Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 22, 2026

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg
Chief Executive Officer
Meta Platforms, Inc.
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

On October 25, Brazilians will head to the polls to vote in a presidential runoff election between current President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Senator Flávio Bolsonaro. In democratic elections, it is incumbent upon social media companies to ensure that candidates receive equitable treatment and access with regards to distribution, moderation, and recommendation of campaign-related content across their platforms. We are, therefore, deeply concerned about credible reports of Meta platforms restricting or suppressing content associated with the Lula campaign while amplifying or recommending content associated with the Bolsonaro campaign, thereby creating starkly unequal conditions in the digital environment.

Given the critical role social media plays in political communication, it is unacceptable for any social media platform to favor one political candidate or party over another, whether deliberately or inadvertently. As U.S. lawmakers who support free and fair elections at home and abroad, it is our responsibility to conduct oversight to ensure that U.S. social media platforms are not influencing the outcomes of elections abroad. We urge you to take immediate action to ensure that, going forward, candidates and their campaigns in democratic elections receive equal treatment and access on your platforms.

The alarming reports that have come to our attention include the following:

- On September 23, the Lula campaign's Facebook advertising account was disabled unilaterally and without explanation, just 11 days before the first round of voting on October 4.[1] While the account was later restored, your company offered no substantive reason for this action beyond the vague claim that "some activities" did not comply with the platform's rules.[2] A formal complaint to Meta from the Lula campaign stated,

[1] O Globo. 2026. "PT Diz Que Página De Anúncios De Lula No Facebook Foi Restringida E Cobra Explicações Da Meta." O Globo. September 25, 2026. https://oglobo.globo.com/blogs/sonar-a-escuta-das-redes/post/2026/09/pt-diz-que-pagina-de-anuncios-de-lula-no-facebook-foi-restringida-e-cobra-explicacoes-da-meta.ghtml.
[2] Luiz, Álvaro. 2026. "Meta Restringe Anúncios De Lula a 10 Dias Do 1º Turno; Campanha Recorre." Metrópoles. September 24, 2026. https://www.metropoles.com/brasil/meta-restringe-anuncios-de-lula-a-10-dias-do-1o-turno-campanha-recorre.

"Disabling the candidate's ad account makes it impossible to run new advertisements. In practical terms, this not only causes incalculable harm to the candidate and the election itself, but also favors his political opponents in the electoral race."[3]

- From October 9 to October 10, Meta prevented the Lula campaign from paying to boost ads published on its Instagram account for nearly 24 hours. Leading Brazilian outlet Folha de São Paulo reported on internal Meta communications showing that the company was aware of the restrictions.[4] According to an estimate from the Lula campaign, around 1.3 million people did not see its ads due to the restriction.[5]

- The same reporting revealed that Meta employees were aware of algorithmic recommendations promoting Senator Bolsonaro's profile on the platform and on a WhatsApp channel linked to his campaign, a practice that is prohibited by Brazil's Superior Electoral Court (TSE).[6] The report noted that a Meta employee raised concerns about legal action against the company that could result from the limits that the Lula campaign faced on its platforms in comparison with the Bolsonaro campaign.

- On October 13 and October 14, the Brazilian digital-accountability nonprofit CTRL+Z released findings documenting more than 1,000 reports of content moderation restrictions on Meta platforms during the 2026 election campaign.[7] According to the organization, the reported cases predominantly affected pro-Lula accounts and included reduced content reach, restricted account functions, and account and post removals.[8] The findings raised concerns about inconsistent or politically selective moderation, including reports of political content being incorrectly flagged for serious violations.

- On October 14, an article by prominent Brazilian journalist Mônica Bergamo revealed that Meta's A.I. agent would not produce content supporting President Lula, even as it produced content in response to the exact same prompt supporting Senator Bolsonaro's

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[3] O Globo. 2026. "PT Diz Que Página De Anúncios De Lula No Facebook Foi Restringida E Cobra Explicações Da Meta." O Globo, September 25. https://oglobo.globo.com/blogs/sonar-a-escuta-das-redes/post/2026/09/pt-diz-que-pagina-de-anuncios-de-lula-no-facebook-foi-restringida-e-cobra-explicacoes-da-meta.ghtml.
[4] Campos Mello, Patricia. 2026. "Em Mensagens Internas, Meta Admite Que Contas De Lula Foram Prejudicadas Por Restrições; Engenheiros Falam Em Falhas Técnicas." Folha de S.Paulo, Folha.uol.com.br, October 16. https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/poder/2026/10/em-mensagens-internas-meta-admite-que-contas-de-lula-foram-prejudicadas-por-restricoes-engenheiros-falam-em-falhas-tecnicas.shtml.
[5] Campos Mello, "Em Mensagens Internas"
[6] Campos Mello, "Em Mensagens Internas"
[7] Sakamoto, Leonardo. 2026. "MPF Vai Apurar Bloqueios Da Meta; Maioria De Restrições Prejudica Lula." UOL, October 14. https://noticias.uol.com.br/colunas/leonardo-sakamoto/2026/10/14/mpf-vai-apurar-bloqueios-da-meta-apos-relatos-de-censura-na-eleicao.htm.
[8] Sakamoto "MPF Vai Apurar Bloqueios Da Meta"

campaign.[9]

Given these concerning trends, Brazil's Superior Electoral Court (TSE) issued an October 15 ruling fining Meta and ordering the platform to provide equal treatment to both candidates.[10] On October 19, citing the platform's continued noncompliance just a few days ahead of the country's runoff elections on October 25, the TSE doubled the fine for noncompliance.[11] On October 20, Meta claimed that it had "completed the implementation of measures" to comply with the court's order, including 17 different initiatives and a human review system for presidential campaign ad accounts.

With Brazil's runoff elections occurring in less than a week, we call for further clarification of these "measures" and urge additional action to ensure that, going forward, candidates in democratic elections at home and abroad benefit from an even playing field on Meta's platforms. Given the time sensitive nature of these issues, we request an immediate briefing on Friday, October 23. We request that you provide written responses to the following questions by Wednesday, November 4:

1. How has Meta instructed its employees to manage content moderation in foreign elections, including the 2026 Brazilian elections? Please provide all applicable policies and guidelines, as well as all formal and informal communications, including but not limited to, meeting records, phone calls, emails, text messages, or letters.
2. Has Meta ever communicated with Trump Administration officials related to the Brazilian judiciary, Brazilian government regulation efforts or proposals, the 2026 Brazilian elections, or U.S. policy toward Brazil? If so, please disclose the content of these communications, including but not limited to, meeting records, phone calls, emails, text messages, or letters.
3. Can you confirm the reporting published by Folha de São Paulo that demonstrates Meta employees were aware of the asymmetrical treatment of the Lula and Bolsonaro campaigns on its platforms and potential violations of Brazilian electoral law?[12] If so, when did Meta employees first register concerns of this asymmetrical treatment with the company and when did the company act to remedy these issues of asymmetrical treatment?

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[9] Bergamo, Mônica. 2026. "Meta AI Cria Propaganda Para Flávio E Veta Material De Lula." Folha de S.Paulo, Folha.uol.com.br, October 14.
[10] Justiça Eleitoral. 2026. "TSE Ouve Meta Sobre Aprimoramento De Medidas Para Enfrentamento Da Desinformação Na Reta Final Das Eleições." https://www.tse.jus.br/comunicacao/noticias/2026/Outubro/tse-ouve-meta-sobre-aprimoramento-de-medidas-para-enfrentamento-da-desinformacao-na-reta-final-das-eleicoes.
[11] Farooq, Umar. 2026. "Brazilian Court Orders Meta to Prove Lula and Bolsonaro Get Equal Treatment." Al Jazeera, October 19. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/10/19/brazilian-court-orders-meta-to-prove-lula-and-bolsonaro-get-equal-treatment.
[12] Campos Mello, "Em Mensagens Internas"

4. What are the 17 initiatives that Meta took to comply with the orders of Brazil's TSE and what preexisting safeguards existed at Meta with regards to ensuring equal access and treatment to political candidates? Will Meta conduct an assessment to determine whether similar initiatives should be undertaken in other countries with pending elections?
5. Meta's newly-announced human review mechanism requires manual review of any automated restrictions on the two campaigns' ad accounts within two hours. How, specifically, will Meta oversee, implement, and enforce this two-hour rule to ensure that both candidates benefit from an even playing field on its platforms?
6. Will you allow an independent auditor access to Meta's internal moderation and distribution data—specifically the data related to political content related to Brazil's election—in order to confirm whether or not the company is in fact ensuring equal treatment of candidates on its platforms?

Sincerely,

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Greg Casar
Member of Congress

Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress

Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress