

Chaos in U.S. Congress

Deadlock over who will lead the incoming Republican-controlled House of Representatives and scandal engulfing a newly elected Republican representative is rocking Congress



Midterm election results (November 2022)

435-seat House of Representatives

Democrats

213

Republicans

222

100-seat Senate

Democrats

51

Republicans

49

1 Kevin McCarthy, 57: California representative loses three consecutive votes for Speaker, failing to reach required 218 vote threshold.

Intra-party power struggle sees 19 mostly pro-Trump House Freedom Caucus conservatives voting against McCarthy

2 Jim Jordan, 58: Representative from Ohio and hardline co-founder of House Freedom Caucus is potential alternative to McCarthy. **As Speaker, Jordan is expected to push for steep cuts to social services and oppose abortion and LGBTQ rights**

3 George Santos, 34: Republican elected in midterms to represent New York Jewish communities of Long Island and Queens. **Cannot be sworn in until Speaker is elected.**

Falsifications include claims he is Jewish, and that his grandparents fled Holocaust – they were born in Brazil. Admits false claims over college education, and working for Goldman Sachs and Citigroup. **Faces criminal case in Brazil for using stolen chequebook**

