

Complaint Description

Andrew Saturn (Fri, 1 Mar 2019 at 3:11 PM)

Facebook, Inc. has continued to violate RCW 42.17A.345 and WAC 390-18-050 after claiming they "no longer sell political ads" (1) in Washington State. I was able to place "political" ads (though I am not a candidate, and my ads were for a blog post at <https://medium.com/@andrewsaturn/olympia-councilmember-jim-cooper-proposes-1-minimum-wage-increase-d710c0eaa0e4>, describing how Olympia City Council members Jim Cooper and Lisa Parshley are opposed to raising the minimum wage to a living wage, and also opposed to additional workers' rights, like secure scheduling). Additionally, the "disclosure" Facebook, Inc. offered to me—a website located at <https://www.facebook.com/ads/archive> which simply shows ads and who ran them—does not meet the requirements (does not display how many ads were shown, exact time span, who they were shown to, or dollars spent on the ads, etc).

Facebook, Inc. refused to offer me any way to physically inspect books.

Per articles in numerous publications, including articles written by Eli Sanders of The Stranger (2), Facebook, Inc. has had plenty of time to implement the changes necessary for them to meet the requirements set under Washington State Law. It is my opinion that the Attorney General of the State of Washington needs to take action in this matter, as Facebook, Inc. has shown that they have habitually disregarded WA state law, and are acting with malice to avoid compliance.

1. <https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2019/02/12/38844520/since-facebook-banned-political-ads-in-washington-state-its-sold-a-bunch-of-them>
2. <https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/10/16/33926412/facebook-says-its-immune-from-washington-state-law>

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

Concealing campaign finances and advertising details from the public

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found.

Screenshots showing ads I placed, screenshots showing the information Facebook is willing to provide (which doesn't meet WA PDC requirements)

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.

Nobody I contacted at Facebook, Inc. would provide their full name or direct contact details. Facebook, Inc. does not list contact details to request information on political ads they sell.

Complaint Certification:

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Hi Andrew. These automated messages are from Facebook Advertiser Support. You may be able to get the help you need with your ads.

When you're ready, select Get started.

Get started

Get started

Briefly tell us what you need help with.

You can enter something like, "I'm an admin, and I want to merge two Pages."

Political ad legal compliance

Got it! It seems like you'd like help with this topic: **Disapproved Ads**. Is this right?

Yes

No

No

A Facebook representative will join you shortly.

Got it. You're currently in a queue to chat with a Facebook representative. They'll be with you in **about 10 minutes** and will use the info you've given us to offer you better support.

Eric has joined you.



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Eric has joined you.



Facebook Advertiser Support



hello

Hi Andrew! My name is Eric with Facebook Ad Support! Thank you for waiting! How can I help today?

So I'm not sure if you're familiar, but Washington State (USA) has laws regarding campaign finance, and commercial advertisers who run ads for politicians and campaigns must keep records for 3 years.

Facebook is not complying with this law. There was actually a recent ruling that said Facebook has to start complying... I'm basically wondering how I am supposed to be able to request records for ads run on behalf of candidates. The candidates have disabled their pages and basically hidden their ads.

Thank your concern with this request Andrew. I'll be more than happy to take a look into this.

Please bear with me a 1-8 minutes to get some clarity in this matter for you.

No problem.

Hey Andrew! I'm still trying to gather more information about this. Please bear with me.

No problem

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Hey Andrew, Thank you for your patience, i'm still trying to gather the information for you.

Sure

I'm fine with contacting someone to retrieve the records. The issue is the website lists no phone number or anything.

Thank you for hanging in there with me. After researching this for you, I was able to find this link here https://www.intern.facebook.com/business/help/2405092116183307?helpref=faq_content About Ad Archives "The Ad Archive (or Ad Library, in countries other than US) lets people view and search for ads related to politics or issues of national importance that have appeared on either Facebook or Instagram." When clicked on, it should take you to this link here https://www.facebook.com/ads/archive/?active_status=all&ad_type=political and issue ads&country=US Was this the information that you're requesting?



let me look

that found it

the only issue here is this is only paid ads



Do you have an example of an "Un paid ad"? I'll be happy to look into as well.



Facebook Advertiser Support



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Do you have an example of an "Un paid ad"? I'll be happy to look into as well.

sure



Only the boosted posts show in this archive, not the other posts made by a campaign

it's ok for now I'll reach out if I need anything else. thanks.

Sure, that's no problem! If you have any other ad related inquires, please be sure to reach us again at <https://www.facebook.com/business/resources>. Thank you for reaching out to Facebook and Have a wonderful rest of your day!



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Got it! It seems like you'd like help with this topic: **Disapproved Ads**. Is this right?

Yes

No



Get started

February 15, 2019 at 4:14 PM



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Manage Messages

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Shared Photos

Political ad legal compliance



No

