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- By Kathy Wray Coleman, associate publisher, editor-in-chieF
- **WASHINGTON, D.C-** Former president Donald Trump's endorsement of Ohio Republican Congressman Jim Jordan as the next speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives may not be the kiss of death after all, as Jordan has emerged as a viable contender after Rep Steve Scalise, also a Republican, withdrew his bid for the speaker's job this week.
- The House ousted then speaker Kevin McCarthy earlier this month, led by hard-line Republicans who said he was getting too cozy with Democrats and could not be trusted. A Champaign, Ohio Republican and outspoken conservative, Jordan then decided he wanted to be speaker,
- "We are at a critical crossroad in our nation's history," Jordan said in a statement announcing his candidacy for the congressional leadership role as Congress remains without a speaker of the House and at a political stalemate on public policy issues such as additional funding for Ukraine and some domestic and other policy matters.
- Trump's endorsement of Jordan came right after the aforementioned announcement, Trump a candidate for the 2024 presidential election along with a crowded field of Republican nomination wannabees, and of course President Biden, his strongest competitor, if he wins the Republican primary.
- In spite of Jordan's enthusiasm, Rep. Scalise soon gathered ground support among Congressional Republicans, and that support began to wane this week. By a vote of 113-99, Scalise Jordan. He was, however, short of the votes needed to win a majority of the full House, which is 217 if all current members are present and voting.
- This opened the door for Jordan to seek support and he was nominated Friday by Republicans for the post with support from Scalise, and a full House vote expected next week.
 - This is a continuing story.
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