



## DID YOU KNOW?

There have been 12,421 people who have served as a senator, representative, or both since the first US Congress convened in 1789.



The chamber of the House of Representatives

## A historic leader



Nancy Pelosi

Nancy Pelosi, 82, is the first and only woman to hold the position of Speaker of the House. She has represented California's 12th District for 35 years and has led the Democrats in the House for nearly 20 years. After first running for office at age 47, she became one of the most powerful women in US history.

# Republicans take control of House

After most of the votes from this year's midterm election were counted, control of the House of Representatives (one half of Congress, the branch of government that makes laws) changed hands, from the Democrats to the Republicans.

## What happened?

On Election Day, November 8, all 435 seats in the House were up for election. It was determined on November 16 that Republicans had won the majority of seats, with 218 in their favor. Even if Democrats were to win all of the remaining seats that were undecided when *The Week Junior* went to press on November 22, Republicans would still hold the majority. The Democrats will continue to control the Senate (the other half of Congress).

## What does this mean?

With the House controlled by the Republicans and the Senate controlled by the Democrats, President Joe Biden, a Democrat, will contend with a divided government for the second half of his four-year term. This will affect which bills get discussed, voted on, passed, and sent to him to sign into law. Biden will still be able to get approval on top officials and judges because only the Senate moves those nominations forward.

## How will House leadership change?

When control of the House changes from one party to another, the top leader (Speaker of the House) also changes. The current Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat from California, will step down as Speaker in January. She announced that she

will not seek a lower leadership position but will remain in office. Representative Kevin McCarthy, a California Republican, is pursuing the role of Speaker. He was elected to the House in 2006 and has been the House Minority Leader, the leader of the party not in control, since 2019.

## What will happen next?

The next Congress will begin its new session on January 3. After being sworn in, Republicans will vote on the Speaker. A lawmaker must receive 218 votes to win. Because Republicans hold a narrow majority over Democrats, McCarthy will need full support from his party to become Speaker. Other lawmakers have not stepped forward to challenge him but could in the coming days. Democrats will also vote on their Minority Leader.



## WORD OF THE WEEK

### FAREWELL

We will soon be saying farewell to InSight, the Mars rover. The expression "farewell" emerged 500 years ago as an expression of good wishes to a friend who was leaving, typically on a journey. It expressed the hope that they would "fare" or "travel well" after saying goodbye. "Goodbye" itself is a shortening of the wish, "God be with ye."



## THE WEEK IN HISTORY

### December 2, 1970

#### EPA begins protecting environment

On December 2, 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began work. Calls for it to be formed came about due to a concern that disasters caused by humans, such as oil spills, were harming the environment. The first Earth Day had been celebrated earlier that year. The EPA would go on to ban harmful chemicals and reduce pollution. It is credited with creating cleaner water and air.



The EPA seal