

Dear tribal leaders and friends,

Please take time to make your voices heard on a full Supreme Court.



Americans get up every day and do their jobs – and they don't pick and choose which parts they want to do, or on which days they want to show up. That no-nonsense grit is part of what makes the United States the hardest working, most productive nation on Earth. In exchange, Americans simply expect that their elected leaders will hold up their end of the bargain, and do their jobs too. Every day.

When there's a vacancy on the Supreme Court, the job responsibilities – laid out in the Constitution – are clear. The President nominates a candidate, and the Senate then considers the nominee and votes on his or her confirmation. It's very simple. So far, President Obama has made clear that he will uphold his Constitutional duties and name an eminently qualified nominee. Yet Senate Republican leaders have made clear that they will not consider anyone the President nominates. In essence, they've announced to the whole country that they will refuse to do their job.

Have you, your tribe, your organization, or your community made your voices heard?

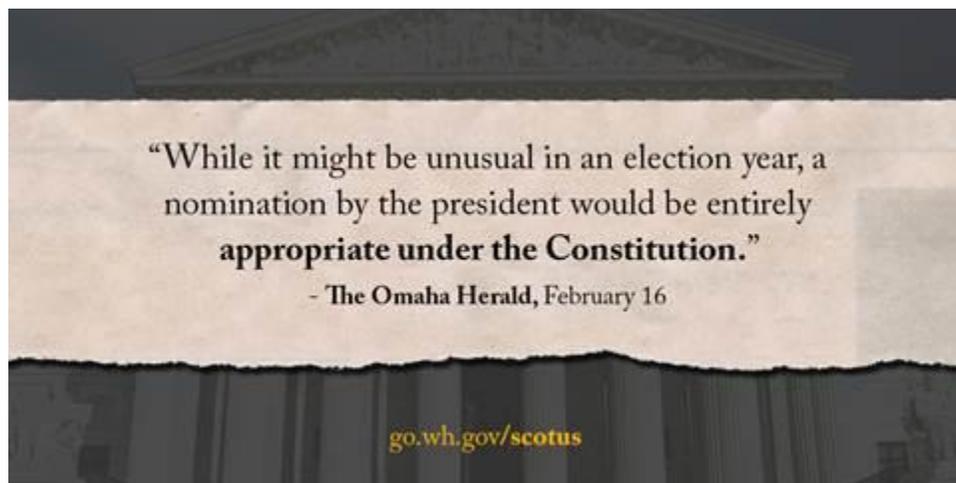
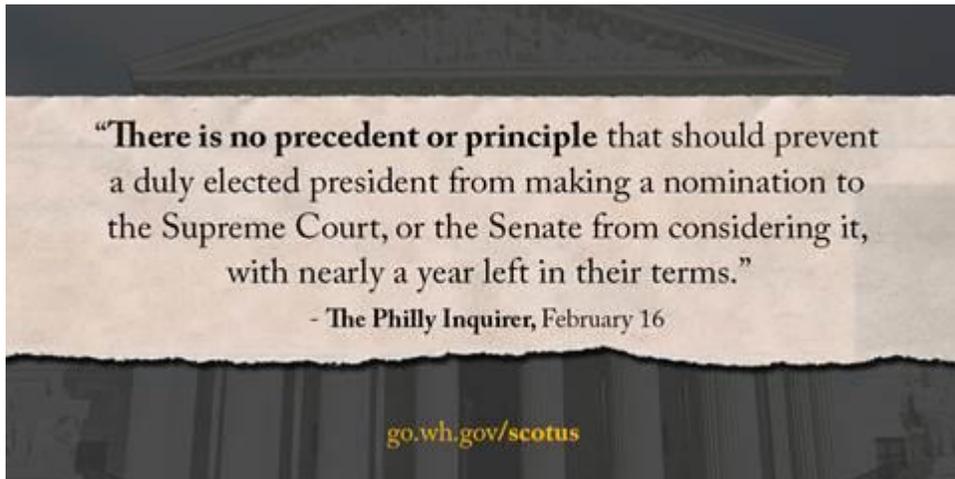
Below are actions that others are taking that are really making a difference:

1. Release a statement, post a blog, or place an op-ed.
2. Accept or schedule media interviews to talk about the importance of the President's constitutional duty to ensure a full court
3. Push this conversation forward on Social Media using the hash tag #SCOTUS. Below are graphics that we are pushing out. If there are any that speak to you – start posting now and let us know when you do!
4. Produce a creative piece on the role of the court, the role of the President, and or the role of Congress when a seat on the Court needs filling. It can be educational, persuasive, consensus building, funny, or hopefully – all of the above.
 - *NOTE: If you are interested in creating or filming something, and want to be connected with others who would be interested in participating – let us know, and we will connect dots.)*

READ OR WATCH THE PRESIDENT'S [FULL REMARKS](#) HERE



Journalists adding perspective on precedent (also attached):



“The hyperpartisan milieu of Congress this election year must not thwart the framers’ intent. ... When Obama delivers his nominee to the Senate, that chamber should do its job. Governance requires compromise — and an ability to read the Constitution.”

- **The Seattle Times**, February 16

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“Rarely does a political party admit to such blatant partisan obstructionism and announce it will set such a reckless precedent.”

- **The Greensboro News and Record**, February 16

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“Now is not the time to abdicate your responsibilities.
For Republicans, you have the opportunity to prove to
all Americans that you are not obstructionists and you
do love your Constitution — just as Justice Scalia did.”

- The West Virginia Register Herald, February 16

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“With a number of important issues on the
Supreme Court agenda, **there is no reason beyond
partisan politics** to deprive the court, or the American
people, of its full complement of nine justices.”

- The Commercial Appeal, February 19

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“The world does not stop spinning in an election year,
nor does the Constitution cease to be the Constitution,
though you'd never know it from some of the rhetoric
that's being bandied about.”

- **The Nashua Telegraph**, February 17

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“The stance to delay a nomination for the next president ignores the
Constitution. Article II makes it clear the president has the power to
nominate Supreme Court justices, which must be approved by the Senate.
Delaying when Obama has nearly a year left in his term is nonsensical.
Obama was elected to office — a decision made by the American voters.”

- **San Antonio Express-News**, February 14

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“The Constitution is also clear on what the Senate has to do.

Slow-walking the nomination, stalling it or refusing to acknowledge the need for a ninth justice are not among the listed duties. The Senate’s job is to provide “advice and consent. That means giving the president’s nominee a fair hearing and taking a vote in a timely way.”

- **The Arizona Republic**, February 14

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“Political tumult or not, the Constitution prescribes a process:

The president ‘shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate’ to appoint justices to the high court.

President Barack Obama should do just that, and the Senate should, in good faith, evaluate the nominee and decide whether to confirm.”

- **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**, February 17

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“[Failing to confirm a nominee] is an affront to the president’s constitutional authority to nominate a justice. And it is an abdication of the Senate’s duty to ‘advise and consent’ in confirming a nominee; it should consider an individual’s merits.”

- Columbus Dispatch, February 17

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“Should the Senate hold confirmation hearings to consider anybody — anybody at all — nominated by President Barack Obama to fill the Supreme Court seat of the late Justice Antonin Scalia? The simple answer is yes. Of course the Senate should. That is their job: To ‘advise and consent.’ Nowhere in the Constitution does it say ‘hold your breath and hope to die.’”

- Chicago Sun-Times, February 16

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Since 1900, six justices have been confirmed in a presidential election year, including President Reagan-appointee Justice Kennedy.

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Every U.S. Supreme Court nominee in history has received a vote within 125 days → <http://go.wh.gov/SCOTUS> #SCOTUS

OR

Since 1975, it's only taken an average of 67 days to confirm a president's nominee to the Supreme Court. #SCOTUS



Since 1875: Every Supreme Court nominee has received a Senate hearing or a vote → <http://go.wh.gov/SCOTUS>
#SCOTUS

OR

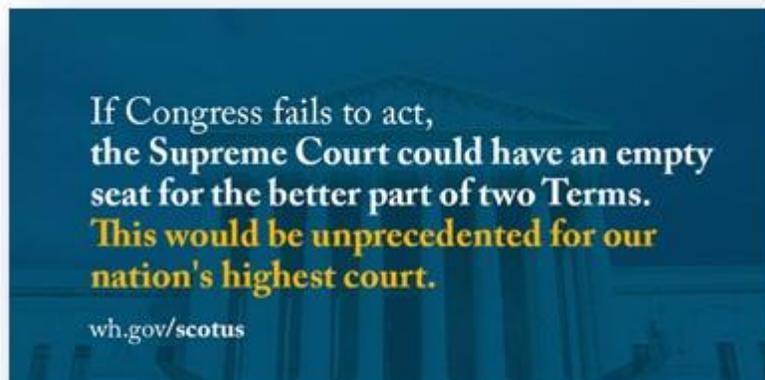
The last time a Supreme Court nominee was denied a hearing? 1875. <http://go.wh.gov/SCOTUS> #SCOTUS



If the Senate fails to act, #SCOTUS could have a vacancy for the better part of two Terms. <http://go.wh.gov/SCOTUS>

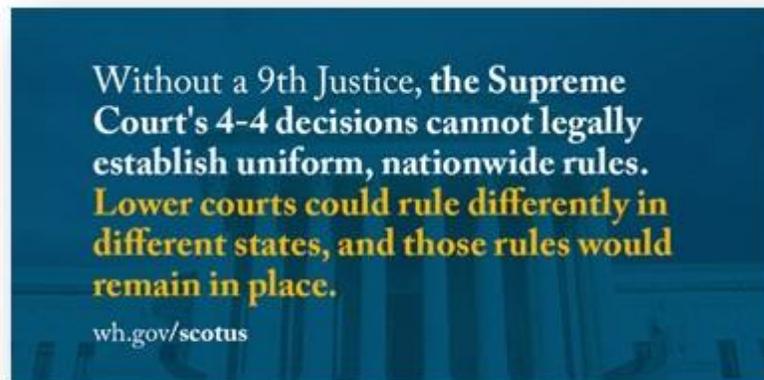
OR

A vacancy on the Supreme Court for the better part of two Terms would be unprecedented → <http://go.wh.gov/SCOTUS>



Without a 9th Justice, the Supreme Court's 4-4 decisions can't legally establish uniform, nationwide rules.

<http://go.wh.gov/SCOTUS>



"The Federal judiciary is too important to be made a political football" —Reagan on Justice Kennedy's confirmation

