

# Ryan, Walden focusing on saving GOP majority

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Paul Ryan, the nation's top elected Republican, effectively abandoned Donald Trump Monday, telling anxious fellow lawmakers he will not campaign for or defend the floundering businessman in the election's closing weeks. Pro-Trump members rebelled in anger, accusing Ryan of conceding the election to Hillary Clinton.

Indeed, Ryan said he would devote his energy to ensuring Clinton doesn't get a "blank check" as president with a Democratic-controlled Congress, according to people on his private conference call with GOP House members. While the Wisconsin Republican did not formally rescind his own tepid endorsement of Trump, he told lawmakers they were free to do just that and fight for their own re-election.



Ryan



Walden

Trump fired back on Twitter, saying Ryan "should spend more time on balancing the budget, jobs and illegal immigration and not waste his time on fighting Republican nominee."

Trump retained the backing of the Republican National Committee, which has overseen crucial field efforts for the candidate in battleground states. On a conference call with RNC

members, chairman Reince Priebus said the party remains in full coordination with Trump.

"Everything is on course," Priebus said, according to a participant in the call.

Still, Ryan's announcement underscored the perilous predicament Republicans find themselves in one month from Election Day. Recent revelations of Trump's predatory sexual comments about women deepened the worries among GOP officials who fear he'll drag down their own electoral prospects in November. But others look at Trump's loyal bands of supporters and see no way for Republicans in other races to win without their support.

Trump's running mate Mike Pence said he was staying with Trump. "I'm honored to be standing with him," Pence said.

Trump's candidacy long ago laid bare the turmoil roiling the GOP. Some party leaders had hoped to push off a reckoning until after the election, but with Ryan and other lawmakers publicly distancing themselves from Trump — and in some cases even calling for the real estate mogul to drop out of the race — that now appears impossible.

For Ryan, the most pressing goal through the next four weeks is preventing Republicans from losing control of the House, a scenario that seemed remote as recently as a week ago. Although Republicans are not yet panicking given their wide 246-186 seat majority, Ryan and Greg Walden, the chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee and Oregon's only Republican representative in Congress, both acknowledged on Monday's conference call that the

majority was more in peril in light of Trump's problems.

"Of course I condemn Mr. Trump's comments on women," Walden said in an email statement. "They were disrespectful and disgusting, and not representative of the Republican Party I grew up in and have worked hard to support and grow."

"While some aren't surprised by his behavior, it's clear he and he alone is responsible for his actions and statements," Walden continued, adding he was focused on his job in Congress and maintaining a Republican majority in the House "so we can get the country on a better path."

Walden told lawmakers they still could win their seats, but that it would require delicate maneuvering akin to landing an airplane in a hurricane in a fog, several participants said.

## From start, Clinton, Trump out for blood

By NANCY BENAC  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It started the minute they walked on stage and skipped the pretense of a cordial handshake.

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton looked each other in the eye at the start of their second debate and set out to destroy one another.

Given the perfect opening when moderator Anderson Cooper bored in on recent revelations about Trump's predatory comments about women, Clinton struck first, and it was clear she was ready.

"Like everyone else," Clinton said, "I've spent a lot of time thinking over the last 48 hours about what we heard and saw."

She would have none of Trump's claims that his comments about women were nothing more than locker room banter.

"This is who Donald Trump is," she declared.

She added that it was not just women that Trump had disparaged, but also immigrants, blacks, Latinos, the disabled, POWs, Muslims "and so many others."

Then she said it again



AP Photo/Julio Cortez

**Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton exchange ideas during the second presidential debate at Washington University in St. Louis, Sunday.**

with rock-hard resolve: "This is who Donald Trump is."

Trump was ready to pounce with an ugly counter-offensive.

He went THERE, digging into the very subject he had congratulated himself for avoiding in the first debate.

"If you look at Bill Clinton, far worse," Trump said.

Yes, Trump allowed, he was sorry for what he had said about women.

But his own mistakes, Trump said, were mere "words"; Bill Clinton's mistakes, he said, were "action."

Trump gave a shout-out to the women he had strategically placed in the front row

of the audience, including three who had accused Bill Clinton of rape or sexual impropriety.

"You can say any way you want to say it, but Bill Clinton was abusive to women," he said.

Trump didn't stop there. "Hillary Clinton attacked those same women and attacked them viciously," he added.

A fourth woman in the audience, Trump said, had been a 12-year-old rape victim whose alleged attacker Clinton had represented, successfully, as a defense lawyer.

Not only that, Trump said, Clinton had laughed at the girl.

"Don't tell me about words," Trump said.

The facts: Bill Clinton never faced any criminal charges in relation to the alleged sexual improprieties, and a lawsuit over an alleged rape was dismissed. He did settle a lawsuit with one of the women who claimed harassment.

Hillary Clinton, for her part, played a key role in defending her husband against allegations of sexual improprieties, but there is no clear or independent evidence that she either enabled his activities or bullied his accusers. She did reluctantly represent the defendant in the rape case. She did laugh in discussing procedural details of the case, but there's no evidence she laughed at the victim.

This was a fight to the death over character.

The exchange captured all of the vitriol and disdain that these two candidates have harbored against one another from Day One of the campaign.

They've contained it at times, let some of it loose on others.

### BRIEFLY

#### Shark attacks surfer off Oregon coast

PORTLAND (AP) — Police say a shark has attacked a surfer north of Cannon Beach off the Oregon coast.

Oregon State Police spokesman Lt. Steve Mitchell says in a news release that 29-year-old Joseph Tanner of Portland, Oregon, was apparently bitten while surfing near Indian Beach at Ecola State Park on Monday afternoon.

Mitchell says Tanner was bitten in his upper thigh and lower leg.

Tanner was stabilized at the scene and flown to a Portland hospital with serious injuries.

#### Nearly a week after hurricane hit Haiti, U.N. appeals for aid

MARFRANC, Haiti (AP) — At a cramped police station serving as a makeshift clinic, Darline Derosier fastened IV drips to jail cell bars, wiped the brows of cholera patients and tended to the wounds of those injured when Hurricane Matthew slammed into Haiti's southwestern peninsula.

She was the only health worker helping about 40 patients Monday inside the station bereft of police as she waited for help to arrive in the hard-hit town of Marfranc nearly a week after the Category 4 storm struck Oct. 4.

Among the patients was an elderly woman lying unconscious on a cell floor with a leg bandaged in an old rag and a man with gashes around his neck, his eyes fluttering.

"People will die soon if we don't get some aid," an overwhelmed Derosier told The Associated Press.


The town is a 45-minute drive southwest from the coastal city of Jeremie, where food, medicine and fresh water are finally arriving but still slow to reach increasingly desperate communities.



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