MEET
OUR FOUNDER

Russ Vought is President of the Center for Renewing America. Prior to founding the Center, he served as a member of President Trump's Cabinet and was responsible for overseeing the implementation of the President's policy, management, and deregulatory agendas across the Executive Branch.

He worked as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for nearly two years, first in an acting capacity and then as confirmed by the Senate. 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.

Before serving in the Trump Administration, Russ spent nearly 20 years working in Washington, D.C. with grassroots and public policy organizations.

He worked on Capitol Hill, serving as the Policy Director for the House Republican Conference, as the Executive Director of the Republican Study Committee (RSC), and as legislative assistant for U.S. Senator Phil Gramm.

Russ graduated with a BA from Wheaton College in 1998 and a JD from the George Washington University Law School in 2004. He lives in Virginia with his wife and two daughters.

"Russell Vought did a fabulous job in my Administration, and I have no doubt he will do a great job in continuing our quest to make America great again."

Donald J. Trump, 45th President of the United States
The Need for an American Renewal:
The conservative movement has served the country well as a home for thinkers and activists of a variety of persuasions. However, this coalition has failed to change America’s trajectory. Notwithstanding policy victories on tax policy, welfare, and the right to life in the last several decades, our efforts have largely failed to turn back the tide of progressive liberalism. The commanding heights of culture—the academy, the media, the entertainment industry, elite opinion, etc.—have only gotten stronger and bolder.

Donald Trump’s election was glaring evidence of a deep dissatisfaction with both conventional politicians and the Establishment—for their lack of mettle against the Left and their refusal to address many issues that fell outside of their conventional views of conservatism. In addition, President Trump’s dogged commitment to keeping his promises led to great adoration within his conservative base of supporters. Yet many Establishment voices have still not come to terms with the necessary corrective of the America First phenomenon. God, country, and community are at the heart of this agenda. These are the correctives the Center for Renewing America was built to champion, and our effectiveness in framing and winning the policy battles on these central issues will bring opportunity for renewal across our nation.
WE ARE CITIZENS FOR RENEWING AMERICA

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

OUR MISSION
To channel the momentum from big national cultural issue fights to advance conservative policies and create red state sanctuaries.

FOR GOD - FOR COUNTRY - FOR COMMUNITY
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Our Strategy

11:59 Policy Formation

Politicians In The Arena

Grassroots Leaders
EFFECTIVE MEDIA STRATEGY

CRA has an aggressive in-house media operation led by Rachel Semmel, a leading conservative strategist with over a decade of experience fighting the leftist media. Semmel’s experience in the Trump White House and record of successfully training movement conservatives empowered CRA to make an immediate impact across national media. In our first year, we secured over 150 radio and TV interviews for CRA President, Russ Vought. In addition to broadcast, our media team effectively worked to shape print and digital stories across mainstream and conservative outlets to insert an America First point of view and elevate cultural issues that would have otherwise gone uncovered.

FRAMING THE DEBATE

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A radical philosophy, rooted in Marxism, known as Critical Race Theory, views all of society through a racialized prism of identity groups, with minorities being the oppressed and white people serving as the oppressor. Proponents of this radical belief system have succeeded in pushing their ideology into nearly every facet of American society.

In only our first year, the Center for Renewing America became the leading conservative voice for defeating this far-left ideology, equipping millions of citizens with the information needed to stop this radical cultural revolution. Our “Combatting Critical Race Theory In Your Community” toolkit equipped parents and grassroots activists with the resources they needed to take on woke school boards and win. We released model legislation that equipped elected officials to implement policies banning CRT in states across the country, and we released a CRT glossary of terms to expose the Left’s efforts to hide and bury this belief system deep within school curriculums.
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**EXPOSING CRITICAL RACE THEORY**

August 2020
Under the direction of President Trump, the Office of Management and Budget Director, Russ Vought, and his staff begin drafting a proposal to ban CRT-related trainings throughout the federal government.

September 4, 2020
Director Vought releases OMB letter decrying CRT as divisive and anti-American and banning the philosophy being funded in executive branch agencies.

September 22, 2020
With the assistance of Director Vought, President Trump issues an Executive Order banning CRT and related divisive concepts in the federal government.

January 26, 2021
Russ Vought and team starts the Center for Renewing America and Citizens for Renewing America focused on elevating, framing, and winning critical cultural debates like CRT.

April 2021
Center for Renewing America and Citizens for Renewing America bring on seasoned staff with experience in campaigns, grassroots mobilization, and public policy to focus the fight against CRT and activate parents, teachers, and legislators across the country.

May 2021
Center for Renewing America works with Reps. Good and Bishop and Sens. Cruz and Cotton to develop legislation that would ban CRT in schools.

May 12, 2021
Russ Vought is asked by allies in Congress to take a central role in the messaging battle on CRT, participating in press conferences on Capitol Hill and driving the anti-CRT narrative on major media outlets.

June 4, 2021
Citizens for Renewing America equips activists nationwide with model language for states and school boards to ban CRT and related divisive concepts.

June 8, 2021
Citizens for Renewing America, through the work of Wade Miller and Michael Young, releases its CRT toolkit for grassroots activists to combat the philosophy in their communities.

June 25, 2021
Media Matters for America acknowledges that the model anti-CRT legislation published by Citizens for Renewing America is at the core of anti-CRT legislation filed in 22 states.

Summer 2021
Citizens for Renewing America is called upon to educate Members of Congress and their staff on CRT to equip them to strategically navigate and win the public debate.

Summer 2021
Citizens for Renewing America engages activists, school board members, and state legislators, to educate them on what CRT is and how to craft policies to combat it. This work contributed to making CRT the leading issue going into the fall of 2021.

July 28, 2021
CRA takes the fight to the Biden Administration, submitting a FOIA to uncover the ties between the Administration and the CRT group, the Abolitionist Teaching Network.

September 23, 2021
Michael Young and the Center for Renewing America release a glossary of 60+ CRT terms to equip parents to navigate the woke terminology being forced on their children and expose the Left’s attempt to hide CRT.

November, 2021
CRT becomes one of the leading issues at the ballot box in elections at all levels of government, with anti-CRT candidates scoring major victories in states across the country.
The sanctity of the ballot box is under a full-fledged assault by an entrenched political class in Washington hellbent on undermining the agency of its own citizens in service of perpetual power and refusing to discuss the scale of voter fraud in this country.

As political elites attempted to solidify policies that would expand voter fraud, we took action to protect the integrity of our elections, uphold the dignity of the vote, and fight back against every effort to undermine the representation our constitutional republic guarantees to its citizens. Through our primer, "H.R. 1 And The Permanency of Systemic Voter Fraud," we revealed the deception of the "For the People Act" and worked tirelessly with legislators on Capitol Hill to ensure it was defeated.

Both major political parties have used America's border as a political football. The failure to secure our border is intentional, stemming from the Left's deep desire to reshape the American electorate and a coordinated effort from various industries to obtain cheap labor at the expense of U.S. national security and safe communities.

After Biden's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Left began the mass importation of thousands of Afghans who did not share American cultural, political, or ideological commonalities, we provided strategic guidance to congressional offices on how and why to prioritize policies that benefited both Americans and the Afghans fleeing the return of the Taliban.

CRA also launched a major initiative to provide the legal foundation under the Constitution to declare the border crisis an "invasion" to allow state governments to secure the border themselves.

In recent years, Big Tech companies have risen to the top of the corporate and political power hierarchy in ways unimagined by previous generations. Our dependence on technology has enabled the very entities that control the on-line platforms to consolidate unprecedented power and influence. These monopolistic tech juggernauts have become political cudgels that wield the power of nation-states in service to a radical authoritarian worldview.

In 2021, we began taking strategic action to loosen the iron grip of the Big Tech oligarchy and ensure the American idea lives on for future generations. We provided a clear blueprint to congressional offices focused on repealing Section 230 of the "Communications Decency Act" and eliminating the immunity protecting Big Tech firms from their unlawful actions. For many, this document became the foundation for crafting messaging and policy solutions to combat this growing threat.

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In 2021, we refused to accept Americans being bullied into illegal mask and vaccine mandates, providing in-depth policy papers and messaging to equip elected officials as they fought back at the federal and state levels. We were proud to join Representatives Chip Roy and Lauren Boebert in challenging the Biden Administration’s devastating actions that sought to eliminate domestic energy production in the U.S., and we were relentless in opposing the radical Biden initiative to transform government known as Build Back Better, helping ensure its defeat.
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Human flourishing depends on healthy communities, and America’s strength has historically been its vast, vibrant civil society—families, households, civic organizations, churches, synagogues, and neighborhoods. These institutions are under an unprecedented attack. Communities are being ravaged by opioids and other dangerous drugs, and the safety of all citizens continues to be compromised by radicals seeking to both abolish the police and strip away the right to self-defense through authoritarian gun control measures. Parents are now battling woke ideologues infiltrating schools and a radical transgender movement that rejects fundamental truths about human biology.

We vehemently opposed the "Fairness For All Act" in the press and on the Hill through policy papers and messaging that exposed how the Left would use this legislation to pit Americans against one another, institutionalize fundamental untruths about basic human biology, and use the force of government to impose a radical reordering of civilization. We refused to stay silent as Congress sought to implement a policy that would require women to register for the draft, a decision that would sacrifice combat effectiveness in the name of “equity”. The Left will never relent in their pursuit of these types of societal poison, but these are the fights the Center for Renewing America was designed to take head-on, and we will not back down.
You may send contributions via mail to:
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Senior Fellow for National Security & Intelligence

MICHAEL YOUNG
Visiting Fellow

Center for Renewing America is a national, nonprofit organization whose mission is to renew an American consensus of a nation under God with unique interests worthy of defending that flow from its people, institutions, and history, where individuals' enjoyment of freedom is predicated on just laws and healthy communities.

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“You have to give the press confrontations. When you give them confrontations, you get attention; when you get attention, you can educate.” - Newt Gingrich