

October 30, 2017

Mr. Larry Page, Alphabet CEO, Google Co-Founder
Mr. Sergey Brin, Alphabet President, Google Co-Founder
Mr. Sundar Pichai, Google CEO
Google Headquarters
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043

Dear Mr. Page, Brin and Pichai:

Our civic organizations and experts are writing to strongly urge you as the leaders of Alphabet and Google to take all steps necessary to ensure that Google and YouTube, owned by Google, are never again used as vehicles for foreign interests to interfere with U.S. elections.

It is incontrovertible that Russia intervened in the 2016 presidential election in an effort to sabotage the election and our democracy. It is also clear that Google and YouTube unwittingly facilitated these sabotage efforts by serving as platforms for Russian cyber-attacks on the 2016 presidential race.

Given these circumstances, it is incumbent upon Google to use all of its technological expertise to ensure that Google and YouTube are not used in the future by Russia or any other foreign interest to undermine the integrity of U.S. elections.

Solving these problems requires Google to play a critical role in exposing, and where possible preventing, Russian or other foreign intervention in our elections.

While Google and YouTube obviously have no desire to harm our democracy, without their use as a vehicle for disseminating false, inflammatory and manipulative information, Russia could not have done as much damage as it did to our elections and our political system in 2016.

As citizens and as leaders of Google, you and your company have a responsibility to the American people to take all steps necessary to ensure that Google and YouTube are never again used by Russia, or by any other foreign interest, to manipulate U.S. elections.

We urge you to endorse the Honest Ads Act pending in Congress. We also urge you to take all steps necessary within your organization to prevent citizens from being misled and manipulated by foreign intervention in future elections.

We also urge you to work with members of Congress to ensure that the most effective new laws are enacted and the most effective technical practices are put in place to protect our elections and our democracy from future foreign interference and sabotage.

Signers of the letter are:

Campaign Legal Center
Carole Mundy, Ethica Media/Political Transparency Project
Center for Digital Democracy
Common Cause
CREW
Democracy 21
End Citizens United
Every Voice
Free Speech for People
Issue One
Norman Eisen, chief White House ethics lawyer for President Obama, 2009-2011
Norman Ornstein
People for the American Way
Revolving Door Project
Richard Painter, chief White House ethics lawyer for President Bush, 2005-2007
Sunlight Foundation
U.S. PIRG