



Republican National Committee

Counsel's Office

RESOLUTION CONCERNING TIMING OF U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SELECTION

WHEREAS, With the passing of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, our country has lost one of its greatest legal minds – one who stood steadfast in his belief that the Constitution should be interpreted according to its original meaning;

WHEREAS, Justice Scalia believed that the freedoms and liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights are protected by the Constitution's system of checks and balances on the federal government's three branches, and that Republican abdication of responsibility for vetting federal judicial nominees would create a power imbalance that dooms the Republic;

WHEREAS, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stated that the Senate should not confirm a replacement for Justice Scalia until after the 2016 election, stating: "The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice";

WHEREAS, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus stated: "For 80 years, there has never been a nomination and confirmation to the Supreme Court in a presidential election year", that "[t]his is not about the person, this is about the Court", and "[a]s Democrats have already admitted, their breach of decades of precedent is all about scoring political points";

WHEREAS, Leader McConnell and Judiciary Committee Chairman Senator Charles Grassley published a piece in *The Washington Post* arguing that Democrats should not rob voters of their input in replacing Justice Scalia;

WHEREAS, Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee have reached a consensus neither to have hearings for, nor to vote on, a Supreme Court nominee in 2016;

WHEREAS, All of the Republican presidential candidates are united in their support of the Senate Judiciary Committee's decision that the next President should fill the current Supreme Court vacancy;

WHEREAS, Democrat Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is upset that the Republicans will not vote on President Obama's nominee; however, when she was a Senator, she voted to block President George W. Bush's nomination of Justice Samuel Alito;

WHEREAS, President Obama and Vice-President Biden voted to filibuster Justice Alito's confirmation in 2006 and now both regret that action;

WHEREAS, In 1992, then-Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Senator Joe Biden stated: “[I]f the President...presses an election year nomination, the Senate Judiciary Committee should seriously consider not scheduling confirmation hearings on the nomination until after the political campaign season is over”;

WHEREAS, Senator Chuck Schumer said in a July 2007 speech to a progressive legal society: “We should reverse the presumption of confirmation” and “we should not confirm any Bush nominee to the Supreme Court except in extraordinary circumstances”; and

WHEREAS, With the 2014 election, the American people delivered a mandate to the newly Republican-controlled Senate to reject President Obama's vision for a more liberal America where social change is undemocratically legislated through the courts; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Republican National Committee believes that the appointment of a Supreme Court justice directly impacts our country for generations;

RESOLVED, The Republican National Committee believes that the 2014 election was a clear signal from voters that they want input into the judicial nomination process and that the will of the voters must be respected; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, The Republican National Committee stands with Leader McConnell, Senator Grassley, and members of the Judiciary Committee in their commitment to exercise its discretion to forgo action until the next president nominates a candidate for confirmation to the Supreme Court.