

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

NOMINATION OF JAMAR K. WALKER

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I rise today in support of Mr. Jamar Walker, whom President Biden has nominated to serve as a U.S. District Court judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Jamar is a fellow Virginian and outstanding public servant. For the last decade, he has been an invaluable asset to Virginia's legal community, bringing both his zeal for public service and his personal life story.

Jamar is a Virginia native, originally from our Eastern Shore. If you ever look at a map of Virginia, you see this strip that may not be completely connected. It literally goes from Virginia to Maryland and Delaware. It is a strip of land that is very rural. Jamar is from that part of our Commonwealth.

He is a two-time graduate of the University of Virginia. Following his time at both UVA as an undergrad and UVA Law, Jamar began his career in public service clerking for the Honorable Raymond Jackson in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, whose same seat he has actually—if we approve him tonight—been nominated to fill.

And for the past 7 years, Jamar has dedicated his professional career in the U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of Virginia, where he currently serves as the Acting Chief of the Financial Crime and Public Corruption Unit.

A testament to his ability to try complex cases, Jamar has received five service awards from the FBI for his excellent work in public correction, wire fraud, and bank fraud cases. His commitment to the Commonwealth spans far beyond his day job. Jamar has volunteered for countless collegiate mock trial tournaments and returned to his alma mater time and again to speak out on guest panels.

Once sworn in, Jamar will also be the first openly gay Federal district judge in Virginia. Jamar's community-oriented mindset, career qualifications, and numerous accolades make him an exceptional nominee for the Eastern District of Virginia, a district that is known as the "rocket docket" in terms of moving cases quickly through. His experience, particularly in the U.S. Attorney's office, is well-suited to deal with the "rocket docket."

I know he will serve with distinction and make both our country and our Commonwealth proud. I urge my colleagues, when this vote starts in about 10 minutes, to support his nomination. He came out in a bipartisan vote from the Judiciary Committee. He is an exceptional young man, and I know will do a great job.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 24.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Colleen R. Lawless, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 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. 24, Colleen R. Lawless, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy, Mazie K. Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 35.

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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Jonathan James Canada Grey, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 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. 35, Jonathan James Canada Grey, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy, Mazie K. Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 39.

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

The clerk will report the nomination. The legislative clerk read the nomination of James Edward Simmons, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 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. 39, James Edward Simmons, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Gary C. Peters, Angus S. King, Jr., Mazie K.

Hirono, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, 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. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 40.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Gordon P. Gallagher, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 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. 40, Gordon P. Gallagher, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Gary C. Peters, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, February 27, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

NOMINATION OF JAMAR K. WALKER

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise in support of Jamar Walker, who has been nominated as U.S. district court judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk Division. We will be voting in a few minutes on Mr. Walker's nomination. He is an assistant U.S. attorney for the EDVA, where he currently serves as the Acting Chief for the Financial Crimes and Public Corruption Unit.

Mr. Walker was raised by a single mother on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, where he attended public schools, graduating from Nandua High School in Accomack County, VA. He is a double graduate of the University of

Virginia and clerked for Judge Raymond Jackson, whose seat he has been nominated to fill in a particularly nice turn of events. Mr. Walker counts Judge Jackson as among his mentors who inspired in him not just a life of service but also a deep commitment to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Eastern Shore.

Following his clerkship, Mr. Walker worked first as an associate at Covington & Burling, where he actually was an associate for one of my best friends, the head of the litigation section there, John Hall, who speaks very highly of Jamar Walker. Then he joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Virginia.

Given his deep history with the EDVA, it will come as no surprise that Mr. Walker has broad support in this very important court, starting with Judge Jackson. In his letter of support, Judge Jackson observes that Mr. Walker "has the intellectual prowess, integrity, and temperament that is fundamental in the position of a Federal judge." Former U.S. attorneys in the Eastern District Dana Boente and Zach Terwilliger note that Mr. Walker "is a person of unimpeachable character who is known by the bench and bar for his keen intellect, decency, sober judgment, and humility."

As you can see, Mr. Walker would be serving the same community that raised him, where he has deep ties and is widely respected. For these reasons, Jamar Walker received a "well qualified" rating from the American Bar Association.

His nomination is also historic in that, once confirmed and sworn in, Mr. Walker will be the first openly LGBTQ Federal district judge in Virginia.

I practiced in this court for 17 years. It is justifiably called the rocket docket because it has one of the fastest times from filing a case to trial of any district in the United States—6 months from filing a case to trial. Such speed is tough on the judges, and it is tough on the lawyers, but the EDVA does it because, for the litigants, the ability to know that they will have their claim heard within 6 months is a wonderful, wonderful thing.

The EDVA is also a little bit unique because its proximity to the Pentagon and the CIA and Federal Government Agencies gives it a docket that has a high percentage of national security cases. Mr. Walker's experience in and knowledge of the EDVA and his work on cases of that kind will be very critical to his success once he is confirmed.

In short, this is an exceptional nominee and historymaker who is well qualified to serve on a most unique court. He received a strongly bipartisan vote in the Judiciary Committee. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of his nomination.

I yield the floor.

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 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. 16, Jamar K. Walker, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Charles E. Schumer, 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, 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 Jamar K. Walker, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 25 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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