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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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No. 176

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McHENRY).

### PRAYER

Reverend Jeremy Leganski, Immaculate Conception Church, Elmhurst, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Good and gracious God, we praise You, we love You, and we thank You for this day.

Draw near to these Members of Congress. Remind them of their calling to serve the true common good. Help them to be instruments of unity, peace, and reconciliation in our country and throughout the world. Bless them, guide them, and fill them with an abundance of Your grace.

May they decide everything for the well-being of all, and may they never turn aside from Your will.

May all that they do begin from You and, by You, be brought to completion. In Your name we pray.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NEWHOUSE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### CALL OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker pro tempore, pursuant to clause 7 of rule XX, I move a call of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 7(b) of rule XX, the Chair confers recognition for that purpose.

Without objection, a call of the House was ordered.

There was no objection.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 526]

### ANSWERED "PRESENT"—429

Adams	Burlison	Cuellar	Frankel, Lois	Johnson (LA)	McCormick
Aderholt	Bush	Curtis	Franklin, Scott	Johnson (OH)	McGarvey
Aguilar	Calvert	D'Esposito	Frost	Johnson (SD)	McGovern
Alford	Cammack	Davidson	Fry	Jordan	McHenry
Allen	Caraveo	Davis (IL)	Fulcher	Joyce (OH)	Meeks
Allred	Carbajal	Davis (NC)	Gaetz	Joyce (PA)	Menendez
Amodei	Cárdenas	De La Cruz	Gallagher	Kamlager-Dove	Meng
Armstrong	Carey	Dean (PA)	Gallego	Kaptur	Meuser
Arrington	Carl	DeGette	Garamendi	Kean (NJ)	Mfume
Auchincloss	Carson	DeLauro	Garbarino	Keating	Miller (IL)
Babin	Carter (GA)	DelBene	Garcia (IL)	Kelly (IL)	Miller (OH)
Bacon	Carter (LA)	Deluzio	Garcia (TX)	Kelly (MS)	Miller (WV)
Baird	Carter (TX)	DeSaulnier	Garcia, Mike	Kelly (PA)	Miller-Meeks
Balderson	Cartwright	DesJarlais	Garcia, Robert	Khanna	Mills
Balint	Casar	Diaz-Balart	Jimenez	Kiggans (VA)	Molinaro
Banks	Case	Dingell	Golden (ME)	Kildee	Moolenaar
Barr	Casten	Doggett	Goldman (NY)	Kiley	Mooney
Barragán	Castor (FL)	Donalds	Gomez	Kilmer	Moore (AL)
Bean (FL)	Castro (TX)	Duarte	Gonzales, Tony	Kim (CA)	Moore (UT)
Beatty	Chavez-DeRemer	Duncan	Good (VA)	Kim (NJ)	Moore (WI)
Bentz	Cherfilus-	Dunn (FL)	Gooden (TX)	Krishnamoorthi	Moran
Bera	McCormick	Edwards	Gosar	Kuster	Morelle
Bergman	Chu	Ellzey	Gottheimer	Kustoff	Moskowitz
Beyer	Ciscomani	Emmer	Granger	LaHood	Moulton
Bice	Clark (MA)	Escobar	Graves (LA)	LaLota	Mrvan
Biggs	Clarke (NY)	Eshoo	Graves (MO)	LaMalfa	Mullin
Bilirakis	Cleaver	Espallat	Green (TN)	Lamborn	Murphy
Bishop (GA)	Cline	Estes	Green, Al (TX)	Landsman	Nadler
Bishop (NC)	Cloud	Evans	Greene (GA)	Langworthy	Napolitano
Blumenauer	Clyburn	Ezell	Griffith	Larsen (WA)	Neal
Blunt Rochester	Clyde	Fallon	Grijalva	Larson (CT)	Neguse
Boebert	Cohen	Feenstra	Grothman	Latta	Nehls
Bonamici	Cole	Ferguson	Guest	LaTurner	Newhouse
Bost	Collins	Finstad	Guthrie	Lawler	Nickel
Bowman	Comer	Fischbach	Hageman	Lee (CA)	Norcross
Brecheen	Connolly	Fitzgerald	Harder (GA)	Lee (FL)	Norman
Brown	Costa	Fitzpatrick	Harris	Lee (NV)	Nunn (IA)
Brownley	Courtney	Fleischmann	Harshbarger	Lee (PA)	Oberholte
Buchanan	Craig	Fletcher	Hayes	Leger Fernandez	Ocasio-Cortez
Buck	Crane	Flood	Hern	Lesko	Ogles
Bucshon	Crawford	Foster	Higgins (LA)	Letlow	Omar
Budzinski	Crawshaw	Fox	Higgins (NY)	Levin	Owens
Burchett	Crockett	Fox	Hill	Lieu	Pallone
Burgess	Crow	Fox	Himes	Lofgren	Palmer
			Hinson	Loudermilk	Panetta
			Horsford	Lucas	Pappas
			Houchin	Luetkemeyer	Pascrell
			Houlahan	Luna	Payne
			Hoyer	Luttrell	Payne
			Hoyle (OR)	Lynch	Pelosi
			Hudson	Mace	Peltola
			Huffman	Magaziner	Pence
			Huizenga	Malliotakis	Perez
			Hunt	Mann	Perry
			Issa	Manning	Peters
			Ivey	Massie	Pettersen
			Jackson (IL)	Mast	Pfluger
			Jackson (NC)	Matsui	Phillips
			Jackson (TX)	McBath	Pingree
			Jackson Lee	McCarthy	Pocan
			Jacobs	McCaul	Porter
			James	McClain	Posey
			Jayapal	McClellan	Pressley
			Jeffries	McClintock	Quigley
			Johnson (GA)	McCollum	Ramirez
					Raskin

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H5047

Reschenthaler	Slotkin	Torres (NY)
Rodgers (WA)	Smith (MO)	Trahan
Rogers (AL)	Smith (NE)	Trone
Rogers (KY)	Smith (NJ)	Turner
Rose	Smith (WA)	Underwood
Rosendale	Smucker	Valadao
Ross	Sorensen	Van Drew
Rouzer	Soto	Van Duyne
Roy	Spanberger	Vargas
Ruiz	Spartz	Vasquez
Ruppersberger	Stansbury	Veasey
Rutherford	Stanton	Velázquez
Ryan	Stauber	Wagner
Salazar	Steel	Walberg
Salinas	Stefanik	Waltz
Sánchez	Steil	Wasserman
Santos	Steube	Schultz
Sarbanes	Stevens	Waters
Scalise	Strickland	Watson Coleman
Scanlon	Strong	Weber (TX)
Schakowsky	Swalwell	Webster (FL)
Schiff	Sykes	Wenstrup
Schneider	Takano	Westerman
Scholten	Tenney	Wexton
Schrier	Thanedar	Wild
Schweikert	Thompson (CA)	Williams (GA)
Scott (VA)	Thompson (MS)	Williams (NY)
Scott, Austin	Thompson (PA)	Williams (TX)
Scott, David	Tiffany	Wilson (FL)
Self	Timmons	Wilson (SC)
Sessions	Titus	Wittman
Sewell	Tlaib	Womack
Sherman	Tokuda	Yakym
Sherrill	Tonko	Zinke
Simpson	Torres (CA)	

## NOT VOTING—4

Boyle (PA)	Gonzalez,	Van Orden
Correa	Vicente	

□ 1245

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On this roll call, 429 Members have recorded their presence.

A quorum is present.

## ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question now recurs on the election of a Speaker. The tellers will please come forward to take their seats once again.

The nominations are now in order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK).

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker pro tempore, Mr. Clerk, colleagues, on behalf of the House Republican Conference, I rise today to nominate the gentleman from Louisiana, MIKE JOHNSON, as Speaker of the people's House.

We convene this esteemed body today at a time of great crisis across America, a time of unprecedented challenges in this hallowed Chamber, and a time when the very existence of our most precious ally, Israel, is under attack from forces of evil.

Yesterday, our dear colleague, our former Conference chair, the chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, nominated MIKE JOHNSON in our Conference. She put it best when she said: "Trust has been broken, and we have come to a standstill. How do we restore trust between Members, leadership, and ultimately between Congress and we the people?"

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS noted that there is a sense that it cannot be business as usual. She said: "Above the Speaker's chair in the House Chamber is our Nation's motto, In God We Trust."

She went on to say: "The times in which we are living demand boldness,

unity, and transformational leadership that begins with trust in God and each other. Trust is when the magic happens. In the story of King David, we are reminded that man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Today is the day that House Republicans will humbly look in our hearts and elect MIKE JOHNSON as Speaker of the people's House.

A man of deep faith, MIKE epitomizes what it means to be a servant leader. A deeply respected constitutional lawyer, MIKE has dedicated his life to preserving America's great principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

MIKE is a titan on the Judiciary Committee and a dedicated member of the House Armed Services Committee. As vice chair of our Conference, he has united all of our members to speak clearly and boldly on behalf of the American people. A friend to all and an enemy to none, MIKE is strong, tough, and fair. Above all, MIKE is kind.

At this very moment, this Republican Conference knows that we live in perilous times and that the American people are hurting. Families are struggling under the pain of inflation caused by reckless, far-left spending, unable to afford groceries, heat, or gas.

We have an inhumane open border, with millions illegally smuggled and trafficked and tens of thousands of children lost in the chasm of the incompetence and negligence of the Biden administration.

Israel is under attack by Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists committing atrocities, with Israelis suffering the bloodiest days in modern memory.

Crime is skyrocketing on our streets, while there are vicious calls from the left to defund our great men and women in blue.

American energy production has been crushed by Joe Biden's radical, failed far-left Democrat policies, causing seniors, farmers, and families to pay more at the pump.

Americans fundamentally understand that the Federal Government has been illegally weaponized against we the people, shredding the Constitution, targeting conservatives and parents.

Yes, I will say it again: The Federal Government has been illegally weaponized against we the people, shredding the Constitution, targeting conservatives, parents, and even Joe Biden's top political opponents.

The people are looking to this great Chamber to save America, and save America we will.

As we embark on the path ahead, I am reminded of Galatians 6:9: "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up."

House Republicans and Speaker MIKE JOHNSON will never give up. Today is the day we get this done.

May God bless our next Speaker, MIKE JOHNSON, and may God bless the United States of America.

□ 1300

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR).

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker pro tempore, I notice a little bit more of a smile on your face today than we have in the past.

Mr. Speaker pro tempore, I rise today at the direction of the Democratic Caucus to place into nomination for the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES from New York.

Mr. Speaker pro tempore, you may agree with this, but we are back here 22 days into this Republican-manufactured chaos and House Republicans have brought us to the exact same position that we were back then. All of the infighting, all of the disarray just to end up where we were 3 weeks ago.

These past few weeks, we have been left wondering if Republicans were truly intent on solving our issues, reopening the House of Representatives, and rallying around someone to lead this Chamber, or has this been about something else? Has this been about a focus of House Republicans to find the person who can pass their extreme litmus test to oppose marriage equality, enact a nationwide abortion ban without exceptions, gut Social Security and Medicare, and support overturning a free and fair election?

It is a fair question. Nowhere in that candidate questionnaire is it about growing the middle class, helping our communities, keeping the costs of healthcare lower, and making life for everyday Americans better.

The gentlewoman from New York said it right: This has been about one thing. This has been about who can appease Donald Trump. House Republicans have put their names behind someone who has been called the most important architect of the electoral college objections.

He spearheaded the legal effort, joined by more than 100 of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle in support of a dangerous and baseless lawsuit to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

On the eve of January 6, some of my Republican colleagues even called this a failed strategy. Yet those same individuals plan to stand right next to him today.

Mr. Speaker pro tempore, House Democrats believe that when Members of this body voted to reject the results of the 2020 election, they forfeited their ability to lead this Chamber.

On this side of the aisle, we know what leadership looks like. HAKEEM JEFFRIES has never turned his back on the will of the American people. The son of two social workers, he has always stood by the side of working families. The most pressing needs of everyday Americans are his North Star. He believes that everyone in America should have the opportunity to get ahead and achieve their version of the American Dream. He believes that access to affordable healthcare is a right,