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Arizona political experts, politicians react to Trump's pick for Supreme Court



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By David Baker CONNECT

PHOENIX (3TV/CBS 5) - President Trump chose on Tuesday Judge Neil Gorsuch as his nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court.

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Judge Neil Gorsuch was nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday. (Source: CNN)

"Gorsuch is a conservative's dream justice," said political and legal analyst James Goodnow.

Goodnow and other court watchers are paying close attention to Justices Anthony Kennedy and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Either or both could retire during Trump's presidency.

"Ginsburg is the classic liberal, so she's going to stay on as long as she can," he said.

A departure by the Court's "swing vote" or a staunch liberal would tip the balance toward the right.

"At that point, it's going to be a new court, reshaped for a generation. And that's when you'll see people get fired-up over hot-button issues like same-sex marriage, abortion and voting rights," Goodnow said.

Arizona politicians have quickly responded and conservatives have praised the move.

Sen. Jeff Flake released the following statement about Gorsuch as Trump's nominee:

"Nominating Supreme Court justices is one of the most consequential acts a president can take, and providing advice and consent is one of the Senate's most vital roles. Filling Justice Scalia's seat with a principled conservative who will interpret the Constitution rather than legislate from the bench should be our top priority. I am confident that Judge Neil Gorsuch fits the bill, and I'll do whatever I can to see that he receives an up or down vote on the floor of the Senate."

Arizona's senior senator, John McCain, sent out this statement:

"I am pleased by President Trump's nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Judge Gorsuch's impressive legal background and judicial career demonstrate he has the right experience and judgment needed to serve on our nation's highest court. Moreover, his record of upholding the Constitution and respecting the limited role of the judiciary makes him a fitting choice to fill the seat held by the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

"Throughout my time in the Senate, I have supported Supreme Court nominees of presidents from both political parties. Elections have consequences, and out of deference to the newly elected President's selection and in the tradition of the U.S. Senate, I am looking forward to a fair and thorough nomination process and a vote on this highly qualified nominee."

Congressman Andy Bigg issued a statement:

"President Donald Trump's nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court is a welcome relief to Americans who honor and cherish the original intent of the U.S. Constitution. President Trump promised the American people that he would nominate a justice in the mold of the late-Justice Scalia, and I have every confidence that Judge Gorsuch will accurately interpret the Constitution, rather than legislate from the bench.

"Our country and Constitution are in jeopardy because of activist judges from many judicial jurisdictions. I have hope that Judge Gorsuch and all of President Trump's nominees will uphold the Constitution, stand for life and religious freedom, and work to protect the 2nd and 10th Amendments.

"I encourage all Arizonans to support Senator John McCain and Senator Jeff Flake as they now begin the fight to ensure that Judge Neil Gorsuch is confirmed and seated on the U.S. Supreme Court. I will be praying for wisdom and perseverance for our Senators throughout this confirmation fight."

At 49, Gorsuch is the youngest Supreme Court nominee in a quarter century. He's distinguished himself on the Denver-based 10th Circuit Court of Appeals with his clear, colloquial writing, advocacy for court review of government regulations, defense of religious freedom and skepticism toward law enforcement.

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