

# [***Speaker Johnson s Whirlwind First Full Week Marked By Santos Expulsion Vote, Doomed Israel Aid Bill And Fundraising Gaffe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:69JP-8JR1-DXVP-517V-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Highlight:** Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) just finished his first full week as speaker, and has faced criticism for passing an Israeli aid package that also cuts IRS funding as the House s first major legislative action in his tenure.

**Body**

**Topline**

Recently elected House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) has capped off a tumultuous first full week as speaker, calling his nascent speakership a whirlwind, marked by an expulsion vote involving embattled Rep. George Santos (R-N.Y.), a botched fundraising email and an Israel aid package deemed dead on arrival in the Senate.

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House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) has been the House speaker for just over a week, ending an unprecedented three weeks without a leader.

Getty Images

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**Key Facts**

**Israel aid**: The House on Thursday voted largely along party lines in favor of a$14.3 billionaid package for Israel, directing money that had been allocated to the Internal Revenue Service through President Joe Biden s Inflation Reduction Act, a funding mechanism that has faced heavy Democratic opposition, including from Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), whocalledthe bill woefully inadequate.

Senate Democrats objection to the bill makes it essentially dead on arrival in the Senate, while President Joe Bidenthreatenedto veto the measure if it advances without additional aid for Ukraine.

**Government shutdown and Ukraine aid**: On Wednesday, Johnson told Senate Republicans in his first address to the cohort that he plans to push for atemporary continuing resolutionto keep the federal government funded beyond November 17 deadline, but only through mid-January, a path that would once again postpone a set of appropriations bills for long-term funding after lawmakers narrowly averted a shutdown with an eleventh-hour stop-gap resolution on September 30.

Johnson also expressed his support for foreign aid to Ukraine in his meeting with Senate Republicans, though he faces opposition from far-right Republicans who have demanded drastic budget cuts and a reduction in aid to Ukraine.

The House has so farpassedseven appropriations bills out of a necessary 12 in Congress budgetary approval process including two since Johnson took the gavel, voting in favor of a nearly $57 billion bill for energy and water projects with a nearly 5% cut over current spending levels, which the White Housethreatenedto veto.

**Santos expulsion vote**: Johnson s first week was also highlighted by an expulsion vote against indicted first-term Rep. George Santos (R-N.Y.), who faces 23 federal charges, including fraud and money laundering, and has faced growing calls to resign (The House alsotableda vote to censure progressive Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) following Tlaib s criticism of Israel).

Santos, who has been accused of lying about his family history and his resume while on the campaign trail, survived the vote by a213-179 marginWednesday night, with 24 Republicans voting in favor of the expulsion, an initiative led by Santos GOP colleagues in New York.

**Fundraising typo**: In anemail to donors, Johnson s reelection campaign said the representative would refuse to put people over ***politics*** in an apparent gaffe.

**Surprising Fact**

Johnson admitted in a press conference Thursday that his first week has been like an F5 hurricane, saying that as someone from Louisiana he describes everything in either football or hurricane metaphors, despite the F5 rating used to measure the intensity of tornadoes, not hurricanes.

**Key Background**

Johnson, an outspoken ally of former President Donald Trump, has made headlines for conservative views against LGBTQ marriage, and has come under fire for a legally dubioussuggestionthat states could reject the results of Trump s loss in the 2020 election based on the argument that states unconstitutionally loosened election laws. The Louisiana Republicanwon the gavellast week following Republican infighting that left the House without a speaker for nearly three weeks. That infighting began on October 3, when a group of eight far-right Republicans joined all Democrats present in an unprecedented ousting of former Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), with members of the House Freedom Caucus arguing McCarthy failed to meet their demands for sweeping budget cuts. Republicans onlycoalescedaround the conservative Louisiana Republican after the House failed to elect Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) in a floor vote, after also nominating Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La.) and Tom Emmer (R-Minn.) in internal votes.

**Further Reading**

New Speaker Mike Johnson Pushes Government Funding Through January And Supports Ukraine Aid In First Meeting With Senate GOP(Forbes)

House Passes $14.3 Billion Aid Package For Israel Setting Up Senate Battle(Forbes)

House Speaker Mike Johnson Says He Refuses To Put People Over ***Politics*** (Forbes)

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