

# The nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the US Supreme Court



Hearings begin Tuesday, September 4

Photo accessed on 9.4.18 at <https://www.cnn.com/2018/07/09/politics/kavanaugh-on-the-issues/index.html>

# The Constitution and Supreme Court appointments

**[The President]** shall have **Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate**, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall **appoint** Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, **Judges of the Supreme Court**, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

# Why is the Supreme Court important?

- The Supreme Court is the Highest court in the land.
- Its decisions are final (although it can reverse itself)
- One of the major functions of the Supreme Court is to determine whether or not laws or executive actions are constitutional. This is known as judicial review.

# The Current Supreme Court



# What issues has the Supreme Court Settled?

- Dred Scott v. Sanford, 1857
- Plessy v. Ferguson. 1896
- Brown v. Board of Education, 1954
- Engel v. Vitale, 1962
- Roe v. Wade, 1973
- US v. Nixon, 1974
- DC v. Heller
- Obergefell v. Hodges, 2015

## What issues will likely come before the current court?

- Abortion
- Gun Control
- Investigations of the President
- The extent of executive power
- Issue of Presidential authority
- Campaign finance limits

For an examination of these issues, see <https://www.npr.org/2018/09/04/644105543/kavanaugh-confirmation-hearings-to-focus-on-6-hot-button-issues>