

Alphabet Shareholder Meeting - Proposal #9 Statement
Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
The National Center for Public Policy Research, June 6, 2018

I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research and I move proposal nine, which seeks to increase ideological diversity on the company's board of directors.

In recent weeks, Amazon and Facebook both agreed to terms with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to alter their respective board selection procedures. Rather than appointing the best people for the job, they have adopted an affirmative action plan sometimes known as the Rooney Rule. Designed to increase female and minority board membership, these policies are demeaning to the selected candidates and racist and sexist to boot.

Rather than promote racism and sexism, we urge the company to consider viewpoint diversity when it makes its board selections. Silicon Valley elites often preen about their commitment to diversity and inclusion, but I don't think many of you know what that means. Diversity isn't what someone looks like. It's the sum of what they think, feel and believe. And at this company, thinking and believing in conservative policies appear to be verboten.

At last year's shareholder meeting, I asked the company's executives if conservative and libertarian opinions were welcome at Alphabet in light of the company's numerous liberal public policy positions. Mr. Schmidt told me that the company was not going to reconsider any of its positions because everyone in the company believed in the same things.¹ That's obviously not true.

Many Google employees emailed me thanking me for saying publicly what they are petrified to say within the confines of this campus.² And soon after the meeting, the company very publicly ousted engineer James Damore for suggesting concrete ways to increase Alphabet's gender diversity, apparently because he referred to human biology.³ I thought Alphabet was committed to science?

Even the far-left *New York Times* ran an article critical of Damore's firing, noting: "Damore is describing a truth on one level; his sensible critics are describing a different truth, one that exists on another level. He is championing scientific research; they are championing gender equality. It takes a little subtlety to harmonize these strands, but it's doable."⁴ The article then chastises Google CEO Sundar Pichai for lying about the memo and simply joining with the liberal mob by ousting Damore.⁵ That Pichai still has a job shows that the board's liberal groupthink problem is pervasive.

Recently, more than a dozen prominent conservative organizations have combined forces to combat Google's censorship.⁶ Google search results have also recently labeled certain conservative politicians as bigots and Nazis.^{7,8}

All of this points to the necessity of implementing our proposal. We believe that boards that incorporate diverse perspectives can think more critically and oversee corporate managers more effectively. Appointing a few conservatives may help the company avoid groupthink. That's a win for investors and a win for true diversity.

Please join me in voting yes on proposal nine. Thank you.

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¹ <https://nationalcenter.org/ncppr/2017/06/07/alphabet-googles-parent-company-loudly-announces-it-is-a-company-of-liberals-by-liberals-and-for-liberals/>

² <https://www.investors.com/politics/commentary/i-confronted-google-about-its-liberal-groupthink-at-a-shareholder-meeting-heres-what-happened-next/>

³ <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/no-the-google-manifesto-isnt-sexist-or-anti-diversity-its-science/article35903359/>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/11/opinion/sundar-pichai-google-memo-diversity.html>

⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/11/opinion/sundar-pichai-google-memo-diversity.html>

⁶ <https://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/nb-staff/2018/05/15/new-coalition-forms-combat-censorship-conservative-speech-online>

⁷ <https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/06/04/google-sorry-after-search-box-shows-bigot-with-gop-lawmakers-photo/>

⁸ <https://gizmodo.com/google-labeled-california-republicans-as-nazis-after-so-1826463253>