

Senate GOP skeptical on McCarthy

Written by The Hill Press

Tuesday, 06 December 2022 09:23 - Last Updated Tuesday, 06 December 2022 17:26

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McCarthy will likely have to rely on Democratic votes to pass spending bills next year to make up for defections within his own conference, which will undercut his negotiating leverage and spark fights with the conservatives.

WASHINGTON, DC - Senate Republicans are skeptical about House GOP Leader [Kevin McCarthy's](#) (Calif.) ability to unify his conference next year.

That concern has Republican senators pushing to pass a year-end spending package, including an increase in spending for defense and military assistance for Ukraine.

With a narrow majority in 2023, McCarthy's struggles in lining up 218 votes to become Speaker have underscored the challenges he will face passing spending bills or any other major pieces of legislation next year.

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