

LIVE UPDATES

## Kevin McCarthy Ousted as House Speaker in Historic Vote

**Watch: Kevin McCarthy Ousted From House Speakership**



**Republican leader falls after removal effort by party dissidents**

The motion to vacate passed 216 to 210, with Democrats refusing to come to McCarthy's rescue in a vote that plunged the House into uncertain territory. McCarthy said he won't seek to win back the post.

- What Happens Now?
- Democrats Join Hard-Line Conservatives to Fell McCarthy

Right now, it's 7:24 p.m. on October 3, 2023. I *just* got home and turned on the news. A few minutes ago, I was sitting on the bus coming home from the cross country meet when I then heard (55th) Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, a Republican from California, is no longer the Speaker of the House.

Block 2, 3 & 4 had "Speaker of the House – Kevin McCarthy - Republican"...Well, it's gonna change now! The Speaker of the House is the third most important politician in the land – The President & Vice President taking spots 1 & 2.

Kevin McCarthy is officially the shortest serving Speaker of the House in American history. This is also the first time a Speaker of the House has ever been removed. It is also interesting that the person responsible for requesting McCarthy's removal was a *Republican* themselves! Doesn't this sound a bit divisive? Well, this isn't the first time we're seeing such a divide in Washington, DC.

**I am going to stick with some more recent political history so you can see that Congress is *often* divided...**



**2008** – Barack Obama wins the presidency – **Congress all Democrat**

**2012** – Barack Obama wins reelection – **House = Republican** – **Senate = Democrat**

**2016** – Donald Trump wins the presidency – **Congress all Republican**

**2020** – Joe Biden wins presidency – **House = Republican** – **Senate = Democrat**

**January 2023** – **Republican Kevin McCarthy becomes Speaker of the House**  
**— Ousted from Speaker of the House on October 3, 2023**

*Pictured – Speaker of the House **Nancy Pelosi** before **McCarthy** & **John Boehner** before her...*

In January 2023, it took the House of Representatives 15 attempts to vote for a Speaker of the House (Kevin McCarthy). **If there is no Speaker of the House → The House of Representatives cannot do anything...That's it!** It was *really* hard for McCarthy to even become Speaker of the House of Representatives. He wasn't a really popular guy. But, the House of Representatives *needed* a Speaker. It took the House of Representatives 15 times to elect McCarthy – The MOST EVERY! Now, it is the first time in American history a Speaker of the House has been *removed* from office... Tuesday's vote to remove Kevin McCarthy as House speaker is a disaster for the GOP and a victory for two groups that are, for different reasons, determined to undermine the Republican Party.

Republican House of Rep. from Florida – **Matt Gaetz (pictured)**– was the leader of this movement. Gaetz is seen as an *extreme* conservative. Some people call Gaetz a *MAGA Republican* and that he is in the Trump category when it comes to extreme policy views.

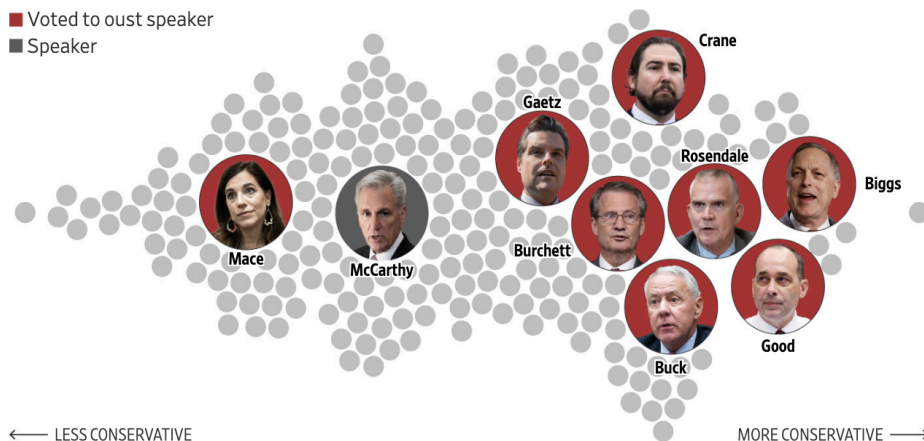
Gaetz and Republicans below voted with *all* the **Democrats** to remove McCarthy. This means **every single Democrat** in the House of Representatives voted to remove McCarthy. So, no Democrats voted to help Speaker McCarthy. Why did Republicans vote McCarthy out? Some Republicans voted to remove McCarthy because he was not *conservative* enough, and because he decided to work with President Biden & some Democrats on the recent budget that prevented a government shutdown.

"You know it was personal," McCarthy says on Gaetz leading the charge on his removal as speaker



Rep. Matt Gaetz answers questions outside the US Capitol after successfully leading a vote to remove Rep. Kevin McCarthy from the office of Speaker of the House on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. Win McNamee/Getty Images

Distribution of Republican House members by ideological position



Note: Based on DW-Nominate scores, a measure of ideology using roll call votes  
Source: Voteview.com  
James Benedict/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

The other winners – aside Gaetz and seven other House members – on Tuesday were House Democrats, and that was obvious to everyone except the clueless chaos contingent. Democrats laughed at Mr. Gaetz on the House floor after he gave a statement on his motion to vacate, clearly grateful to have such a willing tool in the Florida Republican.

Around 7:45ish, Former Speaker McCarthy walked up to the microphone and gave a press conference. I'm watching it now. I've had to rewind it a few times...Ugh.

McCarthy says that he is worried that the government is becoming more divisive and split than ever. He says that he does not know who will run for the Speaker position. He's said that the Republicans who voted him out don't have a plan for what to do going forward. He's not wrong. As of now, there *are no* plans of who would run. There *are no* plans as to what will happen next.

So...To keep things brief, here's what we have...

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers;and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

OPINION | REVIEW & OUTLOOK [Follow](#)

## Republicans Cut Off Their Own Heads

A gang of eight ousts a Speaker with no plan or replacement in mind.

By The Editorial Board [Follow](#)

Updated Oct. 3, 2023 8:15 pm ET

[Share](#) [Bookmark](#) [AA](#) [642](#) [Gift unlocked article](#) [Listen \(5 min\)](#) [More](#)



There is no Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the House of Representatives cannot do any work until they reconvene and elect a *new* Speaker of the House of Representatives...The Republicans are divided amongst themselves as to *who* is their leader. The Republicans disagree about *who* should be the Speaker of the House. But, they do know...Kevin McCarthy *was* the 55th Speaker of the House of Representatives...

[Segment from PBS NewsHour in case you want to watch this...](#)

1. Do you think voting out Speaker McCarthy *hurts* the Republican party? Why/why not?
2. The above headline says “Republicans cut off their own heads.” What do you think this means based on the above reading and do you have any questions about this situation? What are those questions?
3. Abraham Lincoln – a Republican who was a member of the House of Representatives – once said *A house divided against itself cannot stand*. Even if you do not know anything about the situation, based on the above reading & Lincoln’s quote, what problem(s) do you see above that might hurt the American government and the American citizens?