

President Biden has made no secret of his intent to revive the Iran nuclear deal while Iran continues to enrich uranium. If Iran gets a nuclear weapon, Saudi Arabia won't be far behind and other countries in the region will try to figure out how they can defend themselves against the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism that now, instead of just missiles and drones, has a nuclear weapon. You can imagine what might come from that set of circumstances, and it is frightening.

Then the administration has loosened sanctions on Iran's oil sales. Iran's economy, not surprisingly, has rebounded. China—that imports about 70 percent of their energy needs—has now entered into a strategic partnership with Iran because they need the oil that Iran produces along with the oil and gas produced by the Russian Federation.

Of course, we all know President Biden carried out the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan without even consulting our friends and allies, which created a power vacuum in the region that is now being filled by—you guessed it—Iran.

The administration unfroze billions of dollars in Iranian assets, giving Tehran even more money to pour into its terrorist proxies. It failed to take quick and decisive action to respond to Iran's attacks on U.S. forces in Syria. In other words, it is not enough for us or Israel to attack proxies. We need to go after the head of the octopus, not the tentacles. President Biden has consistently projected weakness when it comes to Iran. They understand weakness, but they also understand strength. This administration has steadily loosened the pressure valve, and now we are seeing the consequences with an emboldened Iran.

Appeasement is not a viable strategy. It never has been and never will be, particularly when these countries understand nothing but strength. If they experience mush, it is, in fact, an incentive or provocation for them to keep doing what they are doing.

President Biden should have known from the beginning. He served in the Senate as the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee for many, many years. He is worldly wise, but he seems incredibly naive when it comes to what it takes to deter state sponsors of terrorism like Iran.

The only way to counter the growing threat is by reestablishing deterrence. That can only be achieved through strong and decisive leadership and reciprocal counterstrikes not on the proxies alone, but on the head of the octopus.

Sadly, President Biden has spent the last 3 years projecting this image of weakness and uncertainty. Given the chaos Iran has unleashed in the Middle East, it is time for a swift change in strategy. President Biden needs to work with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to confront threats from Iran and reestablish a credible deter-

rence in the Middle East. Iran needs to understand that attacks against the United States and our allies will not be met with kid gloves. Until that happens, Iran and its proxies will continue to escalate their attacks and threaten the possibility of even a wider war.

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. PADILLA. 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. PADILLA. I ask unanimous request that I am able to complete my remarks before the beginning of the vote.

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

NOMINATION OF KIRK EDWARD SHERRIFF

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, colleagues, today we will have the opportunity to advance the nomination of Kirk Sherriff, President Biden's nominee to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. In doing so, we have a chance to confirm a well-qualified nominee and public servant to fill a vacancy on one of the busiest and most understaffed district courts in the Federal judiciary.

I rise to share a little bit more about what makes him so qualified to serve the Eastern District. Mr. Sherriff actually grew up in the Sacramento region within the district. He was raised for several periods of time by a single mother who worked hard to support her family, an experience he says profoundly shaped his appreciation for the opportunities made available in the United States of America.

Mr. Sherriff went on to earn his undergraduate degree from Columbia University and his law degree from Harvard Law School.

He began his legal career working as an associate of White & Case, focused on arbitration and civil litigation.

He also clerked on the New Jersey Supreme Court for Chief Justice Deborah Poritz. But before long, he returned to California—he came home—to work in the district that would come to define his career.

Mr. Sherriff joined the civil division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California. He spent 5 years litigating forest fire, civil fraud, and tort cases before moving on to the criminal division.

He worked his way up to serve as chief of the Fresno and Bakersfield offices of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District where he oversaw four Fresno unit chiefs, 20 attorneys, and the prosecution of crimes throughout the southern half of the district.

Now, in the course of his career, Mr. Sherriff has developed a reputation in the Fresno legal community for being fair, for being sharp, and incredibly hard-working—all characteristics in high demand at a court with an extraordinarily heavy caseload.

But in addition to that, Mr. Sherriff possesses a deep personal understanding of the needs of the many racially diverse and historically disadvantaged communities throughout the Central Valley. Because, for the last two decades, he has been there, serving the Eastern District and engaging in community outreach.

Colleagues, by confirming Mr. Sherriff's nomination, we will be confirming a nominee with a wealth of legal experience, with a fundamental understanding and respect for human dignity, and with deep roots in the community he serves and will continue to serve, and who will be filling a vacancy in one of the busiest courts in the country.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in advancing and supporting Mr. Sherriff's confirmation.

NOMINATION OF GRETCHEN S. LUND

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Gretchen S. Lund to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.

Born in Elkhart, IN, Judge Lund earned her B.A., cum laude, from Butler University and her J.D., summa cum laude, from Valparaiso University School of Law. After beginning her legal career as an associate attorney with Ice Miller LLP, Judge Lund clerked for Judge William T. Lawrence on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana. Following her clerkship, she served as a deputy prosecutor with the Elkhart County Prosecutor's Office, where she handled cases assigned to the child support division. In 2006, she was elected to serve as the sole judge for the Goshen City Court, where she presided over criminal misdemeanors, infractions, and ordinance violations. In 2014, Judge Lund was elected to her current seat as the judge on Elkhart Superior Court 4. She presides over both civil and criminal matters and established the county's first drug court. Since joining the bench, she has presided over 27 jury trials, 489 bench trials, and approximately 28,000 cases that have gone to verdict or judgement.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Lund as "well qualified," and she has the strong support of Senators YOUNG and BRAUN.

Judge Lund's significant courtroom experience and dedication to service make her an excellent nominee to the Northern District of Indiana. I will vote in favor of her confirmation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. PADILLA. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON LUND NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lund nomination?

Mr. PADILLA. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 22 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Bennet	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Peters
Blumenthal	Hagerty	Reed
Booker	Hassan	Ricketts
Boozman	Heinrich	Risch
Braun	Hickenlooper	Romney
Brown	Hirono	Rosen
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Butler	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cantwell	Johnson	Sanders
Capito	Kaine	Schatz
Cardin	Kelly	Schumer
Carper	King	Scott (SC)
Casey	Lankford	Shaheen
Collins	Lee	Sinema
Coons	Lujan	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Van Hollen
Crapo	Menendez	Vance
Cruz	Merkley	Warner
Daines	Moran	Warnock
Duckworth	Mullin	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Welch
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Murray	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young

NAYS—6

Britt	Schmitt	Sullivan
Hawley	Scott (FL)	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—7

Baldwin	Kennedy	Smith
Barrasso	Klobuchar	
Cassidy	Marshall	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). 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 actions.

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. 471, Kirk Edward Sherriff, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina

Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

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 Kirk Edward Sherriff, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, 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 Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 23 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—42

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

NOT VOTING—7

Baldwin	Kennedy	Smith
Barrasso	Klobuchar	
Cassidy	Marshall	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote the yeas are 51, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kirk Edward Sherriff, of Cali-

fornia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Kolar nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 311.

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 Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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. 311, Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Jack Reed, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to legislative session.

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