

Supreme Court appointment process

The confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court – President Donald Trump's third nominee to the nine-member court – has started in the Senate, with an examination of her record



1. Procedure for appointing Justice is in U.S. Constitution's "Appointment Clause." The President **"shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint... Judges of the Supreme Court"**

■ Sep 18: Death of Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** (inset)

■ Sep 26: President nominates Barrett

2. Nomination is formally sent to Senate

3. Prior to Senate hearings, nominee's qualifications, integrity, competence and temperament are evaluated by **American Bar Association**. ABA does **"not take into account philosophy, political affiliation or ideology"**

4. **Background:** FBI investigates candidate's personal financial affairs, and whether nominee poses national security threat to U.S.



5. Justice Department: Investigates public record and professional abilities. President can enlist assistance of legal scholars and ABA



■ Oct 12-15, Senate Judiciary Committee: Committee of 12 Republicans, under Chairman **Lindsey Graham** (above left), and 10 Democrats, led by **Dianne Feinstein** (above right), question Barrett's professional merit and ideology

■ Senate Democrats: Expected to fiercely oppose proceedings. Sen. Feinstein warns that with Barrett's confirmation, Supreme Court could repeal **Affordable Care Act** and deny 20 million Americans health insurance in midst of global pandemic

■ Oct 22: Senate Judiciary Committee to report Barrett's nomination to Senate

■ Late October: Just days before election on November 3, Barrett will take part in four days of nationally televised Senate hearings.

Republican-controlled Senate votes on nomination

■ Nov 10: Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments from Republican attorneys general that **Affordable Care Act** – known as **Obamacare** – is **unconstitutional, and must fall**

