

# Who is Mike Johnson? New House speaker is a strong Trump ally and a quiet force among Republicans

WASHINGTON (AP) — A low-key lawmaker in Congress for less than a decade, new House Speaker Mike Johnson isn't recognizable to most Americans. But the social conservative and devoted ally of former President Donald Trump has been a quiet force within the Republican conference he now unexpectedly leads.

Most importantly, he was able to get all of their 220 votes to become speaker on the House floor. That's something none of his more well-known colleagues were able to do, as Republicans struggled for more than three weeks to pick a replacement for ousted Kevin McCarthy.

Colleagues say the deeply religious Louisiana Republican who calls himself a "servant" will be a steady hand and give them a fresh start. Many hope they will finally be able to move past the seemingly intractable divisions within their conference that have felled every House GOP leader in the past decade.

"A friend to all and an enemy to none," Republican conference chairwoman Elise Stefanik said when nominating Johnson ahead of the speaker vote Wednesday.

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