



## Senator Baldwin meets with Judge Garland

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The U.S. Constitution, say several congressional and legal scholars. Speaking of the Garland nomination, former U.S. Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell, writing in *The Globe*, pointed out that in 1991, President Bush nominated Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court and a Democratic majority in the Senate held hearings. To emphasize the point, Democrats have targeted key Republicans with attack ads and protests - notably GOP members who serve on the Senate Judiciary committee, which handles confirmation hearings, or lawmakers up for re-election this year.

The Senate race could become the **most** expensive in state history. On the other side, University of Louisville law professor Russell Weaver and McConnell field representative Andrew Condia argued the Senate was at liberty to withhold *any* consideration. We have 11 or 12 nominees who never got out of the judiciary committee.

"As long as she doesn't back off on that, I don't have a problem with that", Wendelboe said.

Roger Pilon, founder and director of Center for Constitutional Studies at the libertarian-leaning Cato Institute, agrees that McConnell and Grassley are interpreting their constitutional prerogatives correctly.

His remarks this week, however, appear to be the first time Starr has openly criticized the Senate leaders' stance.

Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, both Republicans, and Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Nashville, applauded the move - a rare bipartisan victory during a time when Congress seems **more** interested in winning elections than governance. Biden had just presided over the contentious confirmation hearings for now-Justice Clarence Thomas. "Nothing will come of it". "As I have said previously, however, I believe the American people should have a voice in this debate", referring to the fact that Senate Republicans have said the next president should make the choice.

But he also acknowledged that the "fundamental reality is that the Senate can do pretty much whatever it wants".

Ditto for their reaction to the Republican Senate's churlish refusal to acknowledge the nominee's existence. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., called Estrada's withdrawal "a victory for the Constitution". In a statement after the meeting, Flake said Garland is justified in waiting until after the election because the nomination could shift the balance of the court.

"Instead of having a nomination fight in this partisan election-year environment, I believe awaiting the result of the election will give the nominee **more** legitimacy and better preserve the Court's credibility as an institution", Portman said.

Paul Gordon, senior legislative counsel for People for the American Way, said Risch and Crapo were using a double standard by encouraging the Senate to confirm David Nye as a new federal judge for Idaho while refusing to even meet with Garland. "In supporting a hearing, followed by casting an up-or-down vote, she will join her Republican colleague in Maine, Sen". Yet if either Donald Trump or Ted Cruz is nominated by the Republicans, she will have a clear path to victory. On Tuesday, he met with Grassley in a Senate dining room.

"I liked him, and I decided the reason why the meeting went so well is **most** of my difficulties with nominees is translating Chicagoland problems into their heads".

When it agreed to take up the case in January, the court opened the possibility of a broader ruling curbing the president's constitutional powers. Kelly Ayotte, R-New Hampshire, and Mark Kirk, R-Illinois. Sen.