



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20463

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

FROM: Office of the Commission Secretary ^{VFV}

DATE: July 18, 2022

**SUBJECT: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) 171 individual
comments**

Attached are 171 individual comments on AO 2022-14 (Google LLC).

Attachment

From: [suebhoney](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Allowing politicians to by-pass gmail spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:22:20 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Gmail user, allowing Google to grant every elected politician, and those who are running for a local, county, state or federal political office, is tantamount to taking away the people's choice to have their personal phone numbers on the Do Not Call list.

Google already sells the personal information data of anyone who uses any of their products. Go ahead and try not using any Google-owned products or services, because it's like trying to buy products that aren't manufactured in China. Nearly an impossible task.

Considering the billions of dollars Google makes in a single day, there is no possible inherent need for them to sell even more, yet very personal political data of the users of their products. There is supposed to be NOTHING as sacred as a person's political preferences, which is in addition to their right to vote.

Just as it is illegal for politicians, and those running for political office, to try to buy our votes, it should be just as illegal for a 3rd party to allow them unlimited access to America's inbox.

Giving any currently seated politician, as well as anyone even contemplating running for office, unlimited, daily or even hourly quantities of email solicitations, you may as well allow them to camp on our doorsteps and knock or ring the bell at all hours of the day and night until their heart's content.

VOTE NO in allowing Google to remove the option of its email users to have these political solicitations sent through to SPAM if that is what the user desires.

America doesn't need Google, or the FEC, making that decision for us just because we use their Gmail service.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Bateman



From: [Benjamin Recchie](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) - No to Campaign ad pilot Program.
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:15:20 PM

7/14/22

Dear commissioners,

I urge you to reject Google's request to allow campaign emails to evade spam filters. People have marked those messages spam for a reason, and I do not trust Google (or any other company) to successfully define what is appropriate or inappropriate in terms of emails and to follow through and reject them. The status quo is not perfect, but changing this rule is likely to make it worse.

Thanks,

Benjamin Recchie

From: [Michael Lupomech](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) Political Span
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:17:27 PM

I request that you do not honor Google's request to reduce the limits on political spam.

I would also ask that you remove the exemption politicians have that allows them to robocall.

Michael Lupomech

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Rhonda Huffman](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:25:26 PM

I am against Google allowing political campaign emails to by pass spam filtering directly to the inbox.

The main concern is due to numerous political campaigns for a single candidate. The onus will be placed on the end user to verify if it is a direct reach out from the political campaigner or one of the many supporter campaigns dealing mostly for special interests. Also of concern is a special interest campaign going to be allowed through as well?

Our country is already overwhelmed with erroneous, false, and misleading political sewage emails, and this has caused immense tribalism that has led to violence. Worse, much of the "political content" is of foreign origin often seeking to disru[pt our democracy. The FCC should work on stopping all telephone spam calls, not opening even more venom into our democracy by relaxing spam filtering

Due to the current political climate, unsolicited campaign emails could potentially skew the intended bias desired by political actors maliciously abusing the proposed change. The digital world is the ideal platform for exploitation of abuse with the hidden anonymity by obscuring of their digital footprint and forging of legitimate credentials. The potential for damage will already be done on such a large scale, since there is no way Google could properly vet each email prior to being sent.

If Google wants this to happen in order to appear unbiased, they are capable of creating a "Political" folder similar to the spam folder and let the end user decide to view the emails. It will also help with the proper vetting of emails to ensure it is from a trusted source without potential tampering or hacking from the originator.

Sincerely,
Rhonda Huffman

From: [David Tetrick](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:49:51 PM

Dear FEC,

I understand Google wishes to launch a pilot program for authorized candidate committees, political party committees, and leadership political action committees that would ensure the emails of accepted committees will not be affected by forms of spam detection to which they would otherwise be subject. I am writing to register my opposition to this concept.

First, this is a terrible idea because spam texts, calls, and other outreach from PACs and political organizations are enough of a problem without adding e-mail to the mess. I regularly receive unsolicited phone calls and texts from PACs, in which I have no interest and to which I must spend my time to individually respond to requesting to be removed from contact lists, despite having no control over how I was added to those lists in the first place. Allowing this system for e-mail is only going to make this worse.

Second, PACs are deliberately opaque organizations, going by deceptive names to imply support for positions I may or may not share, but at no point are they being honest about their goals. Many benignly-named PACs are actually funded by dark money and have no interest in any legislative agenda other than the advancement of the corporation or individual funding them- they certainly don't care about my interests. The proposal to allow them access to Gmail inboxes only creates more opportunities for scams and deceptive marketing to take advantage of vulnerable individuals, and you should not allow this to happen.

Finally, it seems a reminder is in order: your goal is to protect the integrity of the electoral process. There is absolutely no mandate for you to allow Google to be paid for additional outreach, or additional advertising, or additional anything, by allowing this move and corrupting our politics even further. Do not allow this program to move forward- it is antithetical to your mission and to our democracy.

We already have a problem with spam texts and calls from political organizations and campaigns- don't waste our time and further degrade our political process by adding email to that.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Citizen

From: [Chris Choe](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 and Google's Spam Filtering Request
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:58:40 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with utmost urgency that I request that you not consider Google's request to relax filtering for Political Emails. If anything, Google (and other email service providers) should collectively be doing more to prevent spamming of political emails.

If the recent election cycles have shown us anything, they've shown the public at large that campaigning is excessive, ripe for abuse, and open to undue influence of outside actors.

Please ensure this request does not go through and protect the American public.

Very Respectfully,
Chris Choe

RECEIVED

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 10:31 am, Jul 18, 2022

From: [Nicholas Thrasher](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 Google LLC
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:14:05 PM

Greetings AO!

In response to Google's request to allow registered political groups to bypass spam filters and land directly in inboxes I would like to register as being *not* in favor of this.

As a gmail user one of my favorite parts of the platform is the excellent spam protection. If a political entity is encountering spam filtering because their content appears to be illegitimate communications they should hire better outreach coordinators.

If anything should be done in this regard it should be to route political messages to a separate secondary inbox so as to reduce the noise in users primary interfaces.

From: [Tony Hunter](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:36:36 PM

Greetings

I write to oppose any program or proposal which interferes with my ability to control my email inbox. Google already has a practical monopoly on search and online advertising. By ensuring that my eyeballs and attention are guaranteed to be occupied by one special, preferred class of advertisement, they will further cement this arrangement. Further, it will place Google in the realm of determining what is and is not political speech for the purposes of the exception to the law and by extension, who is able to access that exception. I'm sure the FEC and Google's attorneys will do their best to precisely define those exceptions ahead of time, but those definitions will hold only until all the other lawyers get their hands on the rules and find the loopholes.

Please tell them "no."

Anthony Hunter

From: [Nick Blazer](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment Submission on AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:36:58 PM

Please do not allow Google the ability to allow political campaign emails to bypass spam settings because they have determined the opportunity cost to change the regulations in secret is lower than creating a marketing program that educates candidates about the fundamentals of email marketing.

I work in marketing and I have a hand in email marketing. Ever since emails began to be sent, spam has been an issue and an arms race to cut down on. The industry has responded appropriately. Here is how the playing field looks currently:

- Best practices for as long as I have been involved in this dictate that you can only send emails to people who consent to receive them.
- Best practices have also stipulated that you should have a confirmed opt-in to any email subscription; that is, they initially sign up, then you send a confirmation email that requires consent to double check that they in fact signed up for the list.
- Because spam is such a problem - not just for the recipient, but also economically for the sender and the infrastructure - email SAAS providers like Mailchimp, Constant Contact, and the like monitor the statuses of the email campaigns you conduct and actively prune your subscriber lists in the background to cut down on the de facto spam you are intentionally or unintentionally sending using their platforms. This is to account for bounce backs, unsubscribes, spam blocks, and so on. They also have to do this because absent third party intervention and legal prohibition (e.g. Canada, the EU), the incentives to spam are high and the opportunity cost is low.
- On top of this, there are credit score-like companies that assign reputations to domains specifically for the purposes of identifying bad actors and cutting down on spam. Email providers (the senders like Mailchimp et al) and email platforms (Gmail, Yahoo, Microsoft Office) use these sender scores to identify and thwart bad actors.

In this industry, we're required to know this. We're required to work with this. That means the people doing the marketing for political campaigns are required to know and work with this too.

If political campaign emails are ending up in the spam inbox, its because it IS spam. It IS unsolicited. It IS unwanted.

Because we don't have laws in the United States prohibiting bad behavior like they do in Europe and Canada, we also get to tolerate obnoxious things like this:

- Donate to a campaign and foolishly give them your email? Congrats! You're going to get spammed for more donations.
- Donate to a political party and foolishly give them your email? Congrats! Every political candidate for that party that geographically applies to you is going to be handed your email list and you're going to get spammed for more.

- Associated with any political party whatsoever and they have your email address? Congrats! The party organization is going to hand over their email lists and you're going to get spammed.
- Have an identical name to someone who fits the above and you happen to be on a purchased email list by a campaign or a party? Congrats! Spam!
- Exist on the internet? They're gonna buy your information off of a list and send you emails anyways. Congrats! Spam!

But wait! I'm not finished yet. Allowing our email inboxes to bypass these settings for a specific subgroup is going to have unintended consequences, or to use the fun economic term, externalities.

- If they succeed in these efforts, that requires maintaining a continually updated database of known political candidates. That database is subject to abuse, including ideological gatekeeping by the organization, and is a threat to any US citizen who desires to run for elected office and does not fit the ideology they - or any email platform for that matter - favor, whether it is now or at any time in the future. Or, perhaps they partner with the political organizations themselves, and act as a gatekeeper to prevent challengers to the status quo in the primary elections. Allowing this opens up Pandora's box in a very easily abusable and unaccountable way.
- One could argue that creating these exemptions is creating a perpetual in-kind political contribution to every campaign that bypasses the spam filter. This gets into a fuzzy area based on how marketing and sales works because you have an initial dollar values associated with the email address ([1] the first donation, which is a primary goal; [2] the vote cast, which also has an identifiable monetary value based on the effort to reach, mobilize, and convert the person at the ballot box), as well as lifetime values (LTVs) with the email addresses (how much does the campaign on average expect the email recipient to contribute in donations over the lifetime of the candidate's political career? how many times do they expect to get a vote from a given email account, on average?)
- This will create another subset of bad actors in the spam space who will seek to emulate political campaign correspondence for the purposes of phishing and other schemes.

So in sum, please, please, PLEASE do not allow this change.

Nick Blazer

From: [Sean Lively](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment to Google's Request for Opinion on Pilot Program
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:43:24 PM

I am completely uninterested in yet another loophole for political spam to reach me.

I receive unwanted phone calls.

I receive unwanted text messages.

I receive unwanted mail at home.

All of these methods have exceptions carved out for politicians, and I strongly protest yet another invasion of my mental health in the name of Politics.

Sean Lively

From: [David Rosenberg](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comments in Opposition to Advisory Opinion Request 2022-14 re Google's Pilot Program to Permit Political Campaign Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:55:53 PM

Dear Chairman Dickerson

Please please please do NOT allow google to permit more spam on its email service. There is already so much spam and pfishing.

This will be a huge drain on my productivity and that of so many Americans...in whose interest?

And, this just opens the door to more garbage and more abusing emails. My aging parents have frequently succumbed to pfishing emails and struggle to distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate fundraising mails. When fundraisers knock on my physical front door, I can decide to not answer at all and they go away or I can answer and carefully check them out. The same should apply to my virtual front door. If I don't want them in, I shouldn't have to use a shovel to get rid of them.

I am stongly AGAINST this move by google that is in nobody's best interest.

Thank you

David Rosenberg
Brookline, MA

From: [DB](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: DO NOT ALLOW GOOGLE TO CHANGE SPAM FILTERS FOR POLITICS
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:58:23 PM

I respectfully request that you do not allow Google to alter its spam filters so that politicians' emails land in any version of my Gmail inbox. I should retain the right to have complete control over who is allowed to email me, and spam filters should be set to filter ANY unsolicited mail, to include those with political motivations. To allow this move is the equivalent of receiving unwanted junk in my USPS mail box, which USPS has shamefully let spiral out of control. If a person desires to receive political emails, there is sufficient opportunity to do so via any number of websites. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW GOOGLE TO CHANGE ITS DEFAULT SPAM SETTINGS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

Thank you,
Daniel Bradley

From: [Keith Lindstrom](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Gmail Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:38:24 PM

Do NOT allow Google to exempt political ads from spam. The politicians in this country must comply with all laws and rules like everyone else. They do not constitute a special class of citizen, even though they think they do.
Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Steve Hebert](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: google request to "allow" political ads directly into recipient email boxes
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:13:15 PM

a thousand times "NO"

this would be insanity and would seriously stifle 'normal/ongoing' email conversations by super-cluttering the 'Soap-Box' into a non-accessible // usable condition.

thank you for listening
steve hebert
eugene, oregon

From: [Sue McCormack](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google and Political e-mail
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:47:53 PM

Please, DO NOT grant Google's request regarding political campaign emails. Granting the request would flood my email box and open the door to scammers disguising their emails as political. I would like the FEC to continue the present policy that has Google using a spam filter on such emails.

Sue McCormack



From: [Tina L.](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Google Email Request Regarding Political Emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:36:25 PM

Dear FEC,
As a Google (Gmail) user and a voting citizen in this country, I ask that you NOT allow unsolicited political emails to be sent to Gmail users. I do not see any benefit for the user and, I believe it would instead, pose security risks, abuses to privacy, and open the door to additional foreign influence in our country's elections.



 Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Keith D Danner](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google FEC request regarding political e-mails. OPPOSE
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:16:55 PM

To whom it may concern,

I strenuously object to Google's request that political e-mail no longer be subject to spam filters.

thanks,

Keith Danner
Irvine, California

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google pilot program for political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:56:30 PM

FEC commissioners:

Please don't allow Google to route political campaign emails to land directly in my inbox or anyone else's inbox. This is a terrible idea. Keep these types of emails where they belong: in the spam folder. These emails don't need unfettered access to my anyone's inbox, especially when they never signed up to receive such emails in the first place.

Martin Malacara

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Google political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:19:26 PM

Good afternoon,

Both as a long-time Google (Gmail) user as well as a voting citizen in this country, I plead with you not to allow unsolicited political emails to be sent to Gmail users. There is no conceivable benefit for the user and, instead, poses security risks, abuses to their privacy, and opens the door for further foreign influence in our country's elections.

Thank You,

From: [Nick Jeswald](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google Political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:16:29 PM

I don't want political spam cirvumventing my filters. I get enough robocall spam due to my government's failures, please don't make the overall situation worse.

From: [Michelle Hartz-Coutts](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google Proposal on political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:58:39 PM

I understand that Google corporation has requested that political emails be made exempt from spam filtering.

Please do not permit this. Please don't. It's analogous to not letting people change the channel on their own TVs--or turn them off at will.

Please protect my right to choose and limit my own communications. Please consider private citizens' needs over those of the corporations you regulate.

Please.

Michelle Hartz

From: [Joe](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google request for increase political emails.
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:26:09 PM

If these emails are not recognized and partitioned by spam filters and go to primary inboxes then subscribers will be subject to UNWANTED EMAILS.

Please do not approve this request.

M. Wilson
Hawthorne, NJ

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Timothy Zeddies](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google request to bypass spam filters for political email spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:03:52 PM

NO NO NO. Filters exist for good reasons, and WE the users should be in charge. Now, if Google is doing this to get paid by the political spammers, they should have to share the profits with us. Life is too short to delete all the email not worth reading already.

Timothy
Best wishes for a colorful future!

From: [Darcie Gillett](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google wanting political ads to bypass spam folders.
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:51:34 PM

I am against this proposal. I have found that when I donate online or answer a poll to any particular group that's even remotely political, within days I'm getting political ads from groups I haven't heard of. Upon researching, inevitably those new e-mails, ads, etc., are usually a result of my e-mail info being shared to "sister" organizations.

Those ads need to stay in the spam folder. Humans are capable of checking their spam boxes and can easily move an article from their spam folder to any other folder they desire.

TELL GOOGLE THE FEC REQUIRES THEM TO KEEP THEIR SPAM FILTER AS
DEFAULT FOR POLITICAL ADS.

Thank you for your time.

From: [Dawn Morse](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's Request to Remove Automatic Filters on Political Span
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:04:22 PM

Hello,

Political spam should be automatically filtered. Just like other spam.

Google sent a request to the FEC this month that asked for a green light on a program that would essentially let it rip when it comes to political emails, which would no longer be susceptible to spam filters following the proposed move and get a direct line to primary inboxes.

Do not accede to Google's request. I don't want this junk in my mailbox. I'll ask for political emails when I want them. No interest in being force-fed by well-funded PACs.

Thanks.

Dawn Morse

From: [David Hutchinson](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's application to allow political mail to bypass spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:20:36 PM

Absolutely, under no circumstances should political mail be awarded special consideration with regard to spam filters.

There are plenty of civic considerations that are good reasons to prevent this - think of the attempted January 6th insurrection, with hateful and seditious rhetoric and misinformation regarding the election being spread through political email, that users absolutely should have the authority to block.

But, as a professional in the field of IT Security, this is unequivocally bad for security. One of the most important functions of a spam filter is to eliminate phishing attacks spread through email, as well as any number of malicious email and malware.

There are 3,006 counties in the US, and 19,495 incorporated municipalities. There are also additional special districts - school districts, water districts, etc. - and each one of those has multiple offices, and each office has multiple candidates campaigning for election to those tens of thousands of public offices.

In an election cycle, there could easily be 100,000 candidates for office across the country. How likely is it that each of those 100,000 campaigns has robust security? It really only takes one campaign to be compromised by malicious hackers to be used as a launching point for phishing attacks, misinformation, and malware, all of which will now travel unimpeded through Google's firewall (and other providers, if they choose to opt into that as well).

This is monumentally bad. Please deny Google's attempt to weaken spam and malware protections.

-David Hutchinson

From: [Alice Sproul](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's relaxed spam request
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:05:23 PM

Please!! Please!! DO NOT ALLOW GOOGLE TO SEND OUT UNSOLICITED POLITICAL EMAILS TO ME OR ANY OTHER GMAIL USER!! BY RELAXING SPAM FILTERS YOU WILL BE ENCOURAGING CORPORATE PROFITEERS TO MANIPULATE THE SYSTEM AND GET AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE...NOT TO MENTION YOU WILL BURDEN EMAIL RECIPIENTS!!!

THANK YOU!!
ALICE SPROUL

From: [Max Van Gilder](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's request re: political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:08:35 PM

I donated heavily in the last election cycle. I have not donated in the past year.

I average 137 emails a day asking for political contributions. The user should be able to filter these requests as to their needs. Unsubscribe is often unsuccessful. My email is shared widely among affiliated political groups.

I have an email address I use for political parties. Many people have used their primary email and the volume of email will only increase between now and November.

Please do not approve Google's request.

Max

Max Van Gilder



From: [M.L](#)
To: [A.O](#)
Subject: I say NO to political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:23:14 PM

Please do not allow Google to allow political emails past their spam filters. The amount of unwanted emails is already problematic enough. I do not want more unwanted email contact.

Madonna Laws-Lowell
Crestwood, MO

From: [L. BROWN](#)
To: [me](#)
Subject: RE: about open files on pdf (old email)
Date: Thu, 14 Jul 2022 12:29:36

By definition of 'open' in what way is recording more of 'some of it' a good thing? Particularly by 'some of it', but someone else decided that you should be exposed to it. It is also a wonderful way to create a whole host of new names, to explain, alterable people go on an air of legitimacy as they are produced in the possession of the company people have not edited their privacy.

85% of all US citizens own a smartphone

(It is: <https://www.pewresearch.org/2019/02/28/85-of-us-citizens-own-a-smartphone/>)

If you own

a smartphone, you have seen a subscribe button and figured out what how are for. We've collectively decided as a society that physical work must be understood, and by long-term custom, open is bad, and if we didn't expect to sign up for our privacy should be respected.

Do not give Google (or anyone) the ability to create that boundary.

From: [Suzanne](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No to Google and non-spam political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:03:00 PM

Hi.

Please vote NO to Google making political emails non-spam.

Respectfully,
Suzanne Baugh



~ Sent from my iPhone, therefore, all typos, leaps of logic, unclear comments and generally bad ideas should be attributed to this really, really small virtual keyboard.

From: [Philip Dobbyn](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No to political ads!
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:22:44 PM

TRap as many as possible in spam
Thanks

--

Philip Dobbyn



From: [Rick Rediske](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Opposed to allowing Google unlimited political spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:17:26 PM

Google has sent the FEC a request which would allow them to open the floodgates regarding political spam.

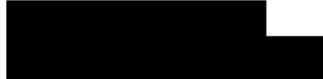
The public is already initiated with spam with very little control to stop it. Allowing Google, or anyone else for that matter, would bombard our email with endless political spam which we did not sign up and can not opt out of. It will be abused to the fullest extent imaginable.

Googles request only serves their own corporate interest to make money on these political spam attacks.

I AM ADAMANTLY **OPPOSED** TO SUCH A MEASURE. PLEASE NOT ALLOW THIS TO GO THROUGH.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Rediske



From: [Effie](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Please don't let political mail bypass spam filtering
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:15:43 PM

Political campaigns are super spammy and already do a lot to fill up my inbox. I can't imagine how much worse it would be, especially since they share information for each other so I get political emails for states I don't live in just because I donated to a similar candidate in my own state.

Thank you,
Effie Seiberg

From: [Jeremy Goldson](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political campaign emails are SPAM
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:01:37 PM

Dear whoever this concerns; those people monitoring this comment line:

I am writing to oppose Google's efforts to remove spam filters from political messaging organizations or campaigns. The United States already has a massive problem with campaign spending and the overall approach to campaigning, and politicians (obviously) have resisted any attempts to reign in their spending and the breadth of their reach.

Allowing Google, as massive an influencer as the entire United States Government, to allow these insidious emails a direct route to our inboxes would be another horrible misstep in the wrong direction. We need to minimize and further restrict the reach of political campaigns and messaging. We need to allow everyday citizens to access and interact with the issues, parties, and candidates on their own terms. The pendulum has swung far too far in the last two decades towards the political entities. Continuing to force email companies, such as Google, to label this pablum as SPAM is vital to all of our quality of life.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Goldson
Denver, Colorado

From: [ek](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: political email bypassing spam filter
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:53:59 PM

Hello, tell these entities to go through spam like all unsolicited political email does at this time.

Please don't open the foodgates! Some company will put up a new alternate email comparable to what Gmail has been - up to now.

It is irrelevant if/that Google shows preference to certain political emailers as the volume alone will make wading through an inbox similar to most email providers prior to Gmail in the first place.

Most political entities will find a way if they can but please for the Love of God, don't let the filter down.

Thanks. And don't be evil.

I love change but do not love changing my email address bc of this.

From: [John Anderson](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political email is spam.
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:48:27 PM

Hello, I'm writing to say I oppose Google's proposal to not make political emails susceptible to spam filters. Thank you, John Anderson, Michiana Shores IN 46360

From: [David Konopacki](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Email Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:59:30 PM

Hello,

I am writing today to implore you not to allow Google to bypass spam filtering with political emails.

I am less concerned about myself (though I do get in excess of 25 political emails a day from politicians who are not my representatives, or even in my state), but rather the situation for those who are not tech-savvy enough to create a dynamic filter to catch them.

When every email from both sides of the aisle assure you that the world will end if you don't donate immediately, this will only lead to political fatigue and apathy. If both sides are playing Chicken Little about the other it would be very easy to assume that nothing you do matters. As a voter in every election, local and national, I do not believe this, but I can certainly foresee and understand it.

Thank you for your time and attention.
David Konopacki

From: [Bob Bailey](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: political email
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:36:21 PM

Please, please, please, *PLEASE* do not agree to Google's request to remove political emails from spam filters. We have to deal with enough crap emails every day without adding another ton to them.

Thank you,

Robert Bailey



From: [Margaret Dioguardi](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political emails *SHOULD* go through a spam filter
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:16:46 PM

Your job is to protect the American consumer, not corporations. Do ***NOT*** allow google to move forward with a program that would allow political emails to bypass a spam filter. It is not your job to help Google and other multi billion \$ orgs make more money at the expense of our privacy. Ti's bad enough that our govt allows these orgs to avoid paying ***any*** taxes and now you are helping them make more \$\$ at our expense.

From: [Norm Janoff](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:53:30 PM

Regarding Google's request to send political emails that bypass spam filters and go to one's primary inbox account, this clearly violates the intent of having various filters to control one's email. Political emails should not have any kind of beneficial treatment vs. other emails that are sent to an individual.

Norm Janoff

From: [Bill Banning](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:35:25 PM

Political Spam is something I **do not need**. I read 3 newspapers, listen to many political podcasts and newscasts, read numerous other sources online and participate in democracy by working at the polls, and **voting**. Additionally, I send at least 10 messages a year about my concerns to my legislators
I therefore do not need to receive messages that are divisive and/or begging for money.

Yours truly,
Bill Banning

--

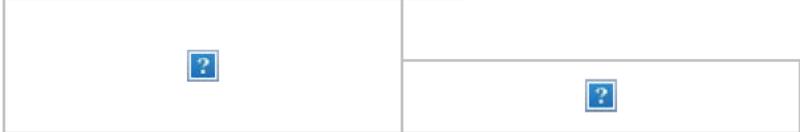
Bill Banning

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any contact information that might have been present.

From: [DeDe Jones](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Regarding Google's request for political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:53:03 PM

Please do not approve Google's request to exempt political emails from spam filters. Much like there is a right to free speech, there is also a right to not listen. When a political candidate comes to your door, you can answer and listen, as you choose. A spam filter allows one to do the same thing with political emails. Please do not limit my ability to close my front door!

DeDe M. Jones, CPA, CFP™



[Upload a Document](#)
[Link to Client Financial Plaza](#)
[Free Portfolio Risk Analysis](#)

From: [D.N](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Relaxation of spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:23:42 PM

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing with regard to the proposed relaxation of spam filters for political purposes.

DON'T!!!!

Once that door gets opened google will be back to the trough for more. It's already difficult enough to keep spam to a minimum. PLEASE don't allow them to make this end run around the few measures we have to keep politicians, candidates, and pacs out of our inboxes.

It's called spam for a reason!!!

Thanks,

DPost

From: [Susan McDonough-Wachtman](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:29:43 PM

I DO NOT WANT political emails arriving in my primary inbox without my consent!!!

[Susan McDonough-Wachtman](#)
boldly sends her heroines where they don't want to go
<https://susanmcdonoughwachtman.wordpress.com/>

From: [A.Malloy](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Advisory Opinion Request 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:48:46 PM

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for extending the comment period for this case.

Please deny Google's request to ease spam filters regarding political emails.

Please, also, redact my email address from the published list of comments (i.e. the From line).

Kind regards,
A. Malloy

From: [David Kennedy](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Allowing political emails to bypass SPAM filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:52:30 PM

To whom it may concern,

Really? So letting people who identify as "politically adjacent " to have a free pass to SPAM email, with full impunity, is a good idea in anyone's estimation? (other than the "politically adjacent"). This is a horrific idea. SPAM is SPAM. Specifically, unrequested, unwanted, mass emails from unknown sources. This is basically the definition of SPAM.

DO NOT AGREE TO THIS. Now done with the all-caps statements. We have a pandemic of baloney emails scamming people, specifically seniors and stupid people of their hard earned money. Thousands, if not millions, of scammers spend all day long every day trying to figure out how to steal people's money. Allowing yet another avenue, an avenue allowed by Google and supported by the US government has got to be the stupidest idea since Pet Rocks.

Ask yourself: If some old lady gets scammed out of her life savings because someone sends her an email that allows her to donate some small amount of money to which she is sympathetic, and she chooses to do so. But at the bottom of the email is a box, automatically checked, that allows recurring deductions of that same, or increasing amounts from that same account. The Republican Party and 45 both did this, and they are both at least moderately legit and responsible. Think of how many emails to "Save the Babies Fund For Congressional Action", "Save the whales to overthrow the right wing", etc. are going to be sent with the exact same type of mechanisms used in the past, and how many people are going to lose all their money. Feel good about allowing this BS?

Dave Kennedy

From: [Michael Schickling](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) comment
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:48:36 PM

Please, for the love of God, do not allow Google to let political emails through the spam filter. I already get enough garbage, and it's simply impossible to get your email off a list once it's on.

Thank you

From: [Ken Pugh](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:59:24 PM

This is a *bad idea*. People are buried under enough spam mail as it is. If politicians are allowed to bypass spam filters with unsolicited pleas for \$\$ or votes, the average American will lose even more respect for our political system.

It's bad enough that I've somehow been targeted by both the DNC and MAGA, with random solicitations either trying to panic me into contributing or just scare-mongering in general.

Please don't take away our ability to tune out the shrill screams of the piggies trying to get into/more-of the governmental financial trough.

Thank you,

K Pugh
Registered (Very Annoyed) Voter

From: [Andy MacBride](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 should be a hard no
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:45:35 PM

Please do NOT allow “political emails” to get a pass from spam filtering. Bad idea, please don’t make bad policy.

Andy MacBride

From: [Dylan MacDonald](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:53:27 PM

The solution to letting political emails arrive in users' inboxes is not to mandate a spam filter bypass by the email providers. the solution is to have the senders write fewer and less spammy emails.

Do not let the political parties work the refs on this.

Dylan

From: [Mike Lindner](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Campaign ads
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:45:51 PM

Dear FEC,

Please do not allow campaign ads to bypass spam filters. Their freedom of expression must be coupled with “my” (all of our) freedom not to listen. Their freedom to express their political views can’t be more important than my freedom to refuse to listen to a sometimes barrage of campaign messages.

Thank you,
Dr. Michael Lindner
Port Washington, NY

NOTICE: This email and any attachments may contain confidential and proprietary information. This email is intended solely for the intended addressee, and remains the property of Dr. Michael Lindner. Dissemination, copying or other use of this email or any of its content is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient please inform Dr. Lindner immediately via return email and destroy the email and any copies. Further, this email is not encrypted and is not secure. To have secure/private communication with Dr. Lindner, you must speak with him in person. Due to the non-secure nature of email, the confidentiality of this communication cannot be guaranteed. Please use discretion when sending information that is private or sensitive in nature. Also, please note that I do not maintain 24-hour access to emails, voicemails, phone calls, or texts. If you need immediate assistance, please go to your local emergency room, call [911](#) or [1-800-273-8255](#) - the National Suicide Help Line, or contact Crisis Text Line at [crisistextline.org](#) (or text the word Home to 741741.) If you need help or safe shelter, call the State’s Domestic Violence Hotline at [800-942-6906](#).

From: [dziban303](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment on Google's pilot program
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:38:05 PM

Hello FEC,

I think allowing political spam to land in everyone's inbox is a terrible idea. Others have articulated excellent reasons why and I can't improve on what's been said already, so I simply ask you add me to the "No" column.

Thank you.

-Dziban Molniya
New Orleans, LA

From: [Edward Richmond](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment to Google's request for opinion
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:03:10 PM

To the FEC:

I write to convey my disapproval of Google's proposed pilot program to relax anti-spam rules for political messages.

I am not a subject-matter expert. I'm just an ordinary American who takes the position that if I wish to receive campaign messages and other political communications, I am capable signing up to receive them. If I want to be exposed to political discourse, I am wholly capable of making that decision for myself. I do not support ANY program designed to make it harder for me to prevent unsolicited political messages from reaching my inbox.

Any plan that would result in more unsolicited political communications in my inbox is a bad plan, from my perspective.

It's already routine for me to receive official political messages that slip past my spam filters. I've received unsolicited messages associated with candidates from both the Democratic and the Republican parties.

Never, not even once, has my response been favorable to the political cause that reached out to me. To the contrary, I always create an additional filter that ensures I won't hear from the offending e-mail address--or any other e-mail address belonging to the same domain.

Ladies and gentlemen of the FEC, I have absolutely no reason to think that I'm exceptional in my abject hatred of political spam, regardless of the originating party. Google's pilot program is not a step that most Americans will welcome. We already receive more communication from political campaigns than we would like. Please keep the current restrictions in place. If I decide in the future that I wish to receive e-mail communications from a political candidate or organization, I'm fully capable of ensuring that I do so.

Sincerely,

Edward Richmond

From: [grokspawn](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: gmail pilot to whitelist spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:57:36 PM

My folks get lots of #InsertOutrageNow spam, and we just barely keep that in check while working with their ISP's filtering.

Now you're opening the door to making it impossible to restrict the flow of garbage email because one party's communications are indistinguishable from spam (without manual intervention / filter training)?

Now you want to provide entrée to "you must accept transmission of information about X because we are Y" where the law of unintended consequences is that consumers will have no control over X or Y, and have to face the ever-escalating choice to flee the platform or submit to reduced control over what they receive.

I'd unsub. So will everyone else who isn't tied to that email address (or can arrange to not be).

So let's be honest here. What's really going on is that Republicans want to hurt "big internet" by forcing them to adopt practices which will provoke an exodus. All that is missing is for them to wrap themselves in the flag and claim it's "for the children".

Regards,

-j-

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Google SPAM FILTER
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:25:16 PM

Hello,

In response to the possibility of Google diluting its spam filter surveillance for my incoming emails, PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO DO IT!

I am a **senior citizen** who relies on those spam filters to protect me from malware PLUS all the pornography, lies, etc. which people try to contact me about or worse steal from me. I am extremely careful about all aspects of my life so as to ensure I am not taken advantage of and GOOGLE spam filter is just one very important part of taht strategy. If need be, I or any one could go into the spam setting and review the emails which have been reflagged by Google.

When I watch television, I see ads which are totally misleading, sponsored by elusive organizations whose sole purpose is to get someone to vote for people or issues which will favor a small minority but is bad for the masses. Examples of this are gun control and price controls on medicines. I have an opinion on both but I formed that opinion by reading legitimate articles available to me on the internet and in the press.

Please say no for the little man and tell the politicians and political organization I do not want their misleading garbage to fill up my email box,

Jack Ross

Having three grandchildren means never having one bad day AND
I am Penn State!

From: [Julie Pilant](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's proposal for political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:07:42 PM

PLEASE do not allow Google to treat Gmail users as a captive audience for political campaigns and fundraising! I strongly object to being force-fed those types of messages--there's nothing beneficial about this, and it's certainly not in the public's best interests.

Julie Pilant
Colorado Springs, CO

From: [graham krause](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No unfiltered political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:49:34 PM
Attachments: [newemaillogo%202019.png](#)

As a Gmail user, allowing Google to grant every elected politician, and those who are running for a local, county, state or federal political office, unlimited amounts of email solicitations, is tantamount to taking away the people's choice to have their personal phone numbers on the Do Not Call list.

Google already sells the personal information data of anyone who uses any of their products. Go ahead and try not using any Google-owned products or services, because it's like trying to buy products that aren't manufactured in China. Nearly an impossible task.

Considering the billions of dollars Google makes in a single day, there is no possible inherent need for them to sell even more, yet very personal political data of the users of their products. There is supposed to be NOTHING as sacred as a person's political preferences, which is in addition to their right to vote.

Just as it is illegal for politicians, and those running for political office, to try to buy our votes, it should be just as illegal for a 3rd party to allow them unlimited access to America's inbox.

Giving any currently seated politician, as well as anyone even contemplating running for office, unlimited, daily or even hourly quantities of email solicitations, you may as well allow them to camp on our doorsteps and knock or ring the bell at all hours of the day and night until their heart's content.

VOTE NO in allowing Google to remove the option of its email users to have these political solicitations sent through to SPAM if that is what the user desires.

America doesn't need Google, or the FEC, making that decision for us just because we use their Gmail service.

--

Graham Krause – Architect



From: [Ehud Gavron](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: On requiring email service providers not to block unsolicited email
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:43:36 PM

Dear FEC Commissioners,

I have been voting in every election since my 18th birthday. I am familiar with candidates, platforms, and analysis of their promises or demands. I do not feel a lack of information is evident nor do I want unsolicited "helpful" messages.

Any of you at the FEC are welcome to write me back at my email. I have this email address so I can communicate with people with whom I choose to communicate. It's the same reason I have a telephone number. You'll note that it's about what *I* want to receive, not what you could force my email provider to send my way.

My personal choice to have an email address in no way is a license for political email to fill it up. My personal choice to have a phone is in no way a license for political phone calls.

Our election system in this country is not without its issues. I would think there are bigger things to work on long before we start allowing politicians to fill our inboxes or our voicemail.

If all other issues with US elections were fixed this evening, even then I would not want any company being *required* to forward content I don't want. Some people say that companies like Google provide a service on their platform and they can do whatever they want. This is a misunderstanding of the contract between the end-user and the email provider (e.g. Google). As a business that uses Google's mail, has a contract for that service, and pays monthly, it is an absolute given that Google *must* deliver email addressed to me to my mailbox, providing that (as part of that service) I can choose filters.

My filtering of email is a neverending arms race to detect the email I want and send it on through to my mailbox, and to detect the email I don't want and do something else with it.

Our election system can use some help. Allowing more "spam" and especially from liars, crooks, fraudsters, and orange people is not that answer. The FEC is entrusted with a lot of responsibility, and it is my opinion that it should maintain its focus on elections, and leave email issues alone. For every person who "wants" to receive spam from politicians there are many others that do not.

Having the right to ignore or reject political drivel does not diminish our electoral system, does not prevent politicians from buying airtime or getting their message across to us, the voters.

Would you like to make a difference? Regulate the politicians. When they send out a message have them swear under oath that all of the stuff they say is the absolute truth (minus opinion pieces). That should cut out a lot of the "noise" and allow more honest and fair elections.

If you're unsure about this, walk outside and poll people if they want political spam, robocalls, etc. Then ask yourself why you are considering taking an action that regulates private businesses, forces speech into their "mouths" in violation of the First Amendment to our Constitution, instead of improving our election systems.

You are entrusted by us to deal with election issues. Please do so.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ehud Gavron
Tucson, Arizona

From: [Kirsten Neilsen](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Please, NO (re: Advisory Opinion Request 2022-14 (Google LLC))
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:55:18 PM

The subject line says it all.

-- Kirsten Neilsen

From: [Michael Robinson](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Email SPAM
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:19:51 PM

Dear FEC,

I am opposed to changing the rules about political emails and SPAM. If anything, you need to be making the rules more restrictive. Political SPAM is 75% of the SPAM I get and I'm sick of it. Thank you.

Michael M Robinson



From: [Dana Dolan](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political emails spam filter
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:25:46 PM

Let me be clear about this:

ALL political emails should be subject to spam filtering.

That is, they should be subject filtering by the email provider's app and/or filtering that I choose to add.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Ervin, Peggy](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:53:29 PM

No way.
No thanks.
Please no.
Nope.
Heck no.
Nyet.

PLEASE NOTE: This message and any response to it may constitute a public record, and therefore may be available upon request in accordance with Ohio public records law. (ORC 149.43)
This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain private, confidential, and/or privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, employee, or agent responsible for delivering this message, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original e-mail message.

From: [Lee B](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: political spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:48:08 PM

I don't like any kind of spam. I routinely get political spam form letters every time I write to a politician. Like this email, I've quit using my identifiable, regular email address because no matter what politician I send an email to, Democrat or Republican, I always start getting spam that there's a "competitive race" 2000 miles from my home and I need to send money to them to put more Democrats or Republicans in office. I NEVER get a reply about the issue I emailed that politician about. And my email address apparently gets sold or given to their national or state or local organizations (too many to name) . And I can't actually get in contact with any politician. Their emails are read by some staffer who then does nothing more than give my email address to some fundraisers. The ONLY reason that politicians can ignore my DO NOT CALL listing and can robo call me and spam me, is because THEY MAKE THE RULES.

Part of what's wrong with the United States is that politicians no longer are in touch with their constituents. All they contact us for is money and only during election cycles. They never contact us for our opinions on their important decisions. Now, I understand that we have a republican form of government (meaning, I doubt you know, that we elect representatives to make laws for us and we don't vote on every single law - it's a representative form of government and our representatives make the laws). But that doesn't mean that they can abuse their positions and harass me for all time to give them my money. I'm not giving my money to any of them. All any of them can get from me is my vote.

Not only do I want you to disapprove Google's plan, but I would like to see politicians make their own follow the same rules for spam and telemarketing as business. A shocking concept.

These are my email addresses. My phone numbers. I pay money for them. I don't want some staffer bothering me for money. I would be SUPRISED into cardiac arrest if I EVER got a phone call from a politician asking me for my opinion of an issue. I once had a politician come to my door (a few days before the election) and I shut him down because he wasn't there about any of our issues he was there to beg for money and my vote. And that punk, who got elected by the way, was the CEO of a non-profit that did nothing more than put on a parade annually and he made over \$100,000 a year to organize a damned parade. I gave him my opinion of that, which was, "You could get a better job that contributed to my community better than parades". And he left. I've never heard from him on any real issue. But I will give him some credit when a neighbor called him about a bunch of criminals who were in the neighborhood and he called the police, who responded for him.

The Internet has not only made a lot of information available to me, but it's also put a log of grifters, including politicians, in touch with me. I read everything with a critical eye. But I

don't read everything. I'm not really interested in becoming victim to deep fakes or disinformation. The entire country would be better if we didn't spend so much time online and if so many things that people want online were actually available for free. But this has evolved slowly. First the Internet was the Wild West free for everyone and mostly porn. People got addicted to being online. Fast forward to today and people actually think it's important to read their spam email or some nonsense that doesn't affect them. They will look at the Internet on their phones while crossing a busy street. It's insane. And those people who are so obsessed with every communication, like it's really important, are the people you're going to harm with your rule because they'll give money to politicians just because they get an email.

I lost a dear 72 year old neighbor to health problems because she couldn't afford her medications. She was a government retiree who lived on about \$4500 a month. But when her daughter and I went through her records after her death, she could afford giving her candidate \$20 EVERY MONTH. And she "donated" to every cause under the Sun. All spam and all legal. But it killed her. She used to bum money and canned food for her and her cat from me. If you had blocked political spam before she gave her money away, she MIGHT be alive today. But our politicians can't even make the Internet backbones stop illegal communications from thieves - so now they're just joining the game.

Frankly, I've been voting for politicians who DON'T ask me for money.

From: [Wastrel Way](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Proposal to allow political committees to bypass spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:52:07 PM

Do not do this. It probably exceeds your authority, but it is a bad idea anyway.

The government cannot be a censor. But individuals and companies can. I reserve the right to censor any unsolicited communication to me. This includes a person asking me for change on the street or a politician asking me for money or a vote. There are certain communications that I detest, such as ones from the IRS, but they may give me useful information and I have opted in to receiving them merely by being a US citizen. Others, for example, spam advertising ("Eat THIS to lose weight!") I can filter out. I cannot be required to opt in to political advertising, and I want to be able to filter it, too.

Eric



From: [Matthew Webb](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Re: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:53:01 PM

Folks,

To put it concisely - NO. Spam filters are there for a reason and that includes any political campaign I have not expressly requested to receive information from.

Regards,

Matthew Webb

From: [Chris Bridgham](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 4:42:45 PM

To whom it may concern,

In regards to Google LLC's proposal to allow verified political messaging to bypass SPAM filters, my private wish is for this to not be approved.

However, in reading through Google's proposal, I must conclude that Congress' desire, though not codified into law, could be favorable to the AO. Previous communications from political campaigns have been allowed by FCC rulemaking formed from the TCPA through land line telephones, as they were exempt as not a commercial solicitation. Although, this has been updated to not include mobile communications.

Conversely, there is considerable debate among the citizenry about privacy rights. This is where I have to argue against the AO and appreciate the TCPA update for mobile communications. Google's proposal did not indicate any limits on its bulk solicitation. Is it going to allow the pass-through email to go to all 1.5 billion of its users? Obviously, they would have to find a method to target the political solicitation. What are those methods? Regardless of the method chosen, they are going to use information that has not been specifically authorized by their end users (whether through IP address, user profile information, etc.).

Personally, I am interested in the data collection that Google's AO proposes. My estimate is that the opt-out rate is going to be quite high (>80%). I make this prediction based on voter turnout rates and a comparison between eligible voters and their preparation for voting. Additionally, if that rate holds, the frustration towards Google and the election process will be considerable. As other negative responses to this AO have pointed out, there is considerable risk to Google's business and the election process from their strong opinions on the matter.

Finally, I would like to point out that if the bulk solicitation is untargeted as it should be, there could be upwards of 4,000 emails from candidates (using the FEC candidate .csv file for 2021-2022). Expecting the end user to opt-out of that many emails is unreasonable.

I hope this discussion is useful for the decision making process. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Chris Bridgham



From: [Jeff Stern](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:04:27 PM

No, just no. No more Spam, no more unsolicited texts from campaigns,
no more unsolicited email from campaigns no more ANYTHING from campaigns.

--jeff stern



From: [Paul Ward](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 5:53:22 PM

Not only do I not want political emails to bypass spam filters or settings, I want an easy way to permanently opt-out of physical political mailers as well. They're a waste of time, money, and paper and they all go straight into the recycling.

Paul Ward



From: [Brian Meadors](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment on AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:25:18 PM

Please do not allow political emails to bypass spam filters. Not only would that exemption be an obnoxious intrusion, it also would constitute a donation in kind.

1. Spam is spam. Unless I specifically opt-in to an email list, I don't want it.
2. Bypassing a filter is a service. The fact that the bypass would be nonpartisan is irrelevant. Lots of companies donate to both parties; that fact doesn't make their activities non-donations. Similarly, Google rendering a service to all political ads is still a service, ergo, still a donation in kind.

Brian Meadors

From: [Adam Rothman](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment on Google's request for opinion on political email pilot program
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 5:23:08 PM

To whom it may concern at the FEC,

Google is asking for the FEC's opinion on whether political campaign emails should be allowed to bypass Gmail spam filters.

I cannot stress enough how strongly opposed to this I am. My physical mailbox is already full to bursting with unwanted mail, for which I did not sign up. Please do not allow the same thing to happen to my email inbox.

Thank you,
Adam Rothman

From: [F.M](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment to Google's Request for Opinion on Pilot Program
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 4:46:01 PM

Dear FEC,

Google is asking for the FEC's opinion on whether Google can institute a pilot program which allows the email sent to Gmail users from political candidates and campaigns to bypass Google's spam filters, and instead be delivered directly to their users' inboxes, allowing their users to determine whether or not they consider the email to be spam.

Both as a long-time Google (Gmail) user as well as a voting citizen in this country, I plead with you not to allow unsolicited political emails to be sent to Gmail users. I really don't need another way for politicians to fill in my mail box and inbox with spam. Politician's mail are already so pervasive, I much rather they keep as is (since I can't get rid of them) than allowing them more freedom to inundate me with unsolicited correspondence.

I can't see any benefit to the public, and specially Google users, to allow this to take place. Instead, in my opinion, it poses security risks, it abuses the user's privacy, and opens the door for further foreign influence in our country's elections and more spam.

Please don't let this happen,
Kindest regards,
Fernanda Morrison

From: [Sally Vandershaf](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: do NOT let political BS get around spam filters.
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:46:27 PM

According to this, there is a plan to wreck my gmail by allowing political spam through. Political spam is spam, completely the same as viagra ads. Don't let any of that crap through. If I want it, I'll proactively subscribe. Otherwise, leave me ALONE!

Sally Vandershaf

From: [John Angevine](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google and Junk Email filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:06:13 PM

I believe that all email, and particularly those related to politics, should be eligible to be considered as junk mail if an individual so desires.

John Angevine

From: [Elaine Bayus](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google and political spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 5:13:31 PM

Please don't grant Google's request to allow political emails not be subject to spam filters. It's a big enough pain to delete all that trash from the Promotions file, without having it clutter up the Primary inbox as well. Please, please spare us. Thank you.

From: [Andrea Frediani](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google Political Email Spam Plan
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:07:18 PM

I respectfully request that the commission decline Google's request to permit political email to bypass spam filters.

- 1) This essentially forces users to endure and deal with messages they have already actively expressed their opposition to seeing by setting filtering rules to begin with.
- 2) Many of these emails contain both inadvertent and intentionally inaccurate claims and information. The effect of this information on society and the political arena has never been more prevalent than they are now and the damage it is causing our country and communities is immeasurable.
- 3) It is literally impossible that Google can thoroughly or accurately vet these various emails to determine their origin or authenticity thus throwing the doors wide open to undue influence, deception, foreign interference, special interest lobbying direct to voters, fraud, voter intimidation, and many more undesirable impacts.
- 4) Access to voters is an invaluable tool for politicians and their supporters. Google providing that access free of charge constitutes a contribution to the campaign, the politician, and any essentially a bribe to their offices or committees once election is complete. Providing this access for a fee belies any claims they might make of requesting the change in the "public interest".
- 5) Google's email offerings provide the ability for the users to set rules to filter, sort, and action emails in the way that most suits their needs. Google has provided settings that create individual folders and prebuilt filters used to automatically review, sort, and store to store emails coming in to the user mailbox. Creation of a "political" category to be utilized for this same purpose should be a sufficient compromise between their desires and the users' needs.

For these reasons and more I implore you to deny this request from Google and any similar requests received by Google or other entities in the future.

Respectfully,
Andrea Frediani
Killeen, Texas

From: [Bill Love](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google Political Emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:04:03 PM

Do NOT allow Google direct access to my primary inbox with political emails. They make enough money and I don't want the hassle.

From: [Bill Love](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google political filter
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:00:38 PM

Do NOT allow Google direct access to my primary inbox with political emails. They make enough money and I don't want the hassle.

From: [Leila Kipp](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google proposal
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 5:00:16 PM

Please reject Google's proposal to allow political emails to evade spam filters. The onslaught of political fundraising emails demeans the entire process and preys on the elderly and unsophisticated. If one wants to contribute to a campaign, it's a single internet search to do so.

Thank you,

Leila Kipp



From: [Monica Cavallaro](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google request of FEC to allow political emails avoid spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 4:12:17 PM

Per a post in Numlock News (7-14-22) regarding Google's request of the FEC:
Please reject Google's request to inundate every primary email user with unwanted political emails!
We are already stuck with political texts constantly arriving and existing political emails that make it through our filters. I must get 25 – 75 unwanted texts and emails daily which is a huge waste of time on deleting and quite frustrating.

Regards,
Monica Cavallaro

Per Numlock News

Google sent a request to the FEC this month that asked for a green light on a program that would essentially let it rip when it comes to political emails, which would no longer be susceptible to spam filters following the proposed move and get a direct line to primary inboxes. The commenting period on the proposal remains ongoing, and believe it or not people sure seem to oppose the firehose of political spam: Of just **48 comments submitted, only two support Google's move**. Per *Insider**, the commenting period ends July 16, so if you have any thoughts don't hesitate to

From: [Pamela Comeau](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's Political Emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 5:19:54 PM

Please do not let this happen.

Absolutely NO! I do not want ONE email regarding politics. We have enough spam, ads, and stress in our everyday lives.

Googles misrepresentation of other apps that tout "we take your privacy serious" is laughable. I do not need another dishonest Google sham.

If politicians want to get the word out, they can set up Zoom, Teams, Town Hall, YouTube meetings, I do not want them in my inbox.

I can't imagine the ire I'd have if I saw one piece of political email, even if it was from my party.

Count me out.

Thanks,
Pam Comeau

From: [Davidson Loehr](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's spam filter removal
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 5:42:43 PM

No! Please stop the liberals' ownership of Google from selling elections to the most unprincipled and desperate.
Keep the spam filters in place!

Davidson Loehr

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Evelyn Hampton](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No to Google's proposal
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 5:30:27 PM

I strongly oppose Google's request to allow political emails to go directly to inboxes. I get enough spam and junk mail, phone calls, and emails and don't want more, particularly of a political nature.

Thank you,
Evelyn Hampton

From: [Dan Comden](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No unsolicited political email
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 4:28:03 PM

PLEASE do not allow political campaigns to bypass spam filters. All political email needs to be opt-in.

It's already terrible that I cannot avoid spam phone calls from politicians.

This will encourage additional apathy, distrust, and disengagement from citizens. It's an absolutely TERRIBLE idea.

I have elderly relatives that already get sensational and fear-mongering messages from politicians. None of us need more of this spam in our lives.

Please do not allow this unhinged plan to move forward.

Sincerely,
Dan Comden

From: [Benjamin Bullock](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:58:53 PM

I say No to Google and political emails. Please. No.

From: [Theresa Young](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Please do NOT allow Gmail political spam filter bypass
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:03:05 PM

Hello,

I just learned of the Google spam filter case. For the love of all things holy, please do not allow it. We are involuntarily bombarded with political messages all day long. The last thing we need is unwanted political messages in our email.

Thank you,

Theresa Young

From: [Jay Barnes](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Polictal Ad Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 5:04:34 PM

A resounding vote to squash any attempt for political entities to side swipe span folders and making it legal to send political fodder directly to our emails. No!

From: [Ray Cantrell](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: political email
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 4:37:26 PM

No more please. I get too much now.

Ray Cantrell

From: [Deb G](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 4:42:10 PM

No! I don't want political emails!

Deb Geelsdottir

From: [Bonnie Wilcox](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political emails/Spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:15:00 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

Please do not allow a green light for political emails to "pass" my spam filters. I reserve the right to deny access to my inbox based on my personal preferences, and, once I've decided I don't want to hear from a party and/or candidate, I want the spam function to take these emails.

Sincerely,

Bonnie L. Wilcox



From: [Stephen Goulet](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:11:51 PM

DON'T DO IT! SPAM IS SPAM NO MATTER WHAT THE SUBJECT. A TERRIBLE IDEA!

Thanks
Stephen Goulet

From: [Carl Dietz](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Regarding Google's Proposal to Allow Political Emails through Spam Filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:31:33 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing regarding Google's proposal to the FEC to allow political messages through spam filters, directly to consumers. I emphatically oppose the proposal and strongly recommend that the FEC reject it.

Should American voters want communication from candidates, they have a plethora of opportunities to access them. Candidates can broadcast their messages through social media to a nationwide audience effectively for free, and should voters want direct contact from a candidate, party, or PAC, the voter can request it.

The real problem is that voters are awash in messaging from candidates, and it is virtually impossible to avoid. Candidates and PACs spam voters incessantly, in a way that would be completely illegal if they were for-profit corporations. This does not make their actions any less self-interested. Instead of providing a route for candidates to harass voters even more, the FEC should force campaigns to disclose when they are selling or buying voters' personal information. If a voter does not want his or her information traded on, they should have a route to prevent this, and the FEC should punish campaigns that don't respect these wishes.

The vast amount of political messaging in America does not engender political engagement; it does quite the opposite. It instead engenders cynicism and disgust amongst the electorate, making modern politics even more vicious and toxic every year. If the FEC won't fix this problem, it should at least not contribute further to it.

Sincerely yours,

Carl F. Dietz

From: [T. Allen](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Spam Filters and Social Media
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:25:04 PM

First Amendment concerns notwithstanding, I believe recent history provides ample evidence that Social Media is a threat to American democracy.

Until protections are in place to insure American are not exposed to misinformation and disinformation on Social Media platforms, no additional access should be allowed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anthony Allen

From: Paul Coan
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:06:11 PM

I write today to speak AGAINST allowing Google to allow political emails to bypass the spam filters in Gmail. My Gmail account is one of the few areas of my interactions on-line where political messages are rare. All other areas on-line including browsing, social media, and even gaming have largely descended into a pit of tribalism.

Freedom of speech allows anyone to say almost anything, but it does NOT force anyone to listen. Allowing political spam to pass the filters is a long ugly step towards making me listen to this speech.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Paul S Coan
Muncie, IN 47305

From: James Lee
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:37:55 AM

The idea of allowing politicians to bypass spam filters is horrifying. If you don't want to be in my spam folder, don't spam me. It's really that simple.

It boggles the mind that anyone, including the folks at Google, thinks that this is a good idea.

It's a terrible idea. Please deny the request.

Regards,
James Lee

From: sk
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Ao 2022-14 | Fec
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 8:37:40 PM

In 76 years I have never responded to any proposed .gov change before.

Today I must recommend NO to Ao2022-14.

Allowing political email to bypass spam filters deserves unparalleled rebuke.

S. Kimberling

From: John Biasatti
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 google lax
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:47:35 PM

Good God, no! Aren't we already taxed enough on our time and attention without having to fend off shill requests from useless politicians? If this is allowed, I will go to the immense trouble of switching emails. It will be worth it just to send the middle finger to Google for doing this.

From: Gmail
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 GOOGLE LLC
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:17:11 AM

I implore the commission to reject the request. We citizens are already assailed with traditional mail and advertising relating to political campaigns. Significant time is wasted daily dealing with unwanted email and phone calls. Requiring us to wade through unfiltered additional email encroaches on the 8th amendment “nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted”

From: Dennis Leonard
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:29:18 AM

I request that you deny Google's request to allow campaign ads to go through to my inbox. I already get this random crap from people who are not even in my state nor anyone I followed in the past, but at least it's under the sub tab of promotion sometimes or outright blocked in my spam which is even better.

I want the spam blocker to keep doing it's job which is: Did I specifically sign up for this stuff? NO! Then move to > BLOCKED

- Dennis Leonard

From: Bobby Mueller
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment on political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:58:57 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

Please DO NOT allow political committees to bypass spam filters. They should not get special treatment. I don't want their emails in my primary inbox. It would make Gmail worse.

Thank you,

Robert Mueller

From: Tranbonium
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Do not allow email providers to force political emails to get through spam filtering
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:45:17 PM

Do not allow email providers to force political emails to get through spam filtering.

Thanks.

From: Alex Rossbach
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Do not allow political emails to bypass Gmail spam filters
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 9:35:48 PM

Please do not allow political campaign emails to bypass Gmail spam filters. That opens the door for any sort of tangentially related "political" campaign email to bypass spam and inundate users. I can't stress how badly I don't want random political emails to be in my email inbox.

--

-Alex Rossbach

From: Eric Muller
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Don't allow google to bypass spam filters for politicians
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:49:01 PM

This is a terrible idea, it will result in a flood of unwanted email to me and others. Please don't allow Google to do this.

~EJM

From: Pat Blackard
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Don't allow Google to exempt politicians from spam suppression
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:09:32 AM

Please do not allow Google to make emails from authorized candidate committees, political party committees and leadership political action committees registered with the FEC exempt from spam detection.

Patrick Blackard
round Rock, Texas

From: Noel Gorelick
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Don't allow political email to bypass spam filtering
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:45:34 AM

I am writing to strongly object to the plan to allow political emails should to bypass spam filtering. I think this is a very bad idea. Many political emails are already full of gross misstatements, exaggerations and lies. I'm very happy that my email provider is able to filter these for me.

From: Mark McHugh
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Don't allow political emails to bypass spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:05:22 PM

Dear FEC,

I am writing in response to the commenting period about allowing political emails to bypass spam filters. Please do not allow Google or others to let political emails bypass spam filters. I receive some political emails but I subscribe to them and I also often get many, many unwanted political emails. If the FEC allows Google to send political emails without spam filtering my email in-box will be inundated with tons of garbage emails. Please protect my privacy and do not give Google this privilege of sending political emails that bypass spam filters.

Thank you for your service.

With Regards,



From: Sean McCullough
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Gmail Politics
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:22:00 AM

We get enough political bullshit through social media, unsolicited phone calls, and our televisions. Please let us keep one place a little clean from the waves of lies that everyone is spouting. Don't let Google turn the firehose on our inboxes. --

Sean McCullough

From: Roger Holt
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: google and bypass for political spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 4:16:30 PM

Do not allow politicians a free pass to my email inbox.

They are white supremacists, QAon followers, insurrectionists, and MAGA faithful.

They are Republicans.

It's already a tragedy that they're allowed to bypass the government "Do not call list" and invade my privacy via my phone.

From: Bill
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google and Political Emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:03:22 PM

Do NOT allow Google direct access to my primary inbox with political emails. They make enough money and I don't want the hassle.

From: Imai Aiu
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google filter on political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 5:12:17 PM

Please don't let the google filter on political emails for gmail be removed. There's enough spam.

--

- Imai

From: John Drummond
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google Political E-mailProposal
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:58:24 AM

Please do not approve Google's proposal to allow political spam e-mail to go to everyone's mailboxes. Spam is overwhelming now. I am sick of political propaganda and do not wish to be even more overwhelmed by political ads.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Michael McDermot
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google political filter
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:10:49 PM

As a long time Google ecosystem user I ask you to NOT allow Google to relax political ad filtering. If anything it should be an Opt-In choice if you would like to receive unsolicited political advertising.

Mike McDermot

From: Fredy Gerber
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google request for political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:46:45 AM

Hello,

I strongly oppose google's request and urge you to deny it.

No unsolicited emails in my inbox!

Thank you

--

Regards, Fred Sent from my mobile

From: Steve Fleury
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google spam filter
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:43:30 PM

Please do not allow Google to remove spam filters on political ads. I already get multiple texts a day, calls and seemingly upended ads on apps and TV

Thanks

From: Huck Kennedy
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:53:31 PM

Please do not allow Google to exempt political ads from spam filters, thank you!

Huck Kennedy
Orange, CA

From: Betty Hale
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google spam filters
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 6:26:01 PM

Please do not allow Google to allow political committees to bypass spam filters in gmail. If I want to know about a politician I will do an online search. I don't want their propaganda shoved down my throat in an email.

Thank you.

From: Jordan Rich
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's proposed pilot program
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:52:23 AM

Hello,

I am completely against the idea of unsolicited political emails being exempt from the spam filters. It is the definition of spam and I don't want it regardless of the party, candidate, and whatever their views and policies are.

Jordan Rich

From: Matthew Schallan
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: I oppose Google's request to allow political spam to bypass Gmail's filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 4:33:08 PM

I will stop using their service entirely if they ram this through!

From: James Perryman
To: [AQ](#)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:20:27 PM

Please stop all unsolicited political emails. All they do is fuel my hate for the Republican party.

From: Ashlei Watson
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No Political Emails!
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:02:45 AM

Please do not remove the spam locker on these emails. I can't stand all the calls, mail, signage, etc. I am inundated with each election cycle.

Thank you.

From: fruck wheeled
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: NO political spam filter bypass
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:41:18 PM

This is to register my complete and unequivocal condemnation of any exemption to or weakening of spam filters in any way whatsoever for political messages and recommendation to refuse to take any action weakening any spam filters in any way whatsoever of any company or other entity whatsoever regarding political messages from any source whatsoever.

Seriously, that political spam filter bypass is a completely stupid and corrupt bunch of shit that would only serve to make the United States of America weaker and less livable, don't do it, kill it in the cradle.

Thank you

Sincerely
Curtis F. Smith

From: Gigi D
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No to gmail spam mail change
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:12:30 PM

No, I do not want gmail to allow political emails. We don't need anymore crap emails, we have enough to deal with without cramming politics down our throats via email.

No!
No!
No!
No!
No!

Thanks,

Chris

From: davewithabeard
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No, just no
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:54:30 AM

No to political emails going to primary folders. The spam calls are enough. Straight away to the spam folders with these ads...

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

From: Jonathan Dubman
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Opposing Google's request to the FEC
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 10:52:35 PM

RE: Advisory Opinion Request (Google LLC), pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30108 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971

I oppose Google's request to exempt certain political emails from normal spam filtering. The set of political candidates and campaigns who would be eligible for this program in the US in this era (2022) includes a large number of individuals already known to be untrustworthy, and groups thereof, from whom I would consider any online communication whatsoever to be dangerous and potentially traumatizing. If I see political emails from these people or groups slipping through the filters, I will avoid Gmail, even at my own personal inconvenience.

Jonathan Dubman
Seattle, WA

From: David Swanson
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: pilot program that would allow political committees to bypass spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 5:41:09 PM

I am very much opposed to Google's planed pilot to have political email bypass spam filters. Political email shouldn't get a free pass. If it's unsolicited it's spam no matter the origin.

D Swanson

From: Ben Kolstad
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Please DO NOT allow emails from political committees to bypass spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:46:00 AM

Google's proposal is horrible. Please do not exempt emails from political committees from spam filters. I get enough such junk that makes it past the spam filters. It's horrible, and it wastes precious time.

Thank you.

Ben Kolstad
Boca Raton, FL

From: L. Schallan
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Email Messages and Spam Filtering
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 5:32:10 PM

Hello, I would like to add my comments to those you have been receiving regarding Google's request to remove spam filters from political email messages. I strongly oppose this! Political spam is still spam and is unwanted by the receiver. There is no reason to give it a fast track to my already clogged email account.

If I am interested in receiving messages from a political candidate, campaign, or party, I will sign up for mailings. This issue boils down to free choice vs. harassment.

I appreciate the opportunity to register my opinion on this matter.

Linda Schallan

From: Nova Doc
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Emails from Google
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:06:23 PM

Do NOT allow Google direct access to my primary inbox with political emails. I don't have Facebook because i dont want to read bullshit forced infront of me. They make enough money.

From: Luanna Grow
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political emails ruling
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:54:43 AM

Please do not approve Google's request to allow political emails to avoid being stopped by spam filters. It should be my choice

Luanna Grow
portland, or

From: Todd Zimmerman
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: political messaging
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 2:11:19 PM

The day Gmail allows unsolicited political messages to bypass my SPAM filter is the day I stop using Gmail and switch to a competitor.

I can't believe this is even under consideration.

From: Dave Miller
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 5:29:16 PM

As a consumer I should have the right to decide what email I receive in my inbox and what I send to my spam folder. Since the 2016 election season I have filled the allowed number of emails per filter four times and that does not include the number of emails that I have just marked as spam and hope they don't come in again. Even marking emails as spam is not completely successful since now many of the emails I have reported as spam now come into my forums box. Having said that, by allowing Google to allow all political emails to come into my inbox I run the possibility that I will miss an email that I actually need to see. It is bad enough that I get 10-20 texts a day from both political parties seeking money. I don't need to get 10-20 emails each day (and that number will go up considerably as it gets closer to November). Political emails are spam unless I specifically sign up for an email.

David Miller


From: Donna Brown
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Politican access to Google gmail without spam detection
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 4:51:19 PM

Dear FCC,

Under no circumstance should Google be allowed to let candidate committees, political party committees, and leadership political action committees avoid spam detection that I have implemented to avoid such unsolicited spam to my inbox. Such committees are not authorized by me to send any solicitations to me and therefore are spam whether they are affiliated with a candidate I support or not. No such spam should be allowed to avoid the spam filters I want Google to have in place on my behalf or those I have implemented myself.

Thank you for the opportunity to make you aware of my feelings on this matter. We have become a nation that no longer answers our door bells, reads our emails or answers our phones because we are constantly inundated with an avalanche of unwanted solicitation. Enough is enough. I don't want more!!!!

Sincerely,
Donna Brown
DeKalb, IL

From: Andrew Miller
To: [AO](#)
Subject: RE: AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:51:25 AM

Email is for personal use and I personally do not sign up for email blasts from political parties to inundate me with politically motivated messages.

The only reason this is coming up as an issue is because it costs next to nothing to send an email whereas to actually mail me via USPS, it entails costs for printing, mailing, bulk sender status and address lists.

Do not, I repeat, do NOT try to force my email provider (Google, Microsoft, Apple, et al) to disable the protections on my inbox to force me to see the sender and subject line of an email I'm going to delete anyway.

If I want an email of a political nature, I know how to make it so I receive such communications and I don't need the FEC trying to make that decision for me.

Regards,
Andrew Miller

From: Matthew Briggs
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Reject Google's political emails request
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:56:20 AM

To whom it may concern,

Please deny the request from Google and Gmail and make it more difficult to filter out political ads from my inbox. These campaigns are impossible to get away from. When I unsubscribe from one candidate's spam, they sell my information to two others. I've lived in central Texas for 12 years, but I somehow get requests for donations from congressional races in Ohio, state senate races in Florida, and from a district attorney candidate in Oregon.

After donating to one family friend's campaign close to 6 years ago, I've entered a spiraling vortex of folks trying to piss me off and take my money every single day. I have to have options to protect myself from this onslaught. Please do not make it more difficult to do so.

Matthew Briggs

From: Tom Jackson
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Spam filtering Gmail political messaging
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:52:37 PM

NO - there is not a substantive good reason to except political messaging.

This would be just as wrong as it was for politicians to except themselves from spam phone calling.

From: Michele Morgan
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Spam filters.
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 3:52:25 PM

Please do not remove spam filters on political camoaigh material. We need less disinformation and toxic rhetoric in political messages.

From: [Mark Fickett](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Allowing Google to exempt political emails from spam filtering would be a huge favor to politicians, disservice to consumers
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:24:56 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I urge you not to allow Google to make exceptions in spam filtering for political groups.

I believe one major issue is whether this would constitute Google giving something of value to political entities. It definitely would. Companies spend huge budgets on marketing, and a major avenue is direct email campaigns. If PACs (for example) could get Google to ensure their messages would end up in people's inboxes, that would obviously be very valuable to them.

And as a consumer, I am bombarded by many political emails. Some from groups I have once donated to, some I've never contacted, some I've attempted to unsubscribe from or never signed up for emails from. The bulk of this is spam, taking up my time and attention. So giving some groups the ability to bypass spam filters is something I vehemently do not want. (To Google's detriment, it might be enough of a problem for me to look for another service.)

Thanks for your consideration,
Mark F

From: [Kevin Carlyle](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) comment
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:59:54 PM

I am a paid customer of Google's premium workspace service. I will change email services if this change is allowed to go into place and Google implements what they propose.

That's how much I hate the idea of anyone allowing unsolicited political spam through.

Unsolicited texting from politicians and political groups is bad enough, it should be banned too. Absolutely nothing unsolicited should be allowed as a matter of course.

Politicians should be required to gain new authorization to email after a campaign is over at that. Email lists shouldn't be perpetual and should be opt in only for the duration of the campaign and then purged.

From: [William Cohen](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Friday, July 15, 2022 7:48:42 AM

Dear FEC,

Allowing any messaging *carte blanche* passes through spam filters will do to email what the rise of robo-calling has done to phones and voicemail. Currently, political groups must use caution when sending email messages: if enough users receive a message they do not want and mark it as spam, all spam filters will start automatically flagging emails from that sender as spam. This forces senders to be circumspect with who they send messages to, providing some semblance of accuracy in their messaging. Allowing any category to bypass spam filters will remove any checks on their mailing lists. This will open the flood gates for unmitigated spamming, flooding users' email addresses with unwanted emails. Aside from the sheer inconvenience, now is not the time to turn Americans away from political involvement and engagement, which a fire hose of untargeted, irrelevant communication would certainly do. You must say no to this. You have a duty to say no to this.

Thank you for your circumspection,
Will Cohen

From: [John Lianoglou](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 feedback
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:12:06 PM

Simply wishing to express that I do NOT want to see ANY special SPAM filter pass-throughs awarded to any political email outlets of any party.

If anything, too many of these bloody things are making it through as it is.

jL

From: [Damien Weiss](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Friday, July 15, 2022 8:32:03 AM

Good. Lord. How is this even a question or debate? 99.99% of all political messages qualify as spam:

- * They're unsolicited
- * They're for products that I want nothing to do with
- * I delete them as quickly as I can if they escape the spam filters

If politicians and wanna-be politicians don't like their emails getting nailed by my spam filter, then may I kindly suggest that stop writing emails that LOOK EXACTLY LIKE SPAM.

Politicians have the right to be heard, and I support that. However, I have the right to NOT LISTEN TO THEIR CRAP. And I support that right just a little bit more.

Thank you,
Damien Weiss
7th CD, Virginia

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:37:44 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am strongly opposed to Google Inc's proposal AO 2022-14, to allow a special category for political mail to bypass spam filters. I receive political mail from a variety of candidates across the political spectrum. Nearly all of them — regardless of partisan affiliation — carry many of the hallmarks of spam email. Namely they contain:

- Deceptive from addresses and sender information, to make the emails appear as if they are from an individual rather than an organization
- Subject lines that do not pertain to the content of the message, but appear as if they were typed by a close friend — attempting to induce a click
- Content that creates an action imperative, a dark pattern to ensure the reader of an email will act quickly and without critical thought
- Mass volume, attempting to induce success through overwhelming might
- Constant re-engagement or re-selling of contact lists despite multiple attempts to unsubscribe

These tactics make it nearly impossible to maintain a well-ordered inbox during election season, which now seems to be constant. This email is spam and rightly gets filtered by common-sense spam filters designed to protect my time.

Politicians do not deserve special treatment in my inbox. They have not shown that they will use that privilege wisely.

Sincerely,
Samuel Gross

From: [Garry Jaffe](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Campaign emails to bypass spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:56:55 PM

NO, No, No!

I never want to see one goddam campaign email from anyone.

It's bad enough they bypass the Do Not Call list & come with some of the weirdest Caller ID signatures ever seen.

From: [Michael Deakin](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment on AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:45:17 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am staunchly opposed to the proposal that political emails should be exempt from spam filters. This is demonstrably exploitable (see the many campaigns requesting donations in recent years without even any methodology to attempt to follow through) and deeply problematic given the proliferation of politically charged misinformation.

There are two primary arguments I've seen for this kind of exemption:

1. Violations of people's Freedom of Speech
2. Unwarranted biases in the algorithms used

Claims that it violates people's Freedom of Speech are a conflation with the related but not guaranteed ability to reach other people. Platforms with which to reach people have always been and should remain a privilege that come with responsibility. People who use a platform for political speech have the responsibility to be accurate and not misleading; two qualities which lead to emails being marked as spam. That people and political parties often fail to live up to these responsibilities does not abdicate them; spam filters are one way we hold them to these responsibilities.

Claims of political bias are frankly uninformed about how these filters work, and if they are correct about this bias, they are largely a result of certain groups being less likely to live up to the above responsibilities.

Michael Deakin

From: [Dan Yurman](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Comment on political adds in Google GMAIL
Date: Friday, July 15, 2022 9:13:29 AM

I am opposed to this proposal. It is open to abuse and the agency does not have the resources nor the support of Congress to stop it.

This is a horrible idea and must not be implemented

Dan Yurman



Cleveland, OH

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Don't exempt politics from spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:25:00 PM

I already have to put up with my cell phone getting blasted with text messages for months around campaign season. I get loads of solicitations any time I donate to what I consider a worthy candidate. At least let us continue to exert some amount of control over our inboxes. Whitelisting all political emails is a terrible idea. That'd be like letting children into a candy store and telling parents they're not allowed to say "no" to them.

Thank you.
Dan Young

From: [FEC Public Records](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: FW: No relaxing of spam filters for politics
Date: Friday, July 15, 2022 9:36:54 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Imerman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:25 PM
To: FEC Public Records <pubrec@fec.gov>
Subject: No relaxing of spam filters for politics

The FEc should not allow google to bypass spam filters for political purposes.

The American people get plenty of political mail, calls, emails, texts and ads. We don't need massive amounts of spam emails too.

Lisa Imerman
Waterford, MI
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Robin Lloyd](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google & politics
Date: Friday, July 15, 2022 3:52:34 AM

Clearly Google being allowed to influence our elections will go as well as Facebook's interference in 2016 & 2020. Please Odon't continue to allow diversion & subversion of our political system. There are simply too many highly gullible influenceable people that don't delve deeply enough into situations to make well informed choices from highly biased political influential ads.

Robin Lloyd

Sent from my iPad

From: [Gregg or Joan Havens](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google and political ads/email
Date: Friday, July 15, 2022 9:09:03 AM

I don't want any political emails in my inbox!! This is an invasion of privacy and an unwanted item in my email. let them send junk mail so it costs the idiots something to contact me. No to Google's proposal.

Gregg Havens, Mississippi

From: [John Lockhart](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google letting political email circumvent spam filters.
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:50:40 PM

Simply said, why should political email get special treatment with regard to spam filters?? Consumers should be in charge of what they want filtered out of their inbox. Furthermore, How will you regulate who google picks for this special service? What are the standards? And given that there will be selection/discrimination of "legitimate political committees" how is that not in-kind value donated to that committee? This issue seems fraught, not in the consumer's interest, and I hope you decline their request.

John Lockhart

From: [lisa d. witte](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google needs to keep political spam to itself!
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:29:28 PM

Good evening,

I am completely OPPOSED to Google's request to be allowed to inundate Gmail users with political spam. Even with the restrictions that are currently in place, I see way more political emails than all other kinds *combined*.

Please please please **do not** give Google permission recreate the courtroom scene from Miracle On 34th Street in our inboxes every day. (In case you haven't seen it, they bring in giant sacks of mail and dump one on the bench. LINK: <https://youtu.be/jagJeaLXRRQ>)

Thank you,

Lisa D. Witte
aka "that weird girl"



From: [Mari J Stoddard](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Google special treatment" for political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:38:32 PM

Please do not allow Google to bypass spam filters for political messages.

Thank you.

Mari Stoddard



From: [ERIC HUNTER](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's advisory opinion request 2022-14 to sidestep spam filters for political ads.
Date: Friday, July 15, 2022 3:08:30 AM

Dear FEC:

I oppose the basis for this request. It will waste huge number of hours per year simply deleting them. Moreover, there are plenty of ways for candidates to reach out to us without forcing emails into our inbox.

Please advise against this.

Sincerely,
Eric Hunter

--

Eric Hunter


Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jon Freeland](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:19:20 PM

Please don't let Google send me political emails without the spam filter catching them. Is there no place that is sacred anymore?!?!?

From: [DO NOT ADD TO LISTS \(Ed F.\)](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: NO POLITICAL ADS BYPASSING SPAM FILTERS!
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:25:40 PM

This would be a terrible idea. Just as widespread spam telephoning has severely damaged the usability of the US cell phone system (most young users never answer their cell phone anymore), this would cripple email for many users.

DON'T FORCE EMAIL PROVIDERS TO ALLOW POLITICAL SPAM!

Ed Fischer



From: [Carrie Quast](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No to AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:22:06 PM

Do not let googling, or any email provider allow political emails through Spam filters. Unsolicited email is not okay, and I'd like you to go a step further and not allow candidates to share email lists to other entities, unless it is explicitly stated. Thank you, Carrie Quast

From: [Denise Chenel Daughtry](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Please, no political ads!
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:30:22 PM

I have filters, and software to block unwanted calls and texts for my office phone and cell phone. As it is the Google spam filter for email doesn't get all of them. Got one today from Publisher's Clearing House promising to send me 2.5 million dollars. All I had to do was send my checking account information. My mailbox is full of expensive ads on glossy paper from all sorts of political adventurers for local elections. It's depressing to imagine that we would be subjected to more spam, done cheaply.

Google has great services and I enjoy using many of them. Why this horrible idea? Must be money-based political ads. Can't we have a break from more tedious and unwanted emails?

Please save us.

Thank you.

Denise Chenel Daughtry



From: [Sarah](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: political ads are spam
Date: Friday, July 15, 2022 2:38:57 AM

Hello,

Unsolicited emails are spam. We should have more power over what goes directly into our inbox. Please keep them out.

Thank you.

Sarah Reed


From: [Mark Janett](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political email spam filter
Date: Friday, July 15, 2022 6:53:57 AM

Hello,

I'm writing to state my opinion that political emails should NOT be given the ability to bypass spam filters. In my opinion, they are in the same category as any other type of promotional email and do not provide vital information, such as government emails.

Thanks,
Mark

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:23:10 PM

I get spammed way too much now. The current filters are dubious already. KEEP FILTERS UP AND INCERASE THEM

I have chosen plenty of folks to receive from. Others should back of or be backed off.

From: [Bernadette Armstrong](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political spamming via Google gmail
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:50:47 PM

I just read this:

"Google sent a request to the FEC this month that asked for a green light on a program that would essentially let it rip when it comes to political emails, which would no longer be susceptible to spam filters following the proposed move and get a direct line to primary inboxes"

It hurts to learn that Google hates me this much. Please don't let them do this to me.

Thank you,
An innocent bystander
Bernadette Armstrong

From: [Barts](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: poolitical email
Date: Friday, July 15, 2022 1:33:57 AM

"Both as a long-time Google (Gmail) user as well as a voting citizen in this country, I plead with you not to allow unsolicited political emails to be sent to Gmail users," one commenter wrote on July 12. "There is no conceivable benefit for the user and, instead, poses security risks, abuses to their privacy, and opens the door for further foreign influence in our country's elections."

Vaughn Bishop



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Kimbo Mundy](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Re: AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:47:29 PM

Please deny Advisory Opinion Request 2022-14 by Google to permit spam on its platform by federally registered political committees.

I don't want anyone bypassing spam filtering, especially politicians. If their emails are so spammy that they set off the filters, then shame on them.

Sincerely,
Kimbo Mundy
87122

From: [Skylar Chan](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Reject Google's demand to allow political spam in Gmail inboxes
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:16:53 PM

Dear FEC,

I am a student at the University of Maryland.

Some of the other public responses have noted that spam emails of any kind will increase the user's risk of running malware or falling for a phishing attack. I agree with this. Allowing political spam emails will decrease email security. This is unwise, especially when there have been several large-scale and high-profile leaks resulting from phishing.

The introduction of political spam emails in Gmail will also be difficult to avoid:

1. You could choose not to read any of the emails, but then they will waste space in the inbox. In addition, since many email ads contain tracking pixels it is likely that political spam will too, so any organization that sends you political spam will know whether or not you chose to read an email and start building a data profile on you.
2. You could go through and manually delete all the political spam emails, but that will be tedious.
3. You could create a spam filter to delete them automatically, but you risk deleting an actually important email, as with any spam filter.
4. Some commenters have suggested that they will move to another email service. But I believe that it will simply open the door for other providers such as Microsoft Outlook and Yahoo to ask for permission to allow political spam emails to enter their inboxes, so the problem will spread. Furthermore, changing emails can be a difficult process, and there will be users who cannot afford to make that switch.
5. You could self-host your own private email server instead of using Gmail, but it's a difficult and risky investment since the user must now be responsible for their email security.

Even if this was opt-in and disabled by default, Google and Gmail do not need to help the user discover more political organizations. It is easy to find political organizations and news online on social media or internet search. You can open your web browser and there might be political news on the default home page. Even the start menu on Windows computers will show political news if you don't turn it off!

There is no good reason for Google to put political spam emails in the inbox, and no good reason for FEC to allow Google to do so. I hope that the FEC will reject Google's demands.

Sincerely,
Spencer

From: [Steve Yakes](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Spam filters for political email
Date: Friday, July 15, 2022 12:50:24 AM

FEC members,

I, for one, would very much prefer to keep political email subject to spam filters. I do my own research and decide who and what I want to support without the constant bombardment of repetitious email. Keeping spam filters effective for political emails would spare me from a daily "deletion fest" for unneeded and unwanted political.

Thank you for you kind attention,
Steven A. Yakes

