

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 19, 2026

## VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Timothy Cook  
Chief Executive Officer  
Apple Inc.  
Cupertino, CA 95014

Dear Mr. Cook:

I write to express my concern with recent reporting that Apple News has systematically suppressed news articles from conservative publications while amplifying articles from liberal outlets. The American public increasingly relies on services like Apple News to provide them with information, and they deserve to have access to perspectives across the political spectrum. To deny consumers that ability through algorithmic promotion or editorial bias is a disservice to those who use your product.

According to the Media Research Center (MRC), which analyzed over 600 stories featured by Apple News in the morning time slots between January 1 and January 31 of this year, 440 of these were published by left-leaning outlets. A whopping *zero* stories from outlets considered right-leaning were featured.<sup>1</sup> These outlet ratings came from AllSides, a nonpartisan organization that utilizes a panel of experts from the left, center, and right to analyze the political leaning of news outlets. While AllSides did not participate in MRC's study, the director of their media bias rating system said she was "not surprised at all" and Americans are not "getting the full scope of perspectives available."<sup>2</sup>

The Federal Trade Commission, under the leadership of Chairman Andrew Ferguson, recently sent a letter to your company calling on Apple to review its policies and warning that the systematic suppression of viewpoints—regardless of political affiliation—could violate consumer protection rules.<sup>3</sup> I echo Chairman Ferguson's concerns. Apple News is automatically installed on Apple devices and was purportedly ranked the most popular news application in the United States,

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<sup>1</sup> Heather Moon, *Apple News Continues Rejection of Right-Leaning Outlets in January*, MEDIA RESEARCH CENTER (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://mrcfreespeechamerica.org/blogs/free-speech/heather-moon/2026/02/04/apple-news-continues-rejection-right-leaning-outlets>.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Barrabi, *Media Research Center Finds 440 of 620 Featured Articles Came from Left-of-Center Outlets*, FOX BUSINESS (Feb. 10, 2026), <https://www.foxbusiness.com/media/apple-news-boosts-left-leaning-news-outlets-shuts-out-conservative-sources-watchdog>.

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Chairman Andrew N. Ferguson to Apple CEO Tim Cook, (February 12, 2026), [https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc\\_gov/pdf/apple-news-warning-letter.pdf](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/apple-news-warning-letter.pdf).

Canada, and Australia in January.<sup>4</sup> You have a responsibility to offer access to information without favor or bias toward one political party.

Throughout my entire career, I have pushed back against Big Tech's systematic censorship of conservatives and President Trump has rightly promised to return free speech to America. With that in mind, please respond to the following questions by March 4, 2026:

1. Has Apple News ever excluded or deprioritized content from right-leaning outlets based on anti-conservative bias?
2. How does Apple determine which articles are featured or promoted in Apple News feeds? Please explain the role of human editorial judgement versus algorithmic ranking in that process.
3. Please provide any internal data on the distribution of stories from outlets across the political spectrum featured on the platform in the last year.
4. Has Apple conducted or commissioned any internal review or audit of Apple News algorithms with respect to political bias since these reports first emerged? If so, what were the findings?
5. If a third-party news outlet believes it has been unfairly excluded or deprioritized on Apple News, what mechanisms exist for appeal or review by the publisher?

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator

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<sup>4</sup> Apple, *2025 Marked a Record-Breaking Year for Apples Services*, APPLE NEWSROOM (Jan. 12, 2026), <https://www.apple.com/newsroom/2026/01/2025-marked-a-record-breaking-year-for-apple-services/>.