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# — News From The States —

## **THIS WEEK IN COMMENTARY**

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Welcome to the best opinion pieces of the week from **News From The States**. Our commentary includes our own journalists from across our extensive network as well as outside voices to bring a wide range of perspectives and ideas. In addition to the sampling below, [you can look through all our commentary here](#).

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TOP COMMENTARY OF THE WEEK

### ***One thing was missing from the speaker madness: a woman***

**Niki Kelly** | *Indiana Capital Chronicle*

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*Newly elected Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA) thanks U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) (L) after she delivered his nomination speech as the House of Representatives held an election for a new Speaker of the House at the U.S. Capitol on October 25, 2023 in Washington, DC.*

*(Photo by Win McNamee/Getty Images)*

Our long national nightmare is over: the U.S. House has a speaker. But one thing's for sure — it's not a woman.

Three weeks of a speaker carousel and never once was a woman considered for the top position, which has only ever been held by one woman: Rep. Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat.

This despite having more women than ever in Congress and in the Republican caucus.

Altogether, 15 men were considered for speaker in either closed-door meetings or in House floor votes. Eventually Republican Conference Vice Chair Mike Johnson was officially elected Wednesday.

So where were the women?

Read this commentary

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**[The DeWines are gaslighting Ohioans in their dishonest anti-Issue 1 ad](#)**

Marilou Johaneck | *Ohio Capital Journal*

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**[This is how a pandemic ends: With a quick COVID-19 booster at a Kansas pharmacy](#)**

Clay Wirestone | *Kansas Reflector*

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**[Six meek men](#)**

Brian Lyman | *Alabama Reflector*

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**[Backlash against voter suppression is changing politics in Wisconsin](#)**

Ruth Conniff | *Wisconsin Examiner*

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**[How a top Colorado Republican attorney disgraces the legal profession](#)**

Quentin Young | *Colorado Newslite*

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**[Scholastic needs to take a stand against book censorship](#)**

Leann Ray | *West Virginia Watch*

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**[Ron DeSantis' censorious higher education policies will not go well for Florida](#)**

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