

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 142.

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 Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 142, Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Charles E. Schumer, Thomas R. Carper, Alex Padilla, Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard J. Durbin, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Peter Welch, Catherine Cortez Masto, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, John W. Hickenlooper.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, January 25, be waived.

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

The Senator from North Carolina.

ISRAEL

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, it has been 111 days since Hamas terrorists attacked Israel. Hamas massacred more than 1,200 civilians and abducted innocent men, women, and children from their homes and took them into Gaza.

The hostages are being deprived of food, water, and medical care. They are being subjected to unbearable violence, sexual abuse, and psychological torture by Hamas terrorists.

We know that six of the remaining hostages are Americans. One is a native of my home State North Carolina, Keith Siegel. Two of the Americans, Hersh Goldberg-Polin and Sagui Dekel-Chen, are critically injured.

Each and every one of them must be released, and all levels of our government remain united in working to get them home.

What Hamas has done is nothing short of evil. In this battle between the forces of good and evil, the United States must not only lead the forces of good, but we need to identify who stands with us and who does not.

The State of Qatar hosts Hamas leaders in their capital of Doha. Now,

Qatari officials have claimed that their hosting of Hamas terrorist leaders is necessary, so they say, because their country can be the conduit to negotiate a successful resolution to the crisis. In fact, subsequent U.S. administrations have endorsed this arrangement.

But after 111 days, the American people are asking: What is taking so long?

Qatar is hosting a brutal terrorist organization with American blood on their hands and American hostages in captivity. One has to consider the potential reality that Qatar might not have the leverage that they are so quick to boast about. And if Qatar is not able to effectuate the release of the hostages, then there is no further reason for these terrorists to remain in their country.

This is personal for us Americans.

I have met with families of the hostages as well as former hostages, like Keith Siegel's wife Aviva. I have heard their stories, and I look at their photos every day on my desk.

Every day that these families have to live with the pain and uncertainty is unacceptable.

To Qataris, I would say this: Our patience has run out. Time is up. Either pressure Hamas leaders to release the hostages now or expel them from your land. It is that simple.

The United States of America will be watching.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, it has now been more than 100 days since scores of innocent people were kidnapped by Hamas. More than 2,500 hours of fear, starvation, and torture; of parents, grandparents, teenagers, children suffering some of the most unimaginable horrors and wondering if they will ever see their loved ones again.

This is my ninth time coming to the Senate floor to tell their stories, to express their pain. But for every day that I have come here, for every hour, for every minute the hostages and their families have lived eternities.

Last week, I met the mother of a woman, a 19-year-old daughter named Daniela. She was kidnapped from the Nahal Oz. She showed me the before and after pictures of her daughter.

On the morning of October 7, Daniela's mother woke up to the sound of sirens. She texted her daughter to ask her what was happening. Daniela responded "Mom, pray for me" and explained that there was "lots of shooting everywhere and bombs."

The last anyone heard from her was 7:45 a.m.

Daniela's mother says her daughter was injured in the leg and taken into Gaza, after she saw 16 of her friends slaughtered. She was wearing pale pink Mickey Mouse pajama bottoms and can be seen in a Hamas video with three other girls. Their hands are tied behind their backs; their clothing and faces smeared with blood and tears; sheer terror in their eyes.

The same Hamas video also shows Liri Albag, another teenage hostage whose parents I met in Israel. Like Daniela, Liri was abducted from Nahal Oz. She is among the youngest female hostages remaining in Gaza.

The last her family heard from her was 6:30 in the morning on October 7. Liri's mother thought her daughter had ended up in one of the hospitals but soon learned from a Hamas video that she was among those kidnapped. Liri's father says that for the families of these hostages, the uncertainty and fear are killing them. Her mother says she cannot breathe because she does not know if her daughter is breathing.

Daniela, Liri, and three other teen-aged girls—19-year-old Karina Arielev, 19-year-old Agam Berger, and 19-year-old Naama Levy—were last seen by several abductees who have since been released. One woman said some of the girls were badly injured but weren't receiving proper medical care. She said that when the girls were sad or crying, their captors would sexually abuse them. She relayed their accounts of sexual abuse at gunpoint on a regular basis. She said the girls told her they could cope with their disabilities but not with the way they were constantly violated.

One of the earliest images that we saw during the October 7 attack was of Naama Levy being dragged by her hair, her hands tied behind her back, thrown into a truck, blood streaming down her face, streaming down her arms, streaming down her back, her sweatpants covered in blood. No one deserves this kind of torture. No one should have to endure such unimaginable abuse—not for 1 day, not for 100 days, not ever.

According to her loved ones, Daniela is a girl who spreads light wherever she goes. She is a talented musician who writes songs, plays the piano, and dreams of becoming a famous singer. Her mom says she pictures Daniela walking through the door and coming home. She implores parents worldwide to imagine their own children in such peril.

Liri is an optimist who puts others before herself. She has lots of friends and loves to travel, to take pictures of her trips, and sing. Her family says she is such a strong girl who enjoys exploring life but that every minute is like an hour without her.

Nineteen-year-old Karina Arielev is a gentle and humble girl. Her loved ones say she often has a wide smile and is always ready to help and support those around her.

Nineteen-year-old Agam Berger—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired. There is an