

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

D. Heiple on the Illinois Supreme Court.

Following his clerkships, Judge Hawley joined the Federal public defender's office for the Central District of Illinois. He served in that office for nearly 15 years, becoming the chief Federal public defender in 2011.

As a public defender, Judge Hawley litigated over 300 appeals in the Seventh Circuit, directly supervised over 1,000 appeals, and filed two briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2014, Judge Hawley was selected by the district judges of the Central District to serve as a magistrate judge. Since joining the bench, he has presided over 26 trials that have gone to verdict or judgment. In 2023, Chief Judge Sara Darrow designated Judge Hawley as the executive magistrate judge for the Central District.

Judge Hawley has the strong support from myself and Senator DUCKWORTH. In addition, he was rated unanimously "well qualified" by the American Bar Association.

I urge my colleagues to support Judge Hawley's nomination.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur commencing now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON HAWLEY NOMINATION

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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 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.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 258 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—46

Barrasso	Boozman	Britt
Blackburn	Braun	Budd

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

NOT VOTING—4

Cardin	Sinema
Cramer	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). 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. 620, David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Peter Welch, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Duckworth, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Catherine Cortez Masto, Benjamin L. Cardin, Alex Padilla.

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 David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years, 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 Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 259 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

Warner	Warren	Whitehouse
Warnock	Welch	Wyden

NAYS—48

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

NOT VOTING—2

Sinema	Vance
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 48, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The chair would like to announce under the previous order with respect to the Hawley nomination, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, every month in States all across the country, more and more communities are confronting the awful burden of recovering from a disaster. The process is long. It is expensive. It is confusing, and it is painful.

Some communities are at the very beginning of their recovery, and others, like Lahaina on Maui, are more than a year into the process but still nowhere near back to normal. And they need our help.

It has now been more than 15 months since the ferocious fires leveled Lahaina in August of last year, destroying 2,200 structures—most of them homes—and displacing more than 12,000 people.

For more than a year, survivors and their families have shifted from one temporary housing unit to the next, struggling to find any semblance of stability.

Finding a new job when tourism is still lagging is hard. Rebuilding small businesses without access to capital and a robust workforce is hard. Catching up children on lost time in school is hard. Helping loved ones cope with their grief and trauma is hard. And even after enduring months of uncertainty and persistent hardship, survivors have little assurance that the road ahead will be any easier.