

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 30, 2026

Elon Musk
Chief Executive Officer
SpaceXAI
1355 Market Street, Suite 900
San Francisco, CA 94103

Sundar Pichai
Chief Executive Officer
Google
1600 Amphitheater Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043

Adam Presser
Chief Executive Officer
TikTok USDS
5800 Bristol Parkway, Suite 100
Culver City, CA 90230

Evan Spiegel
Chief Executive Officer
Snap, Inc.
2772 Donald Douglas Loop North
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Neal Mohan
Chief Executive Officer
YouTube, LLC
901 Cherry Avenue
San Bruno, CA 94066

Mark Zuckerberg
Founder, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
Meta Platforms, Inc.
1 Meta Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Adam Mosseri
Head of Instagram
Instagram
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Musk, Mr. Presser, Mr. Mohan, Mr. Mosseri, Mr. Pichai, Mr. Spiegel, and Mr. Zuckerberg:

We are writing to seek information regarding your plans to combat misinformation and disinformation on your social media platforms during the 2026 midterm elections. As you know, the Supreme Court recently rejected mail ballot restrictions proposed by the Trump Administration.¹ This is now the law of the land, and it is your responsibility to ensure that widespread mis and disinformation about our electoral system does not take hold on your platforms.

In 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, we led members of Congress in writing to your companies regarding the spread of mis and disinformation on your platforms leading up to the 2024 elections.² Despite the ongoing spread of false and misleading content on social media sites, your

¹ *U.S. Postal Serv. v. California*, No. 26A305, slip op. at 1 (U.S. Sept. 14, 2026).

² Letter from Rep. Adam Schiff, Rep. Henry Johnson, Rep. Raúl Grijalva, Rep. Doris Matsui, Rep. Julia Brownley, Rep. Dan Goldman, Rep. Robert Garcia, Rep. André Carson to Meta, X.com, TikTok, Google, Instagram, Snapchat,

companies have for years “retreated from some of [your] past commitments to promote election integrity.”³

Today, election mis and disinformation remains a serious danger to American democracy and Americans’ right to vote, even more so because of the Trump Administration’s sustained efforts to diminish the public’s trust in elections across the country, including California.⁴ Nowhere is that more clear than in the Administration’s efforts to influence and deter mail-in voting. For example, on September 15, 2026, President Trump reacted angrily to the Supreme Court’s 7-2 decision with a false claim that mail-in voting is “totally corrupt and out of control.”⁵ President Trump even criticized his own Supreme Court nominees for supposedly “mak[ing] cheating by Radical Left [Democrats], on Mail-In Ballots, a much easier thing to do.”⁶ As a result, Congress must conduct rigorous oversight over dangerous election mis and disinformation propagated via social media, as we consider investigations and legislation to remedy it and prevent it from happening in current and future elections.

President Trump’s self-serving partisan attacks are not the only new challenge to election integrity. Advances in artificial intelligence and chatbots are creating new opportunities for large-scale election mis and disinformation by both foreign and domestic actors.⁷ To be sure, addressing false information about the process of voting is entirely different than censoring a

YouTube, and Microsoft (Sept. 30, 2024); Letter from Rep. Adam Schiff, Rep. Henry Johnson, Rep. André Carson, Rep. Nikema Williams, Rep. Ruben Gallego, Rep. Lori Trahan, Rep. Pramila Jayapal to X.com (Oct. 4, 2023); Letter from Rep. Adam Schiff, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Rep. Debbie Dingell, Rep. Hank Johnson, Rep. Ruben Gallego, Rep. Robert Garcia, Rep. Lori Trahan to YouTube (June 21, 2023); Letter from Rep. Adam Schiff and Rep. Lori Trahan to TikTok (Oct. 27, 2022); Letter from Sen. Alex Padilla, Sen. Ben Ray Luján, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Rep. Tony Cárdenas, and 22 colleagues to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Nextdoor (July 30, 2021).

³ Paul M. Barrett, Cecely Richard-Carvajal, & Justin Hendrix, *Digital Risks to the 2024 Elections: Safeguarding Democracy in the Era of Disinformation*, NYU STERN CENTER FOR BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS (Feb. 2024), <https://bhr.stern.nyu.edu/publication/digital-risks-to-the-2024-elections-safeguarding-democracy-in-the-era-of-disinformation/>.

⁴ Kevin Rector, *Despite court wins, California election war with Trump rages on*, L.A. TIMES (Sept. 21, 2026), <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2026-09-21/despite-court-wins-california-election-war-with-trump-rages-on>; Ruby Edlin, *Five False Election Rumors to Watch For*, BRENNAN CTR. FOR JUST. (Sept. 9, 2026), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/five-false-election-rumors-watch>; Rachel Moran, *News Deserts Leave Voters Vulnerable to Election Misinformation*, BRENNAN CTR. FOR JUST. (June 17, 2026), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/news-deserts-leave-voters-vulnerable-election-misinformation>; *Deceive, Disrupt, Deny In Full Effect*, PROTECT DEMOCRACY (July 14, 2026), <https://protectdemocracy.org/work/executive-override-july-update/>; Protections Against Election Disinformation, MOVEMENT ADVANCEMENT PROJECT, <https://mapresearch.org/democracy-map/protections-against-election-disinformation/> (last visited Sept. 21, 2026).

⁵ Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), *Republicans just got another bad decision from the United States Supreme Court*, TRUTH SOCIAL, Sept. 15, 2026 9:27 AM, <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/117275286602582454>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ E.g., Dustin Volz, Julian E. Barnes & Steven Lee Myers, *Russia Aims to Inject Chaos Into Elections, U.S. Intelligence Finds*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 18, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/18/us/politics/russia-election-disinformation-us-intelligence.html>; Michael Waldman, *How AI Might Affect Elections*, BRENNAN CTR. FOR JUST. (Aug. 11, 2026), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/how-ai-might-affect-elections>; Mekela Panditharatne & Shanze Hasan, *How to Detect and Guard Against Deceptive AI-Generated Election Information*, BRENNAN CTR. FOR JUST. (May 16, 2024), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/how-detect-and-guard-against-deceptive-ai-generated-election-information>.

point of view. For example, using social media to tell citizens that Election Day is on Wednesday or that mail-in ballots are illegal is simply election interference. Meanwhile, your companies have continued to retreat from the responsibility of ensuring that information online is accurate.⁸ Under the circumstances, Congress has no choice but to carefully scrutinize how social media platforms respond to large-scale election mis and disinformation, both before and after the 2026 midterm elections, which are already underway.

Congress's Constitutional power to conduct investigations stands on equal footing with its authority to legislate and appropriate.⁹ To that end, please provide by October 15, 2026, a detailed written response regarding your company's current policies to identify and respond to election mis and disinformation and what actions you will be taking for the 2026 midterm elections, along with written answers to the following questions:

1. What steps are you taking to ensure that the Supreme Court's clear ruling that state's mail-in ballot procedures must not be disturbed for the November 2026 midterm elections is not subject to mis and disinformation campaigns that undermine the integrity of mail-in voting? For example, if a campaign alleges that mail-in voting is not permitted in California for the November 2026 midterm elections, how will you ensure that false statement is addressed?
2. Has your company received any communications from the Trump Administration related to election security or the United States Postal Service's procedures for mail-in ballots? If so, what instructions or requests did you receive, and how have you engaged with them?
3. Do you currently have any plans to change your election integrity policies between now and Election Day 2026 (November 3, 2026)? If so, please describe the changes and the reasoning for any particular change.
4. How will your company address mis and disinformation made by political actors, verified accounts, or synthetic accounts, and how will they be treated differently, if at all, compared to ordinary users?
5. What are your companies' plans for keeping Congress fully informed about mis and disinformation campaigns and potential changes in your companies' election integrity policies?

These records are needed for the U.S. Senate to exercise its essential oversight and legislative functions. We further request that you preserve all records and communications relating to the topics addressed in this letter, from January 1, 2025, to the present and continue preserving such

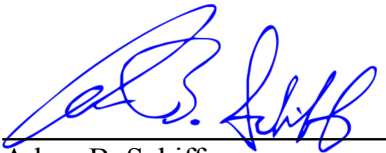
⁸ Alexa Corse, Meghan Bobrowsky & Jeff Horwitz, *Social-Media Companies Decide Content Moderation Is Trending Down*, WALL ST. J. (Jan. 7, 2025), <https://www.wsj.com/tech/social-media-companies-decide-content-moderation-is-trending-down-25380d25>; Neal Broverman, *YouTube Very Quietly Loosened Its Content Moderation Rules*, MASHABLE (June 9, 2025), <https://mashable.com/article/youtube-content-moderation-changes>; *YouTube Changes Policy to Allow False Claims About Past US Presidential Elections*, AP NEWS (June 2, 2023), <https://apnews.com/article/youtube-election-misinformation-policy-42a6c1b7623c485dbc04eb76ad443247>; Huo Jingnan, Shannon Bond & Bobby Allyn, *Meta Says It Will End Fact-Checking as Silicon Valley Prepares for Trump*, NPR (Jan. 7, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/01/07/nx-sl-5251151/meta-fact-checking-mark-zuckerberg-trump>.

⁹ E.g., *McGrain v. Daugherty*, 273 U.S. 135, 175 (1927); *Watkins v. United States* 354 U.S. 178 (1957).

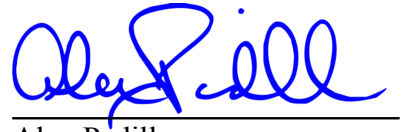
materials on an ongoing basis. This preservation hold applies to all relevant records within your possession and any person or entity representing or purporting to be acting on your behalf. This includes, but is not limited to, records and communications via email, whether official or personal; mobile devices; encrypted or disappearing messaging applications; social media; calendar entries; meeting notes; and voicemail and text messages. To the extent that you use any auto-delete functions, you should immediately suspend auto-delete functions and notify persons with control over potentially relevant records of similar preservation obligations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We take our constitutional duty to protect shared democratic principles seriously. Your thorough and prompt responses to these inquiries are required for these efforts, as they will inform our work on legislative solutions to strengthen federal elections and combat large-scale mis and disinformation. Platforms that condone, support, or advance efforts to disenfranchise U.S. voters will be scrutinized and held accountable, including through oversight and potential legislation. We look forward to your prompt response, including a written confirmation that you are preserving all records related to this congressional inquiry.

Sincerely,



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator