

in Eugene. During his time on the bench, he has handled a wide variety of both civil and criminal matters, and he has presided over four jury trials as a magistrate judge.

Judge Kasubhai has deep ties to Oregon and enjoys the strong support of both of his home State Senators, Mr. WYDEN and Mr. MERKLEY. The American Bar Association unanimously rated him as "well qualified" to serve on the District of Oregon, and in a letter supporting Judge Kasubhai's nomination, a former chief judge of the District of Oregon praised him as "the very soul of fairness," a tribute to his judicial temperament.

Judge Kasubhai's litigation background and his courtroom experience as an advocate, State court judge, and magistrate judge ensure that he will continue to be an asset to the district court. I am proud to support his nomination, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:01 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes before the vote on Judge Kasubhai.

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

NOMINATION OF MUSTAFA TAHER KASUBHAI

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Kasubhai nomination, which we will vote on in just a few minutes, is deeply personal to me. My parents fled the Nazis in the thirties, and not all of our family got out. We lost family at Auschwitz, at Kristallnacht, and we saw firsthand the horrors of anti-Semitism. My parents' families came to the United States, and both my parents served in our Army and vowed to fight for the rest of their lives against anti-Semitism.

When anti-Semitism came to my community again earlier this year, Judge Kasubhai drew a line in the sand against that scourge, against anti-Semitism. When a White supremacist attacked one of our synagogues, Judge Kasubhai recognized the threat when others did not, and he ordered that the anti-Semitic suspect be held in jail without bail, colleagues. Judge Kasubhai came down on the side of community safety. And, just last week, this White supremacist pled guilty to multiple counts of Federal hate crimes, and he now faces years in prison.

Mr. President, I will close with this. I believe that America and Oregon will be better and safer and stronger when Judge Kasubhai is confirmed. I urge all my colleagues to support him.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON KASUBHAI NOMINATION

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

Mr. WYDEN. 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 285 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—5

Braun	Cruz	Rubio
Cramer	Hagerty	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). 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 action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Russell cloture nomination.

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

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. 466, Sarah French Russell, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Marin 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 Sarah French Russell, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 286 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—5

Braun	Cruz	Rubio
Cramer	Hagerty	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Sarah French Russell, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, the historic comeback victory for President Donald J. Trump earlier this month was one for the ages. His overwhelming victory sent a clear message to the “uniparty” here in Washington, DC, mainstream media, globalists, and elites that Americans are fed up with the agenda that was crammed down their throats the last 4 years.

A majority of voters decided that the “America First” agenda championed by Donald Trump and JD Vance is the playbook for American greatness.

As a part of that playbook, President Trump has already put together a strong—very strong—list of qualified Cabinet members.

At Defense, he has tapped Pete Hegseth, a veteran who served two tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, is Ivy League educated, businessman background—that is what we need in the Pentagon right now to restore order and our finances.

At HHS, he has assigned Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who has singlehandedly brought attention to the many public health crises facing Americans.

He is Harvard-educated, has authored multiple books, and has a four-decade career in public health and environmental law.

And as Attorney General, he has nominated Matt Gaetz, a qualified attorney who has served in Congress for nearly a decade. Matt Gaetz has been a warrior for the Constitution on the Judiciary Committee and has exposed the weaponization of the justice system of the DOJ.

Ask yourself: Why are my Democratic colleagues, the media, and the establishment losing their minds over these highly qualified nominees? It is because of the dislike of President Trump, the “America First” agenda, and nearly 80 million Americans who voted to send him back to the White House. It is obvious. Panic has set in at the DOJ, the intelligence community, and the entire DC swamp. They are finding out—as Barack Obama said—the elections have consequences. Americans have spoken. Not only did President Trump win the electoral college in a landslide, he also is the first Republican in two decades to win the popular vote.

In addition to sending President Trump back to the White House, Americans delivered a mandate to every single Senate Republican: They want

President Trump’s “America First” agenda, and they want it now.

As a result, Senate Republicans should embrace this mandate and support every single one of President Trump’s Cabinet picks.

You would think this would be a no-brainer. Not one Democrat broke from their party in supporting Joe Biden’s nominees in 2021—not one. However, over the last few days, I have heard some of my Senate Republican colleagues express concerns about who President Trump is picking for his team.

I would expect this from my colleagues on the left, not on the right. What is surprising to me is that I am hearing grumbings from Republicans. My advice to them is to get on board or get out of the way. The American people have enthusiastically trusted President Trump and J.D. VANCE with saving our great Republic.

I am calling on my Senate Republican colleagues to listen to both the American people and the constituents in their States and support President Trump’s vision for his Cabinet.

Last time around, the Republican Senate took months to confirm President Trump’s appointments, if not years. As a result, President Trump had to govern with one hand tied behind his back because some of his Cabinet members were never confirmed.

That is completely unacceptable this time around. We need to help President Trump. We need to help him usher in a new golden age in America. Be a team player. It is time to move the ball down the field.

You know, I spent many years as a head coach at several different football programs. Whenever an organization brings on a new coach, that coach brings in his whole new staff. It is the head coach’s obligation to hire the personnel he needs to achieve his objectives for that certain program.

The old staff, by and large, usually gets fired. It is not always fun, but that is reality. I had to do it several times. In the same way President Trump was just chosen to be America’s head coach, he needs to be able to hire the assistant coaches he wants. In this case, it is his Cabinet and other important high-level personnel picks.

President Trump has faced two assassination attempts, partisan lawfare from a corrupt administration, his first campaign being spied on by the Obama administration, and baseless lies from the corporate media who tried their best—tried their best—to keep him out of the White House.

The last thing he needs is obstruction from Senate Republicans. He is a large part of why we just won the Senate and a lot of these people got re-elected.

And 76 million Americans decisively chose President Trump and his “America First” agenda—76 million. This is a record for any Republican President in our Nation’s history. Let that sink in.

This is not because of any of us. This is because of President Trump, who is

the most effective communicator and leader in modern history. It is because he is a successful businessman, not a career politician.

But now, elected Republicans are expressing frustration with his Cabinet picks. Who do Republican Senators think they represent? They are representing the voters in their States.

I remember when 20—that is right—20 Senate Republicans voted to confirm Merrick Garland for the top law enforcement spot 4 years ago for the Biden administration. That is their prerogative.

As Attorney General, Merrick Garland turned the DOJ into a weapon—a weapon—against President Donald Trump, Republicans, and law-abiding U.S. citizens.

The perversion of law that Merrick Garland embraced at the DOJ would make third-world banana republics blush.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who had no previous experience in the transportation sector, received 36—and I repeat—36 Republican votes. His qualifications for the job? His “personal love of transportation.” OK. Apparently, liking trains as a kid makes him qualified to be in the Cabinet.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who was in large part responsible for the blatant lies pushed in a letter written by 51 former intelligence officials right before the 2020 election, received 28 Republican votes in the Senate.

Secretary of Education Cardona received 14 Republican votes. Secretary Cardona supported mandatory COVID vaccines for schoolchildren of all ages. He doesn’t believe parents should have any say in their children’s education; it is up to the teachers. He has also directed his department to destroy—and I will repeat—destroy title IX and allow men to compete in women’s sports. In my opinion, that is a total disgrace. And he had 14 Republicans who voted for him here on this floor to confirm him.

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, a Green New Deal and Medicare for All career politician, received several Republican Senators’ votes.

I could go on and on and on. But I am not going to do that. Many Senate Republicans had no issue voting to confirm the Democrat nominations. And that is their prerogative—even though many were unqualified, radical, and, in some cases, completely out of their minds. I am not going to get into that. Yet many Republicans have been quick to voice concerns about the competency and qualifications of some of President Trump’s picks. It makes no sense.

I have heard concerns about nominees’ personal lives being a focus point. Need I remind my colleagues of Rachel Levine, a transgender woman, who is the Assistant Secretary of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services. Multiple Republicans voted for her. And that is their prerogative.