket reference guide contains key penal provisions found within Chapter 168 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and other relevant sections.

- Intimidating an election official to interfere with or prevent them from performing their duties is a misdemeanor.
- Attempting to deter or interrupt a person from voting is a felony.
- Causing a disturbance at an election is a misdemeanor.





The FBI's website provides comprehensive information on election crimes and security, emphasizing the importance of fair elections in protecting democracy. It outlines the role of the FBI in preventing federal election crimes, such as voter suppression, fraud, and campaign finance violations. The site encourages citizens to report electionrelated crimes through the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) and provides resources for protecting election workers from threats and intimidation. Additionally, it warns against disinformation tactics used to mislead voters and fraudulent political action committees (Scam PACs) that misuse campaign donations. The FBI's "Protected Voices" initiative also offers tools to safeguard against foreign influence and cyber threats.

### How We Can Help You

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### **Election Crimes and Security**

Fair elections are the foundation of our democracy, and the FBI is committed to protecting the rights of all Americans to vote.

The U.S. government only works when legal votes are counted and when campaigns follow the law. When the legitimacy of elections is corrupted, our democracy is threatened.

While individual states run elections, the FBI plays an important role in protecting federal interests and preventing violations of your constitutional rights.

An election crime is generally a federal crime if:

- · The ballot includes one or more federal candidates
- An election or polling place official abuses their office
- · The conduct involves false voter registration
- The crime intentionally targets minority protected classes
- · The activity violates federal campaign finance laws



Report Election Crimes

Visit ic3.gov, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), to report election crimes.



The document provides an overview of Michigan's laws regarding voter intimidation and firearms, especially in the context of elections. It highlights that open carry and concealed carry of firearms are prohibited in certain locations used for elections, such as schools and places of worship, unless specific exceptions apply. Brandishing or displaying a firearm in a threatening manner is illegal and can result in law enforcement intervention. Voter intimidation, including the use of firearms to intimidate or hinder voters, is strictly prohibited, and disturbances at polling places are unlawful. Election officials are advised to contact law enforcement in such situations to ensure the security and order of the election process.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANSING

July 21, 2022

#### **Overview of Current Voter Intimidation and Firearms Laws**

In anticipation of the August 2, 2022, primary election and the November 8, 2022, general election, the Secretary of State advises clerks, precinct inspectors, and other election officials, of the current state of the law:

### **OPEN CARRY & CONCEALED CARRY OF FIREARMS**

The **open carry** of firearms is prohibited by law in certain places that may be used for election purposes, including school buildings and places of worship.<sup>1</sup> The exception to this rule is (1) if the person has express permission from school officials or the owner of the place of worship to possess a firearm on the premises, <sup>2</sup> or (2) the person possesses a valid, concealed pistol license, <sup>3</sup> and no other building policy prohibits firearms possession by a concealed pistol license holder.<sup>4</sup> If neither exception applies, a person cannot openly possess a firearm in these places, and law enforcement should be contacted to assist election officials as necessary.

The **concealed carry** of firearms is generally prohibited in school buildings and places of worship unless a specific exception applies to the concealed pistol license holder.<sup>5</sup> If no exception applies, a person cannot carry a concealed firearm in these places, and law enforcement should be contacted to assist election officials as necessary.

Further, it is generally understood that private property owners have the right to exclude possession of firearms in buildings they own or control and in which polling places or other election-related activities may be held on election day.<sup>6</sup>

### FIREARMS OFFENSES

It is unlawful for a person to brandish, waive, or display a firearm in a threatening manner in public,



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Our Department will have a phone line staffed by prosecutors on Election Day, exclusively for use by law enforcement agencies. Should you have a question or concern, please feel free to call our office at 517-335-0800. We will make sure that an attorney is available to assist.

Fogether we will ensure that everyone is free from intimidation and harassment as they cast their ballot on this Election Day. Thank you for your







The Michigan Intelligence Operations Center (MIOC) plays a vital role in securing the state's general elections. Leading up to presidential elections, MIOC engages in coordinated efforts such as publishing election-related intelligence reports, participating in election-specific exercises, and collaborating with public and private partners, including law enforcement and cybersecurity experts, to address concerns related to election security, voter safety, and potential interference.

On Election Day, MIOC and DSEMIIC personnel are stationed at key locations, including the FBI office, the Emergency Operations Center, and Michigan State Police headquarters, to monitor for threats and share real-time information. Their coordination with federal partners, such as the FBI and Department of Homeland Security, helps protect against cyber threats and disinformation. To report threat information, individuals can contact local emergency managers, district coordinators, or submit tips directly through Michigan.gov/michtip or by emailing MIOC at MIOC@michigan.gov.













## **Contact Information**

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