



Mike Johnson

Speaker of the House of Representatives and Representative for Louisiana's 4th District (R)

Vignette
by National Journal

Life In Brief

Current Title: Rep.

Political Party: Republican Party

Born: January 30, 1972

Religion: Southern Baptist

Ethnicity: White

Marital Status: Married

Education Summary:

- JD, Louisiana State University, 1998
- BS, Louisiana State University, 1995

Family:

4 children

Work History:

- Speaker of the House of Representatives, 2023-Present
- Representative for Louisiana's 4th District, 2017-Present
- Member, Louisiana state House of Representatives, 2015-2016
- Partner, Kitchens Law Firm, A Professional Law Corporation
- Legal Counsel, Louisiana Right to Life Federation
- Senior Attorney/Media Spokesperson, Alliance Defending Freedom
- Chief Counsel, Freedom Guard
- Founding Dean, Pressler School of Law of Louisiana College

Committees:

- House Judiciary

- Constitution & Limited Government (Chairman)
- Administrative State, Regulatory Reform & Antitrust
- Select Weaponization of the Federal Government
- House Armed Services
 - Readiness
 - Seapower & Projection Forces

Noteworthy Caucuses:

- **House**
 - Republican Study Committee (RSC)
 - House Freedom Caucus
- **Joint**
 - Second Amendment Caucus

Key Votes:

- *HR 5376*, Build Back Better Act (Concurrence Vote): **Nay**
- *HR 4346*, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2022 (Concurrence Vote): **Nay**
- *HR 3684*, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Concurrence Vote): **Nay**
- *HR 1319*, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Concurrence Vote): **Nay**

Quick Summary

A constitutional lawyer turned politician, Johnson quickly rose to Republican leadership in the House as a staunch advocate of religious freedoms and deregulation

- A lifelong resident of Shreveport, Louisiana, Johnson started his career in constitutional law as a member of the moot court team at Louisiana State University, from which he received his bachelor's and legal degrees
- Operated a private law firm where he practiced constitutional law and advocated for



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conservative principles while representing members of Congress, governors, local politicians, and municipalities in First Amendment cases

- Elected to the Louisiana State House in 2015, developing a reputation as a dependable social and economic conservative who supported strict religious freedom laws
- Easily won Louisiana's fourth congressional seat in 2016 and has continued to promote religious liberty and free-market ideals in Congress; in 2019, he sponsored the History and Tradition Protection Act to protect religious liberties and expression
- On the House Natural Resources Committee, he advocated for his district's agriculture, natural gas, and steel interests with deregulatory legislation
- After serving as chair of the Republican Study Committee in the 116th Congress, Johnson was the ranking member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties; House Republicans also elected Johnson as vice chair of the House Republican Conference in 2020, vowing to take a bold stance in advancing conservative policies

Approach and Motivations

Tradition-minded social and economic conservative motivated by his personal religious beliefs; military presence in his district motivate his focus on defense

- His father's bravery as a firefighter instilled values of hard work, honor, and sacrifice in him; ran for public office to "pay back the debt" he felt he owed his community for their encouragement and support during his family's time of need following his father's injury
- Guided by traditional Protestant values, Johnson offered his legal services for free to support religious freedom causes, including

defending a Bossier City, Louisiana public high school's right to promote religion and prayer; as a member of Congress he continues to prioritize right to life, free speech, and decreased gun regulation

- District's two military installations, Fort Polk Army Base and Barksdale Air Force Base, help inform his support for an increased military budget; passed measure requiring the Army to conduct a review of cyber capability training to the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, and a bill establishing a partnership with Israel to prevent drone attacks from mutual adversaries

Policy Position and Areas of Focus

Prioritizes national defense, social issues, and the economy

National Defense: Views undocumented migrants and fentanyl trafficking as serious domestic threats; supports military base construction projects in Louisiana

- Highlights federal funding of defense construction projects in his district, such as the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act's support for the Barksdale Air Force Base and the Fort Polk Joint Readiness Training Center
- Introduced the Continuous and Enduring Action to Stop Every (CEASE) Overdose Act of 2022 due to concerns with increasing overdose rates in Louisiana; legislation would permanently classify fentanyl as a Schedule I narcotic

Immigration: Calls for increased authority for US border patrol agents, and less protections given to those in immigration proceedings and children seeking asylum

- Critical of undocumented immigration, Johnson introduced the Securing Our Borders and



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Wilderness Act in 2021, which would have expanded US Border Patrol authority in wilderness areas

- Sponsored the Asylum Reform and Border Protection Act of 2021, which sought to prohibit the government from paying for legal counsel in Department of Homeland Security or Department of Justice proceedings; also called for rescinding protections for unaccompanied children seeking asylum

Economy: *Provided broad economic goals aiming to lower cost of living and limit government regulations over businesses*

- Sets vague objectives of curbing inflation and supporting domestic energy production and supply chains
- A fiscal conservative, Johnson supports deregulation and limited federal spending; supports laissez-faire policies, including mitigated government involvement in the private sector

Core Communities

Endorsements: *Backed by fmr. President Donald Trump and conservative interest groups during his 2022 reelection campaign*

- Endorsed by the Louisiana Republican Party and fmr. President Donald Trump who said that “Mike Johnson is a tough fighter for the America First agenda, and has my complete and total endorsement”
- Received support from conservative interest groups such as the National Rifle Association, National Right to Life Committee, and the Campaign for Working Families

Political History

- Vice Chair, U.S. House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, 2018

- Vice Chair, LA State House Committee on Judiciary, 2016
- Member (LA008 R), LA State House, 2015-2016

Relevant Financial Information

Campaign Finance (2022)

- Raised: \$1.3 million
- Spent: \$1.1 million
- Debt: \$0
- Cash on hand: \$884,578

Top Industries (2022)

- Retired, \$91,928
- Oil & Gas, \$83,850
- Health Professionals, \$64,600
- Crop Production & Basic Processing, \$54,250
- Real Estate, \$52,575
- Lawyers/Law Firms, \$51,660
- Leadership PACs, \$49,500
- Securities & Investment, \$39,950
- General Contractors, \$38,400
- Lobbyists, \$32,850

Source: [OpenSecrets](#)

Awards

- MVP for Business, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
- Outstanding Family Advocate, Louisiana Family Forum

Special Interest Group Ratings

- *American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)*, 10%, 2021-2022



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- *American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)*, **0%**, 2021
- *League of Conservation Voters*, **0%**, 2022
- *National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)*, **13%**, 2019
- *National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)*, **100.0**, 2021-2022
- *National Rifle Association (NRA)*, **92%**, 2022
- *Planned Parenthood Action Fund*, **0%**, 2021-2022
- *The Lugar Center*, **3%**, 2021
- *United States Chamber of Commerce*, **69%**, 2020

Contact Information

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