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Speakers of the House: Elections, 1913-2025

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Speakers of the House: Elections, 1913-2025

Each new House elects a Speaker by roll call vote when it first convenes. Customarily, the conference of each major party nominates a candidate whose name is placed in nomination. A Member normally votes for the candidate of his or her own party conference but may vote for any individual, whether nominated or not. To be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of all the votes cast for individuals. This number may be less than a majority (now 218) of the full membership of the House because of vacancies, absentees, or Members answering “present.”

This report provides data on elections of the Speaker in each Congress since 1913, when the House first reached its present size of 435 Members. During that period (63rd Congress through the 119th Congress), a Speaker was elected seven times with the votes of less than a majority of the full membership.

If a Speaker dies or resigns during a Congress, the House immediately elects a new one. Five such elections occurred since 1913. In the earlier two cases, the House elected the new Speaker by resolution; in the more recent three, the body used the same procedure as at the outset of a Congress. In October of the first session of the 118th Congress, the House elected a new Speaker after having declared the position vacant earlier in the month.

If no candidate receives the requisite majority, the roll call is repeated until a Speaker is elected. Since 1913, this procedure has been necessary only in 1923 and for the two elections in 2023. In 1923, nine ballots were required before a Speaker was elected; in 2023, 15 ballots were required for the initial election and four for the subsequent election.

From 1913 through 1943, more often than not, some Members voted for candidates other than those of the two major parties. The candidates in question were usually those representing the “progressive” group (reformers originally associated with the Republican Party), and in some Congresses, their names were formally placed in nomination on behalf of that group. From 1945 through 1995, only the nominated Republican and Democratic candidates received votes, reflecting the establishment of an exclusively two-party system at the national level.

In 14 of the 17 elections since 1997, however, some Members have voted for candidates other than the official nominees of their parties. Only in the initial election in 2015 and the initial 2023 election, however, were any such candidates formally placed in nomination. Usually, the additional candidates receiving votes have been other Members of the voter’s own party, but in one instance, in 2001, a Member voted for the official nominee of the other party. In the 1997, 2013, 2015 (both instances), 2019, and 2021 elections, as well as on some ballots during both of the 2023 elections, votes were cast for candidates who were not then Members of the House, including, in the initial 2015 election, the 2019 election, and the 2021 election, sitting Senators. Although the Constitution does not so require, the Speaker has always been a Member of the House.

The report will be updated as additional elections for Speaker occur.

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Regular and Special Elections of the Speaker¹

The traditional practice of the House is to elect a Speaker by roll call vote upon first convening after a general election of Representatives.² Customarily, the conference of each major party in the House selects a candidate whose name is formally placed in nomination before the roll call. A Member may vote for one of these nominated candidates or for another individual.³ In the great majority of cases since 1913, Members vote for the candidate nominated by their own party conferences, since the outcome of this vote in effect establishes which party has the majority and therefore will organize the House.

Table 1 presents data on the votes by which the Speaker of the House of Representatives was elected in each Congress from 1913 (63rd Congress) through 2025 (119th Congress). It shows the votes cast for the nominees of the two major parties, other candidates nominated from the floor, and individuals not formally nominated.

Included in the table are not only the elections held regularly at the outset of each Congress but also those held during the course of a Congress as a result of a Speaker's death or resignation or due to a declared vacancy in the position. Such elections have occurred six times during the period examined:

- in 1936 (74th Congress) upon the death of Speaker Joseph Byrns;
- in 1940 (76th Congress) upon the death of Speaker William Bankhead;
- in 1962 (87th Congress) upon the death of Speaker Sam Rayburn;
- in 1989 (101st Congress) upon the resignation of Speaker Jim Wright;
- in 2015 (114th Congress) upon the resignation of Speaker John Boehner; and
- in 2023 (118th Congress) after the House declared a vacancy in the speakership.

On the two earlier occasions among these six, the election was by resolution rather than by roll call vote. On the more recent four, the same general procedure was followed as at the start of a Congress.⁴

Size of the House and Majority Required to Elect

The data presented here cover the period during which the permanent size of the House has been set at 435 Members. This period corresponds to that since the admission of Arizona and New Mexico as the 47th and 48th states in 1912. The actual size of the House was 436, and then 437, for

¹ For key House precedents and general discussion of Speaker election procedures, see *Precedents of the U.S. House of Representatives*, 115th Cong., 1st sess., H.Doc. No. 115-62 (GPO, 2019) (hereinafter *Precedents* Wickham), ch. 6, §1. The volume is available online, referred to as the 2017 series, on the GovInfo website of the U.S. Government Publishing Office at <https://www.govinfo.gov/collection/precedents-of-the-house>. See also CRS Report R44243, *Electing the Speaker of the House of Representatives: Frequently Asked Questions*, by Valerie Heitschusen.

² Until the 1830s, the Speaker was elected by secret ballot. See Asher C. Hinds, *Hinds' Precedents of the House of Representative of the United States*, vol. I (Washington, DC: GPO, 1906), §§187, 204-211. Also see Jeffrey A. Jenkins and Charles Stewart III, *Fighting for the Speakership: The House and the Rise of Party Government* (Princeton University Press, 2013).

³ Candidates may vote for themselves, although they have often declined to vote or voted "present."

⁴ In the 1989 and 2015 cases, because the Speaker resigned effective upon the election of a successor, each presided over the election of his replacement. See *Precedents* (Wickham), ch. 6, §1, p. 395 (note 29) and §1.2. In the 2023 replacement election triggered by a declared vacancy in the speakership, a Speaker pro tempore had assumed certain authorities of the Speaker (pursuant to House Rule I, clause 8(b)(3)) and thus presided over the election of a new Speaker. See *Congressional Record*, daily edition, vol. 169 (October 3, 2023), p. H4978.

a brief period between the admission of Alaska and Hawaii (in 1958 and 1959) and the reapportionment of Representatives following the 1960 census.

By practice of the House going back to its earliest days, an absolute majority of the Members present and voting is required in order to elect a Speaker. A majority of the full membership of the House (218, in a House of 435) is not required. Precedents emphasize that the requirement is for a majority of “the total number of votes cast for a person by name.”⁵ A candidate for Speaker may receive a majority of the votes cast, and be elected, while failing to obtain a majority of the full membership because some Members either are not present to vote or instead answer “present” rather than voting for a candidate. During the period examined, this kind of result has occurred seven times:

- in 1917 (65th Congress), “Champ” Clark was elected with 217 votes;
- in 1923 (68th Congress), Frederick Gillett was elected with 215 votes;
- in 1943 (78th Congress), Sam Rayburn was elected with 217 votes;
- in 1997 (105th Congress), Newt Gingrich was elected with 216 votes;
- in 2015 (114th Congress), John Boehner was elected with 216 votes;
- in 2021 (117th Congress), Nancy Pelosi was elected with 216 votes; and
- in 2023 (118th Congress), Kevin McCarthy was elected with 216 votes.

In addition, in 1931 (72nd Congress), the candidate of the new Democratic majority, John Nance Garner (later Vice President), received 218 votes, a bare majority of the membership. The historical table below does not take into account the number of vacancies existing in the House at the time of the election; it therefore cannot show whether any Speaker may have been elected lacking a majority of the *then qualified* membership of the House.⁶

If no candidate obtains the requisite majority, the roll call is repeated.⁷ On these subsequent ballots, Members may still vote for any individual; no restrictions have ever been imposed, such as that the lowest candidate on each ballot must drop out, or that no new candidate may enter. Because of the predominance of the two established national parties during the period examined, on only three occasions in the period has the House failed to elect on the first roll call.⁸ In 1923 (68th Congress), in a closely divided House, both major party nominees initially failed to gain a majority because of votes cast for other candidates by Members from the Progressive Party or from the “progressive” wing of the Republican Party. Many of these Members agreed to vote for the Republican candidate only on the ninth ballot, after the Republican leadership had agreed to accept a number of procedural reforms these Members favored. Thus the Republican was ultimately elected, although (as noted earlier) still with less than a majority of the full

⁵ The Clerk, remarks from the chair (and parliamentary inquiry immediately following), *Congressional Record*, vol. 143, January 7, 1997, p. 117. See also John V. Sullivan, Thomas J. Wickham Jr., and Jason A. Smith, *House Practice: A Guide to the Rules, Precedents, and Procedures of the House* (GPO, 2024), ch. 34, §3, which states that “the Speaker is elected by a majority of Members-elect voting by surname, a quorum being present.” See also *Constitution, Jefferson’s Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives, One Hundred Nineteenth Congress*, (compiled by) Jason A. Smith, Parliamentarian, 118th Cong., 2nd sess., H.Doc. 118-187 (GPO, 2025), §27.

⁶ The existence of vacancies at the point when a new House first convened was more common before the 20th Amendment took effect in 1936. Until that time, a Congress elected in one November did not begin its term until March of the following year, and did not convene until December of that year, unless the previous Congress provided otherwise by law.

⁷ *Precedents* (Wickham), ch. 6, §1.

⁸ This occurrence, however, was more common before the period covered in this report, when the two-party system had not become as thoroughly established nor the discipline accompanying it as pronounced.

membership.⁹ At the start of the 118th Congress (in 2023), the House was also closely divided, and the nominee of the majority party's conference did not receive sufficient votes to be elected due to some of the party's members casting votes for other candidates. After 15 ballots over several days, during which majority party Members engaged in negotiations over policy and procedural differences, the majority party's nominated candidate was elected when multiple Members voted "present."¹⁰ In October 2023, the House declared the office of the Speaker to be vacant via adoption of H.Res. 757.¹¹ Over subsequent weeks, the House took votes to choose a new Speaker, who was elected on the fourth ballot.¹²

Third and Additional Candidates

In the first portion of the period covered by **Table 1**, it was common for candidates other than those of the two major parties to receive votes. Such action occurred in 11 of the 16 Congresses (63rd-78th) that convened from 1913 through 1943. On 7 of those 11 occasions, candidates other than those of the two major parties were formally nominated. These events reflect chiefly the influence in Congress, during those three decades, of the progressive movement. The additional nominations were offered in the name of that movement, and the votes cast for Members other than the major party nominees also generally represent an expression of progressive sentiments.

During this period, the occurrence of additional nominations (displayed in the table) reflects changing views of Members identifying themselves as "progressives" about whether to constitute themselves in the House as a separate Progressive Party caucus or as a wing of the Republican Party. Additional nominations in the period also reflect shifts in the party labels by which these nominees and others receiving votes chose to designate themselves. The last formal Progressive Party nominee appeared in 1937 (75th Congress). After defeats in the following election, the only two remaining Members representing the Progressive Party were reduced to voting for each other for Speaker, and beginning in 1947 (80th Congress), the last standard-bearer of the tendency accepted the Republican label. The demise of this movement in the House represented the final stage in the establishment of a two-party system at the national level.

From 1945 through 1995 (79th-104th Congresses), only the official nominees of the two major parties received votes for Speaker. This pattern, in other words, persisted from the end of World War II and the advent of the "modern Congress"¹³ until after the Republicans had regained the majority in the 104th Congress (1995-1996) after four decades as the minority party. During this period, the presumption became firmly established that a Member's vote for Speaker will reliably reflect his or her party membership.

The opening of the 105th Congress in 1997, accordingly, marked the first time since 1943 that anyone other than the two major party candidates received votes for Speaker. In 14 of the 17 speakership elections since then (1997-2025), at least one Member has voted for a candidate other than ones formally nominated by the major party conferences. Early in this period, votes cast for other candidates seem to have usually reflected specific circumstances and events, but in the most

⁹ See Table A-1 in Appendix for full results.

¹⁰ See Table A-2 in Appendix for full results.

¹¹ The resolution was agreed to, 216-210. Upon adoption and pursuant to House Rule I, clause 8(b)(3), a Speaker pro tempore (Rep. Patrick McHenry [NC]) assumed certain duties of the Speaker until a new one was elected. See *Congressional Record*, daily edition, vol. 169 (October 3, 2023), p. H4978. See also *Precedents* (Wickham), ch. 6, §1, pp. 395-396.

¹² See Table A-3 in the Appendix for full results.

¹³ The "modern Congress" is usually reckoned from the implementation in the 80th Cong. (1947-1948) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (P.L. 79-601, 60 Stat. 812).

recent instances, some of them may be regarded as reflecting action by identifiable political factions or groupings. During this period, only in the initial election of 2015 and in some of the ballots in the initial 2023 election have the names of any candidates other than those of the party conferences been formally placed in nomination.

The ballots in 1997, 2013, 2015 (both instances), 2019, and 2021 and both elections in 2023 (for some ballots) were also notable because votes were cast for candidates who were not Members of the House at the time. In the initial election in 2015, two of the votes cast were for sitting Members of the Senate; in 2019 and 2021, one such ballot was cast. In the initial 2023 election, votes were cast for a former President of the United States and a former Member of Congress. In the October 2023 election, votes were cast for three former Members of Congress (including a former Speaker of the House). Although the Constitution does not require the Speaker (or any other officer of either chamber) to be a Member, the Speaker has always been so; it is not known that any votes for individuals other than Members to be Speaker had ever previously been cast in the history of the House.

Notably, in 2001, a Member who bore the designation of one major party voted for the nominee of the other. Although the table below does not indicate the party affiliation of the Members voting for each candidate, examination of other available records confirms that no such action had occurred at least for the previous half century.¹⁴

¹⁴ Subsequently, in organizing for that Congress (the 107th), the party caucus against whose nominee the Member voted declined to provide him with committee assignments.

Table I. Votes Cast on Ballots Electing the Speaker, 1913-2025

| Year | Republican Nominee | Votes | Democratic Nominee | Votes | Others Receiving Votes | Votes |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|--|------------|---|--------------|
| 1913 | James R. Mann (IL) | 111 | James B. (“Champ”) Clark (MO) | 272 | <i>Victor Murdock</i> (P-KS) <i>Henry A. Cooper</i> (R-WI) <i>John M. Nelson</i> (R-WI) | 18 4 1 |
| 1915 | James R. Mann (IL) | 195 | James B. (“Champ”) Clark (MO) | 222 | | |
| 1917 | James R. Mann (IL) | 205 | James B. (“Champ”) Clark (MO) | 217 | <i>Irvine L. Lenroot</i> (R-WI) <i>Frederick H. Gillett</i> (R-MA) | 2 2 |
| 1919 | Frederick H. Gillett (MA) | 228 | James B. (“Champ”) Clark (MO) | 172 | | |
| 1921 | Frederick H. Gillett (MA) | 297 | Claude Kitchin (NC) | 122 | | |
| 1923 (ballot #1) | Frederick H. Gillett (MA) | 197 | Finis J. Garrett (TN) | 195 | <i>Henry A. Cooper</i> (R-WI) <i>Martin B. Madden</i> (R-IL) | 17 5 |
| (ballot #9) | Frederick H. Gillett (MA) | 215 | Finis J. Garrett (TN) | 197 | <i>Martin B. Madden</i> (R-IL) | 2 |
| 1925 | Nicholas Longworth (OH) | 229 | Finis J. Garrett (TN) | 173 | <i>Henry A. Cooper</i> (R-WI) | 13 |
| 1927 | Nicholas Longworth (OH) | 225 | Finis J. Garrett (TN) | 187 | | |
| 1929 | Nicholas Longworth (OH) | 254 | John N. Garner (TX) | 143 | | |
| 1931 | Bertrand H. Snell (NY) | 207 | John N. Garner (TX) | 218 | <i>George J. Schneider</i> (R-WI) | 5 |
| 1933 | Bertrand H. Snell (NY) | 110 | Henry T. Rainey (IL) | 302 | <i>Paul J. Kvale</i> (F-L-MN) | 5 |
| 1935 | Bertrand H. Snell (NY) | 95 | Joseph W. Byrns (TN) | 317 | <i>George J. Schneider</i> (P-WI) <i>W. P. Lambertson</i> (R-KS) | 9 2 |
| 1936 (June 4) ^a | | | William B. Bankhead (AL) (H.Res. 543) ^b | voice vote | | |
| 1937 | Bertrand H. Snell (NY) | 83 | William B. Bankhead (AL) | 324 | <i>George J. Schneider</i> (P-WI) <i>Fred L. Crawford</i> (R-MI) | 10 2 |
| 1939 | Joseph W. Martin (MA) | 168 | William B. Bankhead (AL) | 249 | <i>Merlin Hull</i> (P-WI) <i>Bernard J. Gehrmann</i> (P-WI) | 1 1 |
| 1940 (Sept. 16) ^a | | | Sam Rayburn (TX) (H.Res. 602) ^b | voice vote | | |

| Year | Republican Nominee | Votes | Democratic Nominee | Votes | Others Receiving Votes | Votes |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------|---|--------|
| 1941 | Joseph W. Martin (MA) | 159 | Sam Rayburn (TX) | 247 | Merlin Hull (P-WI) Bernard J. Gehrman (P-WI) | 2 1 |
| 1943 | Joseph W. Martin (MA) | 206 | Sam Rayburn (TX) | 217 | Merlin Hull (P-WI) Harry Sauthoff (P-WI) | 1 1 |
| 1945 | Joseph W. Martin (MA) | 168 | Sam Rayburn (TX) | 224 | | |
| 1947 | Joseph W. Martin (MA) | 244 | Sam Rayburn (TX) | 182 | | |
| 1949 | Joseph W. Martin (MA) | 160 | Sam Rayburn (TX) | 255 | | |
| 1951 | Joseph W. Martin (MA) | 193 | Sam Rayburn (TX) | 231 | | |
| 1953 | Joseph W. Martin (MA) | 220 | Sam Rayburn (TX) | 201 | | |
| 1955 | Joseph W. Martin (MA) | 198 | Sam Rayburn (TX) | 228 | | |
| 1957 | Joseph W. Martin (MA) | 199 | Sam Rayburn (TX) | 227 | | |
| 1959 | Charles A. Halleck (IN) | 148 | Sam Rayburn (TX) | 281 | | |
| 1961 | Charles A. Halleck (IN) | 170 | Sam Rayburn (TX) | 258 | | |
| 1962 (Jan. 10) ^a | Charles A. Halleck (IN) | 166 | John W. McCormack (MA) | 248 | | |
| 1963 | Charles A. Halleck (IN) | 175 | John W. McCormack (MA) | 256 | | |
| 1965 | Gerald R. Ford (MI) | 139 | John W. McCormack (MA) | 289 | | |
| 1967 | Gerald R. Ford (MI) | 186 | John W. McCormack (MA) | 246 | | |
| 1969 | Gerald R. Ford (MI) | 187 | John W. McCormack (MA) | 241 | | |
| 1971 | Gerald R. Ford (MI) | 176 | Carl B. Albert (OK) | 250 | | |
| 1973 | Gerald R. Ford (MI) | 188 | Carl B. Albert (OK) | 236 | | |
| 1975 | John J. Rhodes (AZ) | 143 | Carl B. Albert (OK) | 287 | | |
| 1977 | John J. Rhodes (AZ) | 142 | Thomas P. (“Tip”) O’Neill (MA) | 290 | | |
| 1979 | John J. Rhodes (AZ) | 152 | Thomas P. (“Tip”) O’Neill (MA) | 268 | | |
| 1981 | Robert H. Michel (IL) | 183 | Thomas P. (“Tip”) O’Neill (MA) | 233 | | |
| 1983 | Robert H. Michel (IL) | 155 | Thomas P. (“Tip”) O’Neill (MA) | 260 | | |

| Year | Republican Nominee | Votes | Democratic Nominee | Votes | Others Receiving Votes | Votes |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1985 | Robert H. Michel (IL) | 175 | Thomas P. (“Tip”) O’Neill (MA) | 247 | | |
| 1987 | Robert H. Michel (IL) | 173 | Jim Wright (TX) | 254 | | |
| 1989 | Robert H. Michel (IL) | 170 | Jim Wright (TX) | 253 | | |
| 1989 (June 6) ^a | Robert H. Michel (IL) | 164 | Thomas S. Foley (WA) | 251 | | |
| 1991 | Robert H. Michel (IL) | 165 | Thomas S. Foley (WA) | 262 | | |
| 1993 | Robert H. Michel (IL) | 174 | Thomas S. Foley (WA) | 255 | | |
| 1995 | Newt Gingrich (GA) | 228 | Richard A. Gephardt (MO) | 202 | | |
| 1997 | Newt Gingrich (GA) | 216 | Richard A. Gephardt (MO) | 205 | James Leach (R-IA) Robert H. Michel ^c Robert Walker ^c | 2 1 1 |
| 1999 | J. Dennis Hastert (IL) | 220 | Richard A. Gephardt (MO) | 205 | | |
| 2001 | J. Dennis Hastert (IL) | 222 | Richard A. Gephardt (MO) | 206 | John P. Murtha (D-PA) | 1 |
| 2003 | J. Dennis Hastert (IL) | 228 | Nancy Pelosi (CA) | 201 | John P. Murtha (D-PA) | 1 |
| 2005 | J. Dennis Hastert (IL) | 226 | Nancy Pelosi (CA) | 199 | John P. Murtha (D-PA) | 1 |
| 2007 | John A. Boehner (OH) | 202 | Nancy Pelosi (CA) | 233 | | |
| 2009 | John A. Boehner (OH) | 174 | Nancy Pelosi (CA) | 255 | | |
| 2011 | John A. Boehner (OH) | 241 | Nancy Pelosi (CA) | 173 | Heath Shuler (D-NC) John Lewis (D-GA) Jim Costa (D-CA) Dennis Cardoza (D-CA) Jim Cooper (D-TN) Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) | 11 2 1 1 1 1 1 |

| Year | Republican Nominee | Votes | Democratic Nominee | Votes | Others Receiving Votes | Votes |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|---|--|
| 2013 | John A. Boehner (OH) | 220 | Nancy Pelosi (CA) | 192 | Eric Cantor (R-VA) Allen West ^c Jim Cooper (D-TN) John Lewis (D-GA) Jim Jordan (R-OH) Colin Powell ^c Raúl R. Labrador (R-ID) Justin Amash (R-MI) John Dingell (D-MI) David Walker ^c | 3 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 |
| 2015 | John A. Boehner (OH) | 216 | Nancy Pelosi (CA) | 164 | <i>Daniel Webster</i> (R-FL) <i>Louie Gohmert</i> (R-TX) <i>Ted S. Yoho</i> (R-FL) Jim Jordan (R-OH) Jeff Duncan (R-SC) Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) ^c Colin Powell ^c Trey Gowdy (R-SC) Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) Jim Cooper (D-TN) Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR) Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) ^c John Lewis (D-GA) | 12 3 2 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 |
| 2015 (Oct. 29) ^a | Paul D. Ryan (WI) | 236 | Nancy Pelosi (CA) | 184 | Daniel Webster (R-FL) Colin Powell ^c Jim Cooper (D-TN) John Lewis (D-GA) | 9 1 1 1 |
| 2017 | Paul D. Ryan (WI) | 239 | Nancy Pelosi (CA) | 189 | Tim Ryan (D-OH) Daniel Webster (R-FL) Jim Cooper (D-TN) John Lewis (D-GA) | 2 1 1 1 |

| Year | Republican Nominee | Votes | Democratic Nominee | Votes | Others Receiving Votes | Votes |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|--|--|
| 2019 | Kevin McCarthy (CA) | 192 | Nancy Pelosi (CA) | 220 | Jim Jordan (R-OH) Cheri Bustos (D-IL) Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) ^c Thomas Massie (R-KY) Joseph Biden ^c John Lewis (D-GA) Joseph P. Kennedy, III (D-MA) Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH) Stacey Abrams ^c | 5 4 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 |
| 2021 | Kevin McCarthy (CA) | 209 | Nancy Pelosi (CA) | 216 | Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) ^c Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) | 1 1 |
| 2023 (Jan. ballot #1) | Kevin McCarthy (CA) | 203 | Hakeem S. Jeffries (NY) | 212 | Andy Biggs (R-AZ) Jim Jordan (R-OH) Jim Banks (R-IN) Lee Zeldin ^c Byron Donalds (R-FL) | 10 6 1 1 1 |
| (ballot #15) | Kevin McCarthy (CA) | 216 | Hakeem S. Jeffries (NY) | 212 | | |
| 2023 (Oct. ballot #1) ^d | Jim Jordan (OH) | 200 | Hakeem S. Jeffries (NY) | 212 | Steve Scalise (R-LA) Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) Lee Zeldin ^c Mike Garcia (R-CA) Tom Emmer (R-MN) Tom Cole (R-OK) Thomas Massie (R-KY) | 7 6 3 1 1 1 1 |
| (ballot #4) | Mike Johnson (LA) | 220 | Hakeem S. Jeffries (NY) | 209 | | |
| 2025 | Mike Johnson (LA) | 218 | Hakeem S. Jeffries (NY) | 215 | Tom Emmer (R-MN) | 1 |

Source: *Journals of the House of Representatives* (for 2003-2011, *Congressional Record*, daily edition, and for 2013-2025, Clerk of the House website, <https://clerk.house.gov/Votes>). Party designations are taken from the *Congressional Directory* for the respective years since these reflect a Member's official party self-designation; historical sources may differ as to the effective party affiliation of certain individuals.

Notes: Key:

Elected candidate in **bold**.

“Other” candidate’s name formally placed in nomination in *italics*.

Party designations of “other” candidates: R = Republican, P = Progressive, F-L = Farmer-Labor.

Notes:

- a. Special election to fill a vacancy in the speakership caused by death or resignation.
- b. Elected by resolution, not by roll call from nominations.
- c. Not a member of the House at the time.
- d. Special election caused by House declaration of a vacancy in the Speaker’s office.

Appendix. Multi-Ballot Speaker Elections Since 1913

Table A-1. 1923 (68th Congress)

(R)=Republican Party Nominee; (D)=Democratic Party Nominee

| | Dec. 3 (ballot #1) | Dec. 3 (#2) | Dec. 3 (#3) | Dec. 3 (#4) | Dec. 4 (#5) | Dec. 4 (#6) | Dec. 4 (#7) | Dec. 4 (#8) | Dec. 5 (#9) |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Gillett (R) | 197 | 194 | 195 | 197 | 197 | 195 | 196 | 197 | 215 |
| Garrett (D) | 195 | 194 | 196 | 196 | 197 | 197 | 198 | 198 | 197 |
| Cooper | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | - |
| Madden | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| Present | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |

Source: *Congressional Record*, vol. 65 (December 3 - 5, 1923), pp. H8-H15.

Table A-2. January 2023 (118th Congress)

(R)=Republican Party Nominee; (D)=Democratic Party Nominee

| | Jan. 3 (ballot #1) | Jan. 3 (#2) | Jan. 3 (#3) | Jan. 4 (#4) | Jan. 4 (#5) | Jan. 4 (#6) | Jan. 5 (#7) | Jan. 5 (#8) | Jan. 5 (#9) | Jan. 5 (#10) | Jan. 5 (#11) | Jan. 6 (#12) | Jan. 6 (#13) | Jan. 6 (#14) | Jan. 7 (#15) |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| McCarthy (R) | 203 | 203 | 202 | 201 | 201 | 201 | 201 | 201 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 213 | 214 | 216 | 216 |
| Jeffries (D) | 212 | 212 | 212 | 212 | 212 | 212 | 212 | 212 | 212 | 212 | 212 | 211 | 212 | 212 | 212 |
| Biggs | 10 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Jordan | 6 | 19 | 20 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 6 | 2 | - |
| Banks | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Zeldin ^a | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Donalds | 1 | - | - | 20 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 17 | 17 | 13 | 12 | - | - | - | - |
| Trump ^a | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Hern | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 3 | - | - | - |
| <i>Present</i> | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 6 |

Source: Clerk of the House website (<https://clerk.house.gov/Votes>). See Roll Call vote numbers 2 through 4 (January 3); 5 through 7 (January 4); 9 through 13 (January 5); 15, 16, and 18 (January 6); and 20 (January 7).

Notes:

- a. Lee M. Zeldin (NY, former Member of Congress) and Donald J. Trump (former President of the United States) were not Members at the time.

Table A-3. October 2023 (118th Congress)

(R)= Republican Party Nominee; (D)=Democratic Party Nominee

| | Oct. 17 (ballot #1) | Oct. 18 (#2) | Oct. 20 (#3) | Oct. 25 (#4) |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jordan (R) ^a | 200 | 199 | 194 | - |
| Jeffries (D) | 212 | 212 | 210 | 209 |
| Johnson (R) ^a | - | - | - | 220 |
| Scalise | 7 | 7 | 8 | - |
| McCarthy | 6 | 5 | 2 | - |
| Zeldin ^b | 3 | 3 | 4 | - |
| Garcia, Mike | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| Emmer | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| Cole | 1 | - | - | - |
| Massie | 1 | - | - | - |
| Donalds | - | 1 | 2 | - |
| Boehner ^b | - | 1 | - | - |
| Granger | - | 1 | - | - |
| Westerman | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| Miller, Candice ^b | - | 1 | - | - |
| McHenry | - | - | 6 | - |
| <i>Present</i> | - | - | - | - |

Source: Clerk of the House website (<https://clerk.house.gov/Votes>). See Roll Call vote numbers 521 (October 17), 523 (October 18), 525 (October 20), and 527 (October 25).

Notes:

- a. Jordan was the Republican Party's nominee on the first three ballots; Johnson was the party's nominee on the fourth ballot.
- b. Lee M. Zeldin (NY), John A. Boehner (OH), and Candice S. Miller (MI) were former Members of Congress at the time.

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This report was initially written by Richard S. Beth, former CRS Specialist on Congress and the Legislative Process. The current author had updated the report in recent years and is available to answer inquiries from congressional clients on the topic.

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