



ACTION ALERT:

Speak out Against Taxpayer-Funded Propaganda

In a matter of days, the Trump Administration spent over [\\$5.5 million in taxpayer funds](#) on television advertisements promoting the President, with millions more allocated for additional ads that the President is [reportedly selecting to run](#) in the critical final weeks before the midterm elections.

One ad features the President walking down a dark hallway, with his voice warning about his final battle, listing the “Deep State,” Marxists, warmongers, the fake news media, and globalists among those that need to be defeated. [The ad first appeared](#) in Trump’s 2024 campaign; the only difference now is that the campaign logo was [replaced](#) with the tagline: “Paid for by the U.S. Government.”

Other government funded ads recently released by the administration also contain language that [legal and ethics experts](#) have characterized as political propaganda. The ads have been running during such highly rated programs as the Sunday NFL game.

The White House has responded to widespread criticism of these taxpayer-funded ads by characterizing them as “public service announcements” (PSAs). But the facts do not support this characterization. The [reported \\$20 million contract](#) awarded to an ad agency, using funds from [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), raises significant legal and ethical concerns.

WHY THIS MATTERS

→ **Misuse of Taxpayer Funds:** The ads are running within weeks of the midterm elections and have the appearance of campaign promotional materials – indeed, one of the ads is a repurposed Trump campaign ad from 2024. This raises serious questions about whether public funds are being used for an unauthorized political purpose.

Federal law restricts the use of appropriated funds for unauthorized publicity or propaganda. Among other relevant provisions, Section 718 of Division E of the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026](#) states that: “No part of any appropriation contained in this or any other Act shall be used directly or indirectly, including by private contractor, for publicity or propaganda purposes within the United States not heretofore authorized by Congress.” (Page 323)

In addition, [the Hatch Act](#) prohibits federal employees from using their official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the result of an election. [Complaints](#) have already been filed with federal oversight agencies and [bipartisan members](#) of Congress have also expressed concern about their legality.



ACTION ALERT:

Speak out Against Taxpayer-Funded Propaganda

- **The government's attempt to justify the spending as public service announcements cannot be factually supported:** Government agencies routinely use appropriated funds for legitimate public-information campaigns serving authorized governmental purposes, for example, notifying the public of Medicare updates or soliciting cooperation during WWII rationing. The recent ads serve no comparable public-information function; rather, they promote political messages. Characterizing these political advertisements as "public service announcements" should not be a way to circumvent Congressional restrictions on the use of appropriated funds.
- **Broadcast and Cable Networks should not continue accepting and distributing these advertisements while legitimate questions about their legality remain unresolved.** They should pause their distribution until the legal questions have been addressed.
- **Calling political advertising a "public service announcement" does not make it one.** Political promotion should not be disguised as public service. Congress has long restricted the use of appropriated funds for unauthorized government publicity and propaganda, including communications that are purely partisan or self-aggrandizing. Those restrictions are intended to protect the public from the misuse of government resources for political purposes.

Allowing a sitting President to use public funds to produce self-promoting political ads not only raises serious questions about compliance with federal law, it diverts public resources from their intended purposes and erodes safeguards that protect the integrity of government.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

This use of federal resources for political purposes warrants an immediate response. We should all speak out against it. Specific actions you can take include:

- **Contact Your Representatives in Congress:** Urge Congress to exercise its oversight authority to ensure that public money is spent in accordance with its intended purpose. Ask Congress to seek a full accounting of the expenditures.

Write to the Broadcast and Cable Networks: When you see one of these ads, contact the network to express your concern. Consumer feedback addresses are generally available on network websites. For example, NBC Viewer Relations can be reached at



ACTION ALERT:

Speak out Against Taxpayer-Funded Propaganda

nbcshows@nbcuni.com or 212-664-2333. Fox News can be reached via viewersfeedback@foxnews.com or through its Fox News Request Form. Ask the networks to stop airing government-funded ads that promote a political candidate, party, or political message and to publicly disclose the legal and compliance standards they apply to such advertising.

- **Report your concerns to federal oversight agencies:** Report potential Hatch Act violations by filing a complaint with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel through [OSC's online filing portal](#). Express your concerns to the FCC through its consumer complaint system by [clicking here](#). Submit a complaint to the GAO to report concerns about the use or misuse of federal funds via email at fraud@gao.gov or via phone at 800-424-5454.
- **Speak out on multiple platforms about the serious legal concerns raised by these ads.** Write articles and letters to the editor and post on social media. Reach out to local podcasters and radio shows. Use the Talking Points below as well as LDAD's social media messaging. For additional help, see our [Meeting the Moment Tips for Writing and Placing Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces](#).