

The Ignorance of Censorship

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Why is Tim Walz, Harris's running mate, governor of Minnesota right now?

Perhaps because government censors—functioning through agents like Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook—made it harder to hear his opponent, Dr. Scott Jensen, during Walz's 2022 reelection campaign.

A shift in a few percentage points would have tilted things in the challenger's favor. But Jensen had made the government's response to the pandemic—including the tyrannical policies of Walz's state government—a central theme of his campaign.

And in those days (as in these), all-out censorship of

various deviations from the government line was *de rigueur*. Disagreement about COVID-19, both the nature of the infection and the wisdom of the government's response, was among the targets.

Jeffrey Tucker <u>asks</u> "Why Did Zuckerberg Choose Now to Confess" to the fact that Facebook had done so little, in Zuckerberg's words, to resist repeated pressure "from the Biden administration, including the White House ... to censor certain COVID-19 content"?

The answer to the uninteresting question "why now?" is standard CYApolitical calculus. In any case, the confession isn't quite exhaustive; Zuckerberg doesn't acknowledge the extent of the censorship. As Tucker notes, "every single opponent of the terrible policies was deplatformed at all levels."

The single COVID-contrarian piece by Tucker himself that slipped through the social-media censorship net "by mistake" got an atypical tsunami of response. So what if Dr. Jensen's message and arguments had not been perpetually smothered by government-pressured social-media companies?

Jensen may still have lost (Walz got 52 percent) but the point of elections goes further than a horse race. Where there is free speech, voters can learn something.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.