

Architect of Trump Budgets Slashing Social Security & Medicare Advising MAGA House Republicans on Default Crisis

Summary: In recent weeks, former Office of Management Budget (OMB) Director Russ Vought has [become the center of attention](#) over the debt ceiling showdown. Republican lawmakers have privately met with Vought to [pitch \\$150 billion in spending cuts](#) as part of the negotiations to raise the debt ceiling. Vought—a former Trump [cabinet](#) official—maintains that the discussions will not center on cuts to Social Security and Medicare. However, his ties to MAGA Republicans and his [time at OMB](#) paint a different picture.

Following his time in the Trump Administration, Vought [founded the Center for Renewing America](#) (CRA), [hiring former](#) OMB and Trump officials to ["sustain Trump's political movement."](#) CRA [has extensive financial ties](#) to the Conservative Partnership Institute (CPI), which itself has deep [ties](#) to fringe lawmakers in the House, many of whom are a part of the [House Freedom Caucus](#).

- From July 2004 to December 2008, Vought worked in numerous senior roles at the Republican Study Committee (RSC), including as Budget Director, Policy Director, and eventually Executive Director. In September 2005, the RSC [called](#) for \$200 billion in cuts to Medicare over ten years, hiking premiums on healthcare plans by over \$200 for ["millions of elderly people struggling to get by on incomes modestly above the poverty line."](#) The group also [called for \\$246 billion](#) in cuts to Medicaid, impacting a program providing ["50 million economically vulnerable children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and other adults with access to life-saving and life-preserving health care."](#) While Vought was at the RSC, the group called for the partial privatization of Social Security, with then-Chair Mike Pence stating, ["conservatives want to see personal retirement accounts that have immediate relevance to younger Americans."](#)
- During his time at OMB, Vought [helped oversee](#) numerous Trump budget proposals which would [significantly cut](#) Medicare and Social Security over a ten year period. In 2019, Trump's budget proposal [called for slashing](#) Medicaid by \$1.5 trillion, Medicare by \$845 billion, and Social Security by \$25 billion over ten years. However, Vought [claimed](#) Trump was "keeping his commitment" to not cut entitlement programs. Trump's 2020 budget proposal again called for slashing Medicare by \$451 billion, with Vought defending the president saying: ["reducing the cost of health care is not a cut."](#) Vought—in an "unprecedented" move—also [obstructed](#) the incoming Biden Administration in 2020 from meeting with career OMB officials, delaying the development of President Biden's first budget proposal.
- In January 2023, Vought [revealed](#) during a Fox News appearance that he was "involved in the negotiations" and helped to write the rules package for MAGA Republicans for the 118th Congress. Vought pushed the House Republican leadership to align themselves with the House Freedom Caucus, [arguing](#) that conservative voters expect to get a House Freedom Caucus member when voting for a Republican candidate.
- During a January 2023 appearance on [Steve Bannon's War Room](#) Vought [pushed the false narrative](#) that Republicans ["have all the time in the world"](#) and should avoid folding to "fake" debt ceiling deadlines, instead calling on the Biden Administration to pass spending cuts to the ["woke and weaponized government"](#) before [Republicans agree raise the debt limit](#). Vought has worked with members of The House Freedom Caucus to address this "woke" spending, including Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC) who said his office would ["use a lot of what Russ had,"](#) while [calling for significant](#)

[cuts](#) to "woke" programs at the departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services, **totaling at least \$150 billion.**

- Vought also has connections to former Heritage Foundation president and former U.S. Senator [Jim DeMint](#), who [founded](#) the Conservative Partnership Institute, affiliated with the Center for Renewing America. Vought has [appeared throughout](#) CPI's [multi-media materials](#), and has even [produced podcasts](#) at CPI's studios.
- At the Center For Renewing America, Vought [employs three former OMB officials](#) who worked under him at OMB. Senior Fellow Mark Paoletta [served three years](#) at OMB as general counsel, where he worked to "[develo\[p\] the legal pathway to build the wall along the southern border.](#)" CRA communications director Rachel Semmel also served as the communications director at OMB, where she "[managed the day-to-day operations of the communications team and led OMB's overall strategy.](#)" Finally, Vought also hired [Ashlea Frazier](#) as CRA's chief operating officer. She worked as the chief of staff at OMB under Vought, where she "[over\[saw\] agency staff transitions and implement\[ed\] policy priorities of President Trump.](#)"
- CRA also employs former Trump DOJ official [Jeff Clark](#)—CRA's Senior Fellow and Director of Litigation—who [was investigated](#) for his involvement to try and overturn the 2020 presidential election while at the Department of Justice. [Kash Patel](#)—a former Trump administration National Security Council official and Senior Fellow for National Security and Intelligence at CRA—[pushed a false narrative](#) that Trump declassified documents found at his Mar-a-Lago resort in August 2022.
- While heading the Center for Renewing America, Vought has [spoken](#) at numerous conservative retreats and bootcamps welcoming incoming House Republicans. Vought has spoken on issues pertaining to "[critical race theory and the left's mission to divide America,](#)" "[building a stronger America: conservative policy solutions,](#)" and "[conservative policy priorities for the 118th Congress,](#)" among other issues.

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Conservative Firebrand Russ Vought Has Called For Significant Spending Cuts Across The Federal Government As He Downplays Potential Default While Shaping Conservative Debt Ceiling Tactics.

Russ Vought Spent Decades In Conservative Circles, Including Working As President Trump's Director Of The Office Of Management And Budget And Worked At The Heritage Action For America, Where He Argued The Republican Study Committee Should Push Republicans "As Far To The Right As Possible."

Russ Vought Has Spent Decades In Conservative Politics, Including Time In The Trump Administration's Office Of Management And Budget, A Seven-Year Stint As Vice President Of Heritage Action For America, Policy Director For The House Republican Conference, And Executive Director Of The Republican Study Committee.

Russ Vought Joined The Trump Administration's Office Of Management And Budget "When President Trump Took Office" And Had Become The Deputy Director, Acting Director, And Eventual OMB Director By The End Of Trump's Presidential Term. "Russell Vought joined the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) when President Trump took office. Vought previously served as Deputy Director and Acting Director prior to his confirmation as Director of OMB in July 2020. In his role, he is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the President's policy, management and regulatory agendas across the Executive Branch." [Trump White House Archives, accessed [02/21/23](#)]

Prior To His Time In The Trump Administration, Russ Vought Had Spent Decades In Conservative Politics, Including "Seven Years As Vice President Of Heritage Action For America," A Stint As "The Policy Director For The House Republican Conference, Under Then-Chairman Mike Pence," And Executive Director Of The Republican Study Committee. "Prior to serving in the Trump Administration, Director Vought spent over 20 years working in Washington D.C. with grassroots and public policy organizations. Before joining the Administration, he worked for seven years as Vice President of Heritage Action for America. Prior to this, he worked on Capitol Hill, serving as the Policy Director for the House Republican Conference, under then-Chairman Mike Pence, and as the Executive Director of the Republican Study Committee (RSC), and as a legislative assistant for U.S. Senator Phil Gramm." [Trump White House Archives, accessed [02/21/23](#)]

August 2010 To January 2017: Vought Was Vice President At Heritage Action For America From August 2010 To January 2017, When He Became Part Of The "OMB Beachhead Team":

1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

#	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY, STATE	ORGANIZATION TYPE	POSITION HELD	FROM	TO
1	Heritage Action for America	Washington, District of Columbia	Non-Profit	Vice President	8/2010	1/2017

[Office of Government Ethics, [03/24/17](#)]

Filer's Information

Vought, Russell

Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget

Other Federal Government Positions Held During the Preceding 12 Months:

OMB Beachead Team (1/2017 - 4/2017)

OMB Senior Advisor (4/2017 - Present)

[Office of Government Ethics, [03/24/17](#)]

- **July 2011: While At Heritage Action, Vought Wrote A RedState Blog Arguing That The Republican Study Committee's Job Was "To Push [Republican] Leadership As Far To The Right As Possible."** "The RSC is the conservative movement in the House of Representatives. It is not an arm of the elected House Leadership. It is not a cheerleader of everything that Leadership is doing. In fact, its job is to push Leadership as far to the right as is possible and flat out oppose it when necessary." [RedState, [07/27/11](#)]

The Office Of Management And Budget Is Tasked With Overseeing The Execution Of The President's Vision Across the Executive Branch And Coordinates With Heads Of Agencies In The Budget's Development And Execution.

According To The White House, The Office Of Management And Budget (OMB) "Oversees The Implementation Of The President's Visions Across The Executive Branch," And Is In Charge Of Budget Development And Execution." "The Office of Management and Budget oversees the implementation of the President's vision across the Executive Branch. OMB carries out its mission through five main functions across executive departments and agencies: Budget development and execution." [The White House, accessed [02/24/23](#)]

The Office Of Management And Budget "Coordinates The Development Of The President's Budget Proposal By Issuing Circulars, Memoranda, And Guidance Documents To The Heads Of Executive Agencies," And Receiving Budget Requests From These Agencies In Accordance With Their Own Guidance. "OMB coordinates the development of the President's budget proposal by issuing circulars, memoranda, and guidance documents to the heads of executive agencies. Executive agencies may then prepare their budget requests in accordance with the instructions and guidance provided by OMB." [Congressional Research Service, [05/05/22](#)]

Russ Vought Worked In Numerous Senior Roles At The Republican Study Committee As It Proposed Cutting Medicare Benefits By \$200 Billion And Medicaid Benefits By \$264 Billion Over A Ten Year Period Starting In 2006, Impacting The Nation's Most Vulnerable Groups, including "Economically Vulnerable Children, Senior Citizens, [And] People With Disabilities."

From July 2004 To December 2008, Vought Served In Numerous Senior Roles At The Republican Study Committee (RSC), Including Budget Director, Policy Director, And Eventually Executive Director.

July 2004: Russ Vought Was Named The Republican Study Committee's Budget Director. "The House Republican Study Committee, a coalition of about 90 GOP conservatives, has named Russ Vought as the group's budget director." [National Journal via Lexis Nexis, 07/19/04]

- **Vought "Split" Jobs And Continued To Work For "Vocal" Freshman At The Time Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX).** "Vought will split jobs and continue his position as policy director to Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, a vocal freshman member of the group who has taken an active role in budget-related matters and limiting government spending." [National Journal via Lexis Nexis, 07/19/04]

By December 2005, Vought Held The Title Of RSC "Policy Director." "He joins the existing RSC staff of Executive Director Sheila Cole, Deputy Director Paul Teller, Policy Director Russ Vought, Senior Legislative Analyst Derek Baker and Legislative Analyst Joelle Cannon." [Office of Rep. Mike Pence via Lexis Nexis, 12/05/05]

January 2007: Vought Was "Named Executive Director Of The Republican Study Committee" After Serving As The Group's Policy Director. "Russell Vought has been named executive director of the Republican Study Committee. He was the RSC's policy director." [Congressional Quarterly via Lexis Nexis, 01/10/07]

- **December 2008: Vought Left The Republican Study Committee After Being Appointed Policy Director Of The House Republican Conference By Then-Chair Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN).** "House Republican Conference Chairman Mike Pence announced staff appointments to positions in the House Republican Conference office today including Chief of Staff Marc Short, Deputy Chief of Staff Josh Pitcock, Policy Director Russ Vought, Coalitions Director, General Counsel Melanie Looney and Communications Director Matt Lloyd." [Office of Rep. Mike Pence via Lexis Nexis, 12/08/08]

In September 2005, The Republican Study Committee Proposed Cutting Medicare By \$200 Billion Over Ten Years, Which Would Increase Premiums In 2006 By \$212, Impacting "Millions Of Elderly People Struggling To Get By On Incomes Modestly Above The Poverty Line."

September 2005: The Republican Study Committee Released Its FY 2006 Budget Proposal Which Called For "Substantial Cuts In Medicare," Exceeding "\$200 Billion Over Ten Years." "The RSC package includes substantial cuts in programs that provide assistance and services to a wide array of individuals, families, and communities, including services and benefits on which millions of middle-income Americans rely. Among the programs proposed for cuts are the following. [...] The RSC proposes substantial cuts in Medicare, the federal program that provides health care services for more than 40 million Americans who are elderly or seriously disabled. Total Medicare cuts under the RSC package would exceed \$200 billion over ten years." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/05/05](#)]

- **Under The Plan, Medicare Premiums In 2006 Would Increase By \$212 To \$1,274, Significantly Impacting "Seniors Who Are Struggling To Get By On Social Security."** "Under the RSC plan, the premium paid by each enrollee in 2006 would be increased by \$212, to \$1,274 a year. Paying this premium increase would not be a major problem for higher income beneficiaries. But for many seniors who already are struggling to get by on Social Security and limited savings, such an increase would represent a significant hardship." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/05/05](#)]
- **The Republican Study Committee Released The Budget Proposal On September 21, 2005 In An Effort To "Offset The Cost Of Relief And Recovery From Hurricanes Katrina And Rita."** "On September 21, the Republican Study Committee of the House of Representatives, a group of that chamber's most conservative Republican members, released a large package of program cuts that it proposes be used to offset the cost of relief and recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/05/05](#)]

The RSC's Proposed Cuts To Medicaid, Medicare, And Other Low-Income Programs Were Expected To "Significantly Reduce Aid To The Most Vulnerable Americans," Including "Millions Of Elderly People Struggling To Get By On Incomes Modestly Above The Poverty Line." "The cuts proposed in Medicaid and other low-income programs would significantly reduce aid to the most vulnerable Americans, while cuts in programs such as Medicare and school lunches would reach into the pockets of millions of Americans who are not affluent. For example, the increased premiums and co-payment charges in Medicare would make life significantly harsher for millions of elderly people struggling to get by on incomes modestly above the poverty line, such as elderly couples living on average Social Security retirement benefits of just over \$17,000." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/05/05](#)]

The Budget Proposal Also Called For \$246 Billion In Cuts To Medicaid Over A Ten-Year Period, Which "Provide[d] More Than 50 Million Economically Vulnerable Children, Senior Citizens, People With Disabilities, And Other Adults With Access To Life-Saving And Life-Preserving Health Care."

The Plan Also Called For \$246 Billion In Cuts To Medicaid. "These cuts include \$246 billion in reductions in the Medicaid program, which provides health care to low-income children, parents, seniors, and people with disabilities, and an \$85 billion cut in the Earned Income Tax Credit, which helps working families trying to raise their children on income from low-wage jobs." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/05/05](#)]

- **At The Time "Medicaid Provide[d] More Than 50 Million Economically Vulnerable Children, Senior Citizens, People With Disabilities, And Other Adults With Access To Life-Saving And Life-Preserving Health Care."** "The RSC package includes cuts in Medicaid that would reduce federal funding by a total of \$246 billion over ten years, relative to what Medicaid funding levels would be under current law. Medicaid provides more than 50 million economically vulnerable children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and other adults with access to life-saving and life-preserving health care." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [10/05/05](#)]

While Vought Was At The RSC, The Committee Supported The Partial Privatization Of Social Security, With Then-Chair Mike Pence Stating, "Conservatives Want To See Personal Retirement Accounts That Have Immediate Relevance To Younger Americans."

During A February 2005 House Republican Retreat, Then-Republican Study Committee Chair Mike Pence Urged For The Immediate Partial Privatization Of Social Security, Stating, "Conservatives Want To See Personal Retirement Accounts That Have Immediate Relevance To Younger Americans."

February 2005: During A Retreat Of House Republicans, Mike Pence, Then-Chair Of The "100-Member Republican Study Committee (RSC)," Urged For The Immediate Privatization Of Social Security, Stating, "Conservatives Want To See Personal Retirement Accounts That Have Immediate Relevance To Younger Americans, That They Can See The Value, And That Will Require That They Be Big And That They Be Implemented In The Final Bill Without Delay." "House conservatives said yesterday they will fight for a Social Security plan that goes into effect immediately and includes larger private accounts than the president is calling for, and they will not accept an overall increase in Social Security entitlement spending. 'Conservatives want to see personal retirement accounts that have immediate relevance to younger Americans, that they can see the value, and that will require that they be big and that they be implemented in the final bill without delay,' said Rep. Mike Pence, Indiana Republican and chairman of the 100-member Republican Study Committee (RSC)." [Washington Times, [02/04/05](#)]

During The Same Retreat, Pence Stated Members Of The Republican Study Committee Wanted Private Social Security Accounts Even Larger Than Those Proposed By President George Bush. “Conservatives in the House of Representatives put down their marker in the battle over changing Social Security on Friday, calling for larger individual accounts than President Bush has proposed and promising to fight any tax increases to pay for the benefits to the growing number of retirees. At a retreat here attended by more than 50 representatives in the conservative House Republican Study Committee, its chairman, Representative Mike Pence of Indiana said the members' objections to new or increased taxes to pay for the president's plan was deafening.” [New York Times, [02/05/05](#)]

- **Pence Said The Republican Study Committee Had “Called For Allowing Workers To Set Aside 6 Percent, Instead Of The President's Proposed 4 Percent, Of Their Wages, Roughly All Of Their Social Security Payroll Tax, For Individual Accounts.”** “Mr. Pence said the group also called for allowing workers to set aside 6 percent, instead of the president's proposed 4 percent, of their wages, roughly all of their Social Security payroll tax, for individual accounts.” [New York Times, [02/05/05](#)]

Russ Vought Has "EmergEd As One Of The Central Voices" Republicans Are Listening To In Debt Ceiling Negotiations, Providing Several Briefings To Republican Lawmakers On Policy Recommendations For Possible Spending Cuts.

In Recent Weeks, Russ Vought Has "EmergEd As One Of The Central Voices Shaping The Looming Showdown Over Federal Spending And The National Debt," With Vought Providing Briefings To Republican Lawmakers And Policy Recommendations For Spending Cuts.

February 2023: The *Washington Post* Reported That Russ Vought Had "EmergEd As One Of The Central Voices Shaping The Looming Showdown Over Federal Spending And The National Debt," With Vought Supplying Congressional Republicans With A "Seemingly Inexhaustible Stream Of Advice," Including "Suggestions For Negotiating With The White House, Briefings About Dealing With The Media, [And] A 104-Page Memo That Proposes Specific Spending Levels For Every Federal Agency." "The president of a new pro-Trump think tank called the Center for Renewing America, Vought, 46, has emerged as one of the central voices shaping the looming showdown over federal spending and the national debt. As Republicans struggle to craft a strategy for confronting the Biden administration over the debt ceiling, which limits how much the government can borrow to pay for spending Congress has already approved, Vought has supplied them with a seemingly inexhaustible stream of advice: suggestions for negotiating with the White House, briefings about dealing with the media, a 104-page memo that proposes specific spending levels for every federal agency." [Washington Post, [02/19/23](#)]

According To The *Washington Post*, Several Republican Lawmakers Have "Privately Acknowledged Talking To Vought At Least Once A Week" And Vought Has Even "Briefed About Four Dozen GOP Senators Over Lunch In The Capitol." "Several Republican lawmakers and staffers privately acknowledged talking to Vought at least once a week. Earlier this month, he briefed about four dozen GOP senators over lunch in the Capitol, according to Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.), who said it was at least the third time he had heard Vought's pitch for dealing with the debt limit." [Washington Post, [02/19/23](#)]

Vought Has Called For \$150 Billion In Government Spending Cuts Primarily At The Departments Of Education, Health And Human Services, And Housing And Urban Development, Meeting With Members Of The Conservative House Freedom Caucus, Including Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC), Who Said His Office "Is Gonna Use A Lot Of What Russ Had."

In Late February 2023, Vought Called For \$150 Billion In Government Spending Cuts, Targeting Education, Healthcare And Housing, Including About \$25 Billion At The Department Of Education.

According To Reuters, Republicans Have Called For \$150 Billion In Spending Cuts Targeting "Education, Healthcare, And Housing" In A Budget Proposal Influenced By Vought's Own Proposal.

"U.S. House Republicans are eyeing \$150 billion in spending cuts that reflect a hardline drive to target education, healthcare and housing - particularly efforts to address racial inequities that conservatives deride as "woke" - as they push forward in talks on the federal debt ceiling. House of Representatives Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington said Republicans are assembling a budget along the lines of a budget proposal developed by Russell Vought, who served as Republican President Donald Trump's budget chief." [Reuters, [02/27/23](#)]

Rep Jodey Arrington (R-TX), Chair Of The House Budget Committee, Noted Republicans' Budget Proposal Was "Consistent With What's In [Vought's] Budget." "House of Representatives Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington said Republicans are assembling a budget along the lines of a budget proposal developed by Russell Vought, who served as Republican President Donald Trump's budget chief. 'It is consistent with what's in his budget,' Arrington said in an interview. The congressman, whose party controls the House, did not provide specifics of what cuts he would suggest to his fellow Republicans, who return to Washington on Monday after a two-week break." [Reuters, [02/27/23](#)]

Vought Has Called For Cutting Programs In The "Bureaucracy" He Describes As "Woke And Unaccountable." Vought, whose plan also calls for \$150 billion in cuts, said Democratic control of the Senate makes limited austerity more politically realistic. 'We're in divided government. So what's the easiest place to cut spending? It's the bureaucracy, and that's where we want to focus the fight,' Vought said in an interview, adding that he would go after programs he considered 'significantly woke and unaccountable.'" [Reuters, [02/27/23](#)]

- **Vought Didn't Provide The Complete Totals For Specific Cuts, But Said He Aimed To Cut Programs At The Department Of Education By \$25 Billion.** "Vought's proposals move the debate forward from the back-and-forth on Social Security and Medicare that dominated much of the past month. He did not provide a full accounting of the proposed \$150 billion in cuts, but said it included about \$25 billion from the Department of Education, including what he called 'woke' policies such as score-improvement programs and culturally responsive schooling." [Reuters, [02/27/23](#)]
- **Vought Also Wants To Cut Spending At The Departments Of Housing And Urban Development And Health And Human Services, Including Programs At The Center For Disease Control And Prevention.** "Vought said he would seek cuts to the departments of Housing and Urban Development and Health and Human Services, as well as to foreign aid, and to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention programs aimed at preventing chronic and sexually transmitted diseases." [Reuters, [02/27/23](#)]
- **Vought's Ideas "Have Been Best Received In The Conservative House Freedom Caucus."** "He said his ideas have been best received in the conservative House Freedom Caucus." [Reuters, [02/27/23](#)]

Vought's Proposals Have Received Significant Support From The Conservative House Freedom Caucus, With Vought Meeting With Several Members In Private Meetings, Including Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC) Who Said He Would "Use A Lot Of What Russ Had."

Vought Has Met With Several "Republican Hardliners" In Private Meetings, Including Members Of The House Freedom Caucus. "Multiple GOP lawmakers and two other sources familiar with the matter say Vought has led private in-person briefings and conference calls with leading Republican hardliners in both chambers of Congress. Earlier this month, for example, Vought and his group, the Trump-aligned Center for Renewing America, helmed a conference call with members of the House's Freedom Caucus, during which right-wing lawmakers echoed CRA's desire to turn the coming debt-ceiling standoff into a referendum on whether the government is overly saturated in 'wokeness.'" [RollingStone, [01/26/23](#)]

Vought Held A Private Meeting With Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC), Who Said He Will "Use A Lot Of What Russ Had," Including "The Dollars That Go Into Wokeness—Whether It's The Military, Whether It's In Discretionary Spending." "Rep. Ralph Norman (R-S.C.), a Freedom Caucus member who serves on the House Budget Committee, says he's participated in private meetings with Vought and adds there are more to come. 'Our office is gonna use a lot of what Russ had,' Norman says. 'Russ knows it from the political parts, the insider parts, and he knows the numbers.' As to which budget line items are on the chopping block: 'We need to cut wokeness out,' Norman says. 'Our office is going to be looking at the dollars that go into wokeness — whether it's in the military, whether it's in discretionary money.'" [RollingStone, [01/26/23](#)]

Throughout His Time At OMB, Russ Vought Worked With The Trump Administration Proposing Cuts To Medicare, Social Security, And Medicaid, Claiming That "Reducing The Cost Of Health Care Is Not A Cut" When Pushed On Proposed Entitlement Cuts.

In February 2018, President Trump Proposed Cutting Medicare And Medicaid By \$554 Billion And \$250 Billion, Respectively, Over The Next Ten Years.

February 2018: President Trump's Proposed Budget For 2019 Included \$554 Billion In Medicare Cuts And \$250 Billion In Medicaid Cuts Over The Next Decade. "As a candidate, Trump repeatedly said he would never cut Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security. Now he proposes cutting Medicare by \$554 billion and Medicaid by around \$250 billion over the next decade. His plan includes new per-person limits on the amount of health care each Medicaid enrollee can use and a dramatic shift toward block grants, which would allow states to tighten eligibility requirements and institute work requirements that would kick some off public assistance." [The Washington Post, [02/13/18](#)]

- **Headline: The Daily 202: Trump Budget Highlights Disconnect Between Populist Rhetoric And Plutocrat Reality.** [The Washington Post, [02/13/18](#)]

In 2019, President Trump Proposed Massive Cuts To Medicare And Social Security Over The Next Decade, With Then-OMB Deputy Director Russ Vought Claiming Trump "Is Keeping His Commitment To Americans By Not Making Changes To Medicare And Social Security."

March 2019: Vox Reported That Over The Next Decade, President Trump's 2020 Budget Proposal Would Cut Medicaid Spending By \$1.5 Trillions, Medicare By \$845 Billion, And Social Security By \$25 Billion "Over the next 10 years, Trump's 2020 budget proposal aims to spend \$1.5 trillion less on Medicaid — instead allocating \$1.2 trillion in a block-grant program to states — \$25 billion less on Social Security, and \$845

billion less on Medicare (some of that is reclassified to a different department). Their intentions are to cut benefits under Medicaid and Social Security." [Vox, [03/12/19](#)]

- **Headline: Trump Said He Wouldn't Cut Medicaid, Social Security, And Medicare. His 2020 Budget Cuts All 3.** [Vox, [03/12/19](#)]
- **Then-OMB Deputy Director Russ Vought Said Trump Was "Keeping His Commitment To Americans By Not Making Changes To Medicare And Social Security," While The White House Did Not Respond To A Request For Comment From Vox.** "Over time, the Trump administration tried to whittle down the president's promise to just Social Security and Medicare. Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director Russ Vought said Monday, March 11, that Trump is 'keeping his commitment to Americans by not making changes to Medicare and Social Security.' But even that is not true. Like 'every other Republican,' Trump has repeatedly proposed and supported cutting these programs. The White House did not respond to a request for comment." [Vox, [03/12/19](#)]

In February 2020, President Donald Trump Proposed Cutting Medicare Spending By \$451 Billion Over A Ten-Year Period, While Russ Vought Served As OMB Acting Director.

January 2020: President Trump Said, "He Would Be Willing To Consider Cuts To Social-Safety Net Programs Like Medicare To Reduce The Federal Deficit If He Wins A Second Term," A Shift From Campaign Promises To Protect Entitlements. "President Trump suggested on Wednesday that he would be willing to consider cuts to social safety-net programs like Medicare to reduce the federal deficit if he wins a second term, an apparent shift from his 2016 campaign promise to protect funding for such entitlements." [The New York Times, [01/22/20](#)]

- **Headline: Trump Opens Door To Cuts To Medicare And Other Entitlement Programs.** [The New York Times, [01/22/20](#)]

February 2020: Trump's Budget Would Reduce Medicare Spending By \$451 Billion Over 10 Years, Despite Tweeting He Wouldn't Touch Entitlements. "On Twitter, two days before releasing his budget, the president said, 'we will not be touching your Social Security or Medicare.' It was a promise he also made in his State of the Union address. Whether he broke that promise depends upon how you look at it. There's no doubt the president's budget plan would whack away at federal spending on health care over the next 10 years, with an estimated \$1.6 trillion reduction, including \$451 billion less spent on Medicare and \$920 billion less for Medicaid." [ABC News, [02/11/20](#)]

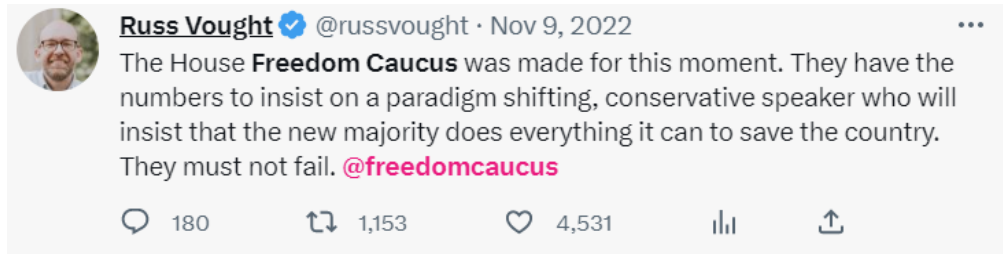
As Early As March 2022, Vought Railed Against President Biden's Proposed Budget For Spending Too Much On "Woke Government," Later Calling On The House Freedom Caucus To Push For A "Paradigm Shifting, Conservative Speaker" Who Will "Save Our Country."

During A March 2022 Appearance On Fox News, Vought Said President Biden's Proposed Budget "Spends Too Much" And "A Lot Goes To Woke Government," Later Calling On The House Freedom Caucus In November 2022 To Push For A "Paradigm Shifting, Conservative Speaker" That Will Do Everything To "Save Our Country."

March 2022: Vought Told Fox News That President Biden's New Budget "Spends Too Much" And "A Lot Goes To Woke Government." "So, this thing spends too much. As we unpack, we're gonna realize a lot goes

to woke government. Like \$2.6 billion for gender equity. That is the kind of things as we unpack this budget, we'll see it is not on the side of the American people." [Fox News via YouTube, [03/29/22 \(2:59\)](#)]

Following The Results Of The 2022 Mid-Term Elections, Vought Wrote On Twitter: "The House Freedom Caucus Was Made For This Moment. They Have The Numbers To Insist On A Paradigm Shifting, Conservative Speaker Who Will Insist That The New Majority Does Everything It Can To Save The Country":



[Russ Vought via Twitter, [11/09/22](#)]

Throughout January 2023, Vought Took Credit For Working With House Republicans On Negotiations Over Raising The Debt Ceiling, Calling For Republicans To Avoid "Fake Deadlines" And Align Themselves With The House Freedom Caucus.

In A January 2023 Appearance On Fox News, Russ Vought Was Introduced As Being Involved In The Negotiations For The Rules Package That Granted The House Freedom Caucus Members Political Power, Arguing That Voters Expect Republicans To Be Aligned With The Caucus And That This Agreement Made Them A "Real Partner" In The House.

January 2023: Russ Vought Appeared On Fox News, Introduced As Being "Involved In The Negotiations" And Helped To Write The Rules Package For Months. "Let's bring in Russ Vought, former Office of Management and Budget director. He was involved in the negotiations, helped write it as well. You've been working on this, Russ, for months." [Center for Renewing America via YouTube, [01/09/23 \(0:20\)](#)]

- **Vought Said House Freedom Caucus Members Tried To Negotiate The Rules Package In The Summer But Leadership Thought They Had The Vote Margins Where They Wouldn't Need The More Conservative Members.** "They tried to start these negotiations during the summer, and they've been working on this for a long time. It's just that leadership did not come to the table with them because they thought that they had the types of margins electorally that would not require them to negotiate with the more conservative members of the conference." [Center for Renewing America via YouTube, [01/09/23 \(2:25\)](#)]
- **Vought Said Voters Expect Republicans To Align Themselves With The House Freedom Caucus And The Agreement Created A Coalition Style Of Government Making The Freedom Caucus A "Real Partner In Terms Of The Governing Of The House."** "Here's the thing. The Republican members run on an agenda that is not unlike where the House Freedom Caucus is. The House Freedom Caucus is where most voters when they send the Republican member to Congress they think they're getting a House Freedom Caucus Member. And what this agreement does is it basically puts on the table a coalition style of government that the house Freedom Caucus members that are sympathetic to them are now going to be treated as a real partner in terms of the governing of the House." [Center for Renewing America via YouTube, [01/09/23 \(3:55\)](#)]

The Deal Could "Hobble McCarthy's Ability To Reach A Bipartisan Deal To Lift The Debt Ceiling" And "Prevent A US Default On Debt Payments." "Democrats, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, have denounced the deal McCarthy struck that helped bring around many of a group of 20 dissident GOP lawmakers last week. Democrats and other critics say it could hobble McCarthy's ability to reach a bipartisan deal to lift the debt ceiling sometime after July 1, when the \$31 trillion limit will need to be raised to prevent a US default on debt payments." [Bloomberg, [01/08/23](#)]

In A January 2023 Tweet, Vought Wrote, "The Greatest Reforms To Social Security & Medicare" Wouldn't Improve The Lives Of Constituents And "We Still Lose Our Country To Tyranny" Even If The Programs Were Improved.

January 2023: Russ Vought Wrote On Twitter: "You Could Enact The World's Greatest Reforms To Social Security & Medicare. After All Your Efforts, Your Constituents' Lives Will Be No Different & We Still Lose Our Country Into Tyranny":



Russ Vought ✓
@russvought

...

To my skeptics, think of it this way. You could enact the world's greatest reforms to Social Security & Medicare. After all your efforts, your constituents' lives will be no different & we will still lose our country into tyranny because of the woke & weaponized bureaucracy.

9:02 AM · Jan 18, 2023 · 2,260 Views

[Russ Vought via Twitter, [01/18/23](#)]

January 2023: Russ Vought Wrote On Twitter: "Ignore The Biden Administration's Debt Limit Deadlines. They Went Into Hurry-Up Offense Because Conservatives Seized The Initiative In The House Of Representatives. This Will Play Out Over The Next 7 Or 8 Months":



Russ Vought ✓
@russvought

...

Ignore the Biden Administration's debt limit deadlines. They went into hurry-up offense because conservatives seized the initiative in the House of Representatives. This will play out over the next 7 or 8 months. Oh, & Republicans, stop talking about Social Security & Medicare.

7:24 AM · Jan 18, 2023 · 36.3K Views

166 Retweets 11 Quote Tweets 615 Likes

[Russ Vought via Twitter, [01/18/23](#)]

During A January 2023 Appearance On Steve Bannon's War Room, Vought Said, "Republicans Need To Realize They Have All The Time In The World" Against These "Fake Deadlines" And To Speak "Against Woke And Weaponized Government."

January 2023: Vought Appeared On The War Room With Steve Bannon Saying, "Republicans Need To Realize They Have All The Time In The World" Regarding The Debt Limit," And The Deadlines Were

"Fake." "Republicans need to realize they have all the time in the world. These are all fake deadlines. Today's deadline is fake, they brought it strategically and politically so that we can start having this debate and to push Republicans into a situation where they panic." [Center For Renewing America via YouTube, [01/20/23 \(5:10\)](#)]

- **Vought Added Republicans Know To Speak "Against Woke And Weaponized Government."** "We've given them what to say, [to] be against woke and weaponized government." [Center For Renewing America via YouTube, [01/20/23 \(5:26\)](#)]

In A January 2023 Op-Ed, Vought Argued The "Only Viable" Path For Republican Lawmakers In Cutting Government Spending Is To Focus On Cutting Discretionary "Woke" Spending.

January 2023: Russ Vought Released An Op-Ed In Newsweek, Where He Suggested Republicans To Not Focus On Social Security Or Medicare Reforms Nor Provide President Biden With A "'Clean' Debt Limit Increase" Instead Stating The "Only Viable" Path Is For Republicans To Focus On Discretionary "Woke" Spending. "With the United States once again breaching its debt limit, congressional Republicans have three choices in how to respond. First, they can cave to demands from President Joe Biden by passing a 'clean' debt limit increase, which would continue America's steady march toward insolvency. Second, they could devote most of their energy and political capital toward pushing for reforms to Social Security and Medicare, thus ceding the political high ground to the Democrats. Or Republicans could choose a third option: Focus on cutting funding for the large swaths of the federal bureaucracy that are actively working against the interests of the vast majority of the American people. This path, and not the other two, is the only viable one that offers a politically realistic chance of both restraining government spending and achieving tangible conservative victories." [NewsWeek (Opinion), [01/26/23](#)]

In February 2023, Vought Repeatedly Called For Republicans To Avoid Raising The Debt Limit Until Democrats Enact Cuts To "The Woke And Weaponized Government."

In February 2023, Vought Appeared On *The War Room* Saying Republicans Must Avoid Increasing The Debt Limit Until Democrats "Get Rid Of The Woke And Weaponized Government."

February 2023: In Response To President Biden's State Of The Union Address, Russ Vought Said: "It's Incumbent On Republicans To Say No" On Increasing The Debt Limit Until The Government Gets Rid Of The "Woke And Weaponized Government." "It's incumbent on republicans to say no, we're not gonna pass your debt limit until you get rid of the woke and weaponized government that you're currently presiding." [Center for Renewing America via YouTube, [02/14/23 \(2:14\)](#)]

- **Vought Added: "It's Incumbent To Unite These Fights" And Tell Joe Biden "You Are Not Getting A Debt Limit Until Our Cuts" To Government "Are In Law."** "So it's incumbent to unite these fights and say, look Joe Biden, you are not getting a debt limit until our cuts to woke and weaponized government bureaucracy are in law." [Center for Renewing America via YouTube, [02/14/23 \(4:54\)](#)]

In February 2023, Vought Also Tweeted "Republicans Need To Demand" That President Biden Enacts "Cuts To Woke & Weaponized Government" "Before The Debt Limit Is Raised."

February 2023: Russ Vought Wrote: "Republicans Need To Demand That The Bureaucracy-Crushing Cuts To Woke & Weaponized Government Are ENACTED Before The Debt Limit Is Raised. If The Dems Want The Debt Limit Passed, They Need To Let The Cuts Through This Summer":



Russ Vought ✓
@russvought

...

Republicans need to demand that the bureaucracy-crushing cuts to woke & weaponized government are ENACTED before the debt limit is raised. If the Dems want the debt limit passed, they need to let the cuts through this summer. Defunding the administrative state starts this year.

12:04 PM · Feb 8, 2023 · 9,079 Views

51 Retweets 5 Quote Tweets 128 Likes

[Russ Vought via Twitter, [02/08/23](#)]

During A February 2023 Interview With C-SPAN's Washington Journal, Russ Vought Said Debt Limit Negotiations Were An Ideal Time To Exact Concessions On Discretionary Spending Cuts And That Fears Of A Debt Default Were "Overblown" Due To The Treasury Department's Debt Prioritization Plans.

February 2023: During An Interview With C-SPAN's Washington Journal, Russ Vought Stated Debt Limit Negotiations Were An Ideal Time To Force Discretionary Spending Cuts And That Fears Of A Debt Default Were "Overblown" As "There Is No Scenario Where Default, Actual Default, Is An Option."

"Host: What is your level of concern? Guest: Overblown. There is no scenarios and the Treasury Department would not admit this, but no scenario where default is an option. No Secretary of Treasury would allow it to happen." [C-SPAN, [02/15/23](#) (01:20)]

Russ Vought Went On To State It Would Be Critical For Republicans Over The Next Several Months To "Put It Back On The Treasury Department" To Make It Clear That Default Is Not An Option And That There Are Plans For Debt Payment Prioritization In The Event The Debt Ceiling Is Not Lifted Before The Treasury Department's Extraordinary Measures Run Out. "That is what is critical for Congress to put it on the Treasury Department to say, let's be clear, you are never going to allow it to default and we know you have plans in place you have developed to make sure payments are prioritized." [C-SPAN, [02/15/23](#) (01:20)]

- **Extraordinary Measures Are "Behind-The-Scenes Accounting Maneuvers That The Treasury Department Can Take To Give Congress Time To Increase Or Suspend The Limit Before The US Has To Default On Its Debts."** "That's what the so-called extraordinary measures are designed to temporarily avoid. And while they might sound dire, they are mainly behind-the-scenes accounting maneuvers that the Treasury Department can take to give Congress time to increase or suspend the limit before the US has to default on its debts." [CNN, [01/19/23](#)]

Russ Vought's Senate Confirmations To Be Trump's Deputy OMB Director And OMB Director Both Fell Along Partisan Lines, With Vought's Prior Anti-Islam Comments Having "Complicated" His Confirmation To Be Deputy OMB Director.

February 2018: Then-Vice President Mike Pence Casted The Tie Breaking Vote To Confirm Vought As Deputy OMB Director Along Party Lines After Vought's Prior Anti- Islam Comments "Complicated" His Confirmation Process.

February 2018: Vice President Mike Pence Cast The Tie-Breaking Vote To Confirm Vought As Deputy Director Of OMB Along Party Lines. "Senators voted to confirm Russell Vought as deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, after Vice President Mike Pence cast the tiebreaking vote Wednesday with the chamber deadlocked at 49-49." [Roll Call, [02/28/18](#)]

- **Vought's "Nomination Reach[ed] The Floor On The Back Of GOP-Only Support."** "Vought did not get a single vote from Democrats last June in either the Senate Budget or Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs panels, with his nomination reaching the floor on the back of GOP-only support." [Roll Call, [02/28/18](#)]
- **Vought's Nomination "Had Been Complicated By Controversial Comments He Made About Muslims In 2016."** "Vice President Pence cast the tie-breaking vote for his nomination, which had been complicated by controversial comments he made about Muslims in 2016." [The Hill, [03/18/20](#)]

Vought's Confirmation Had Been "Complicated" By 2016 Blog Post In Which He Wrote That Islam Was "A Deficient Theology" And That He Was "Proud" Of His Alma Mater For Firing A Professor Who Sought "Solidarity" With Muslims.

January 2016: Russ Vought Wrote A Post Titled "Wheaton College And The Preservation Of Theological Clarity" For Conservative Blog The Resurgent. "At least, that's what Vought wrote in a January 2016 post on the conservative blog, The Resurgent. In his piece, titled 'Wheaton College and the Preservation of Theological Clarity,' Vought makes the case that someone can't really 'know God' without a focus on Jesus." [HuffPost, [06/05/17](#)]

- **Vought: "This Is The Fundamental Problem. Muslims Do Not Simply Have A Deficient Theology, They Do Not Know God Because They Have Rejected Jesus Christ His Son, And They Stand Condemned."** [The Resurgent via Wayback Machine, [01/17/16](#)]
- **Vought Said He Was "Proud" Of His Alma Mater For Firing A Professor Who Was "Seeking Solidarity With Muslims."** "Wheaton College, my alma mater, is in the midst of a firestorm over its response to Dr. Larycia Hawkins' controversial comments seeking solidarity with Muslims and her argument that Christians 'worship the same God.' Wheaton recently commenced termination proceedings with Dr. Hawkins, finding her reaffirmations of the Statement of Faith unsatisfactory. While many faculty, alumni, and outside observers are typically outraged and embarrassed by this 'assault on academic freedom,' I am proud of the school and hope they stand their ground." [The Resurgent via Wayback Machine, [01/17/16](#)]
- **Vought Said School Administrators "Deserve Credit For Their Courage. It Is Not Easy To Make Decisions That Run So Counter To Prevailing Cultural Currents."** "Given all of this, Wheaton is wise to end Dr. Hawkins' employment at the school. They have begun that process, and I hope they stay the course. They deserve credit for their courage. It is not easy to make decisions that run so counter to the prevailing cultural currents, and yet this is what is required to remain Wheaton College." [The Resurgent via Wayback Machine, [01/17/16](#)]

July 2020: The Senate Again Voted Along Party Lines To Confirm "Former Conservative Activist Russ Vought" As Permanent OMB Director.

July 2020: Senate Voted Along Party Line 51-45 To Confirm "Former Conservative Activist Russell Vought" As OMB Director. "The Senate on Monday confirmed former conservative activist Russell Vought to be director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, a role he has held in an acting capacity since March. Senators voted 51 to 45 along party lines to confirm Mr. Vought's nomination by President Trump." [Wall Street Journal, [07/20/20](#)]

- **"Republicans Praised [Vought's] Work At The OMB," Including Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) Who Said, Vought Has "Always Been A Constructive [...] Person."** "Republicans praised his work at the OMB, with Sen. Pat Toomey (R., Pa.) saying he has 'always been a constructive, transparent, accessible person.'" [Wall Street Journal, [07/20/20](#)]
- **Vought Became Acting OMB Director In January 2019 "When Mick Mulvaney Left To Become The President's Acting Chief Of Staff."** "Vought has been acting OMB director since January 2019 when Mick Mulvaney left to become the president's acting chief of staff." [GovExec, [03/18/20](#)]

Vought Also Wrote A Slew Of Posts For Redstate.Com Encouraging Conservative Radicalism And Railing Against Republican Lawmakers For Being "Unwilling To Fight."

Before Joining The Trump Administration, Vought Wrote A Slew Of Posts For Redstate.Com Encouraging Conservative Radicalism, Admonishing Republican Lawmakers For Being "Unwilling To Fight," And Imploring Them To Have A "Willingness" To Shut Down Government.

Before Joining Trump Administration, Vought "Wrote A Series Of Rambling Posts For RedState.com Arguing That 'Incrementalism Doesn't Work For The Right.'" "During that time, Vought wrote a series of rambling posts for RedState.com arguing that 'incrementalism doesn't work for the right,' that Republicans 'are fundamentally in their DNA unwilling to fight' and that Republicans needed to have 'a willingness' to shut the government down. He exhorted Republicans to 'embrace the sort of brinkmanship that shows they are playing to win.' He railed against a 2012 infrastructure bill as 'communism.'" [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]

Vought Criticized Republicans For Being "Fundamentally In Their DNA Unwilling To Fight" And Implored Them To Have A "Willingness" To Shut Down Government And "Embrace The Sort Of Brinkmanship That Shows They Are Playing To Win." "During that time, Vought wrote a series of rambling posts for RedState.com arguing that 'incrementalism doesn't work for the right,' that Republicans 'are fundamentally in their DNA unwilling to fight' and that Republicans needed to have 'a willingness' to shut the government down. He exhorted Republicans to 'embrace the sort of brinkmanship that shows they are playing to win.' He railed against a 2012 infrastructure bill as 'communism.'" [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]

In An "Unprecedented" Move, Vought's OMB "Refused To Direct Staff And Resources" To Help The Biden Administration Transition Into Office.

In December 2020, OMB Director Russ Vought "Refused To Direct Staff And Resources" To Assist The Biden Administration Transition, Hindering The Preparation Of Its First Annual Spending Plan, An "Unprecedented" Move According To Experts.

December 2020: Under Russ Vought, The Office Of Management And Budget "Refused To Direct Staff And Resources To Help With The Incoming Biden Administration." "The head of the White House budget office on Thursday refused to direct staff and resources to help with the incoming Biden administration's

spending plans, in an escalating dispute over what the office's responsibilities are during the transition process. Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought pushed back on accusations of obstruction raised by President-elect Joe Biden's transition team, adding that his agency will not cooperate with alleged efforts to 'dismantle' Trump administration policies. 'Our system of government has one President and one Administration at a time,' Vought said in a letter to Biden's transition chief, Ted Kaufman." [CNBC, [12/31/20](#)]

At The Time, Donald Trump's Budget Office Blocked Joe Biden's Transition Team "From Meeting With Key Staff To Help Prepare The President-Elect's First Annual Spending Plan." "President Donald Trump's budget office is blocking Joe Biden's transition team from meeting with key staff to help prepare the president-elect's first annual spending plan, a move that could delay major proposals. The director of the Office of Management and Budget, Russ Vought, has argued internally that the agency needs to focus on finishing new regulations the Trump administration plans to publish before the president leaves office, according to people familiar with the matter." [Bloomberg, [12/31/20](#)]

Experts Said, "Vought's Refusal To Give Biden's Team Access To Career OMB Official Is Unprecedented" And Could Hurt Biden's Plans To Address Health Care, Climate Change, And Taxes. "But experts on the federal budget say Vought's refusal to give Biden's team access to career OMB officials is unprecedented and could hurt Biden's efforts to roll out big-picture, forward-looking ideas on everything from health care to climate change to taxes at the start of his four-year term. The career OMB staff could provide Biden's team information such as cost estimates and details on existing programs." [Bloomberg, [12/31/20](#)]

The Center For Renewing America Is Part Of A Trump-Backed Conservative Ecosystem Pushing To Cut Spending On A "Woke And Weaponized Government."

Russ Vought Founded The Pro-Trump Think Tank "Center for Renewing America," Where He Currently Serves As President And Was Seen As An Effort "To Provide The Ideological Ammunition To Sustain President Trump's Political Movement."

Russ Vought Is President And Founder Of The Center For Renewing America, A Pro-Trump Think Tank Seen As "Provid[ing] The Ideological Ammunition To Sustain Trump's Political Movement After His Departure From The White House."

Russ Vought Is The President And Founder Of The Center For Renewing America, A Pro-Trump Think Tank Seen As An Effort To "Provide The Ideological Ammunition To Sustain Trump's Political Movement After His Departure From The White House." "Russ Vought is President of the Center for Renewing America. Prior to founding the Center, he served as a member of President Trump's Cabinet and was responsible for overseeing the implementation of the President's policy, management, and deregulatory agendas across the Executive Branch." [Center For Renewing America 2021 Annual Report, accessed [02/21/23](#)]

- **The Center For Renewing America, Initially Known As The Center For American Restoration, Was Seen As An Effort To "Provide The Ideological Ammunition To Sustain Trump's Political Movement After His Departure From The White House."** "Russ Vought, who led Donald Trump's Office of Management and Budget, plans to announce two pro-Trump organizations Tuesday, aiming to provide the ideological ammunition to sustain Trump's political movement after his departure from the White House. Why it matters: The Center for American Restoration and an advocacy arm, America

Restoration Action, will try to keep cultural issues that animated Trump's presidency on the public agenda, according to people familiar with the matter." [Axios, [01/25/21](#)]

In January 2021, The Center For Renewing America Quote Tweeted Russ Vought Announcing The Launch Of The Center For American Restoration:



Center for Renewing America
@amrenewctr

...

Today we launch! Here is who we are. Join us.



Russ Vought @russvought · Jan 26, 2021

I am pleased to announce the launch of the Center for American Restoration. Check out our vision as laid out in @FDRLST and follow us @amrestorecenter for updates. Join us!

thefederalist.com/2021/01/26/how...

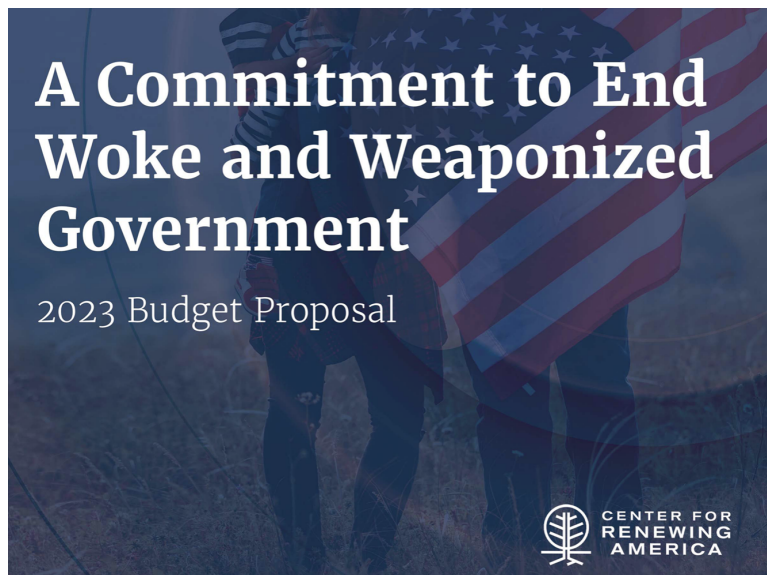
9:21 AM · Jan 26, 2021

[Twitter, [01/26/21](#)]

In December 2022, The Center For Renewing America Released A Budget Proposal Which Focused On Gutting Programs Described As "Woke And Weaponized," With A 10% Reduction To The Temporary Assistance To Needy Families (TANF) Program, A 50% Reduction To Rental Assistance Programs, And A \$3.4 Billion Reduction To Migration And Refugee Assistance Programs, Among Other Deep Social Safety Net Cuts.

In December 2022, The Center For Renewing America Released A Budget Proposal Primarily Focused On Ending "Woke And Weaponized Government."

December 2022: The Center For Renewing America Released Its FY 2023 Budget Proposal Focusing On Ending "Woke And Weaponized Government":



The Center For Renewing America's Proposed FY 2023 Budget Called For Deep Cuts To Temporary Assistance To Needy Families, Rental Assistance, Migrant And Refugee Assistance, And Elimination Of Subsidized Federal Student Loans, Among Other Cuts.

The Center For Renewing America's FY 2023 Budget Proposal Calls For A 10 Percent Reduction In The Temporary Assistance To Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant And The Complete Elimination Of The TANF Contingency Fund. "In a growing economy with low unemployment, states should focus their efforts on moving recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) off of welfare and into work. As such, the Budget includes a 10 percent reduction to the TANF block grant and eliminates the TANF Contingency Fund. Saves \$21.3 billion over ten years." [Center For Renewing America FY 2023 Budget, [12/07/22](#)]

The Center For Renewing America's FY 2023 Budget Proposal Calls For A 50 Percent Reduction From FY 2021 Levels For Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program Grants, Criticizing It As A "Magnet For Crime." "The Budget proposes to significantly reduce Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (formerly Sec. 8) grants with a 50 percent reduction from FY21 and phases to a complete elimination after three years. These grants are a magnet for crime, significantly reduce property values, and act as a beacon for implementing the Left's so-called fair housing agenda wherein progressives in DC centrally plan the composition of American neighborhoods." [Center For Renewing America FY 2023 Budget, [12/07/22](#)]

The Center For Renewing America's FY 2023 Budget Proposal Calls For A \$3.4 Billion Reduction To Migration And Refugee Assistance Programs. "Eliminates the Vast Majority of Migration and Refugee Assistance: The US has historically offered over-generous support to those seeking to come to our homeland when fleeing international disasters, war, and unrest. [...] The Budget proposes a \$3.4 billion reduction to the Migration and Refugee Assistance, while maintaining \$46 million to continue the operation of the Humanitarian Migrants to Israel (HMI) Program. This will enable the US to continue to support solutions for international displacement that put the interests of American citizens first." [Center For Renewing America FY 2023 Budget, [12/07/22](#)]

The Center For Renewing America's FY 2023 Budget Proposal Calls For The Elimination Of Subsidized Federal Student Loans, Claiming "There Is No Merit To Granting Certain Low-Income Individuals A Subsidy At The Time Of Loan Issuance When There Is No Payment At All On The Loan For A Certain Period Of Time." "Eliminate Subsidized Student Loans: During the phase-out period, and in order to simplify the program, the Budget proposes to eliminate subsidized loans. There is a logical failure in differentiating between loans based on income at the time of borrowing, when the entire point of the loan is to acquire a degree that affords a job and wage that will enable paying off said loan no matter the income level before the degree was acquired. There is no merit to granting certain low-income individuals a subsidy at the time of loan issuance when there is no payment at all on the loan for a certain period of time. The Budget proposes to eliminate these subsidized loans. Saves \$18.1 billion over ten years." [Center For Renewing America FY 2023 Budget, [12/07/22](#)]

The Center For Renewing America Is Funded By And Appears To Share An Address With The Conservative Partnership Institute, Which Employs Former Trump Chief Of Staff Mark Meadows And Trump Attorney Cleta Mitchell, Both Receiving Six Figure Salaries.

The Center For Renewing America Shares The Same Address As The Conservative Partnership Institute.

The Center For Renewing America Shares An Address With The Conservative Partnership Institute Located At 300 Independence Avenue SE in Washington, DC.

A For the 2021 calendar year, or tax year beginning		and ending
B Check if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Final return/terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	C Name of organization Center for Renewing America, Inc.	
	Doing business as	
	Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address)	Room/suite
	300 Independence Avenue SE	
	City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code Washington, DC 20003	
F Name and address of principal officer: Russell Vought same as C above		

[Center for Renewing America [2021 990](#), Page 1]

A For the 2021 calendar year, or tax year beginning		and ending
B Check if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Final return/terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	C Name of organization Conservative Partnership Institute	
	Doing business as	
	Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address)	Room/suite
	300 Independence Ave SE	
	City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code Washington, DC 20003	
F Name and address of principal officer: Edward Corrigan same as C above		

[Conservative Partnership Institute [2021 990](#), Page 1]

According To Its 2021 990, The Center For Renewing America Had Over \$1 Million In Revenue And Received A \$583,701 Grant From The Conservative Partnership Institute.

The Center For Renewing America Had Over \$1 Million In Total Revenue:

	Prior Year	Current Year
8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)		1,042,274.
9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)		0.
10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)		0.
11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)		0.
12 Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)		1,042,274.
13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IV, column (A), lines 1-3)		0.

[Center for Renewing America [2021 990](#), Page 1]

Part II Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34, because it had one or more related tax-exempt organizations during the tax year.							
(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Exempt Code section	(e) Public charity status (if section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
						Yes	No
Citizens for Renewing America - 86-1769922 300 Independence Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20003	Social Welfare	Delaware	501(c)(4)		N/A		X
America First Legal Foundation - 86-2190372 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231 Washington, DC 20003	Legal	Delaware	501(c)(3)	Line 7	N/A		X
American Accountability Foundation - 85-4391204, 300 Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003	Public Policy	Delaware	501(c)(3)	Line 7	N/A		X

[Center for Renewing America [2021 990](#), Page 1]

Internal Revenue Service | Go to www.irs.gov/form990 for instructions and the latest

A For the 2021 calendar year, or tax year beginning and ending

B Check if applicable:

- Address change
- Name change
- Initial return
- Final return/terminated
- Amended return
- Application pending

C Name of organization
Conservative Partnership Institute

Doing business as

Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
300 Independence Ave SE

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code
Washington, DC 20003

F Name and address of principal officer: Edward Corrigan
same as C above

[Conservative Partnership Institute [2021 990](#), Page 1]

In 2021, The Center For Renewing America Received A \$583,701 Grant From The Conservative Partnership Institute

Center for Renewing America 300 Independence Ave SE Washington, DC 20003	85-4397005	501(c)3	\$83,701.	0.	Mission and program support
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[Conservative Partnership Institute [2021 990](#), Page 1]

The Conservative Partnership Institute Is Known To Be Affiliated With Nearly A Dozen MAGA Groups—Receiving At Least \$1 Million From Donald Trump's PAC—As CPI's Leaders Have Made Six Figure Salaries Since Leaving The Trump Administration.

In 2021, The Conservative Partnership Institute Raised \$20 Million From "Nearly A Dozen Affiliate Groups, Several Headed By Ex-Trump Aides," And At Least \$1 Million From Donald Trump. "CPI raised \$20 million last year alone, and its network of nearly a dozen affiliate groups, several headed by ex-Trump aides, likely raised more. Donald Trump himself has endorsed the group's work, boosted its fundraising and even donated \$1 million to the group from his PAC in 2021." [Grid News, [07/05/22](#)]

- **Headline: The Insurrectionists' Clubhouse: Former Trump Aides Find A Home At A Little-Known MAGA Hub.** [Grid News, [07/05/22](#)]

In 2021, The Conservative Partnership Institute Received \$45 Million In Contributions And Grants, Which Was A \$7.1 Million Increase From 2020."The Conservative Partnership Institute (CPI) received more than \$45 million in contributions and grants in 2021—a more than sixfold increase over the previous year's contributions of \$7.1 million. The group and a constellation of partner organizations it launched last year have

been influential in spreading conspiracies about stolen elections, as well as in shaping conservative messaging around Big Tech and critical race theory." [Sludge, [11/17/22](#)]

- **The Center For Renewing America Is A Major Partner For Conservative Partnership Institute, Which Received A \$583,701 Grant From CPI.** "Another group of which Vought is the president, the Center for Renewing America, is a CPI partner and received \$583,701 from CPI." [Sludge, [11/17/22](#)]

The Conservative Partnership Institute's Leaders Include Former White House Chief Of Staff Mark Meadows, Who Received Compensation Of At Least \$559,000 In 2021, As Well As Former Trump Attorney Cleta Mitchell Who Received \$231,000. "The group's paid officers include former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, who received compensation of \$559,000 last year as senior partner, and former Trump attorney Cleta Mitchell as senior legal fellow and secretary, who was paid \$231,000." [Sludge, [11/17/22](#)]

Jim DeMint—Who Serves As The Chairman Of The Conservative Partnership Institute, And Who Touts The Heritage Foundation's Importance In Developing Trump's First Budget—Has Worked With Vought For Many Years, Including Hosting Vought At A CPI Event At Mar-A-Lago To Discuss "What Went Wrong" In The 2020 Election And Praising Vought's Center For Renewing America. .

Jim DeMint Is The Current Chairman Of The Conservative Partnership Institute, Previously Working As A U.S. Senator And President Of The Heritage Foundation, Which Was Instrumental In Helping The Trump Transition Team Develop Its First Fiscal Budget Proposal.

Jim DeMint Was The Chairman Of The Conservative Partnership Institute As Of February 28, 2023:

JIM DEMINT

CHAIRMAN

[Conservative Partnership Institute, accessed [02/28/23](#)]

According To DeMint's Bio, He Served As A U.S. Representative And Later U.S. Senator From South Carolina, Before Joining The Heritage Foundation Where He Served As President Until 2017. "DeMint represented South Carolina in the U.S. House (1999-2005) and U.S. Senate (2005-2013). Known for policy innovation, he authored leading conservative reforms to health care, education, taxes, and entitlements. DeMint then served as the President of The Heritage Foundation for four years, taking the organization to new heights of influence." [Conservative Partnership Institute, accessed [02/28/23](#)]

While At Heritage, DeMint Worked Extensively With The Trump Transition Team, Which "Played A Major Role" In The Development Of Trump's First Budget. "Under DeMint's direction, Heritage played a major role in the Trump transition team, with the policy series 'Mandate for Leadership' used as the basis for the President's first budget and numerous other administration reforms." [Conservative Partnership Institute, accessed [02/28/23](#)]

- **DeMint Also "Partnered With The Federalist Society To Create A List Of Potential Supreme Court Judicial Nominations," And Was Appointed To Serve On The White House Economic Advisory Board In 2020.** "During DeMint's tenure, Heritage partnered with the Federalist Society to create a list of possible Supreme Court judicial nominations that culminated in the confirmation of Justice Neil

Gorsuch. President Trump appointed DeMint to the White House Economic Advisory Board in 2020." [Conservative Partnership Institute, accessed [02/28/23](#)]

While DeMint Served As President Of Heritage, Vought Was The Vice President Of Heritage Action For America, Which Was Founded By The Heritage Foundation As A Way To Hold Lawmakers Accountable To Conservative Ideals.

While DeMint Served As President Of Heritage, Vought Was The Vice President Of Heritage Action For America. "Prior to serving in the Trump Administration, Director Vought spent over 20 years working in Washington D.C. with grassroots and public policy organizations. Before joining the Administration, he worked for seven years as Vice President of Heritage Action for America." [White House via National Archives, accessed [02/28/23](#)]

- **Heritage Action For America Was Founded By The Heritage Foundation With The Mission To Hold Members Of Congress Accountable To Conservative Values.** "Heritage Action is an independent partner organization affiliated with The Heritage Foundation. Both Heritage Action and The Heritage Foundation care deeply about promoting conservative values to ensure a strong future for America. The Heritage Foundation founded Heritage Action with the goal of creating an organization that can take meaningful action to hold members of Congress accountable." [Heritage Action For America, accessed [02/28/23](#)]

In April 2017, DeMint Praised President Trump For Selecting Vought To Serve As OMB Deputy Director, Saying "I've Known And Worked With Russ For Many Years."

April 2017: DeMint Praised President Trump On Twitter For Naming Russ Vought OMB Deputy Director, Adding "I've Known And Worked With Russ For Many Years":



[Jim DeMint via Twitter, [04/10/17](#)]

Months After Leaving The Trump Administration, Vought Attended An Event At Trump's Mar-A-Lago Sponsored By The Conservative Partnership Institute To Discuss "What Went Wrong" In The 2020 Election.

April 2021: The Conservative Partnership Institute Held An Event At Trump's Mar-A-Lago To Discuss "What Went Wrong In 2020." "Major donors are convening at former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort next month for a two-day gathering to talk about what went wrong in 2020 — and to build a big-dollar

network to take back power. The summit is being sponsored by the Conservative Partnership Institute, an organization led by Trump White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and former Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.)." [Politico, [03/24/21](#)]

- **Headline: Trumpworld's Next Target: Building A Dark-Money Machine.** [Politico, [03/24/21](#)]
- **According To The Agenda, Russ Vought, Stephen Miller, And Ric Grenell Were Among Former Trump Officials In Attendance.** "Trump is slated to headline the opening-night dinner, and the agenda includes an array of conservative luminaries and former Trump administration officials such as Stephen Miller, Russ Vought and Ric Grenell." [Politico, [03/24/21](#)]
- **The Agenda For The Event Read: "Investors And Organizers Must Come Together And Talk About How And What Happened In Order To Map Out An Ambitious Plan To Rebuild Conservative Power In The States And Defend Our Values Against The Assault On Our Election Systems."** "After the most cataclysmic election of modern history, investors and organizers must come together and talk about how and what happened in order to map out an ambitious plan to rebuild conservative power in the states and defend our values against the assault on our election systems,' the agenda for the CPI meeting says." [Politico, [03/24/21](#)]

DeMint Also Congratulated Vought For The One-Year Anniversary Of The Launch Of The Center For Renewing America, Which He Said Has "Been At The Forefront Of The Biggest Fights In The Last Year Across The Country."

January 2022: Jim DeMint wrote, "So excited to see the success of @amrenewctr under the leadership of @russvought and his dynamic team":



Jim DeMint
@JimDeMint

...

So excited to see the success of @amrenewctr under the leadership of @russvought and his dynamic team. They've been at the forefront of the biggest fights in the last year across the country including the border, big tech and critical race theory. Congrats!



Russ Vought @russvought · Jan 26, 2022

Today is the one-year anniversary of our launch of the Center for Renewing America & Citizens for Renewing America. We're grateful that God has blessed us with a fruitful impact & the resources needed to fight for this great country.
1/x

[Show this thread](#)

12:24 PM · Jan 26, 2022

[Jim DeMint via Twitter, [01/26/22](#)]

Russ Vought Has Appeared Frequently In Conservative Partnership Institute's Annual Reports For His Organization's Work—Meanwhile, CPI Has Worked With Vought And Several House Freedom Caucus Republicans, Including Lauren Boebert, Andy Biggs, And Matt Gaetz, In The Creation of Documentaries And Podcasts.

Russ Vought Has Been Featured In The Conservative Partnership Institute's Annual Reports, Including His Wife Mary Vought, Both Promoting Their Respective Podcast And Documentary.

Russ Vought Speaking At Washington Rally Included In CPI's 2021 Annual Report:



[Conservative Partnership Institute 2021 Annual Report, [03/16/22](#)]

Conservative Partnership Institute's 2021 Annual Report Notes Russ Vought Creation Of The Center For Renewing America And His Connection To The Trump Administration As OMB Director. "Led by former Office of Management and Budget Director under President Trump, Russ Vought, Renewing America is committed to ensuring that cultural issues—those that matter most to the American people—are fought on." [Conservative Partnership Institute 2021 Annual Report, [03/16/22](#)]

The Annual Report Pictures Conservative Partnership Institute Chairman Jim DeMint Alongside "Senior Partner" Mark Meadows:

The Left isn't used to courage. It scares them. They're used to capitulation and cowardice. That's why in 2021, they tried to take down Mark as well as Cleta Mitchell, who leads our Election Integrity Network. If you came to Washington to make a difference, they'd try to destroy you, too.

We've seen a lot of these fights over the years. And we can tell you: the Washington Establishment hasn't felt this threatened since 2016.

That's because CPI is changing the way conservatives fight. We're looking critically at our strengths and weakness, our resources and tactics. We're delivering to the Right whatever it needs to win. There's no other organization that does what we do—and we're just getting started.

Thank you for making 2021 a year of innovation and growth for CPI. In this report, you'll see the whole story—of new organizations, new coalitions against Big Tech tyranny and election corruption, new ways of getting conservatives into the media, new allies, and much more.

You've created a place where courage is rewarded and where partnership leads to victory.

With gratitude.

Jim DeMint, Chairman
Mark Meadows, Senior Partner



[Conservative Partnership Institute 2021 Annual Report, [03/16/22](#)]

List Of Podcasts Produced By CPI Including Russ Vought's "Center For Renewing America," Rep. Lauren Boebert's Bullet Points, And Rep. Matt Gaetz's "Firebrand":

PODCASTS

CPI Studios boasts an extensive list of podcasts hosted in 2021:

- ◆ Sen. Marsha Blackburn's **Freedom Rings**
- ◆ American Moment's **Moment of Truth**
- ◆ Rep. Ken Buck's **Shootin' Straight**
- ◆ Russ Vought's **Center for Renewing America**
- ◆ Rep. Andy Biggs' **What's the Biggs Idea**
- ◆ Rep. Matt Gaetz's **Firebrand**
- ◆ Cleta Mitchell's **Who's Counting**
- ◆ **The Federalist Podcast**
- ◆ **The Jenna Ellis Podcast**
- ◆ Sean Feucht's **Hold the Line**
- ◆ Gun Owners of America's **Minuteman Reacts**
- ◆ Rep. Lauren Boebert's **Bullet Points**
- ◆ House Freedom Caucus Podcast with Rep. Jody Hice
- ◆ Public Interest Legal Foundation's **Protect the Vote** with J. Christian Adams
- ◆ John Wesley Reid's **Standing for Freedom Center**

[Conservative Partnership Institute 2021 Annual Report, [03/16/22](#)]

Vought And His Wife Appear In A Conservative Partnership Institute Video:



CPI 'FOR AMERICA'



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[Conservative Partnership Institute via YouTube, [10/12/21](#)]

Russ Vought And The Center For Renewing America Also Appear In CPI's 2022 Annual Report:



CENTER FOR
RENEWING
AMERICA



[Conservative Partnership Institute 2022 Annual Report, accessed [02/23/23](#)]

The Movement Communications Initiative American Woman Is A CPI-Backed Documentary With Mary Vought—Russ's Wife—In Its Annual 2022 Report:



[Conservative Partnership Institute 2022 Annual Report, accessed [02/23/23](#)]

- **Mary Vought Is Russ Vought's Wife.** "Mary Vought (@MaryVought) is President of Vought Strategies, LLC. Her husband, Russ, is the former director of the Office of Management and Budget. They reside in

Arlington, Virginia and have two children, one of whom has cystic fibrosis." [Fox News, accessed [03/08/23](#)]

The Conservative Partnership Institute Has Ties To Several House Freedom Caucus Republicans, Including Lauren Boebert, Andy Biggs, And Matt Gaetz—Partnering With The House Freedom Caucus To Provide Orientations For New Members Of Congress.

November 2022: The Conservative Partnership Institute Hosted A Three-Day Orientation For New Members Of Congress With The House Freedom Caucus. "The House Freedom Caucus will begin welcoming new members to Washington Wednesday evening for its own orientation focused on integrating prospective new members to a group that could soon become the most powerful bloc in Congress. [...] The three-day orientation begins Wednesday night with a welcome dinner at the Conservative Partnership Institute, an ally of the caucus. CPI senior partners include Mark Meadows, a Freedom Caucus co-founder and former chair." [Bloomberg Government, [11/09/22](#)]

CPI Has Hosted Representatives Lauren Boebert, Andy Biggs, And Matt Gaetz. "The offices at 300 Independence boast an in-house podcasting studio, a television studio and a host of employees with large Twitter followings. Colorado Rep. Lauren Boebert is a 'frequent visitor' to CPI's television studio, according to CPI's annual report, and she records her podcast, 'Bullet Points,' at CPI, as do Reps. Andy Biggs of Arizona ('What's the Biggs Idea?') and Matt Gaetz of Florida ('Firebrand'), as well as several other right-wing figures." [Grid News, [07/05/22](#)]

Russ Vought Brought Several Senior Members Of The Trump Administration To CRA—Including Three Members Of His OMB Staff, One DOJ Official Investigated For His Efforts To Overturn The 2020 Election, And One Former National Security Council Official Who Pushed Claims Trump Declassified Documents Found At Mar-a-Lago.

Vought Brought On Several Former Trump Officials Who Worked With Him While At OMB Into The Center For Renewing America's Senior Ranks.

Mark Paolett, Previously OMB General Counsel For Three Years During The Trump Administration, Was A Senior Fellow At The Center For Renewing America As Of February 27, 2023:



MARK PAOLETTA

Senior Fellow

[Center for Renewing America, accessed [02/27/23](#)]

- **Prior To CRA, He Served Three Years At OMB As General Counsel And Developed The "Legal Pathway" To Build The Southern Border Wall.** "Mark Paoletta served as General Counsel of the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) for three years during the Trump Administration. He worked with agencies across the administration to help implement President Trump's agenda, including developing the legal pathway to build the wall along the southern border. Mark also served as Counsel to Vice President Pence during the first year of the Trump Administration. In both positions, Mark helped prepare nominees for confirmation hearings, including playing key roles in the confirmations of Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh." [Center for Renewing America, accessed [02/27/23](#)]

Rachel Semmel, Who Was Previously OMB Communications Director Under Vought, Was CRA's Communications Director As Of March 8, 2023. "Rachel most recently served as the Communications Director at the White House Office of Management and Budget under Director Russ Vought, where she managed the day-to-day operations of the communications team and led OMB's overall strategy and execution on some of President Donald J. Trump's highest-profile policies." [Center For Renewing America, accessed [02/22/23](#)]

Ashlea Frazier, Who Was Previously OMB Chief Of Staff Under Vought, Was CRA's Chief Operating Officer As Of February 22, 2023. "Ashlea recently served as Chief of Staff at the White House Office of Management and Budget under Director Russ Vought. In that role, she managed the largest agency in the Executive Office of the President while also overseeing agency staff transitions and implementing policy priorities of President Trump." [Center For Renewing America, accessed [02/22/23](#)]

Center For Renewing America Also Employs Jeffrey Clark, A Former Trump Justice Department Official Who Trump Wanted To Install As Attorney General Ahead Of The Jan. 6 Insurrection And Was Investigated For His Role In Trying To Overturn The 2020 Presidential Election—Vought Defended Clark Saying The Raid On His Home Is "A New Era Of Criminalizing Politics."

Jeff Clark, Previously A Trump Administration Acting Assistant Attorney General Of The Justice Department's Civil Division And Assistant Attorney General Of The Environment & Natural Resources

Division, Was A Senior Fellow And Director Of Litigation At The Center For Renewing America As Of February 27, 2023. "Jeff Clark is the former President Trump-selected and Senate-confirmed Assistant Attorney General of the Environment & Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Justice Department. From 2020-2021, Jeff was also named and simultaneously served as the former Acting Assistant Attorney General of DOJ's Civil Division":



JEFF CLARK

Senior Fellow and Director of Litigation

[Center for Renewing America, accessed [02/27/23](#)]

June 2022: Former Trump Attorney Jeffrey Clark—Who President Trump Attempted To Install As Attorney General "In The Days Before The January 6 Capitol Riot"—Had His Home Searched By Federal Authorities Investigating The Effort To Overturn The 2020 Election. "Federal investigators on Wednesday conducted a search of the home of former Justice Department official Jeffrey Clark, people briefed on the matter tell CNN. Clark is the former DOJ lawyer who former President Donald Trump sought to install as attorney general in the days before the January 6 Capitol riot as top officials refused to go along with his vote fraud claims." [CNN, [06/23/23](#)]

- **Sources Said It "Was Part Of The Justice Department's Sweeping Investigations Into The Effort To Overturn The 2020 Election."** "It wasn't clear what investigators were seeking at Clark's home, but the raid was part of the Justice Department's sweeping investigation into the effort to overturn the 2020 elections, according to sources familiar with the matter." [CNN, [06/23/23](#)]

Vought Called The Raid Of Jeff Clark's Home A "'New Era Of Criminalizing Politics'" Adding "'The Weaponization Of The Government Must End.'" "'The new era of criminalizing politics is worsening in the US. Yesterday more than a dozen DOJ law enforcement officials searched Jeff Clark's house in a pre-dawn raid, put him in the streets in his pajamas, and took his electronic devices. All because Jeff saw fit to investigate voter fraud. This is not America, folks,' the group's president Russ Vought, the former Office of Management and Budget director under Trump, said in a statement. 'The weaponization of government must end. Let me be very clear. We stand by Jeff and so must all patriots in this country.'" [CNN, [06/23/23](#)]

Vought Also Brought Over Kash Patel—Current Center For Renewing America Senior Fellow For National Security And Intelligence—Who Served On Trump's National Security Council And Was Also A Representative To The National Archives, Later Pushing Claims That Trump Had Declassified Documents Prior To Them Being Found At Mar-A-Lago.

Kash Patel Was Senior Fellow For National Security And Intelligence At The Center For Renewing America, As Of February 27, 2023:



KASH PATEL

Senior Fellow for National Security and Intelligence

[Center for Renewing America, accessed [02/27/23](#)]

Patel Previously Served As Chief Of Staff To Acting Defense Secretary Chris Miller And Worked As The Deputy Assistant To The President And Senior Director For Counterterrorism At The National Security Council. "Mr. Patel served as the former Chief of Staff to Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller and is responsible for leading the Secretary's mission at the Department, including his executive staff and providing counsel to the Secretary on all matters concerning the Department's operations. Previously, Mr. Patel served as the Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism (CT) at the National Security Council (NSC)." [Department of Defense, accessed [02/27/23](#)]

- **Upon Leaving Office, President Trump Appointed Patel To Serve As A Representative To The National Archives, And "Was Later One Of Trump's Chief Surrogates In Pushing Claims That The Former President Declassified The Records Discovered In His Florida Home."** "Patel was chief of staff to the secretary of Defense as the Pentagon was grappling with Jan. 6. Trump also named Patel as one of his representatives to the National Archives upon leaving office, and he was later one of Trump's chief surrogates in pushing claims that the former president declassified the records discovered in his Florida home." [The Hill, [02/21/23](#)]

According To Its Website, Citizens For Renewing America—The Sister Organization Of The Center For Renewing America—Believes The Federal Government Has Wrongfully "Expanded Medicare," "Crushed Community Banks Through Dodd-Frank," And Created An "Unaccountable An Unconstitutional Consumer Regulatory Agency," And Has Thanked House Republicans Who Withheld Votes For Now-Speaker Kevin McCarthy In January 2023.

According To Its Website, Citizens For Renewing America—A “Sister Organization” Of The Center For Renewing America—Has Railed Against The Federal Government For Expanding Medicare And Creating Banking Reforms For Consumers Through Dodd-Frank And The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

According To Its Website, Citizens For Renewing America Says The Federal Government Has "Expanded Medicare And Hastened Its Insolvency," "Crushed Community Banks Through Dodd-Frank," And "Created An Unaccountable And Unconstitutional Consumer Regulatory Agency." "In the last 20 years alone, the federal government has foisted a failed No Child Left Behind policy on American students, expanded Medicare and hastened its insolvency, outlawed the Edison lightbulb, raised both food and fuel prices by mandating ethanol in our gasoline, rewarded reckless big businesses with 'too big to fail' bailouts, crushed community banks through Dodd-Frank, created an unaccountable and unconstitutional consumer regulatory agency, moved millions of otherwise healthy Americans into an expanded Medicaid program, and forced massive cost-driving regulations on health insurance through the passage of Obamacare, canceling millions of previously-held policies overnight." [Citizens For Renewing America, accessed [02/23/23](#)]

Citizens For Renewing America Is The “Sister Organization” Of The Center For Renewing America, Providing “Grassroots Lobbying And Citizen Mobilization”:

OUR SISTER ORGANIZATION

Citizens for Renewing America was established to do grassroots lobbying and citizen mobilization. We pick the right fights, bring our research and intellectual heft to the front lines, and equip the movement to keep America First. **Join us!**

[Center For Renewing America, accessed [03/23/23](#)]

In January 2023, Citizens For Renewing America Made A Video Thanking The Twenty Members Of Congress Who Withheld Their Vote For Kevin McCarthy Saying They Were Taking "The Fight To The D.C. Cartel."

January 2023: Citizens For Renewing America Released A Video Thanking The Twenty Members Of Congress Who Withheld Their Vote From Speaker Kevin McCarthy And "Took The Fight To The D.C. Cartel." "20 patriots took the fight to the D.C. Cartel, and delivered for the American people." [Center for Renewing America via YouTube, [01/17/23](#)]

Vought Has Been A Frequent Speaker For Conservative House Events While Serving As The Head Of CRA, Including Topics Pertaining To "Critical Race Theory," Republican Priorities During The Current Congress, And Ways Conservatives Can Build On Previous Victories, Among Other Topics.

Russ Vought Has Spoken During Panels At The Conservative Alliance Bootcamp And Conservative Retreat And Winter Leadership Conference On Issues Pertaining To "Critical Race Theory," Republican Priorities In The 118th Congress, And Ways Conservatives Can Build A Unified Policy From Previous Conservative Victories, Among Other Topics.

February 2023: Vought Spoke At The Conservative Alliance Bootcamp, Sponsored By The Conservative Sponsorship Institute On "Critical Race Theory And The Left's Mission To Divide America":

12:45 -- 2:00 pm Lunch
*Special Guest Speaker: Russ Vought (Center for Renewing America)
"Critical Race Theory and the Left's Mission to Divide America"*

[U.S House Committee On Ethics, accessed [02/22/23](#)]

Vought Also Spoke At The Conservative Retreat And Winter Leadership Conference Alongside Mark Meadows On "Election & Immigration Reform, Censorship, Antitrust, And Economic Growth":

9:45 -- 11:00 AM Session #2 -- Building a Stronger America: Conservative Policy Solutions
Leading movement voices present creative ways to address election & immigration reform, censorship, antitrust, and economic growth.

Speakers: Mark Meadows, Senior Partner, CPI
Congressman Scott Perry, PA-10
Ed Corrigan, President & CEO, CPI
Russ Vought, President, Center for Renewing America

[U.S House Committee On Ethics, accessed [02/22/23](#)]

Vought Spoke At The CPI Conservative Members Retreat & Winter Leadership Conference On Priorities For Republicans In The 118th Congress:

1:15 -- 2:15 PM Session #1: Conservative Policy Priorities for the 118th Congress
Conservative Members of Congress share their policy priorities for 2023 with conference attendees.

Moderator: Russ Vought, Center for Renewing America, President
Panel: Congressman Scott Perry, PA-10
Congressman Bob Good, VA-5
Congressman Ralph Norman, SC-5
Congressman Dan Bishop, NC-8

[U.S House Committee On Ethics, accessed [02/22/23](#)]

Vought Was Also A Featured Speaker Alongside Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) And Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) On How Congress Can Communicate With Their Constituents And What "Lessons Can Be Learned From Previous Conservative Policy Victories":

2:15 – 4:00 PM

Session #5 – Communicating with Constituents, the Media, and the Public
Communications experts share practices for effectively communicating with your constituents, the media, and others, including lessons that can be learned from previous conservative policy victories.

Speakers: Congressman Scott Perry, PA-10
 Congresswomen Lauren Boebert, CO-3
 Scott Parkinson, Vice President, Club for Growth
 Russ Vought, President, Center for Renewing America
 Senator Mike Lee, R-Utah

[U.S House Committee On Ethics, accessed [02/22/23](#)]

Vought Also Spoke On How Conservatives Can Advance A "Unified National Policy Agenda" By "Working With Outside Organizations And Allies To Increase Public Support For Conservative Ideas":

11:15 – 12:15 PM

Session #3 – Advancing Conservative Policies Through a Unified National Policy Agenda
Hear advice from current and former CPI experts on working with outside organizations and allies to increase public support for conservative ideas.

Speakers: Mark Meadows, Senior Partner, CPI
 Congressman Scott Perry, PA-10
 Russ Vought, President, Center for Renewing America

[U.S House Committee On Ethics, accessed [02/22/23](#)]