

# Russ Vought—A Key Project 2025 Figure Deeply Tied To Suspicious MAGA “Nerve Center” And Far-Right Figures—Plans To Impose Extreme “Christian Nationalism” And Wage Anti-Woke War On Federal Government

**SUMMARY:** Russ Vought, Trump’s former Office Of Management And Budget (OMB) Director, has been planning to “[infuse Christian nationalist ideas](#)”—which assert “[Christian primacy in politics and law](#)” over all other faiths and principles—in the next conservative White House, where Vought is likely to be named [Chief of Staff](#).

Vought has been playing a key role as an advisor for the Radical MAGA Project 2025, which states that “[freedom is defined by God, not man](#)” and would “[defund the Department of Justice, dismantle the FBI, break up the Department of Homeland Security and Eliminate The Departments Of Education And Commerce](#).” Along these lines, Vought was an “[architect](#)” of Trump’s Schedule F, an executive order to “[gut](#)” the federal government—and he has warned that a future administration can wield the policy “[through executive power alone](#).”

Vought has written a leading chapter in Project 2025’s plan to reform the Executive Office of the President in the next conservative administration. This chapter claims that “[woke](#)” federal agencies have been “[weaponized against the public](#),” recommends “[aggressive](#)” restrictions on bureaucracy, calls for “[fearless](#)” challenges of legal precedents, and even opposes “[good government](#)” principles.

**Vought’s specific policy recommendations include:**

- For the **Office Of The Management And Budget (OMB)**, Vought prescribes using “[every possible tool](#)” to “[impose fiscal discipline](#),” reinstating trump’s political control over agencies, “[fearless](#)” challenges of legal precedents, opposing the “[good government](#)” community, and using federal contracts to resist “[woke](#)” corporate america.
- For the **National Security Council (NSC)**, Vought recommends increasing political control over national security policy and review of policies and personnel to restrain “[social engineering and non-defense matters, including climate change, critical race theory, manufactured extremism, and other polarizing policies](#).”
- Vought recommends vetting **Council of Economic Advisers (CEA)** members, who often overlap between administrations, for ideological “[alignment with White House policy objectives](#)” so they don’t “[breed skepticism and distrust](#)” with the White House.
- For the **Office of Science and Technology Policy**, Vought says “[the Biden Administration’s climate fanaticism will need a whole-of-government unwinding](#)” and its “[woke agenda should be reversed and scrubbed from all policy manuals, guidance documents, and agendas](#).”
- In a section on the **Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)**, Vought recommends [eliminating the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Carbon \(SCC\)](#), which guides climate regulation.
- Vought recommends revoking President Biden’s **White House Gender Policy Council**, which he claims promotes “[the new woke gender ideology](#),” and appointing a Special Assistant to the President to coordinate and lead “[issues related to life and family](#).”

Meanwhile, Vought's far-right group the Center for Renewing America (CRA) has drawn plans that explicitly mention "[Christian nationalism](#)" and would invoke the Insurrection Act on the first day of the next conservative administration in order to "[to quash protests](#)."

From its inception, CRA (originally known as the Center for American Restoration) was intended to push [divisive cultural issues](#), with Vought condemning "[personal autonomy](#)" and tying equality and diversity to "[cultural Marxism](#)." Under Vought, CRA has hired prominent extremists, including former Trump Justice Department official [Jeffrey Clark](#), who was [criminally charged](#) for his role in trying to overturn the 2020 election; disgraced FBI agent [Steve Friend](#), an insurrection [conspiracy theorist](#) who refused to raid a dangerous Jan. 6 suspect's home; and former Trump OMB General Counsel [Mark Paoletta](#), who was behind some of Trump's "[most divisive and legally aggressive moves](#)."

**Consistent with CRA's far-right agenda, Vought has repeatedly endorsed extreme, theocratic, and anti-secular worldviews:**

- In 2023, Vought was "[excited](#)" to appear on a podcast hosted by right-wing pastor Tom Ascol, who supported Uganda's [LGBTQ criminalization](#) law, including its [death penalty](#). Vought told Ascol the country's laws must recognize "[only one true God](#)," warned Christians are "[in the crosshairs of the federal government](#)," and called the Democratic Party "[increasingly evil](#)" because it is "[intent on preserving a particular secular worldview](#)."
- Vought's online Christian nationalism includes claiming both parties have pushed "[a religion of secularism](#)" that "[cannot undergird a healthy society](#)," calling for "[political combat](#)" against Christians' enemies, and endorsing a view that it was a "[grave mistake](#)" to allow cultural, religious, and ideological diversity—long after Vought faced condemnation for calling Islam a "[deficient theology](#)."
- Vought has helped to [spread Jan. 6 conspiracy theories](#), lifting up claims that leading insurrectionist Ray Epps was a federal agent and warning that federal law enforcement will charge Republicans as terrorists.
- Vought has seemed to suggest that extremist or hate groups designated by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) are actually "[effective groups who love America](#)," telling SPLC that his Center for Renewing America was "[officially offended that we have not made \[its\] list](#)."
- Vought has "[a close affiliation](#)" with and has been "[proud to work with](#)" William Wolfe, a former Trump Official and christian nationalist who has [argued](#) for ending sex education, overturning same-sex marriage, ending abortion, and has warned Christians may soon need to "[heed the call to arms](#)."

**Russ Vought and his wife Mary Vought, who leads a major Republican political group, are deeply intertwined in the network of MAGA "[nerve center](#)" the Conservative Partnership Institute, a sprawling effort led by former Trump Chief of Staff Mark Meadows that is [drawing suspicion](#) for abusing federal tax laws:**

- Vought is a [beneficial owner](#) of Compass Professional Inc., a for-profit "[spinoff](#)" of MAGA "[nerve center](#)" the Conservative Partnership Institute (CPI). CPI [incubated](#) Vought's Center for Renewing America and has faced legal scrutiny for "[pushing the boundaries of tax law](#)" that bars tax-exempt non-profits from political activity.
- Russ Vought's [wife](#) Mary Vought owns PR firm Vought Strategies, which has been registered at the Voughts' previous [residential address](#) and has collected over [\\$900,000](#)—nearly 100% of its federal political income—from the Senate Conservatives Fund and its [super PAC](#), which Mary Vought has [led](#) since [May 2019](#). Notably, Russ Vought's Center for Renewing America, Mary Vought's Senate Conservatives Fund, and CPI all share [the same address](#) at CPI's headquarters. Mary Vought has

also [repeatedly intersected](#) with CPI, a close “[partner](#)” and [incubator](#) of Russ Vought’s Center For Renewing America.

- Russ Vought is a [treasurer](#) for [CPI network](#) group [America First Legal Foundation](#), which Mary Vought praised in a [March 2024 article](#) for the group’s [Jane Doe lawsuit](#) against what she called “radical” gender and racial policies in Fairfax, VA county public schools, where Mary Vought said their children [attend](#) school.
- In possible violation of [federal ethics law](#), Vought [didn’t disclose](#) future employment with his far-right Center for American Restoration as he was about to leave federal government—even after he [formed](#) the group and [registered](#) its website and while he used his OMB post to approve [a flurry of right-wing rule rollbacks](#) aligned with his new groups.

## General Overview

### Biographical Overview

Dates	Position	Employer
<a href="#">2021-Present</a>	President	Center for Renewing America
<a href="#">July 2020- Jan. 2021</a>	Director	Office of Management and Budget
<a href="#">Jan. 2019-July 2020</a>	Acting Director	Office of Management and Budget
<a href="#">Feb. 2018-Jan.2019</a>	Deputy Director	Office of Management and Budget
<a href="#">Aug. 2010-January 2017</a>	Vice President	Heritage Action for America
<a href="#">Dec. 2008-Approx. Aug. 2010</a>	Policy Director	House Republican Conference
<a href="#">July 2004-Dec. 2008</a>	Executive Director, Policy Director, and Budget Director	Republican Study Committee
Approx. <a href="#">1999-2004</a>	Legislative Assistant	U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX)
<a href="#">1998-Unknown</a>	Unknown	Sen. Dan Coats (R-IN)

**Russ Vought’s Full Name Is Russell Thurlow Vought.** [Legistorm, accessed [03/18/24](#)]

**Russ Vought Was Born On March 26, 1976 In Mount Vernon, New York.** [The Almanac of the Unelected: Staff of the U.S. Congress 2008 via Google Books, accessed [03/22/24](#)]

**Vought “Is A Native Of Connecticut.”** [The Almanac of the Unelected: Staff of the U.S. Congress 2008 via Google Books, accessed [03/22/24](#)]

**Russ Vought Earned A B.A. From Wheaton College In 1998.** [Legistorm, accessed [03/18/24](#)]

- **Vought Graduated With A Bachelors Degree In History And Political Science.** [The Almanac of the Unelected: Staff of the U.S. Congress 2008 via Google Books, accessed [03/22/24](#)]

Russ Vought Earned A J.D. From George Washington University Law Center In 2004. [Trump White House, accessed [03/18/24](#)]

Russ Vought “Lives In Virginia With His Wife And Two Daughters.” “He lives in Virginia with his wife and two daughters.” [Trump White House, accessed [03/18/24](#)]

In May 2023, Russ Vought Bought 3825 7th St S, Arlington, VA, 22204 For \$1.1 Million—The Property Had An Assessed Value Of Of \$1 Million For Tax Year 2024:

23-018-007

3825 7th ST S ARLINGTON VA 22204

**Owner**

VOUGHT RUSSELL T

**Legal Description**

LT 14 BK 14 ALCOVA HTS 8246 SQ FT

**Mailing Address**

3825 7TH ST S  
ARLINGTON VA 22204  
United States

[Arlington County Government, accessed [03/20/24](#)]

23-018-007

3825 7th ST S ARLINGTON VA 22204

**Assessment History**

Effective Date	Change Reason	Land Value	Improvement Value	Total Value
1/1/2024	01- Annual	\$657,100	\$392,600	\$1,049,700

[Arlington County Government, accessed [03/20/24](#)]

23-018-007

3825 7th ST S ARLINGTON VA 22204

**Property Sales History**

Grantee	Sales Date	Sales Price	Sales Code	Deed Bk/Pg#	Deed Doc ID#
VOUGHT RUSSELL T	5/24/2023	\$1,100,000		/	20230100005990
VALDESUSO CESAR ALBERTO	4/14/2017	\$0	3-Family Sale	/	20170100008861

[Arlington County Government, accessed [03/20/24](#)]

## Former Trump OMB Director And Leading Project 2025 Author Russ Vought Planning To Push Extreme Christian Nationalism In Next White House After Flirting With Far-Right Figures

Russ Vought, Trump’s Former Office Of Management And Budget (OMB) Director, Has Been Planning To “Infuse Christian Nationalist Ideas” In The Next White House And Has Been Advising The Radical MAGA Project 2025, Which Has Stated That “Freedom Is Defined By God, Not Man.”

## **Russ Vought “Spent Nearly Two Decades As A Right-Wing Bomb Thrower,” Working For Heritage Action, The Trump White House, And The Far-Right Republican Study Committee, Among Other Roles.**

Washington Post Opinion Column: Vought “Has Spent Nearly Two Decades As A Right-Wing Bomb Thrower.” [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]

**August 2010 To January 2017: Vought Was Vice President At Heritage Action For America.** According to his personal financial disclosure, Vought was vice president at Heritage Action for America from August 2010 to January 2017, when he became part of the “OMB Beachead Team.” [Office of Government Ethics, OGE Form 278e, Russell Vought, [3/24/17](#)]

- **Heritage Action For America Is Lobbying Arm Of Heritage Foundation.** “He previously worked at Heritage Action for America, the lobbying arm of the conservative Washington think tank.” [Wall Street Journal, [7/20/20](#)]
- **“The Group Fought GOP Leadership And Pushed Lawmakers Into Unyielding Positions.”** [Washington Post, [12/31/20](#)]

**January 2017: Vought Joined Trump Administration As Part Of “OMB Beachead Team.”** According to his personal financial disclosure, Vought was on the “OMB Beachead Team” from January 2017 to April 2017. [Office of Government Ethics, OGE Form 278e, Russell Vought, [3/24/17](#)]

- **April 2017: Vought Became “OMB Senior Advisor.”** According to his personal financial disclosure, Vought became “OMB senior advisor” in April 2017. [Office of Government Ethics, OGE Form 278e, Russell Vought, [3/24/17](#)]

**“Mr. Vought Spent Twelve Years On Capitol Hill In Numerous Roles.”** [White House Office of the Press Secretary via Wayback Machine, [4/7/17](#)]

**Vought Was Executive Director Of The Republican Study Committee, Where He Said He Sought To Push Republican Leadership “As Far To The Right As Possible.”** “He served 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), under then-Chairman Jeb Hensarling.” [White House Office of the Press Secretary via Wayback Machine, [4/7/17](#)]

- **“[Vought] Previously Served As The RSC’s Budget Director.”** “[Vought] served 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), under then-Chairman Jeb Hensarling. He previously served as the RSC’s Budget Director under two other chairmen.” [White House Office of the Press Secretary via Wayback Machine, [4/7/17](#)]
- **July 2011: Vought Wrote RSC’s Job Was “To Push [GOP] 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, “Message to RSc Members Get in or Get Out,” Russel Vought, [7/27/11](#)]

**Vought “Served As The Policy Director For The House Republican Conference, Under Then-Chairman Mike Pence.”** “He served 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), under then-Chairman Jeb Hensarling.” [White House Office of the Press Secretary via Wayback Machine, [4/7/17](#)]

**Vought “Began His Career Working For Senator Phil Gramm For Four Years As A Legislative Assistant.”** “He began his career working for Senator Phil Gramm for four years as a legislative assistant.” [White House Office of the Press Secretary via Wayback Machine, [4/7/17](#)]

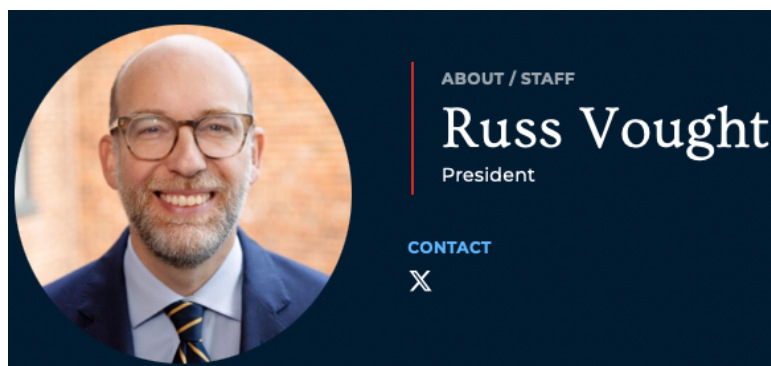
- **Gramm Was Republican Senator From Texas.** “Gramm was a senator from Texas and was a Republican. He served from 1985 to 2002.” [GovTrack, Sen, Phil Gramm, accessed [2/8/21](#)]

## **Vought Has Been Planning To “Infuse Christian Nationalist Ideas”—Which Assert “Christian Primacy In Politics And Law”—In The Next Conservative White House.**

**February 2024: New Documents Revealed That Russ Vought—Former Trump Office Of Management And Budget Director, President Of “Leading” Conservative Group The Center For Renewing America (CRA), And Potential Chief Of Staff In A New Trump Administration—Was “Developing Plans To Infuse Christian Nationalist Ideas [...] Should The Former President Return To Power.”** “An influential think tank close to Donald Trump is developing plans to infuse Christian nationalist ideas in his administration should the former president return to power, according to documents obtained by POLITICO. Spearheading the effort is Russell Vought, who served as Trump’s director of the Office of Management and Budget during his first term and has remained close to him. Vought, who is frequently cited as a potential chief of staff in a second Trump White House, is president of The Center for Renewing America think tank, a leading group in a conservative consortium preparing for a second Trump term.” [Politico, [02/20/24](#)]

- **Christian Nationalists “Believe That The Country Was Founded As A Christian Nation And That Christian Values Should Be Prioritized Throughout Government And Public Life.”** “Christian nationalists in America believe that the country was founded as a Christian nation and that Christian values should be prioritized throughout government and public life.” [Politico, [02/20/24](#)]
- **Christian Nationalism Asserts That “There Should Be Christian Primacy In Politics And Law.”** “The problem with Christian nationalism isn’t with Christian participation in politics but rather the belief that there should be Christian primacy in politics and law. It can manifest itself through ideology, identity and emotion. And if it were to take hold, it would both upend our Constitution and fracture our society.” [The New York Times, [02/25/24](#)]

**Vought Is The President Of The Center For Renewing America (CRA), Which Touts Vought’s “Key” Role In “Pushing For Conservative Victories” During The Trump Administration And Calls Vought “One Of Trump’s Most Trusted” Officials.** “During the Trump Administration, OMB was a key office in pushing for conservative victories and helping President Trump cut through bureaucracy. During his four years at OMB, Russ was one of Trump’s most trusted and competent managers called by The Economist, the President’s Toolkit.” [Center for Renewing America, accessed [03/08/24](#)]



[Center for Renewing America, accessed [03/08/24](#)]

- **The Center For Renewing America Is Also Known As The Center For American Restoration:**

Center for Renewing America Inc. - Initial  
File Number: C00006885132

[...]

**Foreign Name**

Center for American Restoration, Inc

[Search for Center for Renewing America Inc., Washington D.C.  
Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection, accessed [03/07/24](#)]

**The Center For Renewing America “Helped Make Life Difficult For” Former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), With Vought Advising The Far-Right House Freedom Caucus To “Extract Concessions” From McCarthy In Exchange For Supporting His Speakership Bid In 2023.** “Vought, 47, president of a new pro-Donald Trump think tank called the Center for Renewing America, has helped make life difficult for McCarthy since he launched his speaker bid following last year’s midterm elections. Vought advised members of the conservative House Freedom Caucus and other GOP members wary of McCarthy to extract concessions in exchange for supporting his speakership in the closely divided chamber. That led to the protracted 15 rounds of voting before McCarthy eventually prevailed.” [The Washington Post, [06/07/23](#)]

- **Concessions Pushed By Vought Included The Creation Of A New House Panel To Investigate The “Weaponization Of The Federal Government” And A “104-Page Memo” Proposing Spending Levels For Every Federal Agency.** “Among the concessions: a new House panel that Vought helped push with a mission to investigate the alleged “weaponization of the federal government” under President Biden. In the lead-up to the debt ceiling negotiations, Vought also provided a fire hose of advice to House Republicans on how to extract spending cuts and other concessions in exchange for their support. That included a 104-page memo that proposed specific spending levels for every federal agency.” [The Washington Post, [06/07/23](#)]

**Vought Is Advising The Heritage Foundation’s Radical MAGA Project 2025, Which States That “Freedom Is Defined By God, Not Man” And Would Gut Key Executive Branch Agencies, Including The Justice, Education, Commerce, And Homeland Security Departments.**

**Vought Is Advising Project 2025, Which Has Stated, “Freedom Is Defined By God, Not Man.”** “Vought, who declined to comment, is advising Project 2025, a governing agenda that would usher in one of the most conservative executive branches in modern American history. The effort is made up of a constellation of conservative groups run by Trump allies who’ve constructed a detailed plan to dismantle or overhaul key agencies in a second term. Among other principles, the project’s ‘Mandate for Leadership’ states that ‘freedom is defined by God, not man.’” [Politico, [02/20/24](#)]

**Project 2025, Led By The Conservative Heritage Foundation, Is A Radical MAGA Plan To “Roll Back Nothing Less Than 100 Years” Of “Liberal Encroachment” Through The Administrative State—The Plan Proposes To “Defund The Department Of Justice, Dismantle The FBI, Break Up The Department Of Homeland Security And Eliminate The Departments Of Education And Commerce.”** “In truth, the program laid out by Dans and his fellow Trumpers, called Project 2025, is far more ambitious than anything Ronald Reagan dreamed up. Dans, from his seat inside The Heritage Foundation, and scores of conservative groups aligned with his program are seeking to roll back nothing less than 100 years of what they see as liberal encroachment on Washington. They want to overturn what began as Woodrow Wilson’s creation of a federal administrative elite and later grew into a vast, unaccountable and mostly liberal bureaucracy (as conservatives view it) under Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal and Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society, numbering about two and a

quarter million federal workers today. They aim to defund the Department of Justice, dismantle the FBI, break up the Department of Homeland Security and eliminate the Departments of Education and Commerce, to name just a few of their larger targets. [...] And they want to ensure that what remains of this slashed-down bureaucracy is reliably MAGA conservative — not just for the next president but for a long time to come — and that the White House maintains total control of it.” [Politico, [09/19/23](#)]

**Vought Was A Longtime Vice President For The Heritage Foundation’s “Lobbying Arm” Heritage Action For America And His Confirmation To Lead Trump’s OMB Was Celebrated By Heritage’s President, Who Said “Russ Will Always Be Part Of The Heritage Family.”**

**August 2010 To January 2017: Vought Was Vice President At Heritage Action For America:**

#	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, OGE Form 278e, Russell Vought, [03/24/17](#)]

- **Heritage Action For America Is The Lobbying Arm Of The Heritage Foundation.** “He previously worked at Heritage Action for America, the lobbying arm of the conservative Washington think tank.” [Wall Street Journal, [7/20/20](#)]
- **Project 2025 Is Run By The Heritage Foundation.** “The Biden-Harris campaign plans to try to usurp ‘Project 2025’ — the name of a well-funded Heritage Foundation effort to prepare for a second Trump administration — to brand warnings about the former president’s policies.” [Axios, [03/06/24](#)]

**July 2020: The Heritage Foundation Issued A Press Release Celebrating “Alumni” Russ Vought’s Confirmation As Director Of Trump’s Office Of Management And Budget.** “The Senate has confirmed Russ Vought to serve as director of the Office of Management and Budget, making him the third Heritage alumni to join President Donald Trump’s Cabinet.” [The Heritage Foundation, [07/24/20](#)]

**Confirmation of Russ Vought Makes Third Heritage Alumni in Trump Cabinet**

[The Heritage Foundation, [07/24/20](#)]

**Heritage Foundation President Kay C. James Said Vought Was “A Fearless Advocate For The American Taxpayer,” Claiming That “His Unwavering Fiscally Conservative Principles Make Him An Outstanding Choice To Head The Office Of Management And Budget.”** “Russ has been a fearless advocate for the American taxpayer, and his unwavering fiscally conservative principles make him an outstanding choice to head the Office of Management and Budget,” said Heritage Foundation President Kay C. James. ‘Since joining OMB, Russ has been instrumental in producing budget proposals that advance priorities to make life better for all Americans.’ [The Heritage Foundation, [07/24/20](#)]

**James Added, “Russ Will Always Be Part Of The Heritage Family,” While Claiming He “Pioneered New Forms Of Grassroots Activism And Inspired Tens Of Thousands Of The Conservative Movement’s Best And Brightest Activists.”** “We are grateful to the president for promoting Russ and pleased that the



Senate has confirmed him,' James added. 'Russ will always be part of the Heritage family. At Heritage Action, he pioneered new forms of grassroots activism and inspired tens of thousands of the conservative movement's best and brightest activists to work for liberty and limited government. We are proud of him and look forward to his continuing leadership at OMB.'" [The Heritage Foundation, [07/24/20](#)]

**Vought's Group The Center For Renewing America (CRA)—Which Has Sent Bullet Bottle Openers As Christmas Gifts—Has Drawn Plans That Explicitly Mention “Christian Nationalism” And Would Invoke The Insurrection Act On The First Day Of The Next Conservative Administration “To Quash Protests.”**

**Vought “Has Embraced The Idea That Christians Are Under Assault And Has Spoken Of Policies He Might Pursue In Response.”** “As the country has become less religious and more diverse, Vought has embraced the idea that Christians are under assault and has spoken of policies he might pursue in response.” [Politico, [02/20/24](#)]

**The Center For Renewing America's (CRA's) Top Priorities For A New Administration Explicitly Include “Christian Nationalism” And “Invoking The Insurrection Act On Day One To Quash Protests.”** “One document drafted by CRA staff and fellows includes a list of top priorities for CRA in a second Trump term. ‘Christian nationalism’ is one of the bullet points. Others include invoking the Insurrection Act on Day One to quash protests and refusing to spend authorized congressional funds on unwanted projects, a practice banned by lawmakers in the Nixon era.” [Politico, [02/20/24](#)]

**Vought Has Promoted Immigration Restrictions That Would Weigh Whether Applicants Have “Accept[ed] Israel's God, Laws And Understanding Of History.”** “The documents obtained by POLITICO do not outline specific Christian nationalist policies. But Vought has promoted a restrictionist immigration agenda, saying a person's background doesn't define who can enter the U.S., but rather, citing Biblical teachings, whether that person ‘accept[ed] Israel's God, laws and understanding of history.” [Politico, [02/20/24](#)]

**In 2023, CRA's Christmas Presents To Allies Were Bottle Openers Made From Large “Once-Fired” Bullets:**

← **Russ Vought** ✓  
2,834 Likes Follow

**Stan Fitzgerald Veterans for Trump, Le** ✓ @RealSFitz | Dec 18, 2023 ...  
Thank you to Russ Vought , Heather Cordasco and congressman Eli Crane and the rest of our partners at CFRA for the wonderful Christmas gift . For those of you unfamiliar with the Bottle Breacher Eli Crane and his wife Jen were featured on Shark Tank with this amazing product....  
[Show more](#)



[Liked Post by @russvought, 12/18/23, accessed [03/18/24](#)]

- **Bottle Breacher Bottle Openers Are Made From “Once-Fired” Bullets.** “It’s difficult to capture the quality of our product in a picture, as each Bottle Breacher requires careful handling and a high attention to detail. While our bottle opener rounds are once-fired, we take pride in providing an extremely high-quality product. Our bottle openers are reloaded, cut for the opener, tumbled, hand-picked to have very minimal defects, prepped and cleaned for powder coating, powder coated to provide a smooth finish, laser engraved for that personal touch, repolished and inspected for quality control, and finally packaged and shipped to provide a high quality, one-of-a kind bottle opener.” [Bottle Breacher, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

**2021: Vought Wrote An Opinion Piece Defining Christian Nationalism As “An Orientation For Engaging In The Public Square That Recognizes America As A Christian Nation” And “Not The Separation Of Christianity From Its Influence On Government And Society.”**

**2021: Vought Wrote An Opinion Piece Titled, “Is There Anything Actually Wrong With 'Christian Nationalism?’”:**

# Is There Anything Actually Wrong With 'Christian Nationalism?' | Opinion

[...]

By **Russ Vought**

President, Center for Renewing America and former Director, Office of Management and Budget

[Newsweek, [03/22/21](#)]

**Vought Wrote That Christian Nationalism Is A “Useful Description For Those Who Believe In Both Preserving Our Country’s Judeo-Christian Heritage And Making Public Policy Decisions That Are Best For This Country.”** “This debate is important, though—once stripped of its superimposed liberal scar tissue, ‘Christian nationalism’ is actually a rather benign and useful description for those who believe in both preserving our country’s Judeo-Christian heritage and making public policy decisions that are best for this country.” [Newsweek, [03/22/21](#)]

**Vought Claimed That “Part Of Being A Nation Is A Shared Religious Heritage,” Adding, “In America, That Historical Heritage Is, Of Course, Christianity.”** “As for the Christian part of ‘Christian nationalism,’ part of being a nation is a shared religious heritage. And in America, that historical heritage is, of course, Christianity. This is where the distinction between the nation and the state comes into play. The state is a government that rests on and includes much of a nation.” [Newsweek, [03/22/21](#)]

**Vought Claimed That The Founding Figures “Were Not Intending To Create A Secular Society Divorced Of All Religion.”** “When our Founders formed the United States of America, they instituted a state to govern a nation and provided a Constitution that protects religious liberty and every individual’s right of conscience. But they were not intending to create a secular society divorced of all religion.” [Newsweek, [03/22/21](#)]

**Vought Defined Christian Nationalism As “An Orientation For Engaging In The Public Square That Recognizes America As A Christian Nation, Where Our Rights And Duties Are Understood To Come From God.”** “My own definition of ‘Christian nationalism’ would be this: An orientation for engaging in the public square that recognizes America as a Christian nation, where our rights and duties are understood to come from God and where our primary responsibilities as citizens are for building and preserving the strength, prosperity and health of our own country.” [Newsweek, [03/22/21](#)]

**Vought Said Christian Nationalism Is “Not The Separation Of Christianity From Its Influence On Government And Society.”** “It is a commitment to an institutional separation between church and state, but not the separation of Christianity from its influence on government and society.” [Newsweek, [03/22/21](#)]

**Vought’s Far-Right Ties Include Calling SPLC-Designated Extremist Groups “Effective Groups Who Love America” And A “Close Affiliation” With A Prominent Christian Nationalist Who Has Warned Of A “Call To Arms” ...**

**Vought Has Suggested That Extremist Or Hate Groups Designated By The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) Are Actually “Effective Groups Who Love America,” While Telling SPLC, The “Center For Renewing America Is Officially Offended That We Have Not Made Your List.”**

June 2023: Russ Vought Wrote To The Southern Poverty Law Center—Which Tracks Far-Right And Hate Groups—“Center For Renewing America Is Officially Offended That We Have Not Made Your List Of Effective Groups Who Love America. Please Do Better Next Year!”:



**Russ Vought** @russvought · Jun 6, 2023

...

Dear @splcenter

Center for Renewing America is officially offended that we have not made your list of effective groups who love America. Please do better next year!

Our references are below



**Accountable.US** @accountable\_us · Jun 6, 2023

Meet @RussVought, a key proponent of the @HouseGOP's aggressive #DefaultonAmerica Act. The MAGA Republican Puppeteer wants to wield the federal budget as a weapon against working Americans and the agencies that serve them. 1/4

... that he wasn't ... Eventually called th  
"I get excited abo ... l thirty billion dollar  
the Department ... and wide-ranging, incl  
... osing work requirem  
... ing done to the ... ts of Biden's signatur  
n it every single y ... expanding fossil-fu

[X post by @russvought, 06/06/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

**Vought Has “A Close Affiliation” With And Has Been “Proud To Work With” William Wolfe, A Former Trump Official And Christian Nationalist Who Has Argued For Overturning Same-Sex Marriage, Ending Abortion, And Has Warned Christians May Soon Need To “Heed The Call To Arms.”**

Vought “Has A Close Affiliation With Christian Nationalist William Wolfe, A Former Trump Administration Official Who Has Advocated For Overturning Same-Sex Marriage, Ending Abortion And Reducing Access To Contraceptives.” “Vought has a close affiliation with Christian nationalist William Wolfe, a former Trump administration official who has advocated for overturning same-sex marriage, ending abortion and reducing access to contraceptives.” [Politico, [02/20/24](#)]

**January 2023: Vought Posted That He Was “Proud To Work With” William Wolfe “On Scoping Out A Sound Christian Nationalism”:**



**Russ Vought** ✓  
@russvought



I'm proud to work with @William\_E\_Wolfe on scoping out a sound Christian Nationalism. Both he & @wokal\_distance are VFs @amrenewctr. @ConceptualJames is there no room for Christians who are also nationalists to be in an anti-woke coalition? My take below



From newsweek.com

3:58 PM · Jan 25, 2023 · 371K Views

[X Post by @russvought, 01/25/23, accessed [03/08/24](#)]

**Wolfe’s “Radical” Proposals For The Next Presidency Include Ending “Surrogacy, Sex Education In Schools, And No-Fault Divorce.”** “But some of Wolfe’s proposals for the next presidency somehow skew even more radical. In a since-deleted December post on X, Wolfe called for an end to surrogacy, sex education in schools, and no-fault divorce—though that might have a hard time gaining muster in an increasingly divorced Congress, and under Trump who is on his third marriage.” [The New Republic, [02/20/24](#)]

**October 2023: Wolfe “Railed Against ‘Cowardly’ Christians And Warned That ‘We Are Getting Close’ To A Point Where Christians Will Have To ‘Heed The Call To Arms.’”** “Former Trump administration official and unabashed Christian nationalist William Wolfe spoke at a ‘Jesus And Politics’ conference earlier this month, where he railed against ‘cowardly’ Christians and warned that ‘we are getting close’ to a point where Christians will have to ‘heed the call to arms.’” [Right Wing Watch, [10/31/23](#)]

- **Wolfe Said, “If We Have Ever Lived In A Point In Time In American History Since Then That We Could Argue That Now Is The Time To Arms Again, I Think We Are Getting Close.”** “‘If we have ever lived in a point in time in American history since then that we could argue that now is the time to arms again, I think we are getting close,’ Wolfe then proclaimed. ‘Even though as Christians we seek peace, when the enemy is pressed upon us, if we fail to heed the call to arms, then we are acting as cowards.’” [Right Wing Watch, [10/31/23](#)]

**Wolfe Has Said, “Christians Should Reject A Christ-Less ‘Conservatism.’”** “Christians should reject a Christ-less ‘conservatism,’ he wrote in another post on X, ‘and demand the political movement we are most closely associated with make a return to Christ-centered foundations. Because it’s either Christ or chaos, even on the ‘Right.’” [The New Republic, [02/20/24](#)]

...In 2023, Vought Was “Excited” To Appear On A Podcast Hosted By A Pastor Who Supported LGBTQ Criminalization, Saying The Country’s Laws Must Recognize “Only One True God,” Warning Christians Are “In The Crosshairs Of The Federal Government,” And Called The Democratic Party “Increasingly Evil” Because It Is “Intent On Preserving A Particular Secular Worldview.”

Russ Vought Was “Excited” To Appear On A Podcast Hosted Tom Ascol, Who Supported Uganda’s Anti-LGBTQ Law And Said, “If A Man Lies With A Male As With A Woman, Both Of Them Have Committed An Abomination; They Shall Surely Be Put To Death; Their Blood Is Upon Them”...

January 2023: Russ Vought Appeared On The Sword & The Trowel, A Podcast By Founders Ministries, To Discuss “Principled Conservatism In The House Of Representatives In The House Of Representatives” With Graham Gunden And Tom Ascol:

# TS&TT: Russ Vought | Principled Conservatism in the House of Representatives

GRAHAM GUNDEN, RUSS VOUGHT, TOM ASCOL

[...]



[Founders Ministries, accessed [01/10/23](#)]



[The Sword & The Trowel via YouTube, 01/10/23, accessed [03/22/24 \(01:17\)](#)]

**Vought Told Ascol, “Thanks For Having Me. I’m Excited To Talk To You.”** [The Sword & The Trowel via YouTube, 01/10/23, accessed [03/22/24 \(01:17\)](#)]

**Tom Ascol Is The President Of Founders Ministries.** [Founders Ministries, accessed [03/22/24](#)]

**May 2023: When Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) Criticized Uganda’s Law Criminalizing Homosexuality, Tom Ascol Said, “Tell It To God, Ted,” Adding “If A Man Lies With A Male As With A Woman, Both Of Them Have Committed An Abomination; They Shall Surely Be Put To Death; Their Blood Is Upon Them.”** “This Uganda law is horrific & wrong,’ the Texas Republican tweeted on May 2. ‘Any law criminalizing homosexuality or imposing the death penalty for ‘aggravated homosexuality’ is grotesque & an abomination. ALL civilized nations should join together in condemning this human rights abuse.’ ‘Tell it to God, Ted,’ Tom Ascol of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Florida, tweeted in reply. Ascol, who was a close second in a runoff election for president of the Southern Baptist Convention last year, proceeded to cite scripture: ‘If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them. —Leviticus 20:13’ He added, ‘Was this law God gave to His old covenant people ‘horrific and wrong?’” [The Daily Beast, [06/01/23](#)]

- **June 2023: “Bigoted” Pastor Tom Ascol “Doubled Down” On His Criticism Of Sen. Ted Cruz’s Condemnation Of Uganda’s Anti-LGBTQ Law, Claiming That “Criminalizing LGBTQ People Cannot Be ‘Unjust, Immoral, Wrong, Grotesque’ Because ‘God Created Laws For Israel That Are Very Clear, Saying That Homosexuality Is A Criminal Act.’”** “On June 6, bigoted pastor Tom Ascol appeared on Jenna Ellis’ right-wing Christian radio program to double down on his recent criticism of Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) for condemning Uganda’s anti-LGBTQ law on Twitter. During the appearance, Ascol argued that laws criminalizing LGBTQ people cannot be ‘unjust, immoral, wrong, grotesque’ because ‘God created laws for Israel that are very clear, saying that homosexuality is a criminal act.’” [Media Matters for America, [06/07/23](#)]

**...In The Podcast, Vought Criticized Christian Secularism And Said The Country Must Recognize “That It Has To Obey God And There Is Only One True God And That Is Jesus Christ Our Lord”...**

**In The Podcast, Vought Said The Country's Understanding Of Religious Liberty Must Recognize "The Reality That It Has To Obey God And There Is Only One True God And That Is Jesus Christ Our Lord."**

"So we talk about being a nation that's for God. That's a consensus that we want to renew in this country. That we have religious liberty, but it cannot come from this notion that a country isn't understanding the reality that it has to obey God and there is only one true God and that is Jesus Christ our lord. So that is a big part of what we do is reestablishing that notion in our public policy and to be able to argue on the basis of public policy, those certain truths. And that truth this comes from Revelation." [The Sword & The Trowel via YouTube, 01/10/23, accessed [03/22/24 \(02:08\)](#)]

**Vought Criticized "This Christian Secularism That Goes In And Says You Know What, 'I'm Going To Leave All Of That At At My Church Or At My Home And Then I'm Going To Try To Figure Out What Is This Public Policy That's That That Emanates From Somewhere Not From Revelation, Not From A Christian Western Civilization Tradition."** "And that doesn't mean that everyone agrees with it but can we at least have Christians in the public policy realm that argue from their perspective that they hold, as opposed to kind of this Christian secularism that goes in and says you know what, 'I'm going to leave all of that at at my church or at my home and then I'm going to try to figure out what is this public policy that's that that emanates from somewhere not from Revelation, not from a Christian western civilization tradition that we've had for hundreds of years.'" [The Sword & The Trowel via YouTube, 01/10/23, accessed [03/22/24 \(02:48\)](#)]

**...Vought Warned "Christians Are Going To Suffer," Are "In The Crosshairs Of The Federal Government," And Claimed U.S. "State Media" Was Misleading The Public About The Rarity Of Voter Fraud...**

**Vought Warned That "Christians Are Going To Suffer" And They Are In "The Crosshairs Of The Federal Government."** "Christians are going to suffer. We are in the moment where folks have to be understanding that standing up for their faith, for their country, for their family is going to put them in the crosshairs of the federal government." [The Sword & The Trowel via YouTube, 01/10/23, accessed [03/22/24 \(26:01\)](#)]

**Vought, Comparing American Media To Chinese State Media, Complained, "We Still Have Christians Who Read The Newspapers, The Mainstream And Think 'Oh Man, There's No Evidence Of Voter Fraud. Of Course There's No Evidence Of Voter Fraud, Because It's State Media."** "The media is now state media. It's like what you would see in China. People don't expect you to have reports about the way that Christians' religious Liberties have been violated in China. Of course not, because it's state media. But we still have Christians who read the newspapers, the mainstream and think 'oh man, there's no evidence of voter fraud.' Of course there's no evidence of voter fraud, because it's state media." [The Sword & The Trowel via YouTube, 01/10/23, accessed [03/22/24 \(30:45\)](#)]

**...Vought Compared The Third Reich To The Democratic Party, Saying "We Are Seeing A Political Party On The Rise That Is Increasingly Evil" And "Intent On Preserving A Particular Secular Worldview."**

**Vought Compared The Rise Of The Third Reich To The Democratic Party, Saying "We Are Seeing A Political Party On The Rise That Is Increasingly Evil" Because It Is "Intent On Preserving A Particular Secular Worldview And Putting That Coercively In Every Family And Community In The Country."** "Number one, I would I would ask them to put themselves in some of the situations that they know from history where great evident public evil was on the rise. Put themselves in the beginnings of the Third Reich and to think through the extent to which they [...] they would have seen the rise of anti-Semitism. That was a public issue that was impacting the laws. They would have seen the rise of a political party that was evil. And so we are seeing a political party on the rise that is increasingly evil. You cannot be a leader, the political, I'm not saying every Democrat is evil. I'm not saying that at all. I'm saying that the Democrat party that we now have is woke and weaponized. It is intent on preserving a particular secular worldview and putting that coercively in every family and community in the country. And we see that from what they're doing on the LGBT agenda. We



see that we've seen that for 50 years with their view on life. And so that's what we're up against increasingly.”  
[The Sword & The Trowel via YouTube, 01/10/23, accessed [03/22/24 \(28:45\)](#)]

**Russ Vought’s Project 2025 Chapter On The Executive Office Of The President Of The United States Claims “Woke” Federal Agencies Have Been “Weaponized Against The Public,” Recommends “Aggressive” Restrictions On Bureaucracy, Calls For “Fearless” Challenges Of Legal Precedents, And Opposing “Good Government” Principles.**

**Russ Vought Authored The Project 2025 Chapter On The Executive Office Of The President Of The United States, Which Claims That Federal Agencies Have Been “Weaponized Against The Public” And Are Run By “A Radical, Supposedly ‘Woke’ Faction Of The Country.”**

**Russ Vought Authored Project 2025’s Chapter On The Executive Office Of The President Of The United States:**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
OF THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES**  
**Russ Vought**

[Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought’s Chapter Claims That The Executive Branch Bureaucracy Is Often “Carrying Out Its Own Policy Plans And Preferences,” Including “The Policy Plans And Preferences Of A Radical, Supposedly ‘Woke’ Faction Of The Country.”** “The President must set and enforce a plan for the executive branch. Sadly, however, a President today assumes office to find a sprawling federal bureaucracy that all too often is carrying out its own policy plans and preferences—or, worse yet, the policy plans and preferences of a radical, supposedly ‘woke’ faction of the country.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought’s Chapter Claims That Federal Agencies Are “Increasingly Weaponized Against The Public And A President Who Is Elected By The People And Empowered By The Constitution To Govern.”** “The modern conservative President’s task is to limit, control, and direct the executive branch on behalf of the American people. This challenge is created and exacerbated by factors like Congress’s decades-long tendency to delegate its lawmaking power to agency bureaucracies, the pervasive notion of expert “independence” that protects so-called expert authorities from scrutiny, the presumed inability to hold career civil servants accountable for their performance, and the increasing reality that many agencies are not only too big and powerful, but also increasingly weaponized against the public and a President who is elected by the people and empowered by the Constitution to govern.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought Claims “The Overall Situation Is Constitutionally Dire” And “Nothing Less Than The Survival Of Self-Governance In America Is At Stake.”** “The overall situation is constitutionally dire, unsustainably expensive, and in urgent need of repair. Nothing less than the survival of self-governance in America is at stake.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

## **Vought Claims There Is An “Existential Need” For Conservative A President To Use “Aggressive” Power In Restraining The Federal Bureaucracy.**

**Vought Claims “The Great Challenge Confronting A Conservative President Is The Existential Need For Aggressive Use Of The Vast Powers Of The Executive Branch To Return Power [...] To The American People.”** “The great challenge confronting a conservative President is the existential need for aggressive use of the vast powers of the executive branch to return power— including power currently held by the executive branch—to the American people.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

## **For The Office Of The Management And Budget (OMB), Vought Prescribes Using “Every Possible Tool” To “Impose Fiscal Discipline,” Reinstating Trump’s Political Control Over Agencies, “Fearless” Challenges Of Legal Precedents, Opposing The “Good Government” Community, And Using Federal Contracts To Resist “Woke” Corporate America.**

**Vought Claims “The President Should Use Every Possible Tool To Propose And Impose Fiscal Discipline On The Federal Government,” Adding, “Anything Short Of That Would Constitute Abject Failure.”** “The President should use every possible tool to propose and impose fiscal discipline on the federal government. Anything short of that would constitute abject failure.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought Claims That A New OMB Director Should Reinstate The Trump Administration’s Use Of Program Associate Directors (PADs), Political Appointees Who Oversaw Agency Decisions.** “Externally, the Director must ensure that OMB has sufficient visibility into the deep caverns of agency decision-making. One indispensable statutory tool to that end is to ensure that policy officials—the Program Associate Directors (PADs) managing the vast Resource Management Offices (RMOs)—personally sign what are known as the apportionments. [...] The vast majority of these apportionments were signed by career officials—the Deputy Associate Directors (DADs)—until the Trump Administration placed this responsibility in the hands of the PADs and thereby opened wide vistas of oversight that had escaped the attention of policy officials. The Biden Administration subsequently reversed this decision.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought States That A New OMB Director Should Appoint A General Counsel Who Is “Fearless In His Or Her Ability To Challenge Legal Precedents That Serve To Protect The Status Quo.”** “In addition, many key considerations involved in enacting a President’s agenda hinge on existing legal authorities. The Director must ensure the appointment of a General Counsel who is respected yet creative and fearless in his or her ability to challenge legal precedents that serve to protect the status quo.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought Write That Federal “Careerists” Should Not “Set Their Own Agenda Based On The Wishes Of The Sprawling ‘Good Government’ Management Community.”** “Each of these offices has responsibilities and authorities that a President can use to help drive policy across the government. It is vital that the Director and his political staff, not the careerists, drive these offices in pursuit of the President’s actual priorities and not let them set their own agenda based on the wishes of the sprawling ‘good government’ management community in and outside of government.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought Writes That OMB’s Office Of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) Should Use Federal Contracts “To Push Back Against Woke Policies In Corporate America.”** “The Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP). [...] This office should be engaged early and often in OMB’s effort to drive policy, including by obtaining transparency about entities that are awarded federal contracts and grants and by using government contracts to push back against woke policies in corporate America.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought Writes That A New President Should Work With Congress To “Maximize The Utility Of The Congressional Review Act (CRA),” “To Undo Midnight Regulatory Actions (Including Those Disguised As ‘Guidance’) On An Accelerated Timeline.”** “Finally, the next President should work with Congress to

maximize the utility of the Congressional Review Act (CRA),<sup>29</sup> which allows Congress to undo midnight regulatory actions (including those disguised as ‘guidance’) on an accelerated timeline.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

- **Vought Also Advocates For The Midnight Rules Relief Act, Which Would “Ensure That Multiple Regulatory Actions Could Be Packaged And Voted On At The Same Time.”** “To leverage the CRA’s power to the maximum extent, Congress and the President should enact the Midnight Rules Relief Act, which would help to ensure that multiple regulatory actions could be packaged and voted on at the same time.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

### **For The National Security Council (NSC), Vought Recommends Increasing Political Control Over National Security Policy And Restraining “Social Engineering And Non-Defense Matters, Including Climate Change, Critical Race Theory, Manufactured Extremism, And Other Polarizing Policies.”**

**For The National Security Council (NSC), Vought Says “The NSA [National Security Agency] Should Immediately Evaluate And Eliminate Directorates That Are Not Aligned With The President’s Agenda.”** “In organizing (by means of Presidential Directive<sup>31</sup>) an NSC staff that is more responsive and aligned with the President’s goals and empowered to implement them, the NSA should immediately evaluate and eliminate directorates that are not aligned with the President’s agenda and replace them with new directorates as appropriate that can drive implementation of the President’s signature national security priorities.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought Recommends That National Security Officials Are “Selected And Vetted Politically And Report Directly To Political Staff” And “Should Be The Main Day-To-Day Managers For Interagency Coordination And Implementation” Of Policies.** “Accountable senior officials, themselves either political appointees or a minimum number of career detailees, who are selected and vetted politically and report directly to political staff should be the main day-to-day managers for interagency coordination and implementation of their assigned national security policy objectives.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought Recommends That The NSC “Should Rigorously Review All General And Flag Officer Promotions To Prioritize The Core Roles And Responsibilities Of The Military Over Social Engineering And Non-Defense Matters, Including Climate Change, Critical Race Theory, Manufactured Extremism, And Other Polarizing Policies.”** “The NSC should rigorously review all general and flag officer promotions to prioritize the core roles and responsibilities of the military over social engineering and non-defense matters, including climate change, critical race theory, manufactured extremism, and other polarizing policies that weaken our armed forces and discourage our nation’s finest men and women from enlisting to serve in defense of our liberty.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

### **Vought Recommends Vetting Council Of Economic Advisers (CEA) Members, Who Often Overlap Between Administrations, For Ideological “Alignment With White House Policy Objectives,” So They Don’t “Breed Skepticism And Distrust” With The White House.**

**For The Council Of Economic Advisers (CEA), Vought Recommends Vetting Members—Who Often Overlap Between Administrations—“For Their Alignment With White House Policy Objectives” So They “Breed Skepticism And Distrust Of The CEA By Other Units Within The White House.”** “Senior economists traditionally have not gone through the Office of Presidential Personnel process and more often than not are hired on an academic-year cycle. As a result, senior economists hired in the summer of a presidential election year tend to remain on staff until the next summer even if a President from the opposite party takes power and installs a new slate of CEA political appointees for chair, members, etc. Although these

hiring practices create some continuity, the presence of senior economists who were never fully vetted for their alignment with White House policy objectives or who were holdovers from a recently departed Administration can breed skepticism and distrust of the CEA by other units within the White House, creating the risk that the CEA's role in the policymaking process will be diminished. A future Administration should consider hiring that reflects the White House calendar (mid-January) and involves the Office of Presidential Personnel." [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

## **For The Office Of Science And Technology Policy, Vought Says “The Biden Administration’s Climate Fanaticism Will Need A Whole-Of-Government Unwinding” And Its “Woke Agenda Should Be Reversed And Scrubbed From All Policy Manuals, Guidance Documents, And Agendas.”**

**Within The Office Of Science And Technology Policy, Vought Recommends An Executive Order To “Reshape” The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) And Related Climate Change Programs, Which Vought Claims “Reduce The Scope Of Legally Proper Options In Presidential Decision-Making.”** “The President should also issue an executive order to reshape the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) and related climate change research programs. The USGCRP produces strategic plans and research (for example, the National Climate Assessment) that reduce the scope of legally proper options in presidential decision-making and in agency rulemakings and adjudications.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

- **Vought Adds, The President Should “Refuse To Accept Any USGCRP Assessment Prepared Under The Biden Administration.”** “The next President should critically analyze and, if required, refuse to accept any USGCRP assessment prepared under the Biden Administration.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought Adds That “The Biden Administration’s Climate Fanaticism Will Need A Whole-Of-Government Unwinding.”** “Finally, the next Administration will face a significant challenge in unwinding policies and procedures that are used to advance radical gender, racial, and equity initiatives under the banner of science. Similarly, the Biden Administration’s climate fanaticism will need a whole-of-government unwinding.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought Writes That “The Biden Administration’s Leveraging Of The Federal Government’s Resources To Further The Woke Agenda Should Be Reversed And Scrubbed From All Policy Manuals, Guidance Documents, And Agendas.”** “As with other federal departments and agencies, the Biden Administration’s leveraging of the federal government’s resources to further the woke agenda should be reversed and scrubbed from all policy manuals, guidance documents, and agendas, and scientific excellence and innovation should be restored as the OSTP’s top priority.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

## **In A Section On The Council On Environmental Quality (CEQ), Vought Recommends Eliminating The Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC), Which Guides Climate Regulation.**

**In A Section On The Council On Environmental Quality (CEQ), Vought Recommends The Elimination Of The Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) And The Use Of SCC Analysis.** “The President should eliminate the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC), which is cochaired by the OSTP, OMB, and CEA, and by executive order should end the use of SCC analysis.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**November 2022: Amidst Opposition From Republican-Led States, The Biden Administration Quadrupled The Estimated Social Cost Of Carbon Emissions, Which Guides The Cost And Benefit Of “More Stringent Climate Regulation On Sources Ranging From Power Plants And Automobiles To The**

**Oil And Gas Sector.** “EPA has proposed a new estimate for the social cost of carbon emissions, nearly quadrupling an interim figure that has already drawn legal challenges from a host of Republican-led states. The metric puts a price tag on the damages created by each metric ton of greenhouse gas emissions. Agencies can then use it as part of their analyses of the costs and benefits of more stringent climate regulation on sources ranging from power plants and automobiles to the oil and gas sector. The Biden administration has been using the Interagency Working Group’s interim value of \$51 per metric ton of CO2. But earlier this month, EPA quietly proposed increasing that number to \$190.” [E&E News, [11/21/22](#)]

### **Vought Recommends Revoking President Biden’s White House Gender Policy Council, Which He Claims Promotes “The New Woke Gender Ideology,” And Appointing A Special Assistant To The President To Coordinate And Lead “Issues Related To Life And Family.”**

**Vought Recommends Revoking President Biden’s Executive Order Establishing The White House Gender Policy Council.** “The President should immediately revoke Executive Order 14020 and every policy, including subregulatory guidance documents, produced on behalf of or related to the establishment or promotion of the Gender Policy Council and its subsidiary issues.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

- **March 2021: President Biden Issued An Executive Order Establishing The White House Gender Policy Council** [The White House, [03/08/21](#)]

**Vought Claims Abolishing The Council Would “Eliminate Central Promotion Of Abortion (‘Health Services’); Comprehensive Sexuality Education (‘Education’); And The New Woke Gender Ideology.”** “Abolishing the Gender Policy Council would eliminate central promotion of abortion (‘health services’); comprehensive sexuality education (‘education’); and the new woke gender ideology, which has as a principal tenet ‘gender affirming care’ and ‘sex-change’ surgeries on minors.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought Recommends That The President Appoint A Special Assistant To The President To “Coordinate And Lead The President’s Domestic Priorities On Issues Related To Life And Family.”** “Specifically, the President should appoint a position/point of contact with the rank of Special Assistant to the President or higher to coordinate and lead the President’s domestic priorities on issues related to life and family in cooperation with the Domestic Policy Council.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

- **The Special President Would Be Responsible For “Coordinating Administration Policy; And Ensuring Agency Support For Implementation Of Policies Related To The Promotion Of Life And Family.”** “This position would be responsible for facilitating meetings, discussions, and agreements among personnel; coordinating Administration policy; and ensuring agency support for implementation of policies related to the promotion of life and family in the United States.” [Project 2025, accessed [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought—An “Architect” Of Trump’s Schedule F Executive Order To “Gut” The Federal Workforce While Leading OMB—““Absurdly Stretched”” The Number Of Workers Affected By The Order And Said Of Future Plans To Have The President Unilaterally Cut The Federal Workforce, ““There’s All Sorts Of Things That You Can Do Without Statutory Change.””**

## **Vought Has Been Called An “Architect” Of Schedule F, Part Of Trump’s Last-Minute Executive Order To “Gut Civil Service Job Protections” For Federal Workers And Make Federal Positions “Vulnerable To Partisan Political Whims.”**

**Shortly Before Losing The 2020 Election, Then-President Donald Trump Issued An Executive Order “Designed To Gut Civil Service Job Protections For Workers Across The Government.”** “If Donald Trump becomes president again, his attack on the federal civil service could be much harsher than expected. Just before the former president lost the 2020 election to President Biden, Trump issued an executive order designed to gut civil service job protections for workers across the government. It would have paved the way for the workers to be replaced with others, including political partisans, subject to termination at will — a move the Republican president backed because he felt nonpartisan bureaucrats were hampering many of his policies.” [The Washington Post, [02/28/24](#)]

**The Executive Order, Which Trump Has Promised To Reinstate, Created A New Federal Employment Category Called Schedule F, Which “Would Make Federal Jobs Vulnerable To Partisan Political Whims.”** “Trump has promised to reinstate the directive, which Biden quickly revoked after his inauguration. It created a new federal employment category, Schedule F, that would make federal jobs vulnerable to partisan political whims by weakening guardrails meant to ensure a nonpartisan bureaucracy.” [The Washington Post, [02/28/24](#)]

**In 2023, Vought—Called “An Architect Of Schedule F”— Said, “I Think Schedule F Is Basically Doctrine Now On The Right.”** “‘I think Schedule F is basically doctrine now on the right,’ said Russ Vought, an architect of Schedule F when he was Trump’s director of the Office of Management and Budget.” [NBC News, [04/26/23](#)]

## **Records Showed That Vought “Planned To Include A Huge Swath,” 88% Of OMB’s Workforce In Schedule F, Far Beyond The Originally-Stated Scope Of The Order—A Federal Workers Union Said Vought “Absurdly Stretched The Definition Of Policy Work” To Expand The Effect Of The Schedule.**

**Although The Executive Order Was Supposed To Be Limited To Certain Categories Of Employees, Records Revealed In 2024 Showed That Russ Vought “Planned To Include A Huge Swath” Of The OMB’s Workforce In The Order.** “Trump’s order in 2020 was supposed to be limited in scope, only applying to employees ‘in positions of a confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character’ — a category projected to affect about 50,000 workers. But one agency’s documents, obtained from a Freedom of Information Act request by the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), indicate that in fact the Trump administration’s plans were far bigger. At its annual legislative conference Tuesday, NTEU released more than 200 pages of records it obtained demonstrating how Russell Vought, Trump’s Office of Management and Budget (OMB) director, planned to include a huge swath of his agency’s workforce in the order.” [The Washington Post, [02/28/24](#)]

**The National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), Which Obtained The Records, Said Vought “Absurdly Stretched The Definition Of Policy Work To Cover The Vast Majority Of The OMB Workforce, From Attorneys To Gs-09 Assistants And Specialists Who Have Nothing To Do With Setting Government Policy.”** “Vought ‘absurdly stretched the definition of policy work to cover the vast majority of the OMB workforce, from attorneys to GS-09 assistants and specialists who have nothing to do with setting government policy,’ NTEU said in a statement.” [The Washington Post, [02/28/24](#)]

**To Show The Potential Effect Of Schedule F, Vought “Proposed Reassigning 88% Of OMB’s Workforce” Under The Schedule.** “However, one of Trump’s hard-edged and most ideological agency heads — Russ Vought, who ran the Office of Management and Budget — wanted to lay down a marker. Regardless of the election result, Vought wanted to show what Schedule F could accomplish inside his own agency.

Vought proposed reassigning 88% of OMB's workforce as Schedule F employees, with just two months left of Trump's presidency." [Axios, [07/23/22](#)]

## **In 2023, Vought Said Most Of Trump's Anti-"Deep State" Agenda Can Be Done "Through Executive Power Alone," Saying, "There's All Sorts Of Things That You Can Do Without Statutory Change."**

**Vought Has Reportedly Said That Most Of Trump's Agenda To Dismantle The "Deep State" Can "Be Completed Through Executive Power Alone."** "Recently, Trump has called for all federal employees to 'pass a new civil service test' that aligns with his view of how the government should work and 'put unelected bureaucrats back in their place.' Of course, he is also highlighting his agenda to dismantle the 'deep state' as he decries 'a very dark cloud' of investigations swirling around him. [...] On the surface, it's unlikely such changes could advance through a Senate that requires 60 votes on most legislative efforts. But Vought said much of the agenda can be completed through executive power alone, listing Schedule F, changing declassification standards, the background check process for security clearances or even the review process for employee performance." [NBC News, [04/26/23](#)]

**Vought Said, "There's All Sorts Of Things That You Can Do Without Statutory Change."** "There's all sorts of things that you can do without statutory change,' Vought said. 'And I think that those are where we should focus on and then you go to Congress and you ask for things that you don't have.'" [NBC News, [04/26/23](#)]

**In 2023, Vought Also Posted On X That He Thinks The Conservative Legal Community Needs "Not Less Separation Of Powers But Far More Of The Conflict Between The Branches" During "This Critical Time."** "Good time to re-circulate what I think we need from the conservative legal community in this critical time. Not less separation of powers but far more of the conflict between the branches envisioned by the Framers."



[X, @russvought, [11/1/23](#)]

## **Russ Vought Helped Write Trump's First Budget In 2017, Which Senate Budget Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders Called "Perhaps The Most Destructive And Cruel Budget Ever Presented By A President In The History Of Our Country," Causing "Devastating Economic Pain To Tens Of Millions Of Americans."**

**July 2020: Russ Vought Was Confirmed To Be OMB Director.** "The U.S. Senate voted along party lines on Monday to confirm Russell Vought as director of the Office of Management and Budget, eight months after

Vought defied a congressional subpoena and refused to testify in President Donald Trump's impeachment. The vote was 51-45 to confirm Vought, as all of Trump's fellow Republicans backed the nomination and every Democrat voted no." [Reuters, [07/20/20](#)]

**In Vought's 2017 Nomination Hearing, Senate Budget Chairman Bernie Sanders (D-VT) Said A Trump Budget That Vought "Helped Write" Was "Perhaps The Most Destructive And Cruel Budget Ever Presented By A President In The History Of Our Country."** "OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR BERNARD SANDERS [...] Now, I have to say that, in my view, the budget that Mr. Vought helped write is perhaps the most destructive and cruel budget ever presented by a President in the history of our country. This is a budget that would cause devastating economic pain to tens of millions of Americans." [U.S. Committee on the Budget, [06/07/17](#)]

**Sen. Sanders Said The Budget Vought Helped Write Would "Cause Devastating Economic Pain To Tens Of Millions Of Americans," Harming Children, Working Families, And Seniors.** "This is a budget that would cause devastating economic pain to tens of millions of Americans. It would make it harder for children to get a decent education, make it harder for our working families to get the health care they desperately need, make it harder to protect our environment, and make it harder for senior citizens to live out their retirement years in dignity." [U.S. Committee on the Budget, [06/07/17](#)]

**Vought's Budget Would Have Cut Food Assistance For Women And Children By 15%; Eliminated The Low-Income Home Energy Program; Cut Affordable Housing Aid For 250,000 Families; And Slashed \$1 Billion From The Head Start Early Childhood Education Program.** "The Trump budget that Mr. Vought helped write cuts nutrition assistance for low-income pregnant women and their babies by 15 percent, literally taking food out of the mouths of some of the most vulnerable people in this country. The Trump budget would eliminate the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, something very important to my State because we have weather that occasionally gets 10, 20 below zero. We have a lot of lower-income seniors and others who cannot afford to keep their homes warm in the wintertime. The Trump budget would cut affordable housing to some 250,000 families at a time when millions of working people are spending 40, 50, or 60 percent of their limited incomes trying to put a roof over their heads. The Trump budget that Mr. Vought apparently helped to write would slash Head Start by almost \$1 billion, throwing nearly 90,000 low-income children off of the high-quality early childhood education they desperately need." [U.S. Committee on the Budget, [06/07/17](#)]

**Vought's Center For Renewing America Is Deeply Tied To Shady MAGA "Nerve Center" The Conservative Partnership Institute, Has Suspicious Overlap With A Political Group Run By Vought's Wife, And Has Hired Conspiracy Theorists**

**In 2020, Vought Formed The Center For Renewing America (CRA) To Push Divisive Cultural Issues—Vought Premiered The Group By Stoking Religious Nationalism, Condemning "Personal Autonomy," And Tying Equality And Diversity To "Cultural Marxism."**

**Former Trump OMB Director Russ Vought Has Founded Two Organizations, The Center For American Restoration—Now Known As The Center For Renewing America—And Its Advocacy Arm Called America Restoration Action, To Advance Trump's Right-Wing Populism And Focus On Divisive Cultural Issues.**



**2020: Russ Vought, Former Trump Office Of Management And Budget Director, Founded The Center For American Restoration, Now Known As The Center For Renewing America (CRA), Which “Espouses Trump’s Fiery Populist Message,” And An Advocacy Arm Called America Restoration Action To Focus On Cultural Issues.** “Russ Vought, who was Trump’s Office of Management and Budget director, has set up Center for American Restoration, a think tank that espouses Trump’s fiery populist message.” [Politico, [03/03/21](#)]

- **Vought Also Started America Restoration Action, Which Would Serve As The Center For American Restoration’s “Advocacy Arm,” Focused On Cultural Issues.** “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, [01/26/21](#)]
- **The Center For Renewing America Is Also Known As The Center For American Restoration:**

Center for Renewing America Inc. - Initial  
File Number: C00006885132

[...]

**Foreign Name**

Center for American Restoration, Inc

[Search for Center for Renewing America Inc., Washington D.C.  
Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection, accessed [03/07/24](#)]

- **Center For Renewing America Was Formed In 2020:**

<b>L</b> Year of formation: 2020
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[Center for Renewing America IRS Form 990, 2021, [11/15/22](#)]

**The Center for American Restoration Is A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit And America Restoration Action Is A 501(c)(4) “Social Welfare” Organization.** “The Center for American Restoration will be organized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and explore issues including voter fraud and the role of big technology and social media companies in disseminating information. America Restoration Action will be set up as a 501(c)(4) ‘social welfare’ group, with more of a focus on policy advocacy.” [Axios, [01/26/21](#)]

**Even As Some Trump Aides Distanced Themselves From The Former President Following The January 6, 2021 Insurrection, Vought Has Remained Close To Trump And Sought To Advance The Cultural Right-Wing Issues He Ran On.** “With speculation rife about Trump’s post-presidency plans, some of his aides have distanced themselves from him and have condemned his comments to a group of protestors that later assaulted the Capitol on Jan. 6. But Vought is among those who are staying close to Trump. He’s working to ensure that cultural issues that Trump ran on, from transgender rights to critical race theory, remain front and center in the Republican Party and coming elections.” [Axios, [01/26/21](#)]

**In *The Federalist*, Vought Announced His Groups As He Condemned The “Center-Right’ Movement” For Avoiding Cultural Issues And Stoked Right-Wing Religious Nationalism By Condemning “Personal Autonomy” And “Cultural Marxism.”**

**Vought Discussed The New Organization As He “Blasted The Political Establishment” In A Piece In The Conservative Outlet *The Federalist*.** “Vought blasted the political establishment in a recent piece published on The Federalist, a conservative website, and said his organization aimed ‘to give voice to the common, forgotten men and women across this great country.’ [Politico, [03/03/21](#)]

**Vought’s Piece Condemned The “‘Center-Right’ Movement” For Avoiding Cultural Issues, Which He Said Only “Get Pats On The Head, But No Real Action, Priority, Or Passion.”** “Much of what can be termed the ‘center-right’ movement in the Beltway and commentariat is ready to revert to their pre-Trump agenda: robotically extending America’s interests to the outskirts of the globe, tinkering at the margins of an ever-expanding welfare state, and prioritizing a sort-of market absolutism. The cultural issues—the ones that trigger name-calling by the left—get pats on the head, but no real action, priority, or passion.” [The Federalist, [01/26/20](#)]

**Vought Claimed His Organizations Would Restore The Notion That “That We Are A People For God, For Country, And For Community.”** “That is why I am founding the Center for American Restoration, and a corresponding activist organization named American Restoration Action. It will help restore an old consensus in America that has been forgotten, that we are a people For God, For Country, and For Community.” [The Federalist, [01/26/20](#)]

**Vought Claimed That An Erosion Of Religion In Public Debates Made Leaders Unable To Challenge “The Modern Emphasis On Personal Autonomy.”** “For God. The establishment has effectively accepted the terms the left has set to govern the public square. God is excluded, and faith has become a predominantly private matter. It is no longer acceptable for conservatives to argue as citizens or elected officials from a Judeo-Christian worldview. As a result, many of our leaders are often unable or unwilling to mount a persuasive defense of traditional institutions or offer a check against the modern emphasis on personal autonomy.” [The Federalist, [01/26/20](#)]

**Vought Complained About “Cultural Marxism Spreading Racial Division Under The Guise Of ‘Equality’ And ‘Diversity.’”** “Whether it is cultural Marxism spreading racial division under the guise of “equality” and “diversity” through influential private institutions, the impact of pornography in communities, or various statewide pushes to legalize the use of drugs, the exclusive focus on government overreach has blinded our leaders to cultural corruption, preventing a coherent and united response from conservatives.” [The Federalist, [01/26/20](#)]

**In Its First Years Of Existence, CRA Has Touted Going “Straight For The Throat” Against Critical Race Theory With State And Federal Legislative Efforts, Leading The Fight Against The FBI For Its Raid On Trump’s Mar-A-Lago Property, And Pushing Border States To “Unilaterally” Secure The Border.**

**In Its 2021 Annual Report, CRA “Partner” Conservative Partnership Institute Touted That CRA “Went Straight For The Throat” Against Critical Race Theory.** “First, liberals said Critical Race Theory didn’t exist. Then they defended it fiercely, saying it was the only ‘equitable’ way to teach American history. So which is it? Center for Renewing America (CRA) didn’t get caught up in the Left’s games. They went straight for the throat.” [Conservative Partnership Institute, [2021](#)]

- **Russ Vought’s Center For Renewing America (CRA) Is A “Partner” Group Of The Conservative Partnership Institute (CPI), Which Helped Launch CRA In 2021:**

2021

[...]

## CPI Partner Groups Form

CPI helps launch partner groups American Moment, American Accountability Foundation, Center for Renewing America, America First Legal, and American Cornerstone Institute.

[Conservative Partnership Institute, [2022](#)]

- **Russ Vought's Center For Renewing America Shares Its Address With CPI's Headquarters:**

<b>F</b> Name and address of principal officer: Russell Vought 300 Independence Avenue SE Washington, DC 20003
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[Center for Renewing America IRS Form 990, 2021, [11/15/22](#)]

- **CPI's Address Is Also 300 Independence Avenue SE Washington, DC 20003.** [Conservative Partnership Institute, accessed [03/21/24](#)]
- **In Its 2022 Tax Return, Filed November 2023, CPI Disclosed Granting Over \$1.3 Million To Russ Vought's Center For Renewing America.** [Conservative Partnership Institute IRS Form 990, 2022, [11/15/23](#)]

**In 2021, CRA "Created Model Legislation For States To Ban The Implementation Of Critical Race Theory" And Helped To Introduce The First Federal Anti-CRT Bill.** "In the summer of 2021, the group created model legislation for states to ban the implementation of Critical Race Theory, or 'CRT.' They also created the first toolkit for parents to fight back at the local and state levels. And they worked with federal lawmakers to introduce the first federal bill to ban CRT." [Conservative Partnership Institute, [2021](#)]

- **According To Media Matters For America, Russ VOught Pushed Anti-CRT Legislation In 22 States.** "The teaching of CRT in public schools was one of the biggest issues CRA fought on in 2021. The liberal group Media Matters credited Russ Vought with helping push anti-CRT legislation not just at the federal level but in 22 states." [Conservative Partnership Institute, [2021](#)]

**In 2021, CRA Hired Former Trump Homeland Security Official Ken Cuccinelli As A Senior Fellow, Who Helped Create "A Legal Roadmap" For Border States To "Unilaterally Secure The Border."** "Another important issue was immigration. In August, CRA hired former Virginia Attorney General and former Trump DHS senior official Ken Cuccinelli as its Senior Fellow for Immigration and Homeland Security. With Cuccinelli's insight, CRA provided a legal roadmap to the governors of border states so that they can unilaterally secure the border—no matter what the administration does." [Conservative Partnership Institute, [2021](#)]

**In 2021, CRA Claimed To Be "The Lead Policy Catalyst Pushing Back On COVID Fascism," Including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' Legislation.** "When you take a stand on these issues, others follow. CRA was also the lead policy catalyst pushing back on COVID fascism, the vaccine mandate, in particular, calling for states to pass legislation to protect their citizens. Florida, under the leadership of Gov. Ron DeSantis, passed such legislation as a model for the rest of the country." [Conservative Partnership Institute, [2021](#)]

**In 2022, CRA Claimed To Be "One Of The First Organizations" To Frame The FBI's Raid Of Trump's Mar-A-Lago Property As The Product Of "A Secretive And Powerful Government That Has Been**

**Weaponized Against American Citizens.** “At the same time, CRA connects these cultural fights and complex issues to the concerns of everyday Americans. When the FBI raided President Trump’s home at Mar-a-Lago, for example, CRA was already well into an effort to expose and take on the Deep State. Following the Mar-a-Lago raid, CRA was one of the first organizations to enter the national conversation and frame the event in terms of a secretive and powerful government that has been weaponized against American citizens.” [Conservative Partnership Institute, [2022](#)]

**In 2022, CRA “Was The First To Publicly Call On House Minority Leader Kevin Mccarthy To Set Up A Modern-Day Church Committee To Investigate Systemic Corruption At The FBI And Ultimately Break It Up.”** “Center for Renewing America was the first to publicly call on House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy to set up a modern-day Church Committee to investigate systemic corruption at the FBI and ultimately break it up. The original Church Committee was created in the 1970s to investigate abuses by American intelligence agencies like the CIA and FBI.” [Conservative Partnership Institute, [2022](#)]

**In 2022, CRA’s “Top Priority” Was To Convince Border State Governors To “Unilaterally Secure The Southern Border By Declaring An Invasion Under Article Iv, Section 4 Of The U.S. Constitution.”** “However, CRA’s top priority in 2022 was convincing border governors to unilaterally secure the southern border by declaring an invasion under Article IV, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution, where it states that the federal government is required—not just permitted—to protect states from foreign invasion. If the federal government fails, Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 empowers state governors to invoke inherent state war powers.” [Conservative Partnership Institute, [2022](#)]

**Russ Vought Has Appeared As A Beneficial Owner Of Compass Professional Inc., A For-Profit “Spinoff” Of MAGA “Nerve Center” The Conservative Partnership Institute, Which Incubated Vought’s Center For Renewing America And Has Faced Legal Scrutiny For “Pushing The Boundaries Of Tax Law” For Non-Profits.**

**Russ Vought’s Center For Renewing America Shares Its Address With The Conservative Partnership Institute (CPI), Known As “The MAGA Movement’s ‘Nerve Center’” And “A Hotbed Of Election Denialism” Which Has Been Funded By “Dark Money ATM Of The Right” DonorsTrust,**

**The Conservative Partnership Institute (CPI) Is Known As “The MAGA Movement’s ‘Nerve Center’” And “A Hotbed Of Election Denialism.”** “In a few short years, the Conservative Partnership Institute has become known in Washington as the ‘nerve center’ of the MAGA movement—an outsized power player in Congress and a hotbed of election denialism.” [The Daily Beast, [11/24/23](#)]

- **Headline: The Secret Megadonor Behind the MAGA Movement’s ‘Nerve Center’** [The Daily Beast, [11/24/23](#)]

**2020: Donors Trust Inc. Gave \$542,500 To The Conservative Partnership Institute Through Three Separate Donations.** [2020 Donors Trust Inc. IRS Form 990, [11/15/21](#)]

- **Donors Trust Is A Dark Money Non-Profit Dubbed The “Dark Money ATM Of The Right.”** “They all have one thing in common: They received anonymous funding funneled through a single conservative dark money behemoth. That’s the news in the latest IRS filing from Donors Trust—a conservative, Koch-aligned nonprofit which does not need to reveal the names of its donors and has been called the ‘dark money ATM of the right.’” [The Daily Beast, [11/22/21](#)]

**Russ Vought’s Center For Renewing America Shares Its Address With CPI’s Headquarters—And CPI Reported Paying Over \$1.3 Million In Its Latest Tax Filing:**

**F** Name and address of principal officer:  
Russell Vought  
300 Independence Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20003

[Center for Renewing America IRS Form 990, 2021, [11/15/22](#)]

- **CPI’s Address Is Also 300 Independence Avenue SE Washington, DC 20003.** [Conservative Partnership Institute, accessed [03/21/24](#)]
- **In Its 2022 Tax Return, Filed November 2023, CPI Disclosed Granting Over \$1.3 Million To Russ Vought’s Center For Renewing America.** [Conservative Partnership Institute IRS Form 990, 2022, [11/15/23](#)]

**CPI Has Faced Scrutiny For “Pushing The Boundaries Of Tax Law,” In Potential Violation Of The IRS’s “Absolute” Ban Against Nonprofits Participating In Political Campaign Activities.**

**August 2022: An NPR Investigation Found That CPI Was “Pushing The Boundaries Of Tax Law,” In Possible Violation Of The IRS’s “Absolute” Ban On Nonprofit Charities “Directly” And “Indirectly” Participating In Political Campaign Activity.** “An NPR review of social media accounts, campaign finance records and leaked audio suggests that CPI may be risking legal trouble as well over its tax-exempt status. Experts in tax law told NPR that the nonprofit group appears to be pushing the boundaries of charity law by closely entwining itself with explicitly Republican and pro-Trump political organizations.” [NPR, [08/31/22](#)]

- **Headline: Experts say a Trump-backed charity is pushing the boundaries of tax law** [NPR, [08/31/22](#)]
- **“The IRS Has An ‘Absolute’ Ban On Charities From Participating — Both ‘directly’ And ‘indirectly’ — In Any Political Candidates’ Campaigns.”** [NPR, [08/31/22](#)]

**Critics Have Argued That CPI Is “Running Afoul” Of Laws Barring Tax-Exempt Nonprofits From Engaging In Political Activity, With Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) Saying, “It Looks More Like A Sneaky Political Operation Than An Honest Nonprofit.”**

**Critics Have Argued That CPI Is “Running Afoul Of Laws That Prohibit Tax-Exempt Nonprofit Organizations From Engaging In Partisan Activity” Through The Variety Of Groups That It Has Incubated.** “The organization aims to be much more than a refuge. One of the groups it has staffed and funded, the American Accountability Foundation, says in its mission statement that it seeks to ‘advance conservative messaging’ by aggressively attacking appointees for the Biden administration. Another offspring, the Center for Renewing America, aims to take on what it calls a leftist ‘cultural revolution’ as well as a ‘taxpayer-funded woke federal bureaucracy.’ Critics say that by incubating these and other groups, C.P.I. is running afoul of laws that prohibit tax-exempt nonprofit organizations from engaging in partisan activity.” [The New York Times, [02/20/24](#)]

**Anna Massoglia, The Editorial And Investigations Manager Of OpenSecrets, Argued That CPI Is Exploiting A “Gray Area” In Tax Law Barring Tax-Exempt Nonprofit Organizations From Engaging In Partisan Activity** “But it is C.P.I.’s status as a nonprofit organization that has raised the most pointed questions. Unlike some charities, which can engage in some political activity, a tax-exempt nonprofit like C.P.I. cannot be partisan. That said, such groups are permitted to be ideological, according to Anna Massoglia, the editorial and investigations manager at the watchdog group OpenSecrets. ‘That’s the gray area that C.P.I. is able to exploit,’ Ms. Massoglia said in an interview. ‘It’s an area that the I.R.S. hasn’t issued extensive guidance on.’” [The New York Times, [02/20/24](#)]

**CPI’s Recently Launched Groups Include Compass Legal Group, A Law Firm For Conservatives; American Moment, A Conservative Job Placement Center; And The American Creative Network, A “Media Center For Aspiring Conservative Journalists.”** “C.P.I. has taken advantage of this gray area. During the past three years, it has helped launch a law firm for conservatives (Compass Legal Group), a personnel placement center for conservative job seekers (American Moment) and a media center for aspiring conservative journalists (the American Creative Network).” [The New York Times, [02/20/24](#)]

**Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) Has Said Of CPI, “You Look At All These Phony Front Groups, And The Sinecures They’ve Provided To Disgraced Trump Loyalists Like Mark Meadows And Jeffrey Clark, And When You Put It All Together, It Looks More Like A Sneaky Political Operation Than An Honest’ Nonprofit.”** “You look at all these phony front groups, and the sinecures they’ve provided to disgraced Trump loyalists like Mark Meadows and Jeffrey Clark, and when you put it all together, it looks more like a sneaky political operation than an honest’ nonprofit, said Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Democrat of Rhode Island.” [The New York Times, [02/20/24](#)]

## **CPI Launched “Spinoff” Compass Professional Services In 2021 To Help Fill “Strategic Gaps In The Movement,” Providing CPI Network Groups With “Help With Applications, Health Care, Payroll, Real Estate, Accounting, And Finance.”**

**In Its 2021 Annual Report, CPI Stated That It Launched Compass Professional Services, A CPI “Spinoff” To Provide Human Resources And Accounting Resources For CPI Network Groups.** “It was one of the most important decisions we’ve ever made. In 2021, CPI added a new dimension to its work: Launching new organizations to do things no one else in the movement was doing. Over the course of the year, CPI launched eight new organizations. These included two CPI spinoffs—Compass Legal Services and Compass Professional Services—that provide human resources, accounting, and legal support to our other CPI groups. These organizations achieved numerous victories in 2021. We share some of these stories below” [Conservative Partnership Institute, 2021, accessed [11/17/23](#)]

- **Compass Professional Services Was Part Of CPI’s Efforts To Fill “Strategic Gaps In The Movement”:**



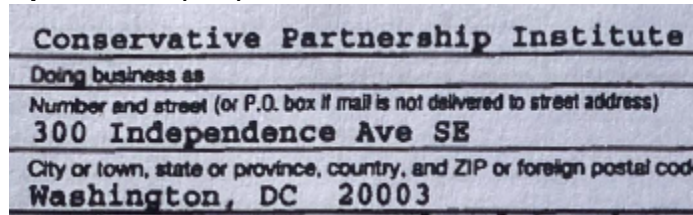
**Filling Strategic  
Gaps in the  
Movement**

[Conservative Partnership Institute, 2021, accessed [11/17/23](#)]

**According To CPI, Compass Professional Services “Provides Help With Applications, Health Care, Payroll, Real Estate, Accounting, And Finance.”** “Compass Professional Services, meanwhile, provides help with applications, health care, payroll, real estate, accounting, and finance. By outsourcing their HR and accounting needs to Compass Professional, groups launched by CPI can better focus on their missions.” [Conservative Partnership Institute, 2021, accessed [11/17/23](#)]

## **Compass Professional Services, A For-Profit Corporation Registered As Compass Professional Inc., Shares The Same Address As CPI.**

**The Conservative Partnership Institute (CPI) Shares The Same Address As Compass Professional, Inc.:**



[Conservative Partnership Institute, Form 990, 2022]

### Business Address

#### Line1

300 Independence Ave SE

[Search for Compass Professional Inc., Washington D.C. Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection, accessed [11/17/23](#)]

**Compass Professional Inc. Has Done Business As Compass Professional Services, But That Trade Name Expired On September 1, 2023:**

Trade Name	Registration Date	Trade Name Status	Trade Name Expiration Date
Compass Professional Services	3/26/2021	Expired	9/01/2023

[Search for Compass Professional Inc., Washington D.C. Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection, accessed [01/12/24](#)]

**Compass Professional Inc. Is Registered As A For-Profit Corporation:**

**Company Type** For-Profit Corporation

[OpenCorporates, accessed [01/12/24](#)]

**All Five Of Compass Professional Inc.’s Beneficial Owners And Governors Listed By The D.C. Government Have Close CPI Ties: Three Are Currently In CPI Leadership, One Is President Of A CPI “Sister” Group, And Its Current CFO Was Once Advisor To CPI’s Chairman.**

**Compass Professional Inc.’s Five Beneficial Owners And Governors—As Shown In Washington D.C.’s Business Database As Of January 2024—Included Ed Corrigan, Russ Vought, Wesley Denton, Sean McMahon, And James Holland, All Listed At CPI’s Address:**

**Beneficial Owners**

Business Contact Name Type		Address
Governor	Corrigan, Ed	300 Independence Ave SE Washington, DC 20003
Governor	Vought, Russ	300 Independence Ave SE Washington, DC 20003
Governor	Denton, Wesley	300 Independence Ave SE Washington, DC 20003
Governor	McMahon, Sean	300 Independence Ave SE Washington, DC 20003
Governor	Holland, James	300 Independence Ave SE Washington, DC 20003

[Search for Compass Professional Inc., Washington D.C. Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection, accessed [01/22/24](#)]

- **The Same Governors Were Listed In Compass Professional’s Two-Year Report Filed With The Washington D.C. Government:**

Name	Address
Ed Corrigan	300 Independence Ave SE, Washington, District of Columbia 20003
Russ Vought	300 Independence Ave SE, Washington, District of Columbia 20003
Wesley Denton	300 Independence Ave SE, Washington, District of Columbia 20003
Sean McMahon	300 Independence Ave SE, Washington, District of Columbia 20003
James Holland	300 Independence Ave SE, Washington, District of Columbia 20003

[Compass Professional Inc. Two-Year Report, Washington D.C. Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs, 07/25/22]

- **CPI’s Address Is 300 Independence Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20003:**

**300 Independence Avenue SE**  
**Washington, DC 20003**

[Conservative Partnership Institute, accessed [01/12/24](#)]

- **In Washington, D.C., Corporations Must Disclose Beneficial Ownership By Individuals Owning 10% Or More Of An Entity Or Individuals Who Control “The Financial Or Operational Decisions Of The Entity” Or Have “The Ability To Direct The Day-To-Day Operations Of The Entity.”** “The Initial Amendment to the DC Code expanded §29-102.01 to require that entities filing for a new



domestic or foreign registration (or for existing entities, submitting mandatory biennial reports to DCRA), provide the (i) name, (ii) residence and (iii) business address of each person whose:

(6) . . . aggregate share of direct or indirect, legal or beneficial ownership of a governance or total distributional interest of the entity:

(A) Exceeds 10%; or

(B) Does not exceed 10%, provided, that the person:

(i) Controls the financial or operational decisions of the entity; or

(ii) Has the ability to direct the day-to-day operations of the entity.”

[Arnold & Porter, [04/30/20](#)]

- **Foreign Entities Operating In D.C. Are Subject To The Same Reporting Requirements.** “The later enacted Amended Filing Requirements were drafted to ensure compliance by foreign entities and clarify that, they too, need to undergo the same analysis.” [Arnold & Porter, [04/30/20](#)]

**Compass Professional Inc.’s Board Of Directors, As Listed In Delaware Corporation Reports, Changed In 2022 To Include Ed Corrigan, Wesley Denton, Russ Vought, Sean McMahon, And James Holland:**

- **In Its 2022 Franchise Tax Report For Delaware, Signed In March 2022, Compass Professional Inc.’s Board Of Directors Included Wesley Denton, Russ Vought, Sean McMahon, Sean Davis, And Patrick Corrigan:**

DIRECTORS	NAME	STREET/CITY/STATE/ZIP
WESLEY DENTON		300 INDEPENDENCE AVE SE WASHINGTON, DC 20003
RUSS VOUGHT		300 INDEPENDENCE AVE SE WASHINGTON, DC 20003
SEAN MCMAHON		300 INDEPENDENCE AVE SE WASHINGTON, DC 20003
SEAN DAVIS		300 INDEPENDENCE AVE SE WASHINGTON, DC 20003

[...]

DIRECTORS	NAME	STREET/CITY/STATE/ZIP
PATRICK CORRIGAN		300 INDEPENDENCE AVE SE WASHINGTON, DC 20003

[Compass Professional Inc. Annual Franchise Tax Report, State of Delaware, 2022]

- **In Its 2021 Franchise Tax Report For Delaware, Signed In March 2022, Compass Professional Inc.’s Board Of Directors Included Ed Corrigan, Wesley Denton, Russ Vought, Sean McMahon, And James Holland:**

OFFICER	NAME	STREET/CITY/STATE/ZIP
ED CORRIGAN		300 INDEPENDENCE AVE SE WASHINGTON, DC 20003

DIRECTORS	NAME	STREET/CITY/STATE/ZIP
ED CORRIGAN		300 INDEPENDENCE AVE SE WASHINGTON, DC 20003
WESLEY DENTON		300 INDEPENDENCE AVE SE WASHINGTON, DC 20003
RUSS VOUGHT		300 INDEPENDENCE AVE SE WASHINGTON, DC 20003
SEAN MCMAHON		300 INDEPENDENCE AVE SE WASHINGTON, DC 20003

[...]

DIRECTORS	NAME	STREET/CITY/STATE/ZIP
JAMES HOLLAND		300 INDEPENDENCE AVE SE WASHINGTON, DC 20003

[...]

DATE  
2022/03/01

[Compass Professional Inc. Annual Franchise Tax Report, State of Delaware, 2021]

**As Of Its 2022 Annual Report, Ed Corrigan, Wesley Denton, And James Holland Were All Listed As Senior CPI Staff Members:**



**ED CORRIGAN**

President & CEO



**WESLEY DENTON**

Chief Operating Officer



**JAMES HOLLAND**

Director of External Relations

[Conservative Partnership Institute, [2022](#)]

- **Corrigan And Denton Were Still Listed As CPI's President & CEO And COO, Respectively, As Of January 2024.** [Conservative Partnership Institute, accessed [01/11/24](#)]

**Sean McMahon, Compass Professional's Chief Financial Officer, Was Previously CPI's Advisor To The Chairman And Director Of Member Communications:**



**Chief Financial Officer**

Compass Professional Inc · Full-time

Jan 2023 - Present · 1 yr 1 mo

[...]



CPI

3 yrs

Washington D.C. Metro Area

● **Director of Member Communications**

Full-time

Oct 2017 - Sep 2020 · 3 yrs

· Launched digital and direct mail fundraising programs raising \$1.3 million and adding over 15,000 new donors in 18 months with a positive ROI of 137%. Executed an aggressive retention and cultiv ...see more

● **Advisor to the Chairman**

Oct 2017 - Apr 2019 · 1 yr 7 mos

· First fundraising hire at a nonprofit startup. Played a leadership role growing a nascent fundraising program to a \$4.27 million operation in the organization's first full year (a 2.5x revenue increase).

[LinkedIn Profile for Sean McMahon, accessed [01/11/23](#)]

**CPI Has Been Called A “Sister Group” Of Center For Renewing America Inc. And In 2021, Compass Professional Inc. Was Identified As A Related Organization Of Center For Renewing America, Inc., Whose President Is Russ Vought:**

Name of filer		Center for Renewing America, Inc.
Name and title of officer or person subject to tax	Russell Vought	President

[...]

**Part IV Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Corporation or Trust.** Complete if the organization answers questions about related organizations treated as a corporation or trust during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity
Compass Professional, Inc. - 86-2783829 300 Independence Ave SE Washington, DC 20003	Shared services	DE	Center for Renewing America, Inc. C

[Center for Renewing America, Inc. IRS Form 8879-TE, 2021, [11/15/22](#)]

- **CPI Lists The Center For Renewing America Among The Groups For Which It Has Provided “Administrative, Staffing, And Legal Support.”** “CPI has provided the administrative, staffing, and legal support needed to launch more than a dozen groups—including America First Legal, Center for Renewing America, American Cornerstone Institute, American Accountability Foundation, State Freedom Caucus Network, Election Integrity Network, American Moment, and Personnel Policy Operations.” [Conservative Partnership Institute, accessed [11/17/23](#)]
- **The Center For Renewing America Has Been Called A “Sister Group” Of CPI.** “SEVERNS: Yeah. Jeffrey Clark works over at the Center for Renewing America, which is another sister group that is run by Russ Vought, who was a longtime Jim DeMint aide. So we see a lot of these - one thing that I think is interesting about CPI is you see this real mixing of people who have been involved with DeMint and involved with the Tea Party for a long time, who then are kind of paired up with people like Jeffrey Clark at the Center for Renewing America.” [NPR, [07/21/22](#)]

**In Its 2021 “Message From Leadership,” CPI Featured Russ Vought Among “Friends” Who, “With CPI’s Help, Launched Organizations To Begin Building A New Conservative Movement.”** “Message from Leadership [...] In 2021, we saw incredible courage displayed in the members of Congress and staff who came to our Conservative Partnership Center to strategize, recharge, and regroup. We saw it in friends like Stephen

Miller, Russ Vought, and Ben Carson, who, with CPI’s help, launched organizations to begin building a new conservative movement to take on the anti-American, woke Left.” [Conservative Partnership Institute, [2021](#)]

- **In Its 2021 Annual Report, CPI Said Russ Vought And His Center For Renewing America “Went Straight To The Throat” Of The Left.** “Center for Renewing America (CRA) didn’t get caught up in the Left’s games. They went straight for the throat. [...] Led by the 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](#)]
- **In Its 2021 Annual Report, CPI Featured Russ Vought In A Full-Page Photograph:**



[Conservative Partnership Institute, [2021](#)]

**In 2022 And 2021 Alone, CPI Paid Compass Professional Inc. Nearly \$1.3 Million For “Administrative Services,” Deeming The Firm As An Independent Contractor And Not As A Related Organization In Its Tax Filings.**

**In 2022, CPI Disclosed Paying Compass Professional Inc., Which It Deemed An Independent Contractor, \$949,443 For Administrative Services:**

Compass Professional Inc, 300 Independence Ave, SE, Washington, DC 20003	Administrative Services	949,443.
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[Conservative Partnership Institute, Form 990, 2022, [11/15/23](#)]

**In 2021, CPI Disclosed Paying Compass Professional Inc., Which It Deemed An Independent Contractor, \$349,224 For Administrative Services:**

Compass Professional Inc 300 Independence Ave SE Washington, DC 20003	Admin Services	349,224
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[Conservative Partnership Institute IRS Form 990, 2021, [11/15/22](#)]

In 2022, CPI Did Not Disclose Compass Professional Inc. As A Related Organization. [Conservative Partnership Institute IRS Form 990, 2022, [11/15/23](#)]

In 2021, CPI Did Not Disclose Compass Professional Inc. As A Related Organization. [Conservative Partnership Institute IRS Form 990, 2021, [11/15/21](#)]

## **The IRS States That A Non-Profit Organization’s Tax-Exempt Status Could Be “Jeopardized” If Its For-Profit Subsidiary’s Activities Can Be Considered Activities Of Its Non-Profit Parent.**

The IRS States That A Nonprofit Organization’s Tax-Exempt Status Could Be “Jeopardized” If Its For-Profit Subsidiary’s Activities, “Can Be Considered To Be, In Fact, Activities Of The Parent.” “A parent’s exempt status may be jeopardized if the commercial activities of its subsidiary can be considered to be, in fact, activities of the parent.” [Internal Revenue Service, accessed [01/11/24](#)]

## **The IRS May Deem A Non-Profit’s For-Profit Subsidiary Illegal If Its Board Members “Constitute A Majority” Of The Subsidiary And If The For-Profit Shares Location, Activity, And Identity With Its Non-Profit Parent.**

The IRS Might Deem A For-Profit Illegal If Its Nonprofit Parent’s Board Members “Constitute A Majority” Of The For-Profit, If The For-Profit Shares The “Activities, Location, And Identity Of” Its Nonprofit Parent, And If The For-Profit’s Activities Are Not “Conducted At Arm’s Length” From Its Parent. “There is no single factor that determines whether attribution should occur. Rather, the IRS weighs multiple factors in making this determination. These factors include: [...] Do the officers, trustees, or employees of the tax-exempt parent constitute a majority of the for-profit subsidiary’s board of directors? This level of control demonstrates that the subsidiary is acting as an agent or integral part of the parent. [...] Are the boards between the two organizations identical? [...] Are the activities between the parent and subsidiary conducted at arm’s length? [...] Is the parent involved in the day-to-day management of the subsidiary? The IRS examines the similarity of activities, location, and identity of the entities.” [Marcum, [08/23/21](#)]

- **Although The IRS Has Been Less Aggressive In Policing For-Profit Subsidiaries, It Still May Attribute The Subsidiary’s Activities To Its Non-Profit Parent When “When The Parent Is Directly Involved In The Day-To-Day Management Of The Subsidiary.”** “More recently, the IRS has moved away from taking such aggressive stances. As long as there is no ‘clear and convincing’ evidence that shows the subsidiary is acting as an agent or integral part of the tax-exempt parent, the IRS has ruled that the subsidiary’s activities will not be attributed to the parent. However, in situations where the parent controls the affairs of the subsidiary so closely, like when the parent is directly involved in the day-to-day management of the subsidiary, the subsidiary may not be regarded as a separate entity and therefore would be disregarded for tax purposes.” [Marcum, [08/23/21](#)]

**The IRS Will More Heavily Scrutinize For-Profit Entities That Share A High Percentage Of Board Directors And Officers With Their Parent Non-Profit Organizations.** “The greater the percentage of shared directors and officers, the greater the scrutiny by the Service. Thus, a complete overlap of the two boards should be avoided to allow each board to focus on the specific delineated purposes of the organization.” [University of Texas School of Law, [01/16/19](#)]

- **Clearly Separated Board And Officer Memberships Help The Parent And Subsidiary To Avoid Conflict Of Interests In Transactions Between Them.** “This allows individual directors to satisfy their fiduciary duties to such organization and to allow independent directors to be in a position to avoid conflict of interest transactions with the other organization.” [University of Texas School of Law, [01/16/19](#)]

**In One Example, The IRS Attributed The Activities Of A For-Profit Subsidiary To Its Non-Profit Parent Research Organization Because “The Parent Maintained A Controlling Interest In The Subsidiary, There Were Overlapping Employees Between The Two Entities, And They Shared Facilities And Equipment.”**

“In a ruling published in 1986, the IRS examined a scientific research organization and its subsidiary. The subsidiary developed and manufactured products that were derived from technology generated from the parent’s research.<sup>4</sup> The activities of the subsidiary were ultimately attributed to the parent because the parent maintained a controlling interest in the subsidiary, there were overlapping employees between the two entities, and they shared facilities and equipment.” [Marcum, [08/23/21](#)]

**As Outgoing OMB Director, Russ Vought May Have Violated Federal Ethics Rules By Not Disclosing His New Right-Wing Groups As Future Employers After Registering The CRA’s Website Months Ahead Of Leaving Office—Meanwhile, While His Office Approved A Flurry Of Anti-LGBTQ And Anti-Secular Rule Rollbacks Aligned With His New Groups.**

**In Possible Violation Of Federal Ethics Law, Russ Vought Registered The Center For American Restoration’s Website Domain In November 2020, Months Before He Left Office As OMB Director, And Did Not Disclose Any Future Employment Arrangements With His Groups In His Outgoing Ethics Form.**

**Russ Vought’s Termination Report, Filed January 19, 2021, Did Not Name Center For American Restoration Or American Restoration Action, Although The Form Required Him To Disclose Any Future Employment Arrangements.** “Filer’s Employment Agreements and Arrangements Part 3 discloses agreements or arrangements that the filer had during the reporting period with an employer or former employer (except the United States Government), such as the following: Future employment.” [Russell Vought OGE Form 278e, U.S. Office Of Government Ethics, [01/19/21](#)]

- **Federal Law Prohibits Government Officials From Working On Matters That Will Affect Their Own Personal Financial Interest, Including Any Organization In Which They May Be Involved And With Which They May Have Future Employment.** “18 U.S.C. section 208 prohibits you from working on Government matters that will affect your own personal financial interest, or the financial interests of certain other people, including: your spouse or minor child; your general partner; any organization in which you are serving as an officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee; and any person or organization with whom you are negotiating or have an arrangement for future employment.” [U.S. Office of Government Ethics, accessed [03/23/21](#)]

**Russell Vought Registered AmericanRestorationCenter.Com On November 23, 2020.** [Search for americanrestorationcenter.com, ICANN Lookup, accessed [03/23/21](#)]

## Domain Information

**Name:** AMERICANRESTORATIONCENTER.COM

**Registry Domain ID:** 2574092769\_DOMAIN\_COM-VRSN

**Domain Status:**

[clientDeleteProhibited](#)

[clientRenewProhibited](#)

[clientTransferProhibited](#)

[clientUpdateProhibited](#)

**Nameservers:**

ELMA.NS.CLOUDFLARE.COM

GABE.NS.CLOUDFLARE.COM

## Dates

**Registry Expiration:** 2022-11-23 16:38:59 UTC

**Created:** 2020-11-23 16:38:59 UTC

## Contact Information

**Registrant:**

**Organization:** Russell Vought

**Mailing Address:** Virginia, United States

[Search for americanrestorationcenter.com, ICANN Lookup, accessed [03/23/21](#)]

**The Center For American Restoration Was Incorporated On December 22, 2020.** [Search for Center for American Restoration, Inc., Delaware Department of State, accessed [03/23/21](#)]

**Russ Vought's Date Of Termination As OMB Director Was January 19, 2021.** [Russel Vought OGE Form 278e, U.S. Office Of Government Ethics, [01/19/21](#)]

- **Russ Vought Was Confirmed As OMB Director In July 2020 After Serving As Acting OMB Director Since January 2019 And As Deputy OMB Director Before That.** “After running President Donald Trump's budget office on an acting basis for the past 18 months, Russell Vought can now claim the job is officially his own. The Senate confirmed Vought's nomination to be director of the Office of Management and Budget on a party-line 51-45 vote. The outcome was hardly in doubt, since the Senate had agreed to advance Vought on a procedural vote of 47-44 just before the Independence Day recess. Vought has served as acting director since January 2019, when his predecessor, Mick Mulvaney, became the acting White House chief of staff. Vought had previously served as deputy OMB director under Mulvaney.” [Roll Call, [07/20/20](#)]

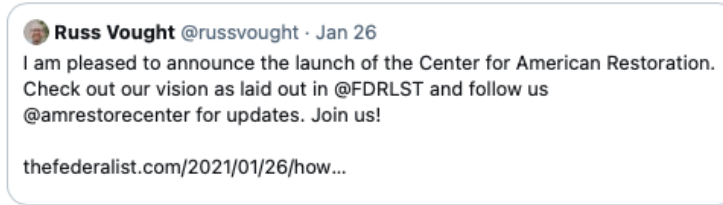
**Vought Publicly Announced The Center For American Restoration On January 26, 2021, Less Than A Week After Inauguration Day:**



Center for American Restoration  
@amrestorecenter

...

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



9:21 AM · Jan 26, 2021 · Twitter Web App

[Tweet by Center for American Restoration, 01/26/21, accessed [03/23/21](#)]

**March 2021: Russ Vought Penned An American Restoration Action Letter To House Republicans Demanding They Stop Supporting “Compromise” LGBTQ Protections—The Letter Said The Bill Perpetuated “A Lie” And Lambasted “Sexually Progressive Ideology That Rejects Human Beings As Created As Male And Female.”**

**March 11, 2021: Russ Vought Wrote A Letter Asking House Republicans To Withdraw Support For The Fairness For All Act, A Republican “Compromise” Bill That Falsely Claimed To Protect LGBTQ People And Religious Liberty.** [Tweet by Rachel Semmel, 03/11/21, accessed [03/15/21](#)]



Rachel Semmel @rachelsemmel · Mar 11

...

This is a very important letter and one every parent, woman, person of faith must read.

Read it here: [americanrestorationcenter.com/ara-fairness-f...](http://americanrestorationcenter.com/ara-fairness-f...)



[Tweet by Rachel Semmel, 03/11/21, accessed [03/15/21](#)]

- **The Fairness For All Act Was A “Compromise” Bill That Republicans Claimed “Protects Both LGBTQ People And Religious Liberty,” But Was Criticized For Allowing More Discrimination And Weakening Existing State And Federal Protections.** “On Friday, Congressman Chris Stewart (R-Utah) and several of his Republican colleagues in the House of Representatives introduced the so-called ‘Fairness for All Act.’ The bill is being described by its supporters as a compromise that protects both LGBTQ people and religious liberty. In reality, the bill facilitates the Trump administration’s ongoing efforts to give a greenlight to those who would turn LGBTQ people away from jobs, health care, housing, even taxpayer-funded programs, simply because of who they are. The bill also weakens some longstanding protections in federal and state laws for everyone, not just LGBTQ people.” [American Civil Liberties Union, [12/09/19](#)]



**Vought's Letter—Which Was Under American Restoration Action Letterhead—Said The Bill Perpetuated “A Lie” And “Sexually Progressive Ideology That Rejects Human Beings As Created As Male And Female.”** “First, H.R. 1440 is founded on an untruth about human nature. The bill is based on a sexually progressive ideology that rejects human beings as created as male and female with distinctions that run so deep that no physical or pharmacological interventions can erase them. To affirm this is to embed in our nation's laws, which themselves serve to teach our nation, a lie about who we are as Americans at a most fundamental level.” [Letter from Russ Vought to Rep. Chris Stewart et al., [03/11/21](#)]

**Vought's Letter Claimed, “No Citizen Should Have To Live In A Society That Denies The Biological Differences Of Men And Women In Both Its Public Accommodations And What Its Government Attempts To Coerce.”** “Second, the legislation assumes that the only citizens in need of protection are religious. No citizen should have to live in a society that denies the biological differences of men and women in both its public accommodations and what its government attempts to coerce. Female-only spaces should be off limits to men who identify as women. Female sports should not be destroyed by male competitors. And medical professionals should not be forced to perform gender transitions with which they fundamentally disagree.” [Letter from Russ Vought to Rep. Chris Stewart et al., [03/11/21](#)]

**In January 2020, Vought Set The Stage For Later Rollbacks Of LGBTQ Protections By Issuing An OMB Memo Demanding Federal Agencies And State Recipients Of Federal Funding To Show How They Would Comply With A May 2017 Executive Order On “Religious Liberty” That Was Called A “Broadside” Against Separation Of Church And State.**

**January 2020: Russ Vought Issued A Memo Directing Federal Agencies And State Recipients Of Federal Funding To Show How They Will Comply With Trump's Religious Discrimination Executive Order.** “The White House has issued a memo directing federal agencies to detail how they will comply with President Trump's executive order to prevent discrimination against faith-based organizations in distributing federal grants. Acting Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought issued the memo aimed at holding accountable not only federal agencies but also state recipients that issue ‘sub-awards’ in a federal program, the Washington Times has learned.” [The Washington Times, [01/15/20](#)]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Russell T. Vought   
Acting Director

SUBJECT: Guidance Regarding Federal Grants and Executive Order 13798

[Office of Management and Budget, [01/16/20](#)]

**Russ Vought's OMB “Mandated That All Federal Agencies Detail How They Would Distribute Federal Grant Money In Compliance With The Order.”** “Other changes may be on the horizon: Following Trump's Presidential Executive Order Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty, which asserts the right of religious organizations to practice their faiths, the Office of Management and Budget mandated that all federal agencies detail how they would distribute federal grant money in compliance with the order.” [NBC News, [03/19/20](#)]

**Vought Said, “No Longer Will Faith-Based Organizations Be Bullied By The Government.”** “‘President Trump is continuing to keep his promise to protect religious liberty,’ Mr. Vought said. ‘No longer will faith-based organizations be bullied by the government, which has not done enough to ensure that religious groups are not discriminated against when receiving federal resources.’” [The Washington Times, [01/15/20](#)]

**The Memo Provided Guidance On A May 2017 Executive Order Titled “Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty.”** “This Memorandum provides guidance to all executive departments and agencies (‘agencies’) on applying Executive Order (“E.O.”) 13798 in administering Federal grants. [...] On May 4, 2017, the President signed E.O. 13798 ‘Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty.’ Among other things, the E.O. established a policy of promoting religious liberty and directed the Attorney General to provide guidance to Federal agencies on the requirements of laws protecting religious liberty.” [Office of Management and Budget, [01/16/20](#)]

- **The “Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty” Executive Order Relaxed An IRS Ban Against Political Activities By Tax-Exempt Religious Organizations And Gave “Regulatory Relief” For Companies That Objected To Obamacare’s Contraception Mandate.** “Trump promised during the campaign to dismantle the Johnson Amendment, which bans tax-exempt organizations like churches from political speech and activities. His executive order relaxes IRS enforcement of that ban. While the executive order signals a promise kept, fully repealing the Johnson amendment would require Congressional action. The executive order, called ‘Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty,’ also gives ‘regulatory relief’ to companies that object to an Obamacare mandate for contraception in health care. That builds on the 2014 Hobby Lobby Supreme Court case, which found that the Affordable Care Act mandate that certain corporations must provide female employees with no-cost access to contraception was a violation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.” [NBC News, [05/04/17](#)]

**The Memo Gave Agencies 120 Days To Comply With The Order And Provide Evidence That They Have Updated Their Policies In Accordance With The Order.** “The action also comes ahead of a presidential announcement on school prayer scheduled for Thursday. Mr. Trump said he has directed Attorney General William P. Barr to work on the issue. The directive requires agencies within 120 days to comply and provide evidence of updating their policies.” [The Washington Times, [01/15/20](#)]

**Civil Liberties Groups Vowed To Sue Against The May 2017 Executive Order And The ACLU Called It A “Broadside” Against The Separation Of Church And State.** “Civil liberty groups criticized the order with several vowing to sue.” [NBC News, [05/04/17](#)]



Our freedom of religion is not a [#LicenseToDiscriminate](#).

[@POTUS](#), we will see you in court, again.



12:40 PM · May 4, 2017 · TweetDeck

[Tweet by American Civil Liberties Union, 05/04/17, accessed [03/23/21](#)]

## **January 2021: OMB Approved An HHS Rule To Weaken Discrimination Protections For LGBTQ People Seeking Health And Welfare Services That Was Praised By A SLPC-Designated Hate Group.**

**Less Than Two Weeks Before Leaving Office, The Trump Administration Finalized A Rule To Weaken Discrimination Protections For LGBTQ People Seeking Service From The U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services.** “With less than two weeks left in office, the administration of US President Donald Trump has finalized yet another rule rolling back nondiscrimination protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people seeking the services of health and welfare programs funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services.” [Human Rights Watch, [01/08/21](#)]

**HHS Stated The OMB Reviewed The January 2021 Rule Because It Was A “Significant Regulatory Action.”** “As explained in the proposed rule and in this final rule, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has determined this rule is not economically significant in that it will not have an annual effect on the economy of greater than \$100 million dollars in one year. However, because the Department determined that this rule is a ‘significant regulatory action’ under Executive Order 12866, § 3(f)(4), in as much as it raises novel legal or policy issues that arise out of legal mandates, the President’s priorities, or the principles set forth in an Executive Order, the Office of Management and Budget has reviewed it.” [45 CFR Part 75, Federal Register, [01/12/21](#)]

**The Rule, First Proposed In 2019, Erased Language That Prevented Federal Funding From Going To Health And Welfare Programs That Discriminated On The Basis Of Sexual Orientation Or Gender Identity.** “Previously, a federal regulation expressly prohibited health and welfare programs receiving federal funding from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. But the administration’s new

rule, first proposed in 2019, erases this language. It also deletes a requirement that recipients recognize the marriages of same-sex couples, replacing it with a generic statement that the US Department of Health and Human Services will respect Supreme Court decisions.” [Human Rights Watch, [01/08/21](#)]

**The HHS Rule Noted That It Was Issued In Accordance With A January 2020 OMB Rule To Tie Federal Grants To “Religious Liberty” And Align With The “Promoting Free Speech And Religious Liberty” Executive Order.** “Consistent with 2 CFR 200.109, which requires OMB to review the Uniform Guidance every five years, on January 22, 2020, OMB issued a proposed rule to update the Uniform Guidance. 85 FR 3766 (Jan. 27, 2020). With respect to OMB’s Statutory and National Policy Requirements provision, OMB proposed to amend the first sentence of § 200.300(a) to include references to the U.S. Constitution and federal law and specific references to free speech and religious liberty, in addition to the specific references currently in § 200.300(a). Thus under the proposed guidance, the Federal awarding agency would be required to manage and administer the Federal award in a manner so as to ensure that Federal funding is expended and associated programs are implemented ‘in full accordance to the U.S. Constitution, Federal Law, statutory, and public policy requirements,’ including ‘those protecting free speech, religious liberty, public welfare, the environment, and prohibiting discrimination.’ According to OMB, the purpose for the proposed revisions are ‘to align with Executive Orders (E.O.) 13798 ‘Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty’ and E.O. 13864 ‘Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities.’ These Executive Orders advise agencies on the requirements of religious liberty laws, including those laws that apply to grants, and set forth a policy of free inquiry at institutions receiving Federal grants [...]” [Federal Register, [01/12/21](#)]

- **The Final Rule Was Published On January 12, 2021.** [Federal Register, [01/12/21](#)]

**Alliance Defending Freedom, Deemed A Hate Group By The Southern Poverty Law Center, Praised The Rule.** “The following quote may be attributed to Alliance Defending Freedom Senior Counsel Zack Pruitt regarding a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ final rule issued Thursday that eliminates a federal regulation from the previous administration that forced child welfare providers to abandon their deeply held religious beliefs to continue receiving federal funding to serve children in need: ‘Sadly, the prior administration’s regulation failed to protect all providers and discriminated against faith-based providers simply because of their beliefs about marriage. That is not keeping kids first. HHS’s final rule to end this discrimination offers hope for children, more options for birth mothers, support for families, and increased flexibility for states seeking to alleviate real human need. We commend the Trump administration for protecting a diversity of providers to ensure the greatest number of children find a permanent, loving family.’” [Alliance Defending Freedom, [01/07/21](#)]

- **Alliance Defending Freedom Has Been Designated A Hate Group By The Southern Poverty Law Center For Its Support Of Recriminalizing Homosexuality In The U.S. And Abroad.** “Founded by some 30 leaders of the Christian Right, the Alliance Defending Freedom is a legal advocacy and training group that has supported the recriminalization of sexual acts between consenting LGBTQ adults in the U.S. and criminalization abroad; has defended state-sanctioned sterilization of trans people abroad; has contended that LGBTQ people are more likely to engage in pedophilia; and claims that a “homosexual agenda” will destroy Christianity and society.” [Southern Poverty Law Center, accessed [03/23/21](#)]

## **December 2020: Vought’s OMB Approved A Department Of Labor Rule That Gave Federal Contractors “Carte Blanche To Discriminate Against LGBTQ Workers” And Others.**

**December 2020: The Trump Department Of Labor Issued Guidance That Critics Said Gave Federal Contractors “Carte Blanche To Discriminate Against LGBTQ Workers, Women, Religious Minorities And Others.”** “The Trump administration has issued new guidance on religious exemptions for federal contractors that critics say grants them carte blanche to discriminate against LGBTQ workers, women, religious minorities and others. The Department of Labor’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs

released Monday its final rule on exemptions to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and a related 1965 executive order instituting anti-discrimination requirements for federal contractors.” [NBC News, [12/08/20](#)]

- **The Guidance Was First Proposed In August 2019.** “The Labor Department first proposed the new religious exemption guidelines in August 2019 and received more than 109,000 comments during the public comment period — including more than 90,000 from organized letter-writing campaigns.” [NBC News, [12/08/20](#)]

**Vought’s OMB Reviewed The Rule.** “This final rule has been designated a ‘significant regulatory action’ although not economically significant, under section 3(f) of E.O. 12866. The Office of Management and Budget has reviewed this final rule.” [U.S. Department of Labor, [01/08/21](#)]

**An LGBTQ Advocate Said The Guidance Was “Part Of A Decadeslong Effort By Christian Conservatives To Remove Anti-Discrimination Safeguards.”** “Jennifer Pizer, director of law and policy for LGBTQ legal organization Lambda Legal, said the new guidance is part of a decadeslong effort by Christian conservatives to remove anti-discrimination safeguards. ‘The argument is, ‘If faith-based groups don’t receive government money with the freedom to act however they want to, then that’s discrimination. We must do it this way, and you must fund us,’ Pizer told NBC News.” [NBC News, [12/08/20](#)]

### **December 2020: Vought’s OMB Gave “Lightning-Fast Approval” For A Nine-Agency Effort To Eliminate A Requirement For Religious Social Service Providers To Provide Secular Alternatives To Applicants.**

**December 2020: Vought’s OMB Gave A “Lightning-Fast” Approval For A Joint Nine-Agency Effort To Undo A Requirement For Religious Social Service Providers To Provide Referrals To Secular Alternatives.** “The second change, finalized a few days later after a lightning-fast trip through the Office of Management and Budget, was a joint effort of nine agencies that elaborated on the religious freedom exemptions for recipients of their own spending. It gets rid of the earlier requirement that religious providers of federally funded social services, from food banks to job training, provide referrals to secular alternatives. In the case of ‘indirect’ aid that travels with the beneficiary, like child care and housing vouchers, it eliminates the requirement that there must be a secular option available.” [ProPublica, [12/23/20](#)]

**The Requirement Was Meant To Prevent Exclusion Of People Who Were Uncomfortable Receiving Aid In “An Explicitly Religious Setting.”** “The concerns with those rules center around the possible exclusion of people who may feel uncomfortable getting aid in an explicitly religious setting, even if providers are not allowed to proselytize as part of the programming.” [ProPublica, [12/23/20](#)]

**The Rule Was Published On December 17, 2020.** [Federal Register, [12/17/20](#)]

**Russ Vought’s Wife, Mary Vought, Owns PR Firm Vought Strategies, Which Has Been Registered At The Voughts’ Residential Address And Has Collected Over \$900,000—Nearly 100% Of Its Federal Political Income—From The The Senate Conservatives Fund And Its Super PAC, Which Mary Vought Has Led Since May 2019.**

**Since At Least May 2019, Russ Vought’s Wife Mary Vought Has Simultaneously Been President Of PR Firm Vought Strategies—Which Has Been Registered At Russ And Mary Vought’s Residential Address—And Executive Director Of The Senate Conservatives Fund And Its Super PAC.**

**Russ Vought’s Wife Is Mary Vought, Who Was Executive Director Of The Senate Conservatives Fund As Of March 2024.** “BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Mary Vought, executive director of the Senate Conservatives Fund [...] How/where are you celebrating your birthday and with whom? ‘Russ and I will be celebrating with Elsa and Anna as we promised our 7- and 5-year-old girls we’d take them to see ‘Frozen II.’” [Politico, [11/27/19](#)]

- **Mary Vought Was Executive Director Of The Senate Conservatives Fund As Of March 2024.** “SCF was founded by former U.S. Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) and is now led by Executive Director Mary Vought who previously served as a senior communications advisor to Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI).” [Senate Conservatives Fund, accessed [03/20/24](#)]

**Mary Vought Was Also Executive Director And Leader Of The Senate Conservatives Fund’s Super PAC Arm, Senate Conservative Action, As Of March 2024.** “SCA is led by Executive Director Mary Vought who previously served as a senior communications advisor to Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) and Vice-President Mike Pence (R-IN).” [Senate Conservatives Action, accessed [03/29/24](#)]

- **Senate Conservatives Action Is The Senate Conservatives Fund’s Super PAC Arm.** “SCA is the Super PAC arm of the Senate Conservatives Fund (SCF), which is a national organization that promotes conservative policies and helps elect principled candidates to the United States Senate.” [Senate Conservatives Action, accessed [03/20/24](#)]

**May 2019: Senate Conservative Fund Executive Director Mary Vought Took Control Of The Group After Being With The Fund “For Many Years.”** “I will be stepping down from my position as SCF President to take on this new role, but I’m leaving it in the hands of our outstanding team led by Mary Vought, our Executive Director. Mary has been with SCF for many years, she’s a principled conservative, and she’s passionate about strengthening the United States Senate. I’m confident that Mary and the entire SCF team will continue and expand upon the progress we’ve made together.” [Senate Conservatives Fund, [05/24/19](#)]

**Mary Vought Is Also President And Founder Of Vought Strategies, Which Was Established In 2013.** “Mary Vought is the President and Founder of Vought Strategies, a Washington D.C.-based PR firm established in 2013.” [Vought Strategies, accessed [03/18/24](#)]



[Vought Strategies, accessed [03/18/24](#)]

- **Vought Strategies Was Incorporated In Virginia In March 2013:**

The State Corporation Commission has found the accompanying articles submitted on behalf of Vought Strategies LLC

to comply with the requirements of law, and confirms payment of all required fees. Therefore, it is ORDERED that this

**CERTIFICATE OF ORGANIZATION**

be issued and admitted to record with the articles of organization in the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, effective March 27, 2013.

[Vought Strategies LLC Articles of Organization, Virginia State Corporation Commission, [03/27/13](#)]

**Vought Strategies LLC's Address Has Been Located At A Residential Address in Arlington, VA That Russ And Mary Vought Sold In June 2019:**

- **In June 2019, Vought Strategies LLC's Address Was Still Listed As 3917 13th St. S, Arlington, VA, 22204 In A Federal Election Commission Filing.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [03/29/24](#)]
- **As Recently As February 2024, Vought Strategies LLC's Address Was Still Listed As 3917 13th St. S, Arlington, VA, 22204 In A Federal Election Commission Filing.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [03/29/24](#)]
- **Russ And Mary Vought Owned The Property At 3917 13th St. S, Arlington, VA, 22204 Until August 2020:**

**26-025-022                      3917 13th ST S ARLINGTON VA 22204**

**Property Sales History**

Grantee	Sales Date	Sales Price	Sales Code	Deed Bk/Pg#	Deed Doc ID#
YEE JASON W S & RENEE H LEE TRS	8/13/2020	\$936,000		/	20200100020504
VOUGHT RUSSELL & MARY VOUGHT	1/25/2012	\$549,900		4528/1708	

[Arlington County Government, accessed [03/29/24](#)]

**Since May 2019, Nearly 100%, Over \$900,000, Of Vought Strategies' Income Has Come From Senate Conservatives Fund And Its Super PAC.**

**Vought Strategies Has Been Paid Over \$1.3 Million By Republican Political Campaigns Since 2013, Over \$1.2 Million Of Which Was From The Senate Conservatives Fund Or Senate Conservatives Action.** [Federal Election Commission, accessed [03/20/24](#)]

**Since Mary Vought Has Become Executive Director Of The Senate Conservatives Fund, Vought Strategies Has Been Paid \$900,277.67 By SCF And Its Super PAC Arm, Senate Conservatives Action:**

Date	Spender	Recipient	Disbursement Description	Amount
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05/03/22	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$7,500.00</a>
05/03/22	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$7,500.00</a>
06/01/22	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$7,500.00</a>
06/01/22	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$7,500.00</a>
10/03/22	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$7,500.00</a>
09/01/22	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$7,500.00</a>
09/01/22	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$7,500.00</a>
11/01/22	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$7,500.00</a>
01/03/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$7,500.00</a>
01/02/24	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
10/02/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
09/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
05/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
11/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
02/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
03/29/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	SEE MEMO	<a href="#">\$662.18</a>
04/03/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
05/24/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC FOOD AND BEVERAGE	<a href="#">\$217.69</a>
06/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
03/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
08/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
04/03/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
01/03/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$7,500.00</a>
02/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
05/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
06/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
03/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
07/03/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
07/03/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
08/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
09/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
10/02/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
11/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
12/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
12/01/23	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
01/02/24	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
02/01/24	SENATE CONSERVATIVES FUND	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
02/01/24	SENATE CONSERVATIVES ACTION	VOUGHT STRATEGIES LLC	PAC STRATEGY CONSULTING	<a href="#">\$10,000.00</a>
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$900,277.67</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [03/29/24](#)]

**Since May 2019, 99.7% Of Vought Strategies' Federal Political Disbursement Income Has Been Through Senate Conservatives Fund And Senate Conservatives Action:**

Political Committee	Disbursement Recipient	Number Of Disbursements Since May 2019	% Of Disbursements Since May 2019	Amount Paid Through Disbursements Since May 2019	\$ Of Amount Paid Since May 2019
Senate Conservatives Fund	Vought Strategies	64	51.6%	\$451,777.67	50.1%
Senate Conservatives Action	Vought Strategies	58	46.7%	\$448,500.00	49.7%
Women For America	Vought Strategies	1	0.8%	\$2,100.00	0.2%
House Freedom Fund	Vought Strategies	1	0.8%	\$217.68	0.02%
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>124</b>		<b>\$902,595.35</b>	

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [03/29/24](#)]

- **Mary Vought Is The President Of Vought Strategies Payor Women For America:**

**Mary Vought, President**

Vought has over 15 years of political and crisis communications experience fighting to ensure conservative leaders have the best tools available to be successful against the pressures of the D.C. elite. Mary previously worked in the U.S. Senate for Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) as his Communications Director and then senior advisor. She also worked in the U.S. House for several Members of Congress, including working at the House Republican Conference for then Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN).



[Women for America, accessed [03/29/24](#)]

**In His Executive Branch Termination Report Filed February 2021, Russ Vought Reported That Mary Vought Earned \$250,001-\$500,000 From Vought Strategies LLC:**

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Vought Strategies LLC (media consulting)	N/A	\$250,001 - \$500,000	business income	

[Russell Vought OGE Form 278e, [02/02/21](#)]

- **In His 2020 Financial Disclosure Filed June 2020, Russ Vought Reported That Mary Vought Earned \$100,001-\$250,000 From Vought Strategies LLC:**

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Vought Strategies LLC (media consulting)	N/A	\$100,001 - \$250,000	business income	

[Russell Vought OGE Form 278e, [06/12/20](#)]

- **In His Nominee Disclosure Filed May 2020, Russ Vought Reported That Mary Vought Earned \$100,001-\$250,000 From Vought Strategies LLC:**

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Vought Strategies LLC (media consulting)	N/A	\$100,001 - \$250,000	business income	

[Russell Vought OGE Form 278e, [05/07/20](#)]

**In March 2020, Vought Declared That He Would “Not Participate Personally And Substantially In Any Particular Matter That To [His] Knowledge Has A Direct And Predictable Effect On The Financial Interests Of Vought Strategies LLC”:**

My spouse is a member of Vought Strategies LLC. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of Vought Strategies LLC, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1). I also will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a client of my spouse is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d). In addition, for the duration of my appointment to the position of Director, my spouse has agreed not to communicate directly with the Office of Management and Budget on behalf of Vought Strategies LLC or any client.

[Office of Government Ethics, [03/24/20](#)]

- **Vought Made The Same Declaration In May 2017:**

My spouse is currently a member with Vought Strategies LLC. For as long as my spouse continues to work for Vought Strategies LLC, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of Vought Strategies LLC, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1). I also will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a client of my spouse is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d). In addition, for the duration of my appointment to the position of Deputy Director, my spouse has agreed not to communicate directly with the Office of Management and Budget on behalf of Vought Strategies LLC or any client.

[Office of Government Ethics, [05/03/17](#)]

**Mary Vought Has Repeatedly Intersected With The Conservative Partnership Institute (CPI), A Close “Partner” Of Russ Vought’s Center For Renewing America Which Shares CPI’s Address And Was Founded By CPI Chairman Jim DeMint.**

**Mary Vought Has Multiple Ties To The Conservative Partnership Institute, Which Shares Its Address With Russ Vought’s Center For Renewing America And The Senate Conservatives Fund, Where Mary Vought Is Executive Director And Which Was Founded By CPI Chairman And Co-Founder Jim DeMint.**

Russ Vought's Center For Renewing America (CRA) Is A "Partner" Group Of CPI, Which Helped Launch CRA In 2021:

2021

[...]

## CPI Partner Groups Form

CPI helps launch partner groups American Moment, American Accountability Foundation, Center for Renewing America, America First Legal, and American Cornerstone Institute.

[Conservative Partnership Institute, [2022](#)]

Russ Vought's Center For Renewing America Shares Its Address With CPI's Headquarters—And CPI Reported Paying Over \$1.3 Million In Its Latest Tax Filing:

**F** Name and address of principal officer:  
Russell Vought  
300 Independence Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20003

[Center for Renewing America IRS Form 990, 2021, [11/15/22](#)]

- **CPI's Address Is Also 300 Independence Avenue SE Washington, DC 20003.** [Conservative Partnership Institute, accessed [03/21/24](#)]
- **In Its 2022 Tax Return, Filed November 2023, CPI Disclosed Granting Over \$1.3 Million To Russ Vought's Center For Renewing America.** [Conservative Partnership Institute IRS Form 990, 2022, [11/15/23](#)]

**Mary Vought Is Executive Director Of The Senate Conservatives Fund, Which Shares Its Address With CPI's Headquarters And Was Founded By CPI Chairman And Co-Founder Jim DeMint.** "SCF was founded by former U.S. Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) and is now led by Executive Director Mary Vought who previously served as a senior communications advisor to Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI)." [Senate Conservatives Fund, accessed [03/21/24](#)]

Senate Conservatives Fund • 300 Independence Ave SE • Washington, DC 20003

[Senate Conservatives Fund, accessed [03/21/24](#)]

- **The Senate Conservatives Fund Was Founded By CPI Chairman Jim DeMint.** "Jim DeMint has fought tirelessly for freedom, prosperity, and traditional American values against the Washington swamp for over two decades. Today, he leads and trains a new generation of conservative warriors as Chairman of the Conservative Partnership Institute. [...] DeMint is also the Founder of the Senate Conservatives Fund, which played a major role in the election of many of the Senate's leading conservatives like Mike Lee, Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, and Tom Cotton." [Conservative Partnership Institute, accessed [03/21/24](#)]

- **DeMint Was A Founder Of CPI.** “C.P.I.’s original aims were modest. Founded in the summer of 2017 by senior staff members of the conservative Heritage Foundation, including its recently ousted president, Mr. DeMint, it described itself as a support system ‘to advance conservative policies in Congress.’” [The New York Times, [02/20/24](#)]

**April 2023: On Behalf Of Vought Strategies, Mary Vought Held A Session On “Preparing Your Boss For Radio, Television And Zoom Interviews” Alongside Center For Renewing America’s Communications Director Rachel Semmel At A Conservative Partnership Institute (CPI) Communications Director Training For Congressional Staff:**

**Conservative Partnership Institute (CPI) Communications Director  
Training**

**April 4- 6, 2023  
100 Day Follow Up**

[...]

**2:30 – 4:00 pm Session 2: Preparing Your Boss for Radio, Television and Zoom Interviews**

Vought and Semmel will share insider tips and do a step-by-step tutorial teaching communications staff how to prepare their boss for media hits with information and the confidence necessary to get their messages and goals across to the audience.

*Speakers: Rachel Semmel, Communications Director at the Center for Renewing America & Mary Vought, Founder, Vought Strategies*

[U.S. House Committee on Ethics, [04/20/23](#)]

**In Its 2022 Annual Report, CPI Touted That Mary Vought Appeared In American Woman, A “Feature-Length Documentary” Filmed From CPI Studios By Manifest Vision Films About How “The Authoritarian Political Left Dominates Our Culture”:**



[...]



[Conservative Partnership Institute, [2022](#)]

- **American Woman Is “A Feature-Length Documentary” Which Claims That “The Authoritarian Political Left Dominates Our Culture, Demanding Groupthink And Unquestioning Obedience.”** “American Woman is a feature-length documentary film by Manifest Vision Films. Synopsis: The left is winning the culture war, but not for long. This war for control of the American mind and soul has been waged for decades. The authoritarian political left dominates our culture, demanding groupthink and unquestioning obedience. It is Conservatives who uphold true diversity – freedom of thought and speech.” [About, American Woman the Movie via YouTube, accessed [03/21/24](#)]

**Russ Vought Is A Treasurer For CPI Network Group America First Legal Foundation, Which Mary Vought Praised In A March 2024 Article For The Group’s Jane Doe Lawsuit Against “Radical” “Woke” Policies In Fairfax, VA County Public Schools—The Voughts’ Children Attend School In Fairfax County.**

**Russ Vought Is A Treasurer Of The America First Legal Foundation, Which Is A Direct Controlling Entity Of Russ Vought’s Center From Renewing America And Citizens For Renewing America:**

(4) Russ Vought  
.....  
Treasurer

[America First Legal Foundation IRS Form 990, [10/24/23](#)]

<b>Part II Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations.</b> 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 (# section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity? <b>Yes No</b>
[...]						
<b>(2)</b> Center for Renewing America Inc 300 Independence Ave SE Washington, DC 20003 85-4307005	Public Policy	DE	501(c)(3)	Line 7	America First Legal Foundation	Yes
<b>(3)</b> Citizens for Renewing America Inc 300 Independence Ave SE Washington, DC 20003 86-1769922	social Welfare	DE	501(c)(4)		America First Legal Foundation	Yes

[America First Legal Foundation IRS Form 990, [10/24/23](#)]

- **America First Legal Foundation, Run By Former Trump White House Senior Policy Advisor Stephen Miller, Has Filed Over A Hundred Lawsuits Against Liberal Entities And Policies In The First Three Years Of Its Existence.** “For those who wonder what Stephen Miller has been up to since he left the Trump White House as senior policy adviser, the answer is litigating loudly. His conservative nonprofit group, America First Legal Foundation, is no ordinary law firm, beginning with the fact that Mr. Miller, 38, is not a lawyer. But judging by the flurry of filings it has generated over the past three years — more than a hundred lawsuits, E.E.O.C. complaints, amicus briefs and other legal demands — the foundation’s small in-house legal team punches above its weight.” [The New York Times, [03/21/24](#)]

**America First Legal Was Co-Founded By CPI Leader Mark Meadows And Incubated By CPI:**

- **America First Legal Was Incubated By CPI, Which Provided “The Administrative, Staffing, And Legal Support Needed” For The Group’s Launch.** “INCUBATION [...] CPI has provided the administrative, staffing, and legal support needed to launch more than a dozen groups—including America First Legal, Center for Renewing America, American Cornerstone Institute, American Accountability Foundation, State Freedom Caucus Network, Election Integrity Network, American Moment, and Personnel Policy Operations.” [Conservative Partnership Institute, accessed [11/17/23](#)]

- **America First Legal Was Founded By CPI Leader Mark Meadows In 2021.** “Founded in 2021 by Trump Administration officials Stephen Miller, Gene Hamilton, and Mark Meadows, America First Legal (AFL) engages in ‘lawfare’ designed to defeat the ever-pervasive woke agenda infiltrating Big Business, Big Education, and Big Government.” [Conservative Partnership Institute, [2022](#)]
  - **Mark Meadows Leads CPI.** “An influential conservative nonprofit led by former Trump chief of staff Mark Meadows is buying up millions of dollars worth of office space on Capitol Hill, records show.” [Axios, [01/17/23](#)]
- **CPI Prominently Featured America First Legal In Its 2022 Annual Report** “Founded in 2021 by Trump Administration officials Stephen Miller, Gene Hamilton, and Mark Meadows, America First Legal (AFL) engages in ‘lawfare’ designed to defeat the ever-pervasive woke agenda infiltrating Big Business, Big Education, and Big Government.” [Conservative Partnership Institute, [2022](#)]

**March 2024: Mary Vought Wrote An Article In *The Federalist* Praising America First Legal’s Lawsuit Against Fairfax County Public Schools On Behalf Of A Student “Traumatized” By What She Called The District’s “Radical Ideas About Racial And Gender Ideology.”** “Over the past several years, some school districts in Virginia, particularly in Northern Virginia, have embraced radical ideas about racial and gender ideology. As a mother of two young daughters who attend school in Fairfax County, I’m glad that a recent lawsuit against Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) seeks to end some of the district’s egregious practices. The nonpartisan organization America First Legal recently filed a lawsuit on behalf of one Fairfax County student traumatized by the district’s policies. Specifically, regulations that the school board adopted violate the principles of religious freedom and place students in offensive and potentially dangerous situations.” [The Federalist, [03/19/24](#)]

## Lawsuit: Girls At Fairfax Public Schools Shouldn’t Be Forced To Share Bathrooms And Pronouns With Boys

BY: MARY VOUGHT | MARCH 19, 2024 | 3 MIN READ

[The Federalist, [03/19/24](#)]

**According To The Article, The Voughts’ “Two Children Attend School In Fairfax County.”** “Mary Vought (@MaryVought) is an Arlington, Virginia resident. Her two children attend school in Fairfax County. She is a senior fellow at Independent Women’s Voice (iww.org).” [The Federalist, [03/19/24](#)]

**The Lawsuit Was Filed On Behalf Of An Anonymous Jane Doe:**



JANE DOE,

*Petitioner;*

v.

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL  
BOARD,

Serve:

Karl Frish, Chair of the Board  
8115 Gatehouse Road  
Falls Church, VA 22042

*Respondent.*

[Civil Action No. 2024-03171, Circuit Court of Fairfax County, [03/04/24](#)]

**Vought Drafted Former Trump OMB General Counsel Mark Paoletta As A CRA Senior Fellow—Paoletta Was “Responsible For Executing Some Of The White House’s Most Divisive And Legally Aggressive Moves,” Including Trump’s Illegal Hold On Ukrainian Aid.**

**Former Trump OMB General Counsel, Counsel For Vice President Pence, And Longtime “Conservative Operative” Mark Paoletta Is A Senior Fellow For Russ Vought’s Center For Renewing America.**

Mark Paoletta Is A Senior Fellow For Vought’s The Center For Renewing America:



Mark Paoletta

Senior Fellow

[Center for Renewing America, accessed [03/07/24](#)]

**In Announcing Paoletta’s Role In The Center For American Restoration, Russ Vought Said, “As OMB’s General Counsel, Mark Was Crucial In Executing President Trump’s Agenda. The Border Wall Would Not Be Up Without Him!”:**



Russ Vought @russvought · Feb 25

...

Proud to announce that my friend and colleague [@MarkPaoletta](#) is joining [@amrestorecenter](#) as a Senior Fellow. As OMB’s General Counsel, Mark was crucial in executing President Trump’s agenda. The border wall would not be up without him!

[Tweet by Russ Vought, 02/25/21, accessed [03/15/21](#)]

**Mark Paoletta Was General Counsel For The Office Of Management And Budget From January 2018 To January 2021.** [Linkedin Profile for Mark Paoletta, accessed [03/15/21](#)]

**Mark Paoletta Was Counsel And “Top Lawyer” To The Vice President Of The United States From January 2017 To January 2018.** [Linkedin Profile for Mark Paoletta, accessed [03/15/21](#)]

- **Paoletta Was Pence’s “Top Lawyer” At This Time.** “Paoletta, who worked as the top lawyer for Vice President Mike Pence during his first year in office, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But people who have worked with him enthusiastically endorsed the notion.” [The Washington Examiner, [11/08/19](#)]

**Paoletta “Spent Decades As A Conservative Operative,” Helping To “Guide” Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas Through His 1991 Confirmation, Working As A Chief Counsel In The House Energy And Commerce Committee, And Working On A “Truth Squad” For Former Vice Presidential Candidate Sarah Palin In The 2008 Election.** “Paoletta, 57, has spent decades as a conservative operative. [...] Paoletta gained prominence when he helped guide Clarence Thomas through his 1991 Senate confirmation hearings, an effort that eventually secured Thomas’s lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court. [...] Paoletta later went to Capitol Hill, where he served as chief counsel for oversight and investigations with the House Energy and Commerce Committee. He led probes of Enron and Martha Stewart. Paoletta left the Hill to join various lobbying firms and did legal work related to Major League Baseball’s steroids scandal. He joined a ‘truth squad’ for Sarah Palin, Sen. John McCain’s vice-presidential nominee, to defend her from criticisms in the media.” [Washington Post, [01/28/20](#)]

**Paoletta Was “Responsible For Executing Some Of The White House’s Most Divisive And Legally Aggressive Moves,” Including An Unlawful Hold On Ukrainian Aid That Was Central To Trump’s First Impeachment—Sen. Van Hollen (D-MD) Demanded That Paoletta Step Down From Overseeing OMB’s Ethics After He Showed “A Lack Of Candor” During The Investigation.**

**HEADLINE: Hard-charging White House budget lawyer in middle of Ukraine decision has pushed legal limits for Trump** [Washington Post, [01/28/20](#)]

**Paoletta, Former General Counsel Of The White House Office Of Management And Budget, Was “Responsible For Executing Some Of The White House’s Most Divisive And Legally Aggressive Moves, Including The Hold On Ukrainian Aid Now Central To President Trump’s Impeachment Trial.”** “A hard-charging conservative lawyer little known to the public is responsible for executing some of the White House’s most divisive and legally aggressive moves, including the hold on Ukrainian aid now central to President Trump’s impeachment trial.” [Washington Post, [01/28/20](#)]

**The Government Accountability Office (GAO) Deemed The Trump Administration’s Delay Of Security Assistance To Ukraine—Which Was Approved By Paoletta—As Unlawful.** “Mark Paoletta, general counsel at the White House Office of Management and Budget, signed off on the delay of security assistance to Ukraine, overruling the objections of some career staffers at the OMB and the Pentagon. The Government Accountability Office recently determined that the delay was unlawful.” [Washington Post, [01/28/20](#)]

**Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) Demanded That Paoletta Recuse Himself From Matters Concerning The Ukrainian Aid Investigation And To Resign As OMB’s Designated Agency Ethics Official For Showing “A Lack Of Candor” In Correspondence With The GAO.** “Mark Paoletta, the general counsel at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), needs to recuse himself from ongoing inquiries into the Trump administration’s withholding of aid to Ukraine, as well as resign from his role as OMB’s designated agency

ethics official, according to U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) ‘Recent revelations show a lack of candor in your response to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) inquiry into the withholding of funds for the Department of Defense (DOD) Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative,’ Van Hollen writes in a letter he sent to Paoletta Thursday.” [Just Security, [03/12/20](#)]

## **The Government Accountability Office (GAO) Found Another Paoletta-Tied Effort To Be Unlawful, In Addition To His Record Of “Stretching The Budget Law” For Controversial Decisions To Restrict Puerto Rican Disaster Aid And Redirect Pentagon Money To Trump’s Border Wall.**

**“Paoletta Similarly Helped Engineer The Trump Administration’s Maneuvering During Last Year’s Government Shutdown To Minimize The Impact, A Move The GAO Also Said Broke Federal Law.”** [Washington Post, [01/28/20](#)]

**Beyond Paoletta’s Role In Ukrainian Aid Decision, He Repeatedly Stretched Legal Limits For The Trump White House By Adding Restrictions To Puerto Rico’s Disaster Aid And Providing Legal Justification For Trump To Redirect Pentagon Funding For Trump’s Border Wall—Which Faced Bipartisan Objections.** “Paoletta’s below-the-radar role in a decision key to Trump’s impeachment is just one example of how he has enabled the White House to stretch the legal limits of the executive branch — forcefully pushing forward the administration’s agenda but sometimes incurring a severe backlash in the process. Paoletta helped craft the administration’s justification for adding new restrictions to billions in disaster aid to Puerto Rico, blowing past a congressional deadline and ignoring fierce criticisms from the island’s government. He also provided the legal foundation for Trump’s move to redirect Pentagon money and use it to erect a wall on the border with Mexico. That legal maneuver was opposed by another top White House attorney, according to officials familiar with internal deliberations, and has been criticized by congressional lawmakers in both parties.” [Washington Post, [01/28/20](#)]

**A Republican Former Staff Director Of The Senate Budget Committee Noted The Trump OMB’s Pattern Of “Stretching The Budget Law” As He Said That Paoletta’s “Politics Are Driving His Interpretation” Of The Law.** “‘From the beginning of the Trump administration, there’s been a real pattern at OMB — from the authority of transfers to building the wall, to the moneys delayed for Puerto Rico — of stretching the budget law,’ said Bill Hoagland, a Republican and former staff director on the Senate Budget Committee. ‘The OMB general counsel is supposed to give his best interpretation of the law to the political operatives there. And it appears to me that — at least on a lot of this — the politics are driving his interpretation, as opposed to the law driving the interpretation.’” [Washington Post, [01/28/20](#)]

**2018: Paoletta Helped The Trump Administration Develop And Plan An Effort To “Claw Back Billions In Funding Already Approved By Congress,” Which Failed In The Senate After Facing Bipartisan Opposition.** “In the spring and summer of 2018, he helped push forward a package of ‘rescissions’ that would claw back billions in funding already approved by Congress but not yet spent. Paoletta helped develop the plan, according to government officials, relying on a little-known legal tool that had fallen into disuse. It met bipartisan opposition and failed in the Senate.” [Washington Post, [01/28/20](#)]

## **Paoletta Played A “Critical” Role In Helping Trump-Nominated Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch Through Confirmation.**

**During The Trump Administration, Paoletta Played A “Critical” Role In Preparing Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch For His Confirmation Hearings, For Which Gorsuch Personally Named And Thanked Paoletta When He Was Sworn Into Office.** “Early in the Trump administration, Paoletta’s relationship with other White House officials fractured over another Supreme Court nominee, Neil M. Gorsuch, Trump’s first appointment to the high court. At the time, Paoletta was working as a counsel to Vice President

Pence and wanted to be involved in preparing Gorsuch for his confirmation hearings, although some White House officials were against it. He had clashed at times with then-White House Counsel Donald McGahn, who was leading the process. But his involvement proved critical, said Mike Davis, a former top counsel for Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) who worked with Paoletta during the Gorsuch confirmation. Paoletta asked ‘really tough questions that prepared the nominee for game day,’ Davis said. Gorsuch personally thanked Paoletta by name when he was sworn in.” [Washington Post, [01/28/20](#)]

## **Vought Tapped Jeffrey Clark, A Former Trump Justice Department Official Criminally Charged For His Alleged Role In Trying To Overturn The 2020 Election, As CRA’s Director Of Litigation—And Vought Has Vocally Defended Clark On Social Media.**

### **Vought’s Center For Renewing America Has Tapped Former Trump Justice Department Official Jeff Clark—Who Has Been Criminally Charged For Allegedly Working To Overturn 2020 Election Results—As Director Of Litigation And Senior Fellow.**

**The Center For Renewing America’s Senior Fellow And Director Of Litigation Is Jeff Clark, A Former Trump Department Of Justice Official Who Has Been Criminally Charged For Allegedly Working To Overturn The 2020 Election Results.** “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. In this capacity, by the end of 2020, Jeff was responsible for supervising approximately 1,400 lawyers at DOJ.” [Center for Renewing America, accessed [03/19/24](#)]



[Center for Renewing America, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

- **Jeffrey Clark Was A “High-Ranking” Trump Justice Department Official Who Was “One Of The Few Lawyers” In The Department “Willing To Act On Trump’s Baseless Claims Of Election Fraud” And Efforts To Overturn The 2020 Election.** “Jeffrey Clark, a high-ranking DOJ official in the Trump administration, did not appear publicly at the fifth House Jan. 6 committee hearing, but most of the witness testimony focused on his actions in President Donald Trump’s final weeks in office. Clark was one of the few lawyers within the Department of Justice who was willing to act on Trump’s baseless claims of election fraud and requests for help in overturning the results of the 2020 presidential election, witnesses said during the committee’s June 23 hearing.” [PBS NewsHour, [06/23/22](#)]

- **Clark Was Criminally Charged For Alleged Efforts To Overturn Georgia’s 2020 Election Results, With Prosecutors Arguing He Falsely Tried To Have DOJ Leaders Tell Georgia’s Governor There Were “Significant Concerns” About The State’s Election Results.** . “Clark separately was criminally charged with others last August in Georgia state court for an alleged scheme to overturn Trump’s loss. He has pleaded not guilty. According to the prosecutors in Georgia and the D.C. ethics probe, Clark, who was a Trump-era Justice Department official, sought to convince DOJ leaders to falsely tell Georgia’s governor and others in December 2020 that the U.S. had identified ‘significant concerns’ that may have affected the election outcome.” [Associated Press, [03/01/24](#)]
- **Prosecutors Allege That Clark “Encouraged Justice Department Leaders To Sign A Draft Letter To Officials In Key Swing States Declaring That The Agency Had Reason To Doubt The Legitimacy Of Their Elections.”** “Clark circumvented department leadership to speak with Trump multiple times in late December and early January, according to Tuesday’s indictment. Prosecutors allege that Clark encouraged Justice Department leaders to sign a draft letter to officials in key swing states declaring that the agency had reason to doubt the legitimacy of their elections and encouraging them to send alternate slates of pro-Trump electors to Congress.” [The Washington Post, [08/03/23](#)]

**July 2023: Vought Vowed To Defend Jeffrey Clark After A Federal Judge Allowed The DC Bar To Move Forward With Disciplinary Proceedings Against Clark For His Role In Trying To Overturn The 2020 Election.**

**July 2023: Russ Vought Reposted Jeff Clark’s Post That Said, “Russ, You Know I Am Honored To Work For The Center For Renewing America. And Am Humbled By Your Support!,” While Sharing Vought’s Vow To Defend Clark:**

↻ Russ Vought reposted



**Jeff Clark** @JeffClarkUS · Jun 8, 2023

...

Russ, you know I am honored to work for the Center for Renewing America. And humbled by your support!

Everyone you have assembled is a fighter! And we will not surrender to the rise of tyranny.

We will keep the Republic alive. We will Renew America.



**Russ Vought** @russvought · Jun 8, 2023

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow @amrenewctr will be standing by @JeffClarkUS until these attacks cease & all of his enemies are humiliated. [x.com/kyledcheney/st...](https://x.com/kyledcheney/st...)

[X repost by @russvought, 06/08/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

- **July 2023: A Federal Judge Allowed DC Bar Authorities To Advance Disciplinary Proceedings Against Jeffrey Clark:**



**Kyle Cheney**  
@kyledcheney

...

JUST IN: After an 8 month delay, a federal judge has cleared the way for DC bar authorities to continue disciplinary proceedings against former Trump DOJ attorney Jeffrey CLARK.

[ecf.dcd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show\\_p...](https://ecf.dcd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show_p...)

**V. CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, ODC’s Motions to Remand (Case No. 22-mc-0096, ECF No. 5; Case No. 22-mc-0117, ECF No. 4; Case No. 23-mc-0007, ECF No. 4) are **GRANTED**. In addition, because the Court lacks subject-matter jurisdiction over this matter, Mr. Clark’s Motion to Stay Subpoena Response Deadline (Case No. 22-mc-0096, ECF No. 2) and Motion to Quash (Case No. 22-mc-0096, ECF No. 4) are **DENIED** as moot. An order consistent with this Memorandum Opinion is separately and contemporaneously issued.

Dated: June 8, 2023

RUDOLPH CONTRERAS  
United States District Judge


6:46 PM · Jun 8, 2023 · 776.8K Views

[X Post by @kyledcheney, 07/08/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

**Vought Has Tapped Former FBI Agent Steve Friend—An Insurrection Conspiracy Theorist Who Refused To Raid A Dangerous Jan. 6 Suspect’s Home—As A CRA Fellow And Vought Has Repeatedly Amplified Friend Online.**

**Vought’s Center For Renewing America Has Hired Former FBI Agent Steve Friend—A Jan. 6 Conspiracy Theorist Who Was Put On Leave After Refusing To Engage In A SWAT Raid Against A Dangerous Jan. 6 Suspect—And Vought Has Repeatedly Amplified Friend’s Presence Online.**

**Vought’s Center For Renewing America Has Hired Steve Friend As A Fellow On Domestic Intelligence And Security Services:**



ABOUT / STAFF

# Steve Friend

Fellow on Domestic Intelligence and Security Services

CONTACT

X

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Woke and
- Weaponized
- Legal Paradigms

[Center for Renewing America, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

**Steve Friend Is A Former FBI Agent Who Was Placed On Leave After Refusing To Participate In A SWAT Raid Of A January 6 Suspect Who Was Seen At The Insurrection Carrying An AR-15-Style Rifle.** “Mr. Friend, who resigned from the F.B.I., is part of a group of former agents who were placed on leave and called themselves ‘the suspendables.’ In a letter sent last year to Christopher A. Wray, the F.B.I. director, the group claimed that the bureau had discriminated against conservative-leaning agents. [...] Mr. Friend has said he refused to take part in a S.W.A.T. raid of a Jan. 6 suspect facing misdemeanor charges, which at the time he called an ‘excessive use of force,’ to which he was a ‘conscientious objector.’ The suspect, Tyler Bensch, was accused of being a member of a right-wing militia group connected to the Three Percenter movement. Documents in Mr. Bensch’s case indicate that on Jan. 6, 2021, he posted a video of himself outside the Capitol wearing body armor and a gas mask and carrying an AR-15-style rifle.” [The New York Times, [03/02/23](#)]

- **Headline: G.O.P. Witnesses, Paid by Trump Ally, Embraced Jan. 6 Conspiracy Theories** [The New York Times, [03/02/23](#)]
- **Friend Testified That He Received Financial Support From “Trump Loyalist” Kash Patel, Who Also Promoted Friend’s Book.** “Mr. O’Boyle and Mr. Friend both testified that they had received financial support from Kash Patel, a Trump loyalist and former high-ranking official in the former president’s administration. Mr. Friend said Mr. Patel sent him \$5,000 almost immediately after they connected in November 2022 and that Mr. Patel has helped to promote Mr. Friend’s forthcoming book on social media.” [The New York Times, [03/02/23](#)]
- **While He Was Still An FBI Employee, Friend “Engaged With Russian Propaganda Outlets” In Anti-Biden Coverage.** “Mr. Friend also engaged with Russian propaganda outlets while he was an F.B.I. employee, the report noted, including being quoted extensively in an article in Sputnik headlined ‘Under Biden Federal Agencies Turned Into Instrument of Intimidation, F.B.I. Whistleblower Says,’ and appearing for an interview with Russia Today.” [The New York Times, [03/02/23](#)]

**May 2023: Vought Liked Citizens For Renewing America’s Post Promoting Steve Friend’s Testimony Before The House Weaponization Committee:**



[Liked Post by @russvought, 05/17/23, accessed [03/18/24](#)]

**January 2024: Vought Reposted Steve Friend’s Post About A Book That He Said Exposed “The Woke And Weaponized” FBI And CIA:**



↳ Russ Vought reposted



**Steve Friend** ✓ @RealStevefriend · Jan 15

This is a vitally important book by @JMichaelWaller. He did his homework and brings receipts to expose the woke and weaponized @FBI and @CIA.



[X Repost by @russvought, 01/15/24, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

### March 2023: Vought Liked A Post By Steve Friend Claiming That House Democrats And The FBI Sought To “Destroy The Whistleblowers”:



[Liked Post by @russvought, 03/03/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

- “Order 66 Refers To A Directive That Leads To The Killing Of The Jedi Order In The Star Wars Universe.” [Dictionary.com, accessed [05/19/24](#)]

### January 2024: Vought Reposted Steve Friend’s Claim That The FBI Arrested Insurrection Suspects On Jan. 6, 2024 “Because The FBI Is Happily Aiding The Administration With A Public Show Of Force On The Anniversary,” Adding, “This Isn’t An ‘Apolitical’ Agency”:

Russ Vought reposted



**Steve Friend** @RealStevefriend · Jan 6

The @FBI just arrested three J6 subjects for alleged crimes from 3 years ago. It's SATURDAY and this is the federal government. Why today? Because the FBI is happily aiding the administration with a public show of force on this anniversary. This isn't an "apolitical" agency.



**FBI Tampa** @FBITampa · Jan 6

The FBI executed three federal arrest warrants early this morning at a ranch in Groveland, Florida in Lake County. The subjects taken into custody are January 6 fugitives Jonathan Daniel Pollock, Olivia Michele Pollock, and Joseph Daniel Hutchinson III. The defendants are scheduled to appear in Federal Court in Ocala, Florida on Monday, January 8. No further details concerning their capture are available at this time.

**FBI Tampa Field Office**



[X Repost by @russvought, 01/06/24, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

**December 2023: Vought Reposted Center For Renewing America's Post About Steve Friend's Article Claiming The "Weaponization Of The FBI" Includes "Anti-Conservative & Anti-Christian Biases":**

↶ Russ Vought reposted



**Center for Renewing America** @amrenewctr · Dec 12, 2023

🚩 FBI whistleblower @RealStevefriend BREAKS DOWN the weaponization of the FBI...

1. Prioritization of Domestic Intelligence Collection
2. Bureaucratic Capture
3. Anti-Conservative & Anti-Christian Biases

MORE:



From americarenewing.com

[X Repost by @russvought, 12/12/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

## **Russ Vought’s Far-Right Rhetoric Includes Calling Islam A “Deficient Theology,” Spreading Jan. 6 Insurrection Conspiracy Theories, And Echoing A Claim That Diversity Is A “Grave Mistake.”**

**Vought’s Long Right-Wing History—Which Includes Demeaning Islam As A “Deficient Theology” And Lambasting Critical Race Theory As “Divisive, Anti-American Propaganda”—Extended Throughout The Trump Administration And Into The Transition, When He Pursued A Multi-Pronged Strategy To Undermine The Biden Administration.**

**Vought Has A Long History Of Incendiary Rhetoric That Has Deeply Demeaned Islam, Pushed Right-Wing Extremism, And Called Critical Race Theory “Divisive, Anti-American Propaganda.”**

**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](#)]

**January 2016: Russ Vought Wrote “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, [6/5/17](#)]

- **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, [1/17/16](#)]
- **Vought Said He Was “Proud” Of His Alma Mater For Firing Professor “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, [1/17/16](#)]
- **Vought: “[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, [1/17/16](#)]

**September 2020: Vought Authored A Memo “Attacking Critical Race Theory And Canceling Racial Sensitivity Programs, Which He Called ‘Divisive, Anti-American Propaganda.’”** “[Vought] was the author of a Sept. 4 memo attacking critical race theory and canceling racial sensitivity programs, which he called ‘divisive, anti-American propaganda.’” [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]

- **“The Issue ... Became Key To The Final Weeks Of Trump’s Race-Baiting Campaign.”** “The issue, apparently prompted by a segment Trump viewed on Fox News, became key to the final weeks of Trump’s race-baiting campaign.” [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]

## **Vought’s Hyperpartisanship Continued While He Was In The Trump White House And On His Way Out, Including Undercutting The Biden Administration On Pandemic And National Security Efforts.**

**Vought Was “Mastermind Of Trump’s Executive Order That Attempts To Reclassify Tens Of Thousands Of Civil Servants ... So They Can Be Easily Fired.”** “Vought was also the mastermind of Trump’s executive order that attempts to reclassify tens of thousands of civil servants who work in policy roles so they can be easily fired.” [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]

- **Vought “Proposed Reclassifying 88 Percent Of OMB Staff (425 People).”** “Vought has proposed reclassifying 88 percent of OMB staff (425 people).” [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]

**Vought Was A “Key Figure” In Trump’s Attempt To Pressure Ukraine Into Investigating Joe Biden During The 2020 Election Cycle.** “[Vought] was a key figure in the Ukraine imbroglio, freezing military aid to the country as Trump pushed for Ukraine’s president to announce a probe of Joe and Hunter Biden and the Democrats.” [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]

- **Vought Froze Military Aid To Ukraine “As Trump Pushed For Ukraine’s President To Announce A Probe” Of Biden’s Family.** “He was a key figure in the Ukraine imbroglio, freezing military aid to the country as Trump pushed for Ukraine’s president to announce a probe of Joe and Hunter Biden and the Democrats.” [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]
- **Government Accountability Office Found Vought’s Budget Freeze “Violated The Impoundment Control Act.”** “The Government Accountability Office determined the budgetary freeze violated the Impoundment Control Act.” [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]

**Vought “Blocked Civil Servants At OMB From Cooperating With The Biden Transition, Denying President-Elect Joe Biden The Policy Analysis And Budget-Preparation Assistance Given To Previous President-Elects, Including ... Trump Himself.”** “He has blocked civil servants at OMB from cooperating with the Biden transition, denying President-elect Joe Biden the policy analysis and budget-preparation assistance given to previous presidents-elect, including Barack Obama and Trump himself.” [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]

- **“Transition Figures Warn That It Will Likely Delay And Hamper Economic And Pandemic Relief And National Security Preparation.”** “Transition figures warn that it will likely delay and hamper economic and pandemic relief and national security preparation (the Pentagon is the other key agency resisting transition cooperation with the incoming administration).” [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]
- **“Vought Is Intentionally Botching The Transition, Without Regard For The Dire Consequences Americans Could Suffer.”** [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]
- **“This Is What Happens When You Put An Arsonist In Charge Of The Fire Department.”** [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]
- **Washington Post HEADLINE: “Opinion: Meet The Trump Saboteur In Charge Of Undermining Biden—And America”** [Washington Post, Opinion, [12/31/20](#)]

**December 31, 2020: Vought Wrote To Biden Transition Team Saying, “What We Have Not Done And Will Not Do Is Use Current OMB Staff To Write The [Transition Team’s] Legislative Policy Proposals To Dismantle This Administration’s Work.”** [Office of Management and Budget, Vought letter to Ted Kaufman, via Wayback Machine, [12/31/20](#)]

- **“OMB Staff Are Working On This Administration’s Policies And Will Do So Until This Administration’s Final Day In Office.”** [Office of Management and Budget, Vought letter to Ted Kaufman, via Wayback Machine, [12/31/20](#)]
- **“Redirecting Staff And Resources To Draft Your Team’s Budget Proposals Is Not An OMB Transition Responsibility.”** [Office of Management and Budget, Vought letter to Ted Kaufman, via Wayback Machine, [12/31/20](#)]

- **Vought: “OMB Will Not Participate In Developing Policies That Will Weaken Border Security, Dismantle The President’s Deregulatory Successes, And Draft Budgets That Will Bankrupt America.”** [Office of Management and Budget, Vought letter to Ted Kaufman, via Wayback Machine, [12/31/20](#)]

**Vought Was “At The Center Of The First Trump Impeachment” For His Role In Implementing The White House’s Freeze On Ukrainian Aid, Widely Seen As An Attempt To Pressure The Country To Investigate Trump Campaign Opponent Joe Biden.**

**Vought Was “At The Center Of The First Trump Impeachment” For Implementing A Freeze On Aid To Ukraine.** “Vought was a polarizing figure long before the current debt limit fight. His tenure in the Trump administration was marked by controversy over his past incendiary comments about Muslims and a decision to implement a freeze on aid to Ukraine that put him at the center of the first Trump impeachment.” [The Washington Post, [06/07/23](#)]

- **Trump’s Campaign “Aimed To Force Ukraine To Conduct Investigations That Could Help Mr. Trump Politically,” Including Into Then-Presidential Candidate Joe Biden.** “The Democratic-led inquiry into Mr. Trump’s dealings with Ukraine this spring and summer established that the president was actively involved in parallel efforts — both secretive and highly unusual — to bring pressure on a country he viewed with suspicion, if not disdain. One campaign, spearheaded by Rudolph W. Giuliani, the president’s personal lawyer, aimed to force Ukraine to conduct investigations that could help Mr. Trump politically, including one focused on a potential Democratic 2020 rival, former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr.” [The New York Times, [12/29/19](#)]

**Pentagon Officials “Watched With Growing Alarm” As Vought And Other Trump Officials Moved To Execute The Freeze On Ukrainian Military Aid.** “The four top political appointees helping Mr. Mulvaney execute the hold — Mr. Vought, Mr. Blair, Mr. Duffey and Mark Paoletta, the budget office’s top lawyer — all had extensive experience in either congressional budget politics or Republican and conservative causes. Their efforts would cause tension and at times conflict between officials at the budget office and the Pentagon, some of whom watched with growing alarm.” [The New York Times, [12/29/19](#)]

**Vought Was “Prepared To Block Requests For Information From House Democrats” About The Freeze, Saying, “We Will Not Be Participating In A Sham Process That’s Designed To Relitigate The Last Election.”** “OMB’s acting director Russell Vought made it clear Wednesday that he’s prepared to block requests for information from House Democrats, in line with the White House position. ‘We will not be participating in a sham process that’s designed to relitigate the last election,’ Vought said on Fox News.” [CNN, [10/10/19](#)]

**Vought “Dodged The Questions And Offered Up A Non-Response” When Asked If There Was An OMB Paper Trail To Document How It Was Spending Congressionally-Appropriated Funds.** “In this case, career budget officials raised concerns about signing the documents because they believed such a move may have run afoul of laws requiring OMB to spend money as it is appropriated by Congress, according to a congressional aide. [...] Asked repeatedly Wednesday whether a paper trail exists at OMB, Vought dodged the questions and offered up a non-response instead. ‘OMB continues to do the job that is statutorily required to manage the people’s money in a way that’s consistent with the law and on behalf of the priorities of the President,’ Vought told Fox, ‘there’s no question about that.’” [CNN, [10/10/19](#)]

**Vought Was Criticized For “Stonewalling Congressional Oversight Demands,” Including Defying A Subpoena Requesting Information About The Freeze On Ukrainian Aid.** “Democrats have criticized Vought for stonewalling congressional oversight demands, and last year he defied a subpoena after refusing to answer

questions about the administration's decision to freeze hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid to Ukraine last summer. That decision prompted House Democrats to launch an impeachment inquiry into whether President Donald Trump leveraged the aid for political favors. But Vought has maintained that the Ukraine aid freeze was part of a broader foreign aid review, not a quid pro quo." [Politico, [07/20/20](#)]

**At The Same Time, Vought Was Attempting To Cut As Much As \$4 Billion From The Foreign Aid Budget, Which Then House Foreign Affairs Eliot Engel Called “Astounding” “Contempt For Congress.”** “Complicating matters, another budget battle was escalating. Mr. Vought was attempting to impose cuts of as much as \$4 billion on the nation’s overall foreign aid budget. It was an entirely separate initiative from the Ukraine freeze, and was quickly abandoned, but helped the White House establish that its concern about aid was not limited to Ukraine.” [The New York Times, [12/29/19](#)]

- **House Foreign Affairs Chairman Eliot Engle Said Of The Proposed Cuts, “This Administration’s Contempt For Congress Is Astounding,” Adding That The Existing Foreign Assistance Funding Was Congressionally-Passed Law.** “The Trump administration has ordered the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development to freeze much of the remaining money for foreign aid this year, in a move that suggests the funding could be cut altogether. The decision, issued in a letter by the Office of Management and Budget, covers a broad range of foreign aid that Congress had already approved. It halted, as of Saturday, the agencies’ ability to distribute what the decision’s critics estimated to be \$2 billion to \$4 billion of funding. [...] ‘This administration’s contempt for Congress is astounding,’ Representative Eliot L. Engel, Democrat of New York and chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said in a statement on Wednesday. ‘When Congress decides how much we spend on foreign assistance, it isn’t a suggestion. It’s the law, backed up by the Constitution.’” [The New York Times, [08/07/19](#)]
- **Before His 2020 Confirmation As OMB Director, Vought Had Two “Failed” Attempts To Block Foreign Aid While Acting OMB Director.** “The Senate confirmed Russ Vought to lead the Office of Management and Budget on Monday, more than a year after he was tapped as interim director of the agency. Vought’s tenure as acting OMB director has drawn bipartisan scrutiny, including from Republicans who have opposed two failed attempts by the administration to yank back billions in foreign aid.” [Politico, [07/20/20](#)]

## **Vought Is “Proud” To Have Been A Lincoln Fellow At The Claremont Institute, “The Nerve Center Of The American Right” That “Made The Intellectual Case For Trump.”**

**August 2023: Russ Vought Wrote “Proud To Be A Claremont Lincoln Fellow,” Referring To A Fellowship From The Claremont Institute, “The Nerve Center Of The American Right” That “Made The Intellectual Case For Trump”:**



**Russ Vought**  @russvought · Aug 12, 2023

Proud to be a Claremont Lincoln fellow. 

[X post by @russvought, 08/12/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

- **The Claremont Institute Offers Lincoln Fellowships To “Patriotic Young Officials.”** “Lincoln Fellowships are offered to patriotic young professionals including, but not limited to, employees of the United States government and state governments, public policy research institutions, and print and broadcast media.” [The Claremont Institute, accessed [12/14/23](#)]
- **The Claremont Institute, Which “Made The Intellectual Case For Trump,” Has Become A “Nerve Center Of The American Right.”** “How the Claremont Institute Became a Nerve Center of the

American Right [...] They made the intellectual case for Trump. Now they believe the country is in a cultural civil war.” [The New York Times, [08/03/22](#)]


- **Vought’s Lincoln Fellowship Was In 2011.** [The Claremont Institute, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

**Vought Has Helped To Spread Jan. 6 Conspiracy Theories, Lifting Up Claims That Leading Insurrectionist Ray Epps Was A Federal Agent And Warning That Federal Law Enforcement Will Charge Republicans As Terrorists.**

**Vought Has Amplified Conspiracy Theorists’ Claims That Jan. 6 Participant Ray Epps Was A Federal Agent Who Helped Instigate The Insurrection.**

January 2024: Russ Vought Reposted A Post By Sean Davis, Co-Founder Of The Federalist, Suggesting That January 6 Participant Ray Epps—Who Conspiracy Theorists Believe “Helped Instigate” The Insurrection—Was A Federal Agent:


↻ Russ Vought reposted

 **Sean Davis** ✓ @seanmdav · Jan 9 ...

The only guy who is on camera telling people to storm the Capitol on J6 and who got zero jail time for it is definitely not a fed.

**PM. The Post Millennial** 🏆 @TPostMillennial · Jan 9

Ray Epps has been sentenced to 1 year probation, \$500 fine after telling J6ers “we need to go into the Capitol”



1:07

[X Repost by @russvought, 01/09/24, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

- **Sean Davis Is The CEO And Co-Founder Of The Federalist.** [The Federalist, accessed [03/19/24](#)]
- **Conspiracy Theorists Believed Ray Epps Was “A Federal Informant Who Helped Instigate” The January 6 Insurrection.** “Prominent Republicans — including former President Donald J. Trump — have for months promoted a conspiracy theory that an Arizona man named Ray Epps was a federal informant who helped to instigate the attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.” [The New York Times, [05/05/22](#)]



**April 2023: Russ Vought Liked A Post By Mike Cernovich—A “Right-Wing Activist” Known For Spreading The Pizzagate Conspiracy Theory—Which Raised Suspicions About Ray Epps, Sarcastically Saying “Nothing Sketchy At All About The Pipeline From Suspected Insurrectionist To Victim Of Right Wing Conspiracy Theories”:**



[Liked Post by @russvought, 04/21/23, accessed [03/18/24](#)]

- **Mike Cernovich Is “A Right-Wing Activist Who Gained Notoriety For Promoting The ‘Pizzagate’ Conspiracy Theory.”** “Later, Musk responded to a tweet by Mike Cernovich, a right-wing activist who gained notoriety for promoting the ‘pizzagate’ conspiracy theory.” [Business Insider, [04/27/22](#)]

**Nov. 2023: Vought Wrote “Wake Up GOP. Some Day It Will Be You,” While Sharing A Post About A Jan. 6 Defendant Whose Sentence Was Enhanced To Include Terrorism Charges.**

**November 2023: Russ Vought Shared A Post Defending A Jan. 6 Defendant Whose Sentence Was Enhanced To Include Terrorism Charges, Writing, “Wake Up GOP. Some Day It Will Be You”:**



**Russ Vought** @russvought · Nov 18, 2023

...

Unreal. Wake up GOP. Some day it will be you & you will hope any remaining advocates won't be fearful of a government shutdown.

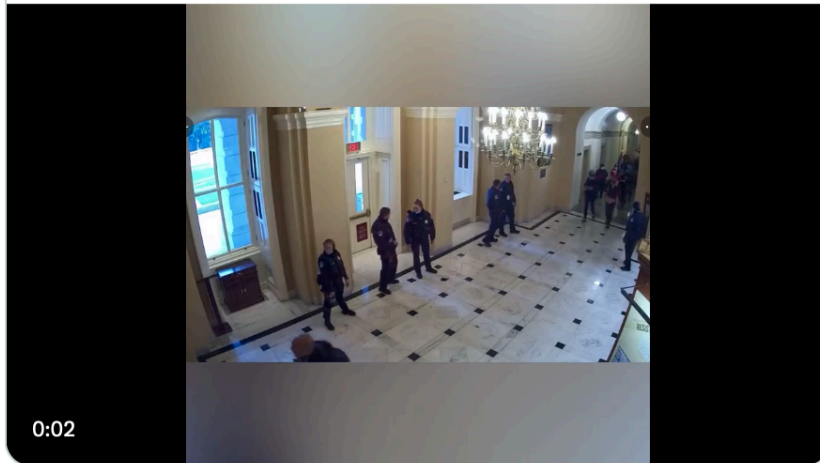


**Brandon Straka** @BrandonStraka · Nov 18, 2023

Newly released footage of Matthew Perna (seen in red sweatshirt) shows Matthew walking calmly in the Capitol shooting video.

Matthew pled guilty to initial charges, believing he may face 6-12 months in prison. ...

[Show more](#)



[X post by @russvought, 11/18/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

- **The Original Post By Insurrection Participant Brandon Straka Claimed That Matthew Perna, Another Insurrection Participant, Committed Suicide After The Justice Department Sought To Increase His Sentencing.** “Newly released footage of Matthew Perna (seen in red sweatshirt) shows Matthew walking calmly in the Capitol shooting video. Matthew pled guilty to initial charges, believing he may face 6-12 months in prison. Only after pleading guilty did the DOJ inform Matthew that they would seek a TERRORISM enhancement to his sentencing, which would raise his sentence to a potential 9 years in federal prison. 4 days after receiving news that the DOJ would push for this sentencing enhancement, Matthew went into his garage, put a rope around his neck, and hung himself.” [X Post by @BrandonStraka, 11/18/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]
- **Brandon Straka Was Convicted “After Pleading Guilty To Disorderly Conduct For Being Part Of The Mob Outside The Capitol.”** “Brandon Straka, who led the ‘Walk Away’ campaign in 2020 that encouraged liberals to abandon the Democratic Party, served house arrest after pleading guilty to disorderly conduct for being part of the mob outside the Capitol, but now he’s among many participants who were convicted for their roles who claim to be political prisoners, reported Mother Jones.” [Raw Story, [01/17/24](#)]

**Mid-2023: Vought Called For A 24% Cut To End “The Weaponization Of The FBI” And Called For Ending The Justice Department’s Independence, Calling It “Ground Zero For The Weaponization Of Government.”**

**July 2023: Russ Vought Called For A 24% Cut To The FBI While Saying, “Ending The Weaponization Of The FBI Means Defunding The Worst Areas Of Corruption”:**



**Russ Vought** ✓  
@russvought



Ending the weaponization of the FBI means defunding the worst areas of corruption & the focus on intelligence that led it away from actual law enforcement. This first step must be accomplished with a 24% cut this year to the FBI. [@amrenewctr](#)'s latest 📌



From [americarenewing.com](http://americarenewing.com)

11:48 AM · Jul 25, 2023 · 5,540 Views

[X post by @russvought, 07/25/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

**June 2023: Russ Vought Called For Ending The Department Of Justice's Independence From The President, Saying The DOJ Is "Ground Zero For The Weaponization Of Government... [It] Is Not Independent, And We Will Make Sure That Is A Governing Doctrine";**



Center for Renewing America ✓

@amrenewctr



.@RussVought lays out a paradigm-shifting rationale to ERASE the DOJ's independence from the President

“The Department of Justice is ground zero for the weaponization of government... [it] is not independent, and we will make sure that is a governing doctrine.”



11:15 AM · Jun 15, 2023 · 2,314 Views

[X post by @amrenewctr, 06/15/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

**Vought’s Online Christian Nationalism Includes Claiming Both Parties Have Pushed “A Religion Of Secularism” That “Cannot Undergird A Healthy Society,” Calling For “Political Combat” Against Christians’ Opponents, And Endorsing A View That It Was A “Grave Mistake” To Allow Cultural, Religious, And Ideological Diversity.**

**Vought Complained That Both Political Party Establishments Advanced “A Religion Of Secularism,” Which He Said “Cannot Undergird A Healthy Society.”**

October 2023: Vought Wrote “The Establishment Of Both Parties Have Wanted Instead A Religion Of Secularism That Cannot Undergird A Healthy Society” While Sharing A Video Of Steve Bannon Saying “The Establishment” Fears “Getting Back To The Biblical World View That Founded This Nation”:



**Russ Vought** ✓ @russvought · Oct 27, 2023



So true. The establishment of both parties have wanted instead a religion of secularism that cannot undergird a healthy society.



**Jayne Zirkle** ✓ @JayneZirkle · Oct 27, 2023

Bannon: What The Establishment Fears Most Is Getting Back To The Biblical World View That Founded This Nation



[X post by @russvought, 10/27/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

## **Vought Said “Christians Need An Ethical Category For Political Combat As They Have For Military Combat,” Calling His Opponents “Combatants.”**

**August 2023: Russ Vought Posted, “Christians Need An Ethical Category For Political Combat As They Have For Military Combat,” Adding That Such A Code “Does Require Some Recognition Of When You Are Dealing With Combatants”:**



**Russ Vought** ✓  
@russvought



Christians need an ethical category for political combat as they have for military combat. Christians can be on opposite sides of believers and nonbelievers in war & we don’t charge them at every turn with being either quarrelsome or refusing to turn the other cheek. Nor does it mean anything goes but it does require some recognition of when you are dealing with combatants.

8:16 AM · Aug 7, 2023 · 12K Views

[X post by @russvought, 08/07/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

## **Vought Wrote, “Ya Think?” While Sharing Henry Kissinger’s Claim That “It Was A Grave Mistake To Let In So Many People Of Totally Different Culture[s] And Religion[s] And Concepts.”**

**October 2023: Russ Vought Wrote “Ya Think?” While Sharing A Post About Henry Kissinger Saying “It Was A Grave Mistake To Let In So Many People Of Totally Different Culture And Religion And Concepts”:**



[X post by @russvought, 10/12/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

**Vought Reposted A Claim That LGBTQ+ Pride Was “The New State Religion.”**

**June 2023: Russ Vought Reposted A Photo Of The LGBTQ+ Pride Flag On The White House That Said, “All Hail, The New State Religion”:**

↶ Russ Vought reposted



**Kingsley Wilson** @KingsleyCortes · Jun 10, 2023

All hail, the new State religion


...





[X repost by @russvought, 06/10/23, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

**Vought Has Liked Posts Claiming That The “Left Wants To Ban Christians,” Urging Christians To Be Christian Nationalists And To “Take The Land,”**

**February 2024: Russ Vought Liked A Post By Election Conspiracy Theorist Tom Fitton Saying The “Left Wants To Ban Christians” While Sharing A Video Of Vought Claiming Liberals Are “Trying To Scare Christians From Being Engaged In The Political Process”:**

← **Russ Vought**  2,835 Likes **Follow**

 **Tom Fitton**  @TomFitton · Feb 21  
Left wants to ban Christians....

 **Center for Renewing America**  @amrenewctr · Feb 21  
WATCH: CRA President @RussVought defends America’s Christian heritage and exposes the Radical Left’s anti-Christian bigotry.

“They’re trying to scare Christians across the country from being engaged in the political process... we were meant to be a Christian ... [Show more](#)




[Liked Post by @russvought, 02/21/24, accessed [03/18/24](#)]

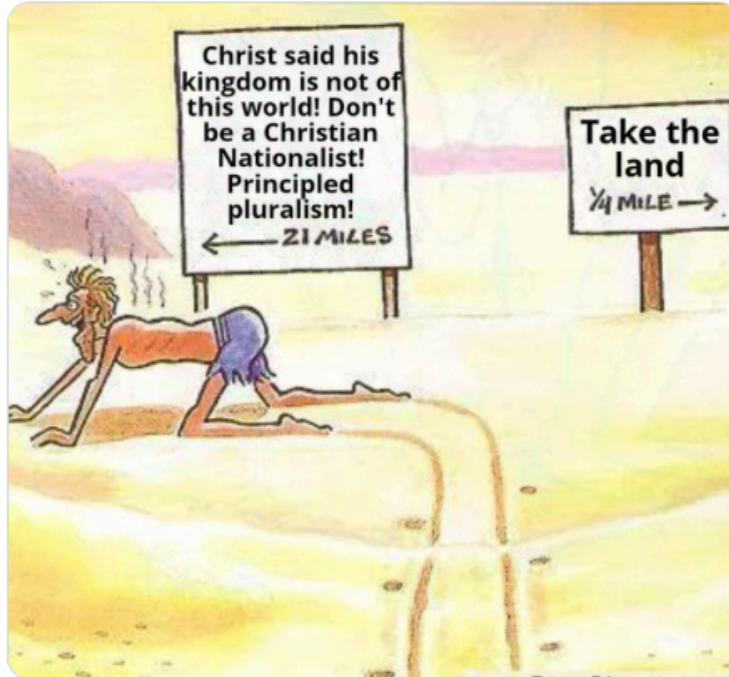
- **Tom Fitton Is “A Staunch Election Denier Who Promoted Conspiracy Theories About Dominion Voting Systems” And Who Vocally Criticized Robert Mueller’s Probe Into Russian Election Interference.** “His actions have mirrored the advice of Fitton – a staunch election denier who promoted conspiracy theories about Dominion Voting Systems and Smartmatic after the 2020 election, according to Media Matters. Fitton entered Trump’s inner circle after he caught the former president’s attention, who viewed him as one of the most effective critics of the Mueller probe from his frequent appearances on Fox News, Politico reported.” [Salon, [06/17/23](#)]

**April 2023: Russ Vought Liked A Post By A Self-Described Christian Nationalist Urging Christians To “Take The Land,” As Opposed To Arguments That “Christ Said His Kingdom Is Not Of This World! Don’t Be A Christian Nationalist! Principled Pluralism!”:**



← **Russ Vought** ✓  
2,834 Likes Follow

 **Mostly Peaceful Jawbone Enthusiast** ✓ @RettCopp · Apr 6, 2023 ...



[Liked Post by @russvought, 04/06/23, accessed [03/18/24](#)]

- **@RettCopp** Is A Self-Described “Christian Nationalist”:

 **Mostly Peaceful Jawbone Enthusiast**  ✓  
@RettCopp

Husband & father of 4. Blue-collar family man. Friendly neighborhood Christian Nationalist. Christian Nation gooder than transing kids.

[X Profile for @RettCopp, accessed [03/19/24](#)]

## Throughout His Career, Russ Vought Has Been Tied To Multiple Attempts To Cut Social Security, Medicare, And Medicaid

Throughout His Time At OMB, Russ Vought Worked With The Trump Administration Proposing Massive Cuts To Medicare, Social Security, And Medicaid.

While Russ Vought Was Deputy Director Of The Office Of Management And Budget, President Trump Proposed Cutting Medicare And Medicaid By \$554 Billion And \$250 Billion, Respectively, Over The Next Ten Years.

**Russ Vought Held Senior Roles At Trump's Office Of Management And Budget From February 2019 To January 2021, Serving As Acting Director And Director From January 2019 To January 2021:**

Dates	Position	Employer
<a href="#">July 2020- Jan. 2021</a>	Director	Office of Management and Budget
<a href="#">Jan. 2019-July 2020</a>	Acting Director	Office of Management and Budget
<a href="#">Feb. 2018-Jan.2019</a>	Deputy Director	Office of Management and Budget

**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 Early 2019, When Vought Was Acting OMB Director, President Trump Proposed Cutting Medicaid By \$1.5 Trillion, Medicare By \$845 Billion, And Social Security By \$25 Billion Over The Next Decade.**

**March 2019: Vox Reported That Over The Next Decade, President Trump's 2020 Budget Proposal Would Cut Medicaid Spending By \$1.5 Trillion, 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](#)]
- **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](#)]

**Vought Began Acting As OMB's Acting Director In January 2019.** "Vought has been serving as OMB's acting director since January 2019, when Mick Mulvaney departed to step in as Trump's acting chief of staff, a role that has since ended, with Mulvaney now serving as U.S. special envoy to Northern Ireland." [WBUR, [03/18/20](#)]

## **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 Proposed Reducing 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](#)]

**Vought Began Acting As OMB's Acting Director In January 2019.** "Vought has been serving as OMB's acting director since January 2019, when Mick Mulvaney departed to step in as Trump's acting chief of staff, a role that has since ended, with Mulvaney now serving as U.S. special envoy to Northern Ireland." [WBUR, [03/18/20](#)]

**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](#)]