



NC TRAVEL NEWS

A weekly newsletter on North Carolina General Assembly news relevant to the North Carolina tourism industry

Talking Politics at the NCTIA Conference



NCTIA lobbyists Brian Lewis and Skye David will revisit one of the most eventful legislative sessions in the history North Carolina at this year's NCTIA Tourism Leadership Conference on November 16 from 1:15-2:45pm.

Use this hotlink to register for the conference on November 15-16 at the Westin Raleigh-Durham Airport.

The focus of this session will be on legislative matters that were left unresolved and highlighting the significant changes that were implemented for tourism during this session.

This program, like in previous years, will feature special legislative guests. Notable past guests have included influential legislators such as Senator Phil Berger, Senator Paul Newton, Senator Todd Johnson, and Representative Jason Saine.

Brian and Skye, the hosts of the NCTIA-sponsored Do Politics Better podcast, are renowned for their ability to combine entertainment with valuable insights during these sessions.

Speaker Announced on NCTIA Backed Pod

The Do Politics Better podcast, sponsored by NCTIA, got news on Wednesday night that rocked the NC political world.

Three of the four candidates vying to replace Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland/Rutherford) – who announced he is not running for re-election to the House in 2024 – are throwing their support behind Rep. Destin Hall (R-Caldwell/Watauga), the current House Rules Chair.

The announcement was made in a podcast recording at New Frame, the Raleigh-based lobbying firm that represents NCTIA. The podcast dropped Thursday and included Rep. Hall, House Majority Leader John Bell (R-Wayne), House Senior Appropriations Chair Jason Saine (R-Lincoln), and House Deputy Majority Leader Brenden Jones (R-Columbus/Robeson).

Reps. Hall, Bell, and Saine were in a four-way race for the House's top job. The other candidate is Rep. Keith Kidwell (R-Beaufort/Dare/Pamlico/Hyde), who chairs the House Freedom Caucus, and remains a declared candidate, although considered a long-shot by political observers.

"We are honored these House leaders chose the Do Politics Better podcast as a platform to share this important news for the General Assembly and the state," said NCTIA Lobbyist Brian Lewis, who co-hosts the weekly podcast with fellow NCTIA Lobbyist Skye David. "We are also relieved these leaders came to a consensus on a leadership team in 2025 instead of pursuing a campaign that could leave the House Republican caucus divided moving forward."

Under the agreement, Rep. Hall would select Rep. Bell as House Rules Chair, Rep. Saine would retain his role as Senior House Appropriations Chair, and the three would support Rep. Jones as the next House Majority Leader. Rep. Hall would need to get approval from the majority of the House in 2025 in order for this to be final.

Lewis and David asked their podcast guests if this leadership team could be installed earlier if Speaker Moore decides to leave the General Assembly early to pursue a congressional run full-time. Rep. Hall confirmed they are ready.



Photo L-R: Reps Destin Hall, John Bell, Brenden Jones, & Jason Saine with podcast hosts Brian Lewis & Skye David.