

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker Celebrates Judicial Confirmation Milestone

More Great Nominations to Come

The future of the courts was one of the most important issues of the 2016 presidential election. There was a good reason for that. Justice Scalia's sudden death in February of that year reminded everyone of the high stakes in electing a president with the power to choose judges with lifetime appointments. Candidate Donald Trump

understood this. He took the welcome step of releasing a list of his potential nominees for the Supreme Court before any votes were cast. As President, he has followed through by nominating Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to the highest court in the land, along with a slate of other well-qualified picks for lower courts.

The Senate is making good on the hopes of the American people and promises of President Trump, confirming its

100th judicial nominee at the end of April. This milestone shows that we have kept our word to voters.

More nominations are coming and, thanks to a recent Senate rules change, future candidates will face a streamlined confirmation process.

Overcoming Historic Obstruction

This accomplishment has come despite attempts to halt its progress. Nominees are thoroughly vetted by the

White House and by the Senate. They meet with senators individually to discuss their views and qualifications well before they come up for votes in committees or on the floor. Members have many chances to voice their concerns, but the Senate only has so much time as a whole body to consider each candidate.

Democrats used a procedural rule calling for 30 hours of debate a record 128 times during President Trump's first two years in office. By contrast, Presidents Bush, Clinton, and Obama faced this same hurdle only 24 times combined in their first two years. Most of the president's nominees are not controversial, and many Democratic senators end up voting for them after they leave the procedural limbo.

The Commerce Committee, which I chair, has also been affected by these stalling tactics. Ronald Batory - a man with four decades of experience in the railroad industry and an excellent reputation - saw the rules abused to delay his nomination by more than 200 days. When Mr. Batory finally did come up for a vote, he was confirmed unanimously. The lengthy debate time was never used for debate, only delay. He should have been on the job and improving rail safety months before.

This same maneuver slowed scores of other judicial and executive branch confirmations, kept the government from doing its job, and discouraged qualified Americans from entering public service.

The Senate is Doing its Part

The Republican-led Senate is ending this unacceptable obstruction by improving how our chamber operates. Now, two hours of debate time are provided for most nominations. We have already seen positive results, with additional well-qualified candidates taking offices every day, and most confirmations done with big majorities. Future nominees can get to work without going through what Mr. Batory experienced.

This is welcome news for our country. As Alexander Hamilton observed in Federalist No. 68, "The true test of a good government is its aptitude and tendency to produce a good administration."

We cannot have good government without producing a fully-staffed administration. President Trump's upcoming nominees will be responsive to citizens' needs once they take their posts, and a judiciary manned by these candidates will be qualified, fair-minded, impartial, and interpret the law according to its original meaning.

Central Holmes host Kindergarten Graduation



Pictured above, the Central Holmes Christian School Kindergarten Graduation ceremony was held on Monday, May 13, (first row from left): Analeigh Grace Bowers, Jaylen Claire McBride, and Sophie Wentworth; Second row (from left): Ainsley Jade Ashley, Oliver Denson Edwards, Joy McDonald, teacher, Carson Elijah Myles, and Brayden Michael Langford; Third row (from left): Houston Chaney Cain, Clayton Andrew Durff, Pierce Hudson Thomas and Alana Parish White.

(Photo submitted)



When to start the process?

Dear Dave,
My husband and I are debt-free, and we have an emergency fund of six months of expenses saved. We'd like to buy a home in the \$250,000 to \$275,000 price range in the near future, and we plan on saving \$60,000 for a down payment. It should take a little less than two years to save that much money. When should we begin the search for a good real estate agent and start the underwriting process?

Sarah

Dear Sarah,

I'm really proud of you two. You're being very intentional and goal-oriented about getting control of your finances and the home buying process.

I'd advise starting a conversation with a quality mortgage company when you're about five or six months away from your savings goal date. There's "pre-approval," but there's also something called "certified." That's a step beyond pre-approved, and it basically puts you in a position to make an offer when you're ready for the purchase. So, getting certified as a buyer is very helpful. After that, sit down and talk with a few agents. Interview them, and decide on someone you like and trust. Find an experienced agent you're comfortable with to guide you through the real estate world, and then start outlining your search and buying strategy.

What I would not do is jump from agent to agent. There's a tremendous benefit in finding someone you trust and feel good about. I'm talking about a buyer's agent who's going to fight for you. This means someone who will show you several different properties, keep your wants and needs foremost in their mind, and help you get the best possible buy on your new home!

Dave

A home shouldn't leave you house poor

Dear Dave,
My husband and I were
(Continued on page 9.)

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Corn	Sep 19	2019 Aug	3.66	-0.07	3.59 0.05
Soybeans Sidon	Nov 19	2019 Aug-Sep	8.28	-0.48	7.80 -0.05
Soybeans G'wood	Jul 19	2019 May - Deferred Pricing only	8.03	-0.46	7.57 -0.06
Soybeans G'wood	Nov 19	2019 Aug-Sep	8.28	-0.32	7.96 -0.05
Soybeans G'wood	Jan 20	2020 Jan	8.41	-0.24	8.17 -0.06
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 19	2019 Aug-Sep	8.28	-0.38	7.90 -0.05
Rice	May 19		10.720		0.000
Rice	Sep 19		11.140		0.020
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Cotton	Dec 19		66.40		-3.000

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The same requirements for admission and treatment are applied to all, and there is no distinction in eligibility for, or in the manner of providing services to any resident by or through the nursing center. All services of the nursing center are available to all regardless of race, creed, color, age, sex, national origin or handicap.

It is further the policy of this center to employ individuals as needed without regard to race, color, national origin, handicap or age using no criteria other than qualifications, experience and ability in the selection of employees and irrespective of race, color, national origin, handicap or age.

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