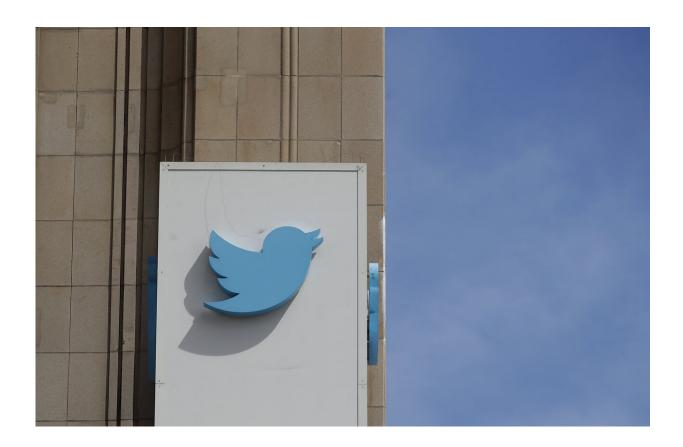# Twitter brings back election labels for 2020 US candidates

December 12 2019, by Barbara Ortutay

This July 9, 2019, file photo shows a sign outside of the Twitter office building in San Francisco. Twitter is bringing back special labels to help users identify accounts and tweets from U.S. political candidates. The company, which first used such labels for the midterms last year, said it is trying to provide users with original sources of information and prevent spoofed and fake accounts from fooling voters. (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu, File)

Twitter is bringing back special labels to help users identify accounts and tweets from U.S. political candidates.

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Many [political candidates](#) already have blue checkmarks to indicate that Twitter has checked that they are who they say they are.

The election labels go further and provide details such as what office a person is running for and where. They will also carry a small ballot box icon. The labels will appear on candidates' accounts and tweets, even if they are retweeted by someone else.

Twitter hopes its efforts will help people know when candidates are behind the words attributed to them. This could prevent someone from creating an account pretending to be a politician, for instance, or attributing a tweet to a candidate who didn't actually make the tweet.

Twitter, along with Facebook and other [social media companies](#), has been under heavy scrutiny for allowing their services to be misused by malicious individuals and groups trying to influence elections around the world.

Facebook also verifies accounts for public figures and celebrities, while YouTube verifies official channels. But they don't go as far as adding election labels.

Labels will be used only for general election candidates and will start appearing once candidates have won their parties' primaries or have otherwise qualified for the general [election](#) ballot.

Twitter said it will apply the labels in House, Senate and gubernatorial races. Presidential candidates are not included in Twitter's new policies. Twitter didn't say why. Nor did it say whether it would extend labels to elections abroad.

Major presidential candidates already have blue checkmarks to indicate that Twitter has checked that they are who they say they are. Many candidates for House, Senate and gubernatorial races have them as well.

Twitter said Thursday it will verify additional accounts, even if candidates do not seek them, by working with the nonprofit, nonpartisan Ballotpedia. Twitter said the verifications will happen on a rolling basis as candidates qualify for next year's primaries.