



DPCC Floor Talking Points

- Qualified nominees deserve an up-or-down vote, but unprecedented Republican abuse of the filibuster to block nominees has stuck the Senate in gridlock. Republicans have used the filibuster as a way to score political points by blocking President Obama's nominees.
- President Obama has already faced cloture votes to try and break a filibuster on 27 of his executive nominees, compared to nine for President Clinton and seven for President Bush. In fact, President Obama's executive nominees have faced more filibuster votes than all of the executive nominees from 1949 to 2008. [People for the American Way, 11/18/13; CRS]
- They have also stood in the way of accomplished, highly-qualified men and women to fill crucial vacancies on our nation's highest courts. President Obama has had fewer judicial nominees confirmed than President Bush at the same point in their presidencies, and the wait times President Obama's nominees face months longer than for Bush nominees.
- Republicans have used the filibuster as part of the same strategy of obstruction that creates unnecessary crises and led to the government shutdown. Their abuse of the filibuster is part of their plan to undermine the effectiveness of government and stop President Obama from putting a team in place to do the job the American people elected him to do.
- This gridlock is at the root of why Americans all of the country are fed up with Washington. America's confidence is down to a record low of 9%. When asked why, gridlock is the biggest reason. [Gallup, 11/12/13; Gallup, 6/12/13]
- We need to allow qualified nominees to get an up-or-down vote so we can break through the gridlock in Congress and take on the important challenges facing the country.