

younger generations in America's major cities.

Jewish students at Cooper Union in New York City had to shelter in a library while pro-Palestinian students banged on windows and doors in a frightening incident. Anonymous posters on a Cornell message board threatened violence, all while a Cornell professor proclaimed Hamas terrorist attacks to be "exhilarating" and "energizing." Countless videos show students and even teachers tearing down missing posters for Israeli hostages. The list goes on and on.

Some may be surprised by these incidents, but for those who have been paying attention, it is anything but shocking. For years, the American left has embraced identity politics—DEI and critical race theory. For years, students at some of this country's most elite colleges have had this race essentialism, this oppressor-versus-oppressed ideology, hammered into their heads.

They have tried to make moral equivalence between Israel and Hamas. Every single situation or issue is viewed through the lens of race or other immutable characteristics.

If you don't rank high enough on the totem pole of grievances or score well on the oppression matrix, well, then your views aren't as important. Being right has taken a back seat to your skin color.

DEI and CRT are fruit of the poisonous tree of cultural Marxism, and it is playing out right now in our streets. The proof is in the numbers as well. A Harvard CAPS/Harris poll states that when voters were asked whom they sided with in the Israeli-Hamas conflict, 95 percent of voters age 65 or older said Israel, while only 5 percent said Hamas. In the 18-to-24 age range, 52 percent said Israel, while 48 percent said Hamas. That is a startling generational divide and shows just how entrenched this divisive ideology is.

This ideology completely strips people of their individuality. Ideas don't really matter as much as what the person speaking looks like. It is completely antithetical to the core tenets of our Constitution and the American experiment. It places an unhealthy emphasis on race. It strips people of their dignity and the many layers that define us. It rips away the ties that bind us, and that is exactly the point for these cultural Marxists.

We need to return to the American idea—equality of opportunity, not certainty of outcome or so-called equity. We need to prioritize merit over characteristics that people have no control over. We need to push back against the poisonous DEI and CRT ideology—an ideology that has even made its way into grade schools, where school-age kids are being forced to participate in things called a privilege walk. Until we do that, we will continue to see more race essentialism from groups like Black Lives Matter and more chants of "from the river to the sea." That is not

what America is about, but we better get real about the problem before it is too late to fix it.

NOMINATION OF RAMON ERNESTO REYES, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote to confirm Ramon Reyes to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Judge Reyes received his B.S. from Cornell University, his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School, and his LL.M. from NYU Law School.

Judge Reyes began his legal career with the New York City Council as a legislative attorney. After taking a year to clerk for Judge David Trager on the Eastern District, he spent 3 years in private practice before joining the U.S. attorney's office in the Southern District of New York as an assistant U.S. attorney. While in the U.S. attorney's office, Judge Reyes handled a wide range of civil and criminal matters, including cases involving civil rights violations, healthcare fraud, false claims, and environmental issues. In 2004, he was appointed deputy chief of appeals.

In recognition of his broad experience and legal acumen, including three jury trials and three bench trials as an AUSA, Judge Reyes was appointed in 2006 to serve as a Federal magistrate judge in the Eastern District of New York. Since taking the bench, he has presided over 33 trials that cover a range of issues including criminal matters, employment suits, and civil rights cases.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Reyes as "well qualified," and he has the strong support of Senators SCHUMER and GILLIBRAND.

I will be supporting his nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do so, as well.

Mr. SCHMITT. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would request that the scheduled vote be initiated.

VOTE ON REYES NOMINATION

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

Mr. REED. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 299 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—48

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

NOT VOTING—1

Scott (SC)

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.

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. 373, Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2028. (Reappointment)

Bernard Sanders, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Lujan, Peter Welch, Alex Padilla, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Jeanne Shaheen, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Duckworth.

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 Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2028 (Reappointment), 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 300 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—2

Ernst	Scott (SC)
-------	------------

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 47.

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 Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2028 (Reappointment).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

BIDENOMICS

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today, really, to speak on behalf of the American people that I represent—and those are my great West Virginians—but Americans all across the country—many, many of whom have been left behind in President Biden's pursuit of Bidenomics and who are directly feeling the scars that his administrative policies have left on the American dream.

American families are experiencing ever-increasing financial pressure due to the state of our Nation's economy, which is jeopardizing our ability to succeed. And it is jeopardizing our ability to feel confident.

It is simply unfair that Americans are compromised at every turn due to inflation—increased interest rates, costly regulations, and tax hikes on essential items that we all need to live.

But not only is this unfair, but for a country as strong and resourceful as our country is, it is unacceptable.

So let's just take a quick refresher on what exactly Bidenomics means. What began as sort of an ambiguous term to recognize the economic policies of this administration has quickly come to mean one thing: You are spending more and getting less.

It means that we see inflation reach a 40-year high and remain persistently above the Fed's target rate and pre-Biden administration levels. It also means that mortgage rates would reach and remain at a 30-year record and that interest rates would rise at the fastest pace over the last four decades.

It is just truly astounding that the difference in interest that Americans are paying now, compared to what they were paying just last year. Look at some of your statements, and you will see it. The Fed aggressively raised interest rates 11 times between early 2022 and now, from nearly zero to 5.5 percent in less than 2 years.

The historic increase comes at a cost. It comes at a cost that Americans have to pay and is making that dream of affording a home, buying a new car, or building a business seemingly impossible.

Bidenomics means that consumer prices are skyrocketing, and it means that everything from groceries to energy to gasoline will stay at nearly unaffordable levels.

Well, we just saw it last week with the Halloween candy. I saw several comparisons of how much more Halloween candy was this year than last. And you know what? We are going to see it again when we all gather at Thanksgiving and we look at the cost of providing a family meal.

President Biden refers to Bidenomics as an "investment in America." But the reality is Bidenomics is making sure that Americans have nothing left to invest. Nor do they have anything in their savings accounts. We see lots of studies on this. We can't invest in our small businesses, not investing in repairing and replacing your home, and, certainly, not investing in the future of our families.

I hear about this from West Virginians every single time I go home, which is every weekend. I had the opportunity to hear the story of a gentleman who owns a bus company that operates in West Virginia.

The challenges his business is facing come from all levels. He owns 38 buses, but not all of them are operational. In addition to elevated fuel costs, he cannot find enough drivers. So workforce shortages are everywhere, and lingering supply chain issues have hampered his ability to conduct much needed maintenance. He said that even

when he gets a bus rolling and the group asks: Let's stop for some food—I think often, when we see a bus stopping for food and we are wanting to get some food at the same restaurant, we keep going because we know what that means—but he says, often he as the driver of the bus is often met by restaurant owners in the parking lot who say that their staffing shortages are preventing them from being able to provide service to the passengers.

And that is just one interaction, but it proves the multifaceted challenges created by Bidenomics, the growing negative impact that these policies have made, and the handcuffs that are being placed on business owners that prevent them from doing their jobs.

Sustained high inflation and interest rates mean that operating costs are at levels where, even if prices are raised, business owners can't reinvest into their business or hire to maintain a good workforce.

And because they are forced to raise prices, those costs are passed on to the consumer who continues to make difficult choices about how they will spend their money.

Additionally, I hear from West Virginians who are facing difficulties as they are beginning to start their adult lives. They have graduated from school; they have got a job; maybe gotten married, thinking about maybe starting a family and a life together. But due to rising interest rates, high inflation, and stagnated wages, they are unable to do so. It is unaffordable.

These are children who came of age in the time of economic success, who saw how their parents were able to provide for them, but they are unable to use that blueprint now because of Bidenomics.

This shows the direct damage, I think, that the President and his policies have inflicted on the American people and the American dream and the disadvantages that some of our children will continue to grapple with if we do not change course soon.

For reasons I do not understand, President Biden continues to travel the country to try to claim credit and convince people that the state of the economy is good for them. The President has the right, certainly, to take that credit. But my question is, Why would he want to do it? I don't think he has done his own grocery shopping lately. And anytime you are in the grocery store, you can see what is going on.

So truth be told, I think he is selling us—he is trying to sell us a false bill of goods, one that the American people are not buying because, you know what? There again, they can't afford to. They can't afford to.

Recent polls show that 76 percent of Americans think that our country is on the wrong track, and 66 percent—that is two-thirds of all Americans—rate our Nation's economy as bad. These numbers shouldn't surprise any of us, as Americans are continuing to feel the squeeze.