



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20463

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Commission

**FROM:** Office of the Commission Secretary *LC*

**DATE:** July 26, 2022

**SUBJECT:** AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) 15 Individual Comments

Attached are 15 individual comments on AO 2022-14 (Google LLC).

**Attachment**

**RECEIVED**

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 4:05 pm, Jul 25, 2022

**From:** [Derek Chapman](#)  
**To:** [AO](#)  
**Subject:** AO 2022-14  
**Date:** Sunday, July 24, 2022 10:27:25 PM

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I vehemently oppose Gmail's change of spam filtering to allow for 'authorized' political campaigns to deliver email *directly* to users without considering them spam. The reality is that few campaigns will respect a user's wish to opt-out and will mark any address that attempts to opt-out as 'hot'. I have never signed up for any political campaigns emails, do not want them, and yet I receive a few per day. Thankfully, however, they are treated as what they are: spam.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Derek

**From:** [Marty Buchsbaum](#)  
**To:** [AO](#)  
**Subject:** AO 2022-14 (Google LLC et al)  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 10:15:11 AM

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One word – Dumb.

I think this proposal by the management of the gmail(dot)com platform to remove any filtration of bulk selection of political email as “spam” is one of the scariest, most scatterbrained and embarrassing proposals of which I have heard. I suggest and recommend their request be denied.

While I could subscribe to a newsletter or emailed commentary in support for a cause in which I am aligned, I choose not to do so because SPAM of any sort, like click bait mercantile advertising, generates its own progeny. It has been my unfortunate experience that email lists are shared across similarly aligned groups (If You like that, You'll absolutely just love this...) I have long since discarded the use of “unsubscribe” because none of the offensive weasels pay attention anyway.

mb

**From:** [Ryan Buffa](#)  
**To:** [AO](#)  
**Subject:** AO 2022-14  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 9:35:25 AM

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Please firmly and unequivocally reject.... This is a terrible idea.

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Ryan Buffa

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Schedule a meeting](#)

**From:** [Ann Sheffield](#)  
**To:** [AQ](#)  
**Subject:** AO 2022-14  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 11:46:01 AM

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Please, please reject Google's request to treat political spam as not-spam. As it is, I already have to unsubscribe manually from political email (from both parties) that makes it through the filter. These emails are nothing but the most blatant kind of propaganda. Distortion and misrepresentation of opposing views are routine. I DO NOT WANT TO RECEIVE POLITICAL EMAILS. Thank you.

Best wishes,

Ann Sheffield  
Meadville, PA

**From:** [Hayley Lamberson](#)  
**To:** [AO](#)  
**Subject:** AO 2022-14  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 1:12:09 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing in opposition of AO 2022-14 submitted by Google LLC.

In my opinion, political solicitation emails are spam mail and as such should continue to be filtered similar to other spam. Political solicitation emails are often as misleading and frequent as spam from other actors, and consequently should be treated the same. They are not quality communications that I need in my inbox -- speaking as a Gmail user for 16 years.

Sincerely,  
Hayley Lamberson

**From:** [Mike Loukides](#)  
**To:** [AQ](#)  
**Subject:** AO 2022-14  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 2:47:12 PM

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I strongly object to Google's proposal that email from political committees would be exempted from spam detection to which they would otherwise be subject.

Mike Loukides  
VP, Content Strategy  
O'Reilly Media, Inc.  
Guilford, CT

**From:** [Dwayne Morrison](#)  
**To:** [AQ](#)  
**Subject:** AO 2022-14  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 8:30:02 AM

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No. No. No. Do not allow this extremely bad policy idea to move forward.

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[REDACTED]

**From:** [Cory Albin](#)  
**To:** [AQ](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Request AO 2022-14  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 1:49:13 PM

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Hello, and thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on Google's request to exempt political emails from certain spam filters. As a Gmail user for over a decade, and one that receives many political emails, I feel a need to weigh in on this issue, especially because of my strong feelings about it. I am fairly young, but I have made political contributions in the past, and as a result, what felt like every special interest group aligned with the party I donated to began sending me emails asking for both my input on issues and, of course, more money. It would not be inaccurate to describe the amount of this email as a deluge. A few of these messages would run afoul of Google's spam filters, but the overwhelming majority made it into my inbox. It was somewhat painstaking, but I went through the process of unsubscribing from almost all of the email lists, keeping only the ones I wanted to continue receiving information from. The point I am driving toward is that political organizations already have an incredible ability to flood inboxes of people who have never asked for any communication with messages ranging from the informative to the inquisitive to simple pleas for money, and, in my experience, almost all of it already makes it past the spam filters. I see no benefit to Gmail users in lowering the bar for these emails to make it easier for content that would not be acceptable in any other message to be seen by users. The people writing them are surely cognizant of what gets a message to be flagged as spam, and although users could simply mark the messages as spam themselves, they already have the option to manually mark a message as "not spam" if they wish to receive emails like it in their inbox. Please do not let political organizations get away with sending out messages with content that would not pass inspection in any other email, and please do not shift the burden to sort these messages out onto Gmail users.

Thank you again for your time,  
Cory Albin

**From:** [Doris Hinson](#)  
**To:** [AQ](#)  
**Subject:** Comment re: AO 2022-14 - Political spam  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 9:57:11 AM

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Please do not even consider this as an option! I already get at least 600-900 junk emails a day on my pc ; I just changed cell providers and got a new phone number - within 2 hours of activation, I'd already gotten 3 spam texts, and now get much more. We need to do something about existing spam, Not allow more of it!

As far as whether it would be advantageous to either political party, I think they would both try to out-do each other, thereby flooding us with spam from both sides.

Sincerely,  
Doris Hinson

**From:** [Kathy Doyle](#)  
**To:** [AQ](#)  
**Subject:** Please do not allow Spam!  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 12:13:58 AM

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Our lives are littered enough with ridiculous, repetitive information, ads, etc.  
Freedom of speech is important, but harassment in the form of unsolicited messages is unnecessary and potentially dangerous to society.  
Please enforce reasonable controls.

Respectfully,  
Kathleen Doyle  
Miami, Florida

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Marvis Phillips](#)  
**To:** [AQ](#)  
**Subject:** Political SPAM in GMail  
**Date:** Sunday, July 24, 2022 10:51:16 PM

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Dear Federal Election Commission,

If Google/GMail allows People to spew SPAM they will also have access to all the account holders private information, and who they communicate with and go after them! Stealing data from the entire Goggle family! This is absolutely insane, you as the individual works very hard to keep your private information **private**, but along comes your email provider willing to make sure criminals have 100% free access to all your hard fought privacy and information! **That is bad business practice!**

It is up to you our protector of our data, to help keep it safe and secure!

**Please deny Googles request to allow unlimited “POLITICAL SPAM” on GMail! Thank you!**

Sincerely,

Marvis J. Phillips  
San Francisco resident.

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Marvis J. Phillips  
Board Chair  
District 6 Community Planners

**From:** [Julie Anderson](#)  
**To:** [AQ](#)  
**Subject:** public comment  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 11:16:55 AM

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Please stop social media and gmail from spreading misinformation to vulnerable people. This is having a devastating impact on our democracy. Fabrications and misleading information need to be stopped. It is criminal and people need to start going to prison for these dastardly deeds.

**From:** [Bill Johnson](#)  
**To:** [AQ](#)  
**Subject:** regarding AO 2022-14 stop gmail from allowing political spam  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 12:59:20 AM

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gmail is a worse monopoly than MA BELL ever was. the potential for influence is too great to ignore. break it up or break it down!!!

**From:** Michael Oliver  
**To:** [AO](#)  
**Subject:** AO 2022-14  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 1:15:17 PM

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I don't want more spam in my inbox. That is the whole point of spam filters and things like the do not call registry. If I did not sign up for it or request it I do not want it. This is especially true when it comes to partisan things like politics.

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Michael Oliver  


**From:** comjosh64  
**To:** [AO](#)  
**Subject:** In regards to AO 2022-14.  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 11:03:37 AM

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Please deny AO 2022-14 and all related requests.

I am vehemently opposed to ads, political ads doubly so when they are unwelcomed and unrequested. Email is not a platform that is appropriate for forced messaging. It is already too easily cluttered - every business that you interact with wants your email and they use it for marketing purposes regardless of often explicit requests to the contrary. Even utilities that might be sending important information about their services manage to sneak in ads for up-sales and service changes that are difficult to filter if you want to still see the critical messages about due dates, service disruptions, etc.

Beyond that, email is a tool. Tools should be in control of the user. If the service provider is in control of the tool, it is no longer a tool for the benefit of the user, it is a tool being used AGAINST the people. If Google wants to introduce a TOGGLEABLE OPTION that CAN BE EASILY AND OBVIOUSLY DISABLED and is DISABLED BY DEFAULT that will change filter rules for apparently legitimate political messages, that is fine. Otherwise campaigns will find ways around the initial feedback logic to game the system. Once turned on it will be impossible to avoid.

Many people simply do not want to be bothered by politics. Some have to carefully manage the stress that it can cause to avoid serious medical issues. It is wholly and entirely inappropriate for literal propaganda to be forced upon users without permission.

Political messaging ranges from passionate individuals who legitimately care about a cause to unscrupulous oligarchs who will take every opportunity to manipulate someone if they think it will benefit them. This is even true of "authorized candidate committees, political party committees, and leadership political action committees that are registered with the Federal Election". Of those two groups, who do you think will benefit from AO 2022-14 more? Make no mistake, if you approve Google's request you are helping to accelerate a potential future that already appears to be approaching a dystopia.

Sincerely,  
Josh Krull