

Restoration of Integrity in Federal Judiciary

WHEREAS the United States federal judiciary has been packed with conservative judges over the term of President Donald Trump, culminating with Judge Amy Coney Barrett being sworn in as the 115th Supreme Court Justice on October 26th, 2020, ensuring a 6-3 conservative control of the Supreme Court and conservative majorities in much of the lower courts for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS these appointments largely come a perversion of the Senate appointment process whereby Republican Senate leadership unapologetically obstructed a majority of President Barack Obama appointments to the courts, including but not limited to, Judge Merrick Garland's appointment to the Supreme Court seat now held by Justice Neil Gorsuch, with the specific intent of keeping those seats open for a future GOP president to fill, and then hypocritically violated the very rules set down about election-year appointments to the Supreme Court, by rushing through a partially vetted Judge Amy Coney Barrett only weeks before the 2020 Presidential election in which over 60 million people had already voted; and

WHEREAS these illegitimate appointments of conservative judges and perversion of the Constitutional process have created a severe threat to our election system, our democratic process and the ideals of the policies of the Democratic Party and the fundamental human rights of people of color, LGBTQIA+, immigrants, disabled, religious minorities, and the working class at large;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arizona Democratic Party publicly supports a thorough and complete assessment and implementation of measures needed to reform and rebalance the Supreme Court and lower courts of the federal judiciary, which may include but not be limited to, expanding access to justice through judicial term limits, establishing a process to rotate judges, certiorari reform, and assessing or reassigning the jurisdiction of certain courts: and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Arizona Democratic Party recognizes that the spiraling disregard and misuse of the Senate procedural rules under GOP control, may necessitate that the Democratic-controlled Congress operate with the understanding that Democrats must take such steps as are necessary to ensure that these perversions and the undermining of checks and balances that protect our democratic republic are corrected and ensure that they no longer continue.

Sponsor - Brianna Westbrook, State Committee Legislative District 24