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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MATT HALL
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

42ND DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 30014
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January 16, 2026

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
Executive Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Thank you for your letter requesting to use the House Chambers for your State of the State address. I am excited to welcome you on February 25, 2026 to address the Legislature for the last time.

You and I have delivered countless wins for the state this past year. Together, we willed a historic budget into law built on the principles of increasing government transparency and delivering better value for the taxpayers. We cut \$800 million in waste, fraud, and abuse; delivered no tax on tips, overtime, and social security for Michigan workers and seniors; and cut more than 2,000 ghost employees from your departments saving the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars each year. Our work made history as the Hall Ethics, Accountability, and Transparency (HEAT) Plan is now law, and our state budget is better for it.

We worked together with President Trump to deliver a new fighter mission at Selfridge Air National Guard Base and protect our Great Lakes from invasive species. We also saved the restaurant industry by protecting tipped wages and ensured paid sick leave benefits for Michigan workers. As you said, I was the first legislative leader you have worked with who had the guts and the brains to introduce a comprehensive road funding plan and pass it through a legislative chamber. Together we found a permanent road funding solution that dedicates all money collected at the pump to roads and focuses on our local roads. That is a key part to providing more than \$2 billion every year to fix our state's infrastructure for years to come. We made all this and more happen together.

In your address last year, I heard your call for legislative action on simplifying and streamlining rules, regulations, and the permitting process. I was pleasantly surprised, which caused me to stand and applaud. I tasked Representative Bill G. Schuette and the Rules Committee to create the Rules Committee Red Tape Reduction Initiative. That report includes dozens of proactive changes to cut red tape and make government more efficient and responsive to Michigan's hardworking small businesses and working families. Many of those bills are moving through our chamber now, and you will soon have these important reforms on your desk.

I am also eager to hear your ideas for improving literacy and setting our children up for success. In last year's State of the State address, you highlighted that our schools have been brought up to record levels of funding but still have not performed. That was a good observation, and now funding for schools is even higher. I am looking forward to hearing your plan to bring accountability to our schools so we can turn that funding into results and work together on a plan we can all be proud of.

Michigan families also need more affordable and accessible health care. And the state needs new, creative solutions to deliver meaningful results. I look forward to collaborating on new ways to lower costs and make pricing more transparent.

Finally, I am excited to find more ways to cut waste, fraud, and abuse, together through the Hall Ethics, Accountability, and Transparency Plan. While I have several years left of service in this chamber, it is not lost on me that this is your final year as governor. Now is the time to achieve results. Together, let's make the most of this opportunity and deliver a bold future for Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative Matt Hall
Speaker, Michigan House of Representatives
42nd District