

Tom Bossert

BACKGROUND

Potential Red Flags

Nothing of interest.

Personal Information

Thomas P. Bossert

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Education

1997: Bachelor's Degree From The University Of Pittsburgh

2003: Law Degree From The George Washington University Law School. ([Atlantic Council](#) Accessed 12/18/16)

Work Experience

1997 – 1999: Assistant to the Chief Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

1999-2001: Evidence Specialist, Office of the Independent Counsel

2003-2004: Counselor to the Deputy Administrator and Special Assistant to the General Counsel, U.S. Small Business Administration

2004 – 2005: Deputy Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, FEMA

2005-2007: Director, Infrastructure Protection Policy, White House

2007 – 2008: Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Preparedness Policy, White House

2008 – 2009: Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, White House

2013 – Present: Senior Fellow, Cyber Statecraft Initiative, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, Atlantic Council of the United States

2009 – Present: President, CDS (Civil Defense Solutions) LLC ([LinkedIn](#) Accessed 12/18/16)

Political Contributions

According to Opensecrets, Bossert Has Donated To Only Republicans. ([Center for Respective Politics](#) Accessed 12/18/16)

BOSSERT, THOMAS [REDACTED]	CIVIL DEFENSE SOLUTIONS LLC	10/26/12	\$2,500	Romney, Mitt (R)
BOSSERT, THOMAS [REDACTED]	CIVIL DEFENSE SOLUTIONS LLC	10/26/12	\$2,500	Romney, Mitt (R)
BOSSERT, THOMAS P MR [REDACTED]	U.S. GOVERNMENT	3/31/12	\$1,500	Boehner, John (R)

Voter Registration

Voter Registration Information On Bossert Is Not Available On Nexis. (Nexis, Accessed 12/18/16)

QUESTIONS FOR TOM BOSSERT

Political Vulnerabilities

Continued Support for War in Iraq

Background: In a 2015 op-ed, Bossert defended President Bush’s actions in Afghanistan and Iraq saying, “to be clear, the use of military force against Iraq and Afghanistan was and remains just.”

- **Do you continue to believe that critics of the Iraq war, including the President-elect, are wrong to oppose the U.S.-led war in Iraq?**

Policy Questions

Tenure as Bush White House Homeland Security Adviser

Background: Bossert served as Deputy U.S. Homeland Security Adviser to President George W. Bush.

- **How do you view the evolution of the primary threats to the U.S. Homeland since your last tenure in the federal government?**
- **From your experience working as an adviser in a previous administration, what lessons and experiences would you call upon should you advise the current President-elect?**
- **Do you have any regrets or decisions you would have made differently from your time in the Bush administration?**

General Department of Homeland Security-Related Policy

- **Where do you stand philosophically on the boundaries between government/homeland surveillance and the privacy of a nation’s own citizens?**
- **As the top government official who advises the President on protecting the homeland from both internal and external threats, what would be your top priorities at DHS?**
- **Given that many of President-elect’s campaign promises are related to policies and activities overseen by DHS, do you feel you will be able to appropriately manage all of DHS’s responsibilities, such as Disaster Preparedness & Response?**
 - **Based on the President-elect’s focus on protecting the homeland, are there any specific initiatives that give you pause or reservation?**

- How would you advise the President on certain less politically sensitive though pertinent issues, such as Cyber-Security?

COMMENTS ON TRUMP-PENCE

Trump

No Known Comments.

Pence

No Known Comments.

GENERAL CONTROVERSY

Nothing Of Interest

ISSUE POSITIONS

Bossert Wrote That The U.S. War In Iraq Was The Right Decision

Bossert Defended President Bush's Actions In Afghanistan And Iraq Saying, "To Be Clear, The Use Of Military Force Against Iraq And Afghanistan Was And Remains Just." "To be clear, the use of military force against Iraq and Afghanistan was and remains just. In Afghanistan, Mr. Bush believed it a form of national self-defense, saying we should 'make no distinction between terrorists and the nations that harbor them and hold both to account.' He also believed force to be necessary, as terrorists were training unabated in Afghanistan for another attack. Iraq, under Saddam Hussein, had violated all four of the chief preconditions to sovereignty any one of which is an internationally recognized cause for the just use of force. Hussein gassed his own people, violating international prohibitions on chemical weapons and continued to violate the resulting inspection regime. He violated the genocide convention, murdering thousands of Kurds. He harbored terrorists, and not inconsequentially would have continued to do so if he were left in power. Lastly, he had shown unjustified aggression toward his neighbor nations of Iran and Kuwait. Hussein's behavior and the intelligence at the time led Mr. Bush to conclude the use of military force to remove him was not only just, but necessary. Hillary Rodham Clinton agreed, voting for it, although she now parses the issue by noting that she authorized the use of force, not the specific details of its application." (Thomas P. Bossert, Op Ed, "Knowing When To Go To War," [Washington Times](#) 11/18/15)

Bossert Criticized President Obama For Only Seeking To Contain ISIS. "We are now at war with Syria. The level and intensity of that war might be small and directed at ISIS. But we are nevertheless using military force in a foreign, sovereign nation. The justness and necessity of such a decision must be explained. The just and necessary use of force is one of the things separating us from the terrorists. Yet the president prefers only to discuss his plans and strategy for combating and containing ISIS. He has not adequately explained his use of the military in Syria nor followed the last part of Mr. Bush's doctrine of holding the terrorists and the nations that harbor them to account." (Thomas P. Bossert, Op Ed, "Knowing When To Go To War," [Washington Times](#) 11/18/15)

Bossert Wants To Refocus The TSA

In 2016, Bossert Wrote That The TSA Was Wrong To Pursue The PreCheck Program. "The new Transportation Security Administration (TSA) administrator is saying and doing a lot of smart things. Among them, he stopped the practice of randomly placing unknown air travelers into abridged screening, calling it an 'untenable risk.' Smart. He has refocused his agency on security after years of lax management and public pressure shifted its priority to traveler convenience. He also flirts with acknowledging the clouded logic of his agency's risk-based tag line. All smart. Unfortunately, he is still

doubling down on the promise and pretense of reduced screening for PreCheck passengers.” (Thomas P. Bossert, “Tom Bossert Refocusing The Transportation Security Administration,” *Washington Times*, 2/1/16)

Bossert Wrote, “The TSA Lacks The Authority To Require Travelers To Undergo Background Checks, So It Seeks Volunteers And Entices Them With An Abridged Screening Process That Reduces The Screening Burden On TSA And Shortens Security Lines For Vetted Volunteers. This Is Not Necessarily Such A Good Idea.” “What could go wrong? The TSA lacks the authority to require travelers to undergo background checks, so it seeks volunteers and entices them with an abridged screening process that reduces the screening burden on TSA and shortens security lines for vetted volunteers. This is not necessarily such a good idea. TSA calls the program PreCheck and it is extremely popular among travelers looking for convenience. Unfortunately, the new administrator is tacitly ratifying the belief that TSA airport screeners fail so badly at basic screening the kind meant to detect weapons and explosives because of the volume of travelers and baggage.” (Thomas P. Bossert, “Tom Bossert Refocusing The Transportation Security Administration,” *Washington Times*, 2/1/16)

- **“There Is Little Quantitative Evidence To Suggest Screening Will Improve In The Non Precheck Lanes Or That Background Checks Will Identify Would Be Terrorists. But, the appeal of reduced screening has widespread support.”** (Thomas P. Bossert, “Tom Bossert Refocusing The Transportation Security Administration,” *Washington Times*, 2/1/16)

Bossert Said That The PreCheck Program Represented Massive Government Personal Data Mining. “THE idea raised alarms among privacy advocates: Social media postings would be fair game for private companies doing background checks on people applying for the PreCheck security program, under a government request made in December. Not long after, the Transportation Security Administration last month abruptly withdrew that request for proposals. Among those concerned was Thomas P. Bossert, a security consultant and a former Homeland Security aide to President George W. Bush, who said it represented a ‘massive expansion and outsourcing of the government’s data-mining.’” (Joe Sharkey, “PreCheck Expansion Plan Raises Privacy Concerns,” *New York Times*, 3/10/15)

Bossert Wrote That A Special Committee To Investigate Benghazi Was Needed

Bossert Wrote That A Special Select Committee To Investigate The Attack On Benghazi Was Needed. “It is time to establish a select committee to investigate the attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi, Libya. Our consulate was attacked, our ambassador and three other Americans murdered and unanswered questions abound. The issue is no longer whether to investigate, but how. The reality is the Obama administration has handled the matter poorly and the Democratic leaders in the Senate will not be critical of it, nor will a divided multicommittee approach in the House of Representatives suffice. The party not in the White House must lead this effort, and do it seriously and objectively. This means the House must review the matter, and do it in a way that maximizes credibility and government accountability.” (Thomas P. Bossert, Op Ed, “Benghazi Select Committee Needed,” *Politico*, 5/3/13)

LOBBYING RECORDS

CDS Or Bossert Do No Appear In Lobbying Searches.