

Speaker Shepherd,

The undersigned members of the House Republican Caucus express our strong support to appoint only Republican representatives as chairs and vice chairs of the House committees and subcommittees. Chair and vice chair positions are very important in the policymaking process and hold significant power during debate on legislation, influencing the policy agenda, deciding which bills make it to the House floor, and how the House interacts with the Senate and the Governor's Administration.

The people of Arkansas elected 82 Republican members of the House of Representatives. Our caucus reflects deep diversity from across Arkansas, with a wealth of backgrounds, experiences, and talents. We have in our caucus all of the leadership potential we need to fill these positions, and the voters elected us to lead. Winning elections comes with responsibility and the authority to govern. Members of the minority party are still entitled to represent their districts, file legislation, have a fair hearing, and make their case to the voters in session and in the next election.

There are 86 chair and vice chair positions that have meaningful responsibility: A & B committees (20 chairs and vice chairs), Legislative Council (2) and its subcommittees (30, excluding the Executive Subcommittee), Audit (2) and its subcommittees (8, excluding the Executive Subcommittee), Budget (2) and its subcommittees (10), Rules (2), House Management (2), Performance Review (2), Energy (2), Public Retirement (2), and Advanced Communications and Information Technology (2).

Nearly every member of the Republican Caucus could be appointed to a position of leadership, including members in their 1st or 2nd term who could begin to prepare for larger leadership roles in the future. At present, there are Republican members who are entering their 4th and 5th terms who have never held a chair or vice chair position. In the 93rd General Assembly, Democrats held 13 of these positions, including members who were in only their 2nd term. In the future, potential rules changes should be studied to determine what permanent changes may be appropriate, but with appointments approaching we simply ask for your consideration as you make your decisions.

Mr. Speaker, we write to you not in a spirit of partisanship for its own sake, but rather in respecting the outcome of the election and governing with the supermajority the voters gave us. Our members deserve the chance to lead and advance our shared agenda as chairs and vice chairs of these important committees. For this reason, we believe all 86 of these positions should be filled by Republican members.

Thank you for your leadership and service to Arkansas.

Respectfully,

[Alphabetically]

Rep. Brandon Achor
Rep. Wade Andrews
Rep. Howard Beaty
Rep. Rick Beck
Rep. Mary Bentley
Rep. Harlan Breaux
Rep. Karilyn Brown
Rep. Matt Brown
Rep. Rebecca Burkes
Rep. Joey Carr
Rep. John Carr
Rep. Cameron Cooper
Rep. Cindy Crawford
Rep. Hope Hendren Duke
Rep. Tony Furman
Rep. Justin Gonzales
Rep. Zack Gramlich
Rep. DeAnna Hodges
Rep. Grant Hodges
Rep. Delia Haak
Rep. RJ Hawk
Rep. Steve Hollowell
Rep. Jack Ladyman
Rep. Wayne Long

Rep. Robin Lundstrum
Rep. Julie Mayberry
Rep. Mindy McAlindon
Rep. Austin McCollum
Rep. Richard McGrew
Rep. Brit McKenzie
Rep. Stephen Meeks
Rep. Josh Miller
Rep. Jon Milligan
Rep. Jeremiah Moore
Rep. Kendra Moore
Rep. Stetson Painter
Rep. Aaron Pilkington
Rep. Chad Puryear
Rep. David Ray
Rep. Scott Richardson
Rep. Marcus Richmond
Rep. Ryan Rose
Rep. Johnny Rye
Rep. Kendon Underwood
Rep. Steve Unger
Rep. Danny Watson
Rep. Jim Wooten