

Political Vetting & Opposition Research

Forward Risk's Political Vetting & Opposition Research team combines its direct experience supporting political campaigns and advocacy groups with a rigorous and creative approach to investigations.

Based in Washington, DC, our team is led by seasoned investigators who previously conducted opposition research at national political committees for presidential, gubernatorial, and congressional races.

A political campaign's success or failure can hinge on a revealing statement or a key piece of information from a candidate's past. Forward Risk's political vetting and opposition research services provide in-depth portraits of candidates, nominees, and incumbents, highlighting the findings that will make a difference.

How We Help

▶ Investigating campaign opponents

Forward Risk conducts a wide-ranging review of political opponents to uncover negative information that can be used during the course of a campaign. We examine news clips and social media, civil litigation and criminal records, and also undertake discreet human source inquiries and/or Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests when appropriate, with a view to uncovering pertinent primary source materials.

▶ Contextualizing opponents' political track record and affiliations

Forward Risk analyzes a candidate's voting record, as well as their comments on matters of public

interest, to identify key statements and positions. We not only comb through campaign finance filings and financial disclosure reports, among other sources, but we also translate our research findings into easily understandable information for internal and external stakeholders.

▶ Executing defensive research

Forward Risk provides in-depth vulnerability assessments into a candidate's background prior to running in order to mine potential weaknesses. We also carry out comprehensive vetting of potential employees, surrogates, and large donors, as well as fact checking of a campaign's public-facing materials (like ads and emails) for accuracy.

Our Experience

Forward Risk's work often makes headlines. In 2021, for instance, our opposition research for a congressional campaign in Georgia uncovered a previously unreported series of lawsuits regarding allegations of domestic abuse that occurred in the wake of the candidate's contentious divorce and custody battle, which successfully bolstered our client's communications and messaging strategy.

We also help to keep you out of the spotlight. For example, in 2020, we completed self-research for a first-time candidate in Michigan and found embarrassing comments that he made on social media when he was in high school. He was able to remove those posts before they were discovered by a wider audience.

The Forward Risk Difference

The Forward Risk team is a close-knit group of star performers dedicated to excelling in the investigative profession. We have diverse backgrounds but a shared commitment to providing industry-leading services, reinforced through the firm's extensive investments in knowledge sharing, training, and professional development. Our success comes from the intelligence, creativity, experience, sophistication, and tenacity of our investigators.

We listen to our clients. We don't try to shoehorn a complex investigation into a pre-defined package that can be mass-produced. Through understanding each client's concerns and goals, we tailor our research and our reporting to what is most actionable.

We devote time, resources, and care to our work. Where other firms may pressure investigators to prioritize speed over quality, we are absolutely committed to thoroughness, depth, accuracy, and proper analysis. This is how we build strong and long-lasting relationships with our clients.

Who We Are

Forward Risk is a corporate investigations, intelligence, and risk advisory firm that provides tailored investigation and litigation support, investor due diligence, and strategic intelligence services. Our unique approach combines well-honed industry savvy with bespoke reporting to deliver value-driven information tailored to meet complex client needs. Staffed by a diverse team of professionals including former attorneys, investigative journalists, intelligence community alumni, and other government affairs experts, we help clients navigate transaction and dispute lifecycles by providing investigation and litigation support, investor due diligence, and strategic intelligence services. We marry comprehensive rigor to the curation of narrative context, which ensures that our clients receive actionable intelligence in the unique context of their specific engagement and objectives. Learn more about the unique strides Forward Risk takes in the investigative space at www.forwardrisk.com.

CONTACT

Forward Risk's Political Vetting and Opposition Research practice is helmed by Claire Vinocur and Chris Haxo. Claire's experience includes vetting political and administration hires and nominees, and led campaign finance research into candidates, committees, and outside groups. Chris has overseen research on key congressional and gubernatorial contests in over a dozen states, helping contribute to wins in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, and Maryland.

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