



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20463

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

FROM: Office of the Commission Secretary ^{VFV}

DATE: August 2, 2022

SUBJECT: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) (7 Comments)

Attached are 7 comments on AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)

Attachment

RECEIVED

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 1:30 pm, Aug 02, 2022

From: [Linda Wallers](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Monday, August 1, 2022 4:13:08 PM

I strongly oppose the request by Google, LLC to initiate a pilot program to keep political emails from being caught in its spam filters. The "censorship" of Republican solicitations for money being sent to spam folders has not been proven. If there are, indeed, more GOP emails than Democratic emails going to spam folders, it is more likely because the GOP sends out multiple solicitations for money on a daily basis, add to that the information included in the solicitations is frequently mischaracterized, slanderous, or outright lies. I have set my spam filter to reject all of these.

Moreover, when a person rejects such emails and chooses to "opt out", that only increases the flow off such material to that sender by providing acknowledgment that there is a human on the other end of that email address. political campaigns monetize their email lists, selling them to other vendors. If you allow this exemption of political emails from filtering, you would add insult to injury by forcing users to manually reject every piece of email permitted by this program, and would violate users privacy further by allowing email senders access to valuable citizen data to sell, creating even more more unwanted emails. Please, cut us a break and **reject AOR 2022-14** for the sake of all Americans.

Linda Wallers
Vancouver, WA

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 comment
Date: Monday, August 1, 2022 2:13:48 PM

To: The Honorable Allen Dickerson, Chair
Federal Election Commission
1050 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20463

By electronic mail (AO@fec.gov)

Re: Comment in Opposition to Advisory Opinion Request 2022-14 re Google's Pilot Program to Permit Political Campaign Spam

Dear Mr. Dickerson and colleagues,

I respectfully request that you reject AO 2022-14, Google's requested pilot program to permit political campaign emails to pass unfiltered through email spam filters. And, just to make it clear, I would reject this request by any other email company (and in fact would like it with this same comment that I could request it of U.S. Postal Service mail as well, although I realize that is not the subject of AO 2022-14.)

In this case, Google (Alphabet, Inc.) is clearly responding to pressure from conservative political operatives who have complained that "their" email solicitations have not been getting through to their intended recipients. This program would represent an illegal in-kind political contribution to organizations that use it. It should not be allowed.

As a recipient of roughly a dozen unwanted spam emails every day that somehow already bypass my email service's filters, I do not want LESS restriction on what gets filtered, rather, I would prefer more. That is, I do not want to receive unsolicited emails at all. And, the suggested solution of setting your email service to reject email from certain addresses is quite limited: we all know that if one source email address is forbidden, the organization can quickly create a new email address to send from, possibly even with no human intervention, via computer algorithms.

I am sure you are well aware of all of the spam that American citizens are faced with every day. Our nation's productivity is no doubt heavily diminished by the hours we all must spend culling this spam out of our in-boxes. You might be amazed, but the incidence of such spam is much less, if not zero, when I have lived overseas for several years.

Please reject AO 2022-14.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wagner

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google spam filters
Date: Monday, August 1, 2022 4:18:34 PM

I am strongly against any attempt to weaken Google's spam filters. As you can see, I have a Gmail account. I get so many emails a day that *dont* go directly to Spam, that it is too cumbersome to mark them all as Spam. Most of the time I just Delete everything. I am not interested in receiving *more* email from candidates for whatever office, regardless of wether or not I actually support them. It's just annoying.

I don't donate to candidates because I work in broadcast news and our ethics policy precludes me from doing so. I suspect my email was on some list once upon a time, and they just rent it out to whomever.

I hope the board considers a "No" vote on this request by Google.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Margaret Moulden](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Do Not Allow Gmail's Political Spam Proposal
Date: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 2:40:52 AM

There's nothing about political emails that should allow them some sort of special pass to override a spam filter. No one needs *more* political emails.

Also, the political emails, especially from Republicans, have been shown to be deceptive in getting people to make a donation and unknowingly be signed up for recurring donations from their credit cards or bank accounts.

See: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/03/us/politics/trump-donations.html>

Please nix this proposal immediately.

Thanks for your consideration,
Margaret Moulden

From: [C Fugel](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google Request AO 2022-14
Date: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 2:07:37 AM

Google consulted with Republicans eh?

Did this include the **147 GQP MOC** who tried to overthrow the results of a free and fair election? Or the other/same treasonous MOC and their staff giving recon tours to Insurrectionists 1/5/2021? When the Capitol was CLOSED?

Those republikkans? I'm certain they thought this would be a very fine thing indeed — for trump. Whom they supported during all his crimes in office and still support despite his carefully planned Insurrection.

Just what is Google's financial interest in this? Why are they willing to invest large sums on re-programming their system? Perhaps they're receiving tax breaks? Koch money?

I urge the FEC to deny this request. The adverse effects of the burden Google is trying to place upon its (~1.8Bn) users will cost businesses, sole proprietors, and philanthropic organizations huge sums of money if they cannot avoid being inundated and must physically deal with political spam. From any party.

I'd really like to see the FEC show it is not corrupt and does not wish to rain spam upon We The People.

P.S. As for Republicans' perception that fewer Democrat emails are sent to spam? Perhaps that's because Democrats don't threaten anyone.
Nor do they fundraise off the death of family members.
Nor do they support gun violence.
Nor do they plan to overthrow the republic by inciting hate and violent actions against opponents.
Seriously F##k those republicans.
-C. Fugel

Sent from my iPhone

From: Mike O'Neal
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2202-14
Date: Monday, August 1, 2022 12:47:35 PM

To whom it may concern:

Re: google's AO 2022-14

This request seems like a very bad idea. With such a large portion of politicians currently active today that are unable to speak or even understand objective truth and reality, giving those politicians direct access to citizen's email accounts is very dangerous. We need to work on getting all US citizens to share the same objective truth and facts, and this act would hinder that.

Thank you for your time.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AQ](#)
Date: Monday, August 1, 2022 5:59:11 PM

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While any kind of opposition to Gmail's proposal is helpful, the Commission is particularly interested in whether or not the proposal would give an advantage to one political party or another. If you're able to incorporate anything making that case, please do.