

CAPITOL STREET

October 4, 2023

House Speaker Candidates Emerge

Speaker Vote Oct 11 & New Chaos Impacts Budget & End-of-Year Healthcare Bills

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Patrick McHenry (R-NC) is interim speaker (he likely won't last) and odds of a shutdown increase with minimal end-of-year riders in the healthcare package (PBMs, hospitals alongside must-pass bills) as we await a new House Speaker election, as soon as next Weds Oct 11. This is the first time in U.S. history the House has voted to oust its speaker. While there are procedures in place in the event of a motion to vacate, there is no precedent as to how the GOP will elect a new Speaker. Kevin McCarthy will not run again, not surprisingly. As a reminder, it took him 15 rounds to get elected the first time. However, it is also equally difficult finding a replacement that can muster enough support within the conference.

»» Key Points

The Speaker election will take priority in the House and halt work on end of the year Appropriation bills. The federal government has until November 17 to allocate funding for 2024.

- The McCarthy removal delays legislative priorities, including must-pass bills like PAHPA, Community Health Centers, and so on.
- A new Speaker will also face GOP opposition to bipartisanship which will make negotiations more difficult for both parties in the House. A new Speaker will not be more effective at meeting in the middle on year-end business.

Yesterday, the House voted (216 - 210) to remove Kevin McCarthy as Speaker of the House, setting up another grueling speaker election. Eight (8) House Republicans and all 208 Democrats voted to remove McCarthy. The Republicans who voted in favor of removal are Reps. Andy Biggs (R-AZ), Ken Buck (R-CO), Tim Burchett (R-TN), Eli Crane (R-AZ), Matt Gaetz (R-FL), Bob Good (R-VA), Nancy Mace (R-SC) and Matt Rosendale (R-MT).

Most of the Republicans that voted to remove have a history of opposing McCarthy, and many simply don't trust him. They have taken issue with McCarthy's failure to meet demands on topics like budget cuts. Some, like Rep. Burchett, noted a [personal conflict](#) with the Speaker as another contributing factor. Democrats chose not to support McCarthy (and let the GOP infighting resolve itself) amidst the impeachment inquiry and McCarthy's comments blaming Democrats over the narrowly averted government shutdown. McCarthy has not lived up to promises, such as giving members ample time to read bills before votes on the floor.

Speaker vote on Weds Oct 11? Rep. Good (R-VA) one of the Republicans who voted McCarthy out, said on CNN that Rep. McHenry (R-NC), acting as speaker pro tempore, told the conference the House would be out of session for

the next week. Rep. Good stated that the week would give lawmakers who want to run for speaker time to make their intentions known, and then next Tuesday night there will be a candidate forum, with a speaker vote hopefully on Wednesday.

With no clear successor, candidates include House Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-MN), House Majority leader Steve Scalise (R-LA), Jim Jordan (R-OH), among others.

- Tom Emmer (R-MN) is seen as a front runner. He serves on the House Financial Services Committee and has proposed policies focused on cutting federal spending, reducing government regulation of the economy, and boosting energy production. On healthcare, he supports patient-centered reforms including improving mental healthcare. He has voted to repeal ACA and opposes single-payer. He also supports increased funding for biomedical research and expanding Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). Conservatives believe Emmer will represent their concerns more aptly, and he is able to corral votes on big issues.
- House Majority leader Steve Scalise (R-LA) is currently undergoing chemotherapy for multiple myeloma and may not run while he undergoes treatment (he previously declined the role in 2022).
- Jim Jordan (R-OH), the Judiciary Committee chair and a conservative favorite, is feeling out supporters. Jordan, who is aligned with McCarthy and being pushed by some of his allies, enters the race. Jordan was a fan of Obamacare repeal.

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