

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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40
Years
of
Community Journalism

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Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

N.C. senators against Lynch on wrong side

Greensboro native Loretta Lynch is on her way to becoming the first African-American woman to become U.S. attorney general, but without the blessing of both North Carolina U.S. senators, who are Republicans.

On Thursday morning, Feb. 26, U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis voted against Lynch in the Senate Judiciary Committee. But by a 12-8 vote, the committee still recommended that the entire Senate confirm her. Three Republicans joined Democrats in voting for Lynch, who is the U.S. attorney for eastern New York.

Tillis and U.S. Sen. Richard Burr are not saying they won't support Lynch's nomination because she is not qualified.

Lynch, 56, who went to high school in Durham, oversees federal prosecutions in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and Long Island.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and American literature from Harvard College in 1981 and a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School in 1984.

She has worked for the federal Eastern District for over a decade in various positions, having served several key positions in the U.S. Attorney's office from 1990 to 2001. In 1999, she was nominated by President Bill Clinton to serve as the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York.

During her term as U.S. attorney, Lynch oversaw prosecution of high-profile cases, such as the prosecution of New York City police officers in the Abner Louima case.

In 2001, Lynch left the U.S. Attorney's office to become a law partner at Hogan & Hartson (later Hogan Lovells).

She remained there until January 20, 2010, when President Obama nominated her to the U.S. Attorney position again. Lynch again has handled high-profile cases, such as the case of Citigroup regarding mortgage securities sold by the bank, resulting in a \$7 billion settlement.

However, Burr and Tillis seem to overlook the qualifications of this candidate to concentrate on her stances to uphold the law as she sees it. It comes down politics.

Tillis has said that when Lynch testified to the Judiciary Committee that she considers Obama's recent executive actions on immigration to be legal, that did not set well with him.

Tillis also said he's not convinced there would be enough of a change in management style from current Attorney General Eric Holder. Republicans have vilified Holder since he has been attorney general.

Burr mentioned in his news release Lynch's support to continue the Justice Department's lawsuit, filed under Holder, challenging a 2013 election overhaul passed by the N.C. General Assembly while Tillis was state House speaker.

Three Republicans joined the Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee, voting to recommend Lynch's nomination to the full Senate. We can't say all Republicans will be on the wrong side of history when Lynch becomes Attorney General. But we can say that North Carolina native Lynch won't be able to say the Republican senators in her native state supported her nomination like senators usually support qualified candidates from their home states.

Burr and Tillis are wrong. We look forward to the day soon when the majority vote by the entire Senate is right in confirming Loretta Lynch.



Tillis



Burr



Butterfield



Adams



Lynch

Disappointed in Senator Tillis' vote

To the Editor:

Congressman G. K. Butterfield (NC-01) on Thursday, Feb. 26, released the following statement regarding North Carolina Senator Thom Tillis' vote against the nomination of Loretta Lynch for Attorney General of the United States:

"I am deeply disappointed, as I'm sure many North Carolinians are, in Senator Thom Tillis' vote this morning in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senator Tillis voted against the nomination of North Carolina's own, Loretta Lynch, for Attorney General of the United States, despite a successful 30-year legal career as a lawyer, prosecutor, and U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York.

Senator Tillis had an opportunity today to be on the right side of history in supporting the nomination of Ms. Lynch, who would be the first African-American woman to serve as Attorney General.

The politics that Republicans have played with Ms. Lynch's nomination is deplorable.

Ms. Lynch's nomination has been pending for more than 100 days. During this time she has been open and transparent, answering hundreds of questions requested by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Opposition to her nomination is nothing more than a political ploy by Republicans to once again use any means necessary to show their disdain for the President.

It is disturbing that Senator Tillis is beginning his tenure in the Senate by casting such a misguided and politically calculated vote.

However, I'm confident that the full Senate will confirm Loretta Lynch, a daughter of North Carolina, as the next Attorney General of the United States."

U.S. Rep. G. K. Butterfield,
N.C. District 1

Confirm Loretta Lynch

To the Editor:

I proudly support Loretta Lynch's confirmation. Lynch deserves a swift confirmation. Yet, after nearly 110 days, the Senate Judiciary Committee finally voted (12-8) to approve Loretta Lynch and move her nomination forward for a vote on the Senate floor. While this confirmation process has been long and chaotic, I do find hope in the fact that Lynch's confirmation will now move to a full vote in the Senate.

I am extremely disappointed with Senator Thom Tillis' no vote. He himself acknowledged Lynch's strong qualifications and experience, adding: 'She was raised right.' Some Senate Republicans have treated this Greensboro native horribly. As I lis-

tened to each Senator's responses, it became obvious that Ms. Lynch was being punished because of their dislike for Eric Holder and President Obama. She is well-qualified and very capable of serving as the next U.S. Attorney General.

I am also disappointed because this profoundly qualified, intelligent African American woman was scrutinized differently by the Senate than any man who has come before her — eight hours of testimony, almost 900 written questions, and not one of the witnesses who testified said they opposed her confirmation.

Loretta Lynch would be the first African-American woman to serve as Attorney General. Is that the problem? She deserves and should have been judged on her own merit. She is not President Obama nor is she Attorney General Eric Holder.

U.S. Rep. Alma Adams
North Carolina District 12

Swift confirmation

To the Editor:

President Obama's nominee for attorney general, Loretta Lynch, currently serves as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York and, if confirmed, would be the first African-American woman to fill the role of attorney general of the United States.

Lynch is a fully-qualified candidate to serve in the role of Attorney General, and the Senate should cause no delay in confirming her to this position.

Lynch has a proven track record as a prosecutor and civil servant. Born in the dawn of integration in North Carolina to a librarian and Baptist minister, Lynch's personal narrative has informed her service to the public in her current role as a U.S. Attorney and instilled in her a necessary commitment to addressing the civil rights issues of our day. The Senate has previously confirmed her appointment as a U.S. Attorney, which bodes as a strong indication of her credibility, veracity and service.

The United States will be well-served with Loretta Lynch as our attorney general. The Senate should acknowledge this and confirm her without hesitation.

The American people deserve a chief law enforcement officer of the federal government who follows the principles of fundamental fairness and equal justice under the law. Loretta Lynch will do just that as our attorney general.

Advancement Project works with grassroots partners across the nation who are fighting the civil rights battles of our era on the ground every

WE ARE AGAINST THE LORETTA LYNCH NOMINATION.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

day. From fighting modern day voter suppression tactics, to demanding an end to the school-to-prison pipeline and police militarization in communities of color — these civil rights champions deserve an executive in our Justice Department who will remain unrelenting in eliminating racial injustices. The Senate should do the right thing by the American people and confirm Loretta Lynch as Attorney General of the United States.

Co-Director Judith Browne
Dianis
Co-Director Penda Hair
Advancement Project,
a multi-racial civil rights
organization.

Contact lawmakers about UNC Board

To the Editor:

In your editorial "HBCUs Need New Advocate on UNC Board," who will apply to serve on the UNC Board of Governors?"

You stated that "We hope it will be people who will speak up for the HBCUs and work to stop the move to end a valuable part of Black History."

Let's examine the people presently serving on the Board.

The UNC Board of Governors has 32 voting members in which three are ex-officio members. Twenty-nine are registered Republicans, four are Democrats and two are registered unaffiliated. One of the board members does not live in North Carolina.

There are seven white females and two African Americans.

One is a registered Republican, the other is a registered unaffiliated, which probably means she is a Republican.

Seventeen of the (32) Board members graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

NOT ONE OF THE 32 MEMBERS ATTENDED an HBCU SCHOOL, including the two African-American members.

One attended UNC and the other one attended North Carolina State University and Duke University's School of Law. Most of the board members are businessmen.

Although the 32 voting members of the UNC Board of Governors are elected by the General Assembly for four year terms and the General Assembly is controlled by Republicans.

African-Americans, especially Alumnus from the HBCU institutions should contact their local representatives and voice their concerns loud and clear to put members on the Board that represent the population of the state.

Conversely, this is the first time in almost twenty years that only two African Americans have been on the board and one of the few times that there was not a board member that graduated from an HBCU institution.

There have been at one time, as many as seven African-Americans on the UNC Board of Governors.

Dr. Lenwood G. Davis