

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION Washington, DC 20463

MEMORANDUM

- TO: The Commission
- **FROM:** Office of the Commission Secretary $\angle C$
- DATE: July 25, 2022
- SUBJECT: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) 103 Individual Comments

Attached are 103 individual comments on AO 2022-14 (Google LLC).

Attachment

RECEIVED By Office of the Commission Secretary at 1:51 pm, Jul 25, 2022

 From:
 Brad Williams

 To:
 AO

 Subject:
 "AO 2022-14."

 Date:
 Friday, July 22, 2022 3:38:04 PM

Can I read "AO 2022-14." . Please.

From:	Allison Love
То:	AO
Subject:	Advisory Opinion 2022-14
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 1:53:54 PM

To the FEC,

I would like to comment on the proposal by Gmail to send political spam.

Deny <u>any</u> and <u>all</u> requests for Google to deliver political emails to Gmail subscribers. I have a right to privacy, and to make my own decisions about whose email comes into my Inbox. I do not want to receive any more spam emails related to politics than I already do. Political emails do NOT improve the Gmail user's experience. On the contrary, it wastes time when the user must delete them all, and unsubscribe, as I do and will continue to do.

Please deny Google's request.

Sincerely, Allison Love Stanardsville, VA

From:	Heather Glenn
To:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date:	Friday, July 22, 2022 10:46:24 AM

I am not in favor of political spam being filtered into my Inbox.

Please do not give politicians another opportunity to exercise their privilege over the private sector.

Respectfully, Heather

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From:	Krystal Levang
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date:	Friday, July 22, 2022 11:04:10 AM

To whom it may concern:

This is a very bad idea. Politicians should have no more authority to force us to read their spam as any other organization. <u>ALL</u> spam should continue to be sent to the Spam folder. Please do not allow Google to bypass spam filtering for political emails. If I want to see these types of emails, I will sign up for them. All unsolicited emails should go to my junk folder.

Respectfully, Krystal

> Respectfully, Brandon

From:	Brandon Kasper
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date:	Friday, July 22, 2022 10:39:48 AM

This is a very bad idea. Politicians should have no more authority to force us to read their spam as any other organization. <u>ALL</u> spam should continue to be sent to the Spam folder. Please do not allow Google to bypass spam filtering for political emails.

Respectfully, Brandon

From:	Jonny Agren
To:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date:	Saturday, July 23, 2022 9:22:37 AM

Please don't push all political emails to my inbox.

Rather please give me a option to opt out of all political emails instead. Don't force feed them to me.

Thanks

Jonny Jonny Agren Brandography Account Manager No. No. No.

Please don't allow this. It is a violation of free speech. Please stand up for the constitution and our rights to see what we choose, not what is chosen for us.

Thank you,

Kelly

I wish I was a glow worm A glow worm's never glum Cuz how can you be grumpy When the sun shines out your bum?! Regarding Google's request AO 2022-14 - NO ONE WANTS THIS!

Who bought them off?

Please reject this.

Paul H. Byerly Marriage and Sex Educator Generous Husband Blog The XY Code Marriage Bed Site

From:	Akiva Fleischmann
То:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Thursday, July 21, 2022 3:52:33 PM

Please do not allow Google to bypass spam filters for political ads. A lot of us go out of our way to filter that stuff out of our lives, whether on TV, or an our phone news feeds, or by not having social media, because of the toxic political climate on both sides of the aisle. Please spare our inboxes. We are all depressed about the state of the world enough as it is.

Thank you for reading this and listening to my request.

From:	<u>The Mr. Oz</u>
To:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Saturday, July 23, 2022 2:43:58 PM

I in no way, shape, or form wish to receive political ads to my emails inbox. I wish I wouldn't receive them period—even to my spam folder. Allowing Google to now force ads/emails into my email seems like a breach of privacy and will only serve as an extreme annoyance as I try to go through my already many emails just to delete these unwanted bs ads.

No one wants it except for Google and the politician(s)/party that pays Google to do so. If Google wishes to force this on its users, you could allow them (Google) to create a folder that says "Politics" that these ads are automatically sent to so they don't interfere with the users ability to smoothly go through their emails. That is the ONLY way I would want you to allow this absurd request.

It's apparent that no one wishes Google's request to be approved, but if you're wanting to allow them (Google) to accept bribes to push a candidate, then allowing Google to create a "political" folder that all these ads go to then that's the only way I think people would be ok with it.

Please actually do what the People ask of you for once and shoot this down.

Grant Mroz

From:	Ryan Dozier
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Saturday, July 23, 2022 12:06:50 PM

To whom this may concern,

I do not want to be subject to political agendas in my private email unless I elect to subscribe to aforementioned political platforms or committees.

The only way I want to see these emails is if I ask for them, not because google thinks I should. Leave the system as is. Why does google even have a vested interest in specially politically based emails?

Thanks,

Ryan Dozier

From:	Izzy
То:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Thursday, July 21, 2022 4:29:31 PM

Allowing certain email to bypass the spam filter is a terrible idea. Most people already get too much spam, not to mention robocalls which somehow don't get stopped. Why would you want to deliberately allow it?

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At a time in our country that we are bombarded with garbage and scams in emails, they want to add more. Our politicians win on this and American families lose by spending valuable time deleting them. Absolutely no.

Lori Jasperson

From:	Kris Stewart
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Saturday, July 23, 2022 3:22:07 PM

I read about this and hope you will exercise common sense in allowing something based on what you would want in your own email account on a daily basis.

Thanks, Kris

From:	Emily R.
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Thursday, July 21, 2022 5:52:16 PM

Absolutely not. As someone who avoids news intermittently to assuage mental health and anxiety issues, under no circumstances do I want things from the political sphere to enter my mailbox with my explicit consent to have it go there. I am an educated voter, and know how to seek out information on candidates prior to elections. I also know how to find links to donate if I so choose. The SPAM folder is a god send to folks like me. Please don't let politicians on all sides of the political spectrum, especially those with opposing or offending views, have unfettered access to my eyeballs.

With prejudice, Emily Routh

From:	Hanny Martinovici
То:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Saturday, July 23, 2022 3:45:52 PM

Hello,

I object to the plan to exempt political emails from the Gmail spam folder. I have no interest in receiving political emails from any party and the Gmail spam filters is working perfectly. If Republicans are upset about their emails being marked as spam, require them to provide proof of the quantity of emails sent vs those marked as spam. Trump isn't in charge anymore, so baseless accusations shouldn't be treated as legitimate facts.

From:	<u>Sarah Davis</u>
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Saturday, July 23, 2022 11:57:29 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am offering up my comment on the proposed move to send political emails directly to my inbox instead of the spam folder. Please put me on record as saying this is a terrible idea. Do NOT do it.

Respectfully, Sarah L. Davis

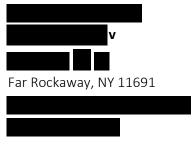
Blaine, MN 55434

From:	Meyer Schwartz
То:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Thursday, July 21, 2022 6:04:30 PM

Please do not allow Google to bypass spam filters for political ads. A lot of us go out of our way to filter that stuff out of our lives, whether on TV, or on our phone news feeds, or by not having social media, because of the toxic political climate on both sides of the aisle. Please spare our inboxes. We are all depressed about the state of the world enough as it is.

Thank you for reading this and listening to my request.

Rabbi Meyer Simcha Schwartz



Do. Not. Grant. This. Request.

Kindest regards

From:	kathleen henderson
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Saturday, July 23, 2022 9:12:33 AM

As a consumer and ordinary U.S. citizen, please protect me from political organizations redundant emails. I only want emails that I ask for. Do not allow political interest groups to invade more of my life, TV commercials and mailings are enough. Please protect me from AO 2022-14 and political spam.

Thank you, Kathleen Henderson

Carmel, IN 46033

KFH sent from my iPad

From:	<u>M Schwartz</u>
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Thursday, July 21, 2022 6:05:49 PM

Please do not allow Google to bypass spam filters for political ads. A lot of us go out of our way to filter that stuff out of our lives, whether on TV, or on our phone news feeds, or by not having social media, because of the toxic political climate on both sides of the aisle. Please spare our inboxes. We are all depressed about the state of the world enough as it is.

Thank you for reading this and listening to my request.

From:	
To:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 1:30:15 PM

Stop gmail from allowing political spam. It appears to be a Republican party/Conservative effort to shield their political speech from spam filtering, totally unacceptable! Please, enough with hate speech, lies, harassment and on and on from the political operatives on the right. We've had enough, leave gmail out of it! Thank you for your efforts!

Mary Noll, concerned citizen and voter

From:	Joseph Hart
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Friday, July 22, 2022 9:33:03 PM

Sirs:

My opinion re AO 2022-14: One.of.the.worst.ideas.ever. For God's sake, NO! Never!

Joseph J Hart, DMD

Delmar, NY 12054

I do not support this change --Later Gator, Cynthia Ann Rayl

From:	Kathy Monteleone
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 2:12:02 PM

I would like FEC to stop gmail from Allowing political spam. This in regards to AO 2022-14.

Elky Langer

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To whom it may concern,

Please do not approve Google's request to exempt bulk email by political advertisers from its anti-spam filters.

Election cycles see some of the most notoriously voluminous email advertising going, and this change would offer on a silver platter even more of our private correspondence to information brokers and spam outfits which is already bought, sold, and traded in secret and often surreptitious ways.

Moreover, given the scope and reach of Google itself, this change will invariably affect in people who don't even use the platform and harm their online experience as well.

Worst of all, this establishes yet another wretched precedent for Big Tech, where a company once again squeezes even more advertising revenue out of users who have minimal leverage. For a company with quarterly revenues that exceed the annual GDP of many of the world's nations, I am hard pressed to see this as anything but a naked power grab.

Please do your duty as regulators, and reject this proposal.

sincerely, Klaus Steden We are in a precarious moment in the U.S.

Unfortunately, the right has developed an expertise in using all kind of digital means to bring out the worst in us, encourage us to rely on feelings rather than facts, to work against our own interests and the interests of our country.

It is wrong to let any entity profit from this.

Yours truly, Judith Davidsen Please, please, please....

... reject this Google proposal aimed at doing to our inboxes what happens to our answering machines in election season. It is not in the public interest or in candidate's interest to make the public that angry.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Howard Shapiro
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Thursday, July 21, 2022 10:12:51 PM

Please deny this stupid request to unspam political ads.

From:	kramerscove
То:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 8:21:52 PM

We get enough spam in our lives, esp fictional political ads that never tell the truth or SPIN the truth. The american people need to be wired in to the TRUTH only and since neither party believes in the full truth, but only their parties' maneuvering around it, we are best left free of garbage tossed at us thru GMAIL.

Elizabeth Kramer

From:	Joseph Behrens
То:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Friday, July 22, 2022 11:56:55 AM

Nothing would turn me away from google, or email in general, faster than a flood of political advertisements.

Campaign agencies want a captive audience, and they must think email is the way to do it. They are always looking for the next way to force themselves on us. At every step, they invalidate that method of communication by flooding it with nonsense.

Please, just allow their spam to continue to be spam, and leave us this one method of communication. I already have to ignore my phone, turn off the radio and TV, throw out most of my mail, and pay for any streaming that can promise no advertisements.

Dread the thought a local hardware shop is running a weekend promotion. I would never know about it, as they are drowned out by the noise.

If the intent of the spam is not met, that is not on you, or the GMail platform, to "fix".

From:	Dave
To:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Friday, July 22, 2022 8:37:27 AM

Please do not allow Google to bypass spam filters for political ads. A lot of us go out of our way to filter that stuff out of our lives, whether on TV, or on our phone news feeds, or by not having social media, because of the toxic political climate on both sides of the aisle. Please spare our inboxes. We are all depressed about the state of the world enough as it is.

Thank you for reading this and listening to my request. Mr. David Horowitz



From:	Project Learn
To:	AO
Cc:	
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Friday, July 22, 2022 11:50:40 AM

I am adding my voice to many others regarding the issue of bypassing spam filters for political sponsored emails. As seen in the past several elections, related ads and communication resulted in higher degrees of polarization in the US. The people responsible for generating the propaganda are targeting as wide a population as possible regardless if their message was solicited or not. These generally tend to do more to denegrate their opponents while painting anyone who shares similar beliefs as "others". This irresponsible marketing strategy does more harm to our society than any other form of passive communication.

Google has been under pressure from powerful politicians to treat political emails different than other spam at the threat of regulation and other impact to this private company. If it were any other spam producer, they would not have the leverage to elscalate to the point this issue has reached. Just because powerful people are attempting to manipulate their own outcomes doesn't mean we have to sit idly by and let them do it. I am exercising my voice to reiterate that even though the originator of the email is a political candidate seeking more power and influence, it is still unsolicited email which is correctly classified as spam. Googles approach to spam gives the mailbox owner the ability to go through that folder and mark anything they would like as legitimate and from that point forward, it will no longer be considered spam.

Please consider this perspective when reviewing AO 2022-14. People should not be forced to read political emails aimed to be divisive and generate stong emotional reactions just because a small group of powerful people want their way. That would only serve to create more divide in our society and I am afraid we can't handle much more before more significant consequences are upon us.

Thanks for soliciting feedback and taking time to consider my thoughts.

Joe Hewitt

 From:
 Carol Simon Levin

 To:
 AO

 Subject:
 AO 2022-14

 Date:
 Sunday, July 24, 2022 8:43:07 PM

Deny Google's request...NO POLITICAL SPAM WANTED!!!! Carol Simon Levin

Bedminster, NJ 07921

NJ Council for the Humanities Public Scholar

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read!" ~ attributed to Groucho Marx

"Justice is what love looks like in public" ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

From:	Krisalyn Komakech
То:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14.
Date:	Friday, July 22, 2022 12:55:55 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

Per the details about Google's request to the Federal Election Commision (FEC) about no longer filtering out unsolicited political emails from political parties and candidates, <u>I demand that the FEC NOT grant such a request</u>, nor authorize any forward movement on this abominable proposed action! This is an uncalled for and serious breach of public privacy and trust that if executed will no doubt lead to one of the largest class action suits in American history. As citizens of the United States, we will no longer tolerate yet another intrusion and trampling of our right to privacy.

Please confirm receipt of this email.

Sincerely,

Krisalyn Komakech

From:	Yocheved Goodman
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14.
Date:	Thursday, July 21, 2022 4:13:40 PM

Please do not make it easier for emails to avoid spam detection. Keep gmail as it currently is. Thank you

From:	Coleen Stevenson
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14.
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 12:13:38 PM

This email addresses the issue of political spam, AO 2022-14.

So much of the stuff flooding our in boxes is nothing but someone or some organization dunning us for money. There are some emails containing petitions that I hope do good if enough people sign but beyond that I don't believe any good is done with dozens of emails each day. Much of the information is incorrect, delivers deliberate misinformation or out right lies. The dark side of America is using our inboxes to promote their negativity, anger and hatred of America. America needs to move away from the political anger and hatred that attacked our country a few years ago.

Please stop allowing political spam.

Coleen Stevenson

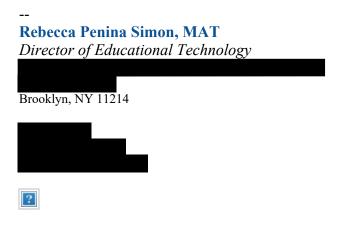
From:	Rebecca Penina Simon
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Thursday, July 21, 2022 3:59:14 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not allow Google to bypass spam filters for political ads. A lot of us go out of our way to filter that stuff out of our lives, whether on TV, or on our phone news feeds, or by not having social media, because of the toxic political climate on both sides of the aisle. Please spare our inboxes. We are all depressed about the state of the world enough as it is.

Thank you for reading this and listening to my request.

Sincerely,



From:	Silvia Reyes
То:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Saturday, July 23, 2022 12:48:33 PM

I am firmly against Google's request to exempt political emails from its spam filters. As someone that has worked in IT, I feel this will only create more issues in keeping user's email accounts safe from phishing scams. That's only one of many additional issues granting this request would create.

I am strongly opposed to this request.

Thank you, Stephen

From:	Marty Massie
То:	AO
Subject:	AO-2022-14
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 4:35:51 PM

Please reject Goggles request to allow political spam. Any unrequested political emails added to my inbox is just dpam that needs to be individually deleted - a hassle.

Marty Massie

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Mona Locke
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	gmail & political spam (AO-2022-14)
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 12:32:32 PM

To the FEC Board:

Please do not approve or allow gmail's request for including political spam in or on the emails they send their customers.

I'm a gmail customer and have been for many years; however, I will close my account with them immediately if you decide their request in the affirmative. I don't need their political spam; I don't want it; the arrangement I have in receiving my email from gmail does NOT

From:	<u>Linda</u>
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	GMAIL Political mail
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 2:04:00 PM

Please block gmail from getting political correspondence and any political ads.

From:	Harry Lovero
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Gmail political spam
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 12:38:54 PM

To whom it may concern,

I continue to receive terrible and disgusting spam political emails. It's a veritable cesspool of nasty bots and people degrading our president our government and continuing the Big Lie. I've had to put them on sleep numerous times. Please put an end to this nastiness from these Retrumplicans! He lost the election fair and square tell them to get over it! Sincerely Harry Lovero

Sent from my iPad

Stop with the political spam

Concerned constituent

From:	<u>Madonna Hayes</u>
То:	AO
Subject:	Gmail
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 4:49:20 PM

My response to this situation is to keep Gmail out of the hands of the Political interventions etc.

Madonna Hayes

Kyle,TX 78640

ao@fec.gov, and including the reference number of Google's request: "AO 2022-14."

Please do not allow political ads to be in my primary inbox on my Gmail account.

Thank You, Laura Francis

From:	Mona Locke
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	gmail"s request for sending political spam
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 1:55:38 PM

My initial email to you re this request from gmail was inadvertently sent before I completed it. These are the additional points I wanted to make for you.

I am requesting that you DO NOT approve gmail's request to send political spam in or on the email they deliver to their customers. I have been one of their customers for many years; however, I will close my account with gmail immediately if you approve this request. I do not want political spam. I do not need any more political spam than I already receive. What possible good reason is there for this type of activity? We've just lived through four years of constant political lies, and/or spam, from our president and his administration. What kind of fact-checking is proposed for this opportunistic political spam?

It's important for you to recognize that this hair-brained proposal involves far more than what those proposing it desire. It also involves, IN EQUAL MEASURE, those who will be receiving the political spam and whether or not they also want it or think it has any value.

Please rule against this proposal. I does not have one iota of possible value for anyone.

Sincerely ~~~ Mona Locke

From:	Carolyn Leigh/Ron Perry
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Google request AO 2022-14
Date:	Thursday, July 21, 2022 5:12:34 PM

Dear FEC,

We are totally opposed to Google's request. One reason we use Gmail is the good spam filters.

The US political climate is raw enough without being subjected to more/deleting more political "stuff" first thing in the morning to get to our actual emails.

Thanks for your consideration, Carolyn Leigh and Ron Perry

Tucson, AZ 85745

From:	Claire Jones
То:	AO
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 7:17:42 PM

Keep political material out of gmail.

From:	<u>maryemcintyre</u>
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	NO MORE SPAM!!!
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 4:26:39 PM

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10+, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

From:	<u>mary noll</u>
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	No to gmail
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 1:26:56 PM

Stop gmail from allowing political spam. It appears to be a Republican party/Conservative effort to shield their political speech from spam filtering, totally unacceptable! Please, enough with hate speech, lies, harassment and on and on from the political operatives on the right. We've had enough, leave gmail out of it! Thank you for your efforts!

Mary Noll, concerned citizen and voter

Sent from Mail for Windows

I oppose gmail's proposal to let all political email come to me . I DO NOT ONE MORE EMAIL TO GET RID OF !! Gay Manning Bonita Springs Fl

Sent from my iPad

Hello,

Please deny request AO 2022-14.

Spam in all forms is so very annoying, and political spam is the worse of all. If political parties want to reach people they should share a better message that doesn't get picked up by spam filters, or tear apart communities on social media.

Make the world a better place. Deny request AO 2022-14.

Thanks,

Jon

From:	Lucy Gibson
To:	AO
Subject:	PLEASE don"t allow political spam in emails
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 6:59:53 PM

I am writing in regard to AO 2022-14.

There is no doubt that giving the right to an internet company to spam people with emails will lead to making email even more dysfunctional than the constant bombardment of commercial spam has made it. But allowing political spam is more dangerous, even, than allowing commercial spam, because it confuses issues and will allow for a constant rain of political lies such as we have been seeing in political advertising for the last 10 or more years. Rather than allowing political spam in emails, we should reinstate the Fairness Doctrine, and we should also create rules that outlaw blatant lying in political advertisements. Please don't allow Google to make money off political spam, at the expense of our very democracy. Given the terrible imbalance in money in political advertising, it will make it even harder for the "liberal" side of the debate to "speak", given that speech now is equal to money. Sincerely,

Lucy Gibson

Madison WI 53716

7/24/2022

I encourage the FEC to say NO to AO 2022-14. It will give unfair advantages potentially to political parties and possibly result in interference in our elections. Please do not allow this.

After witnessing the way the internet and social media manipulated the previous elections, especially in 2016, and how social media and the internet directly influenced the attack on our Capital by seditious groups I encourage you to clearly state that AO 2022-14 is not in the best interest of our democracy and our country. Please do not allow any internet or technology companies the potential to undermine our democracy.

Additionally, there is no real justification for allowing this type of unwelcome intrusion into American lives. It will not help. It has more potential to be dangerous, destructive and cause injury.

Please say no to AO 2022-14.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

SMDHpwell

"You don't write because you want to say something, you write because you have something to say." - F. Scott Fitzgerald.

This email is sent by Susan D. Howell confidentially to the person(s) addressed above and not intended for public sharing or transmission. If you received this email by error please kindly delete it. Thanks!

 From:
 Jeff Osborn

 To:
 AQ

 Subject:
 POLITICAL SPAM

 Date:
 Sunday, July 24, 2022 7:55:14 PM

STOP GMAIL FROM ALLOWING POLITICAL SPAM ! ! ! JEFF OSBORN AMERICAN

From:	Paul Szymanowski
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Political spam
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 3:09:56 PM

Regarding political spam and AO 2022-14, I am opposed. This is just another avenue for lies, hatred, and disinformation that can be manipulated by a political party, racists, or worse, a foreign entity like Russia. It is national suicide for a country to allow this. The results of foreign interference in the 2016 presidential election proved it. We ended up with a "president" who wants to make the United States a third world banana republic, and still does even after out of office. This is avoidable and unacceptable to all American patriots. Inciting insurrection, riots, or other malicious attacks, maneuvers, or deceptions against the United States like political spam are not covered by our Constitution. They are the acts of traitors and seditionists, not those who love their country.

Ugh! I place spam in the same category as robo calls. Please don't allow political spam! Thank you for your careful consideration to this issue. RJ Gallagher

Sent from Mail for Windows



Virus-free. <u>www.avast.com</u>

Dear Commissioners:

It is my strong conviction that the subject proposal is an absolutely outrageous and untenable suggestion that should be rejected completely.

I already have far more material in my inbox than I can possibly read, and what I absolutely do not need is more unsolicited spam – not from political interests, not from businesses, not from individuals. The feedback I receive from family, friends, clients and colleagues leads me to believe that more email users are overwhelmed with undesired content than not.

As responsible adults, we have the ability to intentionally opt-in or subscribe to the content we are interested in and ought not to have content we do not wish to see foisted upon us simply because some interest known or unknown to us chooses to send it. That interest, of whatever nature, does not supersede our right to privacy.

I am reminded of a time years ago when we had to register our cell phone numbers on a government website to stop unwanted solicitation calls, which had to be redone periodically. That was not an optimal solution, but it was better than nothing. A better solution is to disallow email solicitations except for individuals who have subscribed or opted-in, so people like myself do not have to scramble to make sure all our email addresses are successfully registered (and later reregistered) on a DO NOT SOLICIT site.

Your thoughtful consideration of the interest of We the People is very much appreciated.

Respectfully,

John Banks

From:	Aaron Gustafson
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Public comment regarding AO 2022-14
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 12:34:00 PM

Any unsolicited email, regardless of the sender, should be marked as "spam," full stop. Americans are already dealing with a deluge of information and misinformation, a lot of which is originating from political activities. Allowing political spam to bypass the filter will only further congest our inboxes and advance the spread of mis- and disinformation.

Additionally, we have no guarantee that Google will act in an unbiased way in their handling of such email. As a corporation, they have a fiduciary duty to their shareholders to make money, so there is a high likelihood they would use their power to treat emails related to candidates, parties, and issues that affect their businesses differently based on how favorable or unfavorable they are to Google's interests.

Please deny Google's request to allow political emails to bypass the spam filter.

Cheers,

Aaron Gustafson Seattle, WA

From:	Jeremy Cantor
То:	AO
Subject:	RE: AO 2022-14
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 3:16:20 PM

I am opposed to Gmail's proposal AO 2022-14.

Experience with other platforms has demonstrated beyond any doubt that a carrier's attempts to prevent what is therein referred to as "content prohibited by Gmail's terms of service such as phishing, malware, or illegal content" (quote from their proposal) will be inadequate. There is no reason at all to believe that tsunamis of mis- and especially dis-information will not be unleashed. That will *not* be a matter of "everybody does it, so it's balanced." Painful experience has taught us that the current Republican party can be relied upon to lie and to encourage anti-democratic behavior, to put it mildly.

In brief, the proposal would vastly favor Republican candidates over Democratic ones, so it should not be implemented.

And of course, all spam is a pain in the neck.

Jeremy Cantor

Benicia, California 94510

From:	Philippa Kennealy
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Re: AO 2022-14
Date:	Saturday, July 23, 2022 12:40:23 PM

I request that Google ABSOLUTELY NOT be permitted to send political spam to my inbox. Thank you, Philippa Orecklin

From:	Stefanie Ramirez
То:	AO
Subject:	RE: AO 2022-14
Date:	Saturday, July 23, 2022 4:29:21 PM

To whom it may concern:

I object to Google's intention of not filtering unsolicited political emails (Case AO 2022-14). I don't want to receive these messages, if I did, I would actively sign up to be on a mailing list instead. Also, it's not sufficient or fair to tell the individual to mark each individual message as spam. The cost of time and monitoring these messages to the individual is far greater than the cost of screening these messages to Google. These messages would steal the space in my inbox away from communications I actually want to receive.

Thank you, Stefanie Ramirez

From:	Irwin Tanenbaum
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	re: google request #AO 2022-14
Date:	Saturday, July 23, 2022 12:29:55 PM

Please DO NOT grant approval for google request # AO 2022-14.

Thanks, Irwin A. Tanenbaum Brooklyn, NY 11213

From:	<u>K E</u>
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	RE: Reference # AO 2022-14
Date:	Friday, July 22, 2022 9:20:31 PM

RE: Reference # AO 2022-14

I wholeheartedly disagree with Google's proposal to loosen the restrictions on political advertising. The flood of political advertising is overwhelming in election seasons. The barrage is mind-numbing, affecting both the sanity of the public and the ability of business to pierce the wall of sound. Opening up yet another venue to unsolicited political appeals would be a tremendously bad idea.

Moreover, this can be a financial hardship to the American people. A sizeable minority have space limitations on email accounts. Allowing unsolicited appeals to accumulate could cause financial penalties to email users through no fault of their own.

I urge to deny this foolish attack on our sanity.

Kevin Everhart

From:	Thomas Laue
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Reject Looser FEC Rules On Political Spam
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 1:28:23 PM

Regarding AO 2022-14, the Google proposal to let more political spam go through sounds like just a way to make its life easier. But loosening the rules would just make already poisoned political discourse that much worse. There is no equivalency anymore when journalists get "both sides of the story" which Republicans say they're not getting. That's because the GOP traffics only in lies, conspiracy theories, hate, and disinformation. That's not a legitimate "side" to any story. to whom it may concern,

Re: reference number AO 2022-14 from Google

I for one do not want random emails showing up -let them continue to go to my spam folder. Dont have enough time in a day to go through my wanted emails. Cannot imagine what it would be like if I get unsolicited emails showing up every day from every tom dick and harry.

the reference number of Google's request again is AO 2022-14.

thank you

margaret mastrangelo western

IT'S far past time for major corporations to support the people who use their products by preventing/screening out spam of any form. Please do so quickly.

Bob Hannigan

From:	andy ettinger
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Stop Google spam?
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 8:26:34 PM

Please play fair, you have to do the right thing

From:	<u>susansmith</u>
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Stop political spam on gmail
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 12:22:17 PM

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

To whom it may concern,

Please deny Google's request to send unwanted political messages like the one below straight to my inbox. With the midterm elections approaching, I will probably continue to get quite a few of these emails. (I have even hit unsubscribe and this particular organization still sends me emails.)

Thank you for your consideration,

Stephanie Staggs

------ Forwarded message ------From: **Trump Rally Alert** <<u>contact@win.donaldjtrump.com</u>> Date: Mon, Jul 18, 2022 at 5:32 PM Subject: President Trump is reaching out with a critical request. To: <

Text "SAVE" to 88022 to 3	Save America
	_
	?

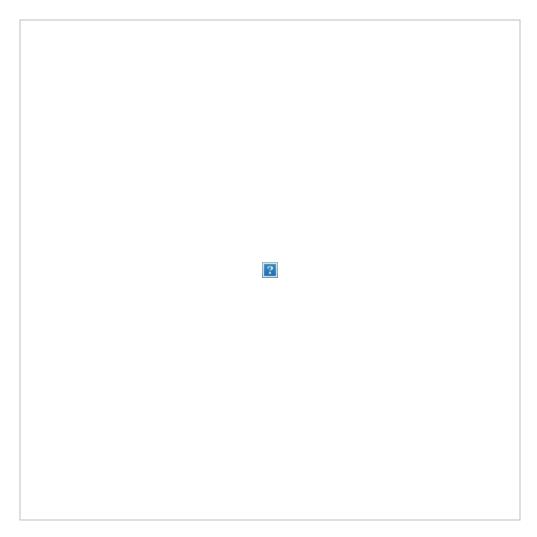
Friend,

We are reaching out with a critical request from President Trump.

President Trump will be having his NEXT MAJOR RALLY on Saturday, and he wants to make sure it's one of his best rallies yet. He is preparing the speech that he will give in front of the American People, and he is asking for your input.

You've always been one of President Trump's most reliable supporters. Can we tell him to expect your response soon?

Please take the Confidential Trump Arizona Rally Prep Survey so President Trump can review your answers. >>



Thank you,

Team Trump

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW >>

Contributions to Save America JFC are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Paid for by Save America JFC, a joint fundraising committee on behalf of Save America and the Make America Great Again PAC. Save America JFC, PO Box 13570, Arlington, VA 22219

Thank you for joining Team Trump. Thanks to your generous support, we'll win BACK our Republican Majority in the House AND the Senate. To stay up-to-date on our latest efforts, President Trump needs you to sign up to become an <u>Official Trump Text Member IMMEDIATELY.</u>

TEXT TRUMP to 88022 to start receiving text messages from President Trump.

	?	

We are emailing you at President Trump's effort and activate your <u>Official 2022 Trump Gold Card</u>. When you do, we'll send you your own <u>PERSONALIZED</u> <u>Gold Card</u>. You can activate your membership by following this link.

Official Trump Gold Card >>>
2

ACTIVATE HERE >>

Please follow this link if you would like to opt out of essential campaign updates. If you would like to give feedback to the President, <u>follow this link</u>. Thank you again for your unwavering support. <u>Privacy Policy</u>

From:	Bentley Richard
То:	AO
Subject:	"AO2022-14"
Date:	Friday, July 22, 2022 1:02:15 PM

Political spam is a disgusting, dangerous and inherently bad idea. Stay out of my email in any form. We don't need anymore political advertising .

Dear Sir or Madam,

What would "spreading political spam" do?

Increase scam and phishing attempts. Increase misinformation. Increase disinformation. Increase divisions between average American Citizens. Increase the use of labels rather than increase the use of critical thinking and debate skills.

Let's see.... anything else "spreading political spam" might increase....??? Hmmm...

Oh! Yes. "Spreading political spam" will increase the profits of the Amerikan Oligarchs and fund their continued efforts to overturn America's Democratic Republic.

There. Have I left anything out? I didn't think so.

Yours for better Government that supports the Common Good for All American Citizens. (m)

To the FEC,

PLEASE REJECT Google's request to exempt political emails from its spam filters.

Thank you, Mary Metzger

Minneapolis, MN 55439

Philip Davis
AO
AO 2022-14
Sunday, July 24, 2022 12:35:54 PM

I am opposed to Gmail bypassing the spam filter for political messages. The volume of unwanted material that currently passes through my spam filter is already too high. Gmail has become a primary communication tool and anything that makes it harder to use is negative and given that Gmail messages are cheap to generate the well funded political groups will flood inboxes and make normal use difficult. Please keep Gmail useful and not burdened with political spam.

Thank you

From:	Chris Casper
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 2:23:40 PM

The political scene is changing and not for the benefit of democracy. Worldwide the fascists are trying harder than ever to take over governments and countries so they can rule the world and do whatever they wish to do whether it's destruction of the planet for profits or genocide for certain human races or cultures.

The FEC plays a big role in this for America and for the world (if we haven't destroyed our place as a leader by allowing that certain person to destroy so many norms and laws and allow him to continue to try to destroy our democracy) by stopping political spam.

Do not allow Gmail to spam us with political ads. Be the wall that stops this gross negligence and overreach. Thank you.

Chris Casper

From:	Cecilia Ball
То:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 2:58:58 PM

As a Gmail user, I am not in favor of your launching a pilot program to allow political committees to bypass spam filters to deliver political emails to Gmail users. While it is very clear that the motivation for this program is more money in Gmail's coffers, it will definitely make using Gmail an unpleasant experience and would surely lead to customers looking for other email platforms.

Allowing this flood of emails will also introduce security risks and will unduly influence future elections. It is well documented that political disinformation on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter unduly influenced at least the last 2 presidential election cycles. Gmail's "pilot" program will only give bad actors another platform in which to spew disinformation.

This is not a good idea!

From:	sameelee
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 5:02:06 PM

Do not do this. Google needs to stop pandering to the GOP. Do not want any political ads by any party.

Mercedes Lackey
<u>AO</u>
AO 2022-14
Sunday, July 24, 2022 9:16:38 PM

Political spam is bad enough. But the Republicans have taken it to the next level.

The sheer number of Republican spam letters I get outnumbers Democratic 3 to 1. All of them are full of lies, or at best, heavily slanted "truths." HUGE numbers of them come from Donald Trump-associated sites. ENORMOUS numbers of them are blatantly deceptive, offing "free gold coins" and "free Trump watches" and other "free" Trump merch, which turns out to be, with shipping and handling costs, to be three times what the item is worth. Or "contribute now!" that say in the tiniest of print that it's not a one-time contribution, it's a monthly contribution.

I've had it. Google can do something about this, but doesn't.

It's time to make them do something about it.

Heck, they already have several "default folders." Make them add one more: "Political" and dump everything in there.

Mercedes Lackey

Claremore OK 74017

From:	Jerone Mitchell
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14.
Date:	Friday, July 22, 2022 10:17:47 AM

This is a horrible idea that makes all Google contribute to all PACs it allows past spam filters. Do not do this.

From:	Thornton Rose
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Friday, July 22, 2022 8:22:58 AM

There should not be a program in which some FEC-registered political committees would not be affected by forms of spam detection to which they would otherwise be subject, and it definitely should not be run by Google. Such a program would be biased from the start and would lead to political favoritism and a single corporation being intertwined with the FEC.

Please stop political spam emails. They can be depressing and horrific!!!!!! I already get about 500 emails every day and I don't need political spam emails adding to my work load and sanity!!

Sent from my Galaxy

From:	pastpresident
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	future of spam emails related to the Trump campain
Date:	Saturday, July 23, 2022 11:00:29 PM

I hereby object to the proposal allowing massive emails to be forwarded for political reasons for any candidate flooding our inboxes with political issues.

Lawrence Tornow

George Anderson
<u>AO</u>
Gmail allowing political spam
Sunday, July 24, 2022 12:11:48 PM

I humbly request that you folks stop allowing Gmail to propagate political spam. This practice is destructive and contrary to our democracy.

- George Anderson, perry Iowa

Dennis Smith
AO
gmail spam filter
Sunday, July 24, 2022 1:27:06 PM

I receive approx. 100 political emails in my inbox daily. It is a bit overwhelming and difficult to keep track of. Please DO NOT expand my inbox by letting users bypass the gmail spam filter and if at all possible, recommend STRENGTHENING THE FILTER. Thank you for your consideration.

Dennis Smith 75 yr. old Wa. Resident Dear Commissioner,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our thoughts on Google's proposal regarding political emails.

The question here is misplaced: the onus should not be on internet or email providers to mark or not as spam, but that these political campaign emails could themselves be regulated, like commercial communications and other political broadcasts.

Political emails are not regulated by any regulatory body at all, and so FEC could take the opportunity to promote their regulation and good practice for the benefit of everyone, including candidates, as their messages would be more targeted and would not get marked as spam, or even worse, as phishing, by email recipients. As you can see from the many comments, the volume of unsolicited emails is substantial and unwarranted.

The CAN-SPAM Act, useful in that it articulates the right of recipients to stop received emails, only covers commercial email. Political campaign mailings are not covered under this and hence not regulated by the Federal Trade Commission.

On the other hand, campaign emails are not covered by Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Political Programming Policy Division either as it only covers political programming and campaign advertising on radio and television broadcast stations, cable television systems, satellite TV (also referred to as "Direct Broadcast Satellite" or "DBS") providers, and satellite radio (also referred to as "Satellite Digital Audio Radio Services" or "SDARS") licensees. This is likely because this might have been put in place in times where email and social media were not prevalent communication channels.

Currently individuals' details are systematically taken advantage of: one state campaign group got hold of my personal email address although I had never been in contact with them and do not even live in that state. Since then, my email address has been shared around to candidates of the same party across different states, and various issue campaigns, with one candidate's campaign even sending emails at a rate of one email per day. As unsolicited emails by me, these emails can be defined as spam. Political emails generally do offer unsubscribe buttons, but that merely means they will technically not email me again; my details might remain on their database and hence be passed around in list sales or shares. Despite numerous requests to delete my details, being specific about deletion vs unsubscription, via email, phone when it is available, and postal mail, my requests are mostly ignored. Companies are held accountable for this behaviour under FTC and so it is not clear why political groups should be exempt of respecting individuals' wishes in relation to the communication they want to receive.

The same applies to campaign phone calls: while commercial calls are not allowed to a number that is listed as a Do not call number, political calls are exempt under the FTC Do not call listing.

I have no view on whether political emails should automatically be classified as spam by the providers, as people might wish to support candidates or hear about their agenda. But the emails themselves could be regulated and there could be accountability towards deletion and unsubscribe requests, with clear channels to do this - phone, email, postal, and all functioning and responsive (currently I receive many undeliverable emails messages and permanent answerphone messages when I try to contact the relevant campaign), and a commitment from the candidates to do better and legitimate data sourcing to reduce spamming in the first place. Given current rules, if the candidate is in office, their office does not link with campaign communications and quite often refuse to pass on these requests, so accountability could further be strengthened by linking campaigns to offices as ultimately the person in office is endorsing their campaign communications. It goes without saying that list sharing among parties and political organizations should be banned – there is no justification for me to receive the emails from one candidate in another state – every single day – when I live in an entirely different state.

So the question on whether the email provider should or should not mark political emails as spam to keep recipients' inboxes clear of unwanted political communication is likely not the right one: the question could instead be whether the political emails and calls themselves should be regulated, as are other communications via email and phone.

Thank you for your attention.

Federal Election Commission:

Re reference to Google's request: "AO 2022-14."

This is regard to reference number of Google's request: "AO 2022-14."

I wish to input my vehement objection to a proposal whereby Google wants the FEC to weigh in "on a pilot program" under which emails from some FEC-registered political committees would "not be affected by forms of spam detection to which they would otherwise be subject."

I certainly do not need more spam, especially from politically biased emails, which often lack facts, but instead use fear mongering and false claims against the opposition.

Robert K. Schmidt

From:	Richard Berson
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Google"s request: "AO 2022-14."
Date:	Saturday, July 23, 2022 5:28:32 PM
-	5 1

In regards to the above referenced proposal, PLEASE answer in the negative your advisory opinion on a plan to start exempting some political emails in Gmail from spam. Almost nobody wants to received these, we are already drowning in unsolicited e-mails and it's already made a joke of the FTC's Do Not Call List, that these were exempted.

I implore you to advise Google not to move forward on it's ill considered proposal

Richard Berson

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Please do NOT start exempting some political emails from spam. I do not want to have any political emails sent directly to my inbox.

 From:
 April B. Denton

 To:
 AO

 Date:
 Sunday, July 24, 2022 11:41:07 PM

Please stop invading our Privacy!!!!

Please do not permit Gmail to be turned into a political tool. Please stop the initiative to use Gmail to send political spam Sent from my iPhone
 From:
 sharon hill

 To:
 AO

 Subject:
 NO to Google's request AO-2022-14

 Date:
 Saturday, July 23, 2022 1:30:06 PM

Absolutely I don't want any unsolicited political ads landing in my inbox, Google !!!

Sharon Hill

Sent from my iPhone

Dear Commissioners,

As a concerned citizen and American,

I stand opposed to any attempt to an approval of Google's request to modify their screening practices that would result in political parties being allowed to bombard the public with misinformation and blatant lies. I get enough political emails and spam as it is as a concerned citizen, and I don't want more of it for anyone or me. I stand with those opposed to it as well. You have a duty not to enable liars and bad actors as per your job. Stand by it and carry it out, and you'll have the American people's backing.

Thanks and that is all,

Leo

Please have gmail stop the policial spam

Donald M. Stonebrook

Whittier, CA 90604

There is too much political spam on every forum, with the bulk of it total misinformation. Please don't allow it on Gmail....

Gale Strong

Greetings,

I am writing regarding the issue of political email spam, and how I personally feel that it must be toned down, if not stopped altogether across Gmail. I do not think spamming one's inbox is influential or even meaningful in any way in swaying or informing one's perspective.

Thank you for your time, Michael

--

-Michael

From:	Richard Cook
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Politics
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 4:59:10 PM

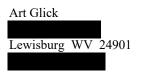
Political spam is not and should not be allowed in anyone's inbox

From:	Art Glick
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Re: AO 2022-14
Date:	Sunday, July 24, 2022 1:47:58 PM

I am urging the FEC to stop gmail from allowing political spam.

First of all, I already get way too much spam.

But most important, allowing gmail to affect our body politic in such a way can't possibly be a good thing. There's so little oversight, and it will just add to the ways that money interests will have to manipulate our elections.



Please DO NOT allow political spam to

go directly to inbox. This will be a huge inconvenience and waste of time; enough to make me migrate to another email platform

Jeffrey Feldman

--

Pat and Jeff

Mark Lyndon Nelson
<u>AO</u>
Stop Gmail from allowing political spam
Sunday, July 24, 2022 9:20:04 PM

Hello AO@fec, I want to keep gmail honest without allowing political spam. Please keep it honest!

Mark L. Nelson,