

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission
FROM: Office of the Commission Secretary ∠C
DATE: August 10, 2022
SUBJECT: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) 58 Individual Comments on Draft A

The following are AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) 58 individual

comments on Draft A. This matter will be discussed on the

Open Meeting of August 11, 2022.

Attachment

 From:
 AO

 To:
 AO

 Subject:
 AO 2022-14

 Date:
 Wednesday, August 10, 2022 7:48:55 AM

Please DO NOT grant Google the ability to not allow users to classify political emails as spam.

They should rather be in the business of protecting their users instead of exploiting them for profit.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Susan Vincent
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 7:46:24 AM

I do not want any political campaign ads in my regular gmail. Send to spam

Children's Orthopedic Specialists

From:	Go Mac
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 7:37:51 AM

Please have all email requests for political campaign donations sent directly to the spam folder. This is especially important as illegal campaign donation requests are a reality. Thank you.

Gregg O. McCrary Spotsylvania, VA To whom it concerns:

Please avoid pushing governance onto individuals that already bear a significant burden of 'noise' from unwanted emails. If email providers need to govern themselves better to avoid intentionally or accidentally favoring a politician or political party--or even through unintended bias, then hold them accountable and responsible for such, rather than burdening us. Yes, we can choose another email provider, but that is difficult and such practices become accepted practices if supported by government direction.

Thank you. Stephen Nichols

From:	Laura Veltman
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 12:54:29 AM

Please do not allow Google to enable political spam to bypass the spam filters. I already am deleting multiple emails a day for politicians I might support but who live in different states. I have no desire to spend any more time deleting emails from any politician, regardless of their political affiliation.

Moreover, Google also limits the amount of email I can store. Creating and/or passing along political spam email that I receive unwillingly and then penalizing me for having too many emails in my Google email account is patently unfair.

Sincerely,

Laura Veltman

Sent from my iPhone

Hello,

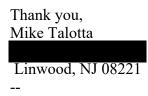
Please do not allow Google to change their spam policy. Election related spam is still spam. I do not want election nor any other spam coming directly to my inbox. Again, please do not allow Google to change its spam policy in favor of election campaigns. Keep spam where it should go, in the spam box of my gmail account, not in the inbox.

Thank you for your time.

Best, Staci Franks Teacher and mom of 2 in Ohio

From:	<u>Mike Talotta</u>
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Comment on AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 7:52:49 AM

Please do NOT support Google's request to exempt these type emails from Spam.



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From:	<u>CBSatornino</u>
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Google AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 8:53:06 AM

Please do not allow this request for exemptions on political emails. We are already being bombarded with so much spam and misinformation in political process. Unsolicited emails are already a problem. Why exacerbate these issues? Thank you.

Cinthia Satornino

From:	Curt Hess
Sent:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 8:58 AM
То:	AO
Subject:	Google political ads

Please route ALL to Spam, unless the specific email address is in my contacts.

Easy enough.

Thanks.

https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.linktr.ee%2FCurtHess&data=05%7C01 %7Cao%40fec.gov%7C2112aa50dc0748655b7108da7acff0eb%7Cee91fa706c9d45e0bb084a355de91010%7C0%7C1%7C 637957330776837536%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJ XVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=S%2F4%2F4AGVwcjZgaPQRLJuA67k4dSho6xDo0%2BmU6amdY4%3D &reserved=0

Sent from my iPhone, hence brief.

All campaign emails (Republican, Democrat and otherwise) SHOULD be sent into spam.

Sent from my iPad

Please deny this request - thank you

Allan Mellske

Good morning,

I am against Google's plan to start exempting some political campaign and fundraising emails in Gmail from spam.

Please don't allow Google to send any more messages to my inbox that would normally go to spam.

Thank you for taking the time to read and act on this request.

Stay safe and well. All the best

Tom Farrell

Success is simple. Do what's right, the right way, at the right time. Arnold Glasow

From:	<u>John Mathna</u>
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	No more illegal campaigning
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 8:08:06 AM

Stop all spam emails especially the illegal campaign ads asking for money. Our emails are our personal space, spammers shouldn't be able to penetrate that space. Ban All Spam!!!

Best Regards John Mathna

Best Regards,

John D Mathna

From:	John Garrod
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	political emails
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 8:56:16 AM

Unsolicited political emails are spam, and I don't want them in my inbox.

John Garrod

La Mesa, CA 91942

Greetings,

I understand that you are tasked with, asking many other things, campaign finance rules and regulations. Not sure what business you have in regulating emails.

Republicans and Democrats have a right to send emails, our email servers have a right to send them directly to spam unless -directed BY US -otherwise.

I think you need to stay in your lane and let spam be treated as just that, and to be filed where it belongs **based upon our email preferences, not FEC directives.**

Thank you for taking the time to ask and to receive input on this important issue.

Clare McKay Arlington Massachusetts From:John MathnaTo:AQSubject:Stop SPAMDate:Wednesday, August 10, 2022 8:00:28 AM

I beg you to limit campaign ads. Stop the spam

Best Regards John mathna

Best Regards,

John D Mathna

From:	Mary Powers
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	"AO 2022-14."
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 9:05:55 AM

Please KEEP STOPPING AND FURTHER STOP all political emails from going into our email, they should go into SPAM FIRST where we can then control, on our timeframe, what we want to come through and what we don't .

Too much trash coming through as it is.

MARY POWERS |

ATLANTIC RETAIL | Principal Broker

my iPhone

From:	
То:	AO
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 8:09:41 AM

Please, do not exempt political campaigns and fundraising emails in Gmail from spam. I do not want unsolicited messages in my Gmail inbox. Please insist that a better job is done in routing all unsolicited emails to spam.

Thank you

Arthur Holleran

King, NC. 27021-9726

Sent from my iPad

From:	DI
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 7:44:09 AM

AO 2022-14: All unsolicited political emails should go directly to spam. I do not agree with google to decide they should go into the inbox instead of the spam folder.

If I want political emails, I can move them into the inbox; I don't need google to decide to do it so they can make more profit.

DI

Do not exempt political and or political fundraising campaign emails from spam. If I want to see a political email I will opt in. I do not want my inbox filled with the same rude and negative ads that fill my television screen during election time.

Sincerely,

Paula Setting

From:	Dave Berlin
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 8:58:34 AM

This request would amount to an increase of illegal campaign contributions by Google to Republicans, who are trying to weaponize gmail against users who do not want to receive their emails. By forcing users to sift through political emails, people will be exposed to these advertisements and Google will have inadvertently made illegal campaign contributions to Republicans. Furthermore, Republicans do not typically follow the best web practices, and will not honor unsubscribe requests. The only recourse then is to mark their messages as spam. The correct solution to this problem is to continue to trust users to decide what is and isn't spam, and if Republicans perceive that as a greater impact to them than to Democrats, they should stop running on a platform that the majority of the American people believe is spam.

Dave Berlin Roseville, CA
 From:
 Bruce Allen

 To:
 AQ

 Subject:
 AO 2022-14

 Date:
 Wednesday, August 10, 2022 8:11:40 AM

NO

Bruce Allen Lou, KY

From:	Ben Young
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO-2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 8:16:58 AM

Keep all spam, political or otherwise, out of my inbox, please. Thank you. Sent from my iPhone

please do NOT allow political emails or political fund raising emails to be send to my email address. That is SPAM. If i want political information i will get it myself. Marla cellucci Maidens VA

Tension is who you think you should be. Relaxation is who you are." - Chinese proverb

27 AM

To whom it may concern,

We get enough junk mail already and don't need anymore from political parties. Please deny Google's request to allow these type of emails to be excluded from spam filter. Thank you

From:	C Auran
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	reference number of Google"s request: "AO 2022-14."
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 7:34:05 AM

reference number of Google's request: "AO 2022-14."

I understand that Political (donation) emails are being considered as non-spam. It is actually, by definition, Spam so I do not want it in my inbox. Perhaps Google can create a subfolder for "Politics" so people like me can opt to ignore them. Politics gets shoved in our faces on a daily basis and is already so very Toxic. Adding more of this in our inbox is not healthy for the average American.

Thank you, Courtney Auran I am very much against any type of spam mail and wish you to decline any exemptions to the spam policy.

Steven Senf

100% against this –election campaigns ads are spam. I don't ask for them, therefore they should not be sent unsolicited.

Sent from Mail for Windows

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

From:	<u>chris cataldo</u>
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 10:25:26 AM

All unsolicited emails are Spam, they should not be allowed to go to anyone's inbox, especially political ones.

Chris Cataldo



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

From:	Craig Casale
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 10:06:22 AM

Everyone already receives and deals with way too much spam.

Please do not help Google to sidestep the real issue which is the illegal campaign contributions they have made by allowing Google to choose which political advertisement they "allow" to get through to users' inboxes.

Craig Casale

Hello,

I am writing to oppose Google's request to exempt some political campaign and fundraising in Gmail from being directed to Spam folders. The Republican claim of illegal campaign contributions resulting from spam filtering is completely bogus.

Political and fundraising emails are truly e-mail spam, and are some of the most irritating spam out there. If I want to receive emails from a campaign or fundraiser I will opt in to them.

Please do not flood my inbox with more spam by allowing the spam filtering for political and fundraising to be taken away.

Andrew Tomasko

Please do not allow google to dump political ads into my inbox. They are junk and that's where they belong.

Thank you, Lisa Maniaci

From:	Jeff Kip
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 9:14:46 AM

Do not allow the disgraceful spamming of personal emails with the absolute crap politicians send out. Do not do it. Politics in our country have become lies, crap and more lies and no one wants it in their inbox.

Please, dear god. Do not allow Google to make more money at my cost. Please.

No unsolicited spam.

Sent from my iPhone

From:	
To:	AO
Subject:	AO 2214
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 11:11:58 AM

I believe there should be no political advantage to either party and as a voter who is totally annoyed by all the uninvited political advertisements strongly believe all political ads should be sent directly to spam. That way there would be no political contributions to either party by Gmail.

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

DO NOT let Google choose certain political emails to be automatically directed to spam - their practice amounts to censorship and should be considered an illegal campaign contribution to certain causes.

Dale Parker

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone

From:	D Northup
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Google - AO 2022-14."
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 11:22:08 AM

If this is approved, it will be very bad for email inboxes. Please do not approve this request.

--D

D

Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, and leave the rest to God!

<u>ce</u>
gle Request AO 2022-14
dnesday, August 10, 2022 9:09:12 AM

Google's request AO 2022-14 would expand their power and influence over the United States in unprecedented ways.

I have worked in the computer industry for more more than 40 years. When I started thousands of small companies hosted their own mail servers, now almost all of the email addresses in USA are hosted on Microsoft, Google or GoDaddy. With millions of hosted by all them, including Google, on domains that do not include "gmail" in the domain name. To a large degree, this came about because as a small businessman I can not afford the a \$10,000 hardware spam filter, nor can I afford to write the AI code for a good filter. Google advertised their "Spam filter" as a solution to the problem, and a way to get people to move to gmail, or a dedicated domain, hosted by google. Now that they have a largely captive, and huge share, email market they want to start charging for the filtering. This is a classic "monopoly" tactic. Cut the cost to drive out competition, then raise the cost.

Furthermore, there are several ways that Google can use this proposal to exercise their power in unscrupulous ways.

- 1. Their spam filters use AI. AI has to "learn", also referred to as "trained" to recognize spam. It would be easy for the filters to be deliberately trained to block all emails, even ones from Congressmen to an email list of people who have requested to be on it, UNLESS that congressman or organization had signed up for the paid service.
- 2. This proposal will allow the most unscrupulous of candidates to purchase influence. Years ago when you used Google to search what you were looking for almost always turned up on the first page of the search results. Now the first page is almost always a page of ads. The same thing will happen with your inbox. Office holders, and candidates, often spend years building support. In those years, the most corrupt usually get weeded out. This will allow someone with money to bypass that process, purchase an email list, and send out "urgent requests for money" that are target to the specific list (bypassing the spam filters), then use the money raised to buy more lists, and raise more money, A similar process has already happened with robo-calls, due to the difficulty of filtering the calls. Request AO 2022-14 just takes away the barriers that are there and makes it easy for Google to profit off the unscrupulous "political" operatives who have learned how to use fear to manipulate people.
- 3. Google is all about money for Google. While they dropped their famous "do no evil" motto, they are all to capable of twisting the AI to their own benefit at our expense. They recently changed their algorithm for YouTube to increase ad revenue. The result is the more legitimate channels that did not use Supermarket Tabloid titles have been pushed out in favor of those who do. (The Google strategy is nothing but an attempt to get you addicted to YouTube, though they phrase it as "keep you watching as long as possible". I.e. Keep the gambler at the table, let them find some content they like, but make certain they are always a little frustrated so they keep

looking. What are they going to do next? Offer a paid service to individuals to block the ads that advertisers are paying them to bypass the "normal" spam filters?

4. It is entirely possible that Google can use this to ensure that emails that from candidates they favor are NOT blocked, even if they don't pay the service. Even if Google does not do it as a corporate policy, there is nothing to keep an employee with his own agenda, who is part of the team that trains the AI from subtly altering the training (few clicks marking a candidate's name as "spam" and another as "not spam") and a chain is set in motion that may not be noticed for months. Already possible, but now they can just say "you need to purchase our service".

Overall, this is one of the most dangerous and devious, attempts at subverting the political process I've seen in my lifetime. It won't draw the headlines, but it will alter politics.

Thanks, Royce

From:	Denise Bohling
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Google request AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 11:25:49 AM

Please do NOT allow unsolicited political emails to show up in my inbox. They are spam!

Thank you, Denise Bohling

From:	RICHARD ZEITLER
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Google"s request: "AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 10:13:11 AM

Google's request: "AO 2022-14

NO!!! DO NOT give them an exemption. My US mailbox works fine. I am tired of the JUNK and SPAM email I get already.... I DO NOT want anymore or have the time to delete it.

Sent from my iPhone. Have a terrific day!

Helping you to protect your dreams... so you can sleep better at night!

If you can be kind and considerate for one day, then you can be for another. It won't cost you a penny in the world. Begin today. - Dale Carnegie

SmartQuote



Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear -- not absence of fear." -- Mark Twain, writer AO 2022-14

Political ads should remain filterable as spam.

Users should be able to limit who can contact them and filter messages as spam. Political messages are no different than any other solicitation, and should be treated as such.

Sent from my iPhone

Good morning,

The main reason I utilize Google email is that the spam I receive is generally much less than other email platforms. Please do NOT revise the company policy on spam, unless it is to make the spam filter more robust. If one entity is making a claim they are being singled out or discriminated against, require concrete proof of such prior to changing a policy that will affect millions in a negative way.

Thank you for your consideration, Lisa Walsh Palatka, FL

Sent from Mail for Windows

From:	Effrim Alex Volkoff
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 1:30:40 PM

I must strongly protest Google's request to waive spam for election emails. Please do not allow this! I'm not sure how they get my email but with so many lists for sale they do. A constant barrage from either side will only have the effect of disenfranchising myself and many others. By the time the election comes around, I will be so sick of political emails that it's likely many of us won't want to vote at all.

Please say no!

From:	Albert Buscaino
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 1:53:50 PM

All campaign emails, regardless of party or whether they are for fund raising or just information – should be blocked as spam unless the recipient specifically requests to receive them. I have, on numerous occasions, unsubscribed from political lists and yet continue to receive these messages. I have taken to blocking their domains, but they still manage to get through, occasionally.

If any of my clients (or our firm) were to do this, we would be subject to the penalties of the CAN-SPAM act – I think political campaigns should as well!

Tell them to stop!

Al Buscaino

EVP, Strategic Services



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From:	Jann Pinnick
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 1:03:43 PM

I do not want any political emails. NONE.

Each side is trying to convince the public (with forceful and often defamatory words that they are right and the other side or person is wrong.

All of this kind of communication, whether it be in media broadcasts or print is causing strife and unrest in our country.

I will send them to spam or trash unread. Please spare us from having to delete each one.

Jann Pinnick

To Whom It May Concern -

Please do not allow Google to change their email filtering in order to allow FEC-registered candidates to bypass spam detection and gain analytical information into how many sent emails end up in a user's inbox.

No other person or entity is allowed those privileges and I see no reason to prioritize certain political mail above all other forms of email.

Thank you, Harrison Hoffert

From:	Samantha Young
To:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Google request re: AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 1:13:00 PM

Please do not grant Googles's request to exempt political campaign and fundraising emails from going into GMail spam folders.

You don't want these in your inbox and neither do I!

Thanks! Samantha Young

Sent from my iPhone

Federal Election Comission:

Please do not allow Google (AO 2022-14) to exempt any unsolicited political campaign and fundraising emails to get through their spam filter(s). If I do not specifically request information from a political party, I do <u>not</u> want to get any email from them.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reply to my email address.

To whom it may concern:

I am strongly opposed to this potential rule. I should have the right to determine the contents of my email inbox. Not ANY other party, person or company.

Respectfully, Gerald R Moore

From:	bruce draper
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	re: AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 12:32:26 PM

spam is awful. there are multiple orders of magnitude too much of it in the world today.

unsolicited political email is, maybe, on the better end of spam, but it's still spam. do *not* encourage google to stop filtering it to spam. or, if you must, require not filtering political email to be strictly opt-in.

thanks.

bruce draper

From:	Richard Summers
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Allowing political mass emails past spam filters in GMail
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 9:37:50 AM

Given the known PRESENCE of, not the potential for, illegal political contribution solicitation, the FEC should NOT act in any way to stop the current GMail filtering of political party, and political party-faking, emails to Spam.

If certain political party groups "believe" they are being "unfairly" and "deliberately" discriminated against by email apps, like GMail, let the offended show, through agreed-upon facts and scientific stats, that is so before the FEC even considers caving in to their chronically offended hysterics.

It could just be that the current whiners have reputations among Americans for unethical solicitations. Or it could be that Americans very much prefer the neutral status quo of just not having to sludge through this offensive, and often enough illegal, solicitation noise from ANY political party apparata whatsoever in their Inboxes.

Please, leave the spam-filtering of unsolicited political email in place.

Please NO more SPAM coming into our gmail accounts!

--

Sandy

From:	cher
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	AO 2022-14
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 10:23:58 AM

Hello,

Please do not allow spam into Gmail. I'm against the pilot program. I don't want to be contacted without my consent. We have a do not call list for phones. Spam protection is along those lines.

Hello,

PLEASE, DO NOT ALLOW exemption for political campaigning and fundraising to bypass spam and go to my inbox.

I do not want these emails even from politicians I support. If I choose to sign up to receive their emails (I do not), I want the right to be able to do that.

Spam allows me to 'allow' what is spam and what is not and helps keep my inbox containing only emails that I want to receive.

Thank you, Adele DiNatale-Svetnicka Mosinee, Wisconsin 54455 We ABSOLUTELY oppose the proposal by Google to route unknown mail into the inbox, instead of spam.

We do not want any more unsolicited emails at all.

Teresa Bihl Donald Bihl >> Please do not grant Google's request to exempt political campaign and fundraising emails from going into GMail spam folders.

>>

>> You don't want these in your inbox and neither do I!

>>

>> Thanks!

Bill Young

Google's proposal is fine as long as I, as the email recipient, can easily say I do not want to receive any of these specially exempted messages.

David Fink

From:	Bill Cunningham
То:	<u>AO</u>
Subject:	Political Ads exempted from Google SPAM Filter AO 2022-14.
Date:	Wednesday, August 10, 2022 2:53:36 PM

Hello,

There is no way you should permit political ads from SPAM. That's exactly what they are.

I have stopped giving donations to candidates, because they get shared with other candidates of the same party and I've been asked for donations in locations where I am not a citizen.

So if you approve this - the end result is too much email.

Not to mention the opportunity to SCAM donations to unsuspecting recipients. It won't happen to me — but it will happen.

It's bad enough that we donate money to politicians.

AO 2022-14. is BIG NO for me.