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Two women sue Jeffrey Epstein's estate for \$100 million over alleged sex abuse



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For Trump, appeals to white fears about race may be a tougher sell in 2020: Reuters/Ipsos poll

NEW YORK (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric and focus on the grievances of white voters helped him win the 2016 election. But a Reuters analysis of public opinion over the last four years suggests that Trump's brand of white identity politics may be less effective in the 2020 election campaign.

The analysis comes amid widespread criticism of Trump's racially charged comments about four minority women lawmakers and the fallout from a mass shooting of Hispanics in El Paso, Texas, that many Democratic presidential candidates swiftly blamed on the president's rhetoric.

Reuters/Ipsos polling of 4,436 U.S. adults in July showed that people who rejected racial stereotypes were more interested in voting in the 2020 general election than those who expressed stronger levels of anti-black or anti-Hispanic biases.

In 2016, it was the reverse. The Reuters analysis shows that Trump's narrow win came at a time when Americans with strong anti-black opinions were the more politically engaged group. While Reuters did not measure anti-Hispanic biases in 2016, political scientists say that people who express them closely overlap with those who are biased against other racial minorities.

Explainer: How Reuters/Ipsos measured the shift in the way Americans see race

This year's poll found that among Americans who feel that blacks and whites are equal, or that blacks are superior to whites, 82% expressed a strong interest in voting in 2020. That was 7 percentage points higher than people who feel strongly that whites are superior to blacks.

"There is some indication that racial liberals are more energized than the racially intolerant," said University of Michigan political scientist Vincent Hutchings, who reviewed Reuters' findings. "That would seem to be good news for the Democrats and bad news for the Republicans."

The July poll did have a silver lining for Trump. Most white Republicans approve of his performance in office. And over the past four years they have become increasingly supportive of his signature issue: expanding the wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Some 82% now support it compared to 75% last year.



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump speaks about U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar, and the crowd responded with "send her back", at a campaign rally in Greenville, North Carolina, U.S., July 17, 2019. REUTERS/Jonathan Drake/File Photo

about the lawmakers and others.

Trump is clearly still as popular as ever with conservatives who dominate the predominantly white, working-class communities that helped him win in 2016, said Duke University political scientist Ashley Jardina, who also reviewed the poll findings.

In his 2016 campaign, Trump focused on the grievances of white voters who feared the global economy was leaving them behind and who wanted more restrictions on immigration. He employed put-downs of Latino immigrants and inner-city, typically black, residents.

He said then that Mexicans were "murderers" and "rapists," and as recently as last year, Trump labeled illegal immigration to the United States an "invasion."

Trump has asserted repeatedly that his words are not meant to be racially divisive. "I think my rhetoric ... brings people together," he said earlier this month.

Responding to the Reuters polling analysis, a spokesman for Trump's reelection campaign, Daniel Bucheli, said the president "enjoys broad support from diverse groups of Americans, and this coalition of supporters, to include minorities and first time voters, continues to grow daily."

"If there is something we've come to learn about President Trump is that he calls it like it is," Bucheli said, when asked about Trump's recent comments

The White House did not respond to a request for comment on the poll findings

The Reuters analysis also found that Americans were less likely to express feelings of racial anxiety this year, and they were more likely to empathize with African Americans. This was also true for white Americans and whites without a college degree, who largely backed Trump in 2016.

White Americans are also 19 percentage points more supportive of a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants and 4 points less supportive of increased deportations, when their responses from the July poll were compared with a Reuters/Ipsos poll in January 2015.

The July 17-22 poll also found that 29% of whites agreed that "America must protect and preserve its White European heritage," down 7 points from a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted in August 2017 and 9 points down from another Reuters/Ipsos poll in August 2018. The poll also found that 17% of whites and 26% of white Republicans said they strongly agree that "white people are currently under attack in this country, a drop of about 6 points and 8 points respectively from 2017.



2020 Democratic U.S. presidential candidate and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg reacts to the heat as he grills at the Iowa Pork Producers tent at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines



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U.S. tech industry leaders: French digital service tax harms global tax reform

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Major tech firms and U.S. tech industry groups said on Monday that France's new digital services tax undermines the global tax regime and multilateral efforts to reform it.

Alphabet Inc's (GOOGL.O) Google, Facebook Inc (FB.O) and Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O) and major trade associations testified Monday against the tax at a hearing before the U.S. Trade Representative's office and other government officials.

The French Senate in July approved a 3% levy that will apply to revenue from digital services earned in France by companies with more than 25 million euros in French revenue and 750 million euros (\$838 million) worldwide.

"It does depart from even the outlines of what we expect out of the OECD," said Daniel Bunn, director of global projects at the Tax Foundation, commenting on OECD-wide efforts to create a global agreement on taxing the digital economy.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce said the tax will generate revenue of approximately 500 million euros (\$554 million) per year "a large majority of which will be paid by U.S. firms" and will cost U.S. firms millions to conduct "significant re-engineering of accounting systems to ensure that they can accurately assess" liability.

Major tech firms warned of increased costs. "Unilateral measures like the DST are harmful to Facebook and the digital economy," Alan Lee, Facebook's global head of tax policy, said in a statement.

Matthew Schruers, chief operating officer at the Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA), representing companies like Intel Corp (INTC.O), eBay Inc (EBAY.O)

and Netflix Inc (NFLX.O), said at the hearing that the tax "undermines the progress made" on a new tax system on the digital economy and "supports an aggressive response to this problem."

"CCIA believes that this action warrants a substantial, proportionate response from the United States," Schruers said, adding the tax "unquestionably" targets U.S. firms in an attempt by the French government to "ringfence" them.

Amazon's international tax policy director Peter Hiltz said more than 10,000 French-based businesses are selling on Amazon's online stores and notified them certain fees will increase by 3% for Amazon.fr sales starting Oct. 1.

Last month, President Donald Trump threatened to tax French wines or other products in response. USTR could impose new tariffs after a public comment period ends Aug. 26.

Other EU countries have also announced plans for their own digital taxes, arguing a levy is needed because big, multinational internet companies book profits in low-tax countries like Ireland, no matter where the revenue originates.



FILE PHOTO: The Google logo is pictured at the entrance to the Google offices in London, Britain January 18, 2019. REUTERS/Hannah McKay

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Editor's Choice



Boys jump into the water on the island of Arwad, Syria August 3, 2019. Picture taken August 3, 2019. REUTERS/Yamam Al Shaar TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



New York Police Department (NYPD) Commissioner James P. O'Neill speaks during a news conference at Police Headquarters in New York



People play basketball on an inner-city playground in the Wan Chai neighbourhood in Hong Kong



A man carries a wounded person to the hospital after a blast in Jalalabad



Counter-protesters spray string on a demonstrator after a Proud Boys rally in Portland, Oregon



Carlos Santana performs at the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, at the original site of the Woodstock Festival on the 50th anniversary, in Bethel, New York



Workers of a wedding hall inspect after a blast in Kabul, Afghanistan



An attendee poses for a photograph during DragWorld UK 2019 convention at the Olympia in London

The Fake Meat Gold Rush

The fake-meat boom is real, propelling startups to incredible heights while creating shortages of its own.

Why it matters: The stock market in particular is treating Beyond Meat like a superstar, with its stock price up 4x from last month's IPO. But the companies must prove they can handle the demand.

Both Impossible Foods and Beyond Meat have ramped up production to meet demand. Impossible CFO David Lee told the Journal that "it will take us some time to get back into that synchronization of supply and demand."

Between the lines: The companies above are struggling to scale up plant-based meat imitators, let alone lab-grown meat, which even optimists estimate would cost \$10 a patty as a best case scenario.

What's next: The cattle industry isn't taking kindly to fake meat, pouring cash into lobbying for regulation on what can be called meat at the federal and state levels, the Washington Post reports.



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

making it a crime to advertise or sell any product as meat "that is not derived from poultry or livestock."

The bottom line: "Fifteen percent of U.S. restaurants offered meatless burgers in March, according to a Technomic Inc. study of menus from 6,000 operators, with the number serving them up 3% from a year earlier."

Related Impossible Foods' Mission To Mass-Produce The Fake Burger Of The Future OVERVIEW

Burger King announced a nationwide rollout of the Impossible Whopper in its nearly 7,300 locations by the end of 2019.

Demand has increased so quickly for plant-based burgers that Impossible Foods is adding a third shift and building a second production line, and they recently recruited more than 100 volunteers from its R&D ranks to work 12-hour shifts in production.

Impossible Foods' mission is completely replacing animals from the food system by 2035, and it may move on to tackle

pork, chicken and fish.



The Impossible Burger made by Impossible Foods

"The only consumer we care about is the hardcore meat lover."

A statement from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association? No!

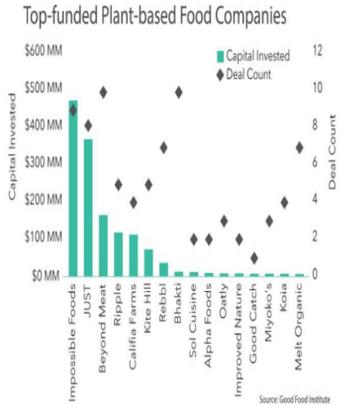
Those words have become a sort of mantra from Pat Brown, founder and CEO of Impossible Foods, the Redwood City, California-based company behind Brown's brainchild, the plant-based Impossible Burger, and No. 27 on the 2019 CNBC Disruptor 50 list (the company first landed a spot on the Disruptor 50

list in 2015).

"I love vegetarians and vegans as much as the next guy," said the Stanford biochemist turned entrepreneur and himself a longtime vegan, "but that is not the customer we care about."

In 2009, Brown blended soy protein, potato protein, coconut oil, sunflower oil and bloodlike "heme" to create the Impossible Burger, which looks, feels, smells, cooks and — according to many hardcore meat lovers — tastes like a cow-based patty. Two years later he launched his company, steadfastly courting carnivores from the get-go. And he's winning them over.

Last month, after a brief but spectacular test in 59 St. Louis stores, Burger King announced a nationwide rollout of the Impossible Whopper in its nearly 7,300 locations by the end of 2019. That headline news overshadowed Impossible's two-year strategic marketing campaign to introduce America to its better-for-you burger by way of more than 7,000 establishments across the country — from high-end restaurants to college cafeterias — as well White Castle, Red Robin and other chains.



Impossible Foods touts data revealing that the majority of those who try its product believe it's from an animal. More than 1,500 consumers have taken sensory tests in which they can't tell the difference between a traditional meat burger and the Impossible Burger, and Impossible Foods' flavor scientists conduct at least 100 internal taste tests per week.

White Castle recently marked the first anniversary of its Impossible Slider. "It's a great way for us to offer variety to our customers," said company vice president Jamie Richardson, especially to younger vegetarians and vegans who now have an option on the meat-centric menu.

There is speculation that privately owned Impossible, which doesn't report revenue, also will go public, especially after Beyond's remarkable debut. But for now Brown said, "we have the money we need to grow our business."

Impossible Foods announced a \$300 million round of funding on Monday, which brings its venture total to \$750 million. The latest round valued the company at \$2 billion, according to published reports. Since an initial raise of \$9 million in 2011, the company has secured multiple rounds of capital from venture firms and celebrities, including Bill Gates, Peter Thiel's Founders Fund and Khosla Ventures, Jay-Z, Katy Perry, Serena Williams, Google Ventures, Horizons Ventures, UBS and Viking Global Investors. (Courtesy cnbc.com)

Demand for Plant-Based Dishes Grows

- Vegan orders increased in popularity by 19 percent in 2017. Meat-substitutes are ordered five percent more on Mondays than the rest of the week. Jackfruit, a trendy plant protein, rose 33 percent in popularity for orders placed on Mondays.

"On Jan. 1, Missouri became the first to regulate the names of aspiring meat alternatives, restricting the word 'meat' to only products harvested from livestock." "Nebraska lawmakers are considering

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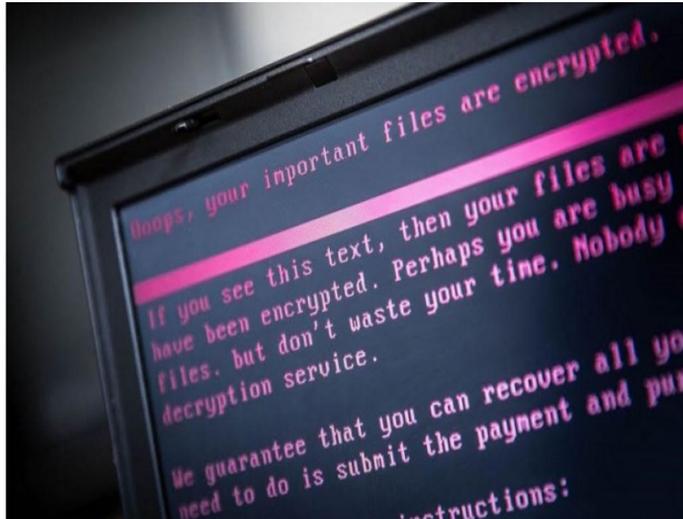
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Towns And Locations Not Named Due To Security Concerns

Ransomware Attacks Breach At Least 20 Local Texas Agencies On Friday



Overview

Ransomware attack hits Texas government entities as department of information resources is leads the response to attack that has impacted at least 20 local government entities across the state

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

At least 20 local government entities across Texas have been taken hostage by a coordinated ransomware attack, the Texas Department of Information Resources announced Friday.

The specific agencies and their jurisdictions were not disclosed, nor did the department say whether the cybercriminals had specified an amount to pay in ransom.

Texas DIR press secretary Elliot Sprehe told KUT Radio that the department was still gathering information about the attack.

"It looks like we found out earlier today, but we're not currently releasing who's impacted due to security concerns," he told the station Friday.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management is currently assisting. As of now, DIR, the Texas Military Department and the Texas A&M University System's Cyber Response and Security Operations Center have deployed teams to the "most critically impacted jurisdictions." As requests come in, other resources will be implemented, the state's IT department said.



Ransomware is a type of malware, or malicious software, that locks a computer and all its data until a user pays a specified amount to regain control of the system. Attackers typically request payment in mostly untraceable digital currency such as Bitcoin. Once the ransom is paid, a key is given that unlocks the computer. Ransomware is spread unknowingly through infected websites and phishing, or spam, emails.

"DIR is fully committed to respond swiftly to this event and provide the necessary resources to bring these entities back online," it added.



Texas is not the first state to fall victim to ransomware attacks. It isn't uncommon for hackers to demand up to six-figure sums in order to get governments' computer systems back up and running, and it's also not unusual for towns to actually pay the ransom.

The agencies impacted by the attack were not named in the press advisory. "We're currently not naming who was impacted due to security concerns, Elliott Sprehe told Patch in a telephone interview. He said the attack was discovered on Friday morning, and has affected local entities. Currently, DIR, the Texas Military Department and the Texas A&M University System's Cyberresponse and Security Operations Center teams have deployed resources to the most critically impacted jurisdictions, according to the report. Further resources will be deployed as they are requested, officials added.

Local jurisdictions who have been impacted should contact their local TDEM

Disaster District Coordinator, officials advised. "DIR is fully committed to respond swiftly to this event and provide the necessary resources to bring these entities back online," officials said.

According to Newsweek, hackers have in recent years adopted ransomware attacks as a preferred extortion method, especially among municipal entities. By planting malicious code inside agencies' information systems, digital intruders are able to exploit relatively unsophisticated or out-of-date cyber defenses and inhibit computer access, the magazine said.

Affected users are then asked to pay a ransom — almost always in mostly untraceable bitcoin — to regain control of their systems. However, whether Texas officials had been asked to do so was unknown.

In 2016, global ransomware attempts rocketed to 638 million from just 4 million the year before, according to SonicWall, a Santa Clara, Calif.-based network security firm.



"Ransomware really wasn't an issue two years ago," SonicWall CEO Bill Conner said in a 2017 Dallas Morning News story. "It's a huge one now. It's the wild, wild west of the cyber arms race."

At the time, the company had created a heat map of data hijackers' favored locations that showed Dallas, Austin, Houston and San Antonio in the crosshairs.

"Everyone knows that Texas is rapidly growing with new businesses, which means there are more companies to feed on," Conner said.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency describes ransomware as a type of malicious software that locks a person or a company out of their computer system, or restricts their access to data.

Ransomware normally infects a computer or computer system when people open attachments, click on links in phishing emails, or visit a website infected with the malicious software.



In a ransomware attack, the hacker that deployed the malware holds the data or computer system hostage until a ransom is paid.

But because these hackers are criminals, even if the victim pays the asking price, they don't always recover their files or system network. (Courtesy foxnews.com and https://www.dallasnews.com)



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