

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. sues Google, YouTube for alleged censorship

August 4 2023, by Brian Niemietz, New York Daily News



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is suing YouTube and its parent company Google for moderating content he posts online.

The 69-year-old Ivy lawyer filed suit against the Internet giants in a Delaware court late Wednesday. His lawsuit claims his freedom of speech has been violated and alleges the U.S. has taken "extraordinary

steps" under the leadership of Joe Biden to silence people it doesn't want America to hear.

Kennedy is a long-shot challenger to President Biden for the Democratic party nomination in the 2024 presidential race. While he's proven popular with conspiratorial online media sources and right-wing outlets like Fox News, Kennedy has struggled to gain favor with Democrats and even earned admonishment from his famous political family. A Recent poll shows him trailing Biden by as much as 60 points.

The son of assassinated 1968 presidential candidate Bobby Kennedy, Kennedy is a critic of vaccines, including those used to curb the COVID-19 pandemic that's killed more than a million Americans since 2020.

His complaint claims YouTube frequently blocks content posted by Kennedy on the grounds of "medical misinformation" policies.

"On information and belief, it did so based on statements from the Biden administration about what [information](#) to censor," Kennedy's complaint alleges.

Kennedy's legal team complains content taken offline sometimes comes from their client's 2024 [presidential campaign](#) and worries the problem will worsen as primary elections draw nearer.

Among Kennedy's many controversies was a dinner last month where he made claims about COVID-19 some critics found antisemitic.

"COVID-19 is targeted to attack Caucasians and Black people," he asserted. "The races that are most immune to COVID-19 are Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese."

Kennedy later tweeted his comments were being taken out of context and he never implied "the ethnic effect was deliberately engineered."

His lawsuit was filed in Delaware, where Google and YouTube incorporated. Kennedy resides in New York. The defendants are headquartered in California.

Google purchased the popular video-sharing website in 2006. A spokesperson for the company told the Daily News the Team Kennedy YouTube channel has over 46,000 subscribers and over a million views across its videos, which are held to the same standard as those of other platform users.

"YouTube applies its Community Guidelines independently, transparently, and consistently, regardless of political viewpoint," that spokesperson said. "These claims are meritless and we look forward to refuting them."

The Biden administration has replied to a request for comment.

2023 New York Daily News.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Citation: Robert F. Kennedy Jr. sues Google, YouTube for alleged censorship (2023, August 4) retrieved 29 April 2024 from

<https://techxplore.com/news/2023-08-robert-kennedy-jr-sues-google.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.