



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20463

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

FROM: Office of the Commission Secretary ^{VFV}

DATE: August 3, 2022

SUBJECT: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) 39 Comments

Attached are 39 comments on AO 2022-14 (Google LLC).

Attachment

RECEIVED

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 4:58 pm, Aug 03, 2022

From: [John Frick](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 Google Filtering Political Emails
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 9:35:27 AM

DO NOT allow Google to exempt political emails from spam filtering. Any email from any political candidate is certainly spam and is unwanted. Allowing this to go through only benefits the minority, the spammers/politicians, and not the majority, the consumers. The default should never be to require the consumer to opt out but for the consumer to opt in. If people want political spam, let them sign up for it. Do not make me and those who do not want political spam spend hours marking messages as spam trying to stop the flood.

Best regards,
John Frick

From: [connie tatro](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 Google spam issue
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:29:26 AM

Do not allow this. It is clear to even the simplest onlooker that allowing this, is essentially your entity agreeing to promote one view point, that of liberal politicians, over those of conservatives.

Do not use my tax dollars to do this.

Connie Tatro

From: [Bennett Solomon](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 Objections
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 9:18:59 AM

Hello,

I'd like to strongly object to Google's AO 2022-14 proposal. Please do not do this. It would be so annoying to have my inboxes filled with fascists.

Best,
Bennett Solomon

From: [Rhoda Leichter](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:49:12 AM

Attention:

Regarding this request to the FEC:

ABSOLUTELY NOT. I DON'T WANT TO BE FLOODED WITH EMAILS FROM POLITICIANS.

Rhoda Leichter, MD

From: [L.Corley](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:21:10 AM

In regards to AO 2022-14
PLease do not make this change!!

From: [william evans](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:07:12 AM

Please don't exempt politicians from spam.

William Evans



Bridgeport, CT 06604

From: [John Lake](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 10:50:43 AM

I read an Inc. magazine article regarding Google applying to the FEC to allow some unsolicited emails from political entities to bypass spam filters and go directly to the recipient's email.

I think that this is a bad idea for a number of reasons.

It opens the door to arguments regarding which political entities qualify and which don't. In our litigious society this will inevitably lead to lawsuits and further claims of "unfairness."

It could also lead to some groups currently considered "hate groups" claiming to be political and so being able to spam the public with their messages.

Is the communist party going to be considered a political group for this purpose? If so, Russia and China no longer have to use false accounts to get their messages out. They can simply email to their heart's content.

What about countries ruled by religious factions - Iran, Saudi Arabia and Israel come to mind. These are political entities. While you can stop them in the U.S., Google is a global email service and you also need to take the larger view of the international ramifications of opening this door.

It will also lead to pressure for other email services such as Yahoo Mail to do the same.

There could also come a point where someone (at Google or maybe the FEC) is deciding which emails are considered "political," which puts us back to square one with the unfairness argument.

It could also be monetized by the companies providing email which further opens the door to excessive advertising, claims of unfairness and social discord.

This exemption could be used in the future to expand to emails from charitable organizations and/or religions.

I see absolutely no upside to this proposal other than the possible silencing (for a short time) of the whining of some political groups and the "opinion as news" entertainment divisions of the media.

J. Lake

From: [Lisa Smeraldi](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 10:45:51 AM

I object to this change (AO 2022-14).

Lisa Smeraldi

[Redacted]

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photo


Lisa Smeraldi

[Redacted]

From: [Darrell Wacker](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 10:45:41 AM

I oppose Google's request to send political mail to inbox instead of spam.

From: [Angi Holden](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 9:59:34 AM

Under no circumstances should this be allowed. I don't need the dysfunction of our government shoved in my face more than it already is.

And while you're at it. How about we demand a disclaimer to run constantly while the various talking heads are on air. The disclaimer should read: THIS COMMENTS IN THIS PROGRAM ARE THIS PERSONS OPINION ONLY, AND HAVE NO BASIS IN FACT. PLEASE DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH BEFORE COMING TO YOUR OWN INFORMED OPINION. You know the ones.... Tucker Carlson, Rachel Maddow and all the others. Make it more difficult for Americans to be blindly stupid.

Thank you,

Angi Holden

From: [Debra Miretzky](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 9:59:06 AM

This is a terrible idea. DO NOT approve this proposal. I don't care what political party is impacted.

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Debra Miretzky


Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing. Edmund Burke

From: [JOHN CEBULA](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 9:55:44 AM

Please do not grant google permission to declassify any and all political email and propaganda. as spam. KEEP ALL POLITICAL EMAIL HAS SPAM PLEASE.

From: [Michael Boland](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 9:19:09 AM

Please do not let google allow political spam in my mailbox, please, MB

From: [Juliana Hawawini](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 12:14:25 PM

Please DO NOT grant the request to allow political emails to come into my - or anyone's - inbox unsolicited. This should absolutely remain spam.

Regards,
Juliana Johnson

From: [Frederick Van Riper](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google request AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 10:01:44 AM

Nobody, and I mean nobody, wants more spam emails in their inbox to deal with. Allowing Google to make this change does not protect the users of their platform and frankly, only serves a small group of US taxpayers. DO NOT grant this request, please, for the love of everything that is good in life.

Thank you,

Fred

From: [Francie Allen](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Google's request: "AO 2022-14."
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 12:01:11 PM

Please do NOT grant Google's request: AO 2022-14.

Francie Allen



From: [exile Exile9](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: in regards to request AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 10:17:37 AM

Political email is SPAM. They should not escape spam detection.

From: [Fred White](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: no change please
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 10:34:51 AM

Please do not change gmail.



From: [Gabrielle Buffington](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Objection to Google's Plan
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 12:20:00 PM

Hello,

In regards to Google's request (reference number AO 2022-14), I believe that it should NOT be granted.

Thank you!

Gabby

From: [Chris Edwards](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Opposition to Google's request AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 10:16:55 AM

Re: AO 2022-14

I stand in firm opposition to the request to change spam designations for political ads. This request must be rejected.

Chris Edwards

From: [Jeffrey Chimene](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: re: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:24:47 AM

While both Democrats and Republicans are guilty of sending unwanted, unsolicited political emails, the fact is that Republicans send more in quantity, and they tend to be more insidious, including traps like automatic recurring payments after supposedly one-time donations, and claims (like repeating Trump's Big Lie about the 2020 election) that are misleading at best and often ludicrous and dangerous. This crap deserves to be in spam.

From: [Teri Kota](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Ref AO2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:16:50 AM

I'm writing to say no I don't want prioritized political emails to go directly to my inbox. I get enough junk and solicitation for donations from lots of worthy organizations and think that google may be profiting from sending political emails straight to the inbox. Shame on Google.

best,

Terri Nuqui

From: [Susan Meeks](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Reference No. AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 8:50:11 AM

Good morning.

I am asking you that you turn down Google's request to allow political ads to be marked as "not spam." Political ads are indeed spam - I don't want any ads from my own political party, let alone a political party I don't align with.

Thank you.

From: [Mannix Brooks](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Reference: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:34:00 AM

Google,

As a 32-year IT professional and a military retiree I vehemently disagree with this idea of political ads being allowed free reign to invade my email. I get enough spam as it is and political ads are in fact worse than spam. They are more like something cleaned up after bullfights, horse races or rodeos.

[Mannix Brooks](#)

[Information Technology Professional](#)

“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”— **Thomas A. Edison**

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 1:10:41 PM

Allowing Google to prioritize political emails, in essence, means that Google will provide a large political donation to every politician sending emails to Gmail addresses.

Clearly, this would bring a huge flood of political spam to Google email accounts as an unrestricted pipeline for disseminating “Alternative Truth”. The FEC must not sponsor and condone a rape of the email system.

Do Not Allow This!

Joel

From: [J Rodriguez](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 12:29:01 PM

I am adamantly in opposition to the passage of this plan! And I speak for all of those in our family and household.

Janet Rodriguez

From: [MaryJo Rimmer](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 1:56:40 PM

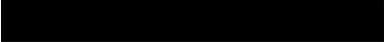
I ABSOLUTELY OPPOSE THIS REQUEST BY GOOGLE.

I cannot think of enough derogatory things to say about the authors of such an idiotic plan. I CERTAINLY do not want to receive any more pieces of trashy junk purportedly emailed by "candidates for public office"..

I switched from AOL to gmail just so I would NOT have to deal with the badly written, insulting-to-yourintelligence crap sent by candidates' PAC and/or campaign volunteers, and now gmail is going to give these cretins access to my gmail account???

DEFINITE "NO, PLEASE" from this voter.

Thank you.



From: [Debbie Smith](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 12:38:40 PM

From: [Micael Kemp](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AOv2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 2:13:32 PM

I vehemently oppose allowing Google to let unsolicited political emails to bypass my SPAM filter. Please do not approve this request. There would be no escape from the tsunami of SPAM which would be unleashed if this were allowed.

Sincerely,
Micael Kemp

From: [Pat Ruff](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google request AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 2:22:33 PM

Hello,

Please do not grant this request.

Pat Ruff

From: [Stefania P. Rodriguez](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's request: "AO 2022-14."
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 12:44:37 PM

From: [Jennifer Crocker](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's request: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 12:53:00 PM

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

Jennifer Crocker



Whitmore Lake, MI, 48189

From: [M. Banton](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Re AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 1:23:04 PM

In re gmail's request...

NO!

Thank you,

MHB

From: [Q P](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: reference number of Google's request: "AO 2022-14."
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 1:41:50 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Do Not grant this request. Gmail users should not be bombarded with unsolicited political emails. Have Google address the issue of equally spamming email from all parties instead. This is not a solution. Thank you.

From: [Q P](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: reference number of Google's request: "AO 2022-14."
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 1:42:55 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Do Not grant this request. Gmail users should not be bombarded with unsolicited political emails. Have Google address the issue of equally spamming email from all parties instead. This is not a solution. Thank you.

From: Chris
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: "AO 2022-14."
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 1:18:38 PM

Let me think of the ways I can say NO This is a bad idea.

- * "Regarding the below, absolutely not..."
- * "Please firmly and unequivocally reject... This is a terrible idea."
- * "Absolutely no. Thousand times no."
- * "Do. Not. Grant. This. Request."
- * "Anyone proposing this idea of political SPAM bypassing spam filters should be tied to a TV set with their eyes pried open and forced to watch hundreds of hours of 'my opponent is a scumbag' ads."
- * "Allowing [G]oogle to prioritize political emails...would basically mean that Google was providing a large political donation to every politician sending emails to Gmail addresses."
- * If you allow such atrocities.. then by all means.. I would forward all these spam emails to the FEC office.. I mean heck if you are ok with flooding my already overflowing email box.. Ill just pay it forward.

Just SAY NO.

From: Aaron Barr
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:26:35 AM

Absolutely do not allow Google to do this!

From: Simon Walker
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 10:29:41 AM

Sir,

I have recently read a report on a proposed extension to gmail to exclude political email from being treated as spam. I trust therefore in the interest of inclusivity that that extension will be given to all political parties irrespective of country. After all gmail is not specifically an American only product. To treat US political emails differently to any other political emails from around the world is absolutely and utterly wrong. However we don't want to give despot's and countries with a single party the ability to bypass spam filters and the. To provide to those countries lists of people who have subsequently treated their email as spam and marked it so.

Therefore in order to safeguard the whole world, the ability to treat political emails differently and not as spam, should not be something initiated by gmail. The question would be what next? If political emails can bypass spam filters why not emails from charities, supermarkets, holiday providers and insurance providers. If you start treating one group differently there will be an expectation that the difference handling will increase to other groups with special interests and then on to the the world in general.

The better proposal would be does gmail want to stop all spam handling and pass every email on to its end user. That way the user can choose who the do and don't want to receive email from. Passing info to people with a specific interest on who blocked what email whilst may be of Interest to American policy makers, could in other parts of the world with a less open political system, result in that user being imprisoned or worse.

What works for the USA does. It necessarily translate to the the rest of the world, but gmail is a world wide product, therefore if there is specific provision for something in the USA, other countries could legitimately ask for the same provision and use it for far worse means. Don't assume that just because in the USA that they will provide numbers, that in other countries they wouldn't (or couldn't) provide names and associated information.

This proposed change is not just a step too far, but a leap toward enfranchising despotic authorities who could use the data provided for far worse things than just tweaking adverts etc. this is a step on a slippery slope, I could understand if gmail don't want to provide spam filtering, but that's not what they want to do, they want to profit off the US Government to obtain money to bypass spam filters. Having numbers of people putting emails in the spam bin could in very small states allow people to be identified and targeted. In other countries, it is possible gmail may provide targeting information as part of their agreement with local authorities. However if the USA does not enable gmail to provide this service then there is no way it could be used to alternative ends in other countries.

Whilst gmail is an American company, the product it provides is world wide and US law makers need to be aware of what they are facilitating in other countries by opening alternative revenue streams for gmail in the states. Marking this possible will almost certainly lead to deaths in other countries when people don't want to listen to the party in power, but that party has the power to demand details from gmail.

This isn't a tweak for American political parties, it is opening a method of attacking users who either don't want to listen to the party in power, imagine what could have happened if this had been available when Trump was claiming the election was stolen, he would have used and weaponised that information to get what he wanted. Other countries could and would do the same and would have the power of their judicial system behind them

This should be blocked, if there is a spam system no one should have a right to bypass it, for any reason

Sent from my iPhone