

**Lynch**

from page A1

Justice Department has challenged voter ID laws for political advantage," Burr said in a statement. "I wish Ms. Lynch the best in her future endeavors, but she is not the right choice for attorney general."

The state law mandates photo identification to vote in person starting in 2016, but starting last year, it also reduced the number of early voting days and eliminated same-day registration during the early voting period. Other voters and groups have challenged the law in federal and state court, arguing the changes are unconstitutional and make it harder for minority groups to vote. Trials are set for this summer.

In a news release, Tillis called the legislation "a common sense and constitutionally sound voter ID law."

Tillis didn't mention the elections law during his committee address Thursday. While praising Lynch's background, he said he's not convinced there would be enough of a change in management style.

"I do not see someone who is going to recognize that there are legitimate issues that need to be addressed and that we need someone in there that's going to take that seriously," Tillis told committee members.

Tillis also said in his news release that he didn't like it when Lynch testified to the committee that she considers Obama's recent executive actions on immigration to be legal. Gov. Pat McCrory has joined a lawsuit to challenge those actions.

Despite Tillis' vote, Lynch won approval from a key Senate committee Thursday to serve as the nation's next attorney general, as divided Republicans clashed over her support for President Barack Obama's immigration policies.

The 12 to 8 vote in the Judiciary Committee sent Lynch's nomination to the full Senate. Three Republicans joined all committee Democrats in voting "yes" the case against her nomination, as far as I can tell, essentially ignores her professional career and focuses solely on about six hours that she spent before this committee," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, as he criticized fellow Republicans for using Lynch's testimony in support of Obama's executive actions on immigration as a

**Loretta Lynch Bio**

**Born:** May 21, 1959 Greensboro, North Carolina.  
**Education:** Harvard 1981; law degree, Harvard Law School, 1984.  
**Experience:** United States attorney for the Eastern District of New York 1999-2001, 2010. Partner at Hogan & Hartson in New York, 2002-2010. associate at New York law firm Cahill Gordon & Reindel, 1984-1990.

reason to oppose her nomination.

"I do not believe that is a proper way to evaluate any nominee's fitness for any position," Hatch said.

But GOP Sens. Jeff Sessions of Alabama and Ted Cruz of Texas, among others, insisted that Lynch disqualified herself with her support for those directives and had not shown she would be sufficiently independent from Obama.

"The president's policy is to allow people unlawfully here to take jobs in America — a policy she has explicitly stated she intends to defend," said Sessions. "We should not confirm someone to that position who intends to continue that unlawful policy."

Despite the disagreement, Lynch is all but assured approval by the full Senate, under new rules that will require only a majority vote instead of the 60-vote margin required for most legislation. Timing for a floor vote is uncertain.

But unlike Obama's defense secretary nominee, Ash Carter, who was approved by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 93-5 earlier this month, Lynch is unlikely to win approval by a resounding margin. As Thursday's debate illustrated, GOP opposition to Obama's immigration policies has become entwined in a variety of issues in the newly Republican-run Congress, and it has cut into Lynch's support at the same time it is holding up funding for the Department of Homeland Security.

Committee Democrats took turns denouncing their Republican colleagues for using the immigration issue as a reason to oppose

Lynch, 55, who now serves as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York. She would replace Eric Holder and become the first black woman to hold the nation's top law enforcement job.

"Let me be crystal clear: The place for this battle is in the courts," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "Political fights over immigration should not hold up Loretta Lynch, DHS funding or anything else."

A federal court recently put the policies on hold, a ruling the Obama administration is appealing. The directives extended work permits and deportation stays to millions in the country illegally.

GOP Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Jeff Flake of Arizona joined Hatch in voting to support Lynch. Graham suggested other Republicans find another outlet for their opposition to Obama's immigration plans.

"To those who really believe this is a constitutional overreach of historic proportions you have impeachment available to you," Graham said.

Flake noted that he and others have been eager to say good-bye to Holder, a lightning rod for conservatives who butted heads repeatedly with Capitol Hill Republicans and was held in contempt of Congress.

"The longer this nomination is held up the longer the current attorney general in the Department of Justice stays in place," Flake said.

But Cruz, a potential 2016 presidential candidate, said, "The answers Ms. Lynch gave in this hearing room, in my judgment, render her unsuitable for the position of chief law enforcement officer of the United States."

Cruz has pressured Republican leadership to hold up Lynch and other Obama nominees as a way to pressure the president over his immigration plans, but most other Republicans have shown little interest in participating in his approach.

*Associated Press writer Erica Werner contributed to this report out of Washington.*



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Soprano Brittany Robinson will sing the role of Queen of the Night, one of the most challenging roles in opera.



Photo submitted

Campers receive trophies at an end of camp program.

**Hoops**

from page A1

and was on the track team for the school.

"Sports was a niche that we found that we liked. We wanted to share the game with younger kids and give them that same structure that we had growing up," she said.

The organization, which is run strictly off of donations and doesn't have a permanent home, also gives children the opportunity to make new friends and have mentors that help students, whether it's working on multiplication problems or their layups.

A typical day at the summer camp would consist of breakfast, introductions, warm-ups and group gatherings to begin drills and techniques. Through out the school year, students meet with tutors, friends and classmates of

Brittany's, who can help them with reading and math before they get a chance to hit the court.

"We give them that motivation, criticism and confidence that they are going to need while teaching them the importance of being a student-athlete," she said.

The youngest camper she has is 4 years old and the oldest is 15 years old.

"We wanted to create something that was affordable for low-income areas that we grew up in," she said. "We use the rules and regulations in basketball and transfer them into the kids lives. You can use these same gifts that you have on the court to pay for your education in life. The hook is basketball, but we also teach them how to live their lives to be successful in their communities."

The organization, which is two years old, has also reached out into the

community to give back by providing back-to-school haircuts, holding a toy drive for Christmas, hosting a father-and-daughter dance and a breast cancer awareness basketball tournament with proceeds going to a local breast cancer survivor.

"We want to involve the families," she said. "We are family-oriented. I don't think that your financial situation should determine what you're going to do or the resources that you have available because we are all the same people."

9-year-old Jaison Serrben said that the program allows him to spend time with his friends while working on his basketball skills. Brittany said that he has blossomed in his time with the program. He went from his speech being delayed to being on the A/B Honor Roll at Kimberley Park Elementary.