

Since 2016, Judge Pennell has served as a judge on the Washington Court of Appeals, Division Three, where she has authored more than 568 opinions.

Judge Pennell has the strong support of her home State Senators, Mrs. MURRAY and Ms. CANTWELL. In addition, Judge Pennell was rated unanimously "well qualified" by the American Bar Association.

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

Mr. THUNE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask that we commence with the rollcall vote immediately under unanimous consent.

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

VOTE ON PENNELL NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pennell nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 289 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Crapo	Kennedy
Blackburn	Daines	Lankford
Boozman	Ernst	Lee
Britt	Fischer	Lummis
Budd	Graham	Manchin
Capito	Grassley	Marshall
Cassidy	Hagerty	McConnell
Collins	Hawley	Moran
Cornyn	Hoeben	Mullin
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Murkowski
Cramer	Johnson	Paul

Ricketts	Schmitt	Tillis
Risch	Scott (FL)	Tuberville
Romney	Scott (SC)	Vance
Rounds	Sullivan	Wicker
Rubio	Thune	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Braun	Cruz
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). 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 majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Ali nomination cloture motion be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

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 executive 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. 539, Amir H. Ali, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Raphael G. Warnock, Gary C. Peters, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Peter Welch, Mark R. Warner, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Duckworth, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow.

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 Amir H. Ali, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 290 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Casey	Helmy
Bennet	Coons	Hickenlooper
Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Hirono
Booker	Duckworth	Kaine
Brown	Durbin	Kelly
Butler	Fetterman	King
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Klobuchar
Cardin	Hassan	Lujan
Carper	Heinrich	Manchin

Markey	Rosen	Van Hollen
Merkley	Sanders	Warner
Murphy	Schatz	Warnock
Murray	Schumer	Warren
Ossoff	Shaheen	Welch
Padilla	Smith	Whitehouse
Peters	Stabenow	Wyden
Reed	Tester	

NAYS—48

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

NOT VOTING—2

Braun	Cruz
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 48.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Amir H. Ali, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I would like to start by thanking Senator WARNOCK for letting me jump ahead in the speaking order today. I appreciate it. I am only going to take a couple of minutes.

Yesterday, in the press report, apparently, I had reported what I said at lunch for the news about me talking about a simple concept. I don't know. I think the American people are on board with me. We have to show up for work, right? I think we have to.

The reason we had 18 votes on Monday night is because some of my colleagues on my side of the aisle—folks, this is not a partisan—it is partisan. It ended up focusing on some of my colleagues. You have to show up for work. We have got work to do here. And I understand there are all kinds of good reasons. But there is no excuse to let CHUCK SCHUMER force these judicial nominations down our throat.

We have got to show up for work. What happened on Monday night only occurred because Republicans were not here. They are my colleagues. They are my friends. But they are business associates first who have a job of making sure that we prevent CHUCK SCHUMER from driving a lot of these judicial nominations that, if we are here, won't be successful.

The only reason we were here until midnight on Monday night is because some of my colleagues didn't show up. I am just saying, folks, this is pretty

simple. I have spent most of my career in business. If my senior staff didn't show up or my former partners at Pricewaterhouse didn't show up, we would find them another job.

We get this job, whether we want it or not, unless we resign. You can't fire us in the midterm or in the middle of our terms. But I can express my concern with giving CHUCK SCHUMER an easy way to beat Republicans who want to vote against and potentially defeat some of these very liberal judges.

So all I am saying—so that the press gets it right—people put words in my mouth at a private lunch. That is OK. People do that around here. I don't. But let me say what I said at lunch: 90 percent of success is showing up. If we were here on Monday night, we wouldn't have been here until midnight because we would have defeated CHUCK SCHUMER's opportunity to do it then.

If we are not here every single day—I had somebody ask me: Well, when do I need to be there for that Fourth Circuit nominee? When is that vote going to occur?

I said: When you are not here.

We have got to show up, folks. The American people expect us to show up for a job. These are my friends. These are my colleagues. These are people I work together with. But they let me down on Monday. They better not let me down for the rest of the session or every time we fail because we failed to show up. I will be back down here to remind my colleagues that the American people and the people who elected us in our great States want us to do our jobs. You can't do your job if you are not here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Georgia.

DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING

Mr. WARNOCK. Madam President, I rise today calling on the U.S. Senate to immediately—immediately—approve the supplemental disaster assistance request sent to us by the President earlier this week so we can get Georgians and Americans all across our country the support they so desperately need following two recent storms: Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Sadly, these storms are becoming more frequent and becoming more destructive. And we will see again and again the need of the Senate to respond with the urgency that this demands.

I was pushing for additional disaster assistance for Georgians reeling from past storms before Hurricane Helene landed in our State; namely, following Hurricane Idalia last year and Debby in August of this year.

My office was on the frontlines of the Federal response to Hurricane Helene in Georgia, and I was proud to work with a bipartisan group with my colleagues, including Senator TILLIS and Senator BUDD of North Carolina, to kick-start this disaster funding process.

I want to thank the President for listening to the people of our State in ex-

pediting this request. I want to thank the Senate Appropriations Committee Chair PATTY MURRAY for acting on this priority today. It is something she and I have talked about over the last several weeks.

Since these storms tore through Georgia and much of the Southeast, we have seen light in darkness as communities come together to help one another, neighbors supporting neighbors.

I was down in Augusta a few weeks ago, and it was tough to see that devastation. But part of that light piercing the darkness could be seen in the eyes and in the effort of Robert Lanier of Lanier's Meat Market. I was driving. We were going down the street. I had my staff do a U-turn. And there was Robert Lanier, local business owner—Lanier's Meat Market—literally providing free food and water to his neighbors. The very food that he sells every day to take care of his family, he was giving it away to his neighbors—a light shining in the darkness.

I saw this in Homerville, Soperton, and Gibson, where my office hosted community resource clinics to connect Georgians to Federal officials and resources, helping some 200 Georgians in the process.

In Quitman and in Valdosta, my team and I hit the road to deliver food, healthcare supplies, and water to our neighbors in need.

I spent time with smalltown mayors all across our State that were desperately in need of a response.

And to date, FEMA has provided over \$229 million in individual and household assistance to Georgians in need and continues to operate numerous disaster recovery and other assistance centers across the State.

I am proud of the great work being done, and I applaud the public servants and the community leaders who make it all possible. But in my travels and in my conversations with these smalltown mayors, with Georgians, for folks especially in our rural areas, it is clear that more needs to be done, and that help cannot come soon enough.

In Ray City, I joined President Biden to survey a damaged pecan grove. An estimated one-third of the State's pecan crop was destroyed as well as cotton. Over 100 poultry houses were damaged or destroyed, and 8 million acres of timber in America's No. 1 forestry State were impacted. All told, we are talking about more than \$6 billion in total damages to Georgia's agriculture sector.

Too many of our farmers have taken too many hits with these storms over the years, which is why I pushed the President to send to Congress a request for additional funding immediately so we can give a lifeline to our hurting agriculture industry.

At its peak, Helene left more than 1 million Georgians without power, 300 boil water advisories across the State, over 200,000 homes with some level of damage, and countless communities facing a long road to recovery.

Most tragically, 228 individuals perished in Helene's devastation; 34 of them were Georgians, 6 of them were children. And so as we pray with our lips for those we lost, we must pray with our legs to help those still reeling and recovering from this devastation.

While Congress was out of session last month, because I understood the urgency, I called on the Senate to come back to Washington to pass additional disaster assistance funding. Weeks have passed since then, but the urgency remains.

While it may not be in the headlines, Georgians who were at the center of this devastation are living this every single day.

While I am here to remind my colleagues of the moral urgency to act, I know families and farmers back home still recovering. They are the ones who understand the dire circumstances, clearly.

There is one family in Augusta, GA, a married couple with two young elementary school-aged kids, who, following Helene—listen—are still residing in a house deemed 95 percent damaged. It is practically unlivable, their home. But they are still waiting on Federal support to move to either a temporary or a long-term housing solution.

Imagine that, waking up every day in a home that is 95 percent damaged. And as they navigate the stress and the trauma of this turmoil, the father continues showing up to work. He goes to work every day in order to provide for his family and then returns to their damaged home, waiting on us to show up to work and get the job done.

If we expect hard-working Georgians to do their job in the midst of a disaster, they should expect us to do ours. It is reasonable service. It is the least we can do.

The disaster assistance proposal before us would deliver a lifesaver for so many families, providing over \$20 billion to help farmers address crop and orchard losses; more than \$600 million to help them rehabilitate damaged land; \$375 million to support rural communities with housing, power, water, healthcare, and more; and \$40 billion for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund—the primary source of Federal assistance for Georgians impacted by Hurricane Helene.

There is also critical funding to fix our damaged roads and highways, support our small business harmed by the storms, and invest in public water and sewer system upgrades.

The only question is, What are we waiting for? There is no time for games, no time for delay, no time for partisanship, or politics. We must center the human beings, members of our families who are impacted by our policy, and the time to act is now.

We must approve this additional funding with bipartisan and bicameral support. And I will continue to do all I can until we get this done, and every dollar we allocate gets to the taxpayers. After all, this is the taxpayers'