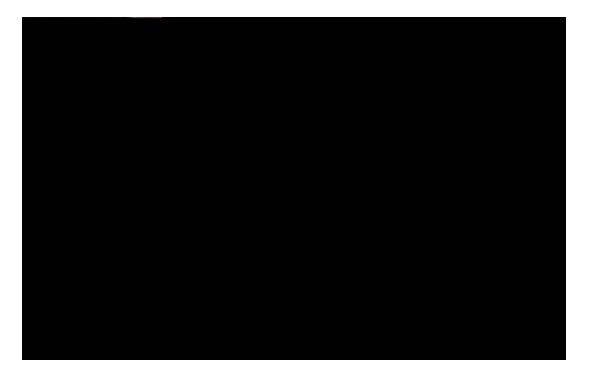
Carl Golden: Republicans biggest foe heading into the midterms? Donald Trump.

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By all accounts, it is a near certainty the Republican Party will regain control of the House of Representatives this year and is well-positioned to gain one seat and secure a Senate majority.

The only thing standing in the way is Donald Trump.

If the national party leadership enters the midterm campaign season as the cult of Trump, the odds of returning to congressional power for the first time since 2014 will plummet.

With an unpopular President Biden, a bitterly divided Democratic Party and national dissatisfaction with the country's direction, the Republican future is bright.

It is time to cut ties with the ex-president and halt the damaging debate over his insistence he was cheated out of re-election in 2020.

His response has been to stoke outrage by claiming Vice President Mike Pence had the unilateral power to overturn the election results – an argument with no constitutional or statutory foundation.