

**House of Representatives Communications Standards Commission
Complaint Intake Form**

**Committee on House Administration
Republican Office
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
F - (202) 225-9957**

Complainant:
Carl Berry

Plymouth, MI 48170

Cberry@

Respondent (Member of Congress):
John James (MI-10)

Date Communication Was Received: May 18, 2026

**Complaint One: Unsolicited Mass Communication from a Member Who Does Not
Represent Me**

Complaint One Summary:

On May 27, 2026, Google's ad transparency website publicly showed that Congressman John James had been actively advertising videos on YouTube, paid for by the House of Representatives, since May 18, 2026 (*Exhibits A, B*).

The ad specifically targets Michigan's 10th Congressional District, spending between \$8,000 and \$9,000, as of May 27th (*Exhibit A*).

The ad is also intentionally running outside of his Congressional district, targeting the entirety of the Detroit DMA, which covers or reaches portions of the 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th Congressional Districts, and spending \$11,000 to \$13,000, as of May 27th (*Exhibit B*).

In the "General Rules" Section of the House of Representatives Communications Standards Manual, it is clearly stated that "Unsolicited mass communications must serve the district in which the Member represents, and to the greatest extent possible, shall not be targeted outside of the Member's district," and also that "When using resources that render targeting to specific mailing addresses in the district unfeasible (such as radio, television, or newspaper ads), best efforts must be made to ensure the communication is distributed to as few individuals outside the district as possible."

Congressman John James has also previously paid for franked communications on YouTube in 2022 and in 2024 and has always targeted "Michigan's 10th Congressional District" (*Exhibits C, D*).

Congressman John James is violating these rules that "best efforts must be made to ensure the communication is distributed to as few individuals outside the district as possible," and that "communications must serve the district in which the Member represents, and to the greatest extent possible, shall not be targeted outside of the Member's district" as he is currently and has previously targeted some of his advertising only to Michigan's 10th Congressional District and is now at the same time intentionally targeting the entirety of the Detroit DMA, well beyond Michigan's 10th Congressional District (*Exhibit A, B, C, D*).

Not only is Congressman John James intentionally targeting voters outside Michigan's 10th Congressional District, but the advertisements targeting voters outside the district are also being spent in greater amounts (*Exhibits A, B*).

Complaint Two: Campaign/Political Content

Complaint Two Summary:

Congressman John James is a statewide candidate for Governor in 2026. He has never before run ads on YouTube outside of Michigan's 10th Congressional District using official resources in 2022 or 2024 (*Exhibits C, D*).

In 2026, now that he is a candidate for Governor, he is running ads that reach 7 Congressional Districts: Michigan's 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th districts (*Exhibits B*).

The ad specifically targets Michigan's 10th Congressional District, spending between \$8,000 and \$9,000, as of May 27th (*Exhibit A*).

The ad is also intentionally running outside of his Congressional district, targeting the entirety of the Detroit DMA, which covers or reaches portions of the 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th Congressional Districts, and spending \$11,000 to \$13,000, as of May 27th (*Exhibit B*).

In the "General Content" section of the House of Representatives Communications Standards Manual, under "Political and Personal Material," it is clearly stated that "Official communications should not be used for political or personal business," and there is to be no "No campaign content or electioneering."

By intentionally targeting voters outside his Congressional District with messages he also uses in his campaign for Governor, he is using official resources to aid his campaign for Governor (*Exhibit E*).

Verification:

I hereby verify that I have read the above complaint procedures and the contents thereof. I also verify that, to the best of my knowledge, the matters stated in the complaint are true and correct. I understand that the Commission may dismiss the complaint without further inquiry if the complaint does not identify a violation of a specific law, rule or regulation on a good faith basis, or if the complaint is not accompanied by relevant and material evidence in a format accessible to the Commission (e.g. .pdf, .doc, .jpg, etc.). I understand that my first name, last name, city, and state of residence will be made public upon submission of materials.

/s/ Carl Berry

EXHIBIT A

John James Michigan Workers Ad

<https://adstransparency.google.com/advertiser/AR11776064889791971329/creative/CR15312512588764413953?region=US&topic=political>

Step 1: Select a date range (14 days max)

Step 2: Select a topic

Step 3: Report the data



Targeted in United States

Advertiser: John James

\$4K - \$4.5K (USD)

Shown in United States

Number of times shown: 225K - 250K

Demographics: Male, 18-34

This information is for your information only. It is not intended to be used for advertising purposes. Public information is available to anyone who searches for this information and is not subject to any restrictions.

Step 4: Select a date range (14 days max)

Step 5: Select a topic

Step 6: Report the data

Step 7: Select a date range (14 days max)

Step 8: Select a topic

Step 9: Report the data

Age

No age restrictions

No age restrictions

18 25 35 45 55 65 75 85 95 100

Gender

No gender restrictions

No gender restrictions

Male Female Unknown gender

Location

Michigan & Non-Congressional Districts: Not restricted

No location restrictions

Multiple locations

Multiple locations

Multiple locations

Multiple locations

Multiple locations

Multiple locations

Multiple locations

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Exhibit B

John James Michigan Workers Ad (Out of District)

<https://adstransparency.google.com/advertiser/AR11776064889791971329/creative/CR07640630623538774017?region=US&topic=political>

First shown May 16, 2024 11:13 AM (PST)
Last shown May 21, 2024 1:58 PM (PST)

View this ad
Manage ad

Report this ad
Close



Spend in United States

(A) Amount spent

Average of 16.1K USD per ad impression

\$6K - \$7K (USD)

Selected demographics

View a breakdown of the audience for this ad by age, gender, and parental status (if available).
*Age groups are not shown in countries where Google Ads is not available. *Parental status is not available in all countries. *Example of a parent is a child.

Age

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65+

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Shown in United States

(B) Number of times shown

Average of 16.1K USD per ad impression

400K - 450K

Age

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65+

Not available

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Exhibit C

John James Past Ad 1 (Oct – Nov 2023)

<https://adstransparency.google.com/advertiser/AR11776064889791971329/creative/CR16068549660335144961?region=US&topic=political>

View details for this ad
Advertiser: AR11776064889791971329
Creative: CR16068549660335144961
Region: US
Topic: Political

Spent in United States
\$1.5K - \$2K (USD)

Spent in Michigan
0

Age
18+
18-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65+

Gender
Male
Female
Not gendered

Advertiser
Michigan's Non-Partisan Ballot 2022 Marketing
Ballot and Ballot
Ballot




Exhibit D

John James Past Ad 2 (Aug – Sep 2024)

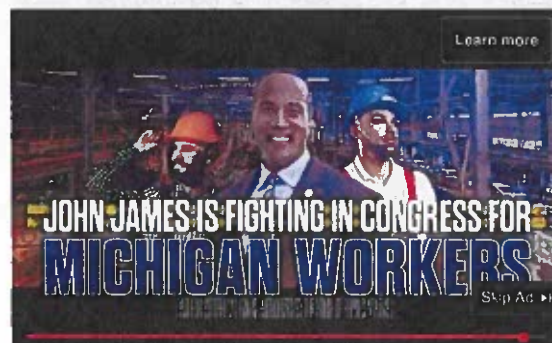
<https://adstransparency.google.com/advertiser/AR11776064889791971329/creative/CR01990913157844959233?region=US&topic=political>



Exhibit E

Messaging From Congressman John James Franked Advertisement:

<https://adstransparency.google.com/advertiser/AR11776064889791971329/creative/CR07640630623538774017?region=US&topic=political>



Tweets From John James For Michigan's Campaign Account

EV Mandates:

1. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/1933206590905331959>
2. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/2010896145518604701>

Supply Chains:

3. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/1933238786257006919>

Bringing Jobs Home:

4. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/2044449104751624541>

Michigan Workers:

5. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/2056866711249592598>
6. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/2042313097642131899>

Lowering Costs:

7. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/2050754341233979498>
8. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/2036784885168238777>

X 1. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/1933206590905331959>

 **John James**
@JohnJamesMI

This beautiful pen is the one President @realDonaldTrump used to sign my bill to stop California's radical EV mandates and protect American auto jobs.

We're delivering on lowering prices and putting American jobs first! 🇺🇸

Photo credit: badass from the bayou!! @SteveScalise



12:55 PM · Jun 12, 2025 · 19.5K Views

 62

 348

 3.2K

 17



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 **John James**
@JohnJamesMI

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← Post



Welcome back to Michigan, President [@realDonaldTrump](#)

In under a year, he's secured our border, delivered the largest tax cut in US history, signed my bill into law ending Biden's EV mandates, & restored America's strength.

Together, we're making America & Michigan Great Again! 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸



9:06 PM · Jan 12, 2026 · 19.2K Views

42 133 668 2

Read 42 replies

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3. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/1933238786257006919>



← Post



John James
@JohnJamesMI

This is what leadership looks like! 📄 ✍️

Washington Elites said it couldn't be done, but with President @realDonaldTrump's signature we've made good on our promise to protect our jobs, lower prices, defend our supply chains, and keep Democrats' radical Green New Deal agenda out of the driver's seat. 🇺🇸

Promises Made, Promises Kept!



3:03 PM · Jun 12, 2025 · 4,081 Views



3



14



96



1



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X 4. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/2044449104751624541>

← Post



John James
@JohnJamesMI

POV: You're running for Governor, but the mission doesn't stop.

I stood with President [@realDonaldTrump](#) to secure Selfridge's future, and testified today to bring home the F-15EX next-gen capability & thousands of Michigan jobs. We're going to rebuild the Arsenal of Democracy & put Michigan at the center of our national defense!

The best is yet to come. 🇺🇸 #LetsFly

Rep. John James 🇺🇸 @RepJames · Apr 15

This morning, I spoke before the House Armed Services Committee on the urgent need to fund preparations at Selfridge for the F-15EX and next-gen tanker missions delivered by @POTUS.

We must ensure we are fully prepared to confront any threat and Selfridge is ...



12:13 PM · Apr 15, 2026 · 6,326 Views

5 17 49 1

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Rep. John James 🇺🇸
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5. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/2056866711249592598>



← Post



Just left Vos Glass in Grand Rapids with American hero [@mchooyah](#) and let me tell you, the workers at that shop are the backbone of this state. Nobody builds like Michigan workers.

Gretchen Whitmer has been a disaster for working families but that ends the day I take office.

We are going to WIN Michigan, bring manufacturing ROARING back, and restore the Arsenal of Democracy. The best is yet to come. 🇺🇸



6:36 PM · May 19, 2026 · 3,495 Views

10

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67



Read 10 replies

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6. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/2042313097642131899>

← Post



John James
@JohnJamesMI

Thank you [@realDonaldTrump](#) for putting Michigan manufacturing back on the agenda and bringing jobs & production home!

The comeback starts right here in Michigan. We will win in November to deliver the missing piece: a strong Governor who created auto jobs, fights for workers, and works with the Trump admin to deliver results. Let's Fly! 🇺🇸

Rep. John James @RepJames · Apr 9

Today, I had the honor of joining [@USTRadeRep](#) Ambassador Greer at Atomic Industries in Warren, MI.

We discussed how the Trump Administration is protecting American manufacturing and incentivizing domestic production by cutting burdensom...



2:46 PM · Apr 9, 2026 · **5,910** Views

25

17

72



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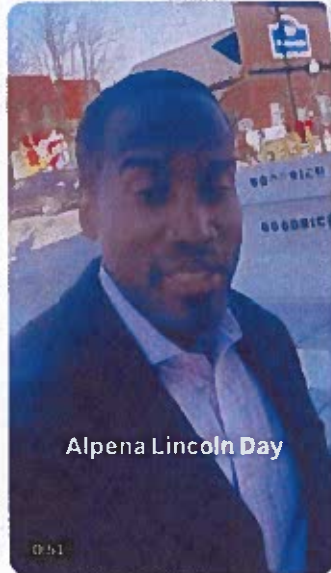
← Post



John James
@JohnJamesMI

Gaylord → Johannesburg → Mio → Alpena

Northern Michigan is not forgotten. I'm fighting for policies that lower costs, protect our way of life, and grow good-paying jobs for EVERY Michigander. Mission First. People Always. The best is yet to come! 🇺🇸



9:48 PM · May 2, 2026 · 3,812 Views

19

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112



Read 19 replies

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8. <https://x.com/JohnJamesMI/status/2036784885168238777>



← Post



Curt VanderWall knows what West Michigan needs: lower costs, good-paying jobs, and a Governor who actually shows up and fights for working families.

Grateful for his support and leadership. Time to Save Michigan! 🇺🇸 🗳️



8:38 AM · Mar 25, 2026 · 3,090 Views

22 replies 6 retweets 39 likes

Read 22 replies

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

House Communications Standards Commission

1309 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-6157
(202) 226-0647

July 1, 2026

Mr. Carl Berry

Plymouth, MI 48170

Mr. Berry,

This communication is in response to your letter of complaint against Congressman John James, representing Michigan 10th Congressional district.

After a thorough review of the materials submitted by you and items in our possession, and from information provided by the Representative's office, the Chair and Ranking Member of the Commission agree that no reasonable justification for the complaint exists.

The material(s) distributed by Rep. James's office was deemed frankable under 39 U.S.C. 3210 (a)(3)(A). For your records, a copy of the Advisory Opinion granted (AO39405-4) is attached.

As such, pursuant to Rule 25 (7)(a) of the Rules of the House Communications Standards Commission for the 119th Congress, the Commission considers this matter closed.

Sincerely,



Mike Carey
Chairman



Joseph D. Morelle
Ranking Member

House Communications Standards Commission

31-74523-20

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS
STANDARDS COMMISSION

1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

STAFF ADVISORY OPINION

| | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Office of James, John 1319 LHOB | Staff Contact: Ryan Kazmirzack | Record Number: 74523-20 |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Date of Initial Review: 5/7/2026 | Date Issued: 5/8/2026 |
|--|---------------------------------|

Description of Request:
Request for a staff advisory opinion on the frankability of material submitted as described below (copy attached).

| | |
|--|--|
| Format of Material: Digital Ad | Means of Distribution: Not Applicable; |
|--|--|

Description of Material:
Video- Regulations

Advisory:
Material submitted was deemed Frankable under provisions of:
3210(a)(3)(A)