

# Jim Jordan Set to Fall Short Again in Third Speaker Vote

*Republican nominee has struggled to win over holdouts in his party*

**By Katy Stech Ferek, Kristina Peterson and Siobhan Hughes**  
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WASHINGTON—Republican speaker nominee Rep. Jim Jordan was set to fall short in a [third round of voting](#) to secure the gavel Friday morning, after [struggling to win support](#) from colleagues who have opposed his candidacy, likely leaving Republicans at a fresh impasse.

While the Ohio conservative has campaigned as a speaker who can unite the party, he continues to face long odds, a full week after [securing the GOP nomination](#) and more than two weeks after former Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R., Calif.) was ousted. Republicans have no current fallback plan after rejecting a proposal to vote on giving more powers to Speaker Pro Tempore Patrick McHenry (R., N.C.).

“I am still running for speaker, and I plan to go to the floor and get the votes and win this race,” Jordan said Thursday afternoon after House Republicans broke from a three-hour meeting in the basement of the U.S. Capitol building.

The House is frozen until lawmakers elect a new speaker. Lawmakers of both parties are eager to get moving on providing [further aid to Israel](#), as well as funding for Ukraine, Taiwan and U.S. border security. Deadlines are also looming for funding the government past mid-November.

Late Thursday, Jordan made last-ditch efforts to [convince holdouts to change their minds](#), dispatching allies to help. Behind closed doors, Jordan weighed his options with close advisers, including Reps. Warren Davidson (R., Ohio) and Thomas Massie (R., Ky.).

Rep. Scott Fitzgerald (R., Wis.) left a huddle in Jordan’s office saying that his charge was “some shoring up and a few calls to put people that maybe could get there.” Also called into Jordan’s office for advice was the former New York Congressman Lee Zeldin, who unsuccessfully ran for governor last year instead of seeking another two-year term in the House.

“We’ve been in a lot of battles together through the years,” Zeldin told reporters. “He’s a fighter. He’s a patriot—someone who I’m sure would very effectively lead this House,” he said.

The House has 221 Republicans and 212 Democrats. That means Jordan can lose no more than four Republican votes if all members vote for a candidate and all Democrats vote for their nominee, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D., N.Y.). On Wednesday, Jordan lost 22 Republicans, up from 20 a day earlier.

“He does not have the votes to be speaker,” said Rep. Carlos Gimenez (R., Fla.), a Jordan foe. He said a number of lawmakers had encouraged Jordan to drop his bid. Another opponent, Rep. Mike Kelly (R., Pa.), said Jordan could see the writing on the wall, “and he doesn’t even wear glasses.”

Jordan is a close ally of former President [Donald Trump](#), and conservative activists strongly back his candidacy. The head of the House Judiciary Committee and co-founder of the ultraconservative House Freedom Caucus was in close contact with Trump during the former president’s efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss. In past years, he was a regular thorn in the side of party leaders, leaving some Republicans wary of his ability to lead the chamber.

Despite Jordan’s dim prospects, Republican leaders haven’t circulated a backup strategy or clear path forward if Jordan continues to lose support in House floor votes. The discussion has yet to turn to bringing new candidates into the mix.

On Thursday morning, Jordan had backed an idea pitched by a group of Republicans to vote to empower McHenry to bring legislation to the House floor, enabling lawmakers to deal with many critical issues, including the expiration of the government’s current funding in mid-November and aid to Israel. But GOP opposition, fueled by conservatives, hardened during the meeting on Thursday.

Many argued that it would take the pressure off the search for a new speaker and any measure to expand McHenry’s authority would likely require Democratic support and concessions.

While some lawmakers, including McCarthy, have suggested a vote isn’t necessary for McHenry to bring legislation to the floor, McHenry himself made clear he would step down before taking steps he views as exceeding his authority.

“If there’s some goal to subvert the House rules to give me powers without a formal vote, I will not accept it,” McHenry told reporters.

The speaker post became open two weeks ago when a group of eight Republicans [engineered the ouster](#) of McCarthy. Jordan was nominated after Rep.

Steve Scalise (R., La.) [took himself out of the running](#) last week because of resistance from some conservative members.

Some lawmakers who are close to Scalise have withheld support for Jordan, blaming him for not doing more to help Scalise win the fight for House speaker when Scalise had won the initial contest.

Jordan must win over Republican appropriators in charge of determining spending levels, who have been worried that he will dig in behind deeper cuts than what they see as reasonable.

*Gabriel T. Rubin contributed to this article.*