# Rep. Tom Emmer on the Matt Gaetz Show

**Podcast**

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**MATT:**

Republicans though in the minority are in far better shape regarding the status of their leadership. Congratulations, Jim Jordan, the new house minority leader and the number two man in the house is our next guest, Congressman Tom Emmer. Emmer lit up the internet with his fiery acceptance speech.

**CLIP REP EMMER:**

To our colleagues on the left, enjoy this honeymoon phase because come January 3rd, 2027, you will regret ever putting your name on a ballot. House Republicans will hold each and every Democrat accountable for every vote cast, every committee hearing held, and every sentence set on MSDNC. This Republican leadership team will expose the Democrats' lies and show the American people their true colors as the radical communists that they are. We will expose every empty promise that they made to voters.

**MATT:**

Joining us now, the Republican House Whip, Tom Emmer. Mr. Whip, congratulations on your victory. You have been in house leadership for a while. You're viewed by many as an honest broker among various factions of the House Republican Conference. What message do you think your colleagues sent by overwhelmingly electing you to be the Republican Whip going into the 120th Congress?

**REP. TOM EMMER:**

Well, I think the message, Matt, by the way, thanks for having me and happy Veterans Day to all our veterans and their families. Appreciate their service. I think the message that they sent is we're tired of losing, we wanna win. Now, we've done this before, Matt. We did it after the 2018 shellacking. Look, prices are too high, wages are not high enough. It takes more than two years to rebuild what Democrats destroyed. We gotta start talking to the American public about the things that are important to them. And you know what? We gotta build back and win in 28, and I'm here to tell you we can.

**MATT:**

Yeah, I know you as a rather gruff Minnesotan who probably didn't celebrate your victory at all, my sense is you've got your sights right back on winning that majority. Democrats used the discharge petition in the minority to force Republicans into some very tough votes, and those votes were effectively weaponized on the campaign trail. Is your conference right now unified enough to use the discharge petition as a weapon against the Democrats in the 120th Congress?

**REP. TOM EMMER:**

Well, in the 120th, the answer is gonna be yes. But right now, you can imagine there's a lot of pain going on around here. People are second-guessing themselves and each other and the system. But I think yesterday

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was the beginning of that process, Matt, where we're gonna come together. You know, you may remember, I used to say, and still do, that the animals in the watering hole tend to look at each other differently as the water recedes. And right now, the water has receded significantly. We have a group that is prepared to get back on track and win. And I don't think it's just gonna be discharge petitions. I think there are gonna be privileged motions. I think there are gonna be amendments. I think there's gonna be coordination between committee hearings. You know, these guys, they say they wanna fix the economy that they destroyed. Literally, it's like hiring the arsonist to come back and try to deal with the fire that he or she created. That's essentially what they're gonna do. What's their answer to high prices that they are actually responsible for? We're gonna investigate Trump. You know what? If that's your answer to what ails the United States of America, get ready, baby. Buckle up, because we are gonna take you on a ride like you've never been on before. We will expose them and hold them accountable for everything they do every day in the next Congress. And you know what? Some of these guys are gonna regret they ever put their name on a ballot, because they are gonna have to answer in 2028 for the lies that they told on the campaign trail in 2026.

**MATT:**

To get them to do that, you have to force them into tough votes. And regardless of what political party anyone's a member of, what leadership in the Congress tries to do is they try to unite their conference on issues that will divide the other conference. So as you look ahead to the 120th Congress, what are the issues that you think would unite Republicans and divide Democrats?

**REP. TOM EMMER:**

Well, I mean, the easy ones to talk about when it comes to economic issues, they're gonna go back and try to unwind the biggest tax cut in the history of this country. Really? You wanna take more money out of Americans' pockets when you're talking about high prices and wages not being high enough? Number one answer, and we should put them, when they start talking about things like, and I will not call it what they do, but when they start trying to sell their nonsense of government-only healthcare, let's make them own it. Let's make them own it. And they say they are going to repeal work requirements. Work requirements, they call Medicaid cuts because we believe that able-bodied working Americans should be working, not collecting benefits. We are gonna put amendments up. We're gonna put, well, and when it comes to their thing about corruption, let's start talking about the corruption on the left. Let's talk about Ilhan Omar. Let's talk about issues. You're gonna defend Ilhan Omar, who I'm not saying it happened, but it's very possible that her dad lied to gain entrance into this country and then become a citizen. It's very possible that she lied about her birth date in order to become a citizen viewed as a minor with her father. Oh, it's very possible that she committed immigration fraud with a sibling. Oh, and by the way, we already know. It isn't even her real name. So we're gonna put them in places where you wanna defend Ilhan Omar? You wanna defend these terrorist sympathizers that they have just been elected to Congress? Let's see what you do when we put you in that position, because you know what? You came to Congress lying to the American people, trying to get them to believe that you are a problem-solving, gonna be looking out for Americans' economic best interest, and you know what? I mean, look, they wanna literally, while we're at war, they wanna take out the Secretary of War. That is not the answer to what ails us, and we are gonna hold them accountable for the things that they tell us.

**MATT:**

But still, no one has articulated an impeachable offense from Pete Hegseth. People can be mad at Hegseth. They can disagree with the way the war's been prosecuted, but I think you have to have an impeachable offense, and I have not heard anyone state one. Now, you talked about the receding waterline at the watering hole, Mr. Whipp. Vice President J.D. Vance laid out four priorities to win back the trust of voters. End the war,

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lower prices, America first, and change our relationship with Israel. Do you agree with the Vice President?

**REP. TOM EMMER:**

Well, I don't know what the fourth one is, and you and I, I think, may even disagree on that one. But Israel, the Prime Minister has said that he's prepared to have some discussions about how we work with each other differently going forward. I'm all for that, but I think he's absolutely right about the war, about the prices, although you gotta make sure that these people never do have a nuclear weapon. Americans aren't interested in long, drawn-out conflicts anymore. This is, especially in Europe. Let the Europeans take care of their backyard, right? When it comes to Iran, I do agree.

**MATT:**

Do you think a party will be viable in 2028 if they aren't suggesting some sort of a change in the relationship with Israel? Do you think that's a winning message?

**REP. TOM EMMER:**

Well, it depends on who you are, Matt. I tend to believe that that is our best ally in that part of the world. That being said, we're gonna need to do a better job of explaining why.

**MATT:**

Yeah, while we're doing it, I guess, Bibi Netanyahu and Sarah Netanyahu will be dropping off their dirty laundry at the Blair House for us to clean, as we're explaining it. But you sound like a man with a plan. Tom Emmer, the Republican whip of the House of Representatives, congratulations on your victory. We look forward to you and Jim Jordan, the minority leader, holding these Democrats accountable. Thanks, Matt.

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