

Johnson pledges to push ahead on another party-line megabill

The speaker remains “bullish” on prospects for a second reconciliation package and is starting to hold meetings on the matter.

[Meredith Lee Hill](#) 01/14/2026, 3:32pm ET



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Speaker Mike Johnson is making plans to craft another major, party-line policy bill — even as some of his own [GOP committee chairs don't think](#) such

an undertaking is possible.

Johnson and a group of House Republicans, including Budget Chair Jodey Arrington of Texas, met Wednesday morning on the topic to discuss what priorities could fit into another filibuster-skirting budget reconciliation measure, Johnson told reporters Wednesday afternoon.

The speaker, who has promised hard-liners several times he would lead his conference in pursuit of another megabill after last year's success, reiterated he is very "bullish" on its prospects. He also said this was a topic of conversation when he spoke Tuesday with Senate Majority Leader John Thune during their regular meeting.

Johnson told reporters that any follow-up legislation to the "big, beautiful bill" of 2025 would be "House-driven," but he was confident the Senate would take up whatever the House passes.

His optimistic talk comes a day after the Republican Study Committee released a [comprehensive blueprint](#) for a second reconciliation bill, and House Majority Leader Steve Scalise [said meetings on the matter](#) were starting to ramp up.

Leadership will have to convince some of their skeptical members to come on board, however, as multiple chairs of key committees — including Ways and Means Chair Jason Smith — have said in recent months they don't see a path forward. The effort is especially perilous now given ideological differences and the narrower majority Johnson is navigating in an election year.

Lead Art: House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) speaks with reporters as he walks to a vote at the U.S. Capitol Jan. 13, 2026. (Francis Chung/POLITICO via AP Images) | AP