

database. Now it probably will not surprise you, it is unfortunate, but the 26 States are overwhelmingly red. My State of Tennessee has led on this issue for years, and it is ranked No. 1 in this country for election integrity.

Now, thanks to President Trump, the process is easier than ever for States to use this registry. Under his leadership—and probably is no surprise—under his leadership, our State and local governments can use this for free. They do not pay any kind of fee. They can go in here, put in the name, the last four digits of the Social Security number—not all nine, just the last four—and they can see what pops up.

The good thing is that the States who are doing this—and by the way, the States that are using it have submitted more than 46 million verification requests through the database, and they are getting results from this.

Texas uses this system, and their secretary of state identified more than 2,700 potential voters that were violating the system. They ought not to be on the rolls. Ohio discovered more than 1,000 potential noncitizens on its voter rolls. More than 160 of them have cast votes in elections going back to 2018.

They are not citizens. They ought not to be voting in our elections.

Now, for the States, the SAVE database is a commonsense tool to ensure the integrity of their elections. Yet, we have got about half the States in this country—especially the blue ones—that are not taking this basic step to verification.

When you look at California and New York, between those two States, they are estimated to be home to 3.5 million illegal aliens, and we can only imagine how many noncitizens are on their voter roll because they are taking zero—zero—steps to verify these rolls.

New Jersey, another blue State, refuses to use the SAVE database. Just this week, we learned through public records requests that there have been hundreds of cases of noncitizens placed on the State's voter rolls in just the last few years. Many had no idea that they were registered to vote. Others voted in elections going as far back as the year 2000.

You know, many times, elections are decided by a few votes. Might be five or six. Might be a couple hundred. And when you look at the numbers—you look at what Texas found; you look at what Ohio found; you find out that in New Jersey, that you have got people that have been in the country illegally and have been voting since 2000.

Congress should do everything possible to encourage the States to use the SAVE database to secure our elections. The American people do not want voter fraud. They want to have confidence in our elections. It is the foundation of our system of representative government.

Now, this is why Senator GRAHAM and I have introduced the Election Security Partnership Act. This legisla-

tion would provide increased grant funding to States that submit their voter registration lists to DHS to identify ineligible voter registrations, including for noncitizens. It would also improve election administration technology and security.

This is something everyone should do, but they are not doing it. So we are saying: All right. We will incentivize you. If you are going to get grants that deal with your elective systems, then we will give you a plus-up of 10 percent if you will do the right thing and abide by the law, if you will verify that the people in your State are voting because they are a citizen, if you will guarantee the integrity of your voting system.

You know what? We have got States—they don't want to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat; they are looking for the way to cheat. They are looking to make "illegal" legal. They are looking for ways to circumvent the law.

This is not fair. It is not right.

Every Member of Congress should support this legislation. Why would our colleagues on the other side of the aisle oppose election integrity measures? Why would they oppose States cleaning up their voter rolls? Why would they oppose being a citizen to register to vote and then when you go to the poll show an ID? Prove that you are who you are. Treasure that right to vote. It is foundational.

We have been a free country for 250 years because we value protecting our freedom. We believe in robust, respectful, bipartisan debate, and we believe in standing with the rule of law.

I think it is troubling that we have to ask our colleagues: Why? Why? Why is it that they do not want to exercise election integrity?

RECESS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled recess begin immediately.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:27 p.m. recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anthony W. Mattivi, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

NOMINATION OF ANTHONY W. MATTIVI

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Anthony Wayne Mattivi to the U.S.

District Court for the District of Kansas.

While it is commendable that Mr. Mattivi is a long-time public servant, I have deep reservations that he can be impartial if confirmed to the bench.

As the director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, KBI, Mr. Mattivi signed a 287(g) agreement to participate in Federal immigration enforcement and touted Kansas as being only the second State in the country to do so. Given ICE's cruel and inhumane tactics, that is nothing to brag about.

I am also concerned that Mr. Mattivi will not treat criminal defendants fairly, given that he has repeatedly characterized as soft on crime decreasing or eliminating mandatory minimums.

We have seen how outdated mandatory minimum policies stemming from the failed "War on Drugs" continue to impose lengthy, one-size-fits-all sentences for many nonviolent drug offenses. They don't deter crime; instead, they overcrowd prisons and strain budgets.

Lastly, Mr. Mattivi has demonstrated that he is too afraid to cross President Trump. When asked in written questions if he stood by his view that it was "preposterous" for President Trump to claim that he had issued a standing order to declassifying the documents he kept at Mar-a-Lago, Mr. Mattivi declined to answer.

Given Mr. Mattivi's inability to demonstrate that he will be a neutral arbiter, I will oppose this nomination.

VOTE ON MATTIVI NOMINATION

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

Mr. COTTON. 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. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea".

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 166 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Armstrong	Cornyn	Hagerty
Banks	Cotton	Hawley
Barrasso	Cramer	Hoey
Blackburn	Crapo	Husted
Boozman	Cruz	Hyde-Smith
Britt	Curtis	Johnson
Budd	Daines	Justice
Capito	Ernst	Kennedy
Cassidy	Fischer	Lankford
Collins	Grassley	Lee

Lummis	Murkowski	Scott (SC)
Marshall	Paul	Sheehy
McConnell	Ricketts	Sullivan
McCormick	Risch	Thune
Moody	Rounds	Tuberville
Moran	Schmitt	Wicker
Moreno	Scott (FL)	Young

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—3

Bennet	Graham	Tillis
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am sure I speak for everyone in the Senate and in the country when I say I am relieved that the two American helicopter pilots shot down over the Strait of Hormuz earlier today have been safely rescued.

The U.S. helicopter that went down over the strait is a stark reminder that every second Trump's disastrous war continues is another second that our troops remain in harm's way. Our servicemembers are the best and the greatest in the world, and they deserve better than to risk their lives in a reckless, aimless war. The only sure way to protect our troops is to end this war as soon as possible—something Donald Trump is clearly incapable of doing.

Senate Republicans need to step up, advance our War Powers Resolution to end the war, and bring our troops home.

WILLIAM PULTE

Mr. President, on Mr. Pulte, there is a reason the law requires the Director of National Intelligence to have "extensive" national security experience. The role is essential to protecting the American people and has access to the most sensitive information imaginable. But Donald Trump's decision to appoint Bill Pulte as Acting DNI would elevate someone with absolutely zero experience—zero—in national security.

In Trump's eyes, the only qualification someone needs to serve in any post in this administration is absolute, unwavering loyalty to him and to him alone. At a time when our Nation is at war, our troops are in danger, and massive security events like the World Cup and America's 250th anniversary are fast approaching, we need someone

with extensive national security experience leading the intelligence community. We need a Director of National Intelligence who will speak truth to power, not cater to Trump's every wish. We need a Director of National Intelligence who is objective, not one who distorts the truth for political gain, as Pulte has repeatedly done. We need a Director of National Intelligence who truly has a national security background, not someone with zero experience.

ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS

Mr. President, now, on MIKE JOHNSON's plan to cut Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid: It is amazing. Doesn't he ever learn? Yesterday, MIKE JOHNSON revealed to a reporter that congressional Republicans have a plan to slash Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid if they stay in the majority. America, do you hear that? His plan is to slash Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid if they stay in the majority.

We found out this morning that—thanks to the Republican massive tax giveaway to the wealthiest Americans—Social Security is in worse shape than ever, with insolvency coming faster and finances deteriorating worse than at any point in more than 30 years.

And now JOHNSON just gave the game away. After making the largest cut to healthcare in American history and undermining Social Security, Republicans are coming back for second cuts. Republicans have had no problem adding \$5 trillion to the debt to cut taxes for billionaires, but they suddenly get stingy when it comes to protecting Americans' healthcare and retirement benefits that affect the vast majority of working people.

Imagine telling the American people that they can't retire or can't get their children the lifesaving care they need because billionaires like Donald Trump aren't rich enough already. Well, that is what Speaker JOHNSON is saying, and it is disgusting. JOHNSON can try to backtrack, dodge, or distort what he said all he wants, but he has reminded Americans of Republicans' true colors, and Americans don't like what they see.

NOMINATION OF TODD BLANCHE

Mr. President, on the Blanche nomination, yesterday, Trump officially nominated Todd Blanche to serve as his Attorney General permanently. Letting Donald Trump make his personal lawyer Attorney General makes as little sense as letting a defendant pick his prosecutor.

"Attorney General" might appear on Blanche's business card, but we all know the job description will stay the same: Trump's fixer, bagman, and hired gun. There are billboard lawyers I would trust more as Attorney General than Todd Blanche.

Blanche was the mastermind behind the \$2 billion MAGA slush fund to funnel America's taxpayer dollars to Donald Trump and his MAGA cronies.

Blanche has had the audacity to come before the Senate and claim he was dropping the slush fund. I would say a promise from Blanche isn't worth the paper it is written on, but Blanche told the Senate:

I'm not committing to putting anything in writing.

Meanwhile, Trump continues to sing the praises of his blatantly corrupt slush fund for billionaires and violent criminals.

Blanche has withheld 3 million pages of the Epstein files, lied to Congress under oath about meeting Epstein survivors, and brought baseless charges against Trump's political enemies; but Senate Republicans seem more than happy to shake his hand as he picks the American people's pocket.

Democrats are going to fight this confirmation with everything we have, and if Republicans have any respect for the rule of law, they will do the same.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Louisiana.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I am a physician. I used to work in a hospital for the working uninsured and the uninsured, the poorly insured, and so, as you might guess, I am very sensitive to the idea, to the understanding, to the fact that healthcare is becoming more expensive and less obtainable to the American people.

And last week, if I can put this up, I pointed out that the average American household has \$10,000 in credit card debt, and these aren't people paying it off every month. These are people, like in the State of Tennessee or in the State of Louisiana, who are carrying a balance. And over the last 5 years, to show that this is becoming an increasing problem, the average—if I remember correctly—the average percent of someone's income going to credit card interest has risen from 1.9 to 3.2 percent of their income. They are not paying this off. They are carrying a balance with 22 percent interest sometimes, and they are paying more and more.

And the way this factors into healthcare is that, when someone has a multithousand-dollar deductible, even if they have insurance—they have a multithousand-dollar deductible—in order to pay for the out-of-pocket, they are putting it on their credit card, so much so that over 60 percent of personal bankruptcies relate in part to healthcare expenses, period.

Credit card debt reflecting the overall debt burden—the overall problems of affordability in our society—is huge.