

# en-volve.com

A conservative news site that has published false claims and unsubstantiated conspiracy theories about U.S. politics, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 7.5/100

## Ownership and Financing

En-Volve.com is owned by Aaron Smith, a blogger based in Sellersburg, Indiana, who writes for the site under the name A.M. Smith. He also owns the satirical news site Empire News, according to his Facebook and LinkedIn profiles.

In a February 2018 post on En-Volve.com's message board, Smith said he "started enVolve during the campaign of 2016 to rally Conservatives and Independents around the Republican Presidential candidate because I believed the country could not afford a Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders Presidency."

The website runs advertisements.

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✗ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

## Content

En-Volve.com publishes political news, including favorable coverage of conservatives and U.S. President Donald Trump, and critical stories about Democrats in its Conservative Headlines and Politics sections.

The site publishes a mix of original articles, which often add conservative commentary to other websites' reporting or social media posts, as well as republished articles from primarily conservative websites.

Typical headlines include "Democrats FLIP After Receiving SHOCKING DATA About Attendees Of Trump's Ohio Rally!," "Democrats Can't Deny It: Trump Has Unified The Nation, Been The Exact Leader We Needed For This Crisis," and "Democrat Party 'Too Conservative' For Millennials, AOC Wants To Take It To All New Levels Of Liberal."

The homepage features emoticons with President Trump's face, which users are invited to attach as ratings to stories, such as "Yes!", "Fake News" and

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

“Yuge!”

The website extensively covered the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, including articles that criticized stay-at-home orders issued by U.S. governors, such as “Restless Californians Reach Boiling Point, On Cusp Of Rebellion Against Democrat Oppressors!” and “US Unrest Begins: Michigan Residents Rise Up Against Governor’s State Lockdown.”

Credibility

The site republishes articles from reliable conservative sources, such as the Washington Free Beacon, as well as from sites that NewsGuard has found to have repeatedly published false content, such as InfoWars, The Gateway Pundit, and TruePundit.com.

Articles on En-Volve.com have repeatedly promoted false and misleading claims, including about the COVID-19 virus. For example, a February 2020 article titled “Professor Warns Coronavirus Similar To Anthrax – China Has Much To Answer!,” republished from RedState.com, falsely claimed that the COVID-19 virus was stolen by Chinese scientists who were acting as spies for the Chinese government and working at the National Microbiology Lab (NML) in Winnipeg, Canada.

PolitiFact, FactCheck.org, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. all concluded that there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus was stolen by Chinese spies from a Canadian lab. The CBC did report that two Chinese scientists were escorted from the lab that month. However, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) told the CBC that they were asked to leave due to an investigation of what it described as a “policy breach” and “administrative matter,” which was not connected to the coronavirus outbreak. “This is misinformation and there is no factual basis for claims being made on social media,” PHAC spokesperson Eric Morrisette told the CBC in January 2020.

The excerpt from Holmes’ book also falsely claimed that, “On May 4, 2013 the Novel Coronavirus arrived at the Canadian lab in Winnipeg.” The website linked to a

May 2013 report from CTV News, which reported that the Winnipeg lab cited in the story had received a sample of a coronavirus strain. However, as CTV News reported, the lab had received a sample of a strain responsible for Middle East respiratory syndrome -- not the COVID-19 virus.

An April 2020 article promoted an unproven treatment for the COVID-19 virus, citing claims from an upstate New York doctor who said that he had treated several patients with a mix of drugs that included the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine. The article said of the claims by Dr. Vladimir Zelenko, "Out of 350 patients Zelenko has had zero hospitalizations, intubations and most importantly zero deaths. That sounds like amazing success."

International health authorities have not concluded that hydroxychloroquine, which is used to treat malaria and rheumatoid arthritis, is a proven treatment for the COVID-19 virus. Some early studies have suggested that it could be effective, such as a March 2020 study by French researchers who tested the drug on 20 people. However, another March 2020 study conducted in China found that the drug was not more effective for 15 COVID-19 patients than a regimen of bed rest, supplemental oxygen, and antiviral drugs for another group of patients.

The website also spread an unsubstantiated conspiracy theory about Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). An April 2020 article titled "Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Drops MAJOR BOMBSHELL! Dr. Fauci's Agency To Make BILLIONS Off Coronavirus Vaccine," republished from TruePundit.com, suggested Fauci would personally profit from a COVID-19 virus vaccine being developed with support from Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates.

"That puts your government in bed with Big Pharma and Gates and could pay as much as 50 percent of the profits to the NIH, the parent agency that employs Dr.

Anthony Fauci — who again — is lobbying for the vaccine,” the article stated. “Does Fauci get a cut of the bounty too? Or has he already been cut in?”

According to an April 2020 article from PolitiFact, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is indirectly funding NIAID’s work on a COVID-19 virus vaccine through its financial support of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, a nonprofit that has committed funding to multiple COVID-19 vaccine candidates. There is no evidence, however, that Fauci himself would personally profit from a vaccine. NIAID’s work on a vaccine was developed with pharmaceutical company Moderna. PolitiFact found no record linking Fauci directly to Moderna in the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s database.

In a July 2019 article, headlined “BREAKING: Kamala Harris’ Birth Certificate Makes Her INELIGIBLE For Presidency, Raises A HELL OF A LOT Of Questions!,” En-Volve.com falsely claimed that U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, a California Democrat who ran for president in 2019, was not eligible to serve as president because her parents were born outside the U.S.

The article, which was republished from the website Truthbits.blog, said, “Unless proven with court documents, at the time of Kamala’s birth, her parents were not U.S. citizens. ... They were foreign students. At the time of her birth, she was the daughter of non-citizens. This makes her an anchor baby. She is not eligible to hold the office of president.”

While it is true that both of Harris’s parents were born outside the U.S., Harris herself was born in Oakland, California, in 1964. Harris thus is a “natural born citizen” of the U.S., which meets presidential eligibility standards outlined in the U.S. Constitution.

The site promoted unsubstantiated claims in a February 2017 article that former President Barack Obama had plotted to “take President Trump down.” In an article republished by the website FreedomDaily.com, titled “Secret Bunker Built By Obama To Take Down Trump

Presidency Found – Only 3 Miles From The White House!”, the article said, “A horrifying plot has just been discovered to take President Trump down, with the help of 30,000 of Obama’s minions who are foaming at the mouth at the chance to take out the man who they so vehemently despise.” The article later claimed that “Obama’s plans to take down President Trump is not only extremely violent in nature, but he shockingly already has 30,000 people in place to do his dirty work.”

The article provided no evidence that Obama had built a secret bunker or was planning “to take President Trump down.” The reference to “30,000 of Obama’s minions” is also not substantiated.

A June 2018 article, titled “Harvey Weinstein Reportedly Attacked, Raped in Prison While Awaiting Sentencing,” claimed that “No more than 72 hours after turning himself into authorities after allegations he sexually assaulted dozens of women of the last few decades, Harvey Weinstein has reportedly been ‘savagely beaten and raped, and left for dead’ in a prison cell while he was awaiting sentencing.” The article was republished from EmpireNews.net, a satirical site owned by Aaron Smith.

Because En-Volve.com has published articles with false and misleading information in articles and headlines, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

The site does not post a policy explaining how it corrects errors and NewsGuard could not find any corrections.

When asked about the site’s editorial practices, Smith told NewsGuard in a November 2018 email, “We can’t always confirm the veracity of curated content though we try to pull from sources we deem reliable.” He did not respond to two additional emails sent by

NewsGuard in April 2020 seeking comment on the site's more recent false claims and its approach to corrections.

En-Volve's stories are not labeled as either news or opinion and the site does not disclose any overall perspective. While one of its content sections is called Conservative Headlines, articles outside this section regularly include opinionated statements criticizing Democrats and praising President Trump, which is why NewsGuard has determined that the website fails to handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

For example, an April 2020 article posted in the site's Health & Medicine section, titled "President Trump Just Announced Plans To Help The Poor And Uninsured Pay For Coronavirus Treatments. But The Left Still Hates Him," said, "No matter what President Trump does, the Left will hate him. No matter what policy he proposes, they will be against it. They don't care about helping Americans, only about hating Trump."

A March 2020 article, posted in the Politics section and headlined "The State of Michigan Is Being CON'ned By Its Trump-Bashing Governor's Failures During This Crisis." criticized Democratic Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "It's not really surprising that Whitmer (in keeping with the time honored traditions of Democratic politicians (okay, most politicians) everywhere) – is not telling her constituents the whole (or even a large percentage of the) truth," the article said.

A February 2020 article, also posted in the Politics section, criticized Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for tearing up her copy of President Trump's State of the Union address. "Nancy Pelosi proved that she is nothing more than a petulant child, throwing tantrums as our President addressed the nation," the article said.

Asked about how the website separates news from opinion in 2018, Smith told NewsGuard in an email, "If we post original articles they will mostly be op-ed

submitted by contributors. Opinion pieces will also cite sources of relevant news or facts if referenced.” Smith did not respond to two April 2020 emails from NewsGuard seeking comment on the site’s unlabeled opinion.

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#### Transparency

En-Volve.com does not disclose that it is owned by Aaron Smith or provide any information about its editorial leadership. Articles are generally credited to writers, but no biographical or individual contact information is provided. The Contact Us page includes a general contact form.

Smith did not answer NewsGuard’s questions in a November 2018 email about the website’s lack of information about its ownership, editors and content creators. He did not respond to two April 2020 emails from NewsGuard seeking comment on the same topics.

Advertisements on the site are distinguishable from editorial content. A section titled “Recommended Articles” on the side of every page on En-Volve.com is labeled “sponsored links.”

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#### History

En-Volve.com’s domain name was registered in 2016.

*Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on April 23, 2020, with a review of new content on the site.*

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**Edited by:** [Sarah Brandt](#), [Amy Westfeldt](#)

**Send feedback to NewsGuard:** [Click Here](#)

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Transparency

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Author page: <https://en-volve.com/author/doyle-alexander/>

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History

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