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**Statement Before the House Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch  
Appropriations**

**U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Inspector General, Fiscal Year  
2026 Budget Request**

**April 2, 2025**

**Christen Janell Stevenson  
Acting Inspector General**

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**Funding  
Request  
Summary**

Chairman Valadao, Ranking Member Espaillat, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to share with you the important work of the Office of Inspector General (OIG, Office) and our Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget request. Our request seeks a total funding of \$6,227,000, an overall net increase of \$455,000 (7.31%) above the Continuing Resolution annualized for FY 2025. This request encompasses our Audit and Advisory, Administration, and Training programs.

The elements of the request for additional funds are:

- \$395,000 due to changes in mandatory spending (e.g., the Speaker’s Pay Order Change, adjustments in the Personnel Base Adjustment-HEPCA and Personnel Base, the approved 2025 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), the projected COLA for FY 2026, and scheduled longevity step increases).
- \$60,000 for the purchase of equipment (e.g., laptops last upgraded in FY 2023).

**Organization  
History and  
Background**

The “*House Administrative Reform Resolution of 1992*” (House Resolution 423 of the 102nd Congress) established the Office of Inspector General for the House. Since the appointment of the first Inspector General, John Lainhart IV, in November 1993, this Office has worked closely with House Leadership, the Committee on House Administration (CHA), House Officers and Officials, and this Subcommittee to 1) identify risks to the legislative process and to the House, 2) improve services for Members and Committees, 3) identify and deter fraud, and 4) enhance the

operational effectiveness of the House and reduce inefficiencies and costs.

The Office offers audit services through its two audit divisions, in addition to forward-looking analysis and guidance through its management advisory services division. Our work is performed by a staff of experienced and dedicated professionals who possess at least a bachelor's or a more advanced degree, a minimum of one relevant professional certification, and extensive experience in both the public and/ or private sectors.

**Highlights from  
the Second  
Session of the  
118<sup>th</sup> Congress**

During the second session of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, the OIG completed eight reports across its diverse range of services, including our financial, performance, and information systems audit services, as well as our management advisory services. These reports focused on risks and enhancing efficiencies in areas such as 1) Member and House-wide support, services, and space, 2) Cybersecurity and Information Technology resilience, 3) Human capital, and 4) Fiscal compliance through the Financial Statement Audit.

Furthermore, the OIG offered various forms of support and advice to House Officers and Officials by participating in working groups that assessed risks and enhanced the overall efficiency of operations at the House.

The House Officers have worked with the OIG to mitigate risk by taking corrective actions to address open recommendations outlined in OIG reports. Information about outstanding recommendations is shared regularly with the House Officers and monthly with the CHA to help ensure that the risks identified in our audit reports are addressed in a timely and appropriate manner. Since the beginning of the second session of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, the House Officers have taken corrective actions to address 13 outstanding recommendations. The OIG has validated these corrective actions, and those audit recommendations are now closed.

**Focus for the  
119<sup>th</sup> Congress**

The OIG will continue to use a strategic, risk-based approach when planning and executing projects in its work plan. This approach prioritizes projects that address the highest risks to the House and those that address management challenges. The OIG will work more closely with House leadership, the CHA, and House Officers and Officials to ensure this prioritization aligns with the environment. This is especially

**Overview of  
the Budget  
Formulation  
Approach**

important given that the environment is changing and new challenges are constantly emerging, particularly in areas critical to the House, such as the legislative process, physical security, and cybersecurity.

The OIG will provide quality, timely, and objective information along with actionable recommendations that address risks and improve the overall efficiency of the House. The OIG will also continue to work with House Officers to address open recommendations that, when addressed, will further help mitigate risk to the House.

The OIG expects to be held accountable by the People, the House, and this Committee for our spending. We are always mindful that our funding comes from the People. Consistent with our record of sound fiscal stewardship, the OIG's budget request for FY 2026 has been formulated to fund our mission.

Accordingly, our request is based on our work plan and ensures that the OIG can promptly respond to special projects as needed. We use zero-based budgeting to identify program needs and to make realistic estimates for each program's execution.

Audit and Advisory Program

The OIG's audit and advisory services program provides objective, value-added information and advice to House Leadership, the CHA, and House Officers and Officials. These services cover a number of areas, including financial management, administrative operations, workplace matters (e.g., health, safety, and physical security), cybersecurity, and the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information systems.

Training and Development Program

House Rules state that the OIG conducts its work in a manner consistent with government-wide auditing standards. These standards require our staff to have specialized training. Accordingly, the OIG's training and development program ensures that our staff remains in compliance with government standards.

Additionally, investing in staff through training and coaching fosters a culture of integrity, excellence, and innovation—the OIG's core values—and helps the Office attract and retain highly skilled professionals in our competitive field. During the second

session of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, our staff attended 227 classes totaling 1,288 training hours at a cost of \$20,927. This demonstrates our commitment to staff development while reducing the need for and the cost of outside consultants.

#### Administration Program

The OIG Administration program provides comprehensive administrative and technical support to the audit and management advisory staff, as well as to OIG leadership. This program includes funding for OIG operations (e.g., equipment, maintenance agreements, enterprise computer software, licensing agreements, contractors, technical support).

The OIG takes considerate and deliberate steps to examine and, where possible, reduce costs without compromising the quality of the services we provide or our mission. This is achieved, in part, by using existing House-wide licenses and bulk purchase agreements, negotiating favorable pricing for contract purchases, and streamlining internal processes through automation. The focus on sound fiscal stewardship has enabled us to proactively release funds for reprogramming when our funding exceeds our projected spending.

### **Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request Details**

The OIG's FY 2026 budget request seeks a total funding of \$6,227,000. Our overall FY 2026 budget net request is \$455,000 (7.31%) over the Continuing Resolution annualized for FY 2025. Our FY 2026 request includes \$5,043,000 for mandatory items, \$3,000 in price level increases (inflation), \$1,291,000 for current program services, with a \$110,000 decrease in program changes.

Our gross request includes an increase of \$395,000 for mandatory items (e.g., COLA and merit increases) as well as \$60,000 for the purchase of equipment (e.g., laptops last upgraded in FY 2023).

Our programs' current and continuing services include funding for the annual audit of the House financial statements by an external certified public accounting firm; software licensing and support agreements; publications, resources, research services, guidance for audit, advisory, and investigative inquiry work; supplies and equipment; communications service plans; technical service support; staff training to remain in compliance with government audit standards and increase specialized, in-house knowledge; and when necessary, external specialized subject

matter experts to support a variety of engagements performed by our Office.

## **Conclusion**

Chairman Valadao, Ranking Member Espaillat, and the Members of this Subcommittee, thank you again for this opportunity to highlight the work of the OIG and its FY 2026 budget request.

Each year, the OIG looks forward to working with this Subcommittee, House Leadership, the Committee on House Administration, and House Officers and Officials to conduct relevant, risk-based projects that are unique to this environment.

Again, the OIG will continue to provide quality, timely, and objective information along with actionable recommendations that address risks and improve the overall efficiency of the House.

Please be assured that *the staff within the Office of Inspector General is committed to our mission and is honored to be of service to the House.*

Thank you for considering my testimony. I would be honored to answer any questions.