

Brett Kavanaugh confirmation battle

The nomination of conservative judge Brett Kavanaugh, 53, for the U.S. Supreme Court sets up a ferocious confirmation battle with Democrats as President Donald Trump seeks to shift the court further right

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Nominee's credentials and background thoroughly checked during confirmation hearing that can go on for days

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

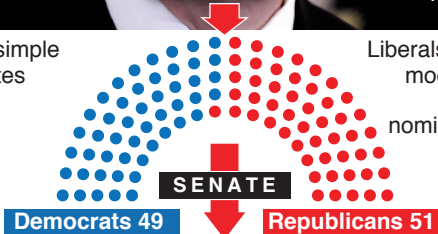
Democrats
10 members

Republicans
11 members

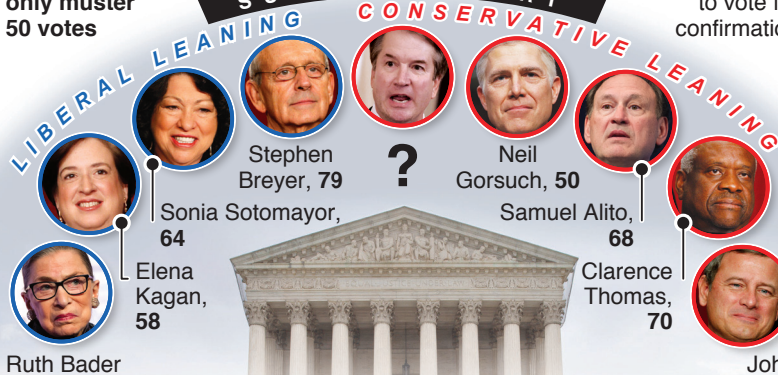
Nominee needs simple majority of 51 votes for confirmation.

Senator John McCain is battling cancer, meaning Republicans can currently muster only 50 votes

Liberals will pressure two moderate Republican senators to reject nominee. Conservative activists will push three politically vulnerable Democratic senators to vote for confirmation



SUPREME COURT



New judge, who will replace **Anthony Kennedy**, 81, will cast crucial votes on key issues such as abortion, gay rights and gun control

Chief Justice