

States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, Mike Crapo, Tim Sheehy, John Cornyn, Roger Marshall, John Barrasso, Rick Scott of Florida, Markwayne Mullin, Ted Budd, Cynthia M. Lummis, Jim Justice, Katie Boyd Britt, Bernie Moreno, Tommy Tuberville, Eric Schmitt, Jon Husted.

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 Nicholas Jon Ganjei, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

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), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 23 Ex.]

YEAS—49

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Banks | Fischer | Moreno |
| Barrasso | Grassley | Mullin |
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Murkowski |
| Boozman | Hawley | Ricketts |
| Britt | Hoeven | Risch |
| Budd | Husted | Rounds |
| Capito | Hyde-Smith | Schmitt |
| Cassidy | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Collins | Justice | Scott (SC) |
| Cornyn | Kennedy | Sheehy |
| Cotton | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Cramer | Lee | Thune |
| Crapo | Lummis | Tuberville |
| Cruz | Marshall | Wicker |
| Curtis | McCormick | Young |
| Daines | Moody | |
| Ernst | Moran | |

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—7

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Duckworth | Luján | Tillis |
| Graham | McConnell | |
| Kim | Paul | |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 44. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nicholas Jon Ganjei, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

NOMINATION OF NICHOLAS JON GANJEI

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Nicholas Jon Ganjei to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

I will vote in opposition to Mr. Ganjei's confirmation to a lifetime appointment on the Federal bench.

As the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas, Mr. Ganjei has not been shy about his support for the Trump administration's aggressive immigration enforcement agenda. In a speech to the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association earlier this year, Mr. Ganjei rebuffed those who view these policies as "rooted in a lack of compassion." But look at what happened in Chicago last year and more recently in Minnesota just this last month. American citizens, legal residents of the United States, and immigrants who have built their lives and raised their families here and pose no threat to public safety have been targeted.

Rafael Veraza and his 1-year-old daughter Arianna, both citizens of the United States, were enjoying a shopping day at Sam's Club. What was supposed to be a normal father-daughter outing ended in a trip to the hospital after they were pepper sprayed by Federal agents. Masked, armed agents have aggressively arrested U.S. citizens; tazed, punched, and fired pepper balls at them; and, in some cases, wrongly detained them in immigration detention facilities for weeks. This was not an isolated incident. In the last month, two American citizens, Renee Good and Alex Pretti, were both needlessly and unjustifiably killed in immigration officer-involved shootings.

There is no doubt that this administration's immigration policies are rooted in a lack of compassion. Mr. Ganjei cheering them on is disqualifying. Earlier this year, he reposted a DHS tweet comparing the strategy of capturing undocumented immigrants to the Pokemon slogan "gotta catch 'em all"—as if all of this were a game.

Mr. Ganjei's record makes clear where he stands on immigration enforcement, and I have serious doubts about his ability to fairly and impartially render decisions in the immigration cases that make up a substantial part of the docket in the Southern District of Texas.

For these reasons, I will be opposing Mr. Ganjei's nomination.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:05 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON GANJEI NOMINATION

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

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 24 Ex.]

YEAS—51

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Banks | Fischer | Moran |
| Barrasso | Graham | Moreno |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Mullin |
| Boozman | Hagerty | Murkowski |
| Britt | Hawley | Ricketts |
| Budd | Hoeven | Risch |
| Capito | Husted | Rounds |
| Cassidy | Hyde-Smith | Schmitt |
| Collins | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Cornyn | Justice | Scott (SC) |
| Cotton | Kennedy | Sheehy |
| Cramer | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Crapo | Lee | Thune |
| Cruz | Lummis | Tillis |
| Curtis | Marshall | Tuberville |
| Daines | McCormick | Wicker |
| Ernst | Moody | Young |

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—4

| | |
|-------|-----------|
| Kim | McConnell |
| Luján | Paul |

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 actions.

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. 614, Aaron Christian Peterson, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, Mike Crapo, Tim Sheehy, John Cornyn, Roger Marshall, John Barrasso, Rick Scott of Florida, Markwayne Mullin, Ted Budd, Cynthia M. Lummis, Jim Justice, Katie Boyd Britt, Bernie Moreno, Tommy Tuberville, Eric Schmitt, Jon Husted.

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 Aaron Christian Peterson, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

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 Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 25 Ex.]

YEAS—55

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Banks | Graham | Murkowski |
| Barrasso | Grassley | Paul |
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Ricketts |
| Boozman | Hassan | Risch |
| Britt | Hawley | Rounds |
| Budd | Hoeven | Schmitt |
| Capito | Husted | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Hyde-Smith | Scott (SC) |
| Collins | Johnson | Shaheen |
| Cornyn | Justice | Sheehy |
| Cotton | Kennedy | Sullivan |
| Cramer | Lankford | Thune |
| Crapo | Lummis | Tillis |
| Cruz | Marshall | Tuberville |
| Curtis | McCormick | Whitehouse |
| Daines | Moody | Wicker |
| Durbin | Moran | Young |
| Ernst | Moreno | |
| Fischer | Mullin | |

NAYS—39

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| Alsobrooks | Hickenlooper | Rosen |
| Baldwin | Hirono | Sanders |
| Bennet | Kaine | Schatz |
| Blunt Rochester | Kelly | Schiff |
| Booker | King | Schumer |
| Cantwell | Markey | Slotkin |
| Coons | Merkley | Smith |
| Cortez Masto | Murphy | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Murray | Warner |
| Fetterman | Ossoff | Warnock |
| Gallego | Padilla | Warren |
| Gillibrand | Peters | Welch |
| Heinrich | Reed | Wyden |

NOT VOTING—6

| | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Blumenthal | Klobuchar | Luján |
| Kim | Lee | McConnell |

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 39. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Aaron Christian Peterson, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER OHLMEYER

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise on a very sad occasion, recognizing Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Deputy Christopher Ohlmeyer, a motorcycle officer who was just killed in a traffic motor vehicle accident. His death will be felt by his family, his fellow officers, and our entire State.

Christopher Ohlmeyer was a great officer, but he was more than the uniform he wore. He was a husband, a father, and a friend.

The way that he died, though tragic, is a testament to the way he lived. Deputy Ohlmeyer was struck as he was serving as a motorcycle escort for a funeral procession and was hit by a car from behind. In his final moments, he was serving someone else.

I am told that those who did not have a family were invited to be part of his; that he brought people together; that he was deeply committed to serving his community.

May we pray for his family, remember his sacrifice, and strive to live our legacy and our lives in whatever way we can, as he did his.

With gratitude for Deputy Ohlmeyer's service and remembrance of his life, Mr. President, I ask that we pause for a moment to remember Deputy Ohlmeyer.

(Moment of silence.)

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

ELECTIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I know the midterm elections aren't until November 2026, but there have been some surprising results recently in some of the special elections that have been held around the country, most recently in a State senate seat in Texas, over the weekend.

Taylor Rehmet, a Democrat, won handily in a district won by President Trump by 17 points, in 2024. Some people are calling this a warning sign to Republicans, suggesting that support for the GOP is waning in Texas.

Even the New York Times—maybe I should say, especially the New York Times—is trying to sound the death knell for the GOP, describing the race as an “upset” that has “rattled Republicans.”

Of course, our Democratic friends and the mainstream media will take any opportunity they can to paint President Trump and Republicans in a bad light, in an effort to raise expectations for their own electoral success at the ballot box. But there is something more going on here that does not just affect Republicans but, literally, all Americans, and we should all find this development alarming.

What is so alarming, may you ask? Well, it is people sitting on the couch and not voting, not participating in the process of self-government.

This particular special election in Texas that surprised so many was decided by 15 percent of registered voters. That is less than 95,000 people in a district of over 600,000 eligible voters.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated event. It has happened, time and time again, around the country.

Over in Houston, another special election was held to fill the House seat of the late Sylvester Turner, in the 18th District, and it demonstrated a similar anemic turnout. CHRISTIAN MENEFFEE won this seat with only 5.6 percent of registered voters—5.6 percent. Of course, when such a small group of people have such a disproportionate voice in the outcome of an election, they essentially are choosing their candidate, who may or may not be the candidate that would be supported by a broad coalition of registered voters if they had simply decided to participate.

In this case, the winning Democratic candidate in District 18 is—this was a solid blue district. But even though the results may not be shocking, the small proportion of voters who actually participated in the election should be.

This is not just a warning sign to Republicans. This is a warning sign to us all. When too many people sit on the sidelines, the consequences are election results that are not actually representative of the people who are being governed by these officials.

Well, some folks may say: Well, it is just a small election, and it doesn't really matter. Or I only vote when it really matters, and that is for President of the United States.

But the truth is every Federal, State, and local election matters. It matters because it affects every aspect of our daily lives: your work, how much you get to take home in your paycheck, what your kids are taught in school, and on and on and on.

We are blessed to live in what is called a democratic republic. It is not a pure democracy, and it is not a pure republic. But our government derives its powers from the consent of the government. The primary mechanism by which self-government actually works is through elections, and it is shocking to see so few people participating in our elections.

If Americans don't turn out to vote, including in special and midterm elections, then we are essentially forfeiting or giving up our right to a voice in self-government.