



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

Text of Vice Chair Ann M. Ravel's Letter to the Editor of *The Wall Street Journal*

November 5, 2014

Editor
The Wall Street Journal
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

To the Editor:

“Targeting Political Speech for the Next Election” (op-ed, Nov. 5) by Ronald Rotunda warns that I have a dangerous plan to impose regulations on Internet political speech allowing world dictators a justification for their own censorship. This is a distorted mischaracterization of my Oct. 24 public statement (<http://eqs.fec.gov/eqsdocsMUR/14044363872.pdf>).

Here's the reality: In an era of microtargeting, digital currency, mobile advertising and online fundraising, the Federal Election Commission's rules still refer to microfilm and telegrams. The FEC is woefully out of step with technological innovations rapidly changing politics and campaign finance.

As I made plain in my statement, I want to encourage the FEC to begin opening a new dialogue, listening to outside experts and gathering a broad range of views about new and emerging technologies. That's not censorship, as some alarmists have shrieked. It's the opposite. I want to hear from the public so the FEC can be better informed when it makes policy decisions on issues with long-lasting consequences. This is what responsible policy makers are supposed to do.

Ann M. Ravel
Vice Chair
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