

IRS Statement

The IRS stresses that audits of tax returns are based on the information contained on the taxpayer's return and the underlying tax law – nothing else. Politics play no factor in audit selection. There is nothing in the GAO reports that contradict that statement. GAO did not identify any instances where the selection of a case was considered inappropriate or unfair. The audit process is handled by career, non-partisan civil servants, and we have processes in place to safeguard the exam process.

We generally agree with the recommendations in the GAO report and will take a number of steps to further improve our processes. The IRS has procedures in place that adhere to internal control standards, which help ensure fairness and integrity in the return selection process. No individual can control which tax returns are selected for audit. As required by law, we have a number of safeguards in place to restrict access to our systems to only authorized users. We emphasize the importance of fairness and integrity to fulfilling our responsibilities as the nation's revenue agency.