

Disney Shareholder Meeting Question
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I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research.

I am a Virginia resident, and my state has recently been embroiled in a political scandal over the use of blackface. Governor Ralph Northam has come under fire for one of his medical school yearbook photos which depicted an individual in blackface and another in a KKK hood.

Individuals and organizations across the political spectrum have called for his resignation including Hillary Clinton, the Congressional Black Caucus, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, former Vice President Joe Biden, Senator Cory Booker, Senator Kamala Harris, Planned Parenthood, the entire Virginia congressional delegation, and many more.ⁱ Additionally, in Florida, the Secretary of State recently resigned after a photo from 15 years ago surfaced of him wearing blackface.ⁱⁱ

At NBC, a rival network to ABC, morning host Megyn Kelly lost her job, not for wearing blackface, but for having an insensitive discussion about the topic.ⁱⁱⁱ ABC hosts were highly critical of Kelly's comments at the time and were part of the media backlash that led to her firing.^{iv}

However, two premier ABC hosts have their own sordid past with blackface. While on another network, ABC's Jimmy Kimmel donned blackface to mock a former professional athlete using what many would consider a racist minstrel dialect.^v Furthermore, "The View" host Joy Behar recently had a photo emerge in which she was donning blackface at a party.^{vi}

Mr. Iger, with all of the pride that you place on racial diversity at Disney, and I am specifically recalling the pride that you expressed last year at this meeting and in many media interviews about the success and importance of "Black Panther," I find it puzzling that the company seems ok with Kimmel's and Behar's previous racist actions.

Can you comment on their use of blackface? And are they held to a different standard than politicians and newscasters because they are comedians?

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ⁱ <https://www.axios.com/full-list-calls-for-ralph-northam-resignation-8eb77302-f340-4faa-8887-24432984a7fd.html>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/24/politics/blackface-florida-state-secretary/index.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.rollingstone.com/tv/tv-news/megyn-kelly-nbc-fired-blackface-747389/>

^{iv} <https://www.usmagazine.com/celebrity-news/news/megyn-kelly-schooled-by-nbc-abc-hosts-after-she-defends-blackface/>

^v <https://www.westernjournal.com/ct/watch-kimmel-used-blackface-mocked-black-man-but-still-has-abc-show/>

^{vi} <http://time.com/5524710/joy-behar-blackface-scandal/>