

banned.video

A video website owned by Infowars founder Alex Jones that regularly shares conspiracy theories and false information, including about COVID-19 and the 2020 U.S. election.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 7.5/100

Ownership and Financing

Banned.video is owned by Free Speech Systems LLC, according to the website's privacy policy. Free Speech Systems is a private company registered in Texas. Alex Jones, the far-right radio host who owns InfoWars.com, is listed as the company's manager.

Free Speech Systems also owns Infowars.com, a website that has regularly published misinformation, including Jones' claims that the Sept. 11 attacks were orchestrated by the U.S. government and that the 2012 Newtown, Conn., elementary school mass shooting was a hoax.

Although Banned.video was registered in 2019, other web addresses that were registered in 2020 direct users to the website. They include 2020ElectionCenter.com, which was registered in August 2020, and 79days.news, which was registered on Nov. 4, 2020, the day after the U.S. presidential election.

Banned.video runs advertisements for products sold on InfowarsStore.com, which is also owned by Free Speech Systems.

- ✗ 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)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Content

Many videos posted on Banned.video, feature Infowars content, such as excerpts of "The Alex Jones Show," and often advance conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic and U.S. politics. Other videos regularly advance conservative views. The site describes itself as "the definitive home for patriots worldwide" on a page that advises users how to upload videos.

Typical videos features headlines such as "DON'T CONCEDE: Emergency Message to Trump;" "Joe Biden COVID-19 Martial Law Plan Revealed;" and

“HIGHLIGHTS - DEMORALIZATION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TACTIC OF THE DEEP STATE.” Videos also generally include a short text description summarizing the clip.

Users can apply to upload videos by filling out a short application on Banned.video, and are told they will be notified if their application is approved. The form states, “Banned.video is looking for additional content creators to build the definitive online home for patriots worldwide.”

The site’s homepage features videos in sections called channels, which are created by users who have been approved to upload videos. In 2020, an Election Center page included a live video feed from Summit News, a website launched by an Infowars editor that publishes conspiracy theories and far-right commentary.

Credibility

While any user can view videos on the site, Banned.video requires users to register if they wish to subscribe to different channels or to comment on videos. Users must fill out an application and receive approval from the site before they can submit content. The website does not say how it vets the content and it is not clear whether approved users can directly post videos.

Banned.video regularly publishes conspiracy theories and false information, often in clips that are featured on the site’s homepage.

For example, in a Nov. 11, 2020, video shared on “The Alex Jones Show” channel and titled, “New President Elect Announced!,” Jones falsely claimed that U.S. President Donald Trump had been re-elected in 2020. Speaking of President Trump, Jones said, “every media channel said that he wasn’t going to be elected president, but he was.” As evidence, Jones pointed in the video to a CNN election map that showed 14 “battleground” states as uncalled for either candidate “Suddenly on CNN, all these states are back in play,” Jones said of the map.

On Nov. 7, 2020, four days after the general election, CNN, along with The Associated Press and many major media outlets, projected Democrat Joe Biden as the winner of the 2020 presidential election. While President Trump filed lawsuits in several states that challenged the results, he has not been projected the winner. As of Nov. 12, 2020, Biden had been awarded 290 electoral votes, and approximately 77.6 million overall votes, to 232 electoral votes and 72.5 million overall votes for President Trump, according to an ongoing count by the AP.

The CNN map that Jones pointed to was not a map of official election results, but instead appeared to be an interactive created by CNN that allowed users to build their own map.

On Nov. 7, 2020, when CNN projected Biden as the winner, only four states on the network's electoral map — not 14, as Jones claimed in the video — had remained uncalled.

The website has published false claims about the development of COVID-19 vaccines. In a May 2020 video titled "Allegations New Vaccine Caused Sterility in 97% of Women," a British YouTube personality named Zed Phoenix claimed that an unnamed source at pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline told him that of 63 women who received a COVID-19 vaccine, "61 of them became infertile." Phoenix also claimed that a separate COVID-19 vaccine that was specifically developed for men "resulted in decreased testicular size, drop of testosterone levels, and marked atrophy of the prostate."

Phoenix's statements about the alleged effects of these vaccines repeat claims, almost verbatim, from an unrelated 1989 study published by the National Institute of Immunology in New Delhi, India, according to an August 2020 Reuters article. This research examined data on the use of anti-fertility vaccines on female baboons, not humans, to discuss future research for human cancer patients whose tumors are affected by fertility hormones. Reuters also reported that none of the COVID-19 vaccine candidates are gender-specific.

Asked about the video's claims in a June 2020 Australian Associated Press article, Dr. Paul Griffin, an infectious diseases physician at the University of Queensland, said, "They picked together a few unrelated concepts in an implausible way to try and mount an argument, suggesting that a COVID vaccine was going to leave people infertile. There's just nothing to substantiate that."

In a Nov. 8, 2020 video, titled "Joe Biden COVID-19 Martial Law Plan Revealed," also published on "The Alex Jones Show" channel, Jones claimed that in a press release, Biden called for "forced inoculations" against COVID-19.

Although Biden announced a transitional task force to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic on Nov. 8, he did not make a public statement supporting forced inoculations. In response to a question about whether he would mandate Americans to receive an approved COVID-19 vaccine at an October 2020 town hall in Philadelphia, Biden said, "If the body of science is saying that this is what is ready to be done and they're — it's been tested and they've gone through the three phases — yes, I would take it and I'd encourage people to take it."

In a video following the Sept, 18, 2020, death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Banned.video played a four-year-old clip of Ginsburg that falsely implied she was speaking about the presidential selection of her possible successor. In the Sept. 21, 2020, video, titled "Ruth Bader Ginsberg (sic) Says Trump Should Fill Her Seat," Infowars reporter Owen Shroyer asked, "What do you think Ruth Bader Ginsburg would really say about this? Ruth Bader Ginsburg, do you think President Trump should nominate someone to replace you, Ruth? Do you think we should do that?" His questions were followed by a video clip in which Ginsburg stated, "I do think cooler heads will prevail, I hope sooner rather than later. The president is elected for four years, not three years, so the power that he has in year three continues into year four and maybe members of the Senate will wake up and appreciate that's how it should be."

The video of Ginsburg was filmed in September 2016, in which she answered a question at a Georgetown University forum about whether she thought there were “valid constitutional arguments” for former U.S. President Barack Obama to delay filling the vacancy left by the February 2016 death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Ginsburg was not, as the Banned.video clip implied, addressing the question of whether President Trump had the right to select her successor upon her death.

Because Banned.video frequently features videos that contain conspiracy theories and other false information, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly or avoid deceptive headlines.

On its Upload page, where users can submit content, Banned.video says, “with a strong bias for truth, Infowars.com and Alex Jones have been bringing the message of freedom and liberty to the masses for 20+ years.” The page also says that Banned.video seeks to build “the definitive online home for patriots worldwide.” However, the website does not explicitly disclose an overall political point of view. Its videos, which are only labeled by channel, consistently advance conservative views.

For example, a November 2020 video, titled “The Truth About Trump Getting Corona,” Infowars editor Paul Joseph Watson stated, “Checkmate, Democrats: They thought Trump catching corona would cost him the election. In reality, it’s just served to provide another insight into the sick, depraved callousness of leftists.”

Another November 2020 video published by the “2020 Election Countdown Take Back America” channel was titled, “Democrats Cancel Thanksgiving in Their Mad Rush for Control.” It stated: “The hypocrisy of the left continues its criminal path toward completing the bidding of the new world order.”

Because Banned.video consistently features videos that promote conservative views, without disclosing such a perspective, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Banned.video does not articulate a corrections policy and NewsGuard did not find examples of corrections on the site.

NewsGuard's two emails to Infowars' media inquiries address, asking about Banned.video's publication of conspiracy theories and other false content, its lack of corrections, and its undisclosed perspective, did not receive a response. A NewsGuard voicemail to a media line for Infowars was also not answered.

Transparency

Banned.video only discloses its ownership by Free Speech Systems only on its Privacy Policy page, which does not meet NewsGuard's standards for clear disclosure of ownership. The website does not identify editorial leaders or other staff members. The Upload page mentions Infowars founder Jones, but does not make it clear that he is in charge of the site's content.

Users who have been granted permission to submit content on Banned.video are allowed to remain anonymous. They are only identified by their channel's name, which they choose when they sign up for the site. Contact or biographical information is typically not provided. Users must sign up with a valid email address, but those addresses are not made public.

NewsGuard's two emails to Infowars' media inquiries address, asking about Banned.video's failure to clearly disclose owners, editors, and identify content creators, did not receive a response. A NewsGuard voicemail to a media line for Infowars was also not answered.

The site features advertisements only for Infowars Store products, which are clearly distinguished from editorial content.

History

Banned.video was created in July 2019. Archived versions of the site exist from as early as September of that year.

The site's associated domains, 2020ElectionCenter.com and 79days.news and 2020ElectionCenter.com, were created in August 2020

and November 2020 respectively.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on Nov. 16, 2020.

Written by: [Melissa Goldin](#)

Contributing: [John Gregory](#)

Edited by: [Amy Westfeldt](#)

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Sources

Ownership and
Financing

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<https://www.infowars.com/terms-of-service/>
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<http://banned.video/watch?id=5fa9e0850ad7422090a43a84>

Content

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Credibility

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Transparency

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History

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