

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Early Renewal Applications)
Walt Disney Company's)
ABC Licenses)

Docket No. 26-131of the

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To: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Attn. Alexander Sanjenis, Chief Media Bureau

Petition to Deny

Media Research Center
2340 Dulles Corner Blvd, Suite 1000
Herndon, VA 20171
Phone: (571) 267-3500

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Introduction

Walt Disney's American Broadcasting Company (ABC) has First Amendment rights. It does not have a right to public spectrum. Because of ABC's continued and sustained abuse of the licenses subject to the current review, its notorious efforts to improperly influence national elections, and its willful engagement in misinformation and the promotion of violence, Petitioners request that these licenses not be renewed.

ABC has been permitted to use the broadcasting licenses being considered for renewal in exchange for its promise to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or "the Commission") and the American people that it would act in the public interest. The use of this spectrum is a privilege that has been provided to relatively few companies.

Unfortunately, ABC has broken its promise and not acted in the public interest. Instead, it has used the spectrum licensed to WABC-TV and its sister ABC subsidiaries in a manner that has injured Petitioners, and the American public at large.

ABC's eight owned-and-operated stations include WABC-TV (New York), KFSN-TV (Fresno), KABC-TV (Los Angeles), KGO-TV (San Francisco), WLS-TV (Chicago), WTVD (Durham), WPVI-TV (Philadelphia), and KTRK-TV (Houston). They have used public spectrum to suppress news coverage of the most critical stories of our day; to engage in electioneering and relentless political bias; to excuse,

minimize, and even justify the epidemic of political violence; and to peddle misinformation and defamation.

If WABC-TV and its sister subsidiaries' licenses are not renewed, ABC will continue to be able to exercise its free speech rights. It will be free to engage the American public as a partisan activist group through avenues not subsidized by the American people. In addition, the American people and their government will be protected from a media conglomerate that wants to unlawfully use public resources for its own political schemes.

Interest of Petitioners

The Media Research Center (MRC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and the nation's premier media watchdog.¹ The president of MRC is David Bozell who leads the organization to ensure, in part, that public spectrum is properly used to serve Americans in all fifty states who have an interest in balanced and reliable news reporting, news analysis, and news commentary.² These interests are undermined by ABC's abuse of the public spectrum to misinform viewers and engage in electioneering.³

Seymour Fein is a board member of the MRC and resides in New Canaan, Connecticut, a community served by WABC-TV.⁴ Dr. Fein is a regular viewer of broadcast television and has a personal and particular interest that the public spectrum in the New York metro area be used to share useful, nonpartisan news

¹ Exhibit 2, Declaration of David Bozell, ¶ 1.

² *Id.* at ¶ 2.

³ *Id.* at ¶ 3.

⁴ Exhibit 3.

reporting, news analysis, and news commentary to inform him of current events.⁵ Instead, WABC-TV has harmed Mr. Fein by abusing public spectrum to misinform viewers and engage in electioneering.⁶

Kristi Knoke supports MRC's mission and resides in San Juan Capistrano, California.⁷ A regular viewer of broadcast television, she has a personal and particular interest that the public spectrum in the Los Angeles metro area be used to share useful, nonpartisan news reporting, news analysis, and news commentary to inform her of current events.⁸ Instead, KABC-TV has harmed Ms. Knoke by abusing public spectrum to misinform viewers and engage in electioneering.⁹

Daniel Kinghorn supports MRC's mission and resides in Algonquin, Illinois.¹⁰ A regular viewer of broadcast television, he has a personal and particular interest that the public spectrum in the Chicago metro area be used to share useful, nonpartisan news reporting, news analysis, and news commentary to inform him of current events.¹¹ Instead, WLS-TV has harmed Mr. Kinghorn by abusing public spectrum to misinform viewers and engage in electioneering.¹²

Melissa Hancock supports MRC's mission and resides in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.¹³ A regular viewer of broadcast television, she has a personal and particular interest that the public spectrum in the Philadelphia metro area be used

⁵ Exhibit 3.

⁶ Exhibit 3.

⁷ Exhibit 4.

⁸ Exhibit 4.

⁹ Exhibit 4.

¹⁰ Exhibit 5.

¹¹ Exhibit 5.

¹² Exhibit 5.

¹³ Exhibit 6.

to share useful, nonpartisan news reporting, news analysis, and news commentary to inform her of current events.¹⁴ Instead, WPVI-TV has harmed Ms. Hancock by abusing public spectrum to misinform viewers and engage in electioneering.¹⁵

John Woodhouse supports MRC's mission and resides in Houston, Texas.¹⁶ A regular viewer of broadcast television, he has a personal and particular interest that the public spectrum in the Houston metro area be used to share useful, nonpartisan news reporting, news analysis, and news commentary to inform him of current events.¹⁷ Instead, KTRK-TV has harmed Mr. Woodhouse by abusing the public spectrum to misinform viewers and engage in electioneering.¹⁸

Dan Schneider is a vice president of the MRC and resides in New York City, New York.¹⁹ A regular viewer of broadcast television, he has a personal and particular interest that the public spectrum in the New York City metro area be used to share useful, nonpartisan news reporting, news analysis, and news commentary to inform him of current events.²⁰ Instead, WABC-TV has harmed Mr. Schneider by abusing public spectrum to misinform viewers and engage in electioneering.²¹

¹⁴ Exhibit 6.

¹⁵ Exhibit 6.

¹⁶ Exhibit 7.

¹⁷ Exhibit 7.

¹⁸ Exhibit 7.

¹⁹ Exhibit 8, Declaration Dan Schneider, ¶¶ 1–2.

²⁰ *Id.* at ¶ 3.

²¹ *Id.* at ¶¶ 4–5.

Background

As broadcast spectrum is a public resource and using it is a privilege that comes with restrictions, federal law mandates that it be used to advance the “public convenience, interest, or necessity.”²² To obtain the Commission’s permission to use public spectrum, licensees agree not to use said spectrum to advance their personal, partisan political agendas.²³

On April 28, 2026, the Video Division of the Commission’s Media Bureau directed the Walt Disney Corporation, ABC, and ABC’s subsidiaries to file license renewals for the Commission licenses to public spectrum they possessed.²⁴ This action took place amidst the Commission’s investigation of ABC’s workplace hiring and compensation practices, which allegedly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, and sexual orientation in violation of both federal regulations and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.²⁵ As part of the early renewal review, the Commission should determine whether ABC’s stations have been operating in the public interest, as required by their licenses.²⁶

The scores of examples of ABC’s practices (like its 100% positive coverage of Kamala Harris against Donald Trump’s 93% negative coverage during the 2024 presidential campaign, George Stephanopoulos’s blatant and intentional defamatory statements against Trump, and the hundreds of times ABC refused to cover stories

²² 47 U.S. Code § 307; *see also* 47 U.S. Code § 308.

²³ *See* § 315(a).

²⁴ FCC’s Media Bureau Establishes Pleading Cycle and Ex Parte Procedures for the Early Renewal Applications of The Walt Disney Company’s ABC Licenses, Public Notice, DA 26-541, MB Docket No. 26-131, at 1 (Media Bur. May 29, 2026).

²⁵ *See id.* at 1–2; *see also* 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e–2000e-17.

²⁶ FCC’s Media Bureau Establishes, *supra*, 2.

that might enure to the benefit of Republicans and conservatives) demonstrate that ABC has willfully and knowingly broken the terms of its licenses and intentionally violated its legal obligations to the American public.

As the preeminent media watchdog group, MRC has reviewed nearly 50,000 hours of ABC programming over 38 years, and has produced hundreds of studies detailing ABC's systemic bias, dishonesty, and partisan activism.²⁷ Exemplars of these studies are attached as Exhibit 1 to this petition to deny.²⁸

Argument

ABC uses public spectrum to engage in electioneering and relentless political bias; to deliberately suppress news coverage of the most critical stories of our day; to excuse, minimize, and even justify the epidemic of political violence; and to peddle misinformation and defamation.

I. ABC is a Partisan Operation Engaged in Active Electioneering, Including Interference in a Presidential Debate

ABC is a partisan political operation that engages in active electioneering for the Democratic Party, its candidates and its policy priorities.

ABC's political agenda during the 2024 presidential campaign is illustrative of its refusal to comply with its licensing agreements and the law. From the day Kamala Harris became the Democratic nominee to the presidential debate, 100% of

²⁷ Exhibit 2, *supra*, ¶ 1.

²⁸ See Exhibit 1.

ABC *World News Tonight*'s coverage of her was positive.²⁹ In that same time, 93% of the program's coverage of Trump was negative.³⁰ Yet ABC still selected *World News Tonight*'s anchor David Muir to host the debate, an act that was most assuredly in Harris's political interest, but not the public interest.³¹

On six different occasions, Muir interrupted the debate to contradict what Trump had said, while refusing to do the same for Harris.³² In at least two of those outbursts, Muir's statements were verifiably inaccurate.³³

Another egregious example of raw electioneering includes a broadcast from May of this year—after the license renewals were being evaluated by the Commission. In it, an ABC co-host stated:

[A]s long as Republicans are in power in the majority there will never be accountability, there will never be checks and balances, there will never be oversight. And so, if Americans want this to end, want the abuses of power checked, they have got to vote Democrats [sic] in November, period.³⁴

²⁹ Rich Noyes, 100%! ABC Debate Moderator David Muir Hosts Most Pro-Harris, Left-Wing Newscast, NewsBusters (Sept. 9, 2024, 9:05 AM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/rich-noyes/2024/09/09/100-abc-debate-moderator-david-muir-hosts-most-pro-harris-left-wing>.

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ See *id.*

³² See Nicholas Fondacaro, 1 vs 3: Trump Had to Debate Kamala and Both of the ABC Moderators, NewsBusters (Sept. 11, 2024, 1:30 AM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2024/09/11/1-vs-3-trump-had-debate-kamala-and-both-abc-moderators>.

³³ See Shaun Maguire (@shaunmaguire), X (Oct. 16, 2024, 4:04 PM), <https://x.com/shaunmaguire/status/1846583025825611955>; @amuse (@amuse), X (Sept. 18, 2024, 2:27 AM), <https://x.com/amuse/status/1836230457052000598>.

³⁴ Nicholas Fondacaro, The View Demands Votes for Democrats "If Americans Want This to End", NewsBusters (May 18, 2026, 2:20 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2026/05/18/view-demands-votes-democrats-if-americans-want-end>.

This was, unfortunately, not a one-off incident. In a separate broadcast held in March of this year, ABC aired a segment criticizing President Trump that concluded with the co-host cajoling viewers: “you know what to do on Election Day.”³⁵

ABC’s partisan agenda is reflected quantitatively. An MRC study from this year showed that since the first week of the New Year, 91% of ABC’s coverage pertaining to Immigration & Customs Enforcement was negative.³⁶

ABC’s commentary shows were just as, if not more, biased. An MRC study conducted from January to April of this year showed that ABC’s *The View* hosted twenty-seven Democrat-aligned guests, including eight elected officials (four of whom were currently running for office, and three others who are widely believed to be preparing to run for office).³⁷ During that same time period, *The View* only featured *one* Republican-aligned guest.³⁸ In 2025, MRC documented that *The View* hosted 128 Democrat-aligned guests, including eight sitting Democrat senators, but

³⁵ Nicholas Fondacaro, ABC Pushes CNN Lie Trump Had No Plan for Hormuz, Says Vote Dem in November, NewsBusters (Mar. 16, 2026, 3:36 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2026/03/16/abc-pushes-cnn-lie-trump-had-no-plan-hormuz-says-vote-dem> (“you know what to do on Election Day”).

³⁶ Bill D’Agostino, STUDY: TV News Hammers ICE Border Enforcement With 93% Negative Coverage, NewsBusters (Jan. 20, 2026, 12:20 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/bill-dagostino/2026/01/20/study-tv-news-hammers-ice-border-enforcement-93-negative>.

³⁷ See Nicholas Fondacaro, The View Kicks Off Midterm Year With 27 Liberal Guests to 1 Republican, NewsBusters (Apr. 10, 2026, 11:00 AM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2026/04/10/view-kicks-midterm-year-27-liberal-guests-1-republican> (Jasmine Crockett, Jim Clyburn, Josh Shapiro, and James Talarico were current candidates; Andy Beshear, Cory Booker, and Rahm Emanuel are widely recognized as candidates).

³⁸ See *id.*

featured only a single Republican.³⁹ That single Republican guest was told on-air by *The View*'s co-host: "you should become a Democrat."⁴⁰

The *View*'s Joy Behar similarly stated in 2024 that she did not want to voice any criticisms of then-President Joe Biden because it could help elect then-former President Donald Trump. "I'm nervous about saying anything against Biden because I feel (...) Are you afraid that you might influence the people who are on the fence?" she asked a guest.

In a separate study in 2025, MRC study found that 97% of the guests on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* were aligned with the political left.⁴¹ 92% of the program's so-called jokes targeted conservative-aligned people.⁴²

ABC's discrepancy in guests is not the result of who *is willing* to be on its shows. *The View* co-host Sara Haines stated that the program would only accept "a certain caliber of guest,"⁴³ with an ABC executive producer Brian Teta clarifying that the network would not ask Republican President Donald Trump to be on the show but that it would host Democrat President Joe Biden.⁴⁴ Republican congressman and

³⁹ See Nicholas Fondacaro, 2025: The View Chatted Politics with 128 Lib Guests, 2 Conservatives, NewsBusters (Dec. 22, 2025, 9:00 AM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2025/12/22/2025-view-chatted-politics-128-lib-guests-2-conservatives>.

⁴⁰ See *id.*

⁴¹ Alex Christy, STUDY: Kimmel's Demise Began Before Infamous Comments, NewsBusters (Sept. 19, 2025, 11:09 AM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/alex-christy/2025/09/19/study-kimmels-demise-began-infamous-comments>.

⁴² See *id.*

⁴³ Nicholas Fondacaro, The View: Conservatives Don't Live Up to Our "Certain Caliber of Guest", NewsBusters (Nov. 7, 2025, 4:07 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2025/11/07/view-conservatives-dont-live-our-certain-caliber-guest>.

⁴⁴ See Nicholas Fondacaro, The View "Stopped Asking" Trump to Be on Show, Expect Biden Appearance, NewsBusters (Apr. 8, 2024, 6:05 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2024/04/08/view-stopped-asking-trump-be-show-expect-biden-appearance>.

gubernatorial candidate Byron Donalds, right-leaning women’s rights activist Riley Gaines, and Trump-appointed U.S. Ambassador to South Africa L. Brent Bozell III have all requested and been denied appearances on *The View*.⁴⁵ After Republican Texas Senator Ted Cruz clashed with *The View*’s co-hosts, he was denied an appearance on the show on three separate occasions,⁴⁶ even as the show hosted multiple Democrat Texas Senate candidates.⁴⁷

ABC’s refusal to host right-leaning and Republican guests extends even to figures whom the show’s co-hosts discuss on air. After its hosts used the program to criticize the religious faith of right-leaning podcast host Isabel Brown and accuse her of “wrap[ping] a woman’s worth up in her ovaries,”⁴⁸ ABC “point-blank denied” Brown’s repeated offer to appear on an ABC program and answer its hosts’ questions.⁴⁹ After Brown objected, ABC hosts again disparaged Brown and her faith on air while refusing to grant her an interview.⁵⁰

⁴⁵ Nicholas Fondacaro, Conservatives Call Out The View for Not Accepting Appearance Requests, NewsBusters (Oct. 21, 2025, 10:50 AM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2025/10/21/conservatives-call-out-view-not-accepting-appearance>.

⁴⁶ Curtis Houck, “The View,” MSNBC’s Psaki Run for the Hills Over Cruz Requests to Debate, NewsBusters (Dec. 5, 2023, 9:47 AM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/curtis-houck/2023/12/05/exclusive-view-msnbcs-psaki-run-hills-over-cruz-requests-debate>.

⁴⁷ See Fondacarro, *The View Kicks Off*, supra.

⁴⁸ See Nicholas Fondacaro, The View Attacks Conservative Woman Telling Women to Marry, Have Kids, NewsBusters (Mar. 30, 2026, 4:02 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2026/03/30/view-attacks-conservative-woman-telling-women-marry-have>.

⁴⁹ NewsBusters’ Podcast: “The View” Refuses to Talk to Isabel Brown, MRC Video (Apr. 6, 2026), at 1:06–1:12, <https://mrcvideo.org/videos/newsbusters-podcast-view-refuses-talk-isabel-brown>.

⁵⁰ See Nicholas Fondacaro, The View Continues to Smear Isabel Brown for Encouraging Marriage, Kids, NewsBusters (Apr. 3, 2026, 2:47 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2026/04/03/view-continues-smear-isabel-brown-encouraging-marriage-kids>.

ABC's partisan agenda is also demonstrated by the statements its hosts make on air, such as claiming that the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial election was "stolen" and "illegitimate,"⁵¹ denying the 2020 New York nursing home deaths,⁵² misstating the COVID-19 death toll,⁵³ suggesting that the 2024 presidential election was rigged to guarantee President Trump victory,⁵⁴ insisting that free speech advocate Elon Musk was "pro-apartheid"⁵⁵ and responsible for the death of "300,000 [people], mostly children,"⁵⁶ accusing First Daughter Ivanka Trump⁵⁷ and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas's wife Ginni Thomas of participating in the January 6 U.S. Capitol riot,⁵⁸ speculating that the Health & Human Services Department was

⁵¹ Nicholas Fondacaro, Bringing Receipts! Cruz DOMINATES The View, Liberal Audience on Dem Election Denial, NewsBusters (Oct. 24, 2022, 3:26 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2022/10/24/bringing-receipts-cruz-dominates-vew-liberal-audience-dem>.

⁵² See Kristine Marsh, Ted Cruz Triggers Joy Behar by Bringing Up Cuomo's Disastrous Nursing Home Policy, NewsBusters (Sept. 28, 2020, 2:13 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/kristine-marsh/2020/09/28/ted-cruz-triggers-joy-behar-bringing-cuomos-disastrous-nursing>.

⁵³ Jim Geraghty, The View's Take on the Jay Jones Scandal Is Ignorant Even by View Standards, National Review, <https://www.nationalreview.com/the-morning-jolt/the-views-take-on-the-jay-jones-scandal-is-ignorant-even-by-view-standards/>.

⁵⁴ See Nicholas Fondacaro, ABC News Host Suggests Trump RIGGED 2024 Presidential Election, NewsBusters (May 1, 2025, 2:36 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2025/05/01/abc-news-host-suggests-trump-rigged-2024-presidential>;

⁵⁵ Nicholas Fondacaro, Joy Behar Accuses Musk of Being "Pro-Apartheid," Begs Not to Be Sued, NewsBusters (Feb. 27, 2025, 3:07 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2025/02/27/joy-behar-accuses-musk-being-pro-apartheid-begs-not-be-sued>.

⁵⁶ Nicholas Fondacaro, ABC News: Musk Killed 300,000 Kids, Knows How Trump Stole Election, NewsBusters (June 4, 2025, 3:07 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2025/06/04/abc-news-musk-killed-300000-kids-knows-how-trump-stole>.

⁵⁷ See Kelly Jane Torrance, "The View" Is the Biggest Source of Misinformation in America, N.Y. Post (Jan. 4, 2023, 8:06 PM), <https://nypost.com/2023/01/04/the-view-is-the-biggest-source-of-misinformation-in-america/>.

⁵⁸ Nicholas Fondacaro, The View LIES About Justice Thomas's Wife Being "Part of the Insurrection", NewsBusters (Feb. 22, 2022, 3:56 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2022/02/22/view-lies-about-justice-thomass-wife-being-part-insurrection>.

targeting autistic children,⁵⁹ reciting the debunked and racist “Black Athena” eugenics theory,⁶⁰ and insisting that the Holocaust (Nazi Germany’s systematic genocide of Jewish, Roma, and Slavic people) was “not about race.”⁶¹

ABC and its hosts have free speech rights. But the Commission is not obligated to subsidize their electioneering with public spectrum.

II. ABC Refuses to Report on Many of the Most Critical Issues of Our Day

ABC has a long, documented pattern of refusing to cover many of the most critical issues of the day. This media blackout, which does a fundamental disservice to ABC’s viewers, is illustrated by quantitative data from the MRC.

Since the FCC formally commenced its early renewal process in April of this year, ABC has had special incentive to engage in news coverage rather than news suppression.⁶² Yet MRC studies show that during that timeframe, ABC refused to give meaningful (or in some cases, any) coverage on several of the biggest news stories of that time period. For example:

- From April 28 to May 5, 2026, ABC’s evening and morning news programs refused to cover the twenty raids the Trump administration conducted as

⁵⁹ See Nicholas Fondacaro, ABC Defends Comedian’s Claim Trump Is Inhuman, RFK Jr. to Abduct Kids, NewsBusters (Apr. 30, 2025, 3:26 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2025/04/30/abc-defends-comedians-claim-trump-inhuman-rfk-jr-abduct-kids>.

⁶⁰ See Rich Lowry, Does It Matter What Helen of Troy Looked Like?, National Review (May 2026), <https://www.nationalreview.com/2026/05/does-it-matter-what-helen-of-troy-looked-like/>.

⁶¹ Landon Mion, Whoopi Goldberg Apologizes Again for Claiming Holocaust Was “Not About Race”, Fox News (Dec. 28, 2022, 1:12 AM), <https://www.foxnews.com/media/whoopi-goldberg-apologizes-again-claiming-holocaust-not-about-race>.

⁶² FCC’s Media Bureau Establishes, *supra*.

part of its investigation into the Minneapolis federal welfare fraud, much of which was conducted by the city's Somali community.⁶³

- From May 1 to June 1, 2026, ABC's evening and morning news programs spent less than one minute combined discussing the \$160 billion in fraud from COVID-19 relief funds, student aid, and small-business loans. This fraud had been uncovered by a task force led by Vice President JD Vance.⁶⁴
- From May 26 to June 3, 2026, ABC's evening and morning news programs spent less than thirty seconds covering the sentencing of Aimee Bock, a Minnesota fraudster who orchestrated an over \$250 million pandemic relief fraud scheme.⁶⁵
- ABC's evening and morning news programs refused to cover the murder of fifteen-year-old Miles Young, who was murdered by a Honduran national paroled into the country by the President Joe Biden Administration.⁶⁶
- As of June 1, 2026, ABC's evening and morning news programs have refused to cover the murder of teenager Henry Nowak. Nowak's killing has sparked widespread protests in his native United Kingdom, as police refused to give

⁶³ Geoffrey Dickens, ABC/CBS Censor Trump Admin Win in Minn, NBC Airs Just 125 Seconds on Anti-Fraud Raids, NewsBusters (May 6, 2026, 10:00 AM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/geoffrey-dickens/2026/05/06/abccbs-censor-trump-admin-win-minn-nbc-air-just-125-seconds>.

⁶⁴ Geoffrey Dickens, ABC, CBS, NBC Offer a Scant 7 Minutes in a Month to Anti-Fraud Wins, NewsBusters (June 3, 2026, 2:20 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/geoffrey-dickens/2026/06/03/abc-cbs-nbc-offer-scant-7-minutes-month-anti-fraud-wins>.

⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁶ Geoffrey Dickens, CENSORED! Four New Heinous Illegal Immigrant Crimes Buried By ABC/CBS/NBC, NewsBusters (Apr. 15, 2026, 10:40 AM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/geoffrey-dickens/2026/04/15/censored-four-new-heinous-illegal-immigrant-crimes-buried>.

him medical aid and instead handcuffed him based on the false claims of the migrant man who stabbed him.⁶⁷

These spring 2026 news blackouts show that ABC refused to comply with the law even when under the microscope of an early renewal review. This arrogant refusal to serve the public interest, however, is hardly unusual for the corporation. In the entire month following the U.S. House's February passage of the popular election integrity bill known as the SAVE (Safeguard American Voter Eligibility) America Act, neither ABC's morning nor evening news shows mentioned it once.⁶⁸ Those programs also refused to cover the February revelations that the Biden Department of Justice had seized the phone records of then-private citizens Kash Patel and Susie Wiles (among many others).⁶⁹ ABC's morning and evening news shows also refused to cover the fact that for the first year of President Donald J. Trump's presidency, the nation's homicide rate fell by the largest rate in history.⁷⁰

In 2025, examples of ABC's refusal to cover stories of broad public interest include:

⁶⁷ Bill D'Agostino, STUDY: The American News Media Couldn't Care Less About Murdered Teen Henry Nowak, NewsBusters (June 2, 2026, 3:14 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/bill-dagostino/2026/06/02/study-american-news-media-couldnt-care-less-about-murdered-teen>.

⁶⁸ Geoffrey Dickens & Luis Cornelio, Elitist Media Ignore Trump's Top Priority: Popular SAVE America Act, NewsBusters (Mar. 10, 2026, 4:40 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/geoffrey-dickens/2026/03/10/elitist-media-ignore-trumps-top-priority-popular-save-america>.

⁶⁹ Geoffrey Dickens, CENSORED! ABC/CBS/NBC Spend 0 Seconds on Biden FBI Spying on Patel and Wiles, NewsBusters (Feb. 27, 2026, 11:45 AM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/geoffrey-dickens/2026/02/27/censored-abccbsnbc-spend-0-seconds-biden-fbi-spying-patel-and-wiles>.

⁷⁰ Geoffrey Dickens, Murder Rate Drops to Historic Low! ABC/CBS Ignore, NBC Airs 8 Seconds, NewsBusters (Jan. 23, 2026, 1:36 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/geoffrey-dickens/2026/01/23/murder-rate-drops-historic-low-abccbs-ignore-nbc-air-8>.

- For the first ten days of the 2025 government shutdown, ABC’s evening and morning news programs refused to reference the “national debt” (which exceeded \$37 trillion).⁷¹
- ABC’s morning and evening news programs refused to cover the anti-Catholic terror attack on the Red Mass service of the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle.⁷² This was despite the fact that the District of Columbia’s local ABC affiliate (whose license is not part of this petition) *did* cover the critically important news story, showing ABC was fully aware of the story and that even its own affiliates were uncomfortable with its blackout.⁷³
- ABC’s morning and evening news programs refused to cover the explosive Heritage Foundation report documenting that a large number of the executive orders and pardons purportedly given by President Joe Biden in his final year in office (when he was suspected of dementia) were signed by an autopen.⁷⁴

In previous years, examples of ABC’s news blackouts included:

⁷¹ Joseph Vazquez, STUDY: ABC, CBS, PBS NewsHour Don’t Mention National Debt ONCE on Shutdown Coverage, NewsBusters (Oct. 14, 2025, 10:55 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/business/joseph-vazquez/2025/10/14/study-abc-cbs-pbs-newshour-dont-mention-national-debt-once>.

⁷² Bill D’Agostino, Liberal Networks BURY Foiled Left-Wing Terror Attack on SCOTUS, NewsBusters (Oct. 10, 2025, 12:45 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/bill-dagostino/2025/10/10/liberal-networks-bury-foiled-left-wing-terror-attack-scotus>.

⁷³ *Id.*

⁷⁴ See Geoffrey Dickens, ABC/CBS/PBS Refuse to Cover Biden Autopen Scandal, NBC Offers a Scant 34 Seconds, NewsBusters (July 18, 2025, 9:30 AM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/geoffrey-dickens/2025/07/18/abccbspbs-refuse-cover-biden-autopen-scandal-nbc-offers-scant>; Geoffrey Dickens, PRIORITIES! ABC/CBS/NBC Spend 0 Seconds on Biden’s Autopen, 229 Minutes on Karen Read Trial, NewsBusters (June 23, 2025, 12:21 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/geoffrey-dickens/2025/06/23/priorities-abccbsnbc-spend-0-seconds-bidens-autopen-229>.

- In the first week after special counsel John Durham’s court filing proving that the Federal Bureau of Investigation used discredited research from the Hillary Clinton Campaign to wiretap Trump Tower, ABC refused to report on the story.⁷⁵
- ABC’s morning and evening news programs refused to mention the 2024 Portland riots.⁷⁶
- In the days after the New York Post reported on the Biden laptop scandal, ABC’s morning and evening news programs refused to cover either the initial story or the subsequent scandal wherein Big Tech media platforms aggressively censored the story.⁷⁷
- In the month following the rape accusations against then-candidate Joe Biden, ABC’s morning and evening news programs refused to report on them.⁷⁸

In fact, ABC’s blackout policies go back at least a decade, when during the 2016 primary election between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, its morning and

⁷⁵ Scott Whitlock, Week One of Spying Scandal: Nets, CNN Bury Blockbuster Claims Against Clinton, NewsBusters (Feb. 21, 2022, 10:00 AM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/scott-whitlock/2022/02/21/week-one-spying-scandal-nets-cnn-bury-block-buster-claims-against>.

⁷⁶ Geoffrey Dickens, DISGRACE: Evening Newscasts Devote ZERO Seconds to Portland Violence in 2021, NewsBusters (Mar. 15, 2021, 8:50 AM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/geoffrey-dickens/2021/03/15/disgrace-evening-newscasts-devote-zero-seconds-portland>.

⁷⁷ Geoffrey Dickens, ABC/CBS/NBC/CNN/MSNBC Bury Hunter Biden Scandal (9 Minutes In 92 Hours), NewsBusters (Oct. 16, 2020, 12:55 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/geoffrey-dickens/2020/10/16/abccbsnbccnmsnbc-bury-hunter-biden-scandal-9-minutes-92-hours>.

⁷⁸ Bill D’Agostino, STUDY: TV News Has No Time for Biden Sex Assault Accuser, NewsBusters (June 29, 2020, 9:39 AM),

evening news programs refused to report on how Clinton received material on her private, unsecured e-mail server that contained highly classified information.⁷⁹

ABC promised to serve the public interest by offering news reporting, but it has refused to do so, and instead it has imposed a blackout on some of the most significant and relevant news stories of our time.

III. ABC Uses Public Spectrum to Excuse, and Even Justify, Political Violence

In direct defiance of the public interest—and basic ethics—ABC repeatedly minimizes, excuses, and even justifies the epidemic of political violence.

ABC falsely asserted that “Neo-Nazis” were participants in Turning Point USA’s political events, claiming the free speech advocacy group “let them in” and “knew what they were.”⁸⁰ This conspiracy theory has been shown to have motivated the assassination of Turning Point’s founder, Charlie Kirk.⁸¹ Minutes after the news broke that Kirk was murdered, an ABC correspondent reported on-air “[i]t’s no secret that Kirk has said a number of controversial things over the years, in particular about DEI, Jews, women, LGBTQ community, people of color.”⁸²

⁷⁹ Curtis Houck, Networks Censor Hillary E-Mail Bombshell; Spend Over 10 Minutes on Trump Endorsement, NewsBusters (Jan. 19, 2016, 10:07 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/curtis-houck/2016/01/19/networks-censor-hillary-e-mail-bombshell-spend-over-10-minutes>.

⁸⁰ Nicholas Fondacaro, VICTORY: The View Buckles to Turning Point USA’s Defamation Threat, NewsBusters (July 27, 2022, 12:25 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2022/07/27/victory-view-buckles-turning-point-usas-defamation-threat>.

⁸¹ See Aysha Bagchi & Nick Penzenstadler, Charlie Kirk Suspect’s Bullet Casings Engraved with Taunting, Anti-Fascist Messages, USA Today (updated Sept. 12, 2025, 12:03 PM), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/09/12/charlie-kirk-shooter-tyler-robinson-gun-casings-inscriptions/86111606007/>.

⁸² Nicholas Fondacaro, ABC Proclaims Charlie Kirk Had It Coming, Students Didn’t Want Him on Campus, NewsBusters (Sept. 10, 2025, 4:57 PM),

After Kirk’s alleged murderer was arrested and his motive was known, an ABC host stated on air: “We hit some new lows over the weekend with the MAGA gang desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them.”⁸³ A different ABC host on air described the killer's text messages boasting about the slaying as “very touching.”⁸⁴ A third ABC host remarked that the killing was “not a political act”—even though the killer himself had stated his motive was political.⁸⁵

This was not the first, or last, instance of political violence being justified on-air by ABC hosts. In fact, political violence had been outright encouraged: After firebombings of Tesla dealerships to punish its CEO, Elon Musk, for his work in the Trump Administration, a laughing ABC host had, on-air, sarcastically told viewers to stop the attacks while winking.⁸⁶ ABC hosts also referred to a violent riot as “very limited destruction of property”⁸⁷ and warned police not to interfere so as not to

<https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2025/09/10/abc-proclaims-charlie-kirk-had-it-coming-students-didnt-want>.

⁸³ Sean Moran, FCC Chair Brendan Carr Threatens Action Against ABC, Jimmy Kimmel for Claiming Charlie Kirk Assassin ‘MAGA’, Breitbart (Sept. 17, 2025), <https://www.breitbart.com/entertainment/2025/09/17/fcc-chair-brendan-carr-threatens-action-against-abc-jimmy-kimmel-for-claiming-charlie-kirk-assassin-maga/>.

⁸⁴ Shane Galvin, ABC News Reporter Matt Gutman Blasted for Calling Texts from Charlie Kirk Assassination Suspect Tyler Robinson “Very Touching”, AOL (Sept. 16, 2025, 10:32 PM UTC), <https://www.aol.com/articles/abc-news-reporter-matt-gutman-223235426.html>.

⁸⁵ Beth Brelje, Jonathan Karl Says Charlie Kirk Murder Was “Not Political”: All the Questions from ABC’s This Week, The Federalist (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://thefederalist.com/2025/09/22/jonathan-karl-blames-trump-for-kimmels-suspension-all-the-questions-from-abcs-this-week/>.

⁸⁶ End Wokeness (@EndWokeness), X (Mar. 19, 2025, 2:20 PM), <https://x.com/EndWokeness/status/1902364641751142663>.

⁸⁷ Alex Hammer, The View Host Downplays Black Lives Matter Protests’ “Very Limited Destruction”, Daily Mail (updated May 25, 2026, 9:37 PM), <https://www.dailymail.com/media/article-15847107/amp/the-view-sunny-hostin-black-lives-matter-protests.html>.

“turn what is just a bunch of people having fun watching cars burn into a massive confrontation.”⁸⁸

The same ABC host who falsely blamed Kirk’s assassination on “the MAGA gang” had previously called for hospitals to intentionally let “unvaccinated” people die,⁸⁹ and joked about the shooting of House Majority Leader Steve Scalise.⁹⁰

Months after two murder attempts on her husband and hours before a third, the host joked that First Lady Melania Trump had a “glow like an expectant widow.”⁹¹

Another ABC co-host indicated that the political left needed to get a stomach for violence.⁹² She demanded that Democrats become willing to “fight and die for their rights” like previous generations:

It is very clear that Medicaid is on the table. It is very clear that Social Security is on the table. It is very clear that people will die! The baby boomers, the civil rights generation, they knew what they had to do! They were willing to fight and die for their rights! This generation of Congress, they are not meeting the moment! This is an existential crisis!⁹³

ABC’s minimization, justification, and celebration of political violence is not in the public interest.

⁸⁸ Harrison Briggs, “Fake News” ABC Has the Most Unhinged “Justification” of LA’s Anti-ICE Riots, The Populist Times (June 10, 2025),

<https://thepopulisttimes.com/fake-news-abc-has-the-most-unhinged-justification-of-las-anti-ice-riots/>.

⁸⁹ Christy, *supra*.

⁹⁰ Samantha Chang, The Western Journal, ABC Not Firing Jimmy Kimmel After Melania “Widow” Comments Feels Like Network Flipping Off Millions, The Gateway Pundit (Apr. 29, 2026, 7:00 AM), <https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2026/04/abc-not-firing-jimmy-kimmel-melania-widow-comments/>.

⁹¹ Johnni Macke, What Jimmy Kimmel Said About Melania Trump: His “Expectant Widow” Joke and More Controversial Remarks, Us Weekly (Apr. 27, 2026), <https://www.usmagazine.com/celebrity-news/news/what-did-jimmy-kimmel-say-about-melania-trump-on-tv/>.

⁹² Nicholas Fondicaro, Call to Violence? Hostin Huffs Dems Not Willing to “Fight and Die” for Rights Like Older Gens, NewsBusters (March 7, 2025, 1:37 PM), <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2025/03/07/call-violence-hostin-huffs-dems-not-willing-fight-and-die&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1782753536082197&usg=AOvVaw1I2o0XgUCZF51LQiDiPgJy>.

⁹³ *See id.*

IV. ABC Spreads Misinformation

ABC's falsehoods about the Kirk assassination were, unfortunately, not unique for the corporation. It routinely broadcasts misinformation, disinformation, and other fake news.

On December 14, 2024, ABC paid a \$15 million settlement for a defamation claim after its star host George Stephanopoulos falsely stated on-air that a public figure was "found liable for rape" when the jury specifically dismissed the claims.⁹⁴ Stephanopoulos had repeated his false and deeply damaging claim multiple times despite being confronted by a guest about it, and despite the fact that ABC had previously reported on the trial.⁹⁵ Despite the massive price tag for his slander, ABC still has not disciplined Stephanopoulos and he continues to host a weekly show for the network.⁹⁶ Unfortunately, this is not because ABC has a soft spot for the ethically-challenged anchor, but because his dishonesty is the norm for a network that has a consistently adversarial relationship with the truth.

Supra section II, ABC has broadcast several falsehoods, including:

- claims by ABC hosts that the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial election was "stolen" and "illegitimate;"⁹⁷

⁹⁴ Jeffrey Blehar, ABC Pays the Price for George Stephanopoulos's Partisan Irresponsibility, National Review (Dec. 2024), <https://www.nationalreview.com/2024/12/abc-pays-the-price-for-george-stephanopoulos-partisan-irresponsibility/>.

⁹⁵ See *id.*

⁹⁶ See *id.*

⁹⁷ Nicholas Fondacaro, Bringing Receipts! Cruz DOMINATES The View, Liberal Audience on Dem Election Denial, NewsBusters (Oct. 24, 2022, 3:26 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2022/10/24/bringing-receipts-cruz-dominates-view-liberal-audience-dem>.

- denial by ABC hosts of the 2020 New York nursing home deaths;⁹⁸
- inaccurate COVID-19 death toll statistics;⁹⁹
- conspiracy theories that the 2024 presidential election was rigged to guarantee President Trump victory;¹⁰⁰
- insistence by ABC hosts that free speech advocate Elon Musk was “pro-apartheid”¹⁰¹ and responsible for the death of “300,000 [people], mostly children;”¹⁰²
- accusations by ABC hosts that First Daughter Ivanka Trump¹⁰³ and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas’s wife Ginni Thomas participated in the January 6 U.S. Capitol riot;¹⁰⁴

⁹⁸ See Kristine Marsh, Ted Cruz Triggers Joy Behar by Bringing Up Cuomo's Disastrous Nursing Home Policy, NewsBusters (Sept. 28, 2020, 2:13 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/kristine-marsh/2020/09/28/ted-cruz-triggers-joy-behar-bringing-cuomos-disastrous-nursing>.

⁹⁹ Jim Geraghty, The View's Take on the Jay Jones Scandal Is Ignorant Even by View Standards, National Review, <https://www.nationalreview.com/the-morning-jolt/the-views-take-on-the-jay-jones-scandal-is-ignorant-even-by-view-standards/>.

¹⁰⁰ See Nicholas Fondacaro, ABC News Host Suggests Trump RIGGED 2024 Presidential Election, NewsBusters (May 1, 2025, 2:36 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2025/05/01/abc-news-host-suggests-trump-rigged-2024-presidential>;

¹⁰¹ Nicholas Fondacaro, Joy Behar Accuses Musk of Being “Pro-Apartheid,” Begs Not to Be Sued, NewsBusters (Feb. 27, 2025, 3:07 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2025/02/27/joy-behar-accuses-musk-being-pro-apartheid-begs-not-be-sued>.

¹⁰² Nicholas Fondacaro, ABC News: Musk Killed 300,000 Kids, Knows How Trump Stole Election, NewsBusters (June 4, 2025, 3:07 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2025/06/04/abc-news-musk-killed-300000-kids-knows-how-trump-stole>.

¹⁰³ See Kelly Jane Torrance, “The View” Is the Biggest Source of Misinformation in America, N.Y. Post (Jan. 4, 2023, 8:06 PM), <https://nypost.com/2023/01/04/the-view-is-the-biggest-source-of-misinformation-in-america/>.

¹⁰⁴ Nicholas Fondacaro, The View LIES About Justice Thomas’s Wife Being “Part of the Insurrection”, NewsBusters (Feb. 22, 2022, 3:56 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2022/02/22/view-lies-about-justice-thomass-wife-being-part-insurrection>.

- recitation by ABC hosts of the debunked and racist “Black Athena” eugenics theory;¹⁰⁵
- and insistence by ABC hosts that the Holocaust (Nazi Germany’s systematic genocide of Jewish, Roma, and Slavic people) was “not about race.”¹⁰⁶

In addition, ABC has disparaged more reputable coverage. For example, an ABC broadcast referred to those who argued that COVID-19 pandemic originated with a Wuhan lab leak as “wingnuts”¹⁰⁷: this accounting of events was later substantiated by multiple governmental agencies’ own analysis.¹⁰⁸ Similarly, ABC dismissed the New York Post’s reporting on the Biden laptop scandal¹⁰⁹ (after initially refusing to cover it entirely, *supra* I): Hunter Biden himself later admitted the veracity of the story.¹¹⁰

Even when ABC’s initial reporting may have been justified at the time, its subsequent refusal to correct on-air falsehoods is not excusable. For example, ABC aired a 17 minute, 52 second interview to a man claiming he was tortured in a

¹⁰⁵ See Rich Lowry, Does It Matter What Helen of Troy Looked Like?, National Review (May 2026), <https://www.nationalreview.com/2026/05/does-it-matter-what-helen-of-troy-looked-like/>.

¹⁰⁶ Landon Mion, Whoopi Goldberg Apologizes Again for Claiming Holocaust Was “Not About Race”, Fox News (Dec. 28, 2022, 1:12 AM), <https://www.foxnews.com/media/whoopi-goldberg-apologizes-again-claiming-holocaust-not-about-race>.

¹⁰⁷ See Christy, *supra*.

¹⁰⁸ See Dan Schneider, Tim Kilcullen, & Michael Morris, The Biden Administration Waged War on Free Speech with 57 Censorship Initiatives, MRC Free Speech Am. (Mar. 13, 2025), <https://mrcfreespeechamerica.org/blogs/free-speech/tim-kilcullen-dan-schneider-michael-morris/2025/03/13/biden-administration-waged>, at 14.

¹⁰⁹ Geoffrey Dickens, CENSORED: How ABC, CBS, NBC Suppressed the Hunter Biden Laptop Scandal, NewsBusters (Apr. 18, 2022, 1:43 PM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/geoffrey-dickens/2022/04/18/censored-how-abc-cbs-nbc-suppressed-hunter-biden-laptop>.

¹¹⁰ See *Mac Isaac v. CNN*, No. 1:23-cv-00247-MN, Defendant/Counterclaim Plaintiff Robert Hunter Biden’s Answer, Affirmative Defenses & Counterclaims to Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint, ECF No. 11, at 23 ¶ 5–32 ¶ 39 (D. Del. Mar. 17, 2023) (conceding the laptop was his and not Russian disinformation).

racially-motivated crime perpetrated by men in MAGA hats.¹¹¹ However, ABC only aired 22 seconds of coverage when that same man was found guilty of making the whole story up.¹¹² Other times, ABC's reporting seems deliberately distorted to deceive viewers. For example, after the Annunciation Catholic Church massacre, an ABC correspondent explained that the shooter had "the name of President Trump written on the guns," seemingly implying that the shooter was motivated by pro-Trump sentiment.¹¹³ The writing on the shooter's rifle actually said "Kill Trump."¹¹⁴

Even when reporting on international affairs that involve armed conflict and the possible loss of innocent life, ABC refused to dedicate resources to getting the facts right; nor did it appropriately correct the record when its false reporting was exposed. In the fall of 2019, under the chyron "SLAUGHTER IN SYRIA," ABC suggested that President Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. troops gave the green light for Turkish forces to invade Syria and slaughter the regional Kurds. Accompanying the report was video ABC claimed was of Turks bombing and shooting at Kurdish positions.¹¹⁵

¹¹¹ See Scott Whitlock, STUDY: After Hying Fake Smollett Attack as 'MAGA' Terror, Nets BURY Actor's Hoax Trial, NewsBusters (Dec. 6, 2021, 10:00 AM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/scott-whitlock/2021/12/06/study-after-hying-fake-smollett-attack-maga-t-error-nets-bury>.

¹¹² See *id.*

¹¹³ Curtis Houck (@CurtisHouck), X (Aug. 27, 2025, 8:39 PM), <https://x.com/CurtisHouck/status/1960804447879106703>.

¹¹⁴ Jorge Bonilla, 'DON'T SAY TRANS': Nets Avoid Any Mention of MN Shooter or His Motives, NewsBusters (Aug. 28, 2025, 12:18 AM), <https://newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/jorge-bonilla/2025/08/28/dont-say-trans-nets-avoid-any-mention-mn-shooter-or-his-motives>.

¹¹⁵ Kristine Marsh, Wow: ABC Apologizes for Using Dubious Footage for "Slaughter in Syria" Story, NewsBusters (October 14, 2019, 1:08 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/kristine-marsh/2019/10/14/wow-abc-apologizes-using-dubious-footage-slaughter-syria-story>.

In actuality, the video was of a machine gun demonstration at the Knob Creek Gun Range in West Point, Kentucky. Despite other outlets pointing out ABC's error, it refused to deliver an on-air correction on the news programs that had used the footage (*Good Morning America* and *World News Tonight*).¹¹⁶ Instead, ABC merely posted a "CORRECTION" on *Good Morning America's* Twitter (now known as X) account.¹¹⁷

ABC has ceased operating as a bona fide news outlet and instead disseminates misinformation and disinformation rather than genuine news reporting.

Conclusion

Petitioners are entitled to receive appropriate news reporting, news analysis, and news commentary. That is what is in the public interest, and that is what ABC agreed to provide when it voluntarily contracted with the Commission to use public spectrum. Instead, ABC has cheated Petitioners and the public at large out of real news reporting so it can run a political operation that peddles falsehoods, suppresses actual journalism, and justifies political violence.

As unethical as its motives may be, ABC has First Amendment rights. But it **does not** have a right to use public spectrum to do so. It has numerous, non-public spectrum avenues to express whatever opinions it wishes.

¹¹⁶ Nicholas Fondicaro, Update: ABC Refuses to Issue an On-Air Correction to Their Fake News Video, NewsBusters (October 14, 2019, 8:51 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2019/10/14/update-abc-refuses-issue-air-correction-their-fake-news>.

¹¹⁷ Nicholas Fondicaro, ABC Edits Out Trump Embarrassing Network Over Fake Video, Still No Correction (October 16, 2019, 9:17 PM), <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nicholas-fondacaro/2019/10/16/abc-edits-out-trump-embarrassing-network-over-fake-video>

Therefore, Petitioners request that the Commission not renew the licenses subject to this current review.

/s/ David Bozell
David Bozell
President, The Media Research Center

/s/ Dr. Seymour Fein
Dr. Seymour Fein
New Canaan, CT

/s/ Kristi Knoke
Kristi Knoke
San Juan Capistrano, CA

/s/ Daniel Kinghorn
Daniel Kinghorn
Algonquin, IL

/s/ Melissa Hancock
Melissa Hancock
Bryn Mawr, PA

/s/ John Woodhouse
John Woodhouse
Houston, TX

/s/ Daniel Schneider
Dan Schneider
New York City, NY