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New: Misinformation, free expression and Election 2020
 John Sands, Knight Foundation [web@knightfoundation.org]

Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 10:22 AM
To: Steve Johnston

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Sarah,

Earlier this year, a [Gallup/Knight report](#) found deep misgivings among Americans about the spread of misinformation online. Our latest polling, released today, shows [these reservations persist](#) — even as internet technology companies roll out changes to their content policies. We've found:

- 93% of Americans are concerned about misinformation online;
- 71% say tech and internet companies are doing a poor job of preventing its spread; and
- Eight in 10 Americans fear misinformation will sway the outcome of the upcoming election.

As nagging concerns about misinformation's potential impacts on our health and our democracy have grown more apparent, we've also begun to see public sentiment change in regard to free expression online - especially on social media. While a December 2019 Gallup/Knight survey found broad favor for free expression on social media, today we see public's support showing signs of wear: [just 56% of Americans say people should be able to express their views online](#), down from 65% late last year, before the onset of pandemic and electoral frenzy.

This remarkable shift in attitudes about free expression will be part of today's conversation on "Free to State: The New Free Speech." Join Washington Post Live and Knight's SVP/Chief Program Officer Sam Gill at 2 p.m. ET. [Watch here](#).

Best wishes,

John Sands
 Director/Learning & Impact
 Knight Foundation

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This research is part of Knight's Trust, Media and Democracy series, which explores how Americans are informed in today's media landscape. Check out these findings and more [here](#).



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