

# COSUMINES CONNECTION

## Cruz Hints at Willingness to Block Clinton's Supreme Court Nominee

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2016 presidential candidate Ted Cruz.

The idea that a Republican Senate would refuse to confirm any Clinton nominee to any federal court is extreme, but an increasing number of GOP politicians and conservative activists are latching onto similar messages. "It's the president's role to nominate a Supreme Court justice, and it is the Senate's job to confirm that individual". "As a matter of constitutional law, the Senate is fully within its powers to let the Supreme Court die out, literally", Cato Institute legal scholar Ilya Shapiro wrote for The Federalist. Yes, McConnell said, there are historical examples of this.

Reid warned that a smaller court would be harmful. He said Senate Republicans are standing in the way of broad ethics reforms, criminal justice changes, tighter campaign finance restrictions and the Dream Act, which would extend financial aid to students in the country illegally.

"I feel strongly that the Supreme Court needs to stand on the side of the American people, not on the side of the powerful corporations and the wealthy", Clinton said, an answer meant to resonate with the vast middle of the electorate who will decide the election. On the Democratic side, the Senate Majority PAC raised \$19 million through last week.

Meanwhile, the political arm of Planned Parenthood praised the Court's decision.

Flake's comments come less than two weeks ahead of an election that is expected to shape the ideological balance of the Supreme Court, possibly for decades.

Republican Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona said Thursday that he would work to advance the confirmation process for Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland this year if Democrat Hillary Clinton wins the White House. He condemned any restrictions on the Second Amendment and confirmed his justices will focus primarily on protecting that explicit right to American citizens. He stopped short of saying that he wanted *Roe v. Wade* overturned.

In case there are any doubts, it's important to understand the radicalism of an argument like this one. If confirmed, the justice heads to the bench; if not, it's up to the president to select someone new.

"The Court is *very* divided on questions of vital importance to believing and practicing Catholics", said Professor David Upham, attorney-at-law and professor of politics at the University of Dallas. But there is time for McConnell to carry out his duties.

On the other hand, three justices have voted the opposite way on these issues.

Trump leapt on the news this weekend, but so, too, did Clinton, casting Comey's decision to act so close to November 8 as "deeply troubling" as she sought to rally Democratic voters. GOP candidates say Trump, who has promised to build a wall between the United States and Mexico and has appeared on tape talking about groping women, isn't a factor. "Presidents don't make mistakes all that often". There is a difference between what might be constitutional and what you can do politically... They are Stephen Breyer, age 78 and Ruth Bader Ginsberg, age 83, both Clinton appointees and members of the liberal wing, and Antony Kennedy, age 80, a Reagan appointee and a swing vote on most issues. "It's unlikely that that's what President Bush was looking for".

Those considerations were mentioned by Flake, along with a pining for the days in the Senate when lawmakers didn't filibuster the president's executive nominations.