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## NEWS RELEASE

### SENATE REPUBLICAN WHIP OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, JOHN THUNE, TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT ALLEN COUNTY GOP REAGAN BEAN DINNER

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(FORT WAYNE, IN) - Allen County Republican Party Chairman announced today that U.S. Senate Republican Whip and leading contender to become U.S. Senate Majority Leader, John Thune of South Dakota, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Allen County GOP Reagan Bean Dinner on Thursday, October 10, 2024. The dinner will be held at Ceruti's Summit Park, 6601 Innovation Boulevard, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In making his announcement, Shine stated, "Senator Thune's upcoming visit to Fort Wayne shows that Allen County continues to be the crossroads of Republican politics in the State of Indiana." Shine said that as one of the most Republican areas in our state, the Allen County GOP has been honored to serve as hosts for such Republican luminaries as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Mike Johnson and former Secretary of State and CIA Director Mike Pompeo, as well as a long list of nationally prominent leaders within the GOP.

Shine also stated that Senator Thune is the GOP's leading contender to become Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate (upon the Senate shifting its membership balance to the Republican Party during this Fall's election). Current GOP Senate Leader Mitch McConnell will be stepping down from his leadership position at the end of this year.

In 1996, Senator Thune won his first term as South Dakota's lone member of the U.S. House of Representatives and then was reelected to a second term by the largest margin in South Dakota history. He returned again to Washington in 2000 to serve his third term in the U.S. House of Representatives, honoring his pledge that he made in 1996 that he would only serve three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2004, Senator Thune ran for U.S. Senate, making history by defeating, for the first time in 52 years, a sitting Senate Party leader. Senator Thune was reelected to the U.S. Senate in 2010, 2016, and in 2022, winning with nearly 70% of the vote.

Senator Thune serves on the Agricultural, Nutrition, Forestry and Commerce Science and Transportation Committees, as well as the Senate Finance Committee. He also serves as the ranking member of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications, Media and Broadband and is the ranking member of the Finance Committee Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS oversight.

Senator Thune's Republican credentials also include serving as the Chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee and Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference.

Shine said that the Reagan Bean Dinner will include a VIP Reception for Senator Thune, beginning at 5:15 p.m. and the Reagan Bean Dinner itself at 6:30 p.m. Ticket prices for the VIP Reception, which includes a photo opportunity, complimentary hors d'Oeuvres, and beverages, as well as dinner are \$300.00 per person, while tickets for the dinner only event are \$150.00 per person. Reservations can be made on-line at [allencountygop.com](http://allencountygop.com) or by calling (260) 745-1970. Online reservations will begin on August 26, 2024.

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