

## Thursday, November 7, 2024

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# Hall's Approach As Incoming Speaker: 'I Don't Think We Should Play It Safe'

As expected, [Rep. Matt Hall](#) (R-Richland) will lead Republicans of the 103rd Legislature in the 2025-26 term and serve as the next speaker of the House.

House Republicans elected Hall as their leader for the upcoming term during a caucus meeting after session on Thursday. As the majority party, the Republicans get to pick the speaker.

Once formally elected by the House at its opening session in January, he will preside over the term, during which Republicans will have a 58-52 majority.

"I think that one of the reasons Democrats lost their majority is because they were too afraid of losing it," he said. "The people of Michigan want us to take action. And we have some important issues that we need to work on, and I don't think we should play it safe. I think we should take risks. I think we should push hard to get stuff done, even though it's tough sometimes."

Hall defeated [Rep. Tom Kunse](#) (R-Clare) in the race.

Hall, the current minority leader, was first elected to the House in 2018 and served as the majority caucus chair during the 2021-2022 term.

During his first term in 2019-20, he was chair of the House Oversight Committee and the Joint Select Committee. Both committees scrutinized the state response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and were heavily critical of [Governor Gretchen Whitmer's](#) administration. Notoriously, Hall brought then-President Donald Trump's now-disbarred attorney Rudy Giuliani before the committee to testify regarding the disputed 2020 election.

In the 2021-22 term, Hall took a quieter, more policy focused role as chair of the [House Tax Policy Committee](#) .

For the past two years, Hall has held a tight grip on his caucus. House Republicans frequently voted as a united block against Democratic priorities, up to and including the state budget. When the House was temporarily tied at 54-54 earlier this year, Hall proved a thorn in the side of House [Speaker Joe Tate](#) (D-Detroit), effectively putting the chamber in gridlock for the first four months of 2024.

Senate [Majority Leader Winnie Brinks](#) offered Hall her partnership in a statement Thursday afternoon.

"Caucus leaders in the majority are charged with both ushering through a productive legislative agenda and upholding the integrity of the institution we hold dear. I am proud that this has been our practice over the past two years, and I see no reason why that should change," she said. "I extend my congratulations to Speaker-elect Hall and offer him my partnership in running a legislature that effectively serves the people of Michigan."

ABC of Michigan congratulated Hall on his speakership in a statement Thursday afternoon.

"Speaker-elect Hall has been a champion of the merit shop philosophy during his tenure in the House of Representative," Shane Hernandez, president of ABC of Michigan said. "We look forward to working with the speaker-elect to close the talent gap in construction trades and to secure a prosperous future for the State of Michigan."

Governor Gretchen Whitmer also congratulated Hall and House Republicans in a statement issued Thursday.

"As governor, I've signed more than 1,400 bipartisan bills and enacted six balanced budgets. I'm willing to work with anyone who is serious about solving problems, and I look forward to collaborating with the incoming majority on our shared goals from infrastructure to economic development," she said. "Let's keep centering our shared priorities – costs, roads, housing, economic development – and make Michigan a better state to live, work, and invest."

Next term, Hall said he wanted to prioritize road funding, saying that he was confident that Whitmer would be willing to work on the issue with the Republicans.

"Whitmer ran on fixing the roads," Hall said. "We need to prioritize how to permanently fund our roads. We need to do that for our local roads and bridges."

Whitmer and majority Republicans in her first four years could not come close to figuring out how to raise more revenue for roads. This term, her fellow Democrats – so far, with seven weeks remaining in the year – have done nothing on the subject even though they have the majority.

Other priorities include reducing the size of the state budget and the policy objectives outlined in the Republican Mission for Michigan plan put out before the election (See [Gongwer Michigan Report, September 4, 2024](#)).

Hall said he hoped to move forward in ways that would garner bipartisan support.

"As we're working forward in the House, where there's alignment with the Mission for Michigan that we've laid out, we're going to make a lot of progress," he said.

[Rep. Bryan Posthumus](#) (R-Cannon Township), the current minority floor leader, was elected as majority floor leader. He was elected to the House in 2020.

"It's imperative that we bring decorum back to the House floor," Posthumus said. "For too long, we've let rhetoric run the day throughout our entire country, and it's my hope that we can calm the tempers a little bit and get back of statesmanship."

The rest of the Republican leadership team includes [Rep. Rachelle Smit](#) (R-Shelbyville) as speaker pro tempore, [Rep. Jay DeBoyer](#) (R-Clay) as associate speaker pro tempore, [Rep. Brian BeGole](#) (R-Perry) as assistant majority floor leader, [Rep. Mike Harris](#) (R-Waterford Township) as majority whip, [Rep. Joe Aragona](#) (R-Clinton Township) as deputy whip, [Rep. Ken Borton](#) (R-Gaylord) as caucus chair and Rep.-elect [Nancy Jenkins-Arno](#) of Clinton as caucus vice chair.

[Rep. Bill Schuette](#) (R-Midland) was notably absent from House Republican leadership for the next term. He was the chair of the House Republican Campaign Committee this term. With the departure of [Sen. Kristen McDonald Rivet](#) (D-Bay City) to Congress, the Senate will have an open seat sometime early next year (See [Gongwer Michigan Report, November 6, 2024](#)). Schuette is widely expected to run in the special election.

"We just got Leader Hall elected, and then we've got deer season coming up. We've got lame duck," Schuette said. "I was proud to chair the campaign effort, and there'll be time for discussions about elections."

– By Elena Durnbaugh

[Back to top](#)



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