

# Facebook's Decisions Were 'Setbacks for Civil Rights,' Audit Finds | The New York Times

By Mike Isaac

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Auditors handpicked by Facebook to examine its policies said that the company had not done enough to protect people on the platform from discriminatory posts and ads and that its decisions to leave up President Trump's inflammatory posts were "significant setbacks for civil rights."

The [89-page audit](#) put Facebook in an awkward position as the presidential campaign heats up. The report gave fuel to the company's detractors, who said the site had allowed hate speech and misinformation to flourish. The audit also placed the social network in the spotlight for an issue it had worked hard to avoid [since the 2016 election](#): That it may once again be negatively influencing American voters.

Now Facebook has to decide whether its approach to hateful speech and noxious content — which was to leave it alone in the name of free expression — remains tenable. And that decision puts pressure on Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's chief executive, who has repeatedly said that his company was [not an arbiter of truth](#) and that it would not police politicians' posts.

"Many in the civil rights community have become disheartened, frustrated and angry after years of engagement where they implored the company to do more to advance equality and fight discrimination, while also safeguarding free expression," wrote the auditors, Laura W. Murphy and Megan Cacace, who are civil rights experts and lawyers.

[...]

Source: [Facebook's Decisions Were 'Setbacks for Civil Rights,' Audit Finds - The New York Times](#)