

‘Insiders’ Again Pose Threat to Safe Elections, American Democracy

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From the equipment in your local polling place, to high-level threat assessments from America's top cyber-command, a coordinated effort is underway to protect the 2022 elections.

Chris Krebs, former head of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), recently tweeted his four main election concerns. They include: continued efforts to de-legitimize the 2020 election, threats against poll workers, radicalized poll workers as insider threats and foreign actors exploiting domestic narratives.

Krebs expanded on the insider threats issue recently to CBS News.

"We're seeing actual election workers that have been swept up in the continued efforts to de-legitimize the 2020 election, and now they're on the inside. They're posing a risk we've seen in Mesa County, Colorado, Coffee County, Georgia, Antrim County, Michigan, where workers have allowed access by unauthorized people into the system in access to equipment," Krebs said.

Some state officials point out that while these breaches are serious, they don't necessarily jeopardize the entire system. They do, however, undermine public confidence, so officials hope to limit the threat by allowing fewer people access to election equipment.

Earlier this month, the FBI and CISA issued a warning about a more familiar threat: foreign interference. The alert, stating

it's "likely" that foreign actors will intensify attempts to influence the midterms by spreading disinformation.

"Plagiarizing domestic issues and driving wedges into the discourse here in the U.S., probably not manufacturing new narratives or anything like that, but instead really hitting on the issues that we're already talking about here and just making them that much more heated," Krebs told CBS News.

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