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House Committees Announced; GOP Picks Sit Middle Of The Road, Dems Feel Disregarded

House members now have their committee assignments.

House [Speaker Matt Hall](#) (R-Richland Township) announced all remaining committee chairs and members for the 2025-26 at a press conference on Thursday.

This is the latest committee assignments for the term have been announced based on a review of Gongwer News Service archives going back to January 1967. January 29 had been the previous latest announcement, which occurred twice, in 1969 and 1975.

A full roster of committee assignments can be found at the [Gongwer Directories page](#).

On the Republican side, the majority chairs are largely middle-of-the-road House members with some degree of experience in the area they are tasked with overseeing. The exception is the [House Oversight Committee](#) subcommittee chairs, where Hall selected more outspoken hard-liners, such as [Rep. Steve Carra](#) (R-Three Rivers) and [Rep. Angela Rigas](#) (R-Caledonia).

Democrats, however, got their pick for minority vice chair on just eight of the 40 standing committees and subcommittees, according to the list publicized earlier this month by [Minority Leader Ranjeev Puri](#) (D-Canton).

"We just placed them, and I think we did it in a manner where the institution is going to work very well," Hall said.

[Rep. Pauline Wendzel](#) (R-Watervliet) will chair the [House Energy Committee](#) , [Rep. Mark Tisdell](#) (R-Rochester Hills) will chair the [House Finance Committee](#) and [Rep. Curt VanderWall](#) (R-Ludington) will chair

the [House Health Policy Committee](#) . The [House Regulatory Reform Committee](#) will be chaired by [Rep. Joseph Aragona](#) (R-Clinton Township), and the [House Natural Resources and Tourism Committee](#) will be chaired by [Rep. David Martin](#) (R-Davison).

In the breakdown of committees by the numbers, of the 370 total committee and subcommittee slots, Republicans hold 63.2 percent of them. They hold 53 percent of the 110 seats in the chamber this term.

On average, every Republican member has four committee assignments, and every Democratic member has two, Hall said. No members were left out of committee assignments.

By comparison, last term, of the 401 total committee slots, Democrats held 62.6 percent of them. They held 51 percent of the 110 seats in the chamber.

Brain Calley, president and CEO of the Small Business Association of Michigan, reacted to the committee assignments on Thursday. He served in the House from 2007-10 and was lieutenant governor from 2011-19.

"Speaker Hall took his time making committee assignments and today's announcement shows that the extra time was well spent. The committee structure, member assignments and committee chair appointments look like they are built to perform," he said. "He also looks to have taken steps to unify his caucus, placing former rivals in places of high influence and generally playing to the strengths of individual members. These are smart choices."

House Democrats felt differently, with many accusing Hall of playing political games with the length of the process and raising concerns about the rejection of the minority party's recommendations.

[Rep. Phil Skaggs](#) (D-East Grand Rapids) described the process this term as a "wholesale denying of the expertise of the minority party."

"It's not helpful and conducive for governing Michigan in an era of divided government," Skaggs said.

Skaggs was assigned to the [House Agriculture Committee](#) , which he said he did not ask for, is not relevant to his suburban district and he lacks expertise in. He went on to say he felt he was being punished by the speaker for criticizing his press secretary in posts on social media.

The Democratic committee assignments displayed a level of hyper partisanship that Skaggs said would destroy chances of healthy

bipartisanship, and he said it broke the standard approach to committee assignments in which the speaker honors most of the requests of the minority leader.

"You can't break an institution and expect that institution to function well," he said.

A House Republican source said on background that House Republicans honored the requests of House Democrats to about the same degree their requests were honored last year when they were in the minority. Other sources said it is typical for the speaker to reject minority requests.

Hall, however, said that he carefully weighed committee assignments for Democrats and Republicans based on their requests, what they were interested in and what they wanted to achieve during the term. He once again asserted he didn't trust the recommendations of Puri, as he saw them as "punishing" Democratic members.

Several House Democrats have said they don't believe Puri's recommendations were designed to punish anyone in the caucus.

Named as standing committee chairs:

- [Rep. Jerry Neyer](#) (R-Shepherd) to the House Agriculture Committee
- [Rep. Jaime Greene](#) (R-Richmond) to the [House Communications and Technology Committee](#)
- [Rep. Mike Hoadley](#) (R-Au Gres) to the [House Economic Competitiveness Committee](#)
- [Rep. Nancy De Boer](#) (R-Holland) to the [House Education and Workforce Committee](#)
- [Rep. Rachele Smit](#) (R-Shelbyville) to the [House Election Integrity Committee](#)
- [Rep. Pauline Wendzel](#) (R-Watervliet) to the House Energy Committee
- [Rep. Kathy Schmaltz](#) (R-Jackson) to the [House Families and Veterans Committee](#)
- [Rep. Mark Tisdell](#) (R-Rochester Hills) to the House Finance Committee
- [Rep. Brian BeGole](#) (R-Perry) to the [House Government Operations Committee](#)
- [Rep. Curt VanderWall](#) (R-Ludington) to the House Health Policy Committee
- [Rep. Mike Harris](#) (R-Waterford) to the [House Insurance Committee](#)
- [Rep. David Martin](#) (R-Davison) to the House Natural Resources and Tourism Committee

- Rep. Joseph Aragona (R-Clinton Township) to the House Regulatory Reform Committee
- Rep. Bill Schuette (R-Midland) to the House Rules Committee
- Rep. Pat Outman (R-Six Lakes) to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Hall (R-Richland Township) previously announced chairs for the Appropriations, Judiciary and Oversight committees. Rep. Ann Bollin (R-Brighton) is the chair of the House Appropriations Committee , with Rep. Matt Maddock (R-Milford) serving and vice chair and Rep. Alabas Farhat (D-Dearborn) minority vice chair.

Among the House Appropriations subcommittee chairs:

- Rep. Ken Borton (R-Gaylord) to Agriculture and Rural Development and Natural Resources
- Rep. Bradley Slagh (R-Zeeland) to Corrections and Judiciary
- Rep. Greg Markkanen (R-Hancock) to Higher Education and Community Colleges
- Rep. Cam Cavitt (R-Cheboygan) to Environment, Great Lakes and Energy
- Rep. John Roth (R-Interlochen) to Human Services
- Rep. Nancy Jenkins-Arno (R-Clayton) to Labor and Economic Opportunity
- Rep. Timmy Beson (R-Bay City) to Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and Insurance and Financial Services
- Rep. Greg VanWoerkom (R-Norton Shores) to Medicaid and Behavioral Health
- Rep. Thomas Kuhn (R-Troy) to General Government
- Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Linden) to State Police
- Rep. Ron Robinson (R-Utica) to Military and Veterans Affairs
- Rep. Phil Green (R-Watertown Township) to Public Health
- Rep. Donni Steele (R-Orion Township) to State and Local Transportation
- Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Saginaw Township) to School Aid and Department of Education

There are 11 committee chairs this term who were the minority vice chairs of the same committee last term: Neyer, Smit, Wendzel, VanderWall, Harris, Martin, Outman, Borton, Slagh, Green and Steele.

Several other committee chairs have previous experience on the committee or subcommittee they are overseeing.

- Kelly served on School Aid and Education House Appropriations Subcommittee and chaired the subcommittee from 2015-2018.
- Cavitt served on the EGLE appropriations subcommittee.
- Kuhn was on the General Government appropriations subcommittee.
- Jenkins-Arno chaired the [Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee](#) during the 2015-16 term.
- Greene served on the Energy and Communications and Technology Committee last term.
- Tisdell served on Tax Policy.
- Aragona served on Regulatory Reform.

[Rep. Sarah Lightner](#) (R-Springport) will chair the [House Judiciary Committee](#) , and [Rep. Jay DeBoyer](#) (R-Clay) will chair the House Oversight Committee.

For the Oversight subcommittees, [Rep. Luke Meerman](#) (R-Coopersville) will chair Child Welfare System, Carra will chair Corporate Subsidies and State Investments, [Rep. William Bruck](#) (R-Erie) will chair Homeland Security and Foreign Influence, Rep. Matt Bierlein (R-Vassar) will chair Public Health and Food Security, Rigas will chair Weaponization of State Government and [Rep. Jason Woolford](#) (R-Howell) will chair State and Local Assistance Programs.

Hall, when asked about committee assignments, particularly the House Energy Committee, said that he did not consult any lobbyists while developing the committees.

"We did not consult any lobbyists," he said. "We did not share them with the lobbyists. We shared them with the members ... I didn't want lobbyists influencing the committees because they should be based on the merit of the members."

– By Elena Durnbaugh

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