

about-face and announced they would distribute rapid tests to any American who wants one. That is a bold idea, one Europeans have been using throughout the pandemic.

Let's look at what the administration actually did. They will spend \$3 billion for 500 million rapid tests. That would be about 1½ tests per person. They are also saying right now that really to have faith in the rapid tests, you probably need to take two of them, so the 1½ per person doesn't do quite what it needed to do.

The approach to the answer to our testing shortage is not to spend to send 500 million tests to the American people. These tests haven't been purchased yet. They haven't been produced yet. They haven't been distributed yet. And what do we do in the next weeks as we wait for even that to be done?

Finally, the administration says that the at-home tests are "less sensitive" to the omicron variant than they need to be. I hope that is not the case.

It is time the administration began to recognize that vaccines are a powerful weapon, that we need to continue to focus on them, but we also need to have a broader strategy. That strategy has to include people finding out whether they have COVID-19 or not. This is a wake-up call. I hope we wake up.

VOTE ON WITKOWSKY NOMINATION

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall vote be announced.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Witkowsky nomination?

Mr. BLUNT. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California, (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSBOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 2 Ex.]

YEAS—61

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Rosen
Bennet	Grassley	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hassan	Schatz
Blunt	Heinrich	Schumer
Booker	Hickenlooper	Shaheen
Brown	Hirono	Smith
Burr	Hoover	Stabenow
Cantwell	Kaine	Tester
Capito	Kelly	Thune
Cardin	King	Tillis
Carper	Leahy	Toomey
Casey	Luján	Van Hollen
Collins	Manchin	Warner
Coons	Markey	Warnock
Cornyn	McConnell	Warren
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Whitehouse
Cramer	Murphy	Wicker
Crapo	Padilla	Wyden
Duckworth	Peters	
Durbin	Reed	Young
Fischer	Romney	

NAYS—26

Barrasso	Hagerty	Moran
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Braun	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cruz	Lee	Sullivan
Daines	Lummis	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	

NOT VOTING—13

Feinstein	Murkowski	Rubio
Graham	Murray	Sanders
Inhofe	Ossoff	Sinema
Klobuchar	Portman	
Menendez	Risch	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The senior Senator from Delaware.

ANNIVERSARY OF JANUARY 6

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, 1 year ago tomorrow, a violent mob attacked our Capitol—this Capitol. Five Americans died, and hundreds sustained injuries in what has been described as the worst attack on our Capitol since the War of 1812 and the worst attack on our democracy, literally, since the Civil War. The mob assaulted and maimed police officers, desecrated our beacon of democracy, and in using force, sought to obstruct the peaceful transfer of power in this Nation.

One year later, as we recall the chaos and the bloodshed of that day, more than ever, I am convinced that we must fully understand what happened and make sure that it never happens again.

The 2020 election was hard fought, but it was not especially close. Not one example of widespread fraud was found nor was any evidence presented that would have altered the outcome. Let's take a moment and look at the facts.

There were 81.2 million votes for Joe Biden last year—81.2 million. There were 74.2 million votes cast for Donald Trump—74.2. That is about 51.3 percent of the vote for Joe Biden and 46.8 percent of the vote for Donald Trump; 306 electoral votes for Joe Biden, 232 electoral votes for Donald Trump.

Ironically, Joe Biden earned the same number of electoral college votes as Donald Trump did in 2016. Why is

that relevant? Well, in 2016, Donald Trump declared that his 232 electoral votes was a—no, his 306 electoral votes. Joe Biden got the same number of votes in 2020 as Donald Trump did in 2016. When Trump won with 306 electoral votes, he said it was a landslide. When Biden wins by the same number of electoral votes, Donald Trump says: No, it is not a landslide; it is a theft. You have stolen the election.

Despite these facts, Donald Trump pressed ahead with legal challenges in several States. Many of these claims were downright bizarre, and many were unfounded. More than 60 Federal and State courts, involving more than 90 judges, many of whom were nominated by Republican Presidents, including Donald Trump, all agreed that no evidence of widespread fraud, wrongdoing or other irregularities were uncovered subsequent to the 2020 election—none. Allow me to quote one of them.

Judge Bibas is a longtime member of the conservative Federalist Society, whom Donald Trump actually nominated to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. In ruling against Donald Trump's baseless claims of fraud in Pennsylvania, Judge Bibas said: "Calling an election unfair does not make it so." Let me repeat that. "Calling an election unfair does not make it so."

Rather than accept defeat at the ballot box and in the courtroom, the former President embraced conspiracy theories and outright lies. The January 6 insurrection occurred because these lies—and let me repeat: lies—were a call to action for White supremacists and other domestic extremists.

As someone who grew up in Danville, VA, the last capital of the confederacy, I have seen Confederate flags before—a lot of them—but I never expected to see any of them in this Capitol or in this Chamber.

On January 6, the former President incited a mob at the National Mall, and he sent them to attack this Capitol. He lit a match, fanned the flames of violence, and did nothing to extinguish the fire. He was deservedly impeached for the second time for this heinous offense against our Constitution, which he was sworn to defend.

One year later, I am standing in this sacred Chamber, thanks in large part to the heroism of countless officers from the U.S. Capitol Police and the DC Metropolitan Police Departments. Over 150 police officers were injured that day—over 150. Tragically, five police officers have subsequently lost their lives in connection to the January 6 attack, including, tragically, four by suicide.

Many of the officers who defended our Capitol will carry the wounds of that day, both physical and mental, with them for years to come. In response, we must remain committed to their health and safety for years to come. They showed remarkable courage that day. They risked their lives—an unyielding commitment to the oath that they took to protect our Constitution and this Capitol.

One of those officers was Officer Eugene Goodman. Officer Goodman is a U.S. Army veteran who was raised right here in the District of Columbia, not far from where we are gathered. He saw combat in the Iraq war, fighting with the 101st Airborne Division, until he returned home and signed up to serve with the Capitol Police in 2009.

He had shown valor in uniform previously—that was in a war zone—and I am certain that Officer Goodman never imagined that he would be called on to fight a battle to defend our Constitution in the U.S. Capitol, not far from his own backyard. Just outside these doors, Officer Goodman distracted the mob and helped to save 100 U.S. Senators and many of our staff members from harm, as well as Members of the House of Representatives and their staff too.

The brave men and women of law enforcement, like Officer Goodman, put their lives on the line that day to protect not just the Members of Congress inside the House and Senate Chambers but our very Constitution.

Ultimately, the insurrectionists and the former President failed to overturn the election because Democrats, Republicans, and a Republican Vice President, Michael Pence, returned to the House and Senate Chambers. After order was restored, we did not accept mob rule; instead, we certified the votes of millions of Americans because that is what our democracy and our allegiance to it demanded of us.

We have learned a lot over the past year that puts that day into better context. There is still much to learn. But January 6 was far from a random event. It was a premeditated, coordinated, and, in the end, violent effort to overturn an election. In other countries, we would call this an attempted coup.

One year later, I am alarmed and appalled by the attempts to rewrite the history of January 6 as a peaceful protest. These conspiracy theories and lies continue to fuel the same misinformation and hatred that led to January 6.

Colleagues, we need to lead by our example. We must choose truth over the Big Lie. We must choose the Constitution over the mob. We must choose the rule of law and mutual respect for one another over hatred and division.

Thomas Jefferson once said—this is a paraphrase, but something along these lines—he said: If the people know the truth, they won't make a mistake.

I love that. If the people know the truth, they won't make a mistake.

Well, we returned that day to this very Chamber to certify the votes of millions of Americans because we wanted the American people to know the truth: Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS won the 2020 election fair and square. We must now make sure that every American knows the unvarnished truth related to January 6.

Over the past several years, I have mentioned time and again the wisdom

of the Framers of our Constitution. In the hot summer of 1787, they gathered and debated a new form of government, a constitutional republic with an intricate system of checks and balances. Little did they know that that document, first ratified by Delaware, would become the longest running experiment in democracy that the world has ever known.

I have sworn an oath no fewer than 12 times to protect the Constitution of our country: first as a 17-year-old Navy ROTC midshipman at Ohio State; 4 years later when I was commissioned as an ensign in the Navy to become a naval flight officer during the Vietnam war; again as I relinquished my regular commission and assumed a Reserve commission; and then another, gosh, eight times as a House Member and here as a Senator. We have a sacred obligation to protect our Constitution from enemies both foreign and domestic.

In his second inaugural address at the end of the Civil War, President Lincoln addressed a deeply divided nation. All told, more than 600,000 Americans would die in the bloodiest conflict in our Nation's history. Still, President Lincoln called on the Nation to come together, to bind up our wounds, and to begin to heal. I believe that these words, which were etched inside the Lincoln Memorial just a few miles from where we gather today, can guide our Nation in this moment.

Colleagues, in order to truly bind up our wounds related to January 6 and heal a deeply divided nation, we must continue seeking the truth and holding those responsible to account. More than 700 individuals have already been charged with crimes related to the attack on our Capitol.

Moreover, the bipartisan House Select Committee must finish its important work that it has begun and provide us with the facts of that day and the days that preceded it. Armed with those facts, many of us who serve in this Congress must make sure that the American people know the truth and that everyone responsible for the plotting, for the planning, and for the execution of an attempt to overturn an election in the United States of America is held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. Our democracy demands no less.

Thank you.

I yield the floor at this time to my colleague from Texas.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Texas.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, earlier this week, the majority leader sent a letter to our Democratic colleagues, which has been widely distributed in the press even though he didn't send it to folks on this side of the aisle. We have all now had a chance to read it. He has outlined what the next few weeks on the Senate floor might look like.

Now that the so-called Build Back Better—or what some have called the

reckless tax-and-spending spree—bill has been sidelined due to lack of support, Senator SCHUMER has shifted his focus to another dangerous and unnecessary bill. This time, rather than an attempt to spend trillions of dollars and to raise taxes on the American people, he is proposing that we overhaul the very foundation of our democracy.

Our colleagues on the Democratic side don't trust their own State legislators to pass voting laws that are in compliance with the Voting Rights Act and the laws of the land. The reason I say that, as shocking as it may sound, is, why in the world would they want to preempt their own State voting laws by passing a national law which would, under the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution, preempt their own State laws? Well, this power grab would give the Federal Government unprecedented power to make decisions about how elections are run in all 50 States.

This isn't the first time our friends across the aisle have shown an interest in hijacking America's elections. We have seen various versions before, each one relying on a slightly different marketing strategy. At one point, it was touted as a necessity of election security. Then, when that didn't work, they said: Well, this is about instilling in the voters confidence in our election laws. Then, when they failed to muster the political support necessary to pass that bill, they tried to figure out another way to sell it, and they said: Well, really what we need to do is remove obstacles that prevent people from voting.

Well, the 2020 election saw an unprecedented turnout. In my State, there were 11.3 million people who cast their ballots. Hispanics, African Americans, and other minorities voted in historically high numbers. Sixty-six percent of registered voters in Texas voted in the 2020 election, making it the highest voter turnout in 120 years when you look across the great expanse of this country. So now our colleagues across the aisle are going to have to come up with a new sales pitch.

As we know, in the wake of the 2020 election and concerns about some of the irregularities in those various States, States have passed legislation to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat. I can't imagine why we wouldn't all embrace that approach: Make it easier to vote and harder to cheat.

Senator SCHUMER has described these State laws as "reprehensible" and "the most sweeping attack on the right to vote since the beginning of Jim Crow." Based on those extraordinary statements, you might think that the States have restored literacy tests. You might think the disgusting and subjective determination of "good moral character" before someone was allowed to vote—the kind of prohibitions that existed after the Civil War—had been reinstated.

The truth is different than Senator SCHUMER would portray. Many of these