

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:13 a.m., in S-116, U.S. Capitol, Hon. James E. Risch, Chairman of the committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Risch [presiding], Ricketts, McCormick, Daines, Hagerty, Barrasso, Lee, Paul, Cruz, Scott, Curtis, Cornyn, Shaheen, Kaine, and Merkley.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES E. RISCH,
U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO**

The Chairman: The meeting will come to order.

First of all, thanks to everybody who has made it. I appreciate it. We are missing, of course, some others, but we are going to take votes here. With the numbers we have we are OK. I have only three that we are going to en bloc, and I will take those, and then we have the FSOs that appear at the end, and Senator Hagerty will discuss that when we get more detail.

Senator Hagerty: I have got that down. Thank you.

The Chairman: So we have got to do these one at a time, and so be it. So let's just go right down the list and see how quickly we can move here. Let's start with Kari Lake, number one, the Ambassador to Jamaica. Is there a motion?

Senator Hagerty: So moved.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Chairman: Is there a second?

Senator Cornyn: Can I be recognized?

The Chairman: You may.

Senator Cornyn: So I told the Administration that I was going to -- my vote for Kari Lake and Mr. Mastriano were going to depend on them releasing funds that Congress had appropriated for the PEPFAR program, and Congress should not have to go to the lengths that we went to just to get this kind of cooperation in regard to congressionally appropriated funds.

But just quickly, just so there is no question about what the Administration's commitment is, and with that commitment I will vote in favor of both of these nominees in the committee, they have pledged to obligate every dollar available to them and not let any appropriated funds expire, including \$66 million in PEPFAR funds, which expire at the end of this fiscal year, and they have committed to providing updates. They have also committed to making an announcement regarding the award to faith-based organizations that would complement the MOUs for the next month.

The Administration also confirmed that of the \$271 million that needs to be transferred to the CDC, \$123 million has already been notified to Congress, cleared the notification time frame. The only remaining step is for the fund transfer from Treasury. For the remaining \$148 million, State is working through final preauthorization requirements including congressional notification, and will transfer those funds shortly.

The Administration has finally released data to us in Congress so that we can understand exactly what they are doing with the money. They previously

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

had been very passive-aggressive about sharing the information with us. But now they have done so and confirmed they will give us advanced notice of additional announcements that they have in the works.

So with that commitment I intend to vote for both Ms. Lake and Mr. Mastriano.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator.

Is there further debate?

Senator Shaheen.

Senator Shaheen: Well first let me thank Senator Cornyn for going to bat for funding that, as you pointed out, we had already appropriated and approved, and it should have been out a long time ago, because we have PEPFAR programs in a number of countries that are just going under, and millions of people at risk. So I applaud your effort there.

I would just like to point out that there are deep concerns about Kari Lake's record, in and out of government. She dismantled the U.S. International Broadcasting Programming in Iran and Venezuela ahead of our military actions in those countries. She has sought to influence the editorial content of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty by withholding access to congressionally funded transmission capabilities. She put hundreds of employees on administrative leave for months, bringing operations to a standstill at the U.S. Agency for Global Media, wasting nearly \$140 million in taxpayer dollars. I don't know when you guys are going to get upset about the waste in taxpayer dollars that your Administration is doing.

She has stonewalled congressional inquiries and ordered the closure of

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Radio Free Europe's Hungarian language service two days before the Hungarian Prime Minister visited the White House. She has, of course, engaged in election denialism.

So I intend to vote no. I think all of my colleagues on the Democratic side will vote no. And I think she is not an appropriate representative of the United States government.

The Chairman: Thank you.

Is there further debate?

Senator Kaine: Mr. Chair, particularly on Kari Lake, the point that I raised at the hearing, she said this about one of our colleagues, Senator Gallego. She said, "You are controlled by the cartels," and she said that multiple times in the race against Ruben, and there was a fact-check on it that came out as a "pants on fire."

Her rationale was that Ruben's dad, who abandoned him when he was a child, and it led to such a rift in the family that Ruben changed his name to his mother's name because he was so angry at his father abandoning them — many years later, Ruben's dad got arrested in Mexico on a minor drug offense. It was not a cartel. It was a drug offense. So she alleged he was controlled by cartels, kind of picking at a wound, of the fact that he had been abandoned by his dad.

I gave her the chance to correct that. I gave her the chance to apologize for it. She first told me that she had the receipts to prove it. And then when I pointed out that she actually didn't, she said, "Well, I don't know that he is not in the cartels." I said, "Great. You have admitted that did not know whether that was true, but you made that charge anyway."

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

I am going to vote against her. And there will be a Democratic President, and a Democratic President at some point in the future will nominate some people. And I am just going to tell you if the President nominates somebody who has lied about any one of you and refused to correct or apologize for it, I am going to vote against that person too, and hold me to that. Hold me to that.

The Chairman: Further debate?

There being no further debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The clerk will report.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 12, the noes are 10.

The Chairman: The motion is passed.

Number two, Douglas Mastriano, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic. Is there a motion?

Voice: So moved.

The Chairman: It has been moved.

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: Seconded that he be sent to the floor with a do-pass or do-confirm recommendation.

Is there debate?

Senator Shaheen.

Senator Shaheen: Well, again, this is somebody who never should be nominated to be an Ambassador. I appreciate the service that he provided when he was in the military for this country, but his inability to understand the impact of his words in a variety of areas, his willingness to associate with people of questionable character, who are blatantly antisemitic, the posts that he has made, he has trivialized the Holocaust, he has concerning links to those antisemitic advocates. He struggled to answer when he was asked whether all American political leaders should be Christian. He called our European allies enemies of the United States.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

We have heard very directly from people in Slovakia, concerns that they have about somebody with this kind of background coming to the country. He was clearly here -- he lied in his hearing about whether he was here on January 6th, when people stormed the Capitol. We have him on video. He blatantly lied about that.

Again, he should not be an ambassador. I intend to vote no, and I hope all of my colleagues will vote no. And I wish some of you would take a real look at his record and vote based on the record, not based on party.

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator Shaheen.

Is there further debate?

Senator McCormick: Mr. Chairman, may I make a comment on that?

The Chairman: Yes.

Senator McCormick: I know Doug Mastriano well. He was a political opponent of mine. I think we should look at his record, his record of more than 30 years of military service, with a large bulk of that in Europe. No one knows Europe better than he. He served in combat tours, multiple combat tours. He has served with NATO allies. He has been a Professor of Strategy at the War College, focused on NATO. So he is supremely qualified.

He has made comments that he has retracted, and said so in the hearing. In terms of his antisemitic associations he has been very clear on his support for Israel.

So I do not dispute that there are reasonable questions to be asked, but I think the totality of his record and his qualifications do justify him; that's why I'll support him [unclear].

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Chairman: Is there further debate?

Seeing no further debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The clerk will report.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 12, the noes are 10.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Chairman: The motion is passed, and the nomination will be sent to the floor.

We now have Juan Segura, of Virginia, for three different positions, and there has been a request that we do vote on them separately, for the three positions. We are going to do that. And the first one is to be Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

Is there a motion?

Voice: So moved.

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: Seconded that he be sent to the floor with a do-pass recommendation.

Is there debate on Mr. Segura for the Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs?

Senator Shaheen: Mr. Chairman, I am confused because I thought we were only voting on him for two positions, one to be Assistant Secretary of State and the other to be a Member of the Inter-American Foundation Board.

The Chairman: Yes, the third one is also the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20th. It is PN937-8. I don't know the difference between those.

[Conversation off microphone.]

The Chairman: Oh, so you vote on both of those together. OK, that is fine. We will do two votes.

So the first one is going to be for Assistant Secretary of State. Is there debate?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

There being no debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 14, the noes are 8.

The Chairman: The motion is passed.

Now I will consider a motion on Juan Segura for two different positions.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

One is for PN937-8, and that is to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2026. The other is PN937-9, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2032.

Is there a motion?

Voice: So moved.

The Chairman: It has been moved.

Voice: Seconded.

The Chairman: Seconded that Mr. Juan Segura be confirmed for both of those positions.

Is there debate?

Senator Shaheen.

Senator Shaheen: Yes, Mr. Chairman. While I appreciate Juan Segura's credentials for this role and what he had to say at the hearing, I am very concerned that the Administration's nomination of him to be a member of the Inter-American Foundation is for him to dismantle that foundation, and I think there are real concerns about that. The IAF now is the only source of U.S. development assistance in the hemisphere. It is a model for development, works with local organizations to mobilize \$1.37 for every dollar of U.S. Federal funding. It is required by statute to be bipartisan. This is critical for decisions about the future of the board and the foundation. And I think, as I said, that the Administration is putting him in there, by himself, without nominating another bipartisan member, so that he can dismantle the organization.

Senator Kaine: Mr. Chairman?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Chairman: Yes, Senator Kaine.

Senator Kaine: I know Juan, a Virginian. He is solid. He was the Secretary of Commerce for the back half of the Youngkin administration, and I voted for him for the Western Hemisphere position. But I share the concern that Senator Shaheen raised, which is that the IAF is an important venue for investment, and because the U.S. does not write the big check like China does, what we end up doing is leveraging private sector U.S. participation to really help. So it is a very important board.

The Trump administration, with similar boards, has tried to basically eliminate them, even though they are in statute, eliminate the mission of the agency.

So I asked Juan, in my office, about the IAF, "Are you coming in with any intent to dismantle the agency?" And he said, "Well, we are going to look at it and see if it has value." I said, "Well, it is in statute, and Congress gives money to it, and we view the appropriations bill as law. So just tell me you'll look at it and you'll decide, with your superiors, whether it has value or not." That doesn't give me a lot of assurance.

If the Segura nomination was with a slate of nominees, which has been the tradition, bipartisan nominees, it would look different. But instead it appears that this is an effort to have sort of a one man army in there on a mission that I think will be destructive to the U.S. and the region.

So I do think he is a good person, and I voted for him for the State position, but I am going to vote no for him on the IAF, at least until we get some assurances that there is a real intent to maintain the IAF as an asset.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Chairman: Thank you, Senator Kaine.

Is there further debate?

Being no further debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy. Oh, I am sorry.

Senator Kaine: She read my mind.

Senator Shaheen: I just wanted to make sure.

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 12, the noes are 10.

The Chairman: The motion has passed.

I want to move to numbers 12, 14, and 15, and I agree with the Ranking Member that we take these three en bloc. Number 12 is Donald Blome, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, number 14 is Laurence Socha, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to The Gambia; number 15 is Stanley Brown, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

So is there a motion to send those to the floor with a recommendation to pass?

Voice: So moved.

The Chairman: Is there a second?

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded.

Is there debate?

There being no further debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

Senator Paul: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Aye.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 22, the noes are 0.

The Chairman: Thank you.

It is time to go down the list. Number 5, Barbera Thornhill, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large.

Senator Hagerty: So moved.

The Chairman: Number 5 is Barbera Thornhill.

Senator Hagerty: So moved.

The Chairman: It has been moved that she be sent up.

All right. There has been a motion.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Is there a second?

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded that Barbera Thornhill be sent to the floor with a do-confirm recommendation.

Is there debate?

Being no debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

[No response.]

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 12, the noes are 9.

The Chairman: The motion is passed.

Number 6, Joseph Burkhalter, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to Moldova.

Is there a motion?

Voice: So moved.

The Chairman: It has been moved.

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: Seconded that Mr. Burkhalter be sent to the floor with a
do confirm recommendation.

Is there debate?

There being none, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

[No response.]

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 12, the noes are 9.

The Chairman: The motion is passed.

We move to Number 7, John Hurley, of California, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador. Is there a motion?

Senator Hagerty: So moved.

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded that Mr. Hurley be sent to the floor with a recommendation for confirmation.

Is there debate?

Being none, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

[No response.]

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 12, the noes are 9.

The Chairman: The motion is passed.

We will move to Number 8, David Perez, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Brazil. Is there a motion?

Voice: So moved.

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded to be the sent to the floor with a do confirm recommendation.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Is there debate?

There being no debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

[No response.]

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 13, the noes are 8.

The Chairman: The motion is passed.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

We will move to Number 9, which is Mr. Rudolph Bauer to be Ambassador to Belize.

Is there debate? Excuse me, motion first.

Voice: Moved.

The Chairman: It has been moved.

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: Seconded that Mr. Bauer be sent to the floor with a do-confirmation recommendation.

Is there debate?

There being none, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

[No response.]

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 12, the noes are 9.

The Chairman: The motion is passed.

We will now move to Number 10, Brendan Hanrahan, of New York, to be
an Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs.

Is there a motion?

Voice: So moved.

The Chairman: It has been moved.

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: Seconded.

Is there debate?

Seeing no debate, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

[No response.]

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Senator Merkley: No.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 13, the noes are 8.

The Chairman: The motion is passed.

We will go to Number 11, Katherine Bowles, of Alabama, to be an
Assistant Secretary of State regarding Legislative Affairs.

Is there a motion?

Voice: So moved.

The Chairman: It has been moved.

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: And seconded, that she be sent to the floor with a do
confirm recommendation.

Is there debate?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Being none, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

[No response.]

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 18, the noes are 3.

The Chairman: The motion is passed.

We will go to Number 13, Christopher Anderson, of Wisconsin, to be

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Ambassador to Cambodia. Is there a motion?

Voice: So moved.

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded to be sent to the floor with a do-confirm recommendation.

Is there debate?

Seeing none, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

[No response.]

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: No by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 18, the noes are 3.

The Chairman: The motion is passed.

One more item. These are six Foreign Service lists, which you have in front of you. It is over 500 people. There was a little bit of misunderstanding on the actual identification of the names, and I think we have cleared that up. They are clearly posted.

So I will take a motion to adopt the six Foreign Service Officer Lists.

Voice: So moved.

Voice: Second.

The Chairman: Moved and seconded that we adopt the Foreign Service Officer List.

Is there debate?

Being none, the clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk: Mr. Ricketts?

Senator Ricketts: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. McCormick?

Senator McCormick: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Daines?

Senator Daines: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Hagerty?

Senator Hagerty: Aye.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Clerk: Mr. Barrasso?

Senator Barrasso: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Lee?

Senator Lee: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Paul?

[No response.]

The Clerk: Mr. Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Scott?

Senator Scott of Florida: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Curtis?

Senator Curtis: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Cornyn?

Senator Cornyn: Aye.

The Clerk: Mrs. Shaheen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Coons?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Murphy?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Kaine?

Senator Kaine: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Merkley?

Senator Merkley: Aye.

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Clerk: Mr. Booker?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Schatz?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Van Hollen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Duckworth?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Ms. Rosen?

Senator Shaheen: Aye by proxy.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Aye.

The Clerk: Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 21, the noes are 0.

The Chairman: The clerk's roll shows that the motion is passed and will be sent to the floor to be confirmed.

And with that the committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:39 a.m., the business meeting was adjourned.]