

Rep. Jim Jordan wants to be US House speaker. What to know about the native Ohioan

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Native Ohioan and longtime politician Jim Jordan is running for one of the top jobs in Congress.

U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy was voted out of his role Tuesday when he brokered a deal with Democrats to avoid a shutdown and fund the federal government for 45 days. Some Republicans were angry he compromised with their political adversaries, and Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida pushed a vote to remove him.

On Wednesday, Jordan announced in a letter to fellow lawmakers he intends to run for speaker.

Known as a staunch political ally to former president Donald Trump, Jordan has cultivated national popularity as a conservative firebrand. He has represented Ohio's 4th Congressional District since 2007, and under his leadership, the House Judiciary Committee launched investigations into Hunter Biden, the FBI and prosecutors that brought charges against Trump.

Here are some things to know about Jim Jordan and his Ohio roots.

Lawmaker born and raised in Ohio

Jordan was born and raised in Champaign County, Ohio. He is a 1982 graduate of Graham High School in St. Paris, a village of about 1,900 that sits between Dayton and Columbus.

College wrestling champion before politician

As a high school athlete, Jordan obtained four state titles in wrestling with a career record of 150-1, according to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

He wrestled for University of Wisconsin from 1982 to 1986, where he was a three-time All-American and a two-time NCAA champion. A notable win in 1985 was when Jordan beat eventual six-time world and Olympic champion John Smith in the finals.

Degrees from Ohio State University, Capital University

Jordan holds three degrees. Two of them came from universities in Ohio.

After graduating from University of Wisconsin in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in economics, he went to continue his studies at two institutions in Columbus. He obtained a master's in education from Ohio State University and a law degree from Capital University.

Coached for Ohio State wrestling amid Strauss abuse allegations

A former Ohio State wrestling team captain spoke to Congress in 2020 about Dr. Richard Strauss who allegedly abused the university's wrestlers between 1979 and 1997. Jordan had been an assistant coach from 1986 to 1994.

The former team captain told lawmakers that Jordan knew of the abuse and tried to get him to join in the cover-up.

"Jim Jordan called me crying, groveling, begging me to go against my brother, begging me, crying for a half-hour. That's the kind of cover-up that's going on there," Adam DiSabato told members of the Ohio House Civil Justice Committee about a conversation the congressman and him had on July 24, 2018.

Jordan has denied this.