

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Flowers nomination.

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

BIPARTISANSHIP

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the basic duty we all took an oath to carry out—and whether we are living up to it.

The U.S. Senate was never designed to be easy. It was designed to be deliberate, to force people who disagree to sit in the same room and work something out anyway. That only works if everyone here still believes in the underlying premise that we were sent to govern no matter who is the President. The goal is not to defeat the other side for its own sake but to do the hard, unglamorous work of running this country together, in good faith, even when we would rather not.

Americans did not send Republicans and Democrats to Washington expecting us to agree on everything. In fact, my constituents would be very concerned if we did. They sent us here expecting us to take the job seriously. That means engaging with the substance in front of us, debating it, amending it, fighting for it on the merits, rather than reflexively blocking whatever comes to the floor simply because of who sits in the White House.

Last week, this Chamber fell short. There is a real difference between principled opposition and blind obstruction, and the American people can tell which one they are watching. Opposing a policy because you believe it is wrong for the country is exactly what this institution is built for. Opposing something simply because you dislike the President and you are trying to jam him when there is international conflict is something else entirely, and it corrodes the very system we are sworn to protect.

I was very troubled to watch every Senate Democrat vote against even beginning the debate on the National Defense Authorization Act, a bill that has, historically, enjoyed strong bipartisan backing.

Now, I am not suggesting Members can't or shouldn't oppose the NDAA when they have genuine concerns; that is a legitimate part of the process. Voting no is often the easy move around here, and I have done it myself when I thought it was warranted. But this looked less like principled opposition and more like reflexive obstruction, a decision to block the process itself rather than engage with the substance of an important bill.

I also think of the SAVE America Act when I say this because it is a case in point. Here is a bill built around a premise that 83 percent of the American people—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike—already agree on, that only citizens should decide American elections and that voters

should be able to prove who they are when they cast a ballot. This is not fringe. This is not one party's obsession. It is about as close to consensus as the American people get on anything these days.

And yet it cannot get a real hearing on the merits in this Chamber—not a real debate, just a wall. That is not principled opposition. That is the process itself being blocked on a question the country has largely answered.

Good faith is not a partisan virtue. It doesn't belong to one side of the aisle or the other. It is the minimum the American people are owed by everyone who serves here. They are watching to see whether we can still disagree honestly, argue our positions openly and persuasively, and still find a way to get the Nation's business done. When we can't, when the obstruction becomes the default setting instead of the exception, we are not defending the Constitution. We are quietly letting it fail.

We are stewards of something bigger than any one bill or any one election cycle. We are stewards of a system that only survives if the people who serve in it still believe in doing the work, in doing the right thing, in doing what the Constitution outlines is our duty to the American people. That is what Americans expect of us. It is time we start living up to it every single day, not just when it is politically convenient.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. ROUNDS assumed the chair.)

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ARMSTRONG). The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORRUPTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, well, we have Trump Steaks, Trump University, Trump Airlines, Trump Coin, and the Trump Presidency—all cons. The product changes; the con stays the same. Donald Trump has turned the Presidency of the United States into the most profitable scheme of his life, and American families are being forced—forced—to pay the price.

Today, I am launching a new effort to expose the corruption, show Americans exactly what it is costing them, and build reforms needed to stop any President from using public office for personal profit. Senate Democrats will be exposing this self-dealing, showing Americans exactly what it is costing them, and developing reforms to make sure no President can abuse the Office this way again.

For the next 3 weeks, Senate Democrats are putting Trump's corruption under a microscope. Throughout the month, we will follow the money, expose the deals, name the people cashing in, and show how Trump's corruption reaches directly into the pockets of working people.

This week, we are releasing a new report that lays out the staggering scale of the grift: how Trump has used the power of the Presidency to enrich himself, reward his family, protect his

friends, and sell access to anyone—anyone—willing to pay.

The report shows how Americans are struggling to afford groceries, healthcare, housing, and energy, while Donald Trump and his family have reportedly made more than \$4 billion from the Presidency.

We will also be hosting another tabletop exercise with the Democrats' Elections Task Force to prepare to counter Trump's efforts to rig the 2026 midterms.

Next week, we will hold a roundtable on how Trump's corruption is directly driving up everyday costs for the American people, and average folks will testify to what they are going through.

And the following week, we will release major legislation designed to rein in Trump's rampant corruption and to prevent any President from ever doing it again.

You pay; Trump profits. That is the pattern of this administration, and we will highlight it everywhere we see it.

No amount of gold leaf can conceal the rot spreading through this White House. Corruption is not a sideshow in the Trump administration; it is the whole business model.

Trump guts protections for workers and consumers. His wealthy friends cash in.

Trump cuts food assistance and healthcare. Billionaires get another tax break.

Trump hands out pardons to the rich and well-connected, accepts lavish gifts from foreign governments, and arranges sweetheart deals for his family business.

Trump uses the government. Trump gets richer. Americans foot the bill.

His corruption is not victimless. It has a price, and working families are paying it every single day. The average American family is already spending more than \$3,100 extra because of this administration's policies.

And yet Trump still expects taxpayers to finance a MAGA slush fund they never approved, a golden ballroom they never asked for, and upgrades to a foreign luxury jet the President does not need.

Donald Trump has turned the Oval Office into his personal ATM, the Federal Government into his family business, and the American taxpayer into the mark.

A few months ago, Trump said:

I don't think about Americans' financial situation.

Of course, he doesn't. He is too busy thinking about his own.

Donald Trump may believe the Presidency is simply another brand to monetize, another product to sell, another scam to run. But he is dead wrong. The Presidency belongs to the American people. It is not a license to steal, it is not a family business, and it is not Donald Trump's personal property.

So throughout this month, Senate Democrats will expose the corruption that Trump wants hidden. We will follow the money and expose the deals.

We will show who profits, who pays, and how Trump has rigged the government for himself and the people closest to him.

And we will make one thing unmistakably clear: The White House is not for sale.

Trump has spent his life betting that the con will always work. This time, the American people will see exactly how the scam works and exactly who has been handed the keys to the kingdom.

IRAN

Mr. President, on the Iran war, Donald Trump needs to reckon with the terrible cost of the disastrous war he has dared to call "a skirmish," "a little excursion." And once, he called it "a lovely stay."

There is nothing "lovely" or "little" about Trump's blunder in Iran—nothing.

On Thursday, Trump insisted to the Nation that we are "winning big in Iran, and you will see the fruits of that labor very, very shortly."

But instead and sadly, we saw three more brave American servicemembers tragically lose their lives over the weekend because of Trump's reckless war in Iran. Dozens of other U.S. troops were wounded in Iranian strikes last week, and one servicemember remains missing.

I am praying for their families in this difficult hour. I speak for the entire Senate when I say how much we appreciate their sacrifice.

This carnage is the bitter fruit of Trump's "labor" in Iran. Every second Trump prolongs this war is another second that the lives of our men and women in uniform are in danger. In the coming days, we are going to make Senate Republicans take another vote on our War Powers Resolution to end this war and get our troops out of harm's way. Trump needs to stop this catastrophe and bring our troops home, and Senate Republicans can't let him off the hook until he does.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION

Mr. President, now I want to briefly take a moment to recognize some guests from New York who are in the Capitol today. I guess I am a little late, but they were here.

The Long Island Association, a storied regional business development group, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Some of its members traveled here today to celebrate this occasion.

Their century of work fighting to make Long Island a better place to live, work, and do business has accomplished much for the region. From affordability to energy, to infrastructure, to innovation, they have lit the road forward for Long Island's future.

It has been my pleasure to work with them for several decades, and I know that under the leadership of their acting CEO and president Stacey Sikes—who once worked for me—we will continue our great tradition of delivering for Long Island together.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask that the previously scheduled rollcall vote start immediately.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Benjamin M. Flowers, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

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. 775, Benjamin M. Flowers, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, Ashley B. Moody, James Lankford, Todd Young, Ted Budd, Pete Ricketts, Jon A. Husted, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bernie Moreno, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, James C. Justice, Eric Schmitt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Benjamin M. Flowers, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Idaho

(Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 43, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 200 Ex.]

YEAS—43

Armstrong	Graham	Murkowski
Banks	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hawley	Rounds
Budd	Hoeben	Schmitt
Capito	Husted	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Sheehy
Cornyn	Justice	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Wicker
Curtis	Marshall	Young
Daines	McCormick	
Ernst	Moreno	

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Schatz
Bennet	Kaine	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Slotkin
Booker	King	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Warner
Coons	Lujan	Warnock
Duckworth	Markey	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Welch
Galleo	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Hassan	Ossoff	
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—17

Boozman	Kennedy	Rosen
Britt	McConnell	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Moody	Shaheen
Cruz	Moran	Smith
Fetterman	Padilla	Tuberville
Fischer	Risch	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 43, the nays are 40, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Flowers nomination; further, that the Senate recess tomorrow from 12:30