



## **Why are TSA agents working as screeners at political rallies?**

June 8, 2016

Summer is just getting started, but so many Americans have already had to deal with extremely long lines at airports while waiting to get through security. While the shortcomings of the Transportation Security Administration at the airport have been the subject of scrutiny, some are questioning why TSA agents are also working as screeners at political rallies.

"Political events relate to government, but they are not government events and why they should be government secured, I don't know," said Jim Harper, a senior fellow with the Cato Institute.

In the last two months alone, the Secret Service has asked for more than 1,800 Transportation Security Officers to assist at campaign events, [according to a report by CNN Money](#).

It's a concern for Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

"It's cost the taxpayers millions of dollars to train these people and we can't schedule them to do the mission they were hired for," said Congressman Mica in an interview Wednesday.

A spokesman for the TSA responded with the following statement:

"TSA has an Interagency Agreement with the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) to provide screening support during the Presidential Campaign upon request. The support comes from the TSA at the local airport and does not impact local TSA operations. The USSS also pays for the screener's time."