

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 24, 2020

Mark Zuckerberg
Chief Executive Officer
Facebook
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

On January 5, 2021, the state of Georgia will hold a runoff election for two Senate seats – an election that will determine the control of the United States Senate. Facebook must expect an onslaught of the malign tactics of voter suppression and delegitimization seen in the Presidential election, and cannot backslide or regress in its moral and civic responsibility to protect our democracy. We write to request information about the content moderation practices, civic integrity policies, and improvements that Facebook will have in place for the Georgia runoff election.

During Tuesday’s Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, you committed to implement robust content moderation measures in the Georgia runoff and to provide information about the specific plans and steps that Facebook will take for the runoff. These measures must build on the playbook used in the Presidential election: fact-checks, labels, restrictions on algorithmic amplification for misinformation, additional context on trending topics, and limits on the sharing of content that violates civic integrity policies. You also committed to studying the effectiveness of these measures in order to make them more robust. Facebook should learn from its efforts and improve on them before the runoff, particularly given reports that internal analysis found that your labels of President Trump’s false election claims have failed to significantly slow their spread. Finally, you committed to improve content moderation efforts and resources for Spanish-speaking communities, which were deluged with misinformation, before the election.

The runoff has already started: Georgians right now are registering to vote and registrars are beginning to mail absentee ballots. However, social media has been inundated with disinformation and smear campaigns designed to undermine the results of the general election and prevent a runoff, including a malign torrent of falsehoods from the President and his allies. Given the in-progress election and your commitments on Tuesday, we respectfully request information about what steps you will take, as well as answers to the following questions by November 30th

- 1.) Are you currently implementing all of the same content moderation measures used during the Presidential election? If not, what steps are you currently not taking, and

when will you begin to apply them for the Georgia runoff?

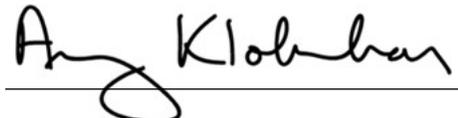
- 2.) What additional measures do you plan to take, above and beyond those implemented for the November 2020 general election, to reduce the spread of misinformation and content that violates your civic integrity policies before the Georgia runoff election?
- 3.) Will you retain at least the same number of salaried content moderators focused on the United States for the Georgia runoff?
- 4.) What steps will you take, and what resources will you commit, to address Spanish-language misinformation, and what organizations will you collaborate with to improve your efforts to support these communities?
- 5.) Has Facebook considered the impact that its continued political ad ban will have on new elections like the Georgia special runoff elections? Has Facebook considered implementing an alternative ad review process that would allow advertising for the Georgia runoff, such as an arrangement where ads for past elections continue to be banned while ads for the runoff would be allowable?

Thank you for your attention to these important issues. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



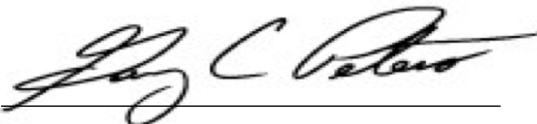
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