

# What Andy Ogles risked by defying Kevin McCarthy



**David Plazas**  
Columnist  
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENN.

Over New Year's weekend, the Fox & Friends show came to Nashville and interviewed Congressman Mark Green, R-Clarksville, who affirmed that Republicans were ready to govern once they took control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

He answered correspondent Will Cain's questions about friction among GOP members of Congress and whether Republican House Leader Kevin McCarthy secured enough votes to be elected Speaker of the House.

"Most of this is ironed out and I think we can get united and get that commitment to Americans to cross the finish line," Green said.

But, on Tuesday, McCarthy could not get a majority of his colleagues to vote for him. After three rounds of voting, the House adjourned without a Speaker, which means the lower chamber cannot govern.

Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries received more votes than McCarthy that day and in several more ballots on Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday, in the 12th vote, McCarthy finally secured more votes than Jeffries (214-211), but he still fell short of a win.

*(Editor's note: More rounds of voting may occur after the print deadline for this column).*

## Andy Ogles stood firm against Republican leader

Among the 20 or so insurgents who repeatedly thwarted McCarthy was freshman Tennessee Rep. Andy Ogles, R-Columbia, a former Maury County mayor, lobbyist and contrarian to establishment politicians.

Ogles was elected in 2022 to the newly drawn Fifth Congressional District,



**Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Fla., and Rep. Andy Ogles, R-Tenn., during the sixth round of voting for Speaker of the House at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday.**  
DAVID PLAZAS/THE TENNESSEAN

which extends from Maury County to Wilson County with portions of Williamson and Davidson. Last year, the Tennessee General Assembly split Nashville into three districts in a ploy to add one more Republican seat to the House. They succeeded in forcing long-time Democratic U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper into retirement.

Ogles once seemed like he would be in lockstep with Tennessee's seven other Republican U.S. House members on the Speaker vote. In September, Ogles told POLITICO: "He's (McCarthy) earned the right to lead the caucus — I'll be supporting him."

However, in a Facebook post prior to Tuesday's vote, Ogles shared a letter he signed with a handful of other representatives stating that they had no assurances that McCarthy would deliver on promises he made to them about de-



**Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., right, talks with Rep. Andy Ogles, R-Tenn., during the eighth round of voting in the House chamber as the House meets for the third day to elect a speaker and convene the 118th Congress in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023.** AP

centralizing and defanging House leadership.

This fervor is reminiscent of the Tea Party, which elected enough representatives to be a thorn in the side of ruling Republicans and Speaker John Boehner. But at least Boehner was elected on the first ballot in 2011. No Speaker has had to endure multiple ballots for 100 years.

## Will Ogles prevail or be isolated?

Ogles sent a powerful message about how he intends to act as a congressman and set the stage for a very dangerous game. He voted against McCarthy 11 times, siding with McCarthy ally Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, the first few times then switching to side with Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Florida.

However, on Friday, in the 12th round, the congressman switched his vote to McCarthy saying negotiations have been made in "good faith." What he gained is still to be seen.

While Rep. Mark Green is surely partisan, the doctor and combat veteran who helped start the Reagan O'Neill Club to encourage bipartisan coopera-

tion knows what this moment means for Republicans. Aside from Ogles, all of Tennessee's other seven Republican House members voted for McCarthy again and again. They know what this moment means too and they don't want to waste it.

Ogles may believe he is representing his Fifth District constituents, several of whom reside in a portion of Nashville.

Is this what his voters really want? Surely, reasonable citizens can see that gamesmanship does not advance their interests and only weakens the House majority's newly acquired power.

Ogles bet on winning, which may fortify the freshman Republican, but if he is on the losing end, he could risk becoming politically isolated. And what does losing mean anyway? He may now be in McCarthy's good graces, but voters who wanted him to snub the Republican leader may now feel disenchanting.

*David Plazas is the director of opinion and engagement for the USA TODAY Network Tennessee. He is an editorial board member of The Tennessean. Call him at (615) 259-8063, email him at dplazas@tennessean.com or tweet to him at @davidplazas.*

# How BNA is building an airport for Nashville area's future



**Your Turn**  
Doug Kreulen  
Guest columnist

Whether you are treating yourself to a vacation, visiting friends and family, or flying out of town for work, the holiday season always brings opportunity to travel.

It's great to see travelers back in full force at Nashville International Airport (BNA) with passenger volumes eclipsing new highs at every turn. That growth is why you've seen a high level of construction activity at BNA over these last few years, and I want to thank you for your patience and understanding.

We know that getting into and out of the airport has taken longer than usual lately, especially during the evenings. Unfortunately, we have to modify our traffic lanes to accommodate construction, and the evenings are our times of lowest passenger volume.

We understand the frustration long lines have caused, and I want to assure you that we are working hard to minimize the impact on travelers while also completing vital construction projects on time and within budget.

## BNA Vision plan will be completed in 2023

It may not feel like it sometimes, but the need for construction is a great sign for BNA and for our city. Nashville is one of the fastest-growing cities in the nation with travel and tourism breaking records in Tennessee every year. It's important for BNA to not only match this growth, but anticipate the region's needs for years to come.

The \$1.5 billion BNA Vision plan, which kicked off in 2017, will be complete in 2023 with the opening of the new Grand Lobby in January and the opening of a satellite concourse, the new International Arrivals Facility and the on-site Hilton hotel later in the year.

Since BNA Vision launched, the airport's growth has far exceeded the projections of industry experts and our own long-term strategic plan.

In fact, we're currently running about



**Construction workers build the new main terminal at the Nashville International Airport on Dec. 9 in Nashville.**  
GEORGE WALKER IV / THE TENNESSEAN

## BNA Vision Project Highlights

### Grand Lobby

- 24 TSA security screening gates
- 96+ concessions and the new BNA central Marketplace

### International Arrivals Facility

- 6 International gates
- 1,200+ passengers per hour through Customs

### On-Site Hilton Hotel

- 4-star with 292 rooms and rooftop lounge and pool
- 2 restaurants and 6 conference rooms

10 years ahead of schedule when it comes to growth of BNA. BNA serves 94

nonstop destinations, and total travel volume is already up 20% over this same time last year.

We're the 27th largest airport in the U.S., and in a recent Forbes article, BNA was ranked 12 in J.D. Power's 2022 recent list of the best large airports.

## What's next on the horizon?

The next phase of construction at BNA, which we're calling New Horizon, will ensure we have the infrastructure and capacity to serve the Middle Tennessee region and beyond for years to come.

We just completed the new Concourse D at BNA, but it's already time to extend that to add five additional gates, along with building a new Concourse A to add 10 additional gates. This increased capacity is important as we continue to attract new airlines and

routes to serve the destinations that travelers want to visit, whether that's in the U.S. or internationally.

We love having the nonstop London service through British Airways, and we have our sights set on adding more non-stop international service.

The future of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is exciting, and air service will be a big contributor to the success of the region as more people, businesses and tourists visit our great city.

We're hard at work at BNA to ensure we have the world class airport Nashville needs and deserves. It takes time and a lot of construction to get us there, but I couldn't be more excited about the future. Thank you again for your patience with our construction and support of BNA as we reach new heights together.

*Doug Kreulen is president and CEO of Nashville International Airport.*