

to serve as a district judge for the District of Puerto Rico, would make history as the first openly LGBTQ member of that court. That is something to celebrate, something to be proud of, and something that shows America can, little by little, live up to its promise of opportunity for all, regardless of his or her background.

Judge Mendez-Miro is already a deeply respected member of the Puerto Rican court of appeals, and I am confident she will make an excellent district court judge.

Mr. President, whenever we reach a milestone like today's, it is as good an opportunity as any to pause and evaluate everything we have accomplished and what it means for our country. Today, because of the work done by this majority, our Federal judiciary is far more balanced, far more diverse, far more experienced than the one we had just 2 years ago, and it is something every American can be proud of. This Senate has confirmed more judges by this point in a President's term than either of the previous two administrations.

Of the 100 judges, 76 are women—76. Today, only about one-third of active Federal judges are women. So this is a sorely needed step in the right direction, redressing what has been a time-old imbalance.

Sixty-eight of these judges are people of color: 33 Black judges, 25 Black women judges, 21 from Hispanic backgrounds. We confirmed the first Muslim American Federal judge in U.S. history, and, of course—of course—we confirmed the first Black woman ever to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court: Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

And diversity can take many forms. Justice Jackson, for instance, is also the first public defender to ever bear the title Justice. It is no small feat to confirm the first ever Justice who knows firsthand what it is like to defend the rights of the accused.

And perhaps more than at any other point in history, our bench has more public defenders, civil rights lawyers, election lawyers—people who have understood average folks as they walk through their lives. From Myrna Perez, who directed the Brennan Center for voting rights and elections, to Holly Thomas, who led DOJ's civil rights division, to Nina Morrison, the former senior litigator of the Innocence Project, these judges are the kind of heavy hitters who, until now, rarely made it to the Federal bench.

We Democrats are proud—very proud—that we are changing that. Diversity is something we are all proud to celebrate, but it is not diversity on its own that matters here. If our democracy is to prosper in the 21st century, the American people must have confidence that our Federal courts can faithfully adhere to the principle of equal justice under law.

The more our judges reflect our Nation's vibrancy and diversity, the more effective they will be in administering

equal justice. The more Americans look at our courts and see people who look like them and come from their backgrounds and share similar experiences, the better off our judicial system will be.

Now, that does not change the obligation of judges, who have to apply the law fairly, impartially, and equally. On the contrary, I believe diversity enhances the court's ability to rule impartially. So you can bet that we will continue in this effort.

I want to thank all of my colleagues who worked so hard in the last 2 years to confirm these remarkable judges. I want to thank my Republican colleagues who worked with us as well because their support has made this milestone possible. And, of course, above all, I want to thank my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, particularly Chairman DURBIN, for his leadership in seeing these judges through the nomination process.

And as a sign of what is to come, last week, Senator DURBIN led the Judiciary Committee to advance another 24—that is 24—new judicial nominees.

Mr. President, the Senate will keep going to confirm even more judges to the bench as quickly as we can. When we began our majority, I said judges would be one of our top priorities in this Chamber, and we have kept that promise, and we are going to continue to work in the months and years ahead to ensure our courts advance the cause of equal justice under law for every single person in this country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks prior to the scheduled rollcall votes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today, our colleagues on the Commerce Committee will hear from someone they already know very well. Our Democratic colleagues have scheduled yet another hearing for a radical nominee they have already twice failed to get through the Senate. Now, the far left is betting the third time will be a charm.

The problem is Gigi Sohn is no more qualified to be installed on the FCC than she was back in 2021 or 2022.

The Federal Communications Commission is an important and sensitive regulatory body. It is charged with reg-

ulating a huge amount of our communications with each other as American citizens: our radio and television, our cable and satellite, our broadband internet. They are unelected people who exercise enormous power in areas that directly intersect with the American people's First Amendment rights and free speech and free expression.

The country needs our FCC Commissioners to be thoughtful, sober, non-partisan referees, not activists and ideologues who want to bend our airwaves to their agenda.

This nominee, Ms. Sohn, has spent her entire career proving she is totally—totally—unsuited to this sensitive job. She is a hardcore liberal activist who has literally said the FCC should consider revoking the broadcast licenses at news stations that she disagreed with. That is completely disqualifying and then some. This is America. We don't pull journalists and broadcasters off the air because unelected bureaucrats disagree with them.

And this only scratches the surface. She has a record of siding with criminals over law enforcement. She has deep, longstanding ties to a radical organization that opposes law enforcement's lawful access to data and information—an organization connected to, among other people, the leaker, liar, and fugitive Edward Snowden.

Among the strongest supporters of her nomination are groups who have called American cops "agents of white supremacy." The same people who want to defund the police, who oppose laws against online sex trafficking—they want this woman in this position of power. And they want it badly.

The Fraternal Order of Police wrote our colleagues Senator CRUZ and Senator CANTWELL to explain that putting Gigi Sohn on the FCC would be a disaster for law and order. They said confirming this person would "show a complete disregard for the hard-working men and women of law enforcement."

And even unrelated to her radical views, this nominee is also swamped with serious ethical questions. Seven years ago, when she was advising a past FCC Chairman, the Commission was closing in on a bipartisan deal she thought was too moderate. So she leaked nonpublic information in order to gin up outrage from the radical left, pressure the Commissioners, and tank the compromise.

In another instance, she was a board member of an organization that stole copyrighted content and illegally put it online.

Every American who watches sports on TV knows that familiar disclaimer—that you can't rebroadcast television programs without express written consent. Well, this nominee helped run an entire organization whose very mission—very mission—was violating copyright law in that sort of way.

And it gets even worse. Ms. Sohn's organization was supposed to pay a

huge fine to the broadcasters, over \$30 million. But at just the same time that she was nominated by the President to regulate and oversee these broadcasters, they all magically reached a new settlement that just so happened to reduce the fine by 98 percent—from \$32 million to a few hundred thousand dollars, just like that.

When Senators have asked for more details about these questionable settlements, she has been less than forthcoming. The fact pattern makes one wonder if she thought she could start cashing in favors from the people she is supposed to regulate before she even got the job.

Oh, and by the way, this nominee made personal cash contributions to the campaigns of multiple current sitting Senators while her own nomination was pending before them. She sent money to four Democratic Senators even as a pending nominee—a pending nominee—before the Senate.

The latest reappearance of this nomination is a case study in President Biden's refusal to pivot, moderate, or find common ground. They are tripling down on extremism that even a Democratic Senate has already rejected twice. I urge our colleagues on the Commerce Committee to push for answers.

The Senate must say no to a radical activist controlling our airwaves. And the American people should ask why—why—the Biden administration is this desperate to control what citizens can see, hear, think, and say.

VOTE ON MENDEZ-MIRO NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Mendez-Miro nomination?

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 11 Ex.]

YEAS—54

|              |              |            |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin      | Heinrich     | Reed       |
| Bennet       | Hickenlooper | Rosen      |
| Blumenthal   | Hirono       | Sanders    |
| Booker       | Kaine        | Schatz     |
| Brown        | Kelly        | Schumer    |
| Cantwell     | King         | Shaheen    |
| Cardin       | Klobuchar    | Sinema     |
| Carper       | Lujan        | Smith      |
| Collins      | Manchin      | Stabenow   |
| Coons        | Markey       | Tester     |
| Cortez Masto | Menendez     | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth    | Merkley      | Warner     |
| Durbin       | Murkowski    | Warnock    |
| Feinstein    | Murphy       | Warren     |
| Fetterman    | Murray       | Welch      |
| Gillibrand   | Ossoff       | Whitehouse |
| Graham       | Padilla      | Wicker     |
| Hassan       | Peters       | Wyden      |

NAYS—45

|           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso  | Fischer    | Paul       |
| Blackburn | Grassley   | Ricketts   |
| Boozman   | Hagerty    | Risch      |
| Braun     | Hawley     | Romney     |
| Britt     | Hoeben     | Rounds     |
| Budd      | Hyde-Smith | Rubio      |
| Capito    | Johnson    | Schmitt    |
| Cassidy   | Kennedy    | Scott (FL) |
| Cornyn    | Lankford   | Scott (SC) |
| Cotton    | Lee        | Sullivan   |
| Cramer    | Lummis     | Thune      |
| Crapo     | Marshall   | Tillis     |
| Cruz      | McConnell  | Tuberville |
| Daines    | Moran      | Vance      |
| Ernst     | Mullin     | Young      |

NOT VOTING—1

Casey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 Executive Calendar No. 7, Lindsay C. Jenkins, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Brian Schatz, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Lindsay C. Jenkins, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 12 Ex.]

YEAS—58

|            |              |              |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Baldwin    | Collins      | Graham       |
| Bennet     | Coons        | Grassley     |
| Blumenthal | Cornyn       | Hassan       |
| Booker     | Cortez Masto | Heinrich     |
| Brown      | Duckworth    | Hickenlooper |
| Cantwell   | Durbin       | Hirono       |
| Capito     | Feinstein    | Kaine        |
| Cardin     | Fetterman    | Kelly        |
| Carper     | Gillibrand   | King         |

|           |         |            |
|-----------|---------|------------|
| Klobuchar | Peters  | Stabenow   |
| Lujan     | Reed    | Tester     |
| Manchin   | Romney  | Van Hollen |
| Markey    | Rosen   | Warner     |
| Menendez  | Rounds  | Warnock    |
| Merkley   | Sanders | Warren     |
| Murkowski | Schatz  | Welch      |
| Murphy    | Schumer | Whitehouse |
| Murray    | Shaheen | Wyden      |
| Ossoff    | Sinema  |            |
| Padilla   | Smith   |            |

NAYS—41

|           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso  | Hagerty    | Ricketts   |
| Blackburn | Hawley     | Risch      |
| Boozman   | Hoeben     | Rubio      |
| Braun     | Hyde-Smith | Schmitt    |
| Britt     | Johnson    | Scott (FL) |
| Budd      | Kennedy    | Scott (SC) |
| Cassidy   | Lankford   | Sullivan   |
| Cotton    | Lee        | Thune      |
| Cramer    | Lummis     | Tillis     |
| Crapo     | Marshall   | Tuberville |
| Cruz      | McConnell  | Vance      |
| Daines    | Moran      | Wicker     |
| Ernst     | Mullin     | Young      |
| Fischer   | Paul       |            |

NOT VOTING—1

Casey

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 58, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lindsay C. Jenkins, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:25 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON JENKINS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jenkins nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 13 Ex.]

YEAS—59

|            |         |              |
|------------|---------|--------------|
| Baldwin    | Capito  | Cortez Masto |
| Bennet     | Cardin  | Duckworth    |
| Blumenthal | Carper  | Durbin       |
| Booker     | Collins | Feinstein    |
| Brown      | Coons   | Fetterman    |
| Cantwell   | Cornyn  | Gillibrand   |