

Hold a Hearing and Vote on Supreme Court Nominee

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The Senate needs to do its job and hold a hearing and an up-or-down vote on the President’s nominee for the Supreme Court: Merrick Garland, chief judge of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. It has been more than 6 months since the President nominated Judge Garland – by far the longest any nominee has gone without a hearing.

- ▶ The Supreme Court has already considered—and may revisit—**nearly every issue that matters to students and educators**: the right to equal access to free public education, America’s promise of equal opportunity, school funding, vouchers, access to health care, fair elections, and more.
- ▶ When our students work in groups, we tell them they must work together and **do their jobs**, even when they are not friends or disagree.
- ▶ Please help us teach our students the true **meaning of democracy**. Never in our nation’s history has a Senate majority flat-out refused to consider a President’s nominee for the Supreme Court. Since 1875, **every nominee** has received a Senate hearing or a vote.
- ▶ Article 2, Section 2 of the Constitution stipulates that it is the President’s duty to nominate Supreme Court justices and the Senate’s duty to provide “**advice and consent**”—take action on nominations.
- ▶ With 8 justices instead of 9, decisions are more likely to be tied 4-4. When that happens, the rulings of lower courts prevail and can conflict, leading to ambiguity in the laws of different states.
- ▶ Since 1912, the Senate has confirmed 6 Supreme Court nominees during presidential election years, including Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was nominated by **President Ronald Reagan** and confirmed 97-0 by a Democrat-controlled Senate in 1988.
- ▶ We teach our students that being a good citizen requires cooperation, mutual respect, and the ability to **compromise**.
- ▶ **Set an example**: Show that America’s leaders can put aside their differences to do their jobs.