

HISTORY IS MADE

Johnson becomes the first U.S. Speaker of the House from Louisiana

Local, state officials react to victory

STAFF & WIRE REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

Republicans eagerly elected Rep. Mike Johnson as House speaker Wednesday, elevating a deeply conservative but lesser-known leader to the seat of U.S. power and ending for now the political chaos in their majority.

Johnson swept on the first ballot with support from all Republicans anxious to put the past weeks of tumult behind and get on with the business of governing.

Locals throughout Webster Parish and the state offered congratulations to Johnson. The Minden Press-Herald compiled the responses.

Minden Mayor Nick Cox

The impact of having Mike Johnson as Speaker of the House cannot be overstated for North Louisiana and Minden. With his leadership, our region will experience enhanced visibility, attracting a wealth of economic opportunities and potentially securing increased federal funding. The sense of pride we feel, knowing that one of our own is in this influential position, is truly indescribable. Undoubtedly, this is an absolute home run for Northwest Louisiana.

Former Minden Mayor Tommy Davis

I am very proud of Mike Johnson and believe he will make a great Speaker. Mike is a very Godly man and has a servant's heart. We must be faithful to pray for him.

(Community leader) Thomas Adams

I want to congratulate Congressman Johnson on getting elected Speaker of the house. This is a great honor for him and our area. I think Congressman Johnson is a very smart constitutional attorney who will represent us well. I hope this may open some doors for our great city and parish.

(Community leader) Jerry Madden

I just wish him the best. He's a good man, he's a very good man. I'm proud to be from his district. They could not have picked a better person.

Col. Carl Thompson

Today the Members of the U. S. House of Representatives made a very wise and historical decision when they elected Congressman Mike Johnson, a Constitutional Patriot, devout Christian and strong family man who loves the United States dearly and, as Speaker of the U.S. House



Rep. Mike Johnson, R-La., takes the oath to be the new House speaker from the Dean of the House Rep. Hal Rogers, R-Ky., at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023.

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It is the honor of a lifetime to have been elected the 56th Speaker of the House. Thank you to my colleagues, friends, staff, and family for the unmatched support throughout this process. It has been an arduous few weeks, and a reminder that the House is as complicated and diverse as the people we represent. The urgency of this moment demands bold, decisive action to restore trust, advance our legislative priorities, and demonstrate good governance. Our House Republican Conference is united, and eager to work. As Speaker, I will ensure the House delivers results and inspires change for the American people. We will restore trust in this body. We will advance a comprehensive conservative policy agenda, combat the harmful policies of the Biden Administration, and support our allies abroad. And we will restore sanity to a government desperately in need of it. Let's get back to work.

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Congressman Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House



of Representatives, will lead with wisdom and diplomacy.

CEO/President of the Greater Minden Chamber Stephanie Barnette

Not only is this an exciting time for Louisiana, but especially for the people of Northwest Louisiana. Mike Johnson is a true servant of the people and the Greater Minden Chamber is confident that great things are ahead under his leadership.

Minden Police Chief Jared McIver

I believe that the decisions Mike Johnson will make will be for the betterment of the country. He actually makes a difference. I've seen it. I'm proud for him; this is a huge accomplishment. I believe all of Louisiana is proud right now. This is a proud historic moment for our state.

Webster Parish Sheriff Jason Parker

We are so proud of our Congressman and friend Mike Johnson be-

ing elected Speaker of the House. I know Mike's character, integrity, and strong faith in God will guide him in leading the People's House as they make important critical decisions that affect our entire nation. Congratulations, Speaker Johnson!

State Representative Wayne McMahon

Congressman Mike Johnson is the kind of leader we need today. His strong Christian faith is the hallmark of his leadership. He is intelligent, well spoken, has a tremendous work ethic and the ability to disagree yet not be disagreeable. These are a few of Mike's attributes that will serve him and our country well in his role as speaker. We are blessed to have him as our representative in Congress. This is a great day for Louisiana and our nation.

Louisiana State Senator Robert Mills

Congratulations to our own Congressman Mike Johnson on being elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives! I

trust Speaker Johnson to lead our Congress with dignity and patience as he guides his colleagues back into the important work required of our Congressional leaders. Let us all pray for Speaker Johnson and his family as they all navigate this new opportunity and challenge.

Senator John Kennedy

Congratulations to my good friend Mike Johnson on becoming the Speaker of the House. My House colleagues have selected an outstanding leader to navigate an unprecedented time. Mike isn't just a consistent conservative—he's a courageous one. He loves God, his family, and his country more than anything, and he has devoted his life to serving them faithfully. American families share Mike's Louisiana values, and they deserve his confident, principled leadership.

Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin

I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations

to Representative Johnson on his election as the 56th Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. Our state and nation will be well served by his leadership in this important role. I am especially pleased that the two highest positions in the House of Representatives are now held by Louisianians. Today is a great day for the State of Louisiana.

Former Congressman Dr. John Fleming

Congressman Mike Johnson won the coveted Speakership of the U.S. House of Representatives with an amazing unanimous vote among Republican members. This shows the large impact Mike has made in Washington in just a short period of time. This is no surprise to me as I have known and worked with him for many years and I am a witness to his many talents. We in Louisiana, especially North Louisiana, are extremely proud of him and we know he will take the U.S. Congress to new heights.

OPINION

Johnson's election not only historic, needed

Speical to the Minden Press-Herald

Mike Johnson's election today as U.S. House Speaker marks the culmination of a meteoric rise



ALEXANDER

in the U.S. House of Representatives, the result of his diligent but often low-key work advancing conservative constitutional principles and doing so in a respectful and inoffensive manner.

In a highly partisan, if not often toxic, U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Johnson first spearheaded the introduction of a "Commitment to Civility" resolution and he has remained committed to maintaining civil and courteous interaction among members of Congress, often in the face of heated policy and political disagreement. His demeanor and comportment certainly contributed to his gaining the support for Speaker of his fellow members of the often-rambunctious House Republican Conference.

He has now entered into an office the responsibilities and obligations of which are nothing less than monumental. And, while it is impossible to quantify the benefit his service as Speaker will provide Louisiana, it would be difficult to overstate the positive impact.

All of this is to say nothing of the fact that the Speaker post is second in the line of presidential succession. If the president dies or becomes incapacitated, the VP is first and then the Speaker of the House.

I am convinced that the same skills and ability that brought Rep. Johnson to this point—accompanied by his deep faith—will see him through. I offer him my congratulations and my prayers.

SHREVEPORT ATTORNEY, ROYAL ALEXANDER, WORKED IN D.C. IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR NEARLY 8 YEARS FOR TWO DIFFERENT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM LOUISIANA. HE HAS WITNESSED UP CLOSE SEVERAL SPEAKER RACES.