

# [***What To Know About Steve Scalise The GOP Nominee For House Speaker***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:69CJ-FVV1-DXVP-500D-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Highlight:** From comparisons to David Duke to surviving a mass shooting, Steve Scalise who got the GOP nomination for House speaker on Wednesday has a long history in ***politics***.

**Body**

**Topline**

Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La.) secured House Republicans nomination Wednesday for House speaker, bringing him one step closer to leading the House of Representatives, after more than 30 years in ***politics***, which has seen him steadily rise in Republican ranks, survive a mass shooting and be compared to white supremacist David Duke.

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From comparisons to David Duke to surviving a mass shooting, Steve Scalise who got the GOP nomination for House speaker on Wednesday has a long history in ***politics***.

AP/J. Scott Applewhite

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**Key Facts**

Scalise, who has served as House majority leader since January following a more than eight-year stint as Republican House whip,announcedhe was running for speaker last week following theoustingof Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), and became the party s formal nominee for the role Wednesday.

The congressman has represented Louisiana s first congressional district which includes eight parishes that surround New Orleans and a small sliver of the city itself since 2008 and has steadily worked his way up in Republican leadership since then.

Hegainednational name recognition in 2017 when he was among four people shot during a congressional baseball practice outside Washington, D.C.; Scalise was seriously wounded, but survived and stillwalkswith a cane due to the injuries he suffered.

Despite his personal experience with gun violence, Scalise has been an ardent supporter of Second Amendment rights, earning theendorsementof the National Rifle Association, and saying that the attack that nearly took his lifereinforcedhis position on gun rights as he was saved by people who had guns.

Scalise has a history of being a staunch conservative who supports cutting government spending and implementing strict immigration policies and has long been a supporter of former President Donald Trump, though he is generally not considered a hard-right firebrand like more recent prominent Republican additions to the House, such as Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene (Ga.), Lauren Boebert (Colo.) and Matt Gaetz (Fla.).

During his tenure as whip, Scalisecosponsoreda Republican alternative to the Affordable Care Act anddescribedthe ACA as a government takeover.

Scalise was among the Republicans who objected to the Electoral College results when Congress met to certify President Joe Biden s win on January 6, 2021.

Last month, Scalise, 58, begantreatmentfor multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer that he calls very treatable that diagnosis has led some in his party todoubtwhether he should be the one in charge.

**Surprising Fact**

Scalise once reportedly compared himself to David Duke, the former Grand Wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan best known for his 1991 run for Louisiana governor as a Republican. About two years ago, a Louisiana ***politics*** bloggersaidScalise attended a 2002 white supremacist conference organized by a group founded by Duke. Scalise responded by saying he attended the event in an attempt to get support for legislation that focused on cutting wasteful state spending, eliminating government corruption and stopping tax hikes, adding that he wholeheartedly condemn[ed] the views of the group. Scalise also called his attendance a mistake I regret as he s emphatically oppose[d] to divisive racial and religious views that groups like these hold. Duke latertoldthe**Washington Post** Scalise would communicate with his political advisor often, and that s why Scalise attended the event, adding that the advisor and Scalise were friendly. Scalise s attempt to distance himself from Duke proved less successful after a**New York Times** piecepublisheddays after Duke s comment quoted longtime Louisiana ***politics*** reporter Stephanie Grace recalling an interview with Scalise where the congressman said, He was like David Duke without the baggage, meaning he shared Duke s policy ideas but didn t have the same feelings about certain people.

**News Peg**

Scalise defeated Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) on Wednesday in a 113-99 conference vote to get the nomination to become the next House Speaker,multiple outletsreported. Scalise was thrust back into the national spotlight earlier this month, after McCarthy wasremovedfrom the speakership, marking the first time in U.S. history a speaker was fired.

**Key Background**

Scalise was born and raised in Louisiana. He attended the Catholic Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie before going to LSU, where he majored in computer science and was a member of the Acacia fraternity. Scalise then worked as a software engineer and as a marketing executive at a technology company,according toBallotpedia. Scalise was first elected to the Louisiana legislature in 1996 from a Metairie-based district, where he served until 2008, when he was elected to Congress. He is married and has two children. Scalise is a passionate LSU fan, often being spotted at the university s football games.

**Tangent**

Scalise hashelpeda handful of former aides get elected to public office in recent years. Charles Henry, a former chief of staff for the congressman, was elected to a state House seat with Scalise s help. And Matt Jewell, a former district director, was elected to be St. Charles Parish president.

**What To Watch For**

After winning the GOP conference vote, Scalise will need to secure a majority of votes in the House. While it was initially suggested the vote on the next speaker of the House could happen Wednesday, it ultimately did not. A vote on the new speaker has not been scheduled.

**What We Don t Know**

It s unclear if Scalise has the votes needed to win in a formal election. The process could be grueling: McCarthy endured 15 rounds of voting in January the most drawn-out speaker election in modern history before winning the post, and was ultimately voted out of the job after eight hard-right Republicans and all Democrats revolted against him last week. Several Republicans have said they will still support either Jordan or others when a vote begins on the House floor.

**Further Reading**

Steve Scalise Launches House Speaker Bid Challenging Jim Jordan(**Forbes**)

McCarthy Ousted: First House Speaker Ever Booted From The Job (**Forbes**)

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