

Trump Quietly Reshaping The Federal Courts With Judgeship Appointments

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President Donald Trump has been making a multitude of lifetime appointments to fill more than 100 vacancies on federal courts across the country, appointments that could reshape the judiciary for decades.

According to [The Hill](#), Trump has had five federal judges confirmed by the Senate, 30 are pending, and 123 seats need to be filled.

The vacancies give Trump the opportunity to revamp the judicial branch and have a long-lasting impact on the courts.

“It can’t be overstated the impact the individuals he’s appointing will have on millions of people across the country and their children for a generation or two,” said Dan Goldberg, legal director at the liberal Alliance for Justice.

“The Supreme Court only hears about 80 cases a year. Ninety-nine percent of cases end in the federal courts of appeal or at the trial level,” Goldberg said.

Trump’s appointment of Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, giving Republican-friendly justices a majority on the bench, has been labeled by some as one of the president’s biggest accomplishments thus far.

The president may have the opportunity to appoint at least one more justice to the Supreme Court in the near future, as reports indicate that Justice Anthony Kennedy is considering retirement.

Despite Trump’s steady pace in appointing judges, Republicans say Democrats are “slow-walking” several of his judicial nominations.

Democrats argue that Trump has the fortuitous opportunity only because Republicans refused to negotiate with former President Barack Obama on his judicial nominations. However, during his two terms in office Obama had 329 judicial nominees confirmed.

Obama didn’t have a single judge confirmed during his first six months in office. By contrast, the Senate approved a fifth Trump nominee in early August.

Ilya Shapiro, a constitutional studies senior fellow at the Cato Institute, said the consequences of judicial appointments were considerable.

“Elections have consequences. It can’t be understated (sic) that judicial nominations, being lifetime appointments, are huge,” Shapiro said.