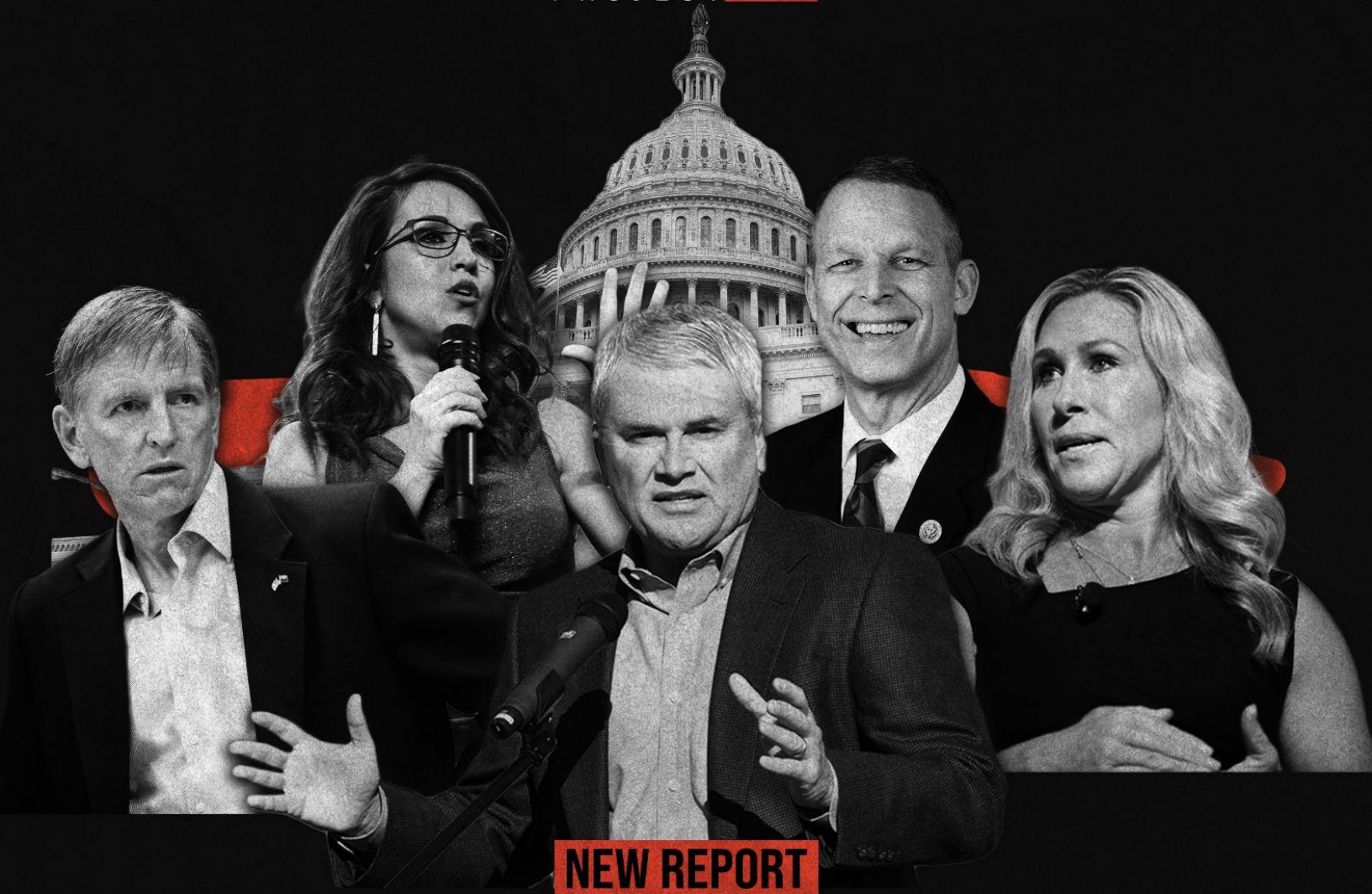


CONGRESSIONAL
INTEGRITY 
PROJECT 



NEW REPORT

MEET THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERREACH

**MAGA Conspiracy Theorists, Election Deniers
and Subpoena Defiers Dominate the New
House Oversight Committee**

January 2023

REPORT: MEET THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERREACH

MAGA Conspiracy Theorists, Election Deniers and Subpoena Defiers Dominate the New House Oversight Committee

Today, the GOP House steering committee hand-picked a slate of Trump loyalists and MAGA conspiracy theorists to sit on one of the most powerful committees in Congress: the House Oversight Committee, led by none other than James Comer. These newcomers have spent the past two years spreading outright lies, effectively giving voice to fringe, anti-democratic movements. They will only continue the dirty work of Donald Trump in an effort to bring more power for themselves, harm President Biden, and distract from their repeated failures to address the issues that affect Americans the most.

Some of The Most Extreme MAGA Republicans Are Joining the Powerful House Oversight Committee. In August 2022, months before taking control of the House of Representatives, Rep. James Comer was already planning on launching partisan investigations against his political enemies. Comer declared that his priority was to ensure the oversight panel's work remained "[credible](#)." Instead of selecting Committee members with integrity and a commitment to fact-based investigations, however, Comer has selected some of the most fringe figures in the House to lead the work of his Oversight Committee:

- Georgia [extremist](#) **Marjorie Taylor Greene** (R-GA) is among the most [scandal-laden](#), controversial members of Congress; she had been [barred from committee assignments](#) for violent incitement and spreading disinformation over the past two years. Her lies and conspiracies are nearly endless. She [relentlessly](#) spread lies about the 2020 election being "stolen" and was a [key figure](#) working in Congress to overturn the results in Donald Trump's favor. Now, Marjorie Taylor Greene wants to use her position on House Oversight to investigate her far-right pet projects like mask mandates and so-called censorship, "[go on offense](#)" against the January 6 committee, and bring [impeachment proceedings](#) against a variety of Biden administration officials—including the president and vice president.
- Colorado Rep. **Lauren Boebert** (R-CO) is one of the most extreme members of the House. She helped plan the events of January 6, 2021 and even [tweeted](#) out Nancy Pelosi's location during the Capitol riot. Her colleagues refused to tolerate her [overtly](#)

[racist](#), anti-Islamic speech and [public appeals](#) to far-right extremist groups on social media. For months, Boebert has [had her sights on House Oversight](#) with plans to [investigate](#) outlandish conspiracy theories. Her placement on the Oversight Committee signals that the House GOP is chasing a far-right agenda rather than legitimate investigations.

- **Paul Gosar** (R-AZ) is an extreme election denier who [‘schemed’](#) with Ali Alexander, the architect of the ‘Stop the Steal’ movement that culminated in the Capitol insurrection. Gosar has ties with fringe figures, and [defended](#) white nationalist Nick Fuentes over January 6th. On Oversight, the fringe Arizona Representative is now planning counter-investigations against the Jan. 6 committee, [zeroing-in](#) on military officials who opposed Trump’s efforts and following the MAGA playbook.
- MAGA firebrand **Scott Perry** (R-PA) is another newcomer to House Oversight who was one of the [key figures](#) in the plot to overturn the election. Perry’s phone was [seized](#) by the FBI and he was recently referred to the House Ethics Committee by the January 6th Committee. Yet, after [refusing to recuse himself](#) (despite having obvious political motivations), MAGA Republicans have placed Rep. Perry on House Oversight in order to [investigate](#) the events of Jan. 6, 2021, and release their own sham “report” on the issue.
- Rep. **Russell Fry** (R-SC) has campaigned with election conspiracy theorists like MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell while alleging that the 2020 election was “rigged” against Donald Trump. He continues to follow Trump’s lies and conspiracies, [claiming](#), “Joe Biden is not my president. His policies are not mine and if election laws were followed in 2020, President Trump would be making the next Supreme Court pick.” These lies and conspiracies are all-but-certain to inform his decision-making on the House Oversight Committee.
- Rep. **Lisa McClain** (R-MI) [voted against](#) certification of the Electoral College shortly after being sworn into office. McClain was a leading voice espousing false claims of election fraud, posting more election conspiracies on social media than any other member of the Michigan Congressional delegation, according to a [review](#) by Rep. Zoe Lofgren. She also [joined](#) a letter to Nancy Pelosi with 25 other Republican members-elect demanding an investigation “of the irregularities in November’s election.” There can be no doubt that she will continue to call for politically motivated investigations as a member of House Oversight.
- Rep. **Anna Paulina Luna** (R-FL) is an unwavering election denier and [QAnon-sympathizer](#) who was [endorsed](#) by Donald Trump after [claiming](#) that the 2020 election was “compromised” because a glitch from Dominion Voting Systems’ machines supposedly flipped votes to Biden. Luna also [called for](#) the “decertification” of Arizona

election results and is sure to make voter suppression a cornerstone of her investigative agenda.

- Rep. **Nick Langworthy** (R-NY) is an election denier who accused Democrats of committing voter fraud in a Congressional race in upstate New York [alleging](#), “First it was dead voters casting ballots, now a month after Election Day, 55 new ballots just ‘appear.’” In 2021, Langworthy led a [statewide tour](#) to defeat ballot proposals that would have allowed Election Day registration and universal mail-in voting in New York and called mail-in ballots an “unconstitutional political power grab that will severely undermine the integrity of our elections.” Like his fringe colleagues, Langworthy will only continue to chase the baseless MAGA agenda as a member of House Oversight.
- Newcomer **Chuck Edwards** (R-NC) already has a record of following the MAGA playbook. He was [among](#) 39 GOP freshmen to vote in favor of gutting a key House Ethics office and voted to empower far-right favorite Jim Jordan to launch a committee attacking the federal justice system.
- Rep. **Eric Burlison** (R-MO) is an election denier who [shared](#) #StopTheSteal misinformation as a [longtime](#) “election integrity” advocate who ran an “America First” campaign. During his campaign, he [boasted](#), “As President Trump fought election integrity at the national level, I battled it at the state level by spearheading legislation to clean up rampant initiative petitions and referendums.” He has been [endorsed](#) by CPAC, who credited him with “the highest lifetime conservative rating in the Missouri legislature.”
- Rep. **Kelly Armstrong** (R-ND) has a history of curbing accountability for his own party. Armstrong [voted against](#) creating an independent commission to investigate the Jan. 6 attack and has [applauded](#) MAGA efforts to investigate the so-called “weaponization of government.”
- Rep. **William Timmons** (R-SC) [voted](#) against certification of the Electoral College, blaming a combination of “special interest, liberal elites” and “Big Tech censorship” for manipulating election laws and influencing public opinion. Timmons also [signed](#) the Texas amicus brief seeking to throw out the votes in four key states won by Joe Biden.
- Rep. **Gary Palmer** (R-AL) is an election denier who [voted](#) to overturn the election and joined the Texas lawsuit seeking to throw out electoral votes in key swing states. Palmer [claimed](#) he was overturning the election because of “serious, well-founded concerns about the manner in which several states conducted the 2020 Presidential election.” Now, he has the power to push baseless investigations into Trump’s lies and conspiracies.

- Election denier Rep. **Tim Burchett** (R-TN) [voted](#) against certification of the Electoral College and [joined](#) an amicus brief seeking to throw out the votes in four key states won by Joe Biden.

Three MAGA Oversight Republicans Will Be Returning to House Oversight:

- **Pete Sessions (R-TX)** is just another Trump loyalist on the House Oversight Committee. Not only is he following in Trump's footsteps, he has a history of pursuing baseless conspiracies for political gain. In 2020, he [voted](#) against certification of the Electoral College and [joined](#) an amicus brief seeking to throw out the votes in four key states won by Joe Biden. On Jan. 3, Sessions [tweeted](#), "Had a great meeting today with folks from 'Stop the Steal' at our nation's Capitol. I encouraged them to keep fighting and assured them I look forward to doing MY duty on January 6th." Since then, Sessions has continued to follow the Trump playbook by questioning election results. Months before a single vote was cast in the 2022 midterms, Sessions [demanded](#) that Texas officials investigate Dallas county's elections administration. Pete Sessions' priorities demonstrate that the MAGA House GOP is more than willing to chase conspiracies for political gain instead of addressing the real issues facing Americans.
- **Jake LaTurner (R-KS)** is also just another House GOP election denier on the Oversight Committee. Shortly after being sworn into office himself, freshman Rep. Jake LaTurner [voted](#) against certification of the Electoral College. LaTurner is unopposed in his primary and his Democratic opponent in November was [inspired](#) to run for office after the violence of January 6 and LaTurner's vote to overturn the election. LaTurner's placement on the powerful House Oversight Committee demonstrates the kinds of extremists that lead the House GOP's baseless investigative agenda.
- **Byron Donalds (R-FL)** is a leading fringe figure on the powerful House Oversight Committee calling for investigations into right-wing conspiracies. Donalds is a top election denier too; in 2020, he [voted](#) against certification of the Electoral College, [claiming](#) that he wanted to "ask legitimate questions to restore faith in our election system." Donalds also [joined](#) a letter to Nancy Pelosi with 25 other Republican members-elect demanding an investigation "of the irregularities in November's election." He has since [refused](#) to call Jan. 6 an insurrection. Donalds recently [joined a letter](#) from six Congressional Republicans to Attorney General Merrick Garland demanding investigations into so-called bias in the Department of Justice – demonstrating the kinds of lies the House GOP is willing to uplift to smear our justice system for politician gain.

...All Led by MAGA Chairman James Comer (R-KY), who has spent months plotting [partisan investigations](#) designed to target President Joe Biden and his family. The Representative has a long history of opposing accountability for his MAGA allies – he [opposed](#) the creation of a January 6th Committee and used his position to [shield](#) members of the Trump



administration from oversight. By welcoming the House's most extreme MAGA Republicans onto his committee, Comer has made it clear that he [never had any intention](#) of being credible. From the start, he always had [one goal](#) in mind: to help "prevent Joe Biden from running." James Comer is just another [hypocritical](#) MAGA Republican [following Trump's playbook](#) in an effort to distract from the real issues Americans are facing across the country.