

Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson
Nominations Hearing for Russell “Russ” Vought to be Director of the Office of
Management and Budget and Mr. Craig Edward Leen to be the Inspector General of the
Office of Personnel Management
June 2, 2020

As prepared for delivery:

Today, the Committee will consider the nominations of Mr. Russell “Russ” Vought, nominated to be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Mr. Craig Leen, nominated to be the Inspector General of the Office of Personnel Management.

Director, Office of Management and Budget

The Office of Management and Budget has a broad mission to assist the president in the development and execution of his or her policies and programs. While OMB is perhaps best known for its role in overseeing the coordination, production, and administration of the president’s annual budget, the Office is also responsible for coordinating the president’s legislative agenda, regulatory and information policy, and management of the Executive Branch. The OMB Director is a member of the president’s cabinet and oversees a staff of close to 500 employees.

Inspector General, Office of Personnel Management

The Inspector General of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) audits and investigates waste, fraud, and abuse. OPM issues policy guidance and regulations governing the federal civilian workforce and manages the health and retirement benefits offered to the millions of current and former employees, and their families. As it continues to struggle to recover from the catastrophic 2015 cybersecurity breach, OPM is undergoing a radical reorganization: the National Background Investigations Bureau, which accounted for over one-third of OPM’s employees, was transferred to the Department of Defense late last year; and there are serious questions about whether OPM is still fit to serve a workforce so fundamentally different from when it was established in 1979.

Russell “Russ” Vought, OMB Director Nominee

Mr. Vought is the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget, a position he has held since January 2019. In February 2018, Mr. Vought was confirmed by the Senate as Deputy Director of OMB. Prior to his service at OMB, he worked as a congressional staffer to several members of Congress, including Rep. Jeb Hensarling, Senator Chuck Hagel, Senator Phil Gramm, and Senator Dan Coats; and eventually became the Policy Director for the House Republican Conference. Mr. Vought received his Juris Doctor from George Washington University Law School and his Bachelor of Arts from Wheaton College.

Craig Leen, OPM IG Nominee:

Mr. Leen is the Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs at the Department of Labor. Prior to federal government service, Mr. Leen served as the City Attorney for Coral Gables, Florida for six-and-a-half years. Before that, he was the Assistant County Attorney in Miami-Dade County and the Chief of the Federal Litigation Section. If confirmed, Mr. Leen would be only the second Senate-confirmed nominee to hold the position of Inspector General at the Office of Personnel Management since 1990. Mr. Leen received his Juris Doctor from Columbia University and his Bachelor of Arts from Georgetown University.