

## Inquiry into the Impact of Social Media on Elections and Electoral Administration

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### SUBMISSION

The major technology companies of google, facebook and twitter have continually biased their platform to suit their (the business or owners) personal preferences. They can and do influence the public to favor certain candidates or parties by presenting favorable information, by not presenting unfavorable information, by selecting presenters and authorities that are bias, by fake news and out right lies. Numerous studies in Britain, the European Union and the USA to name a few countries that support this finding.

There are hundreds of academic and research paper that support this finding. One such is study focusing on google printed in 2019 was "Algorithms of Oppression:How Search Engines Reinforce Racism". The conclusion was google and many other search engine were bias in presenting their results. Another example was when Facebook Inc., Alphabet Inc.'s Google and Twitter Inc. all removed a video advocating the use of hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for Covid-19 it seems that this was mainly because President Trump supported the video. One study concluded that roughly three-quarters of Americans (73%) think it is very or somewhat likely that social media sites intentionally censor political viewpoints they find objectionable, including 37% who say this is very likely. (<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2020/07/31/big-tech-and-antitrust-pay-attention-to-the-math-behind-the-curtain/>)

The real problem is not are they bias, everyone agrees they are, but what can be done to eliminate or moderate the bias. No easy answers here. In the short term maybe a freeze on political comments for a period before the election or some variation of that. Really I don't have any great ideas, up to you.

**Are you interested in appearing before the committee in person to talk about your submission?**

No

**Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?**

A ban is a short term solution, which would be better than nothing. The same as other type of media are restricted close to the election.

**Signature:**

[REDACTED]

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**