

MEMO

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Liesl Hickey, Marie Sanderson, Generra Peck, Zack Roday, N2 AMERICA
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SUBJECT: Suburban Voter Attitudes RE: Supreme Court of the United States
DATE: September 27, 2020

N2 America and Public Opinion Strategies has been conducting weekly qualitative research among a panel of 40 suburban, college-educated men and women from the following states: Arizona, Georgia, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin. This group of suburban voters convenes online weekly and discusses issues ranging from politics to recent events in the news. The panel will continue to assemble weekly until Election Day. This past week, the panel discussed the Supreme Court opening.

KEY FINDINGS

Most suburban voters believe the seat should be filled now. Even some who oppose filling the seat couch their own opinion noting it is within the law for Republicans to fill the seat.

While some voters share comments that would seem to echo their partisan leanings, most suburban voters believe the open Supreme Court slot should be filled as soon as possible:

"I know that the people on the left will lose their minds in anger over this, and will cite the Merrick Garland nomination from 2016, but at that time the Republicans had taken the Senate. The Democrats would be expected to do the same thing in refusing to confirm if they were in power now. Trump should go forward with it." – Kansas Male (33 years old)

"I feel like it is just fine if President Trump nominates someone now and if the Senate considers it before the Election. I think it's a Republican/Democrat controversy like if they do it now then it will be a Republican and unfair or something like that. I think they should appoint someone sooner rather than later just to not have a vacancy in that position." – Florida Female (31 years old)

"I do not have a problem with him doing so prior to the election as every president does this, when given the opportunity." – Georgia Female (55 years old)

KEY FINDINGS, continued

Most suburban voters have no problem with a conservative justice filling RBG's seat.

As one could expect, there are partisan Republican voters who are very positive about filling the seat and other more liberal members of our panel who are downright depressed. But, generally speaking, these suburban voters believe the seat should be filled and it doesn't belong to either political party or a particular ideology:

"The President gets to decide, and of course, will pick a person that is from their political party. He is not under any obligation to appoint another liberal. If the tables were turned, a Democrat would not be under any obligation to appoint a conservative." – Minnesota Female (43 years old)

"It is the prerogative of the President to nominate a candidate, and the role of the Senate to confirm (or not) that candidate. ideology of the previous seat holder does not matter." – Iowa Male (51 years old)

When prompted, suburban voters grow concerned over "political retribution" from Democrats, including calls to end the filibuster, pack the court, or even add states for the purpose of creating additional Democratic US Senators.

Later in the discussion, voters were asked about press reports saying Democrats are warning of retribution if Republicans try and fill this seat now before the Election. As a result, by and large, these suburban voters were appalled:

"I think they are being babies and it is totally ridiculous." – Florida Female (53 years old)

"While I completely agree with the Democrats' stance that the seat should be filled after the Election, I do not believe political retribution is the answer, if not for the simple reason that it could come back to bite them later. Changing the laws to accommodate partisan goals seems like a shaky foundation upon which to run the country, also. Two wrongs don't make a right." – Texas Female (48 years old)

"Drama! Forget running the country and listening to constituents, let's just tattle, throw insults, and try to one-up each other! Seriously, these things make my eyes roll." – Arizona Female (39 years old)

"A bunch of children. They all need to go to timeout. If the Democrats didn't see this coming, that is their own fault. If they wanted to retaliate, they should have in 2016 when the senate was refusing to do their jobs." – Texas Female (37 years old)