



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20463

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

FROM: Office of the Commission Secretary ^{VFV}

DATE: July 21, 2022

SUBJECT: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) Comments

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

Attachment

RECEIVED

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 3:21 pm, Jul 21, 2022

From: [Roxana Whitner](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 4:43:47 PM

Regarding AO 2022-14

I am vehemently opposed to allowing political emails a "Get-Out-of-Jail-Free" card in reference to SPAM. Unwanted solicitations and promotions ARE indeed SPAM. One of the reasons I have gmail accounts (more than one) has been the excellent way they filter junk mail.

Carefully consider how far technology has come over the last five or ten years. Remember when hackers could not break the code; then consider each time the codes have been hacked and reinforced only to have the codes hacked again.

Gmail allows everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity or income to have an account filtered from the unsolicited junk email. By allowing emails from some FEC-registered political committees to be exempt from the SPAM filter, the FEC removes the opportunity for everyone to have their account filtered. "Everyone" is redefined to exclude the people who cannot afford to pay for the SPAM filters.

When it comes to our government and its elections, let's keep it honest and fair for ALL. Do NOT grant Google permission to launch its pilot program. Won't the FEC be opening a door too difficult to close?

Sincerely,
Roxana Whitner

From: [Carey Donovan](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 3:20:08 PM

To whom it may concern,

I oppose the change to allow exemptions for political emails to bypass spam filters. If I want to access those emails, I can go fishing for them in the Spam folder. Political Unsolicited email is still SPAM and I don't want it. Period.

Thanks,
Carey D.

From: [D.A.S](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google AO 2010-19
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 4:30:20 PM

Hello -

Please make our lives easier vs more difficult. Vote no on O 2010-19. Every day we lose our right to speak. Don't make this yet another day. This person has spoken. I say no. This is bad, very bad. When a majority of users dont want it, yet Google ignores that, it means something nefarious is in it for Google's interest.

Sincerely,
David A.

From: [Mavis Williams](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google LLC request reference number: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 5:30:13 PM

Dear Sirs

As a Google user of long standing, I strongly object to Google's proposal to allow spam emails from political parties not to be filtered out of off their clients inboxes. These emails are normally unsolicited, so it is reasonable to remove them as spam. There is nothing stopping political parties setting up websites to canvass for constituents who want to receive communications from them. Businesses do that everyday, and that's ok. But to impose a burden on citizens to spend time and effort cleaning this digital garbage out of their inboxes is an imposition too far. Google is a private space, not a public one, and its users who did not give permission to receive them when they joined Google's services. They should not be forced to do so now.

I would no longer want to use a service that allows people unbidden to harass me. Why are politicians any different?

Yours faithfully
Mavis Williams

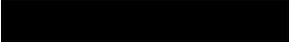
From: [Eric Burke](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's request: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 3:52:54 PM

I do NOT want to allow exempting some political emails in Gmail from spam and allowing political emails to go straight to my inbox.

Eric Burke
561 East Shore Drive
Whitmore Lake, MI, 48189

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Eric Burke



From: [Annie Clemente](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 6:59:55 PM

FEC Board and staff

I strongly urge you **not** to approve 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. This country is already marching rapidly back into the Dark Ages because of the assaults from Trump followers to ignore science, common sense public health directives, and established legal precedents. Approving Google's request AO 2022-14 will only hasten these efforts.

Communications from all FEC-registered political entities must continue to be screened and, if it meets the criteria, identified as spam by Google's data. Individual users should not have to compensate for the flood of these communications by deleting them once they are in one's inbox. Think of the ergonomic injuries alone! Furthermore, the very idea that Google would share information on individual users with political entities is abhorrent and violates the public's right to privacy.

The FEC needs to prevent Google's attempt to abdicate their responsibilities and to placate liars.

Just say no

Kathleen Yhip

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 8:34:05 PM

Please reject Google's request to send political spam to its user's Gmail accounts. I'm one of those users and I don't need to be inundated by unwanted political email spam. I get enough junk email I have to clean up daily and don't want to have to spend more time cleaning up more of it.

Thank you,
Nellie Diaz

From: [Andy Marks](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 9:25:19 PM

If I have this straight, Google wants to a) allow "political email" to bypass "Its spam filters", b) deliver said email to our inbox and c) tattle to the sender how many emails of theirs it let pass.

This appears to be their text policy too: there's no Android setting to "block texts from unknown senders". Texts, like tics, require manual removal.

I dislike tics. Google wants out of the "Insect Shield" business and wants to report this virtuously to senders of tics. They wish to facilitate spammers, scammers, and other ne'er do wells, letting them ever closer to the gmail user base.

If this proposed change is blessed by the FEC, require Google to a) *deactivate links* in such emails and b) *enhance its manual spam removal method*, namely checking the box left of offensive messages, and then clicking "***Spam: Return To Sender***".

Make the spam plague symmetric: victims and perpetrators can impose equal grief.

I vote "No",

Andy Marks
concerned citizen against tech amplified plagues

From: [Dodie Preston](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 21, 2022 4:37:04 AM

If you'd like to register your opinion, you can do so by sending an email to ao@fec.gov, and including the reference number of Google's request: "AO 2022-14."

N.O. to S.P.A.M.

NO more SPAM -- especially NO political SPAM

Don't waste our time with *any* more of it!

To put more fine a point on it ... **NO NO NO** more SPAM

From: [S Armstrong](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14. Google Gmail and political spam
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 7:14:17 PM

TL;DR "Hell No!"

I get too much political spam email as things are currently, even with "opting out", in my Gmail account. The thought of a lot more ending up in my primary Inbox is appalling to me, possibly disrupting or disabling my communications with critical services, business (sending me billing statements) and friends.

Google's proposal to slam the political emails unfiltered into my primary **Inbox** would render their email *useless* to me, given the likely avalanche of political email I'd expect this fall as desperate politicians and PACs all vie for attention and limited funds. In the summer and fall of 2020, I was getting and deleting unread many dozens of emails per day.

As soon as AO 2022-14 is approved, I would abandon gmail in favor of another service. And switch from Android to Apple. As a retired person, I currently rely on gmail for a number of essential financial and health related needs and cannot afford to lose track of these in a flood of nasty rage-inducing political crassness. I also will advise family and friends, business and agencies to set up a new email service. And I just set up one for myself in case you grant Google their proposal unaltered. Google will lose users once the dams break on political spam.

Still want to be deaf to our complaints and Ok their proposal? At least modify it:

How about a *compromise* to offset the costs to users that will come with an uncritical OK for Google? First, I don't care that any Political Party complained about *prejudiced handling* of email -- gmail is provided by a private corporation with it's own Terms of Service. Having spam loaded with "Alternative Facts" pre-sorted into SPAM as it is, is indeed a feature I like now. Yahoo email wants to charge for this pre-sorting of spam service although clever use of their user "filters" can keep one's inbox more tidy. Regardless, increasing costs to users so they can deal with political spam is *shifting the costs on the wrong party*. **Senders of political spam should pay users for their attention.** 100 Gigabytes is what, \$10 a month or so? Buy me the storage and blast away.

1) Instead of reams of political begging for money and petition signatures going straight to spam (the preferred destination in my mind), Google could keep "Inbox" clean and instead create a "***Political***" folder (to join their Social, Forum, and Updates folder) for all such solicitations. Of course they'd be emptied automatically at the same frequency as Spam is, no matter whether read. Ideally, we could have a "PAC Money Begging" sub-folder, "Elected Officials" folder, "Political Action" folder, and "Issue Ad" or some "flags" applied to categorize the Political malarkey sent. Heck, what I really want is a pre sort the above as sub folders for "**GOP**", "**DEM**", "**LIBERTARIAN**", "**GREEN**", "**INDEPENDENT**", etc. Give me one click clean out of whichever folders I don't care to read. Maybe an option to Archive off a folder for future reference.

2) Don't like 1)? Google shall provide their users with ***unlimited, no-cost email storage*** for the anticipated avalanche of advertisements and political email. Given my propensity to delay cleaning out my email folders, I often am close to the capacity of my email storage. The

Google proposal would certainly put me over the limit on a weekly to daily basis, which results in the blocking of **ALL new emails** -- the sort I might truly need and expect to see. Alternatively, political campaigns should pay for all user email storage they hope to use, in advance. In other words, **Google should charge the advertisers and political groups to fund our email storage space.**

3) No political spam messages shall be conveyed to user accounts with any claims being made **not verified TRUE**. Require email messages to be reviewed by fact checkers at WAPO, NYT, LAT, CNN, or by relevant scientific bodies. Is it too much to demand of ALL our spamming political groups to NOT LIE OR DISTORT FACTS to the American people in their mass communications so we can have an honest, truthful and fair "National" dialog?

Why? We still have millions of partisan misinformed citizens who believe the outcome of the 2020 election can be reversed -- and this is due to outrageous claims by the former president and his many amplifiers in mass media and electronic communications. Failure to support the ***peaceful transition of power*** is Anti-American. Failure to concede to the will of the American people is anti-American. If you lose, accept it gracefully, and resolve to do better next time. Value TRUTH over lies, please!

Google USED to have the motto, "**DON'T BE EVIL**" and I urgently want them to once again embrace and live that. Any business/political decision to flood us with lies is truly unworthy of our society. I dare the FEC body to do right by the American people instead of throwing up hands, rubber-stamping and failing to do anything helpful

Steven Armstrong

[REDACTED]
Whitewater, WI, 53190

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 6:10:18 PM

I am adamantly opposed to the change in spam rules that would allow GOP emails to drop into my inbox when I have not asked for them. I receive emails from the Democratic Party because I asked for them. If I wanted GOP political emails I would ask for them. Getting them in my inbox when I haven't asked for them is highly offensive to me as I am not in any way shape or form a supporter of the Republican Party. Again, I ask for the Democratic emails. I receive them because I want to see them. I do not want to see anything of any kind from the GOP. Please abandon this change before it takes effect

Phyllis Johnson
Seattle WA

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Deny Google's request "AO 2022-14."
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 8:39:56 PM

This will crater productivity nationally! PLEASE REFUSE Google's request: "AO 2022-14."

Amy Case, Managing Director

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Jyan Ferng](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google proposal
Date: Thursday, July 21, 2022 2:35:57 AM

I am against Google's request to not subject political emails to spam filters and would request the FEC to decline Google's request.

Thanks,
Jyan Ferng

From: [Johnn Fedor](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Ref # AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 6:57:51 PM

Hello,

I very strongly object to Google's proposed spam requirements modification. It completely defeats the purpose of a spam folder. Furthermore it will be a terrible breach of privacy and ruin the public's trust in Google. And at this point there isn't much trust left to ruin. Allowing election emails to circumvent the spam filter without hearing the opinion of those that will be receiving all these emails is a huge mistake. Please do not allow this change

From: [Amy Case](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: REFUSE Google's request: "AO 2022-14."
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 8:41:05 PM

This will crater productivity nationally! PLEASE REFUSE Google's request: "AO 2022-14."

From: [Jack Fulkerson](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Regarding request AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 5:48:41 PM

I would like to be on record for opposing Google request AO 2022-14. I would rather a tool that removes all political advertising, sending them to the SPAM folder.
Jack Fulkerson



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: lewisfmiranda
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 21, 2022 8:27:52 AM

We the people do not want spam from ANY party! Don't betray us!
Do not approve the measure.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

From: Christian Scott
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:16:27 PM

Please do NOT allow Google to favor political emails by letting them slip through Spam filters.

Besides the common annoyance of receiving additional unsolicited email, Google can change the Spam filters at any time to favor any political interest, and we have only their word that they will not do this. Moreover, lending a private corporation even a measure of political power is a rotten deal on all sides. Big Tech corporations like Google need to be kept far far away from political entanglements.

From: gmliii
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comments in Opposition to Advisory Opinion Request No. 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 21, 2022 7:43:14 AM

With regard to Advisory Opinion Request No. 2022-14, please see the attached comments.

From: Stephanie Smith
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google request AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 6:03:23 PM

Please deny Google's request to let political spam bypass the spam filters in their gmail. I do not want any types of spam to be able to purposefully get through these filters. They were designed for this use specifically, and most people would not be okay with getting deluged with unsolicited e-mail, especially political spam during election season.

Thank you,
Stephanie Smith

From: Adeleke Adegbite
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Re: Google Political Email Request - "AO 2022-14"
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 8:54:47 PM

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

Thanks.

Adeleke Adegbite

From: imayb1
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Regarding: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 3:28:25 PM

Please, do not grant this request.

Many people originally took haven in gmail because of its efficient spam filters. Turning gmail into a political spam-fest will make them leave for safer spaces.

No one wants to be subjected to more political ads. We hear them on radio, see them on television, they're forced on us in streaming media and we don't want them in our inbox too! Enough!

From: [Jeff Lofgren](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Please reject AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 21, 2022 9:56:22 AM

Hello.

I am opposed to Google's proposed spam changes for political messages (AO 2022-14), even if in a pilot program, and ask you to please reject it.

In short, they are wanting political spam to go into our inboxes, where we can opt-out of them, instead of the current method of those messages going into our junk boxes, where we can choose to opt-in to them.

I periodically scan my junk box, and there is a tremendous amount of political spam there every day, and I am relieved that it is filtered. Please keep it that way, so that email remains a useful tool and usable method of communication.

Thank you.

- Jeff Lofgren

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Re: AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 21, 2022 10:12:18 AM

Hello,

As a citizen and small business owner, I am a concerned that the proposed change in political email filtering would worsen the already rampant scourge of spam email that I, and others like me, deal with every day.

Please do not allow google to allow political spam to pass through filtering unabated.

Thank you

KYLE WILLIAMS
ROCHESTER, NY

From: [James Carmody](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Spare us from More Gmail Political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 21, 2022 10:54:17 AM

Dear honorable regulators of the Federal Election Commission,

First, thank you for accepting public comment on Gmail's proposal to remove restrictions for political e-mail in users' inboxes.

It is heartening and encouraging to engage in democracy with all of you, especially given the chaotic times in which we are living.

Second, in light of our times of chaos, I believe it is vital for you to not allow any more political spam into the inboxes of Gmail users.

Whatever legal ideas imply, the truth is people are learning addiction to modern media in increasing and unhealthy ways, and the most toxic form of it is political mail.

The idea of permitting more political mail into people's inboxes is not only a threat to public health, it is also socially and politically unfair.

How so?

It's how the political parties in the United States of America operate:

For many decades, one party has rooted itself in media propaganda and sustained its base with ongoing, relentless, never-ending rage and hate through its media channels.

The other party is known to be guilty of that, but during the same time has also earned political respect with genuine community outreach, honest social work, and real discussion of the issues that affect people's lives.

So the fact is that allowing more political spam will only embolden the party guilty of media propaganda, and will threaten the true democratic work that has sustained members of its opposition.

And that means if you are interested in free, honest, and fair elections, then you will deny more political spam on Gmail and spare us from even worse propaganda.

Third, I want to give thanks to your lives of service to the people of the U.S.A.

I may be in a small chorus when I sing out love for you, your families, and your futures here.

But I mean my song, because you are worthy of care and kindness, always and forever.

Have a wonderful day,
James Carmody