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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
2027 Budget Request**

March 17, 2026

**Christen Janell Stevenson
Inspector General**

**Statement Before the House Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
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**Funding
Request
Summary**

Chairman Valadao, Ranking Member Espaillat, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to present the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget request for the Office of Inspector General (OIG), U.S. House of Representatives. The OIG respectfully requests \$6,361,000 to support its oversight program and 25 authorized full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. This amount represents an increase of \$134,000 (2.15 percent) above the FY 2026 enacted level.

The requested increase primarily reflects mandatory personnel adjustments and targeted program needs necessary to sustain existing operations. The request includes:

- \$5,050,625 in mandatory personnel costs, including prorated cost-of-living adjustments, longevity increases, and meritorious step increases.
- \$17,000 in projected non-personnel price level increases.
- \$1,293,375 in program changes to support operational requirements, technology upgrades and replacements, and training needs.

This request does not include an increase in authorized staffing levels. Instead, it allows the OIG to continue to meet its statutory responsibilities in a risk-based, fiscally responsible manner while maintaining compliance with House Rules and government-wide auditing standards.

The OIG remains mindful that its funding derives from the American people and is committed to sound fiscal stewardship while providing independent, objective oversight of House operations.

**Organization
History and
Background**

The OIG was established by the House of Representatives in 1992 pursuant to the House Administrative Reform Resolution to conduct independent audits of House financial functions. Pursuant to House Rule II and subsequent revisions to the Rules of the House, the OIG provides audit and advisory services in a non-partisan manner, subject to the policy direction and oversight of the Committee on House Administration.

The OIG supports effective House governance by identifying risks, evaluating internal controls, conducting independent reviews, and providing recommendations that strengthen accountability, operational effectiveness, and stewardship of House resources. The Office conducts its work in accordance with government-wide auditing standards and applies a strategic, risk-based approach to prioritize engagements that address the most significant risks impacting House operations.

The OIG is staffed by experienced professionals with expertise in auditing, cybersecurity, information systems, and advisory services. Through its work, the Office helps improve transparency, efficiency, and integrity across House support functions and institutional operations.

**Highlights of
the First
Session of the
119th Congress**

During the first session of the 119th Congress, the OIG issued six reports from our audit and management advisory services. These reports focused on strengthening risk management and operational efficiency in areas including cybersecurity and information technology resilience; human capital and succession planning; and space utilization. In addition, the OIG completed five projects in areas, including data governance, system interconnections, and the childcare center's revolving fund.

The OIG remains committed to working with House Officers and Officials to reduce identified risks and improve internal controls. Accordingly, during the first session of the 119th Congress, the House Officers closed, and we validated 16 outstanding audit recommendations.

During this period, the OIG also developed and enhanced its System of Quality Management to align with the Government Accountability Office's 2024 revisions to Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, reinforcing its commitment to high-quality, independent oversight and continuous improvement.

The OIG continued to employ a strategic, risk-based approach to engagement planning, prioritizing projects that address enterprise-level risks and management challenges.

**Focus for the
Second Session
of the 119th
Congress**

In the second session of the 119th Congress, the OIG will continue to apply a deliberate, risk-based approach to engagement planning and execution. The Office will prioritize projects that address evolving risks across critical areas of House operations, including cybersecurity, financial management, continuity of operations, human capital, and the integrity of administrative processes.

The Office will also continue to monitor the implementation of outstanding recommendations and work collaboratively with House Officers and Officials to ensure corrective actions are taken in a timely and effective manner.

As new technologies, operational challenges, and governance risks emerge, the OIG remains committed to providing timely, objective, and actionable recommendations that enhance accountability, transparency, and stewardship of House resources.

**Budget
Formulation
Approach**

The OIG formulates its budget using a zero-based budgeting approach to ensure that each program requirement is evaluated annually and aligned with mission priorities. The FY 2027 request reflects a disciplined assessment of mandatory personnel costs, projected inflationary adjustments, and operational requirements necessary to sustain existing services.

The OIG's budget is structured to support its three recurring programs: Audit and Advisory Program; Administration and General Operations Program; and Training and Personnel Development. The request does not include an increase in authorized staffing levels and is primarily driven by mandatory personnel adjustments and technology upgrades.

Consistent with its commitment to fiscal stewardship, the OIG continues to examine opportunities to contain costs, leverage existing House-wide resources, and prioritize expenditures that directly support risk-based oversight activities.

Audit and Advisory Program

The Audit and Advisory Program supports the OIG's core mission by providing independent audit, advisory, and investigative services focused on cybersecurity, financial accountability, operational effectiveness, and internal controls. Engagements are prioritized using a risk-based approach.

The FY 2027 request supports audit personnel, the annual independent audit of the House Financial Statements, required

quality assurance activities, recurring software and research subscriptions, and technology upgrades. The request primarily reflects mandatory personnel adjustments and contractual obligations necessary to sustain audit coverage and compliance with government-wide standards.

Reductions in this program would limit the scope and frequency of oversight engagements and increase institutional risk.

Administration and General Operations Program

The Administration and General Operations Program provides administrative, budgetary, procurement, and information technology support necessary to sustain OIG operations.

The FY 2027 request includes salaries for support staff, enterprise software licenses, communications services, and planned technology upgrades and equipment replacements. These investments ensure operational continuity, cybersecurity resilience, and alignment with House infrastructure requirements.

Delays in funding core support services or technology replacements would increase cybersecurity and operational risk.

Training and Development Program

The Training and Development Program supports required continuing professional education and professional development activities necessary to maintain compliance with government auditing standards. This program funds training materials and instructional courses that support staff proficiency in auditing, cybersecurity, information technology, internal controls, and emerging risks.

The FY 2027 request reflects projected inflationary adjustments and supports compliance with mandatory continuing education requirements, including those associated with the 2024 Yellow Book revisions.

Insufficient funding for required training resources would impact the OIG's ability to maintain compliance with House Rules II and applicable auditing standards.

**Fiscal Year
2027 Budget
Request
Details**

For FY 2027, the OIG requests \$6,361,000, an increase of \$134,000 (2.15 percent) above the FY 2026 enacted level.

The request consists of:

- \$5,050,625 in mandatory personnel costs, including annualized and prorated cost-of-living adjustments, longevity increases, and meritorious step increases.
- \$17,000 in non-personnel price level increases.
- \$1,293,375 for program requirements, including current services and targeted program adjustments.

The overall increase is primarily driven by mandatory personnel adjustments necessary to sustain existing staffing levels (\$7,489), non-personnel price level increases associated with inflation (\$14,000), and program adjustments totaling \$112,511 to support contractual obligations, technology upgrades and replacements, and required professional development.

The OIG continues to evaluate expenditures annually through a zero-based budgeting process to ensure resources are aligned with mission priorities and institutional risk. The FY 2027 request represents the minimum funding necessary to sustain independent oversight activities at current levels.

Conclusion

The OIG's FY 2027 budget request reflects a careful balance between fiscal restraint and the responsibility to provide independent, objective, and non-partisan oversight of House operations. The slight increase requested is largely due to mandatory personnel adjustments and essential operational needs to carry out our mission.

The OIG appreciates the Subcommittee's ongoing support of independent oversight and its dedication to responsible management of House resources. Effective oversight is enhanced by a collaborative partnership between the OIG and this Subcommittee.

The OIG remains committed to identifying risks, strengthening internal controls, and providing objective, actionable recommendations that enhance accountability and promote public trust in the stewardship of House resources. This concludes my written statement. I would be pleased to respond to any questions the Subcommittee may have.