

Exclusive Q&A with Jim Jordan as he vies for House speaker

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WASHINGTON, D. C. -- House Judiciary Committee chairman Jim Jordan chatted with Cleveland.com on Friday as he walked to a GOP candidates forum [to make his case to be House speaker](#):

Q: What would it mean for Ohio to have a House speaker?

A: We're focused on winning. We feel real good about it. I don't like to get into those, but it is an important position where you can tell the country what we're up to and why it's important to the American people, to families across our state and across the country. But we don't take anything for granted, but we feel real good about our chances.

Q: What has this week been like for you?

A: Busy. It's been real busy. I've been real busy been making a lot of phone calls. I've talked to every member of the conference, at least once or twice.

Q: Have you been talking to (Former President Donald) Trump during this, and what kind of support is he providing apart from his endorsement?

A: I haven't talked to him in a few days. (Note: [Trump endorsed Jordan's bid for speaker](#).)

Q: If you don't get this, will you go back to your work on the Judiciary Committee and its government weaponization subcommittee?

A: Sure. But we think we're going to get it.

Q: If you do get it, who would take over doing that?

A: That is for the steering committee to determine.

Read more: [Coverage of Jim Jordan's bid for House speaker](#)

Q: What will you be telling this candidate's forum?

A: I'll be talking about the same things I talked about on Wednesday. You know, I think this comes down to two questions. Who can help unite our team and who can go talk to the American people about what we're doing as House Republicans and why it is important to them and their family. So I'll lay that out. And then talk about what I think our plan is here for the next, what is it now, 30-some days before the November 17 run out on the C.R. (spending resolution that is funding the government).

Q: If you become speaker, would you be able to work with Democrats and compromise on things like bills to keep the government open?

A: Well, look, we're gonna do what we told the American people we're going to do, fight for those principles that we told them we were going to fight for when they elected us. But there are certainly some issues where we can work with Democrats. We've been doing that on privacy issues, particularly relative to the FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) program and reauthorization of the 702 program. We're already doing that. Typically we get good cooperation and good work with Democrats on privacy issues and issues that impact Americans freedom.

Q: You have always been one of the most conservative members of the caucus. How are you reaching out to people within your caucus who are less conservative?

A: I talk with all members about how we run our committee, we try to talk to everyone get everyone working as a team and we'll do try to the same thing as speaker, use the same strategy.

Q: Are you expecting that this will be over today, or will it last into the weekend?

A: I'm not sure, but we need to be unified and get to the floor and we want that to happen as soon as possible. But we've got the candidates forum, and then there's an election so we'll see how that works out.