



How Donald Trump Stole Congress:

The Transformation of the People's House into a Rubber Stamp for the President— Shutting Down Debate, Silencing Members, and Serving the Billionaire Class

Speaker Mike Johnson made sweeping promises to secure his gavel—vowing that he would follow regular order, debate more ideas on the House floor, and empower individual Members of Congress to make their voices heard.

So far, he has done the exact opposite—shredding institutional norms and using authoritarian tactics to shut down debate, block ideas from consideration, and silence Members of Congress:

- Last Congress, Republicans shattered their own record of the most closed rules in history. **So far this Congress, 95 measures have been issued a closed rule—a new record for the most closed rules in a single-year session of Congress ever. They are on track to once again break their own record for shutting down debate on the House floor.** More than 8 out of every 10 rules issued this Congress have locked down debate and allowed zero amendments on the floor.
- During Speaker Johnson's tenure, Rules Republicans have blocked from advancing to the floor over 6,000 amendments, including 89% of Democratic amendments, 54% of Republican amendments, and 64% of bipartisan amendments.
- In the 119th Congress so far, nearly 8 out of every 10 amendments have been blocked—up from 61% in the 115th Congress and nearly 70% in the 118th Congress during the previous two Republican majorities.
- Speaker Johnson and Rules Republicans have blocked nearly as many amendments in just over two years as Democrats did in four years.
- During the 118th Congress, Republican Leadership canceled 26 voting days.¹ So far, Speaker Johnson has canceled 35 voting days throughout the first year of the 119th Congress. In other words, Republican Leadership canceled a quarter of voting days this year despite the longest government shutdown in American history.

Instead of operating independently as the first branch of government, as the founders intended, Speaker Johnson and House Republicans have abdicated their constitutional obligations. Rather than checking a rogue executive, Johnson has weaponized House procedure to shield the Trump administration, transforming the People's House into a rubber stamp and becoming a willing accomplice to a reckless, authoritarian president. Republicans, under Speaker Johnson are more focused on protecting a lawless president than delivering for the American people.

¹ Rules Committee Survey of Activities (118th Congress): <https://rules.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/rules.house.gov/files/documents/118th-congress-survey-of-activities-for-submission.pdf>