



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20463

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

FROM: Office of the Commission Secretary ^{VFV}

DATE: July 14, 2022

SUBJECT: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) 215 individual comments

Attached are 215 individual comments on AO 2022-14 (Google LLC).

Attachment

RECEIVED

By Office of the Commission Secretary at 3:04 pm, Jul 14, 2022

From: Franklin Yonkers
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Allowing unfiltered political email
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 10:17:43 PM

Absolutely anything un requested is SPAM. Enough junk, including phishing attacks and other malware, is also slipping through the cracks.

I'll be giving my US House Representative a call on this. People running for office are already illegally sending text messages.

Filtering unsolicited political messages is not censorship.

Regards,
Frank Yonkers
Apex, North Carolina

Frank's mobile unit

From: Bernard Lidicky
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) - deny the request please
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 1:28:34 AM

Dear FEC,

I recommend denying the request for Google to deliver political emails directly to mailboxes. Their proposal argues it would "improve the user experience of Gmail users". As Gmail user, I disagree with this statement. Getting more messages I consider spam is NOT improving my experience.

Please keep the restrictions as they are.

Best wishes,

Bernard

From: Cypher Dragon
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) - NO to campaign ad pilot program
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 1:22:02 AM

This should be denied on the simple fact that it is not OPT-IN. There is absolutely no reason to force email (or physical mail, but I digress) on anyone that has not explicitly asked for these mails to be delivered. This simple fact should be enough to immediately deny the request on the face of it. However, there are also plenty of privacy and security concerns on top of that fact that only add further weight to make it clear that such ideas are DOA.

Sincerely,
A concerned voting citizen

From: Tabor Wells
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) - No to Campaign ad pilot Program.
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 12:04:41 PM

Hello,

As a person who has had a Gmail account since before public launch of the Gmail service, I have an email address that is frequently used by other people who mistakenly think my email address is theirs.

This results in thousands of messages per month (both political and non-political) that are not intended for me. Many of these are already caught by Google's spam filters but I spend a great deal of time reporting the remainder as spam and/or unsubscribing.

Please do not allow political campaigns to bypass these restrictions.

Political organizations already regularly share email addresses between each other and it's impossible to fully unsubscribe yourself. I've received many political emails over the years that don't even offer an option. Or require you to login to an account not in my control to adjust my email preferences.

My spam blocking is the only thing I have left to keep my mailbox that I've had for well over a decade usable. This proposal will degrade my right to privacy and to choose who I wish to communicate with in my email.

Thank you

Tabor Wells

From: Jamal Qureshi
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 11:59:14 PM

Unsolicited email is spam no matter who is sending it. Deny this.

Jamal Qureshi

From: Michael Musta
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 9:02:47 AM

Request you deny Google's request to do a pilot program where campaign ads go to peoples inboxes and not through their spam filters.

Thank you,
Michael Musta

From: Jack Merwin
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 12:26:05 PM

The application should be denied. When a user creates an email account, there should be a reasonable expectation that any mass mailings that user did not specifically sign up for should be directed to a spam filter until the user whitelists that sender. Allowing unasked-for political mail is in no way deserving of special exemption. This will just create more annoyance for the owners of gmail accounts and provide no benefit to the political discourse of this country.

Best,
Jack Merwin

From: Joe Romeo
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 2:36:32 PM

Absolutely not. This is a terrible idea that would open the floodgates to even more spammy and abusive political advertisements. No.

From: Robert Parker
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 4:08:22 PM

Absolutely not. Spam is spam and political ads are the worst form of spam! Deny this!!!

Robert Parker

From: Robert Parker
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 4:08:24 PM

Absolutely not. Spam is spam and political ads are the worst form of spam! Deny this!!!

Robert Parker

Sr. Information Systems Engineer

Communication and Collaboration Services

Audio Video Engineering

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Dale Price
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 8:07:15 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am a long-term Gmail user (my first account was created with a beta invite when that was the only way to access the service). I would like to voice my opposition to Google's proposal that political emails be allowed to bypass spam filters.

This form of email messaging is often manipulative, dishonest and seeks to exploit people financially, much like everything else that gets sent to spam.

Thank you,

Dale Price

From: Patrick Hogan
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Comment in opposition to AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 9:53:38 AM

Dear Chairman Dickerson:

I respectfully ask that FEC deny AO 2022-14. Already the American public receives a deluged of mail and phone calls from these organizations, letting them fill email inboxes as well is just an unnecessary aggravation. Individuals who wish to receive such messages are already free to sign-up or white list the sender.

Thank you.
Patrick Hogan

From: z93xtg105h
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment on AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 10:06:41 PM

Unsolicited email is spam, regardless of the source. No email should be treated differently just because the sender is registered as a political committee.

While some people have options besides Gmail for receiving email, others do not. As well, granting this request likely would start a trend that leads to political committees and individual politicians to demand such special treatment be required of all email providers.

From: Ben Lewis
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment to Google's Request for Opinion of Pilot Program
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 9:50:14 AM

Dear FEC,

I am writing in response to articles I've seen about Google's proposal to allow political messages to bypass their spam filters. As a concerned citizen, I highly believe that this is a wrong course of action for the committee to approve. At the end of the day, I - and likely the majority of Americans - do **not** want this in our inboxes. That alone should be sufficient reason to reject this, but there are concrete reasons to reject as well.

During election seasons, it seems like every other message in my inbox is filled with emails from various political campaigns. Personally, I have no interest in these unsolicited offers - the very definition of spam. If they were to show up in my inbox, I would just delete them. However, I imagine there are many out there that are vulnerable to the typical subject lines of these emails (e.g. "We need your help now", "donate 5 dollars today", etc.), especially elderly persons who are already vulnerable to scams. While political spending is obviously better than scams, I don't believe that it is necessary to be bombarded on our emails.

While obviously there is a right to free speech, these campaigns won't have their speech limited by being relegated to the spam filter. They are welcome to send flyers through the mail, run advertisements on websites, run TV ads, get billboards, and more. I simply believe that they shouldn't have a right to directly poison the email inbox, a place that nearly everyone checks multiple times a day. The balance needs to be struck between free speech and our ability to have a small measure of respite from the bombardment of political ads, which are already near-constant during election seasons. Additionally, there's a high probability that direct political emails are rife for abuse and scams. While it costs something to send a flyer, the nearly-free email route means that a scammer could set up a purported website for a political figure, send out emails, and steal banking details or funds from the unsuspecting without too many people raising an eyebrow. By imposing a modest cost on the political process, it helps to tamp down some of the spam.

While there are many more arguments to be made, I urge you to deny this request from Google as the terrible idea it is.

Respectfully,
Benjamin Lewis
Beavercreek, Ohio

From: David J
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment to Google's Request for Opinion on Pilot Program
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 3:22:37 PM

Dear FEC,

I recently discovered that Google has been asking for guidance relating to a decision on their part to institute a pilot program wherein political e-mails are allowed to bypass spam filters.

I am wholeheartedly against this as nearly every political e-mail that I have ever received has been unsolicited and unwanted. In a rational world, when I make a political contribution I can choose to receive e-mails from that particular organization or candidate, but what really happens is that my e-mail address is immediately shared to dozens if not hundreds of campaigns in states that I neither reside or have any voting power in. Similarly, registering with a political party at the state level opts me into receiving e-mails from any candidate that the state party chooses to and doesn't give me the power to opt out. This leads to me receiving dozens or even hundreds of unsolicited e-mails and text messages each year.

Adding to the insult of lack of consent is the injury of me having to manually delete or opt-out on a candidate by candidate or program by program basis. This speaks nothing to the fact that the subject lines are often vague or misleading and make the e-mail look like it's part of a scam.

Unsolicited political e-mail is a plague that has been unleashed in recent years. Allowing these political e-mails to bypass spam filters would make it even worse. It's already gotten to the point that I had to create a special e-mail address just for political contributions so that I can ignore all the junk that they send. In addition to preventing google from allowing political e-mails to bypass spam filters I would also like to have more consumer protections against the sale or other dissemination of our e-mail addresses without our consent.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

-David Jansen
San Jose, CA

From: DJ
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google AO for Political SPAM exemption.
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 9:04:09 PM

This is a Horrible idea!
The last thing our country needs is for private citizens to be inundated with political trash.

--

David Swahlan
Albuquerque, NM

From: Doug Bodmann
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google bypassing filters for political emails
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 9:57:17 PM

To whom it may concern:

This is a really dumb idea. If people want political information they can opt on with a variety of means. Why do we think unsolicited e-mail is a good thing? Please reject this idea with prejudice.

Thank you,

Doug bodmann

Sent from my iPad

From: William Furr
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google Election Spam Email Request Feedback
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 7:16:35 AM

Regarding Google's request for an advisory opinion on treatment of political campaign emails in 202214R_1, please advise them to continue treating unsolicited email as unsolicited email i.e. spam.

I receive substantial amounts of unsolicited email and text messages from political campaigns. They seem to be completely without scruple in acquiring and using email addresses and cell phone numbers without the consent or opt-in of the recipients. These messages that were never signed up for are rightly considered spam aka unsolicited email.

Regards,
William Furr
Cambridge, MA

From: Dave
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google failing to mark political email as spam
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 9:46:42 PM

To whom it may concern-

I would like to express my objection to the idea of allowing Google to not mark unsolicited political email as spam. While I'm sure Google would benefit from such a decision financially, this benefit would come at the cost of time, effort, patience, frustration, and possible fraud inflicted on their user base, of which I am one.

One of the chief benefits of Gmail has always been it's stellar spam protection - protecting users against phishing attacks, mailbombs, infected attachments, and other email borne nasties. Opening up a hole like this would increase the number of these kind of attacks against users to their detriment. Appeals for money roll in from all corners of the internet, and if they can be dressed up as politically motivated or related does that make them pass Google's validity test?

The other real danger is that of monitoring - who decides that a given email is a political message or a scam? How long before the first accusation that Google is favoring one party's email over another? (Never mind - that accusation has already been made.) Or isn't giving equal access to all parties, no matter how fringe? Is email from the Proud Boys considered political? How about from the American Nazi Party? Or the American Communist Party? Who decides?

The FCC set up a Do Not Call list as a means of managing telephone spam. While the phone companies have utterly failed in any meaningful effort to comply (see STIR/SHAKEN), the single biggest oversight in that program is that it exempts political calls. And during election season, home phones in battleground states can become nearly unusable as a result. Please don't make the same mistake with email.

The general definition of spam is Unsolicited Commercial Email. While political email may not be considered commercial (though that's debatable, given the quantity that appeals for funds) it is Unsolicited, and usually unwanted. and the more tools we have to prevent the intrusion of unwanted, unneeded and unsolicited interruptions to our lives the better.

Allowing Google to exempt political email from being flagged as spam would be one of the absolute worst decisions that the FEC could make. Please, do not let Google turn Gmail into the spam cesspit that the phone service has become.

Thank you.

Dave Bell

Atascocita TX

From: Carl T.
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google Gmail political emails
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 8:06:28 PM

NO! I control my inbox. I'm not interested in emails that are only meant to sling dung at their opposition. It's a horrible waste of my time. And a huge security risk.

If Google is allowed to let political emails bypass my spam filters. I will promptly be deleting/closing my gmail account.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google request to trial all political email to bypass spam filters
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 5:43:42 PM

The FEC should recommend against Google's request to trial all political email to bypass spam filters.

Allowing exemptions such as this will create more burdens on email users and has the potential to open user's computer systems to malign attacks.

If Google does this other email providers will undoubtedly follow suit.

At minimum, if this is approved there must be a prominent way to opt out of political emails and opt outs and unsubscribes must be enforced.

Thank you,
Bill

From: Hunter
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google spam filter tweeks
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 1:26:50 PM

Political spam is still spam. If you have the power please block Google from allowing people to pay to deliver known spam. The ongoing race to the bottom rhetoric means that Google would be allowing the worst of humanity flood our inboxes. Just say no.

From: h & m
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 9:56:14 AM

Re: Google's request for a pilot program that would allow political committees to bypass spam filters.

Any and all political communications should go straight to trash. I am totally opposed to Google allowing this garbage to get to our inboxes.

Nice day,

Alice

From: BLB
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 4:31:48 PM

Please ... Please ... Please... do not allow political emails to bypass spam filters.

BLB

From: Ray Mond
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 9:50:57 AM

Re: Google's request for a pilot program that would allow political committees to bypass spam filters.

As a Gmail user with 4 Gmail accounts, my strong preference is that any person or entity associated with politics is not able to bypass spam filters. I do not want politically driven lies and innuendos filling my inboxes.

Respectfully yours,

Raymond R.

From: Jon
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's request to ok political spam
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 8:11:58 PM

Please - Do not allow Google to send spam from political parties. I already get too much spam that slips by their filters. I really don't need additional unsolicited crap from the PAC-of-the-Day from any party.

Unless Google wants to pay me \$10 per email then I don't want it, don't need it, won't read it.

If there's a better place to register my thoughts- Please let me know.

Regards

From: Melrose Nolan
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: In regards to Googles request for public opinion on pilot programs
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 5:57:51 PM

I request that the FCC reject Googles offer. We get enough spam and junk mail from political groups and politicians campaigning to fill landfills. Keep that out of my inboxes, entirely. I don't need a bunch of yelling campaigning candidates screaming for money, support, and signage on my property, in my email box. Do the whole nation a favor and leave the internet email systems OUT of the political equation, entirely.

Signed,

Melisa M. Nolan. Resident of Michigan, and active voter.

From: Thoma
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No Political Spam
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 10:31:36 PM

Please do NOT allow unsolicited political email to bypass spam filters.

Email inboxes belong to USERS, not politicians. Spam filters are there to give USERS some control over the flood of unsolicited email so important messages don't get lost amidst all the clutter we didn't ask for.

From: Jim Remington
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: NO to Google's request to allow political emails to bypass SPAM filters
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 10:08:01 PM

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I strongly object to political emails from any party getting special exemption from spam filters, and urge you to deny Google's request to do so.

I made several donations to Democratic candidates during the 2020 election, and immediately started getting emails from all over the country, from candidates whom I had never heard of.

This is SPAM, just like advertising spam. Fortunately, Google's spam filter worked to identify these, and place them automatically in the Spam folder where I can look at them or delete them if I wish.

I do not want political spam to appear in my inbox.

Thank you for considering my point of view.

Respectfully,
Stephen Remington

From: Michael Aulagne
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: political committees to bypass spam filters
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 6:47:15 AM

Please do not allow this.

It's bad enough dealing with spam nonsense now, this will be far far worse than robo calls.

Again please do not allow Google to allow campaign/political emails to bypass spam filters

Thank you!

From: Timothy Linn
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political email IS spam
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 9:42:46 PM

Do not permit Google's scheme to force unsolicited political email on users. It is the very definition of spam.

Thank you.

From: Tom
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political emails should not be exempt from spam filters
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 11:39:04 AM

To whom it may concern,

Google's request to allow political email to be exempt from spam filters is ridiculous. You shouldn't even have to guess what citizens think of this, because you should already know what people think of the same exemption to the National Do Not Call registry. Personally, I have yet to hear anyone (who isn't a politician) who thinks that that exemption is good.

I can understand that it would be a good idea for OFFICIAL government messages, from government agencies, to be exempt from the Do Not Call Registry and from spam filters. But why should any crazy person who creates a political party or campaign be able to call me or email me, with no way for me to prevent it? There is literally an organization of people who think that the EARTH IS FLAT!! I'm fine with them being able to form an organization and continue to be idiots (or rather, I understand that there's no reasonable way to prevent it). But why should they be able to get special permission to spread their idiocy by spamming people?!

I'm not sure what Google's goal is with requesting permission for this hair brained scheme, but I can assure you that it is not something that is desired by us, the people who receive email through Gmail.

Sincerely,
Tom Panning

Gmail user

From: Bill Justesen
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Mail Bypassing Spam Filters at Google
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 7:34:12 PM

The proposal to allow political email to bypass spam filters at Google, or elsewhere, is an abhorrent idea. Hyperbole, misinformation, fear, uncertainty, and doubt are the modus operandi of political advertising. I don't invite that kind of ruffraff into my inbox. Please don't force it there.

Make it a good day. It's your choice.

Regards,
Bill Justesen

From: Ben Funk
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political spam
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 9:48:32 AM

Do not allow Google to whitelist all political messages. It's garbage and I don't want it.

From: Joseph Schaffer
To: [AO](#)
Subject: RE: Advisory Opinion Request (Google LLC)
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 3:33:40 PM

I am 100% not in favor of granting Google or any other email provider permission to allow political emails to bypass my spam filters that I have spent years adding to.

I already deal with plenty of spam and political messaging from all sorts of other avenues. I am entirely not ok with political emails being forced into my inbox.

The first time I see a political email pushed into my inbox bypassing any spam filter is the first time I stop using that email service.

Regards,

--

Joe Schaffer



From: G
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: RE: Google's Request To Allow Political Emails To Bypass Spam Filters
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 12:43:39 AM

Dear Federal Election Commission,

Please deny Google's, or any other email provider, the request to send political emails to my inbox after bypassing spam filters. I don't want to see these for any reason at all.

Frankly, with as much data as is collected through interactions on the internet, email included, it's likely Americans will again see a touch of Cambridge Analytica when these emails go directly to inboxes. We are already a divided people and we don't need to add fuel to this fire. Kindly warn them off their efforts.

Yours truly,

Galen Sinnock
Gresham, OR

From: Kevin Kostolo
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: re: UNSOLICITED POLITICAL EMAIL
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 7:50:46 PM

I DON'T WANT UNSOLICITED POLITICAL EMAIL IN MY GMAIL INBOX!

I DON'T WANT ****ANY**** UNSOLICITED EMAIL IN MY GMAIL INBOX!

From: Willard Seehorn
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: unsolicited political email
Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 7:48:50 PM

While I can understand that unsolicited political email are apt to be sent there should be a way to block them if I don't want to get them. I have no obligation to receive -- no, be forced to receive -- email I do not want to get. If makers of penis enlargement devices tried to claim they have the right to force me to get their email they would be met with scorn.

I should be able to set my email programs to block email I do not wish to receive. The claim that "the bully down the street (Gmail) won't let me do what I want" pales when compared to my right to tell Gmail that I don't want to get the (to me) spam.

I urge you to block the Republican's attempt to force Gmail to deliver their unwanted messages.

Willard Seehorn

From: Amy Roos
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Unsolicited political emails ARE spam!
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 9:41:14 AM

Unsolicited political emails are already a HUGE problem! Please don't encourage their use by allowing Gmail to put them directly into my inbox! Why is it OK to get unsolicited emails from a politician and not from a business?

Amy

--

Amy Roos



[REDACTED]

From: John Watts [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 12:55 AM
To: AO
Subject: AOR 2022-14

To whom it may concern,

Allowing a class of senders to bypass spam protections by default is a radical change in the functionality of gmail, possibly unprecedented among email providers. According to the proposal, users would only be able to protect themselves from receiving these unsolicited emails on a per-sender basis. Therefore, in stark contrast to AO 2018-11 (Microsoft) it does not resemble "other commercial offerings by Microsoft, including varying packages and prices to different types of users, and free workshops and trainings tailored to specific types of customers." This casts doubt on whether it is truly a business decision.

There is every reason to believe Google is not making this decision for business reasons, or at least not the stated ones. The timing makes it appear quite transparently to be a response to the proposed BIAS Emails Act and as a result an attempt to avoid regulation or possibly even to win the favor of the particular party pushing this bill. Enacting this change would enhance the deliverability of one party's emails drastically and disproportionately. Hardly nonpartisan.

The NCSU study <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2203.16743v1.pdf>

<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Farxiv.org%2Fpdf%2F2203.16743v1.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cao%40fec.gov%7C0ea535280eb2467a0cd508da648bf039%7Cee91fa706c9d45e0bb084a355de91010%7C0%7C1%7C637932849509872089%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HHh4KXesQZSCuWP%2F5ODH1r7g0CenIjaieeMa8c7HPiI%3D&reserved=0>> does show evidence that before a user expresses a preference for specific political messages gmail is far more likely to mark one party's messages as spam than another's, which is a concern. However, an alternate explanation could be that those messages share common traits with what a typical user would mark as spam which the system honors until the user expresses a preference. Changing the status quo by disabling spam filtering for an entire class of email with no user choice is a contribution to whichever candidates engage in spam-like behaviors.

To at least reduce the size of the potential partisan contribution from this change to both the status quo and the industry standard application of spam filtering, users should be able to re-apply spam filtering to the entire class of political messages with a single choice, not a per-sender choice.

Thank you for your time and attention,
John W

From: [benjamin barber](#)
To: AO; [REDACTED]
Subject: 2022-14 google request for advisory opinion by the FEC.
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 8:26:02 PM

I have noticed that google and its employees have engaged in a campaign to benefit one candidate over another, such as when Eric Schmidt formed a company called "the groundwork" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Groundwork to assist hillary clinton in her campaign, while simultaneously censoring information in its products critical to hillary clinton which was released by the organization Wikileaks.

Therefore it is my concern that Google will use a set of arbitrary criteria that are open to subjective analysis, to favor some candidates over others based upon their ideology. It may very well be that google would consider its terms of use or "illegal". One example would be the dissemination of information about hunter biden's laptop or ashley biden's diary, which it may consider to be "illegal content", which for example Project Veritas has been accused of "misprision of a felony" for the dissemination of allegedly stolen materials. However these materials present serious issues of public interest, with regards to selling influence over Joe Biden by Hunter Biden.

There are also other ways that the company could portray messages as illegal, for example about the election fraud investigations, of which I had personally located dead voters voting in pennsylvania as "incitement to riot" or "sedition" or "seditious conspiracy". Moreover ideas such as "build the wall" might be portrayed as a violation of international human rights, to deny people asylum in the United States, or messages promoting or banning abortion depending on the state, i.e. conspiracy to violate human rights or conspiracy to engage in abortion.

Moreover I do not see anything about the "program requirements" and while they may not be directly targeting a political party, they may be able to indirectly target a political party based on the ideological content of that party. See e.g. the User Content and Conduct Policy <https://support.google.com/googlecurrents/answer/9680387?hl=en> see also "hate speech policy" <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2801939> see also Election Misinformation policy <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10835034> Cyberbullying policy <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802268>

As such, I believe that these "viewpoint based restrictions of speech" are the most egregious types of censorship under our constitution, and that google's use of these policies while not targeting parties on their face, should be analyzed under a disparate impact analysis, so as to not discriminate against parties and their candidates.

From: [Steve T](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Advisory Opinion (Google LLC)
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 10:42:32 PM

I have zero interest in allowing Google to put their thumb on the scale to bypass Gmail spam filters for political purposes.

That they would ask for this power is astonishing.

I do not want to receive political spam emails of any type whatsoever, and certainly not those that are blessed by our digital overlords.

Steve Topletz

From: [Dave Mrus](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022 14 Google LLC
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 1:47:31 AM

FEC

Appreciate not empowering the intake bypass of spam filters to engage gmail users with political correspondence.

A right to privacy, the ability to define and have some control is important.

It's akin to a "do not call" directory override.

Sincerely,

David Mrus

From: [David Rutan](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) - No to Campaign ad pilot Program.
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 6:43:50 PM

When donating to a politician you end up getting added to countless email lists. Unfortunately that generates a huge number of emails on a daily basis - all with urgent messaging.

For a tech-savvy user it's not terribly difficult to unsubscribe from the many lists you've been unknowingly added to. This is simply annoying.

For the novice and average user their inbox is inundated on a daily basis and it takes a lot of time and mental energy to delete or review each message.

Allowing these messages to circumvent junk filters is a horrible idea.

Until these political campaigns become more responsible with their addition of us on multiple mailing lists I strongly disagree with Google's ad pilot program.

- David Rutan

From: [Chris Guinnup](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) - NO to political spam
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 9:23:43 PM

Dear FEC,

There is little precedent to allow an entire category of actors to bypass provisions against abuse of a service -- which is what spam filtering is at its core. To elaborate, users must be able to meaningfully access DESIRED email correspondence for the service to be useful. Without spam filtering, many inboxes would be buried in a deluge of unwanted spam, which is prolific due to the incredibly low cost of sending emails. If it becomes difficult to find the desired emails, the value of the service sharply declines. Because spam harms the value of email, increases costs for email providers, and often violates the social expectation of consensual correspondence, it is an abuse of the service.

On top of that, to absolve political actors specifically is absurd. Campaigns are known to cross-pollinate mailing lists without explicit consent and send masses of attention-grabbing solicitations -- which sounds a lot like a typical spam operation.

For these reasons and more, please advise Google AGAINST letting political mailings bypass spam filters.

Chris Guinnup
Software Engineer and concerned citizen
Baltimore, MD

From: [Dennis Thompson](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 7:54:06 PM

Please do not allow political email to bypass spam filters. Any idiot can be a politician. The last thing anyone needs is to be getting spam from the likes of Marjorie Taylor Greene. And that would just be the National politicians. If you include all the state, county, and city politicians/candidates gmail could be rendered useless.

If you have to do this please require that the email header require a field clearly marked "political". Then at least everyone can add their own SPAM filter.

From: [Chris Shaffer](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:11:35 AM

Please do not allow Google to let political emails bypass spam filters. Political parties and groups should be subject to the same filtering as everyone else. Don't open the firehose to let spam into our mailboxes!

Chris Shaffer



From: [Kreigh Tomaszewski](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 6:52:35 PM

Google's proposal to allow political marketing to bypass spam filters and be delivered directly to recipient in-baskets is just wrong and should be rejected. Spam is unsolicited messaging that detracts from making email useful, and it does not matter whether the sender is a scammer, a business I have no relationship with, or a politician. Unsolicited email messages have no place on the internet, just like unsolicited phone calls have no place on cellular networks. If I want political messaging I can always sign up for a politician's "newsletter".

As a retired email administrator I know how difficult it can be to filter out spam and malicious messaging. Attempting to carve out an exemption for unsolicited political messages will be technically difficult, open to abuse, and can only decrease the security of the internet. It was wrong to exempt politicians from the rules and restrictions regarding robo-calling, and it would be wrong again to exempt them from the rules regarding spam and unsolicited messaging.

Please say **NO!** to Google's proposal.

Kreigh Tomaszewski

--



From: [Balasubramanian Narasimhan](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 8:29:12 PM

Dear FEC,
Please do not allow Google's request to bypass spam filters. This is an atrociously bad idea that will cause much harm.

Sincerely,
Balasubramanian Narasimhan

From: [Jill Fain Lehman](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:26:01 AM

Unequivocally no, unless and until Google can prove -- in the mathematical sense -- that it will filter out both hate speech and false claims.

From: [William Marshall](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 8:27:34 PM

On the proposal to allow political messaging to bypass SPAM filters. Absolutely no. A thousand times no. Political messaging accounts for a large amount of the spam that is captured in my spam filter on Gmail, and allowing political messaging to bypass that filter would make my Gmail account unusable. This would be doubly true during campaign season, which is effectively about 30 percent of the time, nowadays. I would absolutely leave my Gmail account behind immediately if this were put in place, as would most users, in my estimation. This proposal is one of the worst ideas conceived of by anyone in modern times. No. No. No.

William Marshall

From: [Bethany Geleskie](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AOR 2022-14 Comment
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:50:10 AM

Dear FEC,

I am concerned by Google's request to allow political candidates' emails to bypass spam filters in their Gmail service, and I hope that, ultimately, it will not be approved.

Political emails (and mailers and calls and texts) are already nuisances to which anyone who registers to vote are subject. The very act of registering places a person on these mailing lists automatically, usually without even asking whether the person in question wishes to be added to the list. I, for one, never wished to be added to any politician's mailing list, but as a registered voter I find my phone and mailbox under a constant barrage from political candidates who usually offer hyperbolic assessments of the danger in failing to give money to their campaigns. I would rather not, and while this is not the issue under consideration here, I believe that denying Google's request could act as a starting point to allow a restructuring that requires people to opt in to receiving politicians' communications, rather than finding themselves automatically subject to them by the simple act of being a registered voter.

Thank you for opening this matter up for comment, and for taking the time to read mine.

Sincerely,
Bethany

Bethany Geleskie, MLS
she/her/Ms

From: [Sean Copeland](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment on allowing Google to bypass spam filters for political ads/campaign donations
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:46:44 AM

As an Apple shareholder I am writing to encourage you to allow Google to infuriate its users / further ruin its reputation / actually do evil / further damage civilization by allowing political ads/campaign donations to bypass spam filters.

If you could possibly make sure Google shared legal liability for the real world results - like the successful solicitation of campaign donations from foreign nationals - it would be greatly appreciated.

Sean Copeland

From: [Kevin Kelleher](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment on Google's request for opinion on pilot program
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 8:06:32 PM

Somehow my 85 year old mother managed to get her e-mail address known to both major political parties. This means that she get many e-mails from many candidates and organizations, most of them saying she must act today to save the country from a disaster being caused by the other side. Unfortunately my mother is also suffering from a decrease in cognitive ability, I am afraid that soon she will lose the ability to understand that these messages are political hyperbole and start sending the money they are asking for from her fixed income (which I'm certain will invite even more requests).

Please don't let Google make it easier for political campaigns to reach her than it already is. I don't need more to worry about.

Thank You

Kevin Kelleher



From: [zendarva](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment to Google's Request for Opinion on Pilot Program.
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 9:57:54 PM

The reason to be able to mark an email spam is that I do not wish to see future emails from that sender, or similar emails.

When I say I do not want emails from a particular sender, Google (or any email provider) should probably trust my opinion on the matter, rather than telling me "No, we know better than you what you want; here, have a political fundraising email!"

Simply because you have my gmail address does not entitle you to reach my inbox, and the idea that political parties feel they are entitled to my attention is laughable at best, insulting at worst. Is the next step to legally require that I answer political phone calls?

with utmost irritation,

James Dunston

From: [Lance Snyder](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment to Google's Request for Opinion on Pilot Program
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 7:24:56 PM

I am commenting on Google proposal to allow political groups to bypass normal spam filters instead forcing this kind of content into the primary email box unsolicited.

I am absolutely against this practice. First off there is the insanely short comment period you have introduced. Proposed Jul 1st, made public Jul 6th, put out for comment on the 8th and you expected to close the comment period Jul 11th. This reeks of political end-around where you acquiesce to Google whatever they want. Now it has been "extended" but only to the 16th. Why are you so afraid of comments on this? Im guessing you have made up your mind and don't want any sort of tangible backlash. Why not allow 30 days for commenting on something that is this important?

I have political views which I will express when I feel like it, I don't need groups that have paid Google for access to be able to spam my inbox anytime they like looking for a hand out. If I want to donate to a campaign or group I can already do that with the meddling of Google. If I want to read emails from specific groups I can do that on my own. And when you allow this (being bi-partisan both parties gain) you will create not only a monster of spam I shouldn't have to deal with but you let bad actors who will spoof everything they can with yet another entry point to scam American citizens. And I can tell you right now Google is going to promise the world on security this won't happen.. but it will. You got choices, you can tell Google to packsand and not to come back with this idea again or you can approve it which will lead to Google profiting significantly for years to come while American citizens have to deal with the fallout. This choice is upto you.

LS

From: [Todd Mansfield](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment to Google's request
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 7:17:17 PM

Dear FEC,

Google is asking for the FEC's opinion on whether Google can institute a pilot program to bypass spam filters for email sent on behalf of political candidates.

This would be corrupting for two reasons.

(1) It would be viewed as a valuable service to politicians offered by Google. No good could come of this.

(2) The physical mailbox at my home already gets voluminous political advertising, which gives me a good opportunity to examine the type of speech promulgated by our representatives. The quality of the speech is exceedingly low. So low that voters acting on it would have a random chance at best of making our republic better by casting votes based on it.

Todd Mansfield

From: [J Rifis](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Do not allow political mass emailing
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:16:25 AM

Please we don't need this garbage. The overall method of politics is no longer compromise and progress but self-righteous preening and grab for power.

--

JR

From: [Paul Behrens](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Do NOT Allow Political Messages to Bypass Gmail SPAM Filters
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 10:06:08 PM

DO NOT allow Political Messages to Bypass Google's Gmail SPAM Filters!

As a small business owner who relies on Gmail for communication, I can not afford the Noise from Political solicitation emails. My clients expect me to monitor emails 24 hours a day (although only critically important messages are sent during my Sleep Hours). Political messages would be an incredible disruption.

Thank You!



From: [Julian Lamphear](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Don't you dare let Google start sending political info directly to my inbox
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:03:46 AM

I already get enough spam from politicians I've never even heard of, and it's bad enough that I get those awful Gmail ads labeled as emails in my fucking inbox every day. If y'all could literally do your goddamn jobs for once instead of caving to moneyed interests every fucking time it would be real nice! If not, maybe an organized campaign of robocalls and spam directly to your staff's emails will at least vindicate me and the 98% of people who agree.

Julian

From: [Cody Jackson](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Don't approve Google's request to allow political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:10:26 AM

I am strongly against allowing Google to allow the free-flow of political emails. I already get dozens of text messages from political parties that I have to block; I can't imagine how bad it would be if my email's spam filter decided to not identify political emails. Considering how easy it is to make new email addresses, there is almost no way to manually block unwanted political emails. I can't see a legitimate reason for Google to do this, except it creates yet another opportunity to make money and to curry favor with the political parties.

Sincerely,
Cody Jackson

From: [Julie Hardesty](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Gmail spam bypass
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:27:08 AM

Please, just no.

Please do not allow political committee emails to bypass the spam filters on Gmail. I do not want political related emails delivered directly to my inbox. It will open a Pandora's box of fundraising appeals and once you get one, you end up with hundreds because of the rapid sale of lists that have tracked opens. As it currently happens, I unsubscribe to political emails that end up in my junk folder. If they are allowed to proceed directly to my in box, I will report them as spam.

Thank you.

From: [Andrew Faehnle](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Gmail
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 11:20:08 PM

Esteemed FEC,


As a private citizen, I should have the power to ignore those who I wish to ignore. Please don't let Google/Alphabet force feed me political fundraising I dont want to read. Are they going to vet every would-be, fly-by-night PAC to ensure it is not a scam? I doubt it. The decision would put many people at risk of fraud and scams.

Regards,

Andrew Faehnle

From: [John Spence](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: gmail
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 6:24:07 PM

I get enough junk mail from political partys and too many phone calls already. I do not need more spam from politicians in my email. Please do not allow Google to bypass the filters.

john b spence


From: [Holly Devine](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google and political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:10:11 AM

No, I do not support lifting the spam filtering for this type of email.
Holly Devine



From: [Rachel Sortino](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google Political email Pilot
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:26:50 AM

Good morning,

I would like to express my opposition to Google's political email pilot program. I already get more political emails than I care to deal with, even with clicking unsubscribe on most of the emails I get, I see no benefit to the average citizen in making it even easier for political campaigns to blast us with even more divisive and questionably true rhetoric. We are exposed to political ads everywhere we go for the 6+ months leading up to every election, we should not make it any easier for them to access our inbox.

Thank you for your time,
Rachel

From: [Debra Scott](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google political email request
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:49:24 AM

Please NO on this request. My inbox is carefully curated and political emails don't make the cut. Mass emails are spam no matter who is sending them and should not get an exemption.

Debra Scott
St Charles, MO



From: [Mike McClure](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google Political Emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:22:03 AM

No.

Michael McClure



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Beth n Al-Bert](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: google proposal for pilot program to allow political spam thru spam filter
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:09:01 AM

I'm confident that if google proposal to allow political spam thru spam filter was allowed the vast majority of receivers would need to waste time to stop receiving them and increase computer rage.

Please stop this before it starts.

bert

From: [Michael Conlin](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google proposal to allow political emails to bypass spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:00:47 AM

FEC:

I am writing this email with respect to the Google proposal to allow political emails to bypass spam filters. I vigorously OBJECT to the proposal.

Kind regards,

Michael Conlin
Reston VA



From: [Kathy Graham](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google proposal
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:00:19 AM

Hello,

I am. Google mail user and I STRONGLY oppose their request to make political emails be exempt from spam folders.

Political campaigns are the worst offenders already when it comes to spam mailing me without my permission. Even when they remove you at your request, a month later they start up again and the answer is always “we don’t know how that happened”.

I am so tired of the actual citizens coming last in the political process, do NOT give Google permission to do this.

Kind regards,
Kathy Graham.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [daemeon reiydelle](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google request to bypass spam for approved political mails
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 10:31:12 PM

I find the position technically challenging to comprehend due to its non-technically couched language. I concerns and opinions:

1. OK to skip Spam classification for Unsolicited Bulk Email (UBE)
 1. Sending me an email that does not appear in my spam folder due to email blasts (high volumes of emails originating from one sender to many) is acceptable use provided no clear lies, extortion, or blatant fraud.
 2. Just because many have flagged the UBE as spam in this politicized environment does not mean it should be blocked.
 - 3.
2. MUST Block:
 1. should I choose to flag the email (Technically the sender) as spam, that request **MUST BE HONORED**. It is **NOT** acceptable to disregard my spam categorization for **MY** preferences.
 2. I do not think an option of "fraud/fake/etc" will work in this highly politicized environment. Therefore I can only see the option of flagging based on my preferences, not cloud sourced preferences.
 3. There needs to be a mechanism (that works better than the current issue of (e.g. Copyright) Takedown Requests)
 1. to block any party who is or has been guilty of fraud. This would include e.g. Trump campaign that generated recurring credit card charges while asking for a **SINGLE** donation).
 2. To block a party that makes clearly fraudulent claims. But who will adjudicate? That is the hard part, no?

Daemeon Reiydelle
email: [REDACTED]

If builders built buildings the way programmers wrote programs, then the first woodpecker to come along would destroy civilization.

From: [James Sterrett](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google should not allow political email to bypass spam filters
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 7:10:09 PM

Please, please, please, do not permit Google to allow political email and exemption to spam filters.

The very fact that they are asking shows they know it's a bad idea.

--

James Sterrett



From: [REDACTED]
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:57:54 AM

Please do not let google send me unsolicited political ads.

Nathan

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Patricia Cravener](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Google/Gmail political advertising/campaign filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:08:52 AM

Please do not permit Gmail to circumvent spam filters for political material.

My telephone is already only marginally usable due to the proportion of spam:personal calls approximately 8:1, despite AT&T's relatively very good spam filters. So far, my own filters on my personal mail client, added to AT&T's high level filtering algorithms, are fairly effective for email. If Google is allowed to "test" bypassing political content filters, all that ends for private citizens -- even those among us who do not use Gmail, but are, inevitably, acquainted with people who don't know better.

Gmail users are probably among the least sophisticated, technically speaking -- opting for "free" over "secure". Most of them probably don't even understand the issues. They will tend to believe that their personal email is true/valid content. In many cases:NOT. If Google is permitted to bypass spam filters for mail sent by political entities, not only will individual citizens be negatively impacted, but elections-related disinformation campaigns will be strengthened, to the detriment of our elections systems.

Please, I beg you: do not permit Google to disrupt communications systems, and threaten democratic processes, by bypassing spam filters and delivering political advertising to Gmail users' inboxes.

Unsophisticated Gmail users will believe too much of what they see in their personal mail, and will follow instructions in those messages to forward it to everyone in their contacts lists -- no matter how remote the connection. Please, protect American citizens from this proposed Google depredation.

Thank you for your attention to my input.

Sincerely,

Patricia Cravener



From: [Tri Bri](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's proposed political email program
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:11:19 AM

Greetings,

I would like to comment on the proposed program Google is attempting to initiate which would allow political advertising to by-pass spam filters.

I am AGAINST this proposal.

The last thing I need in my life is a non-stop flood of political emails in my already overflowing inbox.

Please do not allow this proposal to move forward.

Thank you,

Brian Fallon



From: [Stephen Kimmel](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's Span Exemption
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:40:49 AM

I am against allowing Google to stop filtering political spam. These messages are just pleas for money using exaggerated scare tactics. They do virtually nothing for political education of citizens re the nuances of policies. Please say no.

Stephen Kimmel
Amelia island Florida



From: [Audra Russell](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's proposed political email plan
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:28:20 AM

This is a terrible idea! As if our domestic politics wasn't polarized enough, now Google wants to pump the toxic sludge that is political email right into our inbox? To quote Nancy Reagan, "Just say no!" DO NOT CHANGE HOW SUCH EMAIL IS CURRENTLY CLASSIFIED! It is spam -- unwanted, unsolicited and unwelcome!

Audra Russell
White Plains, NY

From: [Jonathan McAtee](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No Gmail Political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:02:38 AM

Google, or any other email service, should not be allowed to ease political spam filters. There's enough garbage and grifters out there as it is.

Sent from my iPhone
Jonathan E. McAtee

From: [Anna Miller](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No Lifting Of Spam Filters for Political Committees
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:16:43 AM

Dear FEC,

I'm writing to share a comment about the proposed lifting of spam filters for political committees by Google. I strongly oppose this measure.

Best.
Anna Miller

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No on Google sending political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:52:46 AM

NO. Please DO NOT allow Google to send political emails.

Elizabeth Neeld
Chattanooga Tenn 37405

From: [Klemm1](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No on Political ads bypassing Google spam filter
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:22:43 AM

Please vote no on allowing political ads bypassing Google spam filters. If I, or any user, wants political ads we'll sign up for them. I want to be able to opt out of this if I want to. Not very American to be forced to get political ads even if I support a particular candidate or not.

K Clemmer

From: [Mark Caplinger](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No on political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:37:33 AM

https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2022/07/gmail-users-tell-the-fec-unsolicited-political-emails-are-the-definition-of-spam/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Dear FEC

I read about the proposal by Google to allow political emails to bypass spam filters. I think this is a terrible idea, I don't want that. Just say no, please, and thank you.


Mark Caplinger

Sent from my iPad

From: [Katie Palmer Finn](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No on political spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:56:30 AM

Are you kidding me? No no no to Google's request to give unfettered access to political messages direct to our inboxes. What? No.

Katie Finn | she/her/hers



From: [Derek Grimmell](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: NO on the Google request
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:50:50 AM

I understand Google has submitted a request to let political fundraising emails through spam filters. I already get anywhere from 5 to 20 such solicitations each day, which go to a separate folder. If this Google request is approved, it will have a substantial negative impact on my email account, which you will note is with Google. I do NOT want this change to be approved. Thank you for your attention.

Derek Grimmell, Ph.D.



From: [Mike Mercedes](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No Political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:33:26 AM

Please do not allow political emails to pass through Gmail spam filters.
Thank you.
Mike

From: [Kimberley Smith](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No to bypassing spam filters
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 6:13:37 PM


Hello, I oppose a request from Google (or in the future any other email service provider, ISP, or media conglomerate) to allow certain emails (namely political campaigns) to bypass spam filters people may already have in place.

This is not the time for that nonsense. People do not need to be bombarded with messages in their inbox unless they CHOOSE to receive them. I get it that most who use Gmail, Yahoo Mail, etc., are using it "for free" (not really when our digital lives are the commodity being sold) but then Google "asking FEC politely" means they really just want to sell one more thing.

You want to make Americans even angrier with government?

Don't allow this. NOPE NOPE NOPE

Kimberley Smith


if you need additional personal details to prove I am a voting US citizen, let me know

From: [Leslie Avery](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No to political spam in my gmail inbox
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:54:32 AM

Please do not allow more spam into my Gmail inbox. Political spam is just as bad as commercial spam. Politicians are in it for the money and or power.

From: [Ann Parker](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: NO to unsolicited political emails!
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:00:23 AM

Dear FEC:

Please do NOT allow Google to open my inbox to every conceivable political email. These entities deserve MORE scrutiny, not less.

I will leave Gmail if this happens. Do your job and protect the American people and our political system; do NOT allow Google to spam ME!

Thank you -
From a VERY concerned citizen

From: [Scott Turner](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Opposed to Google Proposal
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:59:52 AM

I am opposed to Google's proposal to allow political emails to bypass spam filters. People can already get political emails by signing up for them and indicating they are not spam. We do not need a deluge of unsolicited political emails in our inboxes.

- Scott Turner

From: [C Michael Fuller](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: pilot program for authorized candidate committees, political party committees, and leadership political action committees that are registered with the Federal Election Commission during the 2022 election cycle
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 6:22:18 PM

The FEC must ensure that Google only sends Political Spam to gmail addresses that have provided explicit consent to receive this information.

No form of 'opt out' will prevent Google or any organization with access to the internet from harvesting, selling, aggregating, and annotating the individual and collective data elements involved in the conceptualization, design, creation, testing, sending, delivery, and statistical analysis which is at the core of Google's revenue stream -- the revenue streams of Google's Ad Sense providers -- the revenue stream of Google's Ad Sense customers -- the revenue stream of PACs, Unions, Lobbyists, and APT's both domestic and international.

From: [Robert Parker](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Pleas do not allow Gmail to pass through political emails I did not sign up for. Or at least give us a choice to opt out that works.
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:12:45 AM

From: [christopher.michel](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: PLEASE KEEP POLITICAL SPAM FILTERS
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:29:55 AM

I understand Google has requested permission to stop filtering unwanted political messages. I urge you not to approve this.

I have had an (unknown) person attempting to bother me for years by signing my email up for political messages from a range of political parties. Right now it's easy for me to avoid the bulk of the annoyance with my spam filters.

Turning those off would make my email nearly impossible to use.

Thank you

Christopher Michel
Homewood, Alabama

--

Thumbed from a small screen, with help from predictive text.

From: [Pamela Palme](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: political ads
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:25:33 AM

Please DO NOT let Google place political ads in my in box without my permission.
I don't want them.

Pamela Palme

From: [Alex Hautequest](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political e-mail whitelisted: NOPE
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 7:27:37 PM

As much as this is interest of many, this type of electronic communication is no different from any other type of communications. As such it should be treated with no special privileges from any provider - and they should abide to users choice, not just dumped as unwanted junk on people's email inbox.

Alex

From: [Lyn McCormick](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political email
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:39:37 AM

Please, please, please don't let them avoid the spam filters! I get hundreds of calls, and texts a week as it is. Please keep them out of my inbox!

Lyn McCormick



Sent from my iPad

From: [Bradley Abrams](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political emails on Google
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:14:15 AM

Hi,

I am opposed to allowing political emails to bypass Google's spam filter. I think this is a truly terrible idea, and can find no reasoning that would justify it. The undermining of the telephone privacy act, the threat of large-scale disinformation campaigns, and many other reasons militate against taking this step. Please do not allow it.

Best,

Brad Abrams

From: [Ginger Ballard](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:11:04 AM

We absolutely do not need more political emails from any party or politician

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Marc Roulstone](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: political emails,
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:55:53 AM

Do not let the program that would essentially let political emails, which would no longer be susceptible to spam filters following the proposed move and get a direct line to primary inboxes become allowable.

Marc Roulstone



From: [Robert McPherson](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:40:57 AM

Do not approve Google's request to disable spam filters for political emails. If I want more political info I know where to get it. I do not want an inbox full of crap.

Robert McPherson
Doylestown, PA

From: [Ashley Kerst](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:26:14 AM

Google's request to remove all barriers to political spam is a horrible idea. Already one receives more political ads and requests for money than one can bear. I ask you to do the sensible thing and refuse their request.

Thank you,
Ashley Kerst
Madison, Wi

Sent from my iPad

From: [Sally Loveland](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 6:28:20 AM

Please do not allow Google to flood our emails with political ads, comments, information, editorials, or whatever else you want to call it.

Sally Loveland
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Parker Dooley](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Proposed exemption of political emails from Google spam filtering
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:06:36 AM

My name is Parker Dooley and I am a resident of Onancock, VA 23417. I am a Gmail user and US citizen. I am writing to vehemently oppose Google's proposal to exempt political emails from their spam prevention filters. Spam, whether political or non-political is already in the process of making email and other electronic communication methods useless for ordinary communications between individual citizens. The assumption by politicians that voting or contributing to one campaign allows every other politician to inflict their message on an unwilling recipient imposes on every user an incredible time tax via the requirement to unsubscribe from each and every unwanted campaign communication. These messages are not political speech, generally, but commercial speech, in that each and every one is a solicitation for funds, rather than an actual discussion of policy concerns, and therefore should be given no privilege above ordinary advertising.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Dai Newman](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: proposed Gmail filtering ruling
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:37:59 AM

Good morning,

I am concerned about the request on the part of Google to allow political emails to bypass all spam filters. The volume of emails that campaigns send out is staggering and their rhetoric has few strictures. Allowing all emails to bypass the spam filter will also be complicated by fraudulent emails that appear to be campaign-based slipping through, allowing deceitful actors to escape detection if Google is unwilling to filter them out.

I hope the FEC will keep consumers front and center, not politicians, and reject this proposal from Google/Alphabet.

Thank you,

David Newman

From: [Tom Vogel](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: re: Google request for permission to bypass Spam block for political email
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 11:59:44 PM

I am an IT consultant serving clients in and around Seattle. My clients are universally small business or home users. Almost without exception my home users in particular have asked me for ways to reduce the amount of unsolicited political messaging that they receive. Many have requested information from various elected officials and their campaigns but most have not. Despite this, there are **TREMENDOUS** amounts of unsolicited email messages (spam) clogging their mailboxes. I spend literally hours every month keeping my own mailbox free from this unwelcome messaging. This is no exaggeration and does not include the time I must spend dealing with *other* types of spam messages.

It is unconscionable that anyone, but especially Google, would think it's acceptable to exempt spam of any type from the filters meant to keep it at bay. Political organizations have free speech, to be sure. At the same time, ordinary Americans have the right to not have it thrust in their face every time they check their email. Email has become a mandatory part of daily life and, for most, it is a chore to deal with their daily mail and get the alerts from those whose services they request, or indeed rely upon. It is essential for those who are disabled and lack as many options as those more fortunate in the lottery of health. It is absolutely essential for anyone with a child in school as well.

With a single child in school up until this year, I have received literally dozens of emails every single week related to various school events, educational needs, and matters of literal life and death for my child with severe food allergies. I barely kept up with this required email as it was. There is no question that this would have been completely unmanageable should the vast amount of political messaging suddenly be exempted from the spam filter which kept it at bay. Enough is enough.

Google's request should be unequivocally denied.

Tom Vogel

From: [Murray Foster](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Regarding Google's request to prevent political emails from being stopped automatically by spam filters.
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 11:36:48 PM

I am strongly opposed to this Google proposal and would also like you to make the Do Not Call list apply to political calls of all types also. I do not need to be pestered by politician's or political organizations calls to make up my mind about who to donate to or vote for. This is also why I no longer watch broadcast TV during election season. It is incredible that this idea would even be considered. A huge percentage of politicians have shown that they do not have their constituencies best interests in mind. A huge percentage of politicians have shown that they do not know the meaning of truth. If this proposal is allowed it will open a pandora's box of malfeasance and impose it on the huge population of Gmail users. Just say NO!

--

Regards,
Murray Foster

From: [Rob Ericsson](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Regarding the Google request to send political emails without spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:40:16 AM

Hello,

I'm firmly against the Google proposal to be able to send political emails that bypass spam filters. There is already too much disinformation and confusion around politics. This policy change would result in an unmanageable amount of email ending up in inboxes most of which is of dubious factual quality and designed to maximize emotional impact.

The FEC should not allow this change.

Best regards,
Rob Ericsson

From: [bob morrell](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Removal of political spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 7:34:56 AM

I oppose any lessening of political spam filters by google. Email already stands on the edge of uselessness, this would push it over the edge.

Please refuse the request.

Bob Morrell

From: [Barbara Stephenson](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: spam and politics- hard no
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 7:44:11 PM

Please don't let gmail bypass spam for any reason. If it is unsolicited it is not requested and should be spam or just straight junk.

Thank you,
B

From: [Jon William Sweitzer-Lamme](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Strongly oppose allowing Google to bypass spam filters for political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 8:39:10 AM

As title. Allowing google to prioritize political emails increases the number people who actually see the emails. This has monetary value to the people sending the emails: it would basically mean that Google was providing a *large* political donation to every politician sending emails to Gmail addresses.

Jon Sweitzer-Lamme

From: [Leonard Hurff](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Advisory Opinion Request (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:17:20 AM

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to voice my opinion on Google LLC ("Google") request to allow political email to be excluded from spam detection and rules. Do not allow political emails to be excluded from spam detection and regulations. Spam is spam regardless of context. Just because it is "political" does not make it acceptable. In my opinion, it makes it even worse than regular spam. If I want to educate myself on a political matter, I can do that on my own.

Respectfully

Leonard Hurff

From: [Scott Link](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:34:12 AM

I do not support permitting political campaign emails bypassing spam filters.

I agree with Caleb Heath's email, dated 9 July:

"Campaigns should produce content that is of value and high quality sufficient to not be sent to spam by filters, just like every other sender. If they can't, they shouldn't get special treatment."

Thank you,

--

Scott Link

From: [Ron Bovino](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:41:54 AM

To whom it may concern:

I urge the FEC to DISAPPROVE the pilot program That Google is seeking Which will allow political committees to bypass spam filters and instead deliver political emails to the primary inboxes of Gmail users like myself.

There are a slew of reasons that this is just not the best idea on the planet. Firstly, political candidates running for office are habitually aggressive with campaign email blasts- even after unsubscribing from campaign emails I still receive bulk junk from them and also other candidates within the party. Pure nonsense and it needs to stop.

Secondly, I could imagine the field day state sponsored hacking groups would have with campaign phishing emails getting past spam filters and into my inbox. Not sure who think this up at Google but clearly they need more Vitamin D in their diet.

Thank You,

Ronald G. Bovino
Concerned Gmail User

From: [Dave Rodenbaugh](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment on Gmail's request to allow political emails into inboxes without spam checking
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:29:32 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the owner of an email service provider and have extensive experience in inbox delivery, spam email content, and concerns people have around unwanted emails they receive every minute of the day.

In my expert opinion, Gmail and Google should not automatically allow political emails directly into the inboxes of every single American.

Why? Simply put, it has huge potential to be abused and most absolutely will be.

Currently, political fundraising emails already occupy a significant portion of people's inboxes. And many of these requests are from political action committees with little to no oversight.

- Their emails can make wild, sweeping claims that the average consumer will not be able to corroborate or identify as false (if they are, which is quite likely).
- The fundraising sites they link to are difficult to verify or track as legitimate, so the potential for scam and fraud is huge.

Today, the fact that spam filters can hold this deluge back a bit is a massive advantage to the average email reader. They already receive tons of these if they have subscribed to the campaign updates of any candidate at all.

But to allow unfettered access to the inbox will be an unmitigated disaster.

I URGE YOU NOT TO ALLOW GOOGLE/GMAIL TO PROVIDE UNFILTERED ACCESS FOR POLITICAL EMAILS TO THE INBOX.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Dave Rodenbaugh
Founder and CEO, Recapture.io

From: [Ken Mencher](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment on Google's plan to let political emails bypass spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:57:39 AM

As a Google Mail user, I do not want unsolicited emails to bypass automated filtering. If I want to receive political messages, I'll request them. Bad enough that political campaigns can bypass the DoNotCall lists, now Google wants to let them pass their spam filters?

Maybe, if they were "opt in", I could see that, but they're not. They're "opt out".

This leaves out the consideration of bad actors leveraging this avenue to bypass protections and directly influence US campaigns, or even perform cyber attacks against US citizens!

I strongly disagree with this proposal and urge you to reject it as well.

-Ken Mencher

From: [Priya Dugad](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment to Google's Request for Opinion on Pilot Program
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:34:43 AM

I am strongly opposed to Google's request to pilot allowing political advertising mail to bypass the spam filter.

Thanks,
Priya

From: [Katie Lohrenz](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Deny Google's pilot program
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:52:41 AM

I'm a politically-engaged American citizen. I donate regularly to candidates and causes I believe in. I get a lot of political emails.

Campaign emails are already exempted from the CAN-SPAM regulations that govern other commercial email. While most of the emails I receive do have unsubscribe links, I've found that many campaigns are slow and negligent in processing unsubscribe requests. These campaigns also regularly buy and sell email lists, which makes it effectively impossible to stop unwanted political emails, as new candidates, PACs and other political organizations continually acquire known donors' email addresses from other campaigns.

While a given political email may not technically or legally be a spam message, email spam filtering is an essential tool in keeping unwanted political messages out of our inboxes. The campaign season never ends in modern US politics, and many if not most campaigns send messages daily. Once an email address is on one campaign's email list, it's a matter of time before it's on many, many more email lists. Because campaigns are not covered by CAN-SPAM regulations, email users have few options for keeping an overwhelming quantity of political emails out of their inboxes.

Please don't let Google make it easier for campaigns to inundate us with emails.

Email marketing and delivery rate optimization are skills any campaign can learn and practice. If campaigns are struggling to get their messaging in front of their constituents' eyes, there is a mature industry of experts and tools who can help them adopt best practices and achieve their goals. They don't need to be exempted from spam filtering to accomplish this. While there is true civic merit in making sure American voters are able to hear from the candidates who seek to represent them in our government, candidates' voices can be heard clearly and effectively within the same limits as ordinary commercial email messaging.

If anything, there should be more regulation around political emails and more filtering options to reduce unwanted and low-quality emails from all parts of the political spectrum. (While John Gruber may have found that Republican messages are "more spammy," the DCCC emails in my spam folder set the bar so low, it's grotesquely impressive that Republican messages manage to limbo under it.) And if Google wants to address the right's accusation of algorithmic bias, they can do that without exempting campaigns of the spam algorithm altogether.

From: [Matthew Solow](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Do not open the spigot
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:30:03 AM

STOP GOOGLE INVADING MY LIFE WITH POLITICAL EMAILS. I WISH TO BE IN CHARGE OF MY OWN MAIL BOX WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

Matty

From: [Richard Clark](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Don't spam me with political ads
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:58:36 AM

Rick Clark

From: [Tom Moran](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Filter the Political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:11:35 AM

Hello,

I am writing to oppose Google's request to allow political spam to come direct to primary inboxes in Gmail. Email is hard enough for many and people should be free to contribute to campaigns they decide to through better means (talking to friends, based on issues, etc) versus a firehose of fundraising emails.

Please do not allow Google's request to go through.

Respectfully,
Thomas Mora

--

Tom Moran

From: [Lew Sibert](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Gmail - please don't!
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:51:13 AM

Open it to anything that is or involves politics. Our society is horribly victimized and polarized by misinformation, malaise and anger.

We don't need to feed the beast.

Thank you.

--

Lew

--

Lew

From: [Bob Jaben](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Gmail filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:54:44 AM

I am writing to oppose Advisory Opinion Request 2022-14 (Google LLC). Please don't open a firehose of spam on us.

From: [Ridge Kennedy](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Gmail Priority for Political Messaging -- SAY NO
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:54:31 AM

Dear Commissions,

As a gmail user, I beg you, please DO NOT give Google permission to change the status of incoming political messages.

Ridge

Ridge Kennedy [Exit 145]

From: [Bi Yahoo](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google and email. Against!
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:21:18 AM

I am AGAINST the proposed plan by google to open inboxes to political spam.

From: [Lew Sacks](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google and political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:47:56 AM

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Please, please, please do not allow Google to emit MORE political spam. We are currently inundated with quite enough.

Thank you for your good work.

Lew Sacks

From: [Comcast](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google email spam filtering: Deny request to allow political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:58:42 AM

I do not want political emails going directly into my inbox.

Please do not allow spam filtering changes.

Aside from the obvious fact that direct marketing is the worst way to learn about candidates, the amount of nonsense and false information that works in that info-stream is terrible, dangerous, and offensive.

In addition to the previous, political emails are notoriously littered with phishing and similar malicious attacks.

If not for me, do it for the elderly. If I'm forced to look at that garbage in my moms inbox on her iPad, I'll start a telephone campaign. You'll have elderly people calling all day long. They don't sleep.

For the children! We've seen grown men and women get swept up in the lies of political candidates and attempt an insurrection. Do we think children are sufficiently inoculated against the same?

Seriously, how about just yourselves? Who wants this other than Google waiting to monetize email all over again?

Citizens don't want this.

Thank you for your time.

Apologies, in arrears, for my snark.

From: [Daniel H. Brown](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google End of Political Spam Filter
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:42:42 AM

Dear Reader,

I think this is a terrible idea and I vehemently oppose it. I do not want any additional streams of political mailers arriving at my inbox. Please do not approve this program.

Stephen Brown

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

From: [Patrick Rearden](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google gmail political Ads
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:02:54 AM

Please do **NOT** allow Google to send political ads to our inboxes via Gmail.
Thank you,
Pat Rearden in NC

From: [Arthur Scotti](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google Political Emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:50:41 AM

I am STRONGLY opposed to Google's request for a green light on a program that would no longer subject political emails to spam filters! This is an insane request that would waste a tremendous amount of my time and result in an increase of my frustration with this country's already terribly fraught political situation. Please deny Google's request.

Thank you,
Art Scotti

From: [Daniels, Ryan](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: google political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:33:16 AM

I would not like to receive political emails. Please note this as you track comments.

Ryan Daniels

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Jerry Meral](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: google proposal to bypass spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:09:42 AM

Dear FEC

Don't approve the Google proposal to let political emails bypass spam filters. We get enough spam already.

Thanks for considering my views.

Jerry Meral

--

Jerry Meral



From: [Brenda Siström](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google proposed removal of spam filters allowing political emails direct access to primary email inboxes
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:31:47 AM

I'm TOTALLY OPPOSED!! I do not want to receive ANY unsolicited political email from ANY party or organization. Please do not give approval.

From Brenda Siström

From: [Andrew Rich](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google/Gmail political spam filter
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:38:26 AM

I'm writing to OPPOSE the idea of allowing political fundraising messages -- 99% of which are unsolicited, unwanted, and in any other context would be universally labeled as spam or phishing -- a free pass into my already-overcrowded inbox. This is a bad idea. It's antithetical to the concept of consumer protection, and removes a key element of control from the end user.

Thank you for your attention.

Andrew Rich



From: [Layne Van Boxtel](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's request for political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:19:21 AM

I am opposed to a Google's request that political emails be allowed to by pass spam filters.

Sincerely,
Layne Van Boxtel

Sent from my iPad

From: [F.Gruhl](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's move to open GMAIL to political messages
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:46:28 AM

I strongly OPPOSE this move by Google. I am already inundated by political messages from other sources.



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Dan Mason](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's opening of political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:43:14 AM

One of the more dumb ideas on the American public. Email will die because of this...

From: [Lynn Abbey](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's request to void political spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:00:13 AM

Do. Not. Grant. This. Request.

It is not merely that We The People will be subject to a relentless torrent of unwanted messages, but that the messages will unleash even more disinformation upon us.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Abbey

From: [Cheryl Dean](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:50:13 AM

Sent from my iPhone say no to letting captain messages to come to in box.

From: [Chris Ewing](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No political spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:30:21 AM

Polarization in America is bad enough. Don't allow google to make it worse with excessive political advertisements!

Chris

From: [Michael A. Wong](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No special treatment for political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:49:53 AM

To whom it may concern:

I have a specific Gmail account for political contributions and EVEN WITH SPAM FILTERS TURNED ON, it is flabbergasting how much unsolicited mail is generated by a political contribution. If the filtering rules are relaxed, then that email box will be overrun. I will then ignore that email inbox and simply empty it out when it gets full.

Don't let this happen.

From: [Armando Pimentel](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No to Unfiltered Political Emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:55:31 AM

This a horrible idea. My inbox is already over-run with spam messages, my handset with calls. Stop this relentless stream of unwanted solicitations...or, at the least, provide consumers with enforced opt-out protections.

From: [Rachel McCord](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: oppose political bypass of spam filter
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:33:17 AM

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Google's pilot of allowing unsolicited political e-mails to bypass the spam filter. You have probably already heard all the primary reasons people disagree with this, and I concur with these reasons:

- 1) Being bombarded with political messaging we are unable to avoid will only further inflame political tensions that already exist, rather than encouraging meaningful personal communication and compromise.
- 2) It simply will make being a gmail user more annoying, having to wade through and delete e-mails we don't want. And as a byproduct, it will make us less likely to actually pay attention to important political issues.
- 3) It is a security risk-- if some groups can pass the spam filter, what if some of those groups take advantage of this to start phishing scams

Thanks,

Rachel

From: [M Liles](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political bypass of spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:35:00 AM

How ridiculous can things get? The politicians always win. Anyone proposing this idea of political SPAM bypassing spam filters should be tied to a TV set with their eyes pried open and forced to watch hundreds of hours of "my opponent is a scumbag" ads. This idea will only add exponentially to the political division in the country. It's actually a dangerous move but I wish I could also say it's also unusual. And the most ridiculous thing about it is that it will change no minds at all and actually run people away from political involvement. Maybe that's the underlying idea.

I'm actually afraid to think of what

From: [Bobbie Hall](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political email change comment
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:15:11 AM

Changing the spam filter system to allow for a direct stream of unsolicited garbage from political campaigns would be a very inconsiderate move for your customers. I would consider dropping at least my personal gmail account if that happens. If I want emails from a campaign, I'll sign up for them.

Thanks, Bobbie H.

From: [Katie Swick](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:18:40 AM

To whom it may concern,

I already get enough spam mail. I do not want to receive political emails. Please allow them to continue being filtered.

Best,

Katie Swick

From: [Doug McNurlin](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:30:30 AM

Please don't allow unasked for political emails to be allowed to pass through email spam filters, my inbox is already full of Spam that gets around existing filters.

Thanks,

Douglas M McNurlin, CIC
Advance Agency



<https://www.advanceins.com>

A referral is the greatest compliment!

This message may contain confidential and/or privileged information. We ask that all information included in this electronic transmission be held in the strictest of confidence, and that it not be communicated to any third parties without expressed permission. If you have received this transmission in error, please delete it.

From: [CBSaturnino](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:02:37 AM

Please do not permit this proposal to go forward. Our political system is already so broken. Please don't perpetuate the brokenness. Thank you.

From: [Josh Wilson](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:45:06 AM

Greetings,

I understand that Google is requesting a suspension of spam filters for political emails. I would like to register my strong disapproval of this potential change.

regards,

Josh Wilson

From: [Barbara Vaught](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:45:51 AM

I do not want to receive political emails and want to be able to filter them as spam. Please reject Google's request to change this.

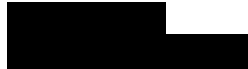
From: [REDACTED]
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:45:19 AM
Attachments: [Screen Shot 2016-06-23 at 8.11.39 PM.png](#)

I am absolutely and vehemently opposed to Google's proposed program to stop filtering political emails. As difficult and inconvenient as it would be I would certainly take my search engine business elsewhere.

Nick Hamblen



NickHamblen
CreativeResource



<https://nickhamblencreative.com/>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Proposed Google Program Must be Blocked
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:00:34 AM

Google's request to the FEC for a green light on a program that would permit political emails to no longer be susceptible to spam filters and get a direct line to primary inboxes is repulsive.

As a small business that hosts email for clients, I see the enormity of the issue of SPAM daily. As a business owner, I deal with disruptive calls and email that waste my time. But, as a human being, is nothing sacred from the reach of greedy and irresponsible marketers?

BTW - I own a marketing agency. My industry has many talented people but sadly has many nefarious ones. Since the commenting period on the proposal remains ongoing, I implore you to block this new program.

Regards,
John Hyman, Overseer of Order



Want to schedule a consultation? Here's my schedule:
https://calendly.com/zen_marketing/initial-consultation



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Mike FJ](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Public comment - Unrestricted political email
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 10:53:40 AM

I would like to add my voice to those OPPOSING unlimited political email on Gmail. Email is a vital utility for many people's personal and work lives. Managing your inbox and filtering out commercial spam is hard enough but a torrent of political spam will make email nearly unusable. Telephones have become more trouble than they're worth due to all the spam/scam calls. Please stop this from happening to email, too. Thanks.

Mike Ferron-Jones
Portland, OR

From: [Ricki McGlashan](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Public comment on Google/political ads
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:01:51 AM

I understand Google has requested approval for a plan to ensure all political emails go into my "primary" mailbox instead of into "social" or "promotions." This is a terrible idea! It would be a huge step backwards in a consumer's ability to control spam and to control our own inboxes. DO NOT allow this! I beg you!
Ricki McGlashan, San Mateo, CA

From: [Jamie Yannayon](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Public comment: Opposing Google's request
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:44:50 AM

I oppose Google's request to allow political emails to circumvent spam filters.

Spam emails are emails that I already chose to not sign up for and therefore do not want to see, and/or that are trying to influence or exploit me for the sender's gain. Allowing all political emails past the spam filter goes against the free choice I have already made to not engage with or share my contact information with those senders. It fundamentally shifts the existing "opt in" paradigm to one where even an "opt out" or "unsubscribe" button does not guarantee stoppage of future contact.

Additionally, what is Google's proposed process to vet and confirm which emails are "political" or not? This seems like a slippery slope at best, and a definition I do not have control over for my personal communications.

If anything, I could potentially support Google allowing individual Gmail users to tune their spam filter settings to either allow or disallow political or other identifiable categories of message and sender types to bypass spam.

Thank you for your consideration of public comments.

Jamie Yannayon
Cary, NC

From: [Phil Reeves](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Rules re: Spam Filters on Political Emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 9:30:23 AM

Dear Sir or Madam—

I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to rule making that would allow political emails to be sent to consumers that would avoid spam filters. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Phil Reeves
Tallahassee, FL

From: [Dave Focardi](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Spam filters for political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:01:14 AM

Hopefully this public comment will reach the appropriate department.
If spam filters are removed for political emails, there had better be some protection against lies, misinformation, lying by omission. Better to just keep spam filters active for political emails.

Really, there is no difference between a Nigerian prince asking for help and Republicans saying immigrants are taking your job, or that the election was stolen, better come to Washington and overthrow the government.

Sincerely
Dave Focardi



From: [Sally Hays](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment on Google request for Political messages pilot program
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:04:27 AM

Dear FEC,

I am opposed to allowing Google to allow political messages to be sent directly to a gmail primary box. As an independent in a swing state, I will be overrun with political ads and my email account will become mired in messages asking for donations. Please do not allow google to change their policy.

Thank you,
Sally Hays

From: [Andrew Temer](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment on Googles proposed political email pilot program
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:07:52 AM

Hi there -

I receive a ton of political emails because I have donated to candidates and causes that I support. However, this has resulted in now receiving upwards of 100 emails per day from various political candidates and causes, many of whom I have never actually supported. Currently these go to my Promotion or Spam folder and leaves my inbox productive and uncluttered. If they were to start going directly to my email inbox that would reduce the usability and efficiency of my gmail account. I would very much recommend that this change not be made.

Thank you
Andrew Temer

From: [Peter Cannon](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google political emails idiocy
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:16:28 AM

Please don't let Google flood my inbox with political spam!!!

Peter Cannon



From: [Jean Greaves](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:09:16 AM

To whom it may concern,

I understand that Google has sent a request to the FEC asking for permission to allow political spam to go directly to users' primary inboxes instead of being filtered as spam. I am vehemently opposed to this move and urge you to deny Google's request.

Thank you.

From: [One of the Makelys](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Opposition to Google's political email proposal
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:11:21 AM

I am writing to state my opposition to Google's proposal regarding political emails. The last thing we consumers need is more junk email, especially in this highly partisan era.

Thank you.
Neal Makely

From: [REDACTED]
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political emails from Google/filtered
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:13:04 AM

NO! I have zero interest in being spammed with political emails. Do not allow Google to remove the filtering on political emails.

Sincerely
Rachel Nichols
Albany, Oregon

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Thomas Tilque](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political e-mails to my G-mail account
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:15:52 AM

Please do not let any political e-mails reach my G-mail accounts. They will be labeled SPAM. I also will not vote for any candidate that sends them!

--

Tom Tilque

“Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it.”—Mark Twain

Be well. Wear a mask and get vaccinated, please.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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: John Carter
To: [Gai](#)
Subject: Please reject Google's request that email from political committees and candidates' email be allowed to bypass spam filters
Date: Thursday, Sep 24, 2022 9:29:59 AM

FEC members:

I understand that you recently received a request from Google to allow email from political committees and/or candidates to bypass spam filters (https://www.fec.gov/fec/legislation/2022/14/20221401_1.pdf - https://post.ietf.org/mail/ietf/mail/ietf/2022/09/24/2022092401_1.pdf)
1. I am writing on my personal behalf to respectfully request that you reject this request (or, put another way, issue an advisory opinion disallowing the proposed practice). Political actors already tend to send out far too much "spam" email (low quality, misleading, unsorted, etc.) and one of the few ways for us citizens to avoid this flood of unwanted email is via spam filters. Political actors should have to follow the same practices as any other sender of unsolicited email to avoid being marked as spam.

Thank you,
John

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: 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: [Thomas Larsen](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Advisory Opinion Request 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:32:15 PM

Please firmly and unequivocally **reject** Google's to permit campaign/political emails to bypass spam filters.

This is a **terrible** idea.

I do NOT want emails in my inbox I did not sign up for. I already get **plenty** on junk from campaigns who share my email *without my express permission* (i.e. they are unsolicited) - something the FCC should urgently outlaw as well. Politicians and campaigns are some of the worst spammers out there already, and certainly do NOT deserve special treatment by getting exemption from the spam folder.

Thank you.
Thomas L.

From: [Jessica Brown](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 22-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:35:40 PM

Our household (different political party affiliations) does NOT support the proposed changes to rules regarding filtering email for spam. We are already subjected to the firehose of junk, marketing and advertising (political campaigns and otherwise) that said filters miss—we do not need additional freedom of information “protections”.

Sincerely,
Jessica Brown
Pittsburgh, PA

From: [Max B](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC) - NO TO POLITICAL EMAILS BYPASSING SPAM FILTERS
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:49:13 AM

Please do not let Google send political emails directly to my inbox. The vast majority of them are spam. Spam are unsolicited emails. These are emails I don't want, that I never wanted, yet continue to get. At least now I don't see them if they're spam filtered. It would be a nightmare if they bypassed the spam filter and went into my inbox. This would get abused on day 1. Any company could register as a political organization and send literally anything to your inbox. Please stop google from doing this.

From: [Robert Michael Lawless](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14 (Google LLC)
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:15:32 PM

Request you deny Google's request to do a pilot program where campaign ads go to peoples' inboxes and not through their spam filters.

Sincerely,
Robert Lawless

From: [Ann G](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:27:08 PM

I oppose letting Google ease up on spam filters for political campaign emails.
Ann Gibbons Scherlis
Pittsburgh, PA

From: [Jeff Garofalo](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment on political emails bypassing spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:35:03 AM

I'm a busy healthcare professional. My colleagues and I already receive more than enough email. Please do not allow political emails to bypass spam filters under any circumstances.

Jeff Garofalo PA-C

=====




From: [Carrie Short](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment to Google's Request for Opinion on Pilot Program
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:30:00 AM

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.

I would like you to know that I do not support this pilot program and think you should deny the request.

Thank you,
Carrie Short



From: [John Pringle](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Comment to Google's Request for Pilot Program
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:02:37 PM

Dear FEC,

Google has asked you whether it can bypass GMail's spam filters to let email from political campaigns go directly to my inbox.

Dear god, please say NO in the loudest and most impactful manner you can. I will not attempt to address technical, legal or political realities. Just my own well being and, I think, the well being of the many of my fellow citizens.

I feel as though I'm under attack by those who want to influence me - buy this car, use this deodorant, whiten your teeth this way . . .

Now we are in the election season. A season that is characterized by promotions using twisted facts and those which are fact free. The messages are blaring from my TV, filling my mailbox, monopolizing my webpages and urging me from street corners to vote for this candidate or that one.

Yep, I agree freedom of speech is wonderful. Just the same, I'm at the point where I've been bruised by all this wonderful.

I use email for economic and personal reasons. It's an important means of communication for me. GMail has been a safe haven from me in the spam infested waters of email. Their spam filters take out an immense amount of email sent to me by those whose sole connection to me is the fact that they know my email. I have no connection to them nor have I ever given them permission or encouragement to contact me.

I am grateful for GMail's protection from the hounding I would otherwise receive.

Now my trusted tool is asking, for obvious reasons, to be taken out of the business of filtering political spam. If Google asked me I'd tell them the same thing I'm asking you, please don't let the democrats, republicans, independents and crazies near my inbox.

I'm under attack and at some point there's going to be the straw that breaks the camel's back. You can keep the camel healthy for a bit longer.

Tell Google to keep filtering that political spam.

For me.

Please.

John Pringle



John

From: [Lachlan Brown](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: do not grant exemption to political emails bypassing Gmail spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:36:28 PM

thank you!
Lachlan Brown



From: [Ron Schon](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Gmail political ad spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:06:32 PM

Please refuse Google's request to allow political ads to escape spam filters.

Ron Schon



From: [Cheryl Giordanengo](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google- political ads
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:48:28 AM

Hello,

I'm opposed to the Google request to change how political emails are sent. i want them to land in my spam.

--

Cheryl Giordanengo
Controller

AloTerra Restoration Services, LLC
www.aloterraservices.com



From: [Harold Delhommer](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google Proposal on Political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:24:35 AM

What is Google thinking? What an awful idea!! We already get too much spam. Please, please, reject the proposal and keep most political spam out of our email boxes. I have a hard time believing this idea has any support at all except from Google.

Harold Delhommer


Sent from my iPhone

From: [Shawn Gordon](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google proposal to allow political emails to pass spam filter
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:53:58 AM

I strongly oppose Google's proposal to allow political emails to bypass the spam filter.

Please no

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kurt Ribak](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google Request For Opinion on gmail Pilot Program - OPPOSED
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:23:51 PM

Hello -

I have learned Google wants to run a pilot program where email from political groups would bypass spam filters. I am opposed to this idea

There will be arguments from some political groups that this protects free speech. These emails are typically sent without an opt-in from the recipient. They are unsolicited and fit the classic definition of spam emails. Furthermore, such e-mails are not fact-checked and are a tool of misinformation and disinformation.

Free speech is protected, but there is nothing that guarantees access to my inbox against my will.

The torrent of political spam also blunt email's effectiveness - I know that as an email user I miss important emails in flood of unwanted political solicitations I receive. I often urge people to instead contact me by text message (SMS) - but the same trend is happening there.

Regards,

Kurt Ribak
Berkeley, CA

From: [Rachel Diaz](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's request
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:26:58 AM

I am writing to plead with you to NOT ALLOW Google to release spam blockers when it comes to political emails. Please make the company continue to block political emails and keep them from primary in boxes.

I already delete hundreds of emails per day (I currently have 3000+ in my trash awaiting deletion).

Ironically I own Google stock but am against this action.

Thank you,
Rachel Diaz

--

"Then the lie passed into history and became truth." — 1984 by George Orwell

From: [Debra Fleenor](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Google's request for opinion on pilot program
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:35:46 PM

Please, for the sake of us that get more than enough spam already, do NOT approve Google's proposal to allow political candidates/campaigns to bypass spam filters.

The ONLY way they could make this idea acceptable is to give users an "opt in" choice, i.e. users would need to actively decide they want to receive these emails. An "opt out" would be less acceptable but better than nothing.

Thank you.

From: [Andrew Smith](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Hard Pass On Politicians Spamming My Inbox
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:28:39 PM

FEC,

Don't let politicians spam my inbox - it's unneeded, unfair, and simply stupid policy. Anybody could claim to be a "politician" - including scammers - just to side step the spam filters.

Consider this: If Google has to ask for approval from the US government (which is already the lowest possible bar), chances are Google shouldn't be doing it in the first place. Question motives, FEC. This is a money money for Google and consumers/voters will suffer the frustration.

Thanks for your time.

From: [Karen Krowne](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: NO MORE POLITICAL EMAILS
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:50:43 AM

I really can't imagine! For the mental health of Americans and people ALL OVER THE WORLD - PLEASE NO UNSOLICITED EMAILS OR POLITICAL ADS. They get us enough already.
PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE NOOOOOOO!

Thank you,
Kkrowne

>

I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change....I'm changing the things I can no longer accept.
Angela Davis

From: [M Bourgon](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: No political spam in my inbox
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:31:20 PM

Please do not allow political emails in my inbox. It is super hard as it is to keep the increasingly partisan, shrill, and sometimes downright deceitful emails out - and that's before we look at secondary consequences, where scams and the like fly under the radar.

I have a "public" email and "close friends" only email, and I need less crap winding up in either of them.

Thank you. Michael

Sent from my ekranoplan

From: [Drew Atkins](#)
To: [AO](#)
Subject: Oppose AO 2022-14
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:27:32 PM

This is a comment on AO 2022-14.

I strongly urge you to you deny Google's request for a pilot program that allows political campaigns to send emails directly to primary inboxes, and to bypass spam filters.

From: [Bill Knaggs](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political email
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:44:47 AM

Please do not allow political messages by pass my spam filter.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ricardo Springs](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Email Filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:07:23 PM

I OPPOSE the removal or relaxation of filters currently used by Google, or any other social media platform.
Ricardo Springs

From: [Doug Hurley](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political emails are SPAM
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:28:32 AM

TO: FEC

Please do NOT allow Google to stop classifying/filtering political email as SPAM. We all get too much junk email now - please don't allow the political BS to get through.

--

D Hurley
Chapel Hill, NC

(

From: [Patricia Lindgren](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political emails
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:37:02 PM

Please do NOT allow political emails to evade my spam filters!!

Sent from my iPad
Pat Lindgren

From: [David Potenziani](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:34:08 AM

Dear Madam or Sir:

I write today about a proposal to the Federal Elections Commission to change the rules regarding political emails sent through Google Mail ([gmail.com](#)). As a user of this service, I am bombarded each day with unwanted emails requesting political donations. I spend considerable time each week combing through even the subject lines to dismiss all those unwanted messages.

The proposed “test” by Google to ease its spam email filters to permit authorized mailers to have unfettered access to every mailbox that Gmail maintains on behalf of its customers. (I am certain that this is a prelude to monetizing the flow of these messages.) It is essentially a prohibited in-kind political contribution.

I’m tired of donning my electronic waders each day to clear out the detritus of requests for money from politicians and their campaigns. I am a politically aware and informed citizen who can make my own judgments about the candidates and causes I support. I do not need hundreds of unwanted messages crowding out emails from my family, my physician, and my financial institution that actually require my attention.

The accelerated pathway of this request and haste demanded by Google suggest that nothing good is behind the effort. I strongly urge the Commission to not just refuse this request, but to investigate the use of email for unwanted political messages.

David Potenziani



From: [Yonah Walter](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Political Spam
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:28:33 PM

I am writing to express my extreme disapproval of Google's suggested pilot plan to allow emails from political action committees to bypass spam filters. I speak from over 20 years' experience in technology and technological communication - as a software engineer, developer, and analyst: this plan is a terrible idea, and does not serve the public.

Already, PACs and other political groups bombard the public constantly with phone calls, TV ads, and targeted ads on social media and in our web browsers. Allowing these groups access to our email inboxes – already a major source of hacking, phishing, and other identity theft – only exposes us to more avenues for attack. One need only research the history of spam calling to see how exceptions made for political groups leave loopholes large enough to fit the entire voting public into.

If PACs and other groups are worried about reaching the public using only the “limited” means currently available, one wonders how sending more spam emails to the public will break through the cacophony of ads. It is similarly not hard to see that the oversaturation of political ads in those other media, particularly during election season (which extends to year or more before Election Day), have created the very imbalance in signal-to-noise that this plan claims to address.

Spam filters exist to give users some means of controlling the content received in their inboxes. Taking away that control renders the entire endeavor pointless; so many of us already receive so much political spam – emails which may include links to unknown websites which secretly bill users for recurring donations (e.g. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/zacheverson/2021/08/06/amid-investigations-trump-pac-still-using-prechecked-donation-boxes/?sh=5807f613a928>) or even secretly harvest user data.

Keep users in control of their content.

Thank you,

Yonah Walter
NJ resident

From: [Damon Butler](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: RE: Allowing Google to let political emails bypass spam filters
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:59:07 AM

Regarding the request Google made here:

https://www.fec.gov/files/legal/aos/2022-14/202214R_1.pdf

ABSOLUTELY NOT. Under no circumstances can you allow this to happen. Unfettered "political speech" is what has led to propagation of the Big Lie, the January 6 insurrection, and the rise of right-wing politically-motivated violence.

If anything, political emails must be given HIGHER scrutiny than other kinds of messaging.

Respectfully,
~Damon Butler

From: [Bo Prosser](#)
To: [AQ](#)
Subject: Totally AGAINST political gmail!
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:31:51 AM

Please do not open the flood gates of political spamming!

Personally pecked out on iPhone!
Bo Prosser