

supreme court nominations icivics game

supreme court nominations icivics game is an educational online simulation designed to help users better understand the complex process of appointing justices to the United States Supreme Court. This interactive game allows players to experience the roles and responsibilities involved in Supreme Court nominations, including presidential selection, Senate hearings, and confirmation votes. By engaging with the game, users gain insight into the political, legal, and procedural factors that influence the nomination process. This article explores the structure and educational value of the supreme court nominations icivics game, its relevance in civics education, and the key concepts it covers. Additionally, it will outline how the game enhances understanding of the U.S. judicial system and encourages civic engagement.

- Overview of the Supreme Court Nominations iCivics Game
- Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes
- Gameplay Mechanics and Features
- Understanding the Supreme Court Nomination Process
- Benefits for Students and Educators
- Incorporating the Game into Civics Curriculum

Overview of the Supreme Court Nominations iCivics Game

The supreme court nominations icivics game is part of the iCivics suite of educational tools developed to promote civic knowledge and engagement among students and the general public. The game simulates the process by which a president nominates candidates to the Supreme Court and the Senate evaluates these nominees through hearings and voting. It provides a realistic depiction of the political and legal challenges that nominees face, including public opinion, interest group influence, and Senate dynamics.

Origins and Development

Created by iCivics, a nonprofit organization founded by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the game is designed to make civics

accessible and engaging. It utilizes interactive technology to present complex government processes in a simple, user-friendly format. The supreme court nominations icivics game reflects careful research and consultation with educators and legal experts to ensure accuracy and relevance.

Target Audience

This game is primarily aimed at middle school and high school students studying American government, social studies, or civics. However, it is also suitable for anyone interested in learning about the Supreme Court and the nomination process in an interactive way. The intuitive interface and clear instructions make the game accessible to a wide range of users.

Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The supreme court nominations icivics game aims to deepen user comprehension of the judicial appointment process and the balance of power within the U.S. government. Through gameplay, users develop critical thinking skills and a nuanced understanding of how the Supreme Court functions within the broader political system.

Key Learning Goals

Players of the game are expected to achieve several educational outcomes, including:

- Understanding the constitutional roles of the president and Senate in Supreme Court nominations.
- Recognizing the political considerations that influence nominee selection and confirmation.
- Appreciating the impact of Supreme Court decisions on American law and society.
- Developing awareness of the importance of civic participation and informed voting.
- Analyzing how various stakeholders, including interest groups and the public, affect the nomination process.

Promoting Civic Engagement

By simulating the nomination process, the game encourages users to think critically about the judiciary's role and the importance of democratic processes. It fosters a sense of responsibility and the value of being informed citizens in a constitutional democracy.

Gameplay Mechanics and Features

The supreme court nominations icivics game employs a combination of strategy, decision-making, and role-playing elements to create an immersive learning experience. Players assume the role of the president tasked with nominating a Supreme Court justice and navigating the Senate confirmation process.

Nominee Selection

Players begin by reviewing potential nominees with varying qualifications, judicial philosophies, and political backgrounds. Each candidate comes with specific attributes that may affect their chances of confirmation and future impact on the Court. The player must balance ideology, experience, and political feasibility when making a selection.

Senate Hearings and Confirmation

After choosing a nominee, players manage the subsequent Senate hearings, responding to questions and addressing concerns raised by senators and interest groups. Success depends on effectively communicating the nominee's qualifications and handling opposition. The confirmation vote then determines whether the nominee is approved.

Interactive Challenges

The game incorporates unexpected events and political challenges, such as shifts in public opinion or lobbying efforts, which players must navigate. This dynamic environment reflects the real-world complexities of Supreme Court nominations.

Scoring and Feedback

Players receive feedback on their performance, including how well the nominee's judicial philosophy aligns with the player's goals and the political consequences of their decisions. This allows users to learn from their choices and understand the multifaceted nature of the nomination process.

Understanding the Supreme Court Nomination Process

The supreme court nominations icivics game provides a detailed exploration of the steps involved in appointing a Supreme Court justice. This section outlines the constitutional and procedural framework that the game is based upon.

Constitutional Basis

The U.S. Constitution grants the president the power to nominate Supreme Court justices, with the advice and consent of the Senate. This system of checks and balances ensures that appointments are subject to legislative oversight, maintaining judicial independence and accountability.

Steps in the Nomination Process

1. **Nomination by the President:** The president selects a candidate, often considering legal expertise, judicial philosophy, and political factors.
2. **Senate Judiciary Committee Hearings:** The nominee appears before the committee for questioning and evaluation.
3. **Committee Vote:** The Judiciary Committee votes on whether to recommend the nominee to the full Senate.
4. **Senate Debate and Vote:** The full Senate debates and votes to confirm or reject the nominee.
5. **Appointment:** If confirmed, the nominee is officially appointed and sworn in as a Supreme Court justice.

Political Considerations

The nomination process is often influenced by political ideology, party control of the Senate, public opinion, and interest group lobbying. These factors are integrated into the game's scenarios, highlighting the intersection of law and politics.

Benefits for Students and Educators

The supreme court nominations icivics game offers significant advantages as a teaching and learning tool in civics education. It promotes active learning and helps demystify the Supreme Court's role in American government.

Enhancing Engagement

By involving students in an interactive simulation, the game increases motivation and interest in civics topics. It transforms abstract concepts into tangible experiences, making learning memorable and meaningful.

Developing Critical Thinking

Students analyze complex information, weigh competing interests, and make strategic decisions, honing their analytical and problem-solving skills. The game encourages reflection on the consequences of political actions and judicial philosophy.

Resource for Educators

The game includes supplementary materials such as lesson plans, discussion questions, and assessment tools. These resources support educators in integrating the game into their curriculum effectively.

Incorporating the Game into Civics Curriculum

Integrating the supreme court nominations icivics game into classroom instruction can enrich the study of government and law. It complements traditional teaching methods by providing experiential learning opportunities.

Implementation Strategies

- Use the game as an introduction to Supreme Court functions and the nomination process.
- Assign gameplay followed by group discussions to analyze decision-making and outcomes.
- Incorporate the game into assessments to evaluate students' understanding of judicial appointments.
- Combine the game with case studies of historic Supreme Court nominations for deeper context.

Supporting Civic Literacy

By actively involving students in the mechanics of Supreme Court nominations, the game strengthens civic literacy and prepares students to participate knowledgeably in democratic processes. It is a valuable tool for fostering informed citizenship in the 21st century.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Supreme Court Nominations iCivics game?

The Supreme Court Nominations game by iCivics is an educational simulation where players take on the role of the U.S. President to nominate Supreme Court justices and navigate the confirmation process.

How does the game teach about the Supreme Court nomination process?

The game teaches players about the nomination and confirmation process by having them choose candidates, respond to Senate hearings, and deal with political challenges, illustrating the complexities of appointing justices.

Who developed the Supreme Court Nominations game?

The Supreme Court Nominations game was developed by iCivics, an organization founded by former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to promote civic education.

What skills can players develop by playing the Supreme Court Nominations game?

Players can develop critical thinking, decision-making, and an understanding of the U.S. judicial system, especially the checks and balances involved in Supreme Court appointments.

Is the Supreme Court Nominations game suitable for classroom use?

Yes, the game is designed for educational purposes and is widely used by teachers to help students learn about government and civics in an interactive way.

Can players learn about the political dynamics involved in Supreme Court nominations in the game?

Yes, the game simulates political factors such as Senate approval, public opinion, and interest group influence, helping players understand the real-world challenges of Supreme Court nominations.

Where can I play the Supreme Court Nominations iCivics game?

The game is available for free on the official iCivics website and can be played online on computers and tablets.

Additional Resources

1. The Confirmation Process: Inside Supreme Court Nominations

This book provides an in-depth look at the Supreme Court nomination and confirmation process, detailing how nominees are selected, vetted, and confirmed by the Senate. It explores historical examples and key moments that have shaped the process. Readers will gain a clear understanding of the political and legal implications involved in appointing justices.

2. Supreme Court Battles: The Politics of Judicial Nominations

Focusing on the political dynamics behind Supreme Court nominations, this book examines landmark confirmation hearings and the intense battles between different branches of government. It highlights the role of ideology, public opinion, and media coverage. The narrative helps readers comprehend how nominations can influence the Court's direction for decades.

3. Justice on Trial: The Senate Confirmation Hearings

This book offers a detailed account of the Senate confirmation hearings, portraying the scrutiny faced by nominees. It discusses the key questions, strategies, and controversies that arise during the hearings. Through case

studies, readers learn how the confirmation process tests a nominee's qualifications and character.

4. Nominating a Justice: A Civics Game Guide

Designed as a companion to the iCivics game on Supreme Court nominations, this guide explains the game's mechanics and educational goals. It provides strategies for players to understand the nomination process and the challenges faced by both the President and the Senate. The book encourages critical thinking about judicial appointments and the balance of power.

5. The Supreme Court and Politics: An Interactive Approach

This interactive book complements educational games like iCivics by exploring the connection between the Supreme Court and U.S. politics. It includes quizzes, scenarios, and discussion prompts about judicial nominations and their impact on law and society. The engaging format helps students grasp complex concepts through active learning.

6. From Nominee to Justice: The Journey Through Confirmation

Tracing the path of a Supreme Court nominee, this book narrates the personal and professional challenges involved in becoming a justice. It highlights the importance of legal expertise, public image, and political negotiation. Readers gain insight into the human side of the nomination process and the pressures nominees face.

7. The Role of the Senate in Supreme Court Nominations

This book focuses specifically on the Senate's constitutional role in confirming Supreme Court justices. It examines historical precedents, procedural rules, and the Senate's evolving approach to confirmations. Readers will understand how Senate dynamics can accelerate or stall nominations, affecting the judiciary's composition.

8. Judicial Appointments and Democracy: Lessons from iCivics

Combining educational theory with practical gameplay, this book analyzes how iCivics games teach about judicial appointments and democratic principles. It discusses how interactive learning tools can enhance understanding of the nomination process and civic responsibility. The book is ideal for educators seeking to incorporate games into their curriculum.

9. The Power of the Court: How Nominations Shape America

Exploring the long-term impact of Supreme Court nominations, this book discusses landmark cases influenced by justices' ideologies. It shows how nomination battles reflect broader societal conflicts and affect public policy. Readers will appreciate the significance of the nomination process in shaping American legal and cultural landscapes.

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supreme court nominations icivics game: Political Animals Rick Shenkman, 2016-01-05 Can a football game affect the outcome of an election? What about shark attacks? Or a drought? In a rational world the answer, of course, would be no. But as bestselling historian Rick Shenkman explains in *Political Animals*, our world is anything but rational. Drawing on science, politics, and history, Shenkman explores the hidden forces behind our often illogical choices. *Political Animals* challenges us to go beyond the headlines, which often focus on what politicians do (or say they'll do), and to concentrate instead on what's really important: what shapes our response. Shenkman argues that, contrary to what we tell ourselves, it's our instincts rather than arguments appealing to reason that usually prevail. Pop culture tells us we can trust our instincts, but science is proving that when it comes to politics our Stone Age brain often malfunctions, misfires, and leads us astray. Fortunately, we can learn to make our instincts work in our favor. Shenkman takes readers on a whirlwind tour of laboratories where scientists are exploring how sea slugs remember, chimpanzees practice deception, and patients whose brains have been split in two tell stories. The scientists' findings give us new ways of understanding our history and ourselves -- and prove we don't have to be prisoners of our evolutionary past. In this engaging, illuminating, and often riotous chronicle of our political culture, Shenkman probes the depths of the human mind to explore how we can become more political, and less animal.

supreme court nominations icivics game: The Essence of Teaching Social Studies James A. Duplass, 2020-09-30 Designed for use in elementary and secondary social studies education courses, this book supports the teaching of social studies methods in a range of educational settings. By highlighting long-standing content and principles of social studies education in a concise and direct way, this volume offers the building blocks of a comprehensive course, for use as springboards to the effective presentation of professors' desired course emphases. With sections on foundations, subject areas, and best practices, this text explains the intersection between the modelling role of social studies teachers as democratic citizens, social studies fields of study, and

strategies implemented in the classroom to encourage students' critical thinking and values formation.

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supreme court nominations icivics game: Supreme Democracy Richard Davis, 2017-06-06 In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Supreme Court nominations were driven by presidents, senators, and some legal community elites. Many nominations were quick processes with little Senate deliberation, minimal publicity and almost no public involvement. Today, however, confirmation takes 81 days on average—Justice Antonin Scalia's former seat has already taken much longer to fill—and it is typically a media spectacle. How did the Supreme Court nomination process become so public and so nakedly political? What forces led to the current high-stakes status of the process? How could we implement reforms to improve the process? In *Supreme Democracy: The End of Elitism in the Supreme Court Nominations*, Richard Davis, an eminent scholar of American politics and the courts, traces the history of nominations from the early republic to the present. He examines the component parts of the nomination process one by one: the presidential nomination stage, the confirmation management process, the role of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the increasing involvement over time of interest groups, the news media, and public opinion. The most dramatic development, however, has been the democratization of politics. Davis delves into the constitutional underpinnings of the nomination process and its traditional form before describing a more democratic process that has emerged in the past half century. He details the struggle over image-making between supporters and opponents intended to influence the news media and public opinion. Most importantly, he provides a thorough examination of whether or not increasing democracy always produces better governance, and a better Court. Not only an authoritative analysis of the Supreme Court nomination process from the founding era to the present, *Supreme Democracy* will be an essential guide to all of the protracted nomination battles yet to come.

supreme court nominations icivics game: Strategic Selection Christine L. Nemacheck, 2007 In this book, Christine Nemacheck makes use of presidential papers to reconstruct the politics of nominee selection from Herbert Hoover's appointment of Charles Evan Hughes in 1930 through President George W. Bush's nomination of Samuel Alito in 2005. By revealing the pattern of strategic action, Nemacheck takes us a long way toward understanding this critically important part of the American political system.

supreme court nominations icivics game: Seeking Justices Michael Comiskey, 2004 In the long shadows cast by the Robert Bork and Clarence Thomas nominations, Supreme Court confirmations remain highly contentious and controversial. This is due in part to the Senate's increasing reliance upon a much lengthier, much more public, and occasionally raucous confirmation process—in an effort to curb the potential excesses of executive power created by presidents seeking greater control over the Court's ideological composition. Michael Comiskey offers

the most comprehensive, systematic, and optimistic analysis of that process to date. Arguing that the process works well and therefore should not be significantly altered, Comiskey convincingly counters those critics who view highly contentious confirmation proceedings as the norm. Senators have every right and a real obligation, he contends, to scrutinize the nominees' constitutional philosophies. He further argues that the media coverage of the Senate's deliberations has worked to improve the level of such scrutiny and that recent presidents have neither exerted excessive influence on the appointment process nor created a politically extreme Court. He also examines the ongoing concern over presidential efforts to pack the court, concluding that stacking the ideological deck is unlikely. As an exception to the rule, Comiskey analyzes in depth the Thomas confirmation to explain why it was an aberration, offering the most detailed account yet of Thomas's pre-judicial professional and political activities. He argues that the Senate Judiciary Committee abdicated its responsibilities out of deference to Thomas's race. Another of the book's unique features is Comiskey's reassessment of the reputations of twentieth-century Supreme Court justices. Based on a survey of nearly 300 scholars in constitutional law and politics, it shows that the modern confirmation process continues to fill Court vacancies with jurists as capable as those of earlier eras. We have now seen the longest period without a turnover on the Court since the early nineteenth century, making inevitable the appointment of several new justices following the 2004 presidential election. Thus, the timing of the publication of *Seeking Justices* could not be more propitious.

supreme court nominations icivics game: Supreme Court Appointment Process

Congressional Service, 2018-09-14 The procedure for appointing a Justice to the Supreme Court is provided for in the U.S. Constitution in only a few words. The Appointments Clause in the Constitution (Article II, Section 2, clause 2) states that the President shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint ... Judges of the supreme Court. While the process of appointing Justices has undergone some changes over two centuries, its most essential feature-the sharing of power between the President and the Senate-has remained unchanged: to receive lifetime appointment to the Court, one must first be formally selected (nominated) by the President and then approved (confirmed) by the Senate. For the President, the appointment of a Supreme Court Justice can be a notable measure by which history will judge his Presidency. For the Senate, a decision to confirm is a solemn matter as well, for it is the Senate alone, through its Advice and Consent function, without any formal involvement of the House of Representatives, which acts as a safeguard on the President's judgment. This report provides information and analysis related to the final stage of the confirmation process for a nomination to the Supreme Court-the consideration of the nomination by the full Senate, including floor debate and the vote on whether to approve the nomination. Traditionally, the Senate has tended to be less deferential to the President in his choice of Supreme Court Justices than in his appointment of persons to high executive branch positions. The more exacting standard usually applied to Supreme Court nominations reflects the special importance of the Court, coequal to and independent of the presidency and Congress. Senators are also mindful that Justices-unlike persons elected to legislative office or confirmed to executive branch positions-receive the opportunity to serve a lifetime appointment during good behavior. The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice might or might not proceed smoothly. From the appointment of the first Justices in 1789 through its consideration of nominee Neil Gorsuch in 2017, the Senate has confirmed 118 Supreme Court nominations out of 162 received. Of the 44 nominations that were not confirmed, 12 were rejected outright in roll-call votes by the Senate, while nearly all of the rest, in the face of substantial committee or Senate opposition to the nominee or the President, were withdrawn by the President, or were postponed, tabled, or never voted on by the Senate. Six of the unconfirmed nominations, however, involved individuals who subsequently were renominated and confirmed.

supreme court nominations icivics game: *Supreme Court Appointment Process* Denis Steven Rutkus, 2005 The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is an infrequent event of major significance in American politics. Each appointment is important because of the enormous judicial power the Supreme Court exercises as the highest appellate court in the federal judiciary.

Appointments are infrequent, as a vacancy on the nine member Court may occur only once or twice, or never at all, during a particular President's years in office. Under the Constitution, Justices on the Supreme Court receive lifetime appointments. Such job security in the government has been conferred solely on judges and, by constitutional design, helps insure the Court's independence from the President and Congress. The procedure for appointing a Justice is provided for by the Constitution in only a few words. The Appointments Clause (Article II, Section 2, clause 2) states that the President shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint ... Judges of the Supreme Court. The process of appointing Justices has undergone changes over two centuries, but its most basic feature -- the sharing of power between the President and Senate -- has remained unchanged: To receive lifetime appointment to the Court, a candidate must first be nominated by the President and then confirmed by the Senate. Although not mentioned in the Constitution, an important role is played midway in the process (after the President selects, but before the Senate considers) by the Senate Judiciary Committee. On rare occasions, Presidents also have made Court appointments without the Senate's consent, when the Senate was in recess. Such recess appointments, however, were temporary, with their terms expiring at the end of the Senate's next session. The last recess appointments to the Court, made in the 1950s, were controversial, because they bypassed the Senate and its advice and consent role. The appointment of a Justice might or might not proceed smoothly. Since the appointment of the first Justices in 1789, the Senate has confirmed 120 Supreme Court nominations out of 154 received. Of the 34 unsuccessful nominations, 11 were rejected in Senate roll-call votes, while nearly all of the rest, in the face of committee or Senate opposition to the nominee or the President, were withdrawn by the President or were postponed, tabled, or never voted on by the Senate. Over more than two centuries, a recurring theme in the Supreme Court appointment process has been the assumed need for excellence in a nominee. However, politics also has played an important role in Supreme Court appointments. The political nature of the appointment process becomes especially apparent when a President submits a nominee with controversial views, there are sharp partisan or ideological differences between the President and the Senate, or the outcome of important constitutional issues before the Court is seen to be at stake.

supreme court nominations icivics game: The Selling of Supreme Court Nominees John Anthony Maltese, 1998-04-24 In The Selling of Supreme Court Nominees, Maltese traces the evolution of the contentious and controversial confirmation process awaiting today's nominees to the nation's highest court. His story begins in the second half of the nineteenth century, when social and technological changes led to the rise of organized interest groups. Despite occasional victories, Maltese explains, structural factors limited the influence of such groups well into this century. Until 1913, senators were not popularly elected but chosen by state legislatures, undermining the potent threat of electoral retaliation that interest groups now enjoy. And until Senate rules changed in 1929, consideration of Supreme Court nominees took place in almost absolute secrecy. Floor debates and the final Senate vote usually took place in executive session. Even if interest groups could retaliate against senators, they often did not know whom to retaliate against.

supreme court nominations icivics game: Speed of Presidential and Senate Actions on Supreme Court Nominations, 1900 - 2010 R. Sam Garrett, 2010-10 Contents: (1) Recent Activity: Activity During 2010, 2009, and 2005-2006: Recent Nominations: Roberts, Miers, Alito; (2) Measuring the Pace of Supreme Court (SC) Appoint.; (3) How SC Vacancies Occur: Death of a Sitting Justice (SJ): Retirement or Resignation of a SJ; Nomination of a SJ to Another Position; Controversial, Withdrawn, and Rejected Nominations; (4) Date of Actual or Prospective Vacancy; Announcement-of-Nominee Date: Use of Medians to Summarize Intervals; The Duration of the Nomination-and-Confirmation Process: Changes Since 1981; Factors Influencing the Speed of the Process: How the Vacancy Occurs; The Senate's Schedule; Committee Involvement and Institutional Customs; Controversial Nominations.

supreme court nominations icivics game: *Justices for All: The Role of Supreme Court Nominations in the Presidential Election*, The New York Times Co. presents a lesson plan entitled

Justices for All: The Role of Supreme Court Nominations in the Presidential Election, by Kama Einhorn and Barbara Scott and published May 22, 2000. The lesson plan is for students in grades six through twelve. Students examine the role of Supreme Court justices in the American political process. The authors include the amount of time required, objectives, materials needed, and the procedures of the lesson plan.

supreme court nominations icivics game: *Supreme Court Appointment Process*

Congressional Service, 2018-07-04 The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is an event of major significance in American politics. Each appointment is of consequence because of the enormous judicial power the Supreme Court exercises as the highest appellate court in the federal judiciary. Appointments are usually infrequent, as a vacancy on the nine-member Court may occur only once or twice, or never at all, during a particular President's years in office. Under the Constitution, Justices on the Supreme Court receive what can amount to lifetime appointments which, by constitutional design, helps ensure the Court's independence from the President and Congress. The procedure for appointing a Justice is provided for by the Constitution in only a few words. The Appointments Clause (Article II, Section 2, clause 2) states that the President shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint ... Judges of the supreme Court. The process of appointing Justices has undergone changes over two centuries, but its most basic feature-the sharing of power between the President and Senate-has remained unchanged: To receive appointment to the Court, a candidate must first be nominated by the President and then confirmed by the Senate. Political considerations typically play an important role in Supreme Court appointments. It is often assumed, for example, that Presidents will be inclined to select a nominee whose political or ideological views appear compatible with their own. The political nature of the appointment process becomes especially apparent when a President submits a nominee with controversial views, there are sharp partisan or ideological differences between the President and the Senate, or the outcome of important constitutional issues before the Court is seen to be at stake. Additionally, over more than two centuries, a recurring theme in the Supreme Court appointment process has been the assumed need for professional excellence in a nominee. During recent presidencies, nominees have at the time of nomination, most often, served as U.S. appellate court judges. The integrity and impartiality of an individual have also been important criteria for a President when selecting a nominee for the Court. The speed by which a President selects a nominee for a vacancy has varied during recent presidencies. A President might announce his intention to nominate a particular individual within several days of when a vacancy becomes publicly known, or a President might take multiple weeks or months to announce a nominee. The factors affecting the speed by which a President selects a nominee include whether a President had advance notice of a Justice's plan to retire, as well as when during the calendar year a Justice announces his or her departure from the Court. On rare occasions, Presidents also have made Court appointments without the Senate's consent, when the Senate was in recess. Such recess appointments, however, were temporary, with their terms expiring at the end of the Senate's next session. Recess appointments have, at times, been considered controversial because they bypassed the Senate and its advice and consent role. The last recess appointment to the Court was made in 1958 when President Eisenhower appointed Potter Stewart as an Associate Justice (Justice Stewart was confirmed by the Senate the following year).

supreme court nominations icivics game: *Supreme Court Appointment Process* Denis Steven

Rutkus, 2006 The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is an event of major significance in American politics. Each appointment is important because of the enormous judicial power the Supreme Court exercises as the highest appellate court in the federal judiciary. Appointments are usually infrequent, as a vacancy on the 9-member Court may occur only once or twice, or never at all, during a particular President's years in office. Under the Constitution, Justices on the Supreme Court receive lifetime appointments. Such job security in the government has been conferred solely on judges and, by constitutional design, helps insure the Court's independence from the President and Congress. The procedure for appointing a Justice is provided for by the Constitution in only a

few words. The Appointments Clause (Article II, Section 2, clause 2) states that the President shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint ... Judges of the supreme Court. The process of appointing Justices has undergone changes over two centuries, but its most basic feature -- the sharing of power between the President and Senate -- has remained unchanged: To receive lifetime appointment to the Court, a candidate must first be nominated by the President and then confirmed by the Senate. Although not mentioned in the Constitution, an important role is played midway in the process by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The appointment of a Justice might or might not proceed smoothly. From the first appointments in 1789, the Senate has confirmed 122 out of 158 Court nominations. A recurring theme in the appointment process has been the assumed need for excellence in a nominee. However, politics also has played an important role in Supreme Court appointments. The political nature of the appointment process becomes especially apparent when a President submits a nominee with controversial views or there are sharp ideological differences between the President and the Senate.

supreme court nominations icivics game: Supreme Court Appointment Process

Congressional Research Service, 2018-09-06 The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is an event of major significance in American politics. Each appointment is of consequence because of the enormous judicial power the Supreme Court exercises as the highest appellate court in the federal judiciary. To receive appointment to the Court, a candidate must first be nominated by the President and then confirmed by the Senate. Although not mentioned in the Constitution, an important role is played midway in the process (after the President selects, but before the Senate considers) by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Specifically, the Judiciary Committee, rather than the Senate as a whole, assumes the principal responsibility for investigating the background and qualifications of each Supreme Court nominee, and typically the committee conducts a close, intensive investigation of each nominee. Since the late 1960s, the Judiciary Committee's consideration of a Supreme Court nominee almost always has consisted of three distinct stages-(1) a pre-hearing investigative stage, followed by (2) public hearings, and concluding with (3) a committee decision on what recommendation to make to the full Senate. During the pre-hearing investigative stage, the nominee responds to a detailed Judiciary Committee questionnaire, providing biographical, professional, and financial disclosure information to the committee. In addition to the committee's own investigation of the nominee, the FBI also investigates the nominee and provides the committee with confidential reports related to its investigation. During this time, the American Bar Association also evaluates the professional qualifications of the nominee, rating the nominee as well qualified, qualified, or not qualified. Additionally, prior to hearings starting, the nominee pays courtesy calls on individual Senators in their offices, including Senators who do not serve on the Judiciary Committee. Once the Judiciary Committee completes its investigation of the nominee, he or she testifies in hearings before the committee. On average, for Supreme Court nominees who have received hearings from 1975 to the present, the nominee's first hearing occurred 40 days after his or her nomination was formally submitted to the Senate by the President. Questioning of a nominee by Senators has involved, as a matter of course, the nominee's legal qualifications, biographical background, and any earlier actions as public figures. Other questions have focused on social and political issues, the Constitution, particular court rulings, current constitutional controversies, and judicial philosophy. For the most recent nominees to the Court, hearings have lasted for four or five days (although the Senate may decide to hold more hearings if a nomination is perceived as controversial-as was the case with Robert Bork's nomination in 1987, who had 11 days of hearings). Usually within a week upon completion of the hearings, the Judiciary Committee meets in open session to determine what recommendation to report to the full Senate. The committee's usual practice has been to report even those Supreme Court nominations opposed by a committee majority, allowing the full Senate to make the final decision on whether the nomination should be approved. Consequently, the committee may report the nomination favorably, report it unfavorably, or report it without making any recommendation at all. Of the 15 most recent Supreme Court nominations reported by the Judiciary Committee, 13 were reported favorably, 1 was reported unfavorably, and 1 was reported

without recommendation.

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supreme court nominations icivics game: Supreme Court Nominations Betsy Palmer, 2009 The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is an event of major significance in American politics. Each appointment is important because of the enormous judicial power the Supreme Court exercises as the highest appellate court in the federal judiciary. Appointments are usually infrequent, as a vacancy on the nine member Court may occur only once or twice, or never at all, during a particular President's years in office. Under the Constitution, Justices on the Supreme Court receive lifetime appointments. Such job security in the government has been conferred solely on judges and, by constitutional design, helps insure the Court's independence from the President and Congress. The procedure for appointing a Justice is provided for by the Constitution in only a few words. The Appointments Clause (Article II, Section 2, clause 2) states that the President shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint . . . Judges of the supreme Court. The process of appointing Justices has undergone changes over two centuries, but its most basic feature -- the sharing of power between the President and Senate -- has remained unchanged: To receive lifetime appointment to the Court, a candidate must first be nominated by the President and then confirmed by the Senate. Although not mentioned in the Constitution, an important role is played midway in the process (after the President selects, but before the Senate considers) by the Senate Judiciary Committee. On rare occasions, Presidents also have made Court appointments without the Senate's consent, when the Senate was in recess. Such recess appointments, however, were temporary, with their terms expiring at the end of the Senate's next session. The last recess appointments to the Court, made in the 1950s, were controversial because they bypassed the Senate and its advice and consent role. The appointment of a Justice might or might not proceed smoothly. From the first appointments in 1789, the Senate has confirmed 122 out of 158 Court nominations. Of the 36 unsuccessful nominations, 11 were rejected in Senate roll-call votes, while nearly all of the rest, in the face of committee or Senate opposition to the nominee or the President, were withdrawn by the President or were postponed, tabled, or never voted on by the Senate. Over more than two centuries, a recurring theme in the Supreme Court appointment process has been the assumed need for excellence in a nominee. However, politics also has played an important role in Supreme Court appointments. The political nature of the appointment process becomes especially apparent when a President submits a nominee with controversial views, there are sharp partisan or ideological differences between the President and the Senate, or the outcome of important constitutional issues before the Court is seen to be at stake.

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