

Supreme Court nominee confirmation battle

The U.S. Senate is set for a contentious confirmation process after Democrats vowed to block Donald Trump's nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court

Nominee's credentials and background thoroughly checked during confirmation hearing

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Committee votes on whether to approve nominee, then sends recommendation to full Senate

Democrats
9 members

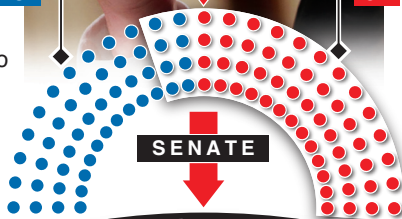
Republicans
11 members

Democrats 48*

52 Republicans

Simple majority of 51 votes required to confirm nominee. **Democrats could block nomination using filibuster – stalling debate – which requires 60 votes**

Republicans could change filibuster rules by invoking **"nuclear option"** to allow confirmation by simple majority of 51



SUPREME COURT

60 seats

LIBERAL LEANING **CONSERVATIVE LEANING**



Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 83

Elena Kagan, 56

Stephen Breyer, 78

Anthony Kennedy, 80

Samuel Alito, 66

Clarence Thomas, 68

John Roberts, 61
Chief Justice

If Gorsuch confirmed, court will be restored to 5-4 ideological split that existed before death of Justice **Antonin Scalia** in 2016

*Includes two independents