

# CAPITOL STREET

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October 25, 2023

## Mike Johnson (R-LA) New House Speaker

Deep Conservative, Anti-ACA with Gov't Shutdown Likely Averted

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All Healthcare

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### »» Our Take & Next Up

**Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican with little national name recognition, was elected House Speaker and now faces a budget crisis ahead of November 17, the current deadline.** He was one of the 90 House Republicans who voted against the stopgap bill to fund the government through mid-November. Johnson was the fourth GOP nominee in a 22-day span with no House Speaker since the removal of Kevin McCarthy (CA).

### »» Key Points

**Today, the House voted (220-209) to elect Rep. Johnson to the speakership.** All Republicans voted for Johnson and all Democrats voted for House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY). Democrats have emphasized his lack of experience and seniority as well as being a fairly non-controversial candidate among Republicans. Questions remain as to how long he will last in the role.

**A CR (to Jan or April) likely avoids a government shutdown.** Top priorities, according to a memo from Johnson sent yesterday (see [here](#)), include bringing the remaining Republican-led appropriations bills to the House floor, passing a resolution to condemn Hamas and finding a consensus within the conference for a legislative blueprint for the remainder of the term. Johnson stated he was in favor of passing another stopgap measure to extend government funding that expires on January 15 or April 15 to “ensure the Senate cannot jam the House with a Christmas omnibus.”

**We believe that must-pass healthcare bills will be addressed along with other bipartisan healthcare priorities.**

These include funding/addressing:

- PBM reforms (non-commercial)
- Hospital site neutral (likely drug-only provisions)
- PAMA (clinical lab) relief via 1- or 2- year delay
- Medicaid DSH cut reversal
- SUPPORT Act (opioids, behavioral health)
- Pandemic Preparedness bill (aka PAHPA)
- Workforce provisions
- Community health centers

#### About Mike Johnson:

- **Johnson has minimal seniority or leadership experience.** He is currently serving his fourth term and serves as the Vice Chairman of the House Republican Conference, is a leader on the Judiciary and Armed Services Committees, and serves as a Deputy Whip for House Republicans. This is his second term as Vice Chairman, and he has previously served as Chairman of the Republican Study Committee.

- **He sought to overturn the 2020 election results.** Johnson led the amicus brief signed by a group of 126 House Republicans in support of a Texas lawsuit seeking to overturn the 2020 election results in four swing states (GA, PA, WI, MI). Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) was quoted on Tuesday calling Johnson “the most important architect of the Electoral College objections” on January 6, 2021 ([here](#)).
- **Johnson supports expanding rural healthcare.** In 2022, Johnson discussed the need for expansion of rural health care and broadband access. Louisiana had broadband plans approved under the ARPA Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund.
- **Johnson has voted to repeal the ACA and cut funding to Medicare and Medicaid.** In 2019, he spearheaded the Republican Study Committee and released “The RSC Health Care Plan: A Framework for Personalized, Affordable Care” ([here](#)). This aimed to protect Americans with pre-existing conditions by establishing federally funded, state administered Guaranteed Coverage Pools and repackaging existing funding for ACA premium subsidies and Medicaid expansion to fund state-administered flex-grants to subsidize health insurance for low-income individuals. In addition, he supported eliminating ACA mandates.
- **Johnson supports telemedicine, direct primary care, association health plans, and health sharing ministries.** He also supported the aforementioned plan that extends the use of Short-Term, Limited-Duration plans, expands state innovation waivers, and restructured ACA subsidies and Medicaid expansion, among other policies.

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