



— ★ ★ ★ — Heidi — ★ ★ ★ —  
**WORKMAN**  
— FOR REPUBLICAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE —



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, January 26, 2024

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**REP. DEREK MERRIN, THE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS ‘SPEAKER DESIGNEE’  
REJECTED BY REP. GAIL PAVLIGA AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BLUE-22,  
ENDORSES HEIDI WORKMAN IN HOUSE DISTRICT 72**

*Says: “Heidi Workman has my full endorsement and support.”*

ROOTSTOWN, OH – Heidi Workman, a conservative activist, registered nurse, small businesswoman, wife and mother, and Republican candidate for the Ohio House 72<sup>nd</sup> District in Portage County, today announced Rep. Derek Merrin, the “Speaker designee” of the Republican caucus, endorsed her primary campaign against Rep. Gail Pavliga, an infamous member of the “Blue-22.” Last year, these 22 renegade members of the Republican caucus joined with every Democrat in the House to elect the Democrats’ choice for House Speaker, earning them an official censure from the Ohio Republican Party.

“Heidi Workman has my full endorsement and support,” said Rep. Merrin. “She is a true conservative who will advance the cause of liberty and protect our freedoms. Every limited-government conservative, pro-life advocate, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment supporter, and Republican should rally behind Heidi Workman and vote for her in the Republican primary on March 19.”

Republicans claim Gail’s betrayal and the treachery of the “Blue-22” stymied the implementation of the conservative agenda. Two days ago, Workman released a list of 22 conservative agenda items that did not make it through the Ohio House under Speaker Stephens’ leadership, but likely would have been championed by Rep Merrin. More on that [here](#).

Gail’s betrayal directly impacted Rep. Merrin, the “Speaker designee” chosen by the Republican caucus, who was denied the Speaker’s gavel when Pavliga, the other members of the Republican “Blue-22” and the Democrats joined together to elect Stephens for House Speaker.

“Rep. Merrin has been a conservative champion and was deeply betrayal by friends and colleagues in the House. Despite that, he worked around the clock to promote conservative legislation true to his values. I am honored to have his endorsement,” said Workman. “Gail Pavliga took part in a caucus betrayal so shocking that the people of Portage County and Republicans across Ohio should be outraged, yet she refuses to apologize for her actions. We can never let this happen again. I am running to give the voters of Portage County an alternative to Gail’s betrayal and deceit. It’s time our elected officials represent us, not their own self-interest.”

Rep. Merrin is seeking the Republican nomination for Congress in Ohio’s 9<sup>th</sup> District and the right to challenge longtime U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D).

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