

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.

They are doing all that they can to get back on their feet for themselves and their families, for their communities. But the simple fact is they cannot do it alone. They need the Federal Government's help.

Thousands of homes need to be rebuilt, yet only a small fraction have begun the process. Small businesses need help rebounding. Critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater facilities, are not fully yet restored. A permanent site for the King Kamehameha III Elementary School is still under deliberation.

The needs are great, and there are many. And as resilient as the people of Lahaina have been thus far, they cannot and should not bear this burden alone.

While a strong Federal response to the fires has helped to complete the cleanup process ahead of schedule, much more help and a different kind of help will be needed in this next phase of recovery. As cleanup gives way to rebuilding, survivors will need significant financial assistance over a period of months and years. Building a home, building a store, building a community takes time and it takes resources.

These things don't magically appear overnight, nor do they happen without enormous Federal investments, which is why it is essential that Congress, as part of any forthcoming disaster aid package, includes flexible, long-term assistance in the form of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funding.

Short-term assistance to respond to the immediate aftermath of a horrific disaster is vital. But that isn't enough. It is not enough to clean up the wreckage and say: The rest is on you. The rest is on you.

The Federal Government's responsibility to help survivors does not end when the streets are clear. Walking away halfway through the process, leaving exhausted survivors high and dry, with no one to turn to, is not an acceptable or successful outcome.

Survivors in Lahaina and in more than 20 other States are not asking for a miracle. They are not asking for a handout. All they want to do is return to life as they knew it—to go to work, to drop off their kids at school, to come back to a home of their own—a life of stability, a life of safety, a life of security. And to do that, they need our help.

They need Congress to do the thing that they have always done, which is to show up for survivors and stick up for them for as long as they need help. It is my understanding that the administration will, in the coming days, submit to Congress an updated request of disaster needs.

And I want to be very, very clear. We cannot—we must not—leave town for the holidays next month without passing the long-term relief that survivors across the country need and deserve. This is not optional. We have to get this done.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Huitema nomination be considered expired and that the Senate vote on confirmation of the Huitema nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, and that the Senate resume consideration of the Fung nomination; finally, that the cloture motion on the Fung nomination ripen at 5:15 today.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cathy Fung, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

HURRICANE HELENE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, with last week's election results, the American people have given Republicans an incredible mandate: Secure the border, strengthen the economy, restore law and order, and do so much more that is going to put this country back on the right track.

It is pretty amazing—70 percent of the American people feel like this country is on the wrong track, and we are going to need to wait until the new year to start fully enacting the strong, conservative agenda; and we are still going to have a lot to do here in this Congress before we are sworn in.

Now, I have got something to put at the top of that to-do list, and that is ensuring that our hurricane survivors in Tennessee and across the southeast receive the disaster assistance that they desperately need.

No one ever thought that such a storm would end up in the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee, but it did. And the damage assessments show what Tennessee is facing in our affected counties to restore our communities so that people are able to live; to work; to rear their families; so that the kids are able to go to school.

And we know that it is going to have quite a cost to it. The estimate for repairing roads, bridges, and infrastructure from Hurricane Helene tops \$510 million. Think about that. You have got an area in upper East Tennessee—7 counties—and you are looking at over a half billion dollars to repair the infrastructure.

Now, on top of this, we have got more than 1,500 homes that are not livable—503 of those homes were completely destroyed. And being on the ground in Tennessee, you have heard stories of how people saw their homes just being washed away.

And we know that this is going to take a while. Our Tennessee Emergency Management Agency has been on the ground from day one; and they are working with these homes, with these communities, and with the 209 businesses that have been impacted—and 36 of those companies were completely destroyed.

The total economic losses to Tennessee's agriculture and forest industries, meanwhile, have been estimated at \$1.3 billion, and that is according to the UT Institute of Agriculture.

So you can see devastating loss—devastating loss—from one area of Tennessee in these counties that border North Carolina and sit there along the Nolichucky River and the Doe River and the devastation that has been unprecedented.

I have found it really quite amazing that when you look at what happened in Southwest Virginia and North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, that the estimates are about \$50 billion in damages.

Now, as I mentioned, being on the ground really tells a story that is much more pointed and explicit than what you see in pictures or in video. And once you are on the ground, you can truly understand the devastation and the depth and breadth of this devastation.

I have been in upper East Tennessee and in every one of these affected counties five times, and I have visited communities that have been isolated because of road closures, because bridges have been completely washed out. I have talked with business owners that have lost it all, just have lost everything that they have worked for, and I have met with families whose entire homes have been washed away.

One family that I was visiting with in Johnson County, they were staying right there at the disaster relief agency because that is where they could find a place to lay their head, get a hot meal. The devastation is just unprecedented.

And in the middle of all of this, I have seen what makes Tennessee so unique. We are known as the Volunteer State. And, indeed, we do have that volunteer spirit. And seeing the way that neighbors have stood up and helped their neighbors and have come to their aid—food, shelter, clothing, cleaning supplies—indeed, if you were to go to the Bristol Motor Speedway—somewhere that people go to watch the races—what you would see is an entire building that has been turned into a command center and also a disaster relief center with pallets of water and food and cleaning supplies and linens and furniture and clothing, everything that is needed to get people back on the right track.

Now, I will say this: Our Governor—Governor Bill Lee—our State emergency management agency, and our local mayors deserve a lot of credit. These local elected officials are the first ones on the ground, and they were on the ground immediately—all of our