

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 603.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Edward Hulvey Meyers, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Edward Hulvey Meyers, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, Todd Young, Pat Roberts, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Thune, Kevin Cramer, Thom Tillis, Michael B. Enzi, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Joni Ernst, Lamar Alexander, Rob Portman, Tim Scott, Steve Daines.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 706.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrea R. Lucas, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2025.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Andrea R. Lucas, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2025.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Thune, John Hoeven, John Boozman, David Perdue, Steve Daines, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Lamar Alexander, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Braun, John Barrasso, Richard C. Shelby, Tim Scott.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 708.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2021.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2021.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Thune, John Hoeven, John Boozman, David Perdue, Steve Daines, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Lamar Alexander, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Braun, John Barrasso, Richard C. Shelby, Tim Scott.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 709.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Keith E. Sonderling, of Florida, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2024.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Keith E. Sonderling, of Florida, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2024.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Thune, John Hoeven, John Boozman, David Perdue, Steve Daines, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Lamar Alexander, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Braun, John Barrasso, Richard C. Shelby, Tim Scott.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 588.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Charles Hinderaker, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John Charles Hinderaker, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Mitch McConnell, Martha McSally, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, Lamar Alexander, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, Marco Rubio, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, Rob Portman, Kevin Cramer, John Thune, Steve Daines, John Boozman, James Lankford.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 815.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Roderick C. Young, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Roderick C. Young, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Braun, Mike Rounds, Marsha Blackburn, Todd Young, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Lindsey Graham, Marco Rubio, Tim Scott, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Lamar Alexander, Pat Roberts, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the package of four Illinois district court nominees who are scheduled to receive votes on the floor this week.

In my State, Democrats and Republicans have long worked together in a respectful, bipartisan way to select Federal judges.

For example, when two Illinois vacancies opened up on the 7th Circuit in 2017, back before Senate Republicans decided to abandon the circuit court blue slip, we were able to negotiate a package of two well-qualified nominees, Amy St. Eve and Michael Scudder, who both were confirmed by the Senate unanimously.

For district court vacancies, Illinois has a longstanding "three to one" system.

Under this system, the President's party gets to select the candidates for three out of four district court vacancies, and the other party gets to select the candidate for the fourth. Then the parties negotiate until they reach agreement on packages of nominees that can move forward to confirmation.

Under this system, Democrats and Republicans have to work together and compromise. Neither side gets everything they want, but for several decades, this bipartisan process has kept both parties at the table and has served Illinois well.

During President Trump's tenure, there have been two packages of Illinois district court nominees that we have negotiated with the senior Member of the Republican congressional delegation—Representative JOHN SHIMKUS—and the White House.

The first was a package of four Chicago nominees—now judges—that included Democratic pick Mary Rowland, a former Federal public defender and the first openly LGBT judge on the Chicago bench.

The second package of Illinois nominees, which we negotiated throughout 2019 and agreed upon last December, includes Federal Magistrate Judge Iain Johnston of Rockford; Illinois 3rd Judicial Circuit Judge David Dugan of Madison County; Illinois 20th Judicial Circuit Judge Stephen McGlynn of St. Clair County; and the Democratic pick, Judge Franklin Valderrama of the Cook County Circuit Court.

All of the nominees in the current Illinois package have significant judicial

experience and were rated well-qualified by the American Bar Association.

Each nominee also was reviewed by judicial screening committees that we established, including a Southern District judicial screening committee, chaired by former Federal judge Patrick Murphy, and a Northern District committee, chaired by former Federal judge David Coar. Each nominee received screening committee approval based on their qualifications and their record as judges.

I want to say that I recognize and respect the opposition that has been expressed to two of the Republican picks in this package, Judges Dugan and McGlynn.

These nominees have made statements and expressed views with which I disagree, particularly on matters involving reproductive rights.

These nominees would not have been Democratic picks in our Illinois system, but under the system, Democrats and Republicans have to work together on bipartisan packages, and neither side gets everything their way.

While I disagree with statements that Judges Dugan and McGlynn have made, I agreed to this package of nominees as part of our bipartisan State process, and I will support all four nominees in the package.

I also want to briefly discuss the Democratic pick in this package, Judge Franklin Valderrama.

For the past 14 years, he has served as an associate judge on the Circuit Court of Cook County. He has extensive experience both as a judge and as a practitioner and is highly respected.

When a Chicago-based Federal judgeship became vacant last year, we put out a public call for applications. An extraordinary group of 50 candidates applied. Our screening committee vetted them all, and Judge Valderrama was at the top of the list.

I believe he will be an outstanding addition to the Federal bench in Chicago.

HONORING RYAN PHILLIP HENDRIX

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Sheriff Deputy Ryan Phillip Hendrix, 34, of Hendersonville who passed away on Thursday, September 10, 2020, while in the line of duty. He was born December 9, 1985, in Asheville, North Carolina to his parents Donald L. and Heidi J. Hendrix. Ryan was a devoted Christian and attended Grace Blue Ridge Church with Pastor Chas Morris.

Shortly after graduating from Hendersonville Christian School in 2004, Ryan enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps and graduated as a lance corporal marine in 2005. He was in the Marine Reserves for 5 years and volunteered to serve a tour of duty in Iraq in 2006. Ryan began his career with the Henderson County Sheriff's Office as a detention officer in June 2012. In May 2015, he completed basic law enforcement training and became a patrol deputy and later a field training officer.