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Feb 15, 2024 · 22 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1758199475300962456](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an American politician and lawyer Mike Johnson (@SpeakerJohnson). He's best-known for acting as the speaker of the US House of Representatives, blocking further US military aid to Ukraine & for his ultra-religious worldview.

1/21



Johnson is an extremely religious person, and one of his main missions is to end the separation of church and state. He's cited pseudo-historian and Christian nationalist David Barton as "profoundly influential in his faith and thinking."

2/21



POLITICS

Speaker Johnson's close ties to Christian right — both mainstream and fringe

NOVEMBER 15, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

HEARD ON MORNING EDITION



Susan Davis



5-Minute Listen

+ PLAYLIST



U.S. NEWS

Meet the evangelical activist who's had a 'profound influence' on Speaker Mike Johnson

David Barton has spent decades working to overturn church-state separation. He celebrated Johnson's election as a turning point for the Christian right.



But many professional historians dismiss Mr. Barton, whose academic degree is in Christian education from Oral Roberts University, as a biased amateur who cherry-picks quotes from history and the Bible.

“The problem with David Barton is that there’s a lot of truth in what he says,” said Derek H. Davis, director of church-state studies at Baylor University, a Baptist institution in Waco, Tex. “But the end product is a lot of distortions, half-truths and twisted history.”

As a boy, Mike dreamed of becoming a firefighter like his father, but became a vampir... lawyer instead. He acted as a constitutional lawyer before entering politics, supporting and promoting sodomy laws that would've criminalized homosexuality.

KFILE

New speaker of the House Mike Johnson once wrote in support of the criminalization of gay sex



By Andrew Kaczynski and Allison Gordon, CNN

🕒 4 minute read · Updated 12:32 AM EDT, Fri October 27, 2023



At the time, Johnson was an attorney and spokesman for Alliance Defense Fund, known today as Alliance Defending Freedom, where he also authored his opposition to the Supreme Court ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas* – which overturned state laws that criminalized homosexual activity between consenting adults.

ADF wrote an amicus brief in the case which supported maintaining criminalization.

“States have many legitimate grounds to proscribe same-sex deviate sexual intercourse,” Johnson wrote in a July 2003 op-ed, calling it a public health concern.

“By closing these bedroom doors, they have opened a Pandora’s box,” he added.

Johnson is a long-time and outspoken critic of LGBT rights. He's said that gays "are capable of changing their abnormal lifestyles" and that "homosexual marriage is the dark harbinger of chaos and sexual anarchy that could doom even the strongest republic."

In the mid-2000s, Johnson's anti-gay rhetoric was harsh. In September 2004, Johnson wrote in support of a Louisiana amendment banning same-sex marriage saying it could lead to people marrying their pets.

"Homosexual relationships are inherently unnatural and, the studies clearly show, are ultimately harmful and costly for everyone," he wrote. "Society cannot give its stamp of approval to such a dangerous lifestyle. If we change marriage for this tiny, modern minority, we will have to do it for every deviant group. Polygamists, polyamorists, pedophiles, and others will be next in line to claim equal protection. They already are. There will be no legal basis to deny a bisexual the right to marry a partner of each sex, or a person to marry his pet."

Johnson added that allowing same-sex marriage could be the downfall of the democratic system.

"The state and its citizens have a compelling interest in preserving the integrity of the marital union by making opposite-sex marriage the exclusive form of family relationship endorsed by the government," he wrote. "Loss of this status will de-emphasize the importance of traditional marriage to society, weaken it, and place our entire democratic system in jeopardy by eroding its foundation."

Same-sex marriage must be opposed

Though some may have missed it, this month has marked the culmination of the culture

war's "perfect storm." While four extremist judges on the Massachusetts Supreme Court have demanded that their state law be changed to allow legally sanctioned same-sex marriage, San Francisco's mayor has engaged in outright anarchy by ignoring California's existing prohibitions and issuing counterfeit marriage licenses to homosexuals. The Alliance Defense Fund has challenged him in court, and the gauntlet has been thrown for a cataclysmic battle that will soon decide whether the sacred institutions of marriage and the traditional family are ultimately preserved or discarded by our increasingly secularized society. This is the big one, folks.

Pro-family advocates are often asked these days, "Why should you care? Why is same-sex marriage a threat?" The answer is simple: because we tamper with God's created order at our peril. If activist judges can reject thousands of years of history and legitimize homosexual marriage, then transsexual and group "marriages" of every sort must logically follow. If you were shocked by the moral lapses at the Super Bowl, you ain't seen nothin' yet. Experts project that homosexual marriage is the dark harbinger of chaos and sexual



Mike Johnson is an attorney for the Alliance Defense Fund. He lives in Shreveport.

anarchy that could doom even the strongest republic.

To be "pro-traditional marriage" and conscientiously opposed to all deviations from it, is not to be anti-homosexual. Simply put, sex of any kind outside of the marriage of one man and one woman is ultimately destructive. Social science is now confirming what the Bible has always said. Countless studies prove that traditional marriage is unquestionably the best, healthiest, and most satisfying relationship for everyone. Children in stable, traditional, two-parent homes have less physical and emotional problems, do better in school, and are less likely to live in poverty, get into trouble, or be the victims of physical or sexual abuse. The stakes are very high in the battle for marriage, and it is not "intolerance" to desire a healthy and prosperous community.

On March 11, the legislatures of Massachusetts and California will convene for historic votes to either approve or block a Marriage Affirmation and Protection Amendment to their state constitutions. Many are lobbying now for a similar bill in Louisiana. The amendments are the people's only way to prevent same-sex marriage as demanded by activist courts. These votes will be crucial for all Americans, because those obtaining same-sex marriages in one state will certainly seek legal recognition elsewhere. In the end, the family as we know it may hinge on the passage a federal marriage amendment. Let us hope that lawmakers everywhere have the wisdom and courage to do what is right for us all.

Johnson is taking his Christian duties so seriously, that, together with his 17-year old son, he's even installed a porn detection software called Covenant Eyes on his devices.

CONGRESS

Mike Johnson Said He and His Son Monitor Each Other's Porn Usage, and Yeah, It's Exactly as Weird as It Sounds

"My accountability partner right now is Jack...he and I get a report of all the things that are on...our devices once a week."



BY BESS LEVIN
NOVEMBER 6, 2023



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SECURITY SEP 22, 2022 1:08 PM

The Ungodly Surveillance of Anti-Porn 'Shameware' Apps

Churches are using invasive phone-monitoring tech to discourage "sinful" behavior. Some software is seeing more than congregants realize.



Mike is also a young-earth creationist, believing that the Earth is 6000 years old. He helped the Creation Museum secure millions in tax subsidies to build a theme park where dinosaurs accompanied Noah in his ark. He's also connected evolution to mass shootings.

[POLITICS](#) [HOUSE SPEAKER](#) [CREATIONISM](#) [REP. MIKE JOHNSON](#)

New House Speaker Thinks Creationist Museum Is 'Pointing People To The Truth'

An ark replica with dinosaurs "is one way to bring people to this recognition ... that what we read in the Bible are actual historical events," Mike Johnson said.

By Liz Skalka and Paul Blumenthal

Oct 26, 2023, 07:59 PM EDT | Updated Oct 27, 2023



1.4K COMMENTS



FROM OUR

Rep. Mike Johnson (R-La.) takes the oath to be the new House speaker on Wednesday. He's been a booster of the Ark Encounter theme park and the Creation Museum in Kentucky. ALEX BRANDON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

That was quite an indictment: the United States as a godless nation and a moral wreck. But Johnson meant it. He continued: "We've taught a whole generation, a couple of generations now, that there is no right or wrong, that it's about the survival of the fittest, and you evolved from the primordial slime." One result, he claimed, was school shootings. Yes, the teaching of evolution has led to these bloody massacres.

In 2010, he was named the "founding Dean" of the Pressler School of Law in Louisiana. Supposed to become a "bastion of ardent theological and political conservatism," the school never opened despite millions in funding, and Johnson eventually resigned from his position.

POLITICS

Now-Speaker Mike Johnson worked with a Louisiana college to minimize the fallout over his resignation as the dean of a Christian law school that never opened, report says

[John L. Dorman](#) Nov 4, 2023, 7:16 PM GMT+2

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House Speaker Mike Johnson speaks at the US Capitol in November. AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

- **Mike Johnson worked with a Louisiana college to minimize fallout over his resignation as a law-school dean, The Washington Post reported.**
- **The school, the Judge Paul Pressler School of Law, never opened despite millions in funding.**
- **Johnson stepped down after a feasibility study offered no road map for the school to open.**

And of course there's the climate issues - a committee which Johnson led stated that living near wind turbines could cause "depression and cognitive dysfunction", and that as humans it is our duty to "take dominion of the Earth" and "eat those animals."

impacted by the land requirements than urban residents. Some of the impacts of renewable electricity generation include [adverse health effects](#) for those living near wind turbines; specifically decreased quality of life, sleep disturbance, headaches, anxiety, depression and cognitive dysfunction.

Those living near wind turbines also have to endure [noise and shadow flicker](#) caused by the turbines. It is unfair to ask rural residents to endure the brunt of inconveniences required for renewable energy generation in order to provide electricity to those in urban areas. And residents of these rural areas are beginning to resist in [San Bernardino](#), California, and [Erie, Orleans and Niagara](#), New York. San Bernardino has even [banned](#) energy projects that would serve mostly out-of-town utility customers.

A good example of how Johnson's faith affects his approach to public policy occurred earlier in this seminar, when he discussed climate change. He asserted that the demand for action to address the climate crisis "defies the created order of how this is all supposed to work." He explained that the Bible presents an order to life: There's God, beneath God is "man," and below that all the animals. Humans are to follow God's command to "take dominion of the Earth. You subdue it...We're supposed to eat those animals."

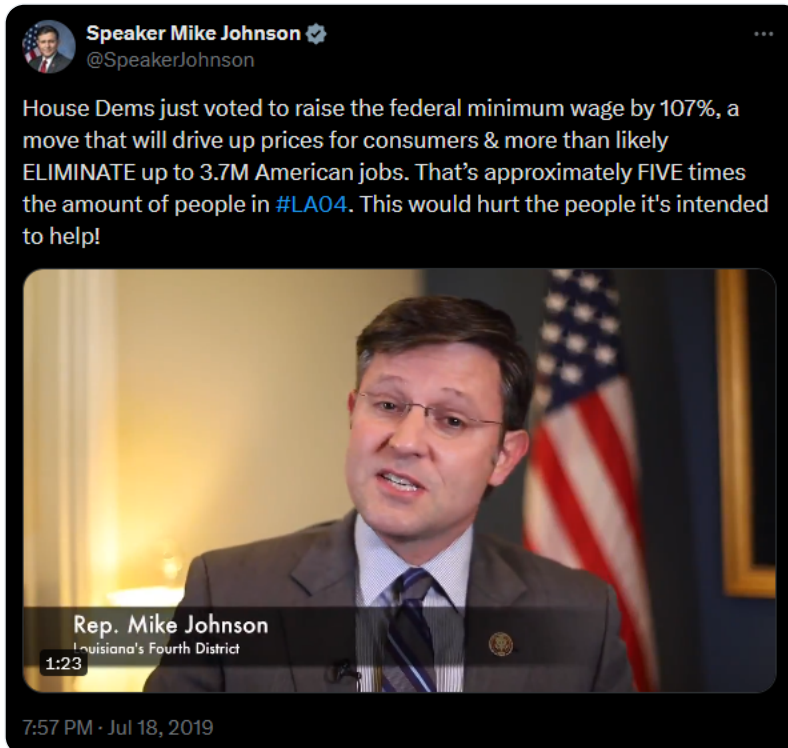
Like a good Christian, Mikey has opposed universal healthcare, refugee assistance and raise of the minimum wage to 15 USD. Understanding the power of thoughts and prayers during disasters, he's applauded Louisiana's efforts to add more religious stuff in schools.

News

Another Extreme MAGA Choice to Lead the House: Mike Johnson's Health Care Record Makes Him An Abysmal Choice For Speaker

October 25, 2023

Washington, D.C. — With the House GOP in utter chaos after failing to elect a Speaker once again, Republicans have rallied behind Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA). Just like Kevin McCarthy and Jim Jordan, Mike Johnson has a long history of fighting to raise health care costs and rip away critical protections from the American people.



May 21, 2018

FFRF raises alarm on Louisiana public school prayer bill



On Friday, May 18, Louisiana passed a bill that openly encourages public school teachers and coaches to participate in prayers with their students. The original version of the bill was so blatantly unconstitutional that even far-right "religious liberty" law firms openly warned state lawmakers that the bill "directly contradicts U.S. Supreme Court and lower court precedent on the issue" and that "there is zero chance SB 512 would survive an inevitable court challenge."

U.S. CONGRESSMAN
MIKE JOHNSON

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U.S. Rep. Johnson Applauds Passage of Louisiana Prayer Bill

Congressman Mike Johnson (LA-04) applauded the Louisiana Legislature on its amended "school prayer bill" (La. Senate Bill 512), which was passed late Friday evening in the final moments of the legislature's 2018 regular session. Earlier this month, Johnson, who previously served as senior legal counsel for America's largest religious liberty defense organization, joined with many of the nation's other leading religious liberty attorneys and constitutional law experts to offer suggestions on how to amend the controversial legislation.

Congressman Johnson released the following statement:

"We applaud the hard work of the legislature, and especially those principled leaders in the Louisiana House, who stepped forward to correct and pass the revised version of SB 512. What began as a very flawed piece of legislation that would have jeopardized the rights to religious expression in public schools was properly amended in the House. The new law will now provide much-needed clarity for students, teachers and coaches throughout Louisiana.

"In the complex and widely misunderstood area of the law pertaining to school prayer, legislation is sometimes proposed on a state and local level that might seem helpful at first glance, but in actuality, could be quite harmful to the cause if passed. SB 512 began as one of those measures, but thankfully, House leaders fixed it."

Before becoming one of his biggest fans, Johnson criticized Trump: in 2015, he wrote that "Donald Trump ... lacks the character and the moral center we desperately need again in the White House," and that "he is a hot head by nature."

Johnson Said in 2015 Trump Was Unfit and Could Be ‘Dangerous’ as President

Speaker Mike Johnson, then a Republican state lawmaker, posted on social media that Donald J. Trump lacked the character and morality to be president and could be vindictive.

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“The thing about Donald Trump is that he lacks the character and the moral center we desperately need again in the White House,” Mike Johnson wrote in 2015. Kenny Holston/The New York Times



By **Annie Karni** and **Steve Eder**

Annie Karni reported from Washington, and Steve Eder from New York.

Nov. 14, 2023

But after Trump became the President, Johnson, like so many others, was politically cuckolded by Trump. He later served in Trump's legal defense team during both of his impeachment trials. Today as the speaker, he's basically doing what Trump tells him to do.

Mike Johnson of Louisiana

As the vice chairman of the House Republican Conference, Johnson is something of an establishment candidate. He's also a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee, which Rep. Jim Jordan, the conference's previous nominee, chairs.

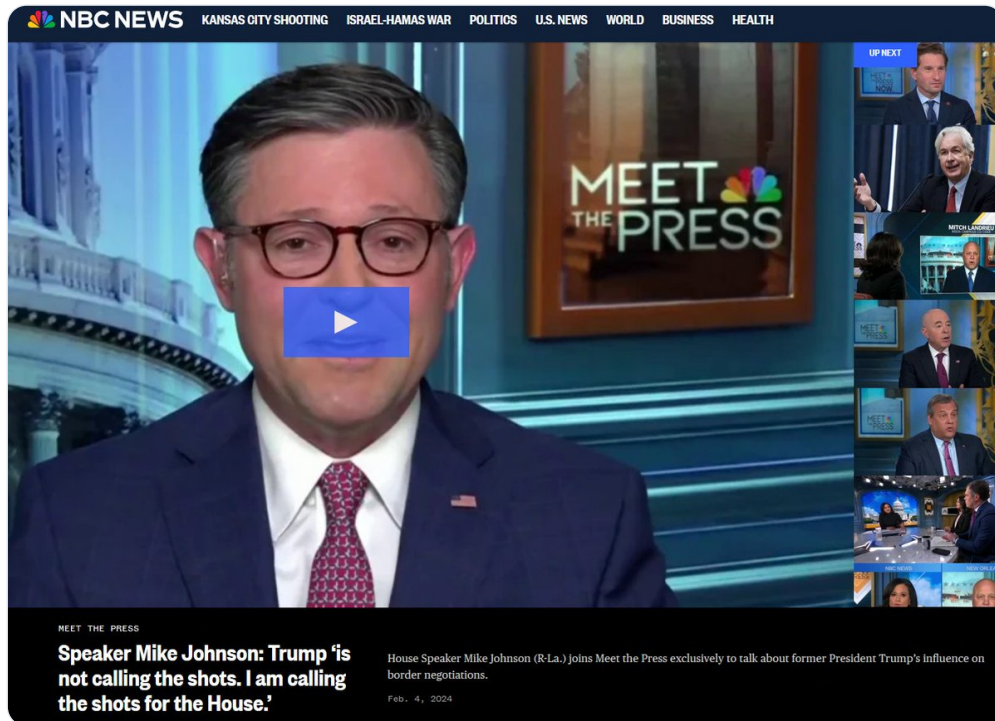
But Johnson also has conservative bonafides, having previously chaired the House Republican Study Committee.

In [his letter](#) to colleagues asking for support, Johnson highlighted the national debt, border security, crime and inflation as major issues.

An attorney, Johnson was on Trump's defense team for the former president's Senate impeachment trials in 2019 and 2020.

How he's voted:

- Certifying the 2020 election: No
- Sept. 30 continuing resolution to keep government open: No
- Sept. 28 Ukraine aid bill: No



He was also one of the most vocal supporters of Trump after the 2020 US presidential election. In Nov 2020, he said that "the allegations about these voting machines, some of them being rigged with this software by Dominion, there's a lot of merit to that."

In 2020, Mr. Johnson embraced Mr. Trump's wild and false claims of fraud. In a radio interview, he asserted that a software system used for voting was "suspect because it came from Hugo Chávez's Venezuela."

Mr. Johnson also falsely claimed the election was "rigged."

"You know the allegations about these voting machines, some of them being rigged with this software by Dominion, there's a lot of merit to that," Mr. Johnson said.

No credible evidence has ever emerged to support the conspiracy theories about Dominion and another voting machine firm having helped to ensure Mr. Trump's defeat. In April, [Fox News agreed to pay \\$787.5 million](#) to settle a defamation suit by Dominion over reports broadcast by Fox that Dominion machines were susceptible to hacking and had flipped votes from Mr. Trump to Mr. Biden.

Johnson Played Leading Role in Effort to Overturn 2020 Election

Representative Mike Johnson recruited House Republicans to back a lawsuit to overturn the results, and he was a key architect of his party's objections to certifying President Biden's victory.

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Representative Mike Johnson of Louisiana in 2020. Mr. Johnson, the new House speaker, has made a close ally of former President Donald J. Trump. Anna Moneymaker/The New York Times

 By [Luke Broadwater](#) and [Steve Eder](#)

Oct. 25, 2023

Johnson's promised to release 44 000 hours of security footage from the Jan 6 Capitol attack. As of Dec 2023, a total of 162 hours or 0,4% of the total have been published. Maybe the Trump supporters couldn't find what they were looking for and abandoned the project.



According to Republicans for Ukraine, Johnson has been extremely unsupportive of Ukraine - he voted in favor of only once for Lend-Lease Act of 2022. After that, he's voted against every additional assistance for the war-ridden country.

14/21



Rep. Mike Johnson

LOUISIANA · DISTRICT 4

UKRAINE SUPPORT GRADE

F
VERY POOR

- ✓ Voted in favor of The Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act of 2022, which allowed the lending/lease of American defense materiel to Ukraine.
- ✗ Voted against the 2022 Ukraine Supplemental Appropriation
- ✗ Voted in favor of Amendment 21 to H.R. 2670, the National Defense Authorization Act, which would have stricken \$300 million of assistance for Ukraine.
- ✗ Voted in favor of Amendment 22 to H.R. 2670, the National Defense Authorization Act, which would have prohibited all security assistance for Ukraine.
- ✗ Voted in favor of Amendment 25 to H.R. 2670, the National Defense Authorization Act, which would have removed the extension of lend-lease authority to Ukraine.
- ✗ Voted against H.R. 5692: Ukraine Security Assistance and Oversight Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2023.
- ✓ Made a pro-Ukraine statement or statements.

In one of the most cynical speeches ever, Mike stated in Oct 2023 that "We can't allow Vladimir Putin to prevail in Ukraine because I don't believe it would stop there," continuing

that "We're not going to abandon them [Ukraine]."

15/21



Yet he is one of the biggest reasons why the Ukraine aid isn't moving forward - In Jan 2024, he opposed a bipartisan, Senate GOP-sponsored package including both border security and aid for Ukraine, Taiwan and Israel.

16/21

Border package on life support as Speaker Johnson digs in on opposition to deal with Biden

[RILEY BEGGIN](#) USA TODAY



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WASHINGTON – A rare window for bipartisan agreement on border security and foreign aid appeared to be closing as House Republicans insisted on a hard-line GOP border package and balked at additional help for Ukraine.

"I don't think now is the time for comprehensive immigration reform because we know how complicated that is. You can't do that quickly," House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said Wednesday.

After the Senate passed a bill on Ukraine aid in Feb 2024, Johnson said that he has no intention even of allowing a vote to happen on the bill. He also told his fellow Republicans that there is "no rush" to decide on the bill.

US House Speaker Johnson blocks vote on Ukraine aid passed by Senate

The Republican leader of the US House of Representatives on Tuesday blocked war aid for Ukraine, ignoring President Joe Biden's plea that passing the bill was vital for standing up to "Russian dictator" Vladimir Putin.

Issued on: 14/02/2024 - 08:17 ⌚ 3 min



Speaker of the US House of Representatives Mike Johnson (R-LA) speaks to members of the media at the US Capitol in Washington on February 7, 2024. © Leah Millis, Reuters

House Speaker Mike Johnson not rushing to address foreign aid request while others weigh rewriting Senate-passed plan

By [Melanie Zanona](#), CNN

🕒 5 minute read · Published 12:38 PM EST, Wed February 14, 2024



U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) holds a press conference at Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S., February 14, 2024. REUTERS/Leah Millis Leah Millis/Reuters

It is quite evident that Johnson is doing all this to campaign for Donald Trump, who'll probably be opposing Joe Biden in the 2024 US presidential election. But there's also another, much more sinister theory: that Mike Johnson gets support from Russia.

House Speaker Mike Johnson says he's 'all in' for Trump in 2024



By [Maegan Vazquez](#)

November 14, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. EST



House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) speaks during a news conference at the Capitol on Nov. 14. (Ricky Carioti/The Washington Post)

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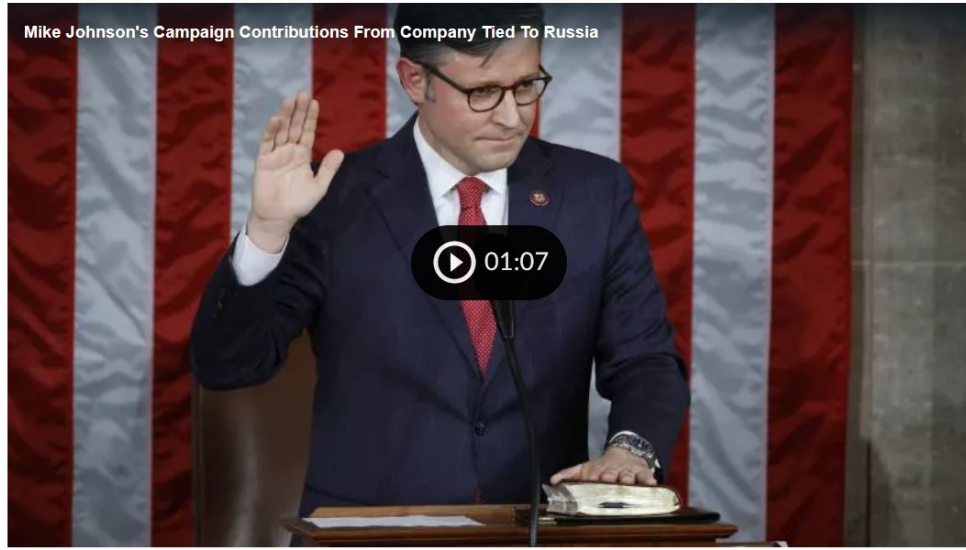
3 Democrats look to shore up Bid



Mike Johnson's Campaign Contributions From Company Tied to Russia

Published Oct 27, 2023 at 8:20 AM EDT

Updated Oct 27, 2023 at 1:01 PM EDT



In 2018, a group of Russian nationals donated 37 000 USD to Moscow Mike in campaign contributions through a company called American Ethane. The company was controlled almost entirely by three Russian oligarchs, and they were fined a sum of measly 9500 USD for the incident.

19/21

One of the men behind the company, Nikolaev, an oligarch with close ties to Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#), was also found to have financially backed Maria Butina, a Russian citizen who lived in Washington D.C. [Butina was sentenced to 18 months in prison](#) in 2019 after admitting to acting as an unregistered foreign agent to infiltrate conservative political groups and influence foreign policy to Russia's benefit before and after the 2016 election.

Johnson's former campaign manager, Jason Hebert, previously told *The Advocate* that the campaign returned the money given to them by American Ethane in 2018 once it was "made aware of the situation."

Sharing a subpoena issued as part of Special Counsel [Robert Mueller](#)'s Russia investigation in 2018, Los Angeles-based attorney Ronald Lebow posted on X (formerly [Twitter](#)): "Besides being supportive of the attempted coup, Johnson received money from Russian Oligarchs [and was known to Marina Butina](#), the Russian spy/go between funneling money from Putin to the [NRA](#) and Republicans like Johnson."

To conclude: Mike should read the holy scripture he so eagerly promotes. Maybe start with Luke 3:10-11: "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.'"20/21



Actually, here's one more video from 2015 documentary on purity balls. In it, Mike's daughter makes a "virginity pledge" to her father and they even sign an agreement over this. These events are often promoted as "dates".

21/21



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