

The case that we have related to the ethical concern of misinformation, deepfakes, and epistemic trust is the deepfake robotic call impersonating U.S. President Joe Biden in 2024. This event occurred in Manchester, and the citizens received a robotic call impersonating Joe Biden. The call attempted to encourage Democrats to not vote in that coming Tuesday's Democratic primary in New Hampshire. There are multiple stakeholders who have been impacted by this case. The primary group of people affected being the citizens and voters of New Hampshire. Their ability to make their own informed political decisions was undermined by the fake call. President Joe Biden was also impacted because his identity and credibility were impersonated. Not only did this cause harm to his character, but it also caused public confusion because of his reputation being defamed. Some more stakeholders include political parties in general and the broader democratic system. Both of these systems rely on the public's trust in them, and accurate information being relayed to the public as well. The focus of harm in this case is the deception with deep-fake audio technology. When the guilty party generates a realistic imitation of a trusted and prominent political figures voice, it takes advantage of preexisting epistemic trust between voters and the politician they support. The rightful assumption is that authority figures, like President Biden, provide truthful and accurate information. Due to this incident, the autonomy of these voters was jeopardized. Making important decisions using false information makes their choices no longer fully theirs. The harms that were caused by this deep-fake AI system directly impacted the voters because they were targeted to be manipulated. President Biden's identity was weaponized and incidents similar to this weaken public's confidence in the media, technology, and politicians. In conclusion, deepfakes are a major ethical risk to autonomy and integrity.