

a lot of work left to do before the end of the year.

First, we need to make sure the government is funded beyond the December 20 deadline; otherwise, we will have a shutdown right before Christmas, something no sane person could possibly want for the country. As always, it will take Republican cooperation to fund the government and avoid a Christmastime shutdown. I am hopeful that we will get it done smoothly, just as we did back in September.

Second, we also need to pass the National Defense Authorization Act to keep America safe, to take care of our troops, and to hold the line against America's adversaries around the world. The NDAA has passed through the Senate for over six decades without fail. This year should not be an exception, provided that our Republican colleagues work with us in good faith to finish the job.

Meanwhile, there are other priorities we also want to make progress on before the end of the year, which will only happen if we have bipartisan support.

One of the issues at the top of the list is disaster aid funding to replenish funding to vital programs that support communities in times of disaster. We have all seen destruction in States like Tennessee, North Carolina, and Florida battered by recent hurricanes. But there are many more communities like these that have suffered in the northeast, the south, the west coast, Hawaii, and everywhere in between. I hope we can work together to make sure no community is left behind.

We also need to continue making progress on the farm bill to ensure we don't go over the so-called dairy cliff, which looms at the end of December. Again, our Republican colleagues have to decide if they want to work with us to get it done. Democrats are ready to work.

Finally, the Senate will continue fulfilling our constitutional obligation to consider and confirm President Biden's highly qualified judicial nominees and nominees to other Agencies.

Today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Jonathan Hawley to be U.S. district judge for the Central District of Illinois. I have also filed cloture on two more district court judges and on Embry Kidd to serve as circuit court judge for the Eleventh Circuit. We will vote on these and other nominees in the coming days. We will work to get as many confirmed as possible.

So the bottom line is that we have a lot of work ahead. I thank my colleagues for their cooperation.

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS-ELECT

Mr. President, for the new Senators on our side of the aisle, yesterday, I had the wonderful opportunity to formally welcome all the new Democratic Senators-elect for the first time since their victories. I have gotten to know each and every one of them individually over the course of the campaign, but it was truly special to see them all

together here in the Senate, not as candidates but as leaders ready to get to work. There are two things that make this incoming class of Senators special. They are not only of extremely high caliber, each one of them, but many will be making history.

First, I am thrilled to welcome Senator-elect Angela Alsobrooks. Senator-elect Alsobrooks will become the first African-American Senator ever from the State of Maryland. She is the kind of leader people in Maryland deserve—born in Maryland, educated in Maryland, and spent her entire career serving the people of her State.

Our new Member from Delaware, Senator LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, will also become the first woman and first person of color ever to represent the first State in this Chamber. She has had a fabulous career in the House and is going to do really fine things for her State and for her country here in the Senate.

Senator-elect RUBEN GALLEG0, of Arizona, will become Arizona's first-ever Latino Senator in a State where nearly one-third of the population is Hispanic. He is the son of a Colombian mother and Mexican father raised in a single-parent household. He joined the Marines and served in Iraq.

Like the other Members of the House who are coming here, all five have done great jobs in the House and certainly deserved elevation. He was a fabulous Member of the House and became a leader on so many different issues.

Senator-elect ANDY KIM, of New Jersey, will become the first Korean American to serve in the Senate. His story is the embodiment of the American dream. The son of Korean immigrants, a product of New Jersey public schools, an outstanding public servant in the House, and now a U.S. Senator-elect. Like his colleagues, he had a fabulous career in the House and is soon to embark on a fabulous career in the Senate.

And we also welcome Senator ELISSA SLOTKIN, of Michigan, a third-generation Michigander, a leading voice in our national security. She served in the CIA under George Bush—truly a bipartisan credential—and in the Department of Defense. And in the House, she was a real leader on foreign policy and defense and intelligence issues. She is going to follow in the footsteps of our friend DEBBIE STABENOW and do a great job.

Finally, I would like to welcome Senator-elect ADAM SCHIFF of California, a longtime leader among House Democrats. One of the leaders in the House, he established himself as a leader shortly after he got there. Former chair of the House Intelligence Committee and just an amazing and articulate voice on so many different issues. He will be taking the place of Senator LAPHONZA BUTLER.

Finally, let me say this. This new generation of Senators on our side is the most diverse slate of candidates ever. Senators-elect BLUNT ROCHESTER

and Alsobrooks mark the first time in the Senate's history two Black women will hold office at the same time. Senator KIM is the first Korean American to serve. Senator GALLEG0 expands the number of Hispanic representatives in our Senate. So we set a record. Not only are there five great House Members and then a great executive of Prince George's County, but of our six Senators-elect, a majority are people of color—qualified, hard-working people of color. That is a great thing for the Senate, and it is a great thing for the United States of America.

I congratulate each of them and say we can't wait to get to work with you. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the rollcall vote starts.

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

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am going to be brief because I know Members will be coming in here very shortly for the vote.

It has been an honor to serve as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 4 years. We had a big job. The biggest assignment was filling judicial vacancies. As of this moment, we filled 214 Federal vacancies at the court level through activities of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the floor.

It has been a burden, a challenge, but I want to really commend all of the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan basis for working together to fill these vacancies. Over 90 percent of these vacancies were filled on a bipartisan basis. That is saying something, isn't it, in today's America, that we were able to find common ground. We didn't agree even on all of those nominees, but, certainly, there was an effort to reach across the aisle time and time again. When you take a look at the situation in the Senate during this period of time, it was a 50-50 split in the membership of the U.S. Senate for 2 of these years and a very small majority in the other 2 years, yet we were able to get this job done.

This Senate Judiciary Committee, which I have served on for more than two decades, has given me the opportunity to review over 1,000 nominees for the Federal bench. President Biden's nominees represent some of the best I have ever seen and, certainly, achieved great levels of sophistication when it came to their background—professional and personal.

For each judicial nominee, we require that the American Bar Association do an interview of their peers in the community and find out if there is anything that we should know about them before they go up for these lifetime appointments. I am happy to report that every single nominee from

the Biden-Harris administration was found at least “qualified,” if not “well qualified” by the ABA review.

We also have indications that these members represent diversity that has never been seen before—both professional and demographic diversity—that they bring to the bench. We have confirmed more Black women to the Federal circuit courts than all the prior Presidents of the United States combined.

We confirmed the first-ever Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson—a point of personal privilege and pride for me to be part of that. She is an extraordinary Supreme Court Justice.

Beyond demographic diversity, we have professional diversity. In the past 4 years, we have confirmed more former public defenders and circuit judges than all prior Presidents combined. We have confirmed State court judges, Federal magistrates, bankruptcy judges, and prosecutors who have ample experience at the professional level before they came to this Federal opportunity.

We have confirmed jurists with experience protecting the rights of voters, workers, civil rights, women’s rights, and LGBTQ rights. It is quite an array of these 214 qualified individuals.

And I might remind you that this is the vast majority. Nearly 90 percent of these confirmations have been bipartisan.

There is work to be done before we can leave here at the end of the year. Senator SCHUMER, as our leader, is creating opportunities for us to vote on the floor of the Senate for these lifetime appointments. Even though the work of the 118th Congress is coming to an end, our work is not done. We have 16 nominees pending on the Senate floor: 4 circuit nominees and 12 district nominees, and several more pending in committee, including 2 who will have a hearing before Thanksgiving.

There is no time to waste. The Senate must try to confirm every one of these highly qualified, diverse nominees before the sun sets on the 118th Congress. The American people deserve nothing less.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. 788, Jonathan E. Hawley, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Lujan, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Tina Smith, Christopher A.

Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Jonathan E. Hawley, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central 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 Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 257 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—48

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

NOT VOTING—2

Cardin Sinema

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 48. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:54 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. ROSEN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

NOMINATION OF DAVID HUITEMA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise in support of David Huitema’s nomination to be the Director of the Office of Government Ethics. This Office leads and oversees the executive branch ethics program on behalf of the American people and is at work in over 140 Agencies.

At the core of their mission, they work to prevent financial conflicts of interest to help ensure government decisions are made independent of personal financial benefit. By interpreting ethics laws and regulations, supporting and training executive branch ethics officials, and monitoring financial disclosures, the Office of Government Ethics ensures Agencies and their employees comply with important and timely ethics requirements.

With his extensive experience in ethics and financial disclosure, Mr. Huitema is uniquely qualified to lead this critical Office. His previous roles at the State Department and in private practice have equipped him with the knowledge and skills needed to uphold the highest standards of public service.

Mr. Huitema’s legal background also includes advising on internet and international telecommunications issues, Presidential permits for transboundary pipelines, policy toward Cuba, and Foreign Service personnel issues.

He joined the Office of the Legal Adviser in 2006, after several years in private practice and a clerkship on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

Mr. Huitema holds a J.D. from Stanford Law School, an M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, and a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Throughout multiple Congresses and administrations of both parties, Mr. Huitema has demonstrated a strong commitment to serving the American people with nonpartisan integrity and the highest ethical standards. During the confirmation process, Mr. Huitema demonstrated a deep understanding of the Office of Government Ethics’ critical role, and he is prepared to lead the Agency forward.

I urge my colleagues to join me in confirming Mr. Huitema to this important role today.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF JONATHAN E. HAWLEY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm U.S. Magistrate Judge Jonathan Hawley to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois.

Judge Hawley’s significant courtroom experience—as both a public defender and as a magistrate judge—will make him an excellent addition to the bench.

After graduating from the University of Illinois at Chicago and the DePaul University College of Law, Judge Hawley clerked for Judge Michael P. McCuskey on both the Illinois Third District Appellate Court and the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, as well as for Judge James