

October 30, 2017

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg
Facebook President and CEO
Facebook Headquarters
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

Our civic organizations and experts are writing to strongly urge you as the President and CEO of Facebook to take all steps necessary to ensure that Facebook is never again used as a vehicle 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 Facebook unwittingly facilitated these sabotage efforts by serving as a platform for Russian cyber-attacks on the 2016 presidential race.

The Facebook community has the right to know when Russia is using Facebook in an effort to deceive, mislead and manipulate the votes of the U.S. members of the community. Facebook has an obligation to provide this information to the Facebook community and to the public.

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

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

While Facebook obviously has no desire to harm our democracy, without its 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 a citizen and as the President of Facebook, you and your company have a responsibility to the American people to take all steps necessary to ensure that Facebook is 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 U.S. 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