

Millennials Need A Supreme Court Nominee That Works For Our Generation

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For over 200 days, Senate Republicans obstructed President Obama's eminently qualified, judicially moderate Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland. Now, alongside many other extreme acts in the first days of his presidency, such as enacting an unconstitutional Muslim ban, President Trump has nominated the hyper-conservative Neil Gorsuch to fill the vacancy on the nation's highest court. Young people, frustrated by hyper-partisanship and extreme party politics, cannot afford an extremist Supreme Court nominee who lacks strong bipartisan support.

This Will Have Long-Term Consequences For Our Generation

Not only are Millennials particularly attuned to needless obstructionism and partisanship in Washington, we're also the ones most affected by it. An extremist justice on the most powerful court in the land would have severe—and lasting—repercussions for us. A Supreme Court nominee who fails to adequately check the other branches puts American democracy in peril and will affect our lives for years to come.

- **Gorsuch's record on reproductive rights would abolish the rights of millions of Millennials to choose what's best for their bodies.** Throughout the campaign, President Trump repeatedly vowed that his Supreme Court pick would automatically overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the most important reproductive rights case in the canon. Based on his past, it seems like Gorsuch would uphold Trump's promise. In Gorsuch's book, he attacks the legal principles that form the foundation of *Roe*. He's previously ruled against the provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that prohibits employers from using their personal religious beliefs as a means to block employees from accessing birth control. For the 70 percent of Americans who support *Roe* and the Millennial generation¹—which makes up the majority of Americans of childbearing age—Gorsuch is an extreme pick.
- **Gorsuch would be a win for big business.** He's ruled against a female truck driver's discrimination claim, against back pay for workers who had

their pay improperly reduced, and threw out a fine against a company that had failed to properly train its employees, leading one worker to die. Millennials, unlike Gorsuch, already believe the deck is stacked in favor of the rich and against the average person—they can't afford to pay rent, and they can't afford an extreme Supreme Court nominee.²

- **The environment can't survive Gorsuch.** Gorsuch favors overturning a bedrock of American law that directs the courts to defer to federal agencies in most cases. Overturning this long-established principle would put the work of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at risk, as well as our ability to fight climate change. Climate change ranks as one of the most important issues for Millennials, and for good reason: our generation will be the ones to face—and reckon with—the consequences.

Tired Of Hyper-Partisanship, Millennials Want A Government That Works

Millennials feel disengaged from politics, and it's no wonder why: Washington has ground to a halt because of partisanship. Politicians have been unable, or unwilling, to meaningfully address the issues that impact Millennials, like student debt and criminal justice reform. Neil Gorsuch's hyper-partisan philosophy would expand—not reduce—this divide.

- Nearly half of Millennials believe politics have become “too partisan.”³
- Fifty percent of Millennials identify as political independents, and many are eschewing partisan labels altogether, demonstrating profound dissatisfaction and disengagement with the gridlocked status quo.⁴
- As we reckon with an un-popularly elected President with historically low approval ratings, checks and balances will be more important than ever. Millennials will only accept a bipartisan nominee who will uphold the constitution, not party politics.⁵

End Notes

1 Kevin Robillard, “Poll: Record support for Roe v. Wade,” available at <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/roe-v-wade-poll-shows-record-support-086548>

2 Hannah Finnie and Simran Jagtiani, “Millennials Crave Economic Security and Stability” (Washington: Generation Progress, 2016) available at <http://genprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/13114633/Millennials-Crave-Economic-Stability-And-Opportunity-Sept-2016.pdf>

3 Sheila E. Isong, “Elections Matter: Should Millennials Rally Behind Nonpartisan Redistricting?” (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2015) available at

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/courts/reports/2015/11/10/125178/elections-matter/>

4 Pew Research Center, “Millennials in Adulthood: Detached from Institutions, Networked with Friends,” available at <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2014/03/07/millennials-in-adulthood/>

5 Steven Shepard, “Polls show Trump with historically low approval ratings,” available at <http://www.politico.com/story/2017/01/trump-low-approval-rating-transition-233678>